

# Alaska Lands Update

monthly updates on Federal management  
actions for the people of Alaska

Eagle Nest, North Coffman Cove, Prince of Wales Island  
Photo Credit: USFWS

Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska  
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## Alaska Federal Lands Long Range Transportation Plan- Newly Completed and Signed at the Alaska Cooperative Planning Group Meeting

On Sept. 24, at a meeting of the Alaska Cooperative Planning Group, the BLM-Alaska State Director Bud Cribley, Forest Service Deputy Director Ruth Monahan,



National Park Service Regional Director Sue Masica and Stanley Pruszenski, Fish and Wildlife Service Alaska Acting Regional Director signed the newly completed Alaska Federal Lands Long-Range Transportation Plan. The Plan has been developed to help federal

agencies and the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities identify and prioritize Alaska's transportation infrastructure and access on federal public lands in Alaska. The BLM, the National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, Federal Highway Administration, and Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities worked together on this pioneering inter-agency approach. While the plan will help agencies work together to set statewide transportation priorities and leverage funding, it does not identify specific projects or suggest changes for managing federal land resources. More information on the project can be found online at <http://www.akfedlandslrtp.org/lrtp.html>. ♦

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## USFWS Video Celebrates National Hunting and Fishing Day

In recognition of National Hunting and Fishing Day (celebrated on September 22 this year) the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Alaska Region has published a video documenting the journey of trout from a hatchery in Anchorage to area lakes. You can view the new video at: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gd3Gbsn-DWs&feature=relmfu>.

In the video you are able to join in on the trip as more than 14,000 catchable-sized rainbow trout are moved from hatchery tanks to two local lakes. The fish were among the first to be delivered from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's new William Jack Hernandez sport fish hatchery.

In the future, hatchery fish will be stocked in more than 200 locations to provide diverse fishing experiences in fresh and marine waters

during all seasons of the year. The hatchery produces Chinook and coho salmon, rainbow trout, Arctic grayling, and Arctic char. In total, more than 3.7 million fingerlings, smolts, and catchable fish will be released during the coming year.

Operation and maintenance of the hatchery is partly funded by the Sport Fish Restoration Program, which provides grant funds to state fish and wildlife agencies for fishery projects, boating access, and aquatic education. The Program is authorized by the Sport Fish Restoration Act of 1950, and administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. For more information, go to

<http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/> or contact Bruce Woods at (907)786-3695. ♦

## Freedom of Information Act Proposed Regulations

The Office of the Secretary of the Department of the Interior announced in the Federal Register on September 13, 2012 a proposed rule that would revise the regulations that the Department follows in processing records under the Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA"). The revisions clarify and update procedures for requesting information from the Department and procedures that the Department follows in responding to requests from the public. The revisions also incorporate clarifications and updates resulting from changes to the FOIA and case law. Finally, the revisions include current cost figures to be used in calculating and charging fees and increase the amount of information that members of the public may receive from the Department without being charged processing fees. The full rule text can be found at <http://www.regulations.gov>, search using the Regulation Identifier Number 1093- AA15. For more information contact Cindy Cafaro, Office of Executive Secretariat and Regulatory Affairs, 202-208-5342.

Comments are being accepted on the proposed rule and must be submitted on or before November 13, 2012 by either of the following methods: 1. Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions on the Web site for submitting comments. 2. *U.S. mail, courier, or hand delivery*: Executive Secretariat—FOIA regulations, Department of the Interior, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240. Please use Regulation Identifier Number 1093- AA15 in your message. ♦

## Comment Deadline Reminders

- BLM Alaska **Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan** comment deadline extended pending the release of supplemental documents. Check BLM Alaska's website at <http://www.blm.gov/ak> for more information.

## Final Documents expected out soon:

- The **BLM-National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska** is anticipating release of the Final Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement in November 2012. The project website is: <http://www.blm.gov/ak>.
- The USFWS expects to release the final **Comprehensive Conservation Plan** for the **Arctic National Wildlife Refuge** this November. Keep track of that project at: <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/arctic/index.htm>.

