

Planning for the future of the

# Campbell Tract Facility

March 2010

The Bureau of Land Management invites your input and participation as we review and amend the management plan for the BLM Campbell Tract Facility. This list of frequently asked questions explains what the Campbell Tract Facility is, why we are amending the management plan at this time, and how you can participate in the planning process.

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## Q: What is the Campbell Tract Facility?

A: The 730-acre BLM Campbell Tract Facility is an administrative site used by the BLM Anchorage Field Office and several BLM State Office branches. The Tract houses administrative offices, a warehouse, shops, communication sites, an active airstrip and heliport, and the Campbell Creek Science Center. The airstrip is available for use in emergencies and for agency use. The open space at Campbell Tract is managed as an outdoor classroom for the Science Center and for non-motorized recreational use.

## Q: What land does the Anchorage Field Office manage from Campbell Tract?

A: The Anchorage Field Office administers approximately 17 million acres of public lands located throughout southcentral, southeast, southwest, and western Alaska.

## Q: Who owns Campbell Tract?

A: The Campbell Tract is federal public land administered by the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management.

## Q: What authorizes the BLM to use Campbell Tract?

A: The Secretary of the Interior has withdrawn the land on Campbell Tract for use by the BLM as an administrative site. Under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, land can be withdrawn for up to 20 years. The BLM's withdrawal of the Campbell Tract expires in February 2022.

## Q: What kind of public use is allowed at Campbell Tract?

A: The public may use the Tract for non-motorized recreational use, as long as it is compatible with the BLM's use of the Tract as an administrative site. The BLM and the Municipality of Anchorage signed a cooperative management agreement in 1987 designed to provide the public with a seamless recreational experience on Campbell Tract and the Municipality's adjacent Far North Bicentennial Park.



## Q: Is the airstrip operational?

A: The airstrip is used for federal operations by the BLM and other agencies. The airstrip and administrative facilities also serve as an emergency deployment location for the Alaska Disaster Medical Assistance Team and Department of Interior Emergency Response Teams.

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**Q: Why was the Campbell Creek Science Center built?**

**A:** A group of educators submitted a proposal to the BLM in 1987 to build an environmental education center. That request was incorporated into the BLM's 1988 Campbell Tract Management Plan. The center was completed in 1996 through add-on funding provided by Alaska's Congressional delegation.

**Q: How is the Science Center used?**

**A:** The primary use is to educate children and adults about science and the natural resources of Alaska. Secondary use is for training and meetings by agencies or organizations whose focus is science education or natural resource management. Visitation at the Science Center rose from 25,000 in 2001 to 42,000 in 2009.



**Q: What other non-recreation authorized uses occur at Campbell Tract?**

**A:** Training exercises by the Anchorage Fire and Police Department, warehouse storage for various agencies, weather stations, and meeting facilities for other government agencies.

**Q: Why is the Campbell Tract Management Plan being updated?**

**A:** Since the original plan was developed in 1988, many changes have occurred, such as: increased annual visitation (17,000 in 1988 to 162,000 in 2009), new outdoor recreation opportunities, the expanding role of environmental education, potential new commercial uses, and public safety concerns.

**Q: How can I participate in the planning process or submit a comment or suggestion?**

**A:** Comments may be submitted on a comment form at the open house, by regular mail to the BLM Anchorage Field Office, 4700 BLM Road, Anchorage, AK 99507, or by e-mail to [ak\\_ctf\\_amend@blm.gov](mailto:ak_ctf_amend@blm.gov). Comments must be received by April 30, 2010. The BLM will provide additional opportunity for public review and comment of a Draft Management Plan at a future open house.

**Q: What is the BLM looking for in public comments?**

**A:** Scoping is an opportunity for the public to share thoughts and recommendations regarding management of the Campbell Tract Facility. Comments may include what you like or don't like about current management of the area, new ideas or information for the BLM to consider, or suggestions for improvement. All thoughts and recommendations should be clear and accurate and/or present a reasonable recommendation to a specific opportunity or issue.

**Q: When will the Campbell Tract management plan amendment be completed?**

**A:** A draft plan is scheduled to be completed by the middle of 2010.

**Q: How can users remain involved in what happens at the Campbell Tract after the plan is completed?**

**A:** Users are encouraged to get involved with established user groups, attend monthly Far North Bicentennial Park User Group meetings at the Campbell Creek Science Center, or visit the Campbell Tract website for updates on programs and events: [http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado/ct\\_home.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/ado/ct_home.html).

*Thank you for participating in the Campbell Tract planning process. Your input will help the BLM develop a plan to guide management of these lands for the next ten years.*

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