FRONTIERS

News about Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Managed Public Lands in Alaska • Issue 122 • Spring 2015

Knowledge is Golden

Gold panning along the Dalton Highway
by Craig McCaa (BLM)

BLM

Alaska

NATIONAL SYSTEM OF PUBLIC LANDS
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ISSUE: 122

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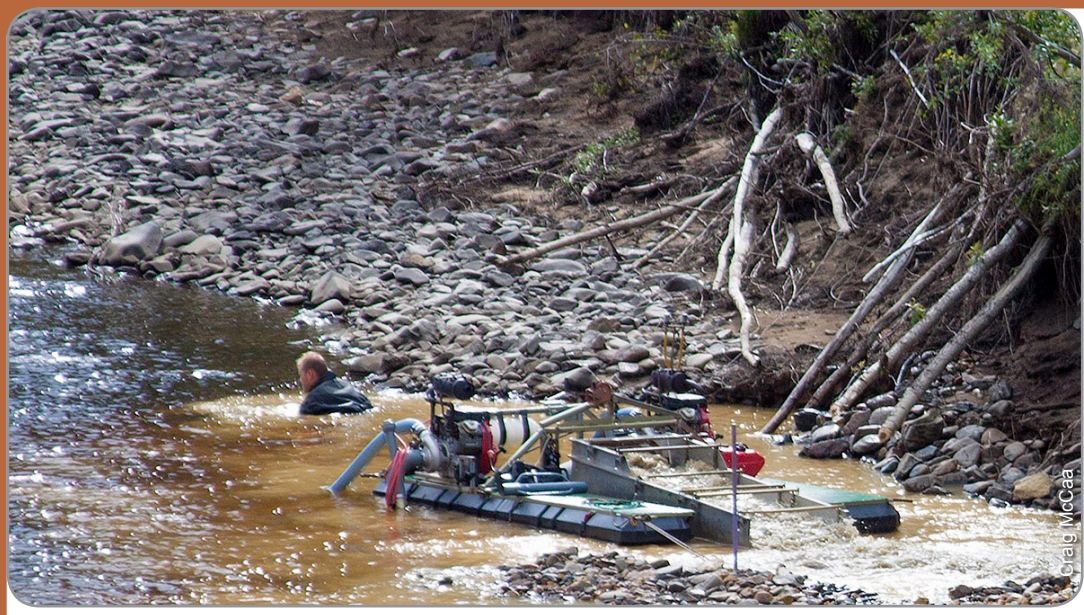

Miners wear dry suits when operating suction dredges in the cold waters of the Fortymile.

Welcome to Frontiers!

We have a great science on public lands issue! Learn about the properties of gold, the northernmost trout, and a project to restore mined lands to a functioning state.

Alaska's wildfire season is about to begin. Make sure to brush up on how to be prepared this season. Firewise your home, take care of your campfire, and always have an evacuation plan.

This year BLMers participated in sled dog events, including staffing a checkpoint during the Copper Basin 300 race. In late January, BLM hosted a "Women of the Iditarod" Iditachat, a Twitter tweetchat with mushers and historians.

Alaska is seeing a lot of change and with the changes in priorities, issues, and funding the BLM has realigned its office and planning area boundaries. Make sure you know who to contact as some areas are under new management.

We hope you enjoy this 122nd issue of BLM ALASKA FRONTIERS as much as we enjoy working on it for you.

Karen

Karen J. Laubenstein
Editor

@BLMAlaska

Social Media Update

Karen J. Laubenstein

"Women of the Iditarod" was the theme of this year's two-hour TweetChat on Jan. 28. The online conversation using Twitter and the #BLMIditaChat hashtag engaged schools and the public in a fast-moving discussion about mushing, dogs, sled dog racing, the history and culture of the Iditarod National Historic Trail, and recreational opportunities on public lands in Alaska. A 12-musher panel and historians answered questions and shared factoids. Libraries and 13 schools participated nationwide. To read the conversation, visit www.blm.gov/ak/BLMIditaChat2015 and look for news for the 2016 Iditachat TweetChat.

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BLM/AK/GI-94/005+1120+912

calendar

May

5 **Earth Discovery Days**

Hands on the Land Earth Discovery Days is a day of outdoor education for Copper River Basin 4th-6th grades. BLM Glennallen is a partner with National Park Service, Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment, State of Alaska, and local non-profits. Call WISE at 907-822-3575 or wise-edu.org for more information.

