

Anchorage District Office



Gary Reimer, District Manager

The Anchorage District includes the Anchorage and Glennallen field offices. Anchorage District lands include approximately 22 million acres, extending 2,500 linear miles east to west and 800 miles north to south. The Anchorage Field Office (AFO) manages 17 million acres of public lands throughout southcentral, southeast, southwest, and western Alaska. The Glennallen Field Office (GFO) manages 5 million acres in the eastern portion of southcentral Alaska.



RIGHT: Anchorage District Manager Gary Reimer, Robert Keith, President of Elim Native Corporation, and Elim Corp. board members during a patent ceremony in early March.



Anchorage Field Office news

Jim Fincher, Field Manager

Welcome to the BLM Campbell Tract Facility.

This scenic 730-acre parcel of federal public land is a BLM administrative site. The tract includes offices, a warehouse, outdoor education center, communication sites, and active airstrip. The Campbell Tract is an outdoor recreation and education site as well, with more than 160,000 user visits each year.



Smokejumper Trailhead

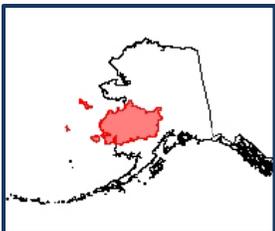
AFO land use planning

AFO is preparing to review and amend the 1988 **Campbell Tract management plan**. The amendment will address increased annual visitation, commercial uses, and public safety issues that have emerged since the 1988 plan was developed. AFO hosted an open house March 31 at the BLM Campbell Creek Science Center to hear visitor concerns and recommendations about the tract. AFO will host a second open house when the draft amendment is released later this year.

AFO is preparing to develop a resource management plan/environmental impact statement for the **Bering Sea/Western Interior (BSWI)** planning area. This planning area encompasses approximately 62 million acres in western Alaska, including 10.8 million acres managed by the BLM. These lands are currently managed under the 1981 Southwest Management Framework Plan.

A *Federal Register* Notice of Intent is under review. AFO will initiate a 90-day public scoping period upon publication in the *Register*. RAC members are invited to participate in the BSWI planning process, and will be included in the planning mail list.

The BLM released a scoping report in Sept. 2009 for the **Haines Block**, in the Ring of Fire planning area. The BLM is currently developing alternatives for a draft amendment to the Ring of Fire Resource Management Plan.



The amendment will evaluate whether the lands in the Haines Block meet criteria for designation as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), a decision deferred in the Ring of Fire Record of Decision, released in March 2008. The BLM administers 321,000 acres in the Haines Block.

Red Devil Mine environmental projects

The BLM has begun two environmental projects at Red Devil Mine, an abandoned cinnabar and mercury mine on the Kuskokwim River. These projects are a continuation of the BLM's ongoing investigation and clean-up efforts that began in the 1980s to address public safety and environmental concerns at the site.

AFO initiated **government-to-government consultation** with tribal and city governments in March 2010. A letter of invitation to meet with the BLM was sent to 16 tribal organizations and 7 city governments. AFO also sent consultation letters to 11 village and regional corporations. AFO is currently setting up consultation meetings with tribes, cities, and corporations to discuss the Red Devil Mine projects.



ARRA update

AFO has six projects funded under the **American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)**. These projects offer significant public benefits in both rural and urban areas. Several projects provide employment opportunities for economically depressed villages in western Alaska. The projects also enhance public access and visitor safety at recreation sites and on the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

AFO worked with the Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance to hire local carpenters to build a public safety cabin at Big Yetna (above) near Shageluk last fall. The BLM partnered with the City of Shageluk to maintain the cabin for inter-village travel by residents and other users of the Iditarod Trail. The Big Yetna cabin is the prototype for similar public safety cabins to be built along the Iditarod Trail this summer using ARRA funds.

Other ARRA funded projects at AFO include trail improvements at Campbell Tract, an invasive plant inventory and removal project at Salmon Lake and along a portion of the Unalakleet River, and fuel spill investigation and contaminated soil remediation at Red Devil Mine.



Youth employment and training

AFO continues to expand its youth employment and training efforts. In 2009, AFO established a new partnership with the **Alaska Job Corps Center**. Three Job Corps participants ages 18-21 from the communities of Bethel, Fairbanks, and Bristol Bay received work-based training with the BLM. BLM/Job Corps participant Sarah Andrew (left), from the Village of Manokotak, was profiled in the *Bristol Bay Times* in January.



The BLM will employ additional Job Corps participants in 2010 to work at office sites and field locations, including Bering Glacier field camp and along the Iditarod Trail during cabin construction. AFO is exploring similar training opportunities with the Alaska Military Youth Academy.

District Manager Gary Reimer and Field Manager Jim Fincher serve on the BLM's national **Youth Initiative Steering Committee** to enhance career opportunities for youth and young adults across the nation.