## Hunting Guide Concessions in Katmai National Preserve, Alaska

Guided hunting in the area of Katmai National Park and Preserve has occurred before and since the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA), which established the Preserve. Sport hunting is currently allowed in the Preserve under Federal and non-conflicting State laws and regulations, for Game Management Unit 9C, pursuant to ANILCA Sections 203 and 1313 and 36 CFR sections 13.40(d). Guided sport hunting will continue in the Preserve by awarding one or two concession contracts for a 10 year period, to begin with the fall 2013 hunt. The NPS initiated an Environmental Assessment in May 2011 to revise the guide area boundaries and annual client limits for each guide area. The purpose of this revision is to provide for a more equitable distribution of business opportunities and clients to guide area resources while maintaining the purposes and values for which the area was established.

The environmental assessment evaluated the effects of three alternatives for guided sport hunting in Katmai National Preserve: A) No Action or no contracts to be awarded for guided hunting services; B) Status Quo with two guide areas including one small guide area with 3 annual clients and one large area with 25 annual clients; and C) two more equitably sized guide areas authorizing 12 and 16 clients,

respectively. The NPS received about 630 comment letters, emails, or postings on this EA during a 40-day public comment period from June 25 to August 2, 2012 and selected Alternative C, their Preferred Alternative. Alternative C will maintain the recent past level of guided clients per year at 28 and adjust the guide areas to two more equitably-sized areas using easily recognizable topographical features. The 41,000-acre Sugarloaf Guide area will be authorized for up to with 12 clients per year, and the 187,000-acre Moraine Creek Guide area will be authorized for up to 16 clients per year which is a better apportion of area resources and business opportunities to provide better options for prospective hunters. Furthermore, this alternative continues to provide an opportunity for all interested U.S. citizens to hunt brown bear and foreign hunters to hunt any big game in the Katmai National Preserve pursuant to federal and State of Alaska laws and regulations.

During September 2012, the NPS solicited proposals for guided sport hunting services in Katmai National Preserve.

For more information on this project or Katmai National Park and Preserve, visit their website at <http://www.nps.gov/katm/parkmgmt/publicinvolvement.htm>. ♦

## Commission Members

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- Mark Fish**, Anchorage  
Vice Chairman - (G)
- Rod Arno**, Palmer (S)  
Executive Committee
- Charlie Lean**, Nome (G)  
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- Ron Somerville**, Juneau (H)
- Susan Smith**, Chokosna (G)
- Alex Tarnai**, Tanana (G)
- Frank Woods**, Dillingham (G)

(S) SENATE APPOINTMENT

(H) HOUSE APPOINTMENT

(G) GOVERNOR'S APPOINTMENT

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For more information, visit our website:

[www.dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa](http://www.dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa)

AS 41.37.160 The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas in Alaska is established in the department [Natural Resources]. In the exercise of its responsibilities, the commission shall consider the views of citizens of the state and officials of the state.



## Salazar Outlines Proposed Plan for Additional Development and Wildlife Protection in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska

August 13, 2012

After receiving more than 400,000 public comments and following two days of meetings and visits with North Slope leaders, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today outlined a proposed plan that will allow for additional access for oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A) while also protecting world-class caribou herds, migratory bird habitat, uplands, and sensitive coastal resources that are central to the culture and subsistence lifestyle of Alaska Natives and our nation's conservation heritage. The plan will be analyzed in detail and presented for public review as the preferred alternative for the NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS) later this year.

"To harness the oil and gas potential of the NPR-A, we need a plan that will help the industry bring energy safely to market from this remote location, while also protecting wildlife and subsistence rights of Alaska Natives," Salazar said. "This proposal would allow us to continue to expand our leasing in the NPR-A, as we have done over the last three years as part of the Obama Administration's focus on expanding safe and responsible oil and gas development, and builds on our efforts to help companies develop the infrastructure that's needed to bring supplies online. This plan also strikes an important balance by recognizing the need to protect America's treasures in the Arctic, from the raptors of the Colville River and the polar bears of the Beaufort Sea coast, to Teshekpuk Lake, Peard Bay, and some of the largest caribou herds on Earth."

The Draft IAP/EIS, released March 30, presented four future management alternatives for the NPR-A for public comment. The Final IAP/EIS, expected to be released in late 2012, will include "Alternative B-2," a modified version of Alternative B, as the preferred alternative. The release of the Final IAP/EIS starts a 30-day review period before the Secretary

may issue a final decision.