7 **Early Morning Bird Walks Begin!**

Join BLM staff and Anchorage Audubon Society members every Thursday in May for Early Morning Bird Walks on the BLM Campbell Tract. Meeting time is 6:30 a.m. at the Campbell Creek Science Center parking lot. Develop and fine-tune your birding skills and witness the progression of songbird migration through the Campbell Tract this spring. Open to the public. Call 907-267-1241 for more information.

12 **BLM Alaska Outdoor Week**

May 12-15 is BLM Alaska's Outdoor Week for Anchorage School District 6th graders. The BLM Campbell Creek Science Center in partnership with the Anchorage School District annually holds this event at BLM's Campbell Tract. Visit http://www.blm.gov/ak/sciencecenter to learn more.

12 **Fairbanks Outdoor Days**

May 12-14 is Fairbanks Outdoor Days, an educational event for about 650 sixth graders on the University of Alaska Fairbanks campus. Since helping launch Outdoor Days in 1990, BLM Fairbanks staff teach outdoor stations along the university's trails on fisheries biology, gold mining (panning), archaeology and low-impact camping. BLM Alaska Fire Service smokejumpers plan a demonstration jump.

June

25 **Project Healing Waters**

June 25-29 BLM and partners host Project Healing Waters for wounded service members at Tangle Lakes in the Delta Wild and Scenic River Corridor. Service members and their families enjoy fishing in Alaska.

Barbara Cellarius, NPS

BLM's Sarah Bullock and NPS's Rick Obernesser, Jan Maslen, and Caroline Ketron *(L-R)* work as CB300 Sourdough checkpoint volunteers.

WORKING SLED DOG RACE CHECKPOINTS IS TOUGH:

Copper Basin 300

Barbara Cellarius, NPS

Dennis Teitzel (BLM) and Marnie Graham (BLM) record each musher's time and check required safety gear for the CB300 at Sourdough checkpoint.

Reputed to be the "toughest 300 miles in sled dog racing," the Copper Basin 300 Sled Dog Race (CB300) Sourdough race checkpoint might be the "toughest checkpoint in sled dog racing!" Notoriously the toughest checkpoint for race organizers to recruit volunteers, Sourdough is one of the coldest checkpoints, has few amenities, and is in a dead zone for communications with race central about 125 miles into the 310-mile race.

Recognizing the difficulties, federal land managers pitched in to find ways to support community efforts and meet the challenge of finding volunteers to staff the checkpoint. Some managers even volunteered and brought satellite phones to communicate with race central or in case of emergencies.

Interagency volunteers set up the Sourdough checkpoint with warming tents, burn barrels, wood, and warm stew for the mushers. They created staging areas for dog teams and organized the food drop station for mushers to send food drop bags ahead of the race. After the race started and the first sled dog team arrived at Sourdough checkpoint at 11:53 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 11, volunteer checkers were available around the clock until 11:30 a.m. Monday when the final sled dog team left the checkpoint.

Dennis Teitzel, BLM Glennallen Field Manager, was among the volunteers. "I want to commend the volunteer race organizers of the CB 300. They have done an outstanding job of communicating their race needs for use of public lands with our office. This [coordination] allows the BLM time to issue the required [special recreation] permit and to be flexible enough to adapt permitting to existing trail conditions. It also gives us and others time to find ways to partner and volunteer for the benefit of the race and the community."

"This," he says, echoing the other land managers involved, "is the kind of relationship we like to foster."

The Gutsy Volunteers at Sourdough

Denton Hamby, Sarah Bullock, Dennis Teitzel, Marcia Butorac, Tim Sundlov, Marnie Graham, Taylor Vollman, and Claudia Munoz-Rojas (BLM); Barbara Cellarius, Barb and Wayne Challoner, Glenn Hart, Luke Hodgson, Caroline Ketron, Jan Maslen, Rick Obernesser, Judy Putera, and Bruce Rogers (National Park Service); Carol Teitzel (U.S. Forest Service); and, Joe Bovee, Noble Sherwood, Gerry Northway, Ernest Titus, Bruce Cain, and Kathryn Martin (Ahtna, Inc.).

— Marnie Graham, Carol Teitzel, and Barbara Cellarius contributed to this story

AVOID LIVING DANGEROUSLY

Alaska's wildland fire season

Alaska has thousands of lakes, streams, and mountains to explore. There are also millions of acres of forests. These forests contain black and white spruce trees, grasses, shrubs, and mosses. Most are very prone to rapid burning. Wildland fires are a natural part of the ecology and are needed to maintain a healthy and balanced ecosystem.