BLM Campbell Creek Science Center

The **Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center** was formed in 2005 to support the mission of the center. The Friends developed an active membership of 100 local businesses, organizations, and citizens; raised over \$150,000 in cash donations for program support; leveraged more than \$56,000 in in-kind contributions; provided scholarships for 5,000 economically disadvantaged youth to attend education programs; and started an endowment to address long-term financial sustainability of the center.

The Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center received the BLM's **Public Lands Partnership 2010 Excellence Award** in February. Joette Storm (in yellow vest, previous page), president of the Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center, and board member Amanda Smith (blue shirt) accepted the award for the Friends group.

While day-to-day programs at the Science Center continue to increase, the center has also seen record numbers at many special events. The Science Center hosted the 7th annual **Winter Trails Day** in February with event partner REI. On March 6, the Science Center hosted a public viewing opportunity for the **Iditarod 2010 Ceremonial Start**. An estimated 1,200+ Iditarod enthusiasts came out to the view the mushers and dog teams as they arrived at Campbell Tract.



Glennallen Field Office news

Beth Maclean, Field Manager

GFO-managed public lands are located in the eastern part of southcentral Alaska. These lands are road-accessible to 75 percent of Alaska's population. Approximately 80 percent of all federal subsistence permitting occurs on GFO lands. The GFO administrative office (right) is located at mile 186 of the Glenn Highway.



Delta River management plan

GFO released the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Delta River Special Recreation Management Area Plan and associated East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP) Amendment in March. A 30-day public comment period on the draft will end April 22. The Draft EA incorporates Benefits-Based Management, new BLM direction to manage for primary activities, experiences and benefits obtained by different user groups when recreating within different zones of the Delta Wild and Scenic River corridor. These zones vary slightly from recreation management zones established under the EARMP, which requires a plan amendment.

ARRA news

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds will be used this summer to complete two projects in the GFO management area. The first project will be contracted to renovate the current **Tangle Lakes Campground** entrance road which needs resurfacing, drainage improvement, and widening of two 500-foot sections to eliminate head-on driving encounters in a curved section of the road. A second ARRA project will be conducted in June to address severe trail braiding and impacts to vegetation and riparian areas along the **Top of the World Trail**



(right). This trail is popular with recreation and subsistence users for accessing caribou and moose populations and the Delta Wild and Scenic River corridor. A high school **Student Conservation Association** crew will reroute portions of the trail onto suitable soils and slopes, while avoiding potential impacts to cultural resources.

Tribal consultation

GFO held face-face annual consultation meetings with **federally recognized tribes** for the 7th consecutive year. These meetings foster positive relations and encourage tribal input into BLM management of public lands in areas of traditional interest. As a result, collaborative efforts are underway to resolve public access issues associated with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 17(b) Easements.



Resolution of unauthorized use cases

GFO mitigated 77 cases of unauthorized use last summer and will mitigate an additional 35 cases this summer. Property on public lands without a permit is an unauthorized use of public land and the property must be removed. In cases where cabins exist on lands prioritized by the State of Alaska for conveyance, GFO worked closely with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources on a case-by-case basis to determine options available to authorize existing cabins under state regulations. It is conservatively estimated that BLM efforts have resulted in the removal of over 30 tons of metal, wood debris and trash left abandoned on public lands.



Youth programs

Approximately 30 youth will be employed through Youth Initiative and project funds this summer, more than doubling the GFO staff size. Youth employees will assist in river management, trail monitoring and maintenance, archaeological research, unauthorized use mitigation, and fisheries monitoring.

GFO will also employ and train youth to become naturalists and to deliver outdoor education and stewardship programs that put kids in outdoor classrooms. Nearly 200 students in rural Alaska will receive **Hands on the Land** outdoor science education in partnership with the National Park Service, several State of Alaska agencies, the Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment, and other nonprofit organizations.



GFO youth partnerships are gaining statewide and national recognition. Four student representatives of the **Copper River Stewardship Project** and the ATV Education Program presented at the Alaska Forum on the Environment’s “**Showcase of Effective Youth-Adult Partnerships**” in February. They will also present at the **Children, Youth and Families at Risk** national conference in San Francisco this spring. Their presentation will demonstrate how youth-adult partnerships allow youth to take the lead in their communities in changing unsafe youth behaviors.



NLCS 10th Anniversary Celebration

GFO will celebrate the 10th anniversary of our National Landscape Conservation System with a **National Public Lands Day** event at Paxson Lake Campground on June 19. Volunteers will remove an aging boardwalk, plant native seed and willows, and relocate the boardwalk in a more sustainable area. The event will also include Leave No Trace river ethic education, family oriented activities and events, and will culminate with a barbecue.

Copper River Basin land and resource management meeting

On April 14 GFO will host a gathering of organizations, Native villages, Native corporations, and federal and state agencies with an interest in land and resource management within the Greater Copper River Basin. Participants will present project and planning updates on fisheries, wildlife, mining, gas line proposals, trail and road maintenance, tourism, and recreation management.