"With its energy supplies, importance to Alaska Natives, and wildlife resources, it is vital that we continue to hear from the many stakeholders and the public as we work to strike the right management balance in the NPR-A," acting Bureau of Land Management Director Mike Pool said. "As the first integrated activity plan for the entire NPR-A, this will provide a roadmap to help facilitate the transition from leasing and cautious exploration to production and smart development."

The NPR-A is one of the Arctic's greatest migratory bird nesting and molting areas and is the summer home for hundreds of thousands of waterfowl and shorebirds, including critical molting areas for up to 30% of the entire population of Pacific Flyway brant goose. The NPR-A provides calving areas and insect relief areas for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, Alaska's largest herd at roughly 325,000 animals, and the 55,000 animal Teshekpuk Caribou Herd. These populations are a subsistence resource for over 40 northern and western Alaska Native villages.

More than 400,000 public comments and public meetings on the Draft IAP/EIS helped inform the preferred alternative and came from a wide variety of stakeholders, including Alaska Native tribal governments, corporations and other Native organizations; state, local and federal government agencies; elected officials; industry and business organizations; conservation organizations and individual citizens. In the coming weeks, the BLM will work with its cooperating agencies, including the State of Alaska, the North Slope Borough, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, as it prepares the Final IAP/EIS.

By law, BLM administers the NPR-A for the purposes of oil and gas leasing, along with protection of areas containing significant subsistence, recreational, fish and wildlife, or historical or scenic value.

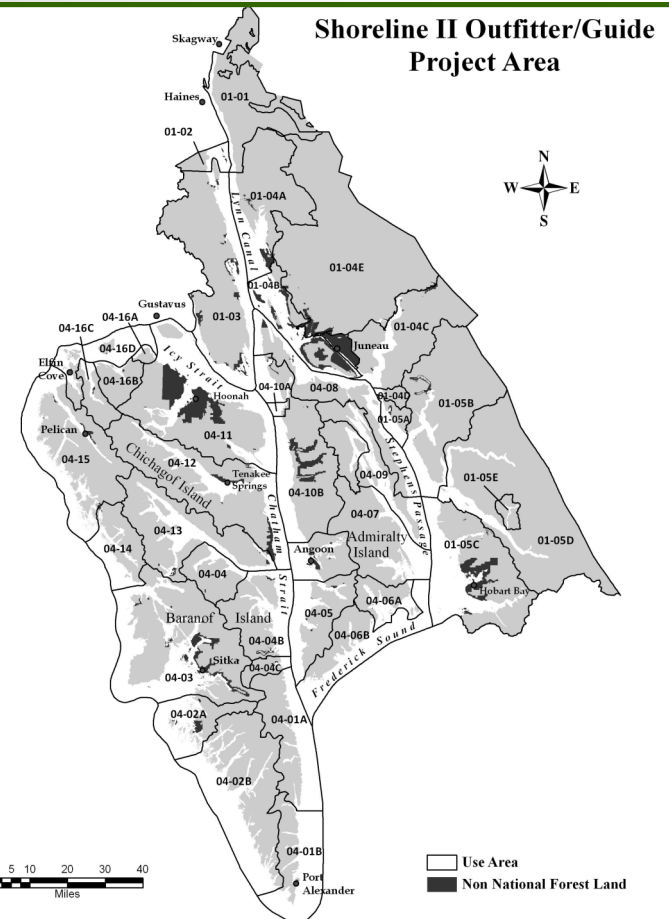
For a map of the preferred alternative and additional information, go to <http://blm.gov/dnkd>. ♦

## Shoreline II Outfitter and Guide Management Plan for the Tongass National Forest

The Forest Service is using Survey Monkey and a “Shoreline Recreation Feedback Survey” on their website to gather information on shore and land activities throughout the Tongass National Forest in preparation and planning for their Outfitter and Guide Management Plan. This project is geared toward collecting information on the type, amount and timing of saltwater-based uses on the Admiralty National Monument, Hoonah, Juneau and Sitka Ranger Districts.

For more information and to participate in the Survey visit the project website at

[http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa\\_project\\_exp.php?project=38181](http://www.fs.fed.us/nepa/nepa_project_exp.php?project=38181).



## Happy Birthday NOVARUPTA!

Katmai National Monument was created in 1918 to preserve the famed Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, a spectacular forty square mile, 100 to 700 foot deep ash flow deposited by Novarupta Volcano in 1912. Novarupta, meaning “new eruption”, was the largest eruption of the 20th century released 30 times the volume of magma as the 1980 eruption of Mount St. Helens.