The Alaska wildland fire season is coming earlier than normal in 2015. Firefighters are making preparations for the early start. Now is the time to plan, act, and embrace fire safety. Let's make 2015 a safe and fun-filled year — a year of living less dangerously from wildfire.

The 2014–15 winter was very warm with below-average precipitation. Temperatures in northern and interior Alaska often fall below -40 degrees F. during the season. This winter, the Alaska Interior did not see temperatures fall below -40 degrees F. until the end of January 2015. For Anchorage in Southcentral Alaska, temperatures never fell below 0 degrees F. during 2014! There is very little snowpack. Areas normally under snow are now exposed and drying out. The impact has been felt around the state. While a mild winter does not guarantee an active fire season, it does provide a strong indicator for firefighters to prepare early, and they are!

The 2014 fire season activity was very low due to record rains, but those statistics hide an important and alarming fact. Outdoor human activity contributed to 339 fires that burned almost 223,000 acres in Alaska, amounting to 95 percent of the total acres burned in 2014! Lightning caused the other fires. Leading causes of human-related fire starts are: Campfires, burning debris, equipment use, and incendiary devices, including fireworks. Human-caused fires are a danger to life and property, are costly, and are preventable.

— Melvin Slater
Alaska Fire Service
Public Affairs Specialist

Alaska Fire Service

A member of the Chena Interagency Hotshot crew fights a wildfire in typical boreal forest conditions.

Wildland Fire! What can YOU do?

Take an active role. Protect your family, property, and community.

Firewise your home. Create a defensible space around your home. Clean gutter debris. Place firewood and fuel away from the home. Visit http://forestry.alaska.gov/fire/firewise.htm for more information.

Practice safe outdoor habits. Just one spark can start a wildfire. Know fire weather conditions. Extinguish campfires completely before leaving the area. Use an authorized burn barrel. Use fireworks only when and where it is legal, apply safety precautions. Be careful using machinery outdoors. Teach your children about fire safety.

Develop an evacuation plan. Identify routes and a relocation destination. Carry cash and provisions at all times. Pack important papers and medications. Know where to take pets and other animals. Rehearse your plan. When in an area affected by wildland fire, listen to firefighters and law enforcement.

The National Fire Protection Association has begun its 2015 campaign: The Year of Living Less Dangerously from Wildfire. Plan, Act and Embrace. Learn more at http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/outdoors/wildland-fires/year-of-living-less-dangerously.

In case of a wildland fire emergency call 911. For information on Alaska wildland fires call (907) 356-5511.

Alaska Interagency Coordination Center (AICC) http://fire.ak.blm.gov

Alaska Fire Information
http://akfireinfo.com

Find us on Facebook
http://www.facebook.com/BLMAFS

@BLM_AFS

Alaska's Most *Seductive* Metal

Most of us associate gold with the major Alaska gold rushes of the early 1900's. You may be surprised to learn that people still come to Alaska today to find gold!

On Alaska's federally managed public lands in Alaska, you can recreationally gold pan or do gold prospecting, with some restrictions. On private lands or mining claims, you need the owner's permission to mine, even if you are just gold panning. Alaska Native corporation lands are private.

On BLM-managed public lands, you can gold pan recreationally as long as it isn't an active mining claim, designated recreation site, or other facility. Recreational gold panning is limited to hand tools and light equipment, such as gold pans, rocker boxes, sluice boxes, picks, and shovels. Use of motorized or mechanized equipment, including suction dredges, pumps and earthmoving equipment, is not allowed. Most places allow metal detectors. Recreational goldpanning and prospecting is not using the heavy equipment you see in some reality television shows that portray gold mining operations in Alaska.

Gold mining in Alaska has been a major industry, an impetus for exploration and settlement. In 1848, Russian explorers discovered placer gold in the Kenai River, but no gold was produced. After the U.S. acquired the Alaska Territory from Russia, gold mining started in 1870 from placers southeast of Juneau. The first prospectors entered the Brooks Range shortly after the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898, pushing to ever more distant regions by sled dog teams, canoes, rafts, and snowshoes.

Want to learn more? Get a copy of the *Panning for Gold along the Dalton Highway* brochure to learn where to go, or contact your local BLM office. Just remember that the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System right-of-way (27 feet on either side of the pipeline) is closed to recreational mining.

May your luck be golden!

