

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

National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) Integrated Activity Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement Public Meeting Schedule

The Bureau of Land Management released the Draft Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska on March 30, 2012. The five volume document, available online at www.blm.gov/ak, proposes several alternative future management strategies for the nearly 23-million acres of federal lands in the NPR-A on Alaska's North Slope. The public comment period will run from March 30 through June 1; and during this period the BLM will hold public meetings on the Draft IAP/EIS. The meeting will offer an opportunity to comment on the plan, and the meetings in Anaktuvuk Pass, Atqasuk, Barrow, Nuiqsut, Point Lay, and Wainwright will also solicit comments regarding subsistence as required by Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. All meetings are tentatively scheduled to formally begin at 7pm and will be preceded with an open house at 6pm.

Below is the schedule for the public Draft comment and ANILCA Sec. 810 meetings:

- Point Lay, May 14, Community Cent.;
- Wainwright, May 15, Community Center;
- Nuiqsut, May 16, Community Center;
- Atqasuk, May 17, Community Center;
- Barrow, May 21, Inupiat Heritage Multi-Purpose Room;
- Anaktuvuk Pass, May 22, Community Center;
- Fairbanks, May 23, Noel Wein Library;
- Anchorage, May 24, Campbell Creek Science Center Multi-Purpose Room.

For more information please visit the BLM Alaska website at <http://www.blm.gov/ak> and follow the links for NPR-A IAP/EIS website. ♦

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Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Foundation Statement

The Alaska Region of the National Park Service is pleased to announce the release of the Foundation Statement for Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. This document will be useful for both the National Park Service as well as for those with an interest in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. The project website can be found at

<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=41934>.

A Foundation Statement clearly and concisely articulates the purposes for which a park unit was established and identifies what is most important about that unit. It is grounded in the enabling legislation for that unit and based on knowledge acquired since its establishment. It contains a purpose statement and multiple significance statements and lists the fundamental resources and values that are critical to the significance of the unit. A Foundation Statement also identifies primary interpretive themes and key legal mandates, providing the framework needed to understand the historic and contemporary roles, conditions and issues surrounding the park unit.

Your feedback on this Foundation Statement is welcome as this statement will be used as both a reference for fundamental information about Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and for future park planning and management efforts. Comment deadline is Friday, May 11th, 2012. Comments may be submitted at the National Park Service PEPC site at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/>, follow the links for this project or written comments can be mailed to the Alaska Regional Office at the following address:

National Park Service - Alaska Region
Joan Darnell, Team Manager
Environmental Planning and Compliance
240 W. 5th Ave.
Anchorage, Alaska, 99501

For additional information on Foundation Statements for Alaska's national parks, please contact Joan Darnell at 907-644-3526. For information on the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Foundation Statement, please contact the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve Superintendent at the above address or at 907-457-5752.



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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.

**The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas
will be meeting
in Fairbanks**

May 31 and June 1, 2012

**At the Fairbanks Legislative Information Office,
For more information contact Commission Staff**

BLM-Alaska Eastern Interior RMP Public Meeting Schedule—New Dates

The BLM's Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan is open for 150-day public comment period, which started February 24, 2012 and will run through July 23, 2012. More dates have been added to the public meeting schedule as shown below. For more information, visit the BLM's main page for Alaska <http://www.blm.gov/ak> and follow the links for the Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan website. ♦

Location	Date	Time	Time
Central, Historical Museum	May 7, 2012	Open House: 4:00 - 7:00 pm	Public Meeting: 7:00-9:00 pm
Anchorage, Campbell Creek Science Center	May 9, 2012	Open House: 3:00 - 7:00 pm	Public Meeting: 7:00-9:00 pm
Tok, Tok School	May 16, 2012	6:00 - 9:00 pm	
Delta Junction, Community Center	May 17, 2012	4:00 - 8:00 pm	
Birch Creek	May 23, 2012	TBD	
Chicken, Miner's Hall	June 1, 2012	11:00 am - 1:00 pm	
Chalkyitsik	TBD	TBD	

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/>

NPS-Alaska Extends Comment Period on Collection EA

The National Park Service (NPS) has extended the public review period for an environmental assessment addressing the subsistence collection and use of shed or discarded animals parts and plants from NPS areas in Alaska. In response to a request for additional time, the deadline for public comment is now May 3, 2012, about a month longer than originally scheduled.

You may request a hard copy of the EA, executive summary of the EA, or download the EA from the NPS Planning Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) web page at:

<http://parkplanning.nps/projectHome.cfm?projectID=35955>.

Comments may also be posted at the Planning, Environment, and Pub-

lic Comment (PEPC) program located on the NPS public comment website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov> If you have questions about the EA, please contact Bud Rice, Environmental Protection Specialist, at (907) 644-3530 or Sandy Rabinowitch, Subsistence Manager, at (907) 644-3596. ♦



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Announces Draft Polar Bear Special Rule and Environmental Assessment

On April 19, 2012, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published in the Federal Register a proposed special rule to clarify how the agency will manage the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) in harmony with other federal laws that also protect polar bears. The proposed special rule, issued under Section 4(d) of the ESA, would replace a similar special rule issued in 2008, but contains additional environmental analysis per a court order. As such, the Service's management and conservation efforts for the polar bear will not change if this proposed special rule is finalized.



On May 15, 2008, the Service listed the polar bear as threatened and issued an interim special rule for the polar bear, which was refined and finalized as a final special rule on December 16, 2008. On November 18, 2011, the District Court for the District of Columbia ordered reinstatement of the interim final special rule governing management of polar bears under the ESA. In its ruling, the Court required the Service to do a review of potential environmental impacts of its December 16, 2008, final special rule for the polar bear under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and mandated that the May 15, 2008, interim final special rule will be in effect until this is done. The upcoming proposal will comply with the court order to conduct additional NEPA analysis.

The proposed special rule does not affect the continued subsistence harvest or the production and sale of polar bear handicrafts by Alaska Natives. This pro-

posed special rule also allows the continued noncommercial export of Native handicrafts made from polar bear parts and cultural exchange that would otherwise require a permit as a result of the polar bear listing under the ESA.

To download a copy of the proposed special rule, draft EA, and learn about other issues on polar bear conservation, please visit <http://alaska.fws.gov/>.

This publication began a 60-day comment period. Comments and information concerning the proposed special rule and associated draft EA may be submitted to the Service by one of the following method:

U.S. mail or hand-delivery: Public Comments Processing, Attn: Docket No. [FWS-R7-ES-2012-0009]; Division of Policy and Directives Management; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, MS 2042-PDM; Arlington, VA 22203; or Federal eRulemaking Portal:

<http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments to Docket No. [FWS-R7-ES-2012-0009].

The Service will post all comments on <http://www.regulations.gov>. This generally means the agency will post any personal information provided through the process. The Service is not able to accept email or faxes.

For further information contact Charles Hamilton, Marine Mammals Management Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 7, 1011 East Tudor Road, Anchorage, AK 99503 telephone 907-786-3309.

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