

Alaska Lands Update

monthly updates on Federal management
actions for the people of Alaska

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
Photo Credit: USFWS

Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, Department of Natural Resources, State of Alaska
3700 Airport Way Fairbanks, AK 99709

Alaska Federal Lands Long Range Transportation Plan Available for Public Comment

Federal land management agencies in Alaska, including the BLM, National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and USFS, together with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT), are undertaking a pioneering effort to develop a multi-agency long range transportation plan (LRTP) for Federal lands in the state. This LRTP is being developed to help Federal land managers and the ADOT make better funding decisions for transportation facilities that provide access to and within public lands in Alaska.

The multi-agency umbrella plan has sought cooperation through developing similar goals and objectives with common actions that benefit all agencies. The umbrella plan is a collective of each federal agency's own transportation plan, called a drop-down plan. The drop-down plans focus on the portions of the



state's transportation system within that agency's jurisdiction. These drop-down plans enable each agency to outline the transportation facilities within their jurisdiction as well as the existing and future needs for those facilities.

For more information on the LRTP and the individual agencies' drop-down plans please visit the following sites online:

Alaska Federal Lands LRTP - <http://www.akfedlandslrtp.org/>

LRTP Executive Summary Document -

<http://www.akfedlandslrtp.org/images/LRTPs/All%20AK%20Fed%20Lands%20LRTP%20Executive%20Summaries.pdf>

National Park Service Planning, Environmental & Public Comment (PEPC) site -

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=1&projectID=39393&documentID=43975>

Comments may be submitted electronically from the National Parks Service PEPC site.

The 90-day comment period is open until February 1, 2012.

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Subcommittee Reviews Wilderness and Public Land Bills

The US House of Representatives Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests and Public Lands held a legislative hearing on October 25, 2011 to discuss eight bills related to Wilderness and public lands. The bills included measures to modify the boundaries of current federal land holdings, establish new Wilderness areas, and allow for the disposal of surplus federal lands. “Monuments, Wilderness and other land-use designations have been a topic of much debate in this subcommittee. While there are certain areas of special significance that should be managed as wilderness or otherwise



Arrigetch Peaks, Gates of the Arctic

preserved for future generations, we need to ensure that those designations are fully vetted and protect the interests and livelihoods of the communities and stakeholders that could be impacted. ... It is important to return to a practice of looking at wilderness proposals thoroughly and individually as opposed to comprehensive omnibus bills and Administrative actions that seek to designate millions of acres in one fell swoop with little, if any, consideration of the consequences,” said Subcommittee Chairman Rob Bishop. “Secondly, I also

look forward to exploring options to reduce the federal estate, particularly in those cases in which the government has identified excess or surplus lands. The federal government currently has a multi-billion dollar maintenance backlog for the lands it holds. Especially given our current budget climate, it makes perfect sense to free the federal government from land it doesn’t need and allow agencies to focus on our most prized national parks, forests and other lands.”

Wilderness is the most restrictive designation for federal public lands and can only be designated by Congress under the Wilderness Act of 1964. Roads and permanent structures are not allowed in Wilderness areas, and activities like logging, mining, bike riding and most vehicular traffic are strictly prohibited. These restrictions inhibit job creation and can significantly impact the economies of rural communities.

None of the eight bills discussed at this hearing concerned lands within Alaska. More information can be found at <http://naturalresources.house.gov/Calendar/EventSingle.aspx?EventID=264837>.

BLM-Alaska Resource Advisory Council to Meet in Fairbanks November 29 & 30, 11

The 15 member council, which advises the Secretary of the Interior, through the BLM, on a planning and management issues in Alaska, will be meeting November 29 and 30, 2011 in Fairbanks at the Fairbanks Princess Riverside Lodge, Jade meeting room. This meeting is open to the public, topics planned for discussion include: manager reports; lands with wilderness characteristics policy update; and resource management planning. A public comment period is scheduled from 11 am to noon on Wednesday, November 30. Depending on the number of people wishing to comment and time available, the time for individual oral comments may be limited, so be prepared to submit written comments if necessary. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time.

For more information contact Thom Jennings, RAC Coordinator; BLM Alaska State Office; 222 W. 7th Avenue #13; Anchorage, AK 99513. Telephone 907-271-3335 or 907-271-4418 or email tjennin@blm.gov.

BLM-Alaska Terminates Yukon Pacific Corporation’s Right-of-Way for Trans-Alaska Gas System

The Bureau of Land Management Office of Pipeline Monitoring announced on October 27, 2011 it has received and accepted a request from Yukon Pacific Corporation to relinquish their right-of-way grant for the Trans-Alaska Gas System.



BLM-Alaska website at: <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en.html>.

Commission Members

- Representative Wes Keller, Wasilla**
Chairman - (H)
- Mark Fish, Anchorage**
Vice Chairman - (G)
- Rod Arno, Palmer (S)**
Executive Committee
- Charlie Lean, Nome (G)**
Executive Committee
- Mike Meekin, Palmer (H)**
- Senator Linda Menard, Wasilla (S)**
- Warren Olson, Anchorage (S)**
- Colleen Richards, Anchorage (G)**
- 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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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.

Yukon Pacific Corporation has held a right-of-way grant for the Trans-Alaska Gas System since 1992. The system included a proposal to build an 800-mile pipeline parallel to the trans-Alaska oil pipeline and the option to build a liquefied natural gas facility at Valdez. The system was intended to transport Alaska’s natural gas from the North Slope to Valdez, Alaska, for export to domestic and overseas markets, but was never constructed. For additional information, see the

BLM Announces an Oil and Gas Lease Sale within the National Petroleum Reserve

The Bureau of Land Management announced on Friday, October 28, 2011 it will hold an oil and gas lease sale within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2011, at 1 p.m. at the Anchorage Federal Building, Denali Room, 222 W 7th Ave., Anchorage, AK. The BLM will offer 283 tracts comprising approximately 3,060,176 acres in this sale.