BLM

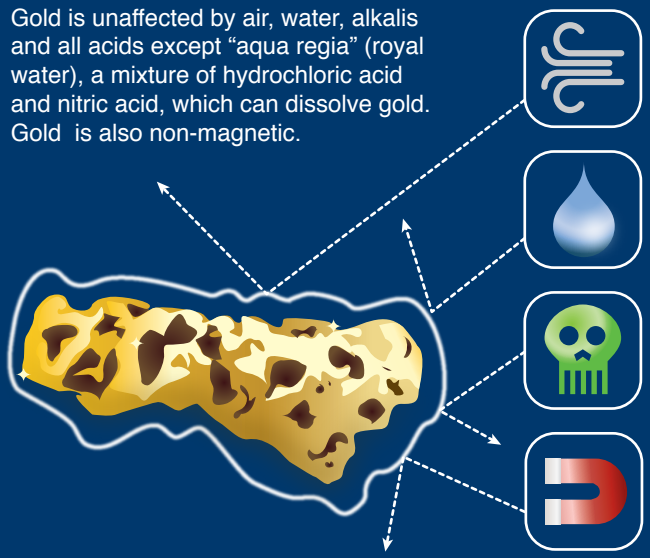
Nolan Creek gold nuggets found in Wiseman, Alaska.

Gold Science

79 Au

Gold is Resistent

Gold is unaffected by air, water, alkalis and all acids except "aqua regia" (royal water), a mixture of hydrochloric acid and nitric acid, which can dissolve gold. Gold is also non-magnetic.



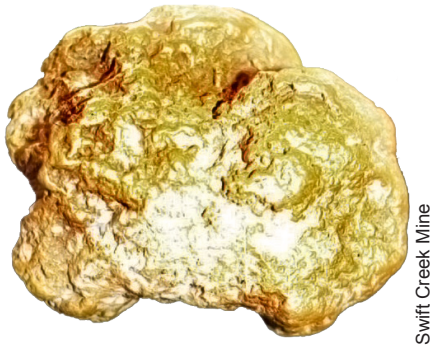
Gold has a High Specific Gravity/Density

Specific Gravity is the ratio between the weight of a substance and the weight of an equal volume of water. Gold has a Specific Gravity of 19.3, meaning 1 cm^3 of gold is 19.3 times heavier than 1 cm^3 of water. This is why gold is found at the bottom of gold pans, sluice boxes, trommels and jigs.

Alaska's Largest Gold Nugget

The Centennial Nugget

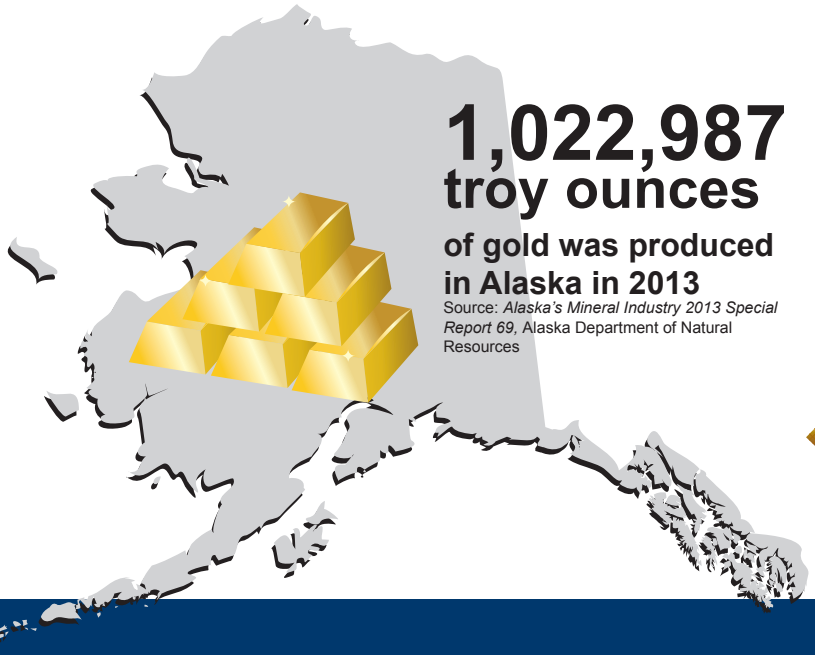
In 1998, Barry Clay was moving dirt with his dozer at Swift Creek Mine when he caught a glimpse of an interesting rock rolling off the side of the blade. After taking a closer look, he realized it was a huge gold nugget. It turned out to be the largest gold nugget ever found in Alaska at 294.1 troy ounces.



