



Newsletter of the
Kobuk-Seward Peninsula
 Resource Management Plan - Update

BLM

Summer 2007

Greetings:

The BLM started the planning process for the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula planning area in January 2004 by conducting public scoping to gather information about the issues and resources. We took your comments and concerns, developed a range of management alternatives, and wrote a draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS).

Last summer, we met with tribal and other local governments, state and other federal agencies, guides and transporters, and individuals in 12 communities to discuss the draft plan and gather additional comments, concerns, ideas, and suggestions about the management alternatives. We also received more than 4,000 cards, letters, and e-mails concerning the draft plan during the public comment period. We received more than 600 substantive comments. These are addressed in Appendix J of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

Your additional information, comments and suggestions helped us revise the resource management plan over the winter and early spring. Revisions to the Draft include minor editing changes to improve readability, as well as modifications to management actions described under alternatives. A new section in the Final EIS describes changes between the Draft and Final.

The next step in the planning process is the publication of the *Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement*. We expect to publish a Notice of Availability for the proposed plan in the *Federal Register* in late August or early September. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will publish a similar Notice of Availability on or near the same date as the BLM's

notice. The EPA notice will signal the start of the 30-day protest period and a 60-day Governor's Consistency Review.

The *Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement* will be mailed to everyone on our mailing list. If you received this newsletter by mail, you are on our mailing list. The document will also be posted on the Internet at the address below.

Future Public input

- **An ANILCA 810 subsistence hearing will be held in Kotzebue in September. The meeting date and location will be announced through the news media, the BLM Web site, and other means.**
- **A 30-day protest period on the Proposed RMP/Final EIS will begin with the publishing of the EPA Notice of Availability in the *Federal Register*.**
- **Project level planning for the Squirrel River Recreation Area Management Plan will begin in 2008 and will include opportunities for public involvement.**

If you have Internet access, you can obtain Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan documents by going to: <http://www.blm.gov/ak> and then clicking on Programs, Planning and Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP.

Just as a reminder, many of the documents on our Web Site are also on a compact disc or in the two-volume printed Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Draft Resource Management Plan, which was mailed in May 2006. Many of the online documents are large and could take a long time to download if you don't have a broadband Internet connection.

We will update the BLM Web Site with the *Proposed Resource Management Plan* when the Notice of Availability is published. The *Plan* will also be available on compact disc and as a printed document.

Thank you for your input and continued participation.

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 Field Manager

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Required Planning Steps

AMS = Analysis of the Management Situation
EIS = Environmental Impact Statement
NOI = Notice of Intent
NOA = Notice of Availability
RMP = Resource Management Plan

