

Chapter V: Consultation and Coordination

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Chapter V: Consultation and Coordination

A. Introduction

This chapter describes the public participation opportunities made available during the development of the Bay Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). Public participation was conducted during the preparation of the document and will continue through managing efforts at the Anchorage Field Office (AFO).

The Anchorage Field Office (AFO) interdisciplinary team and BLM Alaska State Office were preparers of the Bay RMP/EIS. The Bristol Bay Environmental Inc. prepared the leasable mineral inventory report. Both teams provided technical and organizational analysis and review for the document. Formal consultation and collaborative efforts were made with the State of Alaska and Resource Advisory Council. Formal and informal consultation was conducted with the RMP/EIS team, agencies, groups, and individuals. Various Federal, State, and Native groups and agencies participated in Alternative development meetings and briefings. Also, during the scoping process, Government-to-Government consultation was conducted, as well as informational meetings with interested individuals and organizations.

This chapter also provides a listing of the document's preparers, and agencies and organizations who reviewed the Draft RMP/EIS.

B. Public Participation Opportunities

For purposes of planning, there are several methods offered for public participation. The types of public participation approaches used are described below:

1. Scoping

Public scoping meetings were held from January 2005 until the end of March 2005. These public meetings included communities such as: Anchorage, Dillingham, Homer, Soldotna, and smaller communities of Aleknagik, Koliganek, Iliamna, and Naknek. The publication of the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Bay RMP/EIS was published on December 6, 2004. The public scoping meetings discussed a variety of issues which included: purpose for preparing a new plan, planning area and lands adjacent to BLM lands, planning schedule, planning criteria, framework of the plan, and examples of specific decisions addressed for the plan.

BLM identified preliminary management concerns which were addressed in the project's first newsletter in December 2004. Other management concerns were gathered by public input. A series of issues and topics were identified by Federal, State, and Native groups and agencies for consideration in the RMP/EIS during the planning process. Over 2,000 members of the public provided a total of 264 scoping comments during the scoping process. These comments were reviewed, organized by issue, and entered into a scoping comments database to facilitate retrieval and tracking through the RMP/EIS process. The

final Bay Plan Scoping Report is a separate document, available from the BLM Anchorage Field Office. You may request a copy of the report at: akbayrmp@blm.gov.

Scoping comments and input were collected during formal scoping meetings, Government-to-Government consultations, via email, telephone calls, faxes, and United States mail. Prior to the scoping period, representatives of BLM published public announcements in regional and local newspapers and provided public announcements on local radio to inform the public that BLM was beginning the Bay RMP/EIS process. A brochure was developed, and an electronic copy of it and a map of the planning area were posted on the Bay RMP/EIS planning website at www.blm.gov/ak/ado/BayRMP01.html.

2. Draft Alternative Development

A newsletter containing a summary of the draft Alternatives was mailed to the public and organizations for their review and informal comment on May 14, 2006.

3. Other Outreach Efforts

After the formal scoping period, a number of briefings and Government-to-Government consultations and/or briefings were carried out in the communities of Anchorage, Dillingham, King Salmon, New Stuyahok, and Quinhagak. Comments were recorded and became a part of the Administrative Record.

Comments continue to be received by email, by telephone, and by postal mail, and they are also made part of the Administrative Record. Comments will be accepted throughout the RMP process.

Briefings were conducted for organizations upon request. Briefings were provided for the Alaska Miner's Association, the Alaska Coalition, and the Bristol Bay CRSA in April and May, 2006. Newsletters were mailed out periodically to keep approximately 2,600 interested members of the public informed of BLM's progress on the Bay RMP/EIS.

4. Draft RMP/EIS Public Meetings and Subsistence Hearings

On September 29, 2006, a BLM notice was published in the Federal Register announcing the availability of the Bay Draft Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (Federal Register 2006a). This notice was followed on October 13, 2006 by an additional notice by the Environmental Protection Agency announcing the same availability of the Bay Draft RMP/EIS. This began a 90-day comment period on the Draft RMP/EIS. Based on requests from the public and local government, the comment period was extended until February 5, 2007 resulting in a 130-day comment period. Between December 1, 2006 and January 17, 2007 BLM held public meetings and ANILCA 810 hearings in Goodnews Bay, Dillingham, Aleknagik, New Stuyahok, Naknek, and Newhalen. In addition, an open house meeting was held in Anchorage on November 28, 2007.

