

## **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

### **What is Public Land Order 5150?**

Public Land Order (PLO) 5150 is an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANSCA) federal withdrawal of land to provide a transportation and utility corridor for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

### **Why is PLO 5150 important to the State of Alaska?**

Much of the PLO 5150 corridor was top-filed by the State of Alaska during land selections and has been a State of Alaska priority for conveyance.

### **Why is a portion of the PLO 5150 withdrawal being revoked at this time?**

The State of Alaska has successfully petitioned the federal government in the past to lift portions of the PLO 5150 withdrawal in order for their top-filings to be recognized for conveyance. This request was again made for the entire length of the corridor that is still being managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Glennallen Field Office during their recent planning effort for management of lands in the eastern interior of Alaska. The BLM's response to this request is outlined on page 5 and 14 of the Record of Decision for this planning effort titled the East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP) and allows for partial lifting of the withdrawal and for future negotiation with the State of Alaska on this issue.

### **What portion of PLO 5150 is being made available to the State of Alaska?**

Some of the PLO 5150 corridor originally reserved is outside of the right-of-way currently being utilized by the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. This is referred to as the "outer corridor." The EARMP Record of Decision recommends modification of PLO 5150 to allow for 82,500 acres of this "outer corridor" to be conveyed to the State of Alaska. These lands include the Gunn Creek segment which is northeast of Paxson, and approximately 59,000 acres north of Paxson and west of the Delta River (see Map 6, page 68 of the EARMP ROD and Approved Plan).

### **How much of PLO 5150 will be retained in federal management in this area of Alaska?**

The remaining portions (84%) of the existing pipeline/utility corridor within the BLM Glennallen Field Office management area will be retained in Federal ownership for multiple resource management purposes including maintaining administration of the lands as Federal public lands and emphasizing their use as a transportation/utility corridor, as Special Recreation Management Areas, as a forestry emphasis area (for the Tiekel block), and as an area available for subsistence.

### **Will BLM release more land from the PLO 5150 withdrawal for conveyance to the State of Alaska?**

The BLM is committed to future negotiations with the State of Alaska regarding the pipeline/utility corridor. The BLM will consider and recommend further modification of PLO 5150 to allow for the conveyance of additional lands within the pipeline/utility corridor as long as the BLM is able to adequately meet other management

responsibilities, including management of the pipeline/utility corridor and subsistence resources and activities.

**Why was this particular portion of PLO 5150 retained?**

Much of PLO 5150 in the area supports federal subsistence of Moose and Nelchina Caribou for rural, qualified residents. ANILCA Section 810 hearings were held, as required, to analyze the effects of lifting the entire withdrawal. It was determined that this portion of the corridor currently holds high recreation and mineral values, and is important to subsistence resources and opportunities. In the Record of Decision the BLM retained a majority of the lands to support subsistence.

**How will the BLM balance subsistence needs while conducting further negotiations with the State of Alaska for portions of PLO 5150?**

The BLM's standard is to maintain enough total acres in the Federal unit to maintain the current annual average harvest for moose and caribou. Data used to monitor this standard will be based on records of past and current Federal subsistence harvest data. Any recommended modifications subsequent to those described in this ROD would be subject to ANILCA section 810 analysis, public participation and review, but a plan amendment would not be necessary. The views of those who use or rely on the lands within the withdrawal would be sought through public meetings in affected communities or villages.

**Will this partial lifting of the PLO 5150 withdrawal have an impact on federal subsistence in Units 13 and 13b?**

There will be no impact to the 2007-2008 season. While this comprises 16% of the total area currently available for federal subsistence harvest, it produces less than five percent of the annual harvest for caribou.

**What is the process to revoke portions of PLO 5150?**

The BLM Alaska State Office has prepared a required packet to be forwarded through an internal review and routine process for revocation of withdrawals for Public Land Orders. This packet will go through a WO surname process and then the BLM Director will present the action to the Assistance Secretary's office for signature. At that time a notice will be printed in the Federal Register revoking those lands from PLO 5150.

**What happens once this formal action is taken?**

The partial revocation of this withdrawal will allow the State of Alaska's top-filings for conveyance to be recognized. At the present time, lands under paragraph 1 of PLO 5150 are open for location for metalliferous minerals under the mining laws. Valid federal mining claims could and have been filed on lands listed under paragraph 1 of PLO 5150. there are 1,717 valid federal mining claims in the outer corridor. Each claim would be approximately 20 acres in size for a total of 34, 340 acres.

**What will happen to valid federal mining claims?**

Valid federal mining claims will remain federal mining claims. They will be subject to current federal mining claim laws and regulations and will be excluded from the conveyance to the State of Alaska. As lands are conveyed to the State of Alaska, the miner would have to talk to the State of Alaska for access or the miner could apply for a right-of-way from the federal government, which would then be identified on the conveyance.

**What process will the BLM use if the miner elects to relinquish federal mining claims?** If a miner wishes to relinquish his/her federal mining claim(s), then the miner must file a "Waiver of Exclusion" with the BLM Alaska State Office Mineral Law and Solid Minerals Section in the Division of Resources. By filing the waiver, the miner waives his/her right to have the federal mining claim excluded from the conveyance document. The waiver allows the BLM to convey the area encompassed by the federal mining claim.

**Will there be any opportunities to file new federal mining claims? With the lifting of the withdrawal, which allows the State of Alaska's 906(e) topfilings to be recognized, the land is segregated from further entry under the mining laws. In other words, once the state selection is recognized, the land is segregated from the filing of new federal mining claims.**