## NPS-Alaska to Host Open House in Anchorage

Join Alaska National Park Service leadership at an open house in Anchorage at the Lidia Selkregg Chalet, 1600 Lidia Selkregg Lane, Russian Jack Springs Park Oct. 17 from 6-8 p.m. to discuss the approaching 100th anniversary of the National Park Service, how the Service can prepare for a new century of stewardship and engagement, and current operations and issues in Alaska’s national parks.

The National Park Service will mark its 100th anniversary in 2016, and is embarking on a series of actions to transform its work around the country. NPS Alaska Deputy Regional Director Joel Hard will host this public conversation about how the Service should work to accomplish the major themes of the centennial. Nationwide centennial themes include how to better connect people to parks, how to advance the NPS education mission, and how to better preserve America’s special places.

The NPS will hold an open house in Juneau this winter. Listening sessions were held in Fairbanks, the Great Alaska Sportsman Show in Anchorage, and Palmer this spring. A copy of the national “Call to Action, Preparing for a Second Century of Stewardship and Engagement” is available at <http://www.nps.gov/calltoaction/> Written comments on the plan or NPS-Alaska implementation can be sent to: [akr\\_info@nps.gov](mailto:akr_info@nps.gov) or by mail to NPS Regional Director, 240 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501. For more information on the open house contact Mr. John Quinley at 907-644-3512. ♦

# BLM Administration Announces NPR-A Oil and Gas Lease Sale in November

Following President Obama's direction to hold annual oil and gas lease sales in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska (NPR-A), Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar announced on September 25, 2012 that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will hold its second oil and gas lease sale in the past year on Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2012, in Anchorage, AK. The lease sale will include 400 tracts and cover approximately 4.5 million acres in the NPR-A, and builds on the December 2011 NPR-A sale that made 283 tracts and three million acres available. The draft determination and a map of tracts to be offered by the sale are posted at [www.blm.gov/ak](http://www.blm.gov/ak).

"The energy resources of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska are essential to meeting our nation's energy demands and will enhance domestic energy production and decrease dependency on foreign oil

resources," said Salazar. "The November sale is in line with the President's direction to continue to expand domestic energy production, safely and responsibly. Since the President took office, domestic oil and gas production has increased each year with oil production higher than any time in eight years, and production of domestic natural gas at an all-time high."

The BLM sought public input on tract nominations from lands in the NPR-A planning areas that are not currently leased or deferred from leasing and selected the tracts based on evaluation of comments received, natural resource information, resource potential, industry interest, and subsistence values. The comment period ran from May 15 through June 29.

The BLM will submit a Notice of Sale to the Federal Register to be published at least 30 days prior to the sale.

This will be the eighth oil and gas lease sale in the NPR-A since 1999.

Following President Obama's direction in May, 2011 that annual oil and gas lease sales be conducted in the NPR-A, BLM offered 3 million acres in a lease sale last December that generated 17 winning bids cov-

ering approximately 120,000 acres. To date, only exploratory drilling has occurred within the NPR-A, although last year, with the assistance of the President's Interagency Working Group on Coordination of



## Agency Websites:

### National Park Service

<http://www.nps.gov/state/ak/index.htm>

### U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

<http://alaska.fws.gov/>

### U.S. Forest Service - Region 10, AK

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/>

### Bureau of Land Management

<http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en.html>

### Department of the Interior

<http://www.doi.gov/>

### National Marine Fisheries Service

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/>

Domestic Energy Development and Permitting in Alaska, permits were issued to ConocoPhillips to allow for future production of oil and gas resources within the NPR-A. Currently, there are 186 authorized oil and gas leases totaling 1,481,092 acres within the planning areas of the NPR-A.

Comments on the draft Determination of NEPA Adequacy may be submitted to: NPR-A Draft DNA Lease Sale Comment, Attn: Bridget Psarianos; 222 W. 7th Ave. Ste. 13; Anchorage, Alaska, 99513-7504 or through the BLM-Alaska website. Comments must be received by Oct. 24, 2012.

For additional information, see the BLM-Alaska website at: <http://www.blm.gov/ak> or call Ruth McCoard, BLM-Anchorage at 907-271-4418.