The first part of the meeting consisted of a BLM staff presentation summarizing the alternatives in the Draft RMP followed by an informal question and answer session. BLM staff were available to answer questions and discuss alternatives. After this informal discussion, a formal hearing was held. The meeting format varied slightly based on the size of the group and their desire to ask questions or give spoken testimony. The purpose of the formal hearings held at the end of each meeting was to gather testimony on the impacts to subsistence from alternatives presented in the Draft RMP. The Final Section 810 Analysis can be found in Appendix D of this document.

No hearing was held Anchorage. Additional comments on impacts to subsistence were given to BLM through written comments.

C. Consultation

1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Consultation

As required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, prior to initiating any project by BLM that may affect any federally-listed threatened or endangered species or its habitat, consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) must be made.

Section 7 consultation with USFWS was initiated by AFO via a letter, describing the proposed project, which included a copy of the Draft Bay RMP/EIS. During the informal consultation, an endangered species list was requested by BLM. The FWS provided a written response on October 30th, 2006 and indicated that the threatened species Steller's eider and the Kittlitz's murrelet, a candidate species, were present within the Bay Planning area.

The Draft RMP was submitted to the FWS for comment and informal consultation on October 11th, 2006. BLM met with FWS on April 17th, 2007 to discuss the Bay plan as it relates to the Endangered Species Act and how its alternatives will affect listed and candidate species.

Informal consultation determined that implementation of the preferred Alternative of the Bay RMP May Affect, but is Not likely to Adversely Effect Steller's Eider. The Service provided a Letter of Concurrence on July 25, 2007. This letter is on file at AFO. Evaluation of potential effects on species under the jurisdiction of NOAA-Fisheries determined that there would be no direct or indirect effects as a result of implementation of this plan. A memorandum detailing the Rationale for this No Effect determination is on file at AFO.

2. National Marine Fisheries Service Consultation

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is responsible for the administration of the ESA as it applies to the listed cetaceans and pinnipeds in Alaska. These include seven species of endangered whales, and the endangered western population of Steller sea lions.

Informal consultation with NMFS was initiated by the AFO via a letter on February 16th 2005, describing the proposed project area and the project Alternatives, and requesting a species list. BLM met with NMFS on May 17th, 2007 to discuss the Bay plan as it relates to endangered species, and submitted a copy of the Bay RMP/EIS.

The planning area includes Essential Fish Habitat for all five species of salmon. An analysis of effects on Essential Fish Habitat is contained in Chapter IV, section (B)(3)(a) Fish of this document. The Draft RMP was submitted to NMFS for comment and, if necessary, additional consultation. Policy and management direction for EFH is contained in Chapter II, section (B)(1)(c)(3)(d) Essential Fish Habitat. A description of EFH in the planning area is included in Chapter III, section (B)(7)(a)(2) Fish Habitat Description.

3. Tribal Consultation

Tribal Consultation was conducted in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 to maintain BLM's Government-to-Government relationship between Native villages and corporations, via a letter to over 50 Native villages and corporations.

In order to continue with Government-to-Government coordination and consultation BLM will maintain communication with the villages throughout the planning process and during future planning efforts.

A copy of the Draft RMP/EIS was sent to all tribal entities within the Bay planning area for review and comment. A copy of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS will be sent to these tribal entities.

D. Collaborative Efforts

1. Cooperation with the State of Alaska

Since there is a vast amount of State-selected land within the Bay planning area, it is necessary for BLM to consult with the State of Alaska. Therefore, BLM involved the State of Alaska at the beginning of the planning process via a letter inviting the State of Alaska to participate in the RMP/EIS process. The State of Alaska and BLM developed a strategy for interagency cooperation and consultation for land use planning efforts for the Bay RMP/EIS. As part of this strategy, the State of Alaska and BLM jointly funded a liaison position. That person channeled information between the State and BLM during the planning process. This method has been effective in involving the State personnel in the review of draft materials and the exchange of information.

The State reviewed BLM's draft alternatives, preliminary draft RMP, response to comments, and preliminary Proposed RMP/Final EIS. These reviews produced a preferred strategy on management of State-selected lands. The State provided formal comments on the Draft RMP/EIS and these have been incorporated into Appendix I "Response to Comments."