“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 sources,” said BLM-Alaska State Director Bud

Cribley. “I believe it is possible to develop oil and gas resources, while protecting important surface and subsistence resources. The sale in December reflects the BLM’s mission to balance the protection of natural resources and rural subsistence with the nation’s need for oil and gas

development within the NPR-A.”

The BLM manages 253 million acres nationally, more land than any other federal agency. This land, known as the National System of Public Lands, is primarily located

in 12 Western states, including 75 million acres in Alaska. The Bureau, with a budget of about \$1 billion, also administers 700 million acres of sub-surface mineral estate throughout the nation. The BLM’s multiple-use mission is to sustain the health and productivity of the public lands for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.



More information and a detailed Statement of Sale is available at the BLM-Alaska website at: <http://www.blm.gov/ak>.

Sealed Bids must be received by 4:00 pm, Monday, December 5, 2011 at the BLM—Alaska State Office.

National Park Service Alaska Region’s Subsistence Resource Commission Program

National Park Service announced two meeting of the Subsistence Resource Commission (SRC). The Commission meets to develop and continue work on NPS subsistence program recommendations and other related subsistence management issues.

The Cape Krusenstern National Monument SRC will meet at the National Park Service Northwest Arctic Heritage Center, 171 Third Avenue in Kotzebue, Alaska, (907) 442–3890, on Thursday, November 17, 2011. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. or as soon business is completed. For more information on the Cape Krusenstern National Monument SRC meeting contact: Frank Hays, Superintendent, or Willie Goodwin, Subsistence Community Liaison, at (907) 442–3890 or Ken Adkisson, Subsistence Manager, at (907) 443–2522 or Clarence Summers, Subsistence Manager, NPS Alaska Regional Office, at (907) 644–3603. If you are interested in applying for Cape Krusenstern National Monument SRC membership contact the Superintendent at P.O. Box 1029, Kotzebue, AK 99752, (907) 442–3890, or visit the park Web site at: <http://www.nps.gov/cakr/contacts.htm>.



The Kobuk Valley National Park SRC will meet at the National Park Service Northwest Arctic Heritage Center, 171 Third Avenue in Kotzebue, Alaska, (907) 442–3890, on Tuesday, November 15, 2011. The meeting will start at 9 a.m. and conclude at 5 p.m. At the discretion of the Chair, this meeting may be extended to Wednesday, November 16, 2011, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or until business is completed. For more information on the Kobuk Valley National Park SRC Meeting contact: Frank Hays, Superintendent, or Willie Goodwin, Subsistence Community Liaison, at (907) 442–3890 or Ken Adkisson, Subsistence Manager, at (907) 443–2522 or Clarence Summers, Subsistence Manager, NPS Alaska Regional Office, at (907) 644–3603. If you are interested in applying for Kobuk Valley National Park SRC membership contact the Superintendent at P.O. Box 1029, Kotzebue, AK 99752, (907) 442–3890, or visit the park Web site at: <http://www.nps.gov/kova/contacts.htm>.

DOI to Examine Integration of Mining Regulation and Reclamation Programs

Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar launched a process to evaluate how to best integrate the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM) into the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to further strengthen the bureaus' mining regulations and abandoned mine land



reclamation programs. Secretary Salazar said "OSM and the BLM have vital natural resource missions, tremendous public servants, and

strong leaders who are helping us rethink how we better deliver services and how we can further strengthen our regulation, reclamation, and stewardship responsibilities."

The Secretarial Order issued October 26, 2011 will become effective December 2, 2011. The Order directs Interior Deputy Secretary David J. Hayes to work with OSM and BLM leadership and employees to develop a schedule, by March 1, 2012, to achieve strategic improvements in four primary areas:

- **Administrative Support Functions;**
- **Environmental Restoration of Abandoned Mine Lands;**
- **Fee Collections; Regulation, Inspection and Enforcement and State Program Oversight;**

"OSM and the BLM have many complementary responsibilities with respect to mining and the reclamation of mine lands, and it makes sense to explore how we can bring the best out of the two bureaus as they carry out their statutory responsibilities," said BLM Director Bob Abbey.

OSM oversees State surface coal mining regulatory programs and develops new tools to ensure the states and tribes administer their programs effectively.

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, Alaska

<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/>

Alaska Maritime Land Protection Plan

The Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge was created by ANILCA in 1980 with the combination of 11 previously established refuges totaling about 3 million acres. There are 1.6 million acres of privately owned land within the external boundaries of the Refuge, therefore the Fish and Wildlife Service has prepared a Land Protection Plan to explore where those private lands are, the potential effects of private lands on refuge resources, and to identify those privately-owned lands we consider having the highest value for wildlife. It essentially prioritizes the private lands in terms of their value to wildlife and serves to foster communication between the refuge and interested landowners to protect key resources. Refuge lands are managed to conserve fish, wildlife, and their habitats in their natural diversity. However, fish and wildlife range freely between refuge and private lands and depend on the health of the entire ecosystem. Just as management actions on Service lands can affect private landowners, actions on private lands may affect our ability to conserve wildlife.

More information can be obtained at the following websites:

Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Website - <http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/akmar/index.htm>

USFWS, AK Maritime NWR, Land Protection Plan -

http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/planning/pdf/akmar/AM_LCP_complete.pdf

The US Fish and Wildlife Service has released the
Draft Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan
for the

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Comments are being accepted through
November 15, 2011.

For more information visit <http://arctic.fws.gov/>

