



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Glennallen Field Office  
P.O. Box 147  
Glennallen, Alaska 99588  
[www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/gdo.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/gdo.html)

In Reply Refer To:  
1610-5.G.1.4 (AKA020)

JUL 25 2011

Dear Reader:

Available for your review are the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed Delta River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA) Plan and East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP) Amendment. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) prepared the Proposed EARMP Amendment and EA in consultation with cooperating agencies, taking into account public comments received during this planning effort. The Proposed EARMP Amendment and EA provide a framework for the future management direction and appropriate use of the Delta River SRMA, located in the state of Alaska. The document contains both land use planning decisions and implementation decisions to guide the BLM's management of the Delta River SRMA.

The Proposed EARMP Amendment and EA are available at the Glennallen Field Office or on the BLM Alaska Website at:

[http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/east\\_alaska\\_plan/East\\_AK\\_Delta\\_River\\_EA\\_Amend.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/east_alaska_plan/East_AK_Delta_River_EA_Amend.html)

The Proposed EARMP Amendment and EA have been developed in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976, as amended. Alternative 2 of the Proposed EARMP Amendment, which is the BLM's preferred alternative, is similar to Alternative 2 of the Draft EARMP Amendment and EA, that was available for public comment from March 23, 2010 to May 6, 2010. The Proposed EARMP Amendment and EA contain a summary of the written and verbal comments received during the public review period for the Draft EARMP Amendment and EA and the associated responses to those comments. Additionally, all substantial changes made to the document, as the result of public comment, have been highlighted in gray as a guide for you.

Pursuant to the BLM's planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5-2, any person who participated in the planning process for the Proposed EARMP Amendment and EA and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the planning decisions may protest approval of the planning decisions within 30 days of the publication of the notice of its effective date. The protest period for the Proposed EARMP Amendment and EA will begin **August 1, 2011** and end on **August 31, 2011**. For further information on filing a protest, please see the accompanying protest regulations in the pages that follow. The regulations specify the required elements of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite the planning documents or available planning records (e.g., meeting minutes or summaries, correspondence, etc.).

Emailed and faxed protests will not be accepted as valid protests unless the protesting party also provides the original letter by either regular or overnight mail postmarked by the close of the protest period. Under

these conditions, the BLM will consider the emailed or faxed protest as an advance copy and will afford it full consideration. If you wish to provide the BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of Brenda Hudgens-Williams, the BLM protest coordinator, at 202-452-5112, and emailed protests to: [bhudgens@blm.gov](mailto:bhudgens@blm.gov).

All protests, including the follow-up letter to emails or faxes, must be in writing and mailed to one of the following addresses:

Regular Mail:

Director (210)  
Attn: Brenda Hudgens-Williams  
P.O. Box 71383  
Washington, D.C. 20024-1383

Overnight Mail:

Director (210)  
Attn: Brenda Hudgens-Williams  
20 M Street SE, Room 2134LM  
Washington, D.C. 20003

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personal identifying information in your protest, be advised that your entire protest – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us in your protest to withhold from public review your personal identifying information, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

The BLM Director will make every attempt to promptly render a decision on each protest. The decision will be in writing and will be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The decision of the BLM Director shall be the final decision of the Department of the Interior. Responses to protest issues will be compiled and formalized in a Director's Protest Decision Report made available following issuance of the decisions. Upon resolution of all land use plan protests, the BLM will issue an Approved RMP Amendment and Decision Record (DR).

Unlike land use planning decisions, implementation decisions included in the Proposed EARMP Amendment and EA are not subject to protest under the BLM planning regulations, but are subject to an administrative review process, through appeals to the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Interior Board of Land Appeals pursuant to 43 CFR, Part 4 Subpart E. Implementation decisions generally constitute the BLM's final approval allowing on-the-ground actions to proceed. Where implementation decisions are made as part of the land use planning process, they are still subject to the appeals process or other administrative review as prescribed by specific resource program regulations once the BLM resolves the protests to land use planning decisions and issues an Approved RMP Amendment and DR. The Approved RMP Amendment and DR will therefore identify the implementation decisions made in the plan that may be appealed to the Office of Hearing and Appeals.

Sincerely,



Beth Maclean  
Field Manager, Glennallen Field Office

Enclosure

## **Protest Regulations**

[CITE: 43CFR1610.5-2]

TITLE 43--PUBLIC LANDS: INTERIOR  
CHAPTER II--BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
PART 1600--PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING--Table of Contents  
Subpart 1610--Resource Management Planning  
Sec. 1610.5-2 Protest procedures.

- (a) Any person who participated in the planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected by the approval or amendment of a resource management plan may protest such approval or amendment. A protest may raise only those issues which were submitted for the record during the planning process.
- (1) The protest shall be in writing and shall be filed with the Director. The protest shall be filed within 30 days of the date the Environmental Protection Agency published the notice of receipt of the final environmental impact statement containing the plan or amendment in the Federal Register. For an amendment not requiring the preparation of an environmental impact statement, the protest shall be filed within 30 days of the publication of the notice of its effective date.
- (2) The protest shall contain:
- (i) The name, mailing address, telephone number and interest of the person filing the protest;
  - (ii) A statement of the issue or issues being protested;
  - (iii) A statement of the part or parts of the plan or amendment being protested;
  - (iv) A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that were submitted during the planning process by the protesting party or an indication of the date the issue or issues were discussed for the record; and
  - (v) A concise statement explaining why the State Director's decision is believed to be wrong.
- (3) The Director shall promptly render a decision on the protest.
- (b) The decision shall be in writing and shall set forth the reasons for the decision. The decision shall be sent to the protesting party by certified mail, return receipt requested. The decision of the Director shall be the final decision of the Department of the Interior.