2. Other Collaborative Efforts

A variety of public involvement strategies have been implemented throughout this planning process to improve communication and promote an understanding of the issues and the process in developing the RMP/EIS. A subgroup was formed by the Alaska Resource Advisory Council (RAC) under the provisions of the RAC charter to assist BLM in addressing planning issues.

The RAC is a 15-member advisory panel that provides advice and recommendations to BLM on resource and land management issues. Membership includes Alaskans from around the state who represent the energy industry, tourism, commercial recreation, environmental interests, archeological interests, elected officials, Alaska Native organizations, and the public-at-large. The RAC as a whole was kept informed of progress on the plan through briefings at quarterly meetings. Members of the RAC's Kobuk-Seward Peninsula plan subgroup were kept informed through e-mail and newsletters. RAC members were also invited to review BLM's draft alternatives. In December 2006, the RAC was briefed on the number and type of comments received and planned changes to the Preferred Alternative (Alternative D) in response to comments. RAC members provided comments on the recreation management issue in the Squirrel River. In February 2007, the RAC was updated on progress on the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

BLM provided the Northwest Arctic Borough a briefing on the Draft RMP/EIS in May 2006 at the beginning of the public comment period. A Borough staff member attended most of the public meetings held within the planning area. Both the Northwest Arctic Borough and the North Slope Borough were given an opportunity to review the pre-publication version of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

E. Plan Distribution

Since initial scoping, BLM has maintained a mailing list of individuals, businesses, special interest groups, and Federal, State, Tribal, and local government representatives interested in the development of the Bay RMP/EIS (currently at approximately 2,600 individuals/groups).

In an effort to reduce printing costs notices were mailed to everyone on the mailing list in August 2006 asking whether they wished to remain on the mailing list, and in which format (hard copy or CD) they wished to receive the document for review. Copies of the Draft RMP/EIS are also available for public inspection at the following locations:

- Alaska State Library 2
- ADEC Library
- Dillingham Public Library
- Homer Public Library 2
- Anchorage Municipal Library (Z.J. Loussac Library)
- ARLIS 4
- Naknek Public Library
- DOI Natural Resource Library 2
- Department of the Army CRREL Library
- Kenai Peninsula College Library
- Library of Congress
- UAF Rasmuson Library
- UAF Wildlife Library
- U.S. Department of Interior Library
- Soldotna Public Library

Federal Government Agencies

- Alaska Maritime NWR
- Kenai NWR
- Alaska Peninsula/Becharof NWR
- Togiak NWR
- Bureau of Indian Affairs
- BLM- Director's Office
- Minerals Management Service
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- USDI – National Park Service
- Katmai National Park and Preserve Complex
- Lake Clark National Park and Preserve
- NPS-Division of Environmental Quality
- NMFS, Protected Resource Management Division
- Federal Aviation Administration
- U.S. Army
- U.S. Air Force
- U.S. Department of the Interior- Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
- U.S. Department of the Interior- Office of External Affairs
- U. S. EPA Alaska Regional Director

State Government Agencies and Organizations

- Alaska Chamber of Commerce
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR)
- Alaska Department of Fish and Game
- Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer
- Honorable Frank Murkowski, Governor of Alaska
- University of Alaska, Anchorage- Land Management
- University of Alaska, Fairbanks Cooperative Ecosystem Study Unit (CESU)

Local Governments and Communities

- City of Aleknagik
- City of Clark's Point
- City of Dillingham
- City of Ekwok
- City of Goodnews Bay
- City of Quinhagak
- City of Manokotak
- City of Togiak

- City of New Stuyahok
- City of Newhalen
- City of Nondalton
- City of Pedro Bay
- City of Platinum
- Bristol Bay Borough
- Lake and Peninsula Borough

Tribal Government and Communities

- Bristol Bay Native Corporation
- Bristol Bay Native Association
- Ekwok Village Council
- Aleknagik Natives, Ltd.
- Calista Corporation
- Igiugig Native Corporation
- Iliamna Natives Limited
- Choggiung Limited
- Koliganek Natives Limited
- Olsonville Inc.
- Levelock Natives Limited
- Saguyak, Inc.
- Manokotak Natives Limited
- Ekwok Natives Limited
- Paugvik Incorporated, Limited
- Kuitsarak, Inc.
- Stuyahok Limited
- Kijik Corporation
- Pedro Bay Native Corporation
- Aleknagik Traditional Council
- Native Village of Goodnews Bay
- Arviq, Inc.
- Qanirtuuq, Inc.
- Iliamna Village Council
- King Salmon Village Council
- Togiak Natives Corporation
- Kokhanok Village Council
- Twin Hills Native Corporation
- New Koliganek Village Council
- Levelock Village Council
- Portage Creek Village Council
- Manokotak Village Council
- Native Village of Kwinhagak
- Naknek Village Council
- South Naknek Village Council
- Newhalen Tribal Council
- Twin Hills Village Council
- Nondalton Tribal Council
- Pedro Bay Village Council
- Platinum Traditional Council