Swift Creek Mine

Resources:

If you are planning to visit Alaska and try your hand at gold panning, contact an Alaska Public Lands Information Center to request an information packet and brochures. http://alaskacenters.gov



1,022,987 troy ounces

of gold was produced in Alaska in 2013

Source: *Alaska's Mineral Industry 2013 Special Report 69,* Alaska Department of Natural Resources

Top 3 Global Uses of Gold

#1 Jewelry

For thousands of years jewelry has been the primary use of gold.

#2 Investment

Because gold is highly valued and rare it has been used as a medium of exchange and investment.

#3 Technology

Gold is used in high-performance technology because it does not tarnish or corrode. Computers and cell phones all have small amounts of gold in them. Many satellites and astronauts' helmet visors are coated with a thin layer of gold because it is an excellent solar radiation reflector.

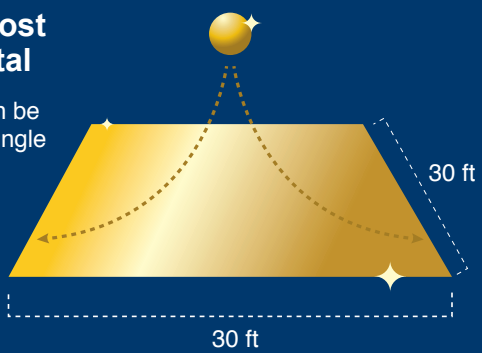
Source: *The Many Uses of Gold*, Geology.com

Gold is the Most Ductile Metal

1 ounce can be stretched into a 50-mile wire that is 5 microns wide.

Gold is the Most Malleable Metal

1 ounce of gold can be hammered into a single 30 ft by 30 ft sheet.



Don't be Fooled

To the untrained eye, iron pyrite (Fool's Gold) looks a lot like gold, but there are some notable differences between the two. Whether you're a recreational of professional prospector, it's important to know and understand the differences between pyrite and real gold. Here are a few simple observation tests:

Streak Test: Scratch your specimen on a scratch plate. Yellow gold streak = real gold. Black greenish streak = pyrite.

Color: Pyrite has a darker brassy yellow color, while gold has a vibrant yellow color that is highly reflective.

Weight: Gold has a higher density than pyrite and in the process of panning for gold most pyrite will wash away because it is a lighter material. Real gold will not be floating in your gold pan!

Shape: Gold forms as nuggets and small flakes with little-to-no symmetry, while pyrite forms in the shape of crystals or cubes.

Using Science to Recover Streams

Matthew Varner

This project site shows the effects of past mining. The stream has cut through the tailings and is disconnected from the floodplain.

This summer's upcoming demonstration project in the Fortymile Wild and Scenic River Corridor will help miners learn techniques to improve the recovery of placer-mined streams.

The Jack Wade Creek Stream Reclamation Project will occur on BLM-managed public lands within a historically mined area near Chicken, Alaska. The multi-year project will serve as an outdoor classroom for miners, agency staff, and the public to learn about the latest science on reclamation of placer-mined streams, including stream bank stabilization and re-vegetation.

"We're pretty excited about this project," says Steve Cohn, BLM Alaska Deputy State Director for Resources. "Stream reclamation in Alaska can present some unique challenges with significant ice accumulation during the winters and short summer growing seasons. This project will demonstrate techniques to address those factors."

Currently, many placer reclamation projects rely on natural processes for stream recovery, which can take decades. The demonstration project will use active stabilization techniques and replant local vegetation to minimize erosion, reduce the risk of stream bank failure, and enhance fish habitat within the project area. Federal regulations require the rehabilitation of fish and wildlife habitat following mining operations, and this project will help miners learn methods they can apply on their own claims to speed up the process.

Construction to stabilize the stream channel and revegetate the area will take place this summer; evaluation and monitoring of the site will take place in following years. The BLM anticipates construction will use local operators for this project.

The BLM is hosting several workshops during the construction phase so that miners and others can learn more about natural channel design methods. As the project develops and is monitored, we will be posting photos and videos on the BLM Alaska website. You can also find additional BLM guidance on reclamation of placer mined streams online. http://www.blm.gov/ak

— Maureen Clark
Alaska State Office
Public Affairs Specialist

Are These the Northernmost Rainbow Trout in the World?

The Gulkana River rainbow trout population is the northernmost population of rainbow trout in North America. A tributary of the mighty Copper River, the Gulkana is designated a Wild and Scenic River for its many outstanding and remarkable habitats that support the largest fisheries for rainbow trout and Chinook salmon in the upper Copper River watershed. Recent cooperative telemetry studies between the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the BLM in Glennallen have been monitoring this population of rainbows.

