



United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Alaska State Office
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599
<http://www.ak.blm.gov>

1610 (050)

APR 18 2006

Dear Reader:

Enclosed for your review is the Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement (Proposed RMP/Final EIS) for the lands administered in East Alaska by the BLM Glennallen Field Office. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS is a refinement of the Preferred Alternative (Alternative D) presented in the Draft RMP/EIS released in April 2005.

The Draft RMP/EIS was available for a 90-day public comment period ending on July 28, 2005. Approximately 4,500 comments were received. Appendix J of the Proposed RMP/Final EIS contains an analysis of and BLM responses to the comments received on the Draft RMP/EIS. When reviewing changes between the Draft RMP/EIS and the Proposed RMP/Final EIS, it is most effective to have both documents available for comparison purposes. BLM's responses to public comments reference page numbers in both the Draft RMP/EIS and the Proposed RMP/Final EIS.

As a result of public comment and internal review, Alternative D has been modified and is now considered the Proposed Action. All changes between the draft and final have been highlighted in grey as a additional guide to the reviewer. Both the Proposed RMP/Final EIS and the Draft RMP/EIS are available from the Glennallen Field Office or on their website at <http://www.ak.blm.gov/gdo/landplan/index.html>. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS is subject to a 30-day protest period. **The protest period ends 30 days after EPA's Notice of Availability is published in the Federal Register.**

The Proposed RMP/Final EIS contains land use planning decisions that are subject to public protest and implementation decisions on specific route designations in the Delta and Gulkana Wild and Scenic River corridors discussed in the Travel Management section of the plan. Implementation decisions on route designations may be appealed to the Interior Board of Land Appeals (IBLA) following the publication of the Record of Decision (ROD) and Approved Plan which is anticipated for July of 2006. The ROD will include information on the appeal process.

A letter of protest must be filed in accordance with the planning regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5-2(a)(1). Any person who participated in the East Alaska RMP planning process and has an interest which is or may be adversely affected may protest this proposed land use plan and/or decisions contained within it (see 43 CFR 1610.5-2) during the 30-day review and protest period. The protest period begins when the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability of the final environmental impact statement in the Federal Register. Only those persons or organizations who participated in the planning process leading to this Proposed RMP may protest. A protesting party may raise only those issues submitted for the record during the planning process leading up to

publication of this Proposed RMP. New issues may not be introduced into the record at the protest stage.

In order to be considered complete, your protest must contain, at a minimum, the following information:

1. The name, mailing address, telephone number, and interest of the person filing the protest.
2. A statement of the issue or issues being protested.
3. A statement of the part or parts of the Proposed RMP being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc., included in the document.
4. A copy of all documents addressing the issue or issues that you submitted during the planning process, or a reference to the date the issue or issues were discussed by you for the record.
5. A concise statement explaining why the Alaska BLM State Director's proposed decision is believed to be incorrect. This is a critical part of your protest. Take care to document all relevant facts. As much as possible, reference or cite documents. A protest that merely expresses disagreement with the Alaska BLM State Director's proposed decision, without any data, will not provide us with the benefit of your information and insight. In this case, the Director's review will be based on the existing analysis and supporting data.

To be considered "timely", your protest, along with all attachments, must be postmarked no later than the last day of the protest period. There is no provision for an extension of time. Although not a requirement, we suggest that you send your protest by certified mail, return receipt requested. Press releases on the actual date ending the protest period will be sent to local and regional media contacts, information will be placed on the East Alaska RMP website, and a newsletter will be sent to all contacts on the East Alaska RMP mailing list .

Protests must be in writing. Electronic mail 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, BLM will consider the email or faxed protest an advance copy and it will receive full consideration. If you wish to provide BLM with such advance notification, please direct faxed protests to the attention of the BLM protest coordinator at 202-452-5112, and emails to Brenda.Hudgens-Williams@blm.gov.

If sent by regular mail, send to:

Director (210)
Attention: Brenda Williams
P.O. Box 66538
Washington, D.C. 20035

For overnight mail (i.e., Federal Express), send to:

Director (210)
Attention: Brenda Williams
1620 L Street, N.W., Suite 1075
Washington, D.C. 20036

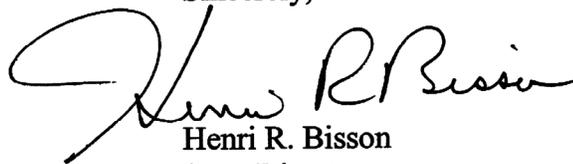
At the end of the 30-day protest period and after the Governor's 60-day consistency review, the Record of Decision and the Approved Resource Management Plan (RMP/ROD) will be prepared. Approval will be withheld on any portion of the Proposed RMP under protest until final action has been completed on such protest. The RMP/ROD will include a description of the appeal process for implementation decisions that can be appealed to IBLA. For the East Alaska RMP, this only includes decisions on route designations within the Wild and Scenic River corridors.

Freedom of Information Act Considerations/Confidentiality

All communications submitted, including names and street addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the Glennallen Field Office in Glennallen, Alaska, during regular business hours (7:30 am to 4:30 pm), Monday through Friday, except holidays. Communications, including names and addresses of respondents, will be retained on file in the same office as part of the public record for this planning effort. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name or address from public inspection or from disclosure under the "Freedom of Information Act", you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

I thank the individuals and organizations who participated in this planning process. Your interest is appreciated. I hope your involvement will continue as we move forward to implement and monitor the plan and manage the public lands and resources administered by the Glennallen Field Office.

Sincerely,



Henri R. Bisson
State Director