Congressional Delegation

- U.S. Representative Don Young
- U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski
- U.S. Senator Ted Stevens

State Legislators

- Rep. John Coghill Jr.
- Rep. John Harris
- Rep. Vic Kohring
- Rep. Peggy Wilson
- Rep. Harry Crawford
- Rep. Sharon Cissna
- Rep. Eric Croft
- Rep. Ethan Berkowitz
- Rep. Norman Rokeberg
- Rep. Lesil McGuire
- Rep. Beth Kerttula
- Rep. Kevin Meyer
- Rep. Mike Chenault
- Rep. Carl Moses
- Rep. Mary Kapsner
- Rep. Richard Foster
- Rep. Reggie Joule
- Rep. Kim Elton
- Rep. Albert Kookesh
- Rep. Gary Wilken
- Rep. Gene Therriault
- Rep. Lyda Green
- Rep. Gretchen Guess
- Rep. Bettye Davis
- Rep. Johnny Ellis
- Rep. Ben Stevens
- Rep. John Cowdery
- Rep. Gary Stevens
- Rep. Lyman Hoffman

Non-Governmental Organizations and Businesses

- Alaska Coalition
- Alaska Miners Association
- Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition
- Alaska Sportsmans Lodge
- Delta Discovery
- Mountain Defense League
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Wilderness Society

Table 5.1. List of Preparers

Name	Responsibility
Gary Reimer	District Manager
Mike Zaidlicz	Field Manager
Charles Denton	Project Lead and Hydrologist
James Moore	Planning and NEPA Coordinator
Mike Kasterin	Regional Economist
Doug Ballou	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Larry Beck	Hazardous Materials
Dorothy Bonds	Realty Specialist (Lead)
Robert Brumbaugh	Minerals Specialist
Jeff Denton	Subsistence, Wildlife, T&E Species
Rodney Huffman	Realty Group Manager
Jeff Kowalczyk	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Sarah McCabe	GIS Coordinator
Paxton McClurg	GIS Coordinator
Gerald Minick	GIS Coordinator
Charmain McMillan	Planning Assistant
Darla Pindell	Minerals Economist
Donna Redding	Archaeologist
Bruce Seppi	Wildlife, T&E Species
Brian Sterbenz	Fire and Fuels
Mark Meyer	Locatable Minerals
Tim Sundlov	Fisheries
Sindra Wolfsen	Physical Scientist
Patricia McClenahan	Compiler/Writer
Caron Gibson	Editor

Table 5.2. List of Reviewers

Name	Title
Bureau of Land Management Alaska	
Jeanie Cole	Land Use Planner
Gene Ervine	Interpretive Specialist
Randy Goodwin	Outdoor Recreation Planner
Scott Guyer	Natural Resource Specialist
Terry Hassett	17(b) Easement Specialist
Bruce Hollen	Special Status Species Biologist
Mike Kasterin	Regional Economist
Lon Kelly	Manager Arctic Field Office
Robert King	Archaeologist
Lee Koss	Hydrologist
Susan Lavin	Realty Specialist
Mary Lynch	Planning and Environmental Coordinator
Mark Meyer	Physical Scientist
Stacie McIntosh	Subsistence Coordinator (Acting)
David V. Mushovic	Realty Specialist
Bill Overbaugh	Outdoor Recreation Planner
John Payne	Wildlife Biologist
Jerri Sansone	Realty Specialist
Carolyn Spoon	Realty Specialist
Larry Standley	Hydrologist
Jeanne Standley	Natural Resource Specialist
Wayne Svejnoha	Hazmat Specialist
Dennis Tol	Fisheries Biologist
Bill Diel	Leasable Minerals
Curtis Wilson	Supervisory Land Use Planner
Alaska Department of Natural Resources Representative	
Carol Fries	Natural Resources Manager