In a recent study, BLM fisheries biologist Tim Sundlov captured and radio-tagged a Gulkana River rainbow trout that eventually migrated farther north to spawn at Hungry Hollow Creek, latitude 62.995.

This study also documented that Gulkana River rainbow trout are a highly migratory population. Rainbow trout had an average annual travel range of 31 to 37 river miles, with 80 miles the largest documented range.

Movements of fish revealed trends in habitat preference and seasonal distribution. Movements to spawning areas in late May were upstream and movements to summer feeding and overwintering areas were downstream. This migratory documentation to preferred habitat shows the importance of managing with a watershed perspective.

"A watershed is like a factory that makes fish," explains Sundlov, "different parts of the factory, or in this case, habitats, serve different roles in the trout's life. Each part depends on the other and all of the parts work together to produce a product, or in this case, a fish. It takes an entire watershed to raise a fish."

Gulkana River Rainbow Trout Telemetry Study Group

After BLM Glennallen Field Office fisheries biologist Tim Sundlov tagged this rainbow trout in the Gulkana last summer, it migrated to possibly the northernmost point ever recorded!

Living at the northern edge of a geographic range and long migrations come at a high cost. This rainbow trout population may be experiencing high natural mortality due to the extreme environmental conditions and migratory requirements to their preferred habitat. Only nine fish were alive in August, out of the 30 fish that survived spawning the spring before.

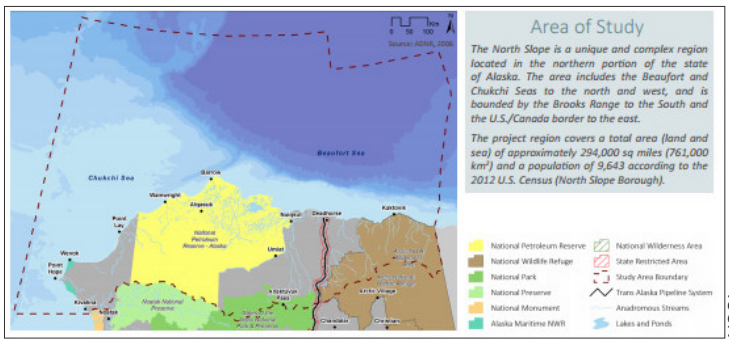
Was the tagged trout that migrated north to Hungry Hollow Creek the northernmost rainbow trout in the world? Is there a population in Russia that is even more extreme?

When Jack Williams, Senior Scientist at Trout Unlimited, learned about this study, he contacted Sundlov. Trout Unlimited is a supporter of the first-ever World Trout Congress to be held this summer in Bozeman, Montana, July 26-31. Williams feels that this is the perfect question to pose to this first congress of trout enthusiasts. This event will bring together a diverse audience that includes conservationists, scientists, anglers, writers, artists, educators, and the public for an exchange of ideas and focused events that explore trout as a global barometer, as a driver for ecosystem restoration, a resource for sustained regional economies, an instrument of human culture, and much more.

"Whatever the outcome," explains Sundlov, "it's important to note that we would never have been able to pose this question or have learned which watershed habitat is important to rainbow trout without this study. The study was possible through a great partnership between the BLM and ADFG."

— Tim Sundlov and Marnie Graham, Glennallen Field Office

North Slope Scenarios Project



NSSI

The future of energy development, resource extraction, and associated support activities on the North Slope of Alaska and its adjacent seas through 2040 is the focus of North Slope Science Initiative's (NSSI's) Science Technical Advisory Panel. The panel is working to identify different scenarios for North Slope development and related science needs, and a long-term monitoring strategy for the area. These scenarios will help identify future research and monitoring needs for America's Arctic and to assess the science needed to understand the implications for each scenario. The scenarios project will help prepare NSSI member agencies with strategies to make effective decisions. The scenarios project is a collaboration between the NSSI, University of Alaska Fairbanks, and GeoAdaptive, LLC, an internationally experienced geospatial scenarios consultant. For more information, visit the NSSI's page at http://www.northslope.org

BLM Alaska extends Preliminary Alternatives Outreach Period for Bering Sea-Western Interior Plan

The Anchorage Field Office extended the comment period for the Bering Sea-Western Interior Resource Management Plan to allow additional time for review and comment on the Preliminary Alternatives Concepts and associated resource inventory reports. The current outreach period began Feb. 22 and was extended to May 31 in response to requests from interested tribes and organizations. The BLM held 13 community meetings, an Anchorage open house, and continues to consult with interested Alaska Native tribes, organizations, and corporations.

Data, Maps, and Models from BLM's Rapid Ecoregional Assessments (REAs)

The REA Data Portal is a one-stop source for geospatial data, maps, and models produced by BLM's Rapid Ecoregional Assessments (REAs). You can also download REA reports to learn about the key components of each REA such as management questions, conservation elements, and change agents. REAs are part of the BLM's landscape approach. BLM Alaska is involved in four REAs, so far only the Seward Peninsula REA is completed and released. The North Slope and Yukon Kuskokwim REA's will be finished this year, and Central Yukon's REA next year. http://www.landscape.blm.gov/geoportal/catalog/main/home.page

New oil and gas leases within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A)

The seven leases result from BLM's oil and gas lease sale held Nov. 19 that generated $658,978 in bids. It takes several months to complete the required regulatory administrative processes and to receive payments for the leases. The seven tracts encompass 66,650 acres. The new leases are held by ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. and Anadarko E&P Onshore LLC, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc., and Nordaq Energy, Inc.

Since 1999, BLM Alaska has held 10 NPR-A lease sales with bids totaling more than $261 million. The new leases bring the number of NPR-A oil and gas leases to 212, covering more than 1.76 million acres. BLM Alaska is preparing an invite to industry to nominate tracts for the 2015 NPR-A lease sale. Additional information about oil and gas leasing within the NPR-A can be found at: http://www.blm.gov/ak.

Kim Mincer

Acting BLM Alaska State Director Leslie Holland, flanked by Assistant State Director for Resources Steve Cohn and Supervisory Land Law Examiner Carol Taylor, signs documents to issue seven new leases in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.

Arctic Encounters

The U.S. is assuming a two-year term as chair of the Arctic Council. BLM Alaska is the largest land manager in the U.S. Arctic. The BLM is working through the North Slope Science Initiative and in other ways to adjust its land management to the rapidly changing Arctic and to explore how these changes will impact policy, business and commerce, the environment, and the people of Alaska's North Slope. In addition to the U.S., Arctic Council member countries include Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Russia, and Sweden.

Bob Wick

Caribou are one of the species impacted by climate change.

FLASHES

News from around the state and our field offices

NPR-A Legacy Wells remediation completed at Umiat

This spring, BLM completed remediation work on legacy wells on the North Slope near Umiat within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A). The work was through an interagency agreement between the BLM and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Contractor Marsh Creek, LLC, plugged Umiat Wells #1, #3, and #11 and also removed wellheads at Umiat Wells #4, #8, and #10. The work's estimated cost is $10 million, including mobilization and demobilization on the North Slope. The BLM contracted earlier remediation work for Umiat Wells #6, #7, and #9 in 2011 and 2012.

Between 1944 and 1982, the U.S. Navy and U.S. Geological Survey drilled exploratory and scientific wells across Alaska's North Slope in what is now the NPR-A. The BLM inherited the assessment, plugging and remediation for the legacy wells in 1982. The BLM plugged 18 wells and remediated four reserve pits over the past 13 years, at a cost of nearly $86 million. The Helium Stewardship Act passed in 2013 included a provision to fund the BLM's legacy well cleanup efforts with $50 million through fiscal year 2019. The 2013 Legacy Wells Strategic Plan outlines priorities and actions that the BLM will take to clean up legacy wells in the NPR-A.

2015 White Mountains National Recreation Area

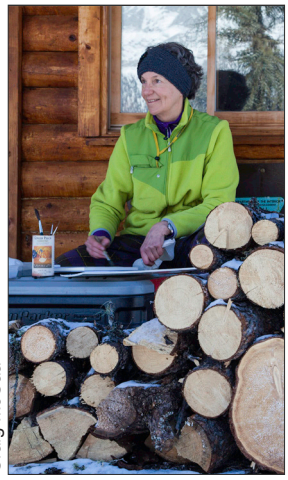
Rob Brumbaugh

Workers onsite examining a tarp-covered wellhead.

Rob Brumbaugh

The contractor used large bags of cement to plug the wells. It took about 25 bags to plug these three wells.

Artist in Residence



Craig McCaa

Fairbanks artist Deborah Horner was the Artist in Residence for the White Mountains National Recreation Area from March 29 to April 3. Deborah made frequent visits to the White Mountains during her years as a dog musher. She looked forward to visiting some of her favorite locations in the one-million-acre recreation area. "Educating people about the value of this extraordinary area and its wide variety of uses is critical to its continued existence for future generations," Deborah says. "I was excited to return to [a place] where I spent much time and to [view] it through my artist's eyes."

Deborah is a watercolorist long active in the Fairbanks Watercolor Society. Her work has appeared in several exhibits and galleries in Fairbanks. In 2012, Horner participated in the first Coal Creek Camp art workshop hosted by the National Park Service in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. The artist in residence program is open to emerging or established artists working in nearly any media – including painting, printmaking, photography, writing, and music. The BLM provides transportation between Fairbanks and the selected site, as well as housing in a rustic cabin. In return, artists donate the use of a piece of their artwork inspired by their residency to help promote public lands.

A Quick Lesson in Cadastral Survey in Alaska

BLM

BLM's Chief Cadastral Surveyor for Alaska Michael Schoder, along with surveyors Blair Parker and Sean Porter, recently provided a tour of the BLM Alaska Cadastral Survey display at the BLM Alaska State Office to students enrolled in the University of Alaska Geomatics program. The display contains examples of historical surveying tools, artifacts, and images that also attracted interest of attendees of a recent meeting of the Federal Subsistence Board. If you are visiting the Fitzgerald Federal Building and Courthouse in Anchorage, stop by the BLM Alaska State Office and check out the display.

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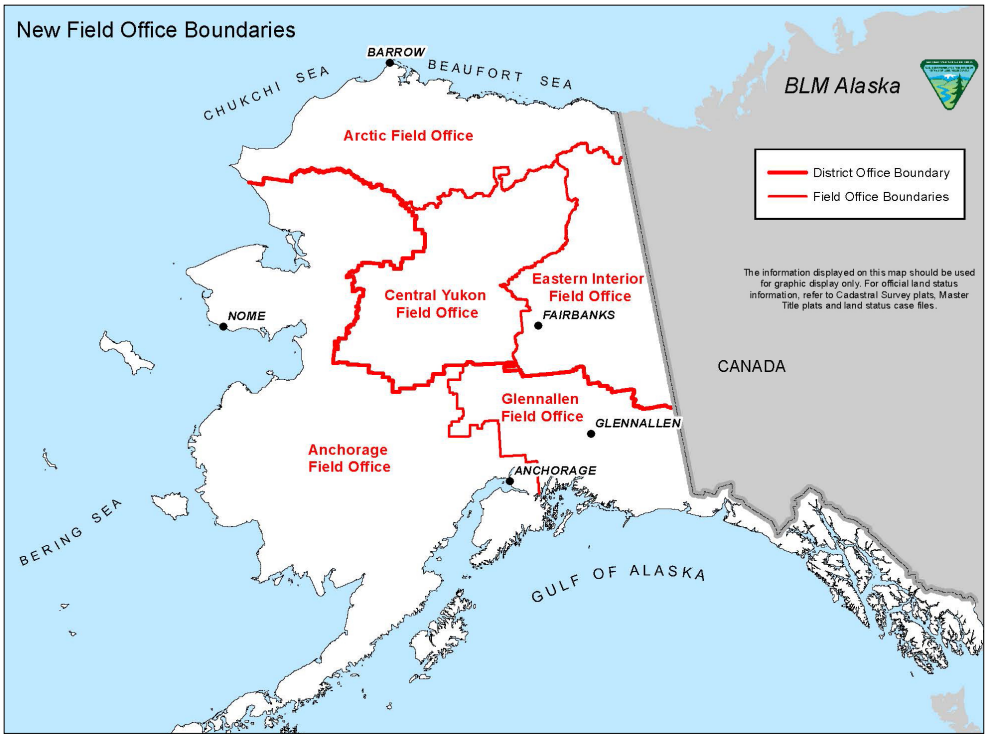
BLM Alaska Realigns Boundaries

Using a landscape approach that focuses on terrain features and land ownership, BLM Alaska has realigned its district and field office administrative and planning area boundaries.

The Glennallen Field Office now manages southeast Alaska while Anchorage Field Office manages more of northwestern Alaska. This results in slight boundary shifts in the three northern field office boundaries as well.

“The approved boundaries adjustment will help to ensure consistent land management of ecoregions,” said Bud Cribley, BLM Alaska State Director.

The realignments also adjust the areas for two ongoing land use planning efforts: the Central Yukon and the Bering Sea-Eastern Interior Resource Management Plans.