

Alaska Lands Update



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

Photo Credit—USFWS

Commission to Host Summit in Anchorage on August 12-13, 2013

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas is sponsoring a Federal Over-reach Summit at the Dena'ina Center in Anchorage on August 12-13-2013. The purpose of the Summit is to *"gather major participants in an examination of Alaska's relationship with the federal government prior to Statehood, during the Statehood process, and after Statehood, including a discussion of the following: Equal Footing Doctrine, navigable waters, ANCSA, ANILCA, RS 2477, the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air & Water Acts, etc. and documenting a historical perspective of the relationship discussing particular events, actions, and results.*

The goal of the summit is to lay the foundation for an action plan for Congress, the Alaska State Legislature, and the governor to improve the working relationship between Alaska and the federal government." (taken from June 20, 2013 letter from Commission Chairman Representative Wes Keller to prospective participants.)

The first day and a half of the summit will consist of presentations that will examine the past, present and future relationship between Alaska and the Federal government. The afternoon of day two will consist of a roundtable discussion of the issues identified during the presentations and development of an outline for an action plan. As a follow-up to this summit and to further refine any recommendations, the Commission is making plans for a meeting in early Fall 2013 with Federal agency representatives.

The summit is open to the public but space is limited. An agenda, final list of participants and information on how to register will be available in the Commission website at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/>. For information by email at: dnr.cacfa@alaska.gov.

YOU CAN NOW REGISTER FOR THE SUMMIT AT EVENTBRITE, please follow this link: <http://cacfa.eventbrite.com/>. ♦

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Donnelly Dome, Alaska Range
Photo Credit— USFWS

Notice of Availability of the Decision Record for the Delta River Special Recreation Management Area and East Alaska Resource Management Plan Amendment

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) announces the availability of the Decision Record (DR) for the Delta River Special Recreation Management Area and East Alaska Resource Management Plan Amendment (Approved Plan). The BLM-Alaska State Director, Bud C. Cribley, signed the DR on March 29, 2013. The DR constitutes the final decision of the Department on the plan and is effective immediately.

The DR is available on the BLM-Alaska Web site at www.blm.gov/ak/planning. Hard copies of the DR are available upon request from the BLM Glennallen Field Office, by calling 907-822-3217. For more information contact: Serena Sweet,

telephone 909-271-4543 or by email at ssweet@blm.gov. ♦

Deadlines and Reminders

- **Draft Land Protection Plans for Lake Clark National Park & Preserve, and Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve** are open for public comment through August 12; Find more information and to submit comments visit the NPS PEPC website located at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/publicHome.cfm> and follow the links;
- BLM-AK is accepting nominations and comments until July 18, 2013, on the **2013 Oil and Gas sales in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska**; A map showing the available areas can be found at BLM-AK's website: <http://www.blm.gov/ak>; for more information contact Erin Curtis, 907-271-4418, ecurtis@blm.gov or Thom Jennings, 907-271-3335, tjennings@blm.gov;
- **Forest Service Proposed Rule for the Preservation of Paleontological Resources**. Open for Comment; comments must be received in writing by July 22, 2013; for more information visit the Federal e-Rulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>; search ID: FS_FRDOC_0001-1610;
- **Central Yukon Planning Area Scoping Comment Period through December 11, 2013**. For information at: www.blm.gov/ak or email the project Manager at j05cole@blm.gov;
- **Weather and Climate Monitoring Program at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve EA**, comment deadline July 17, 2013; more information is available at the project website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectID=44972>, or email Allison_Banks@nps.gov;
- **Federal Overreach Summit—August 12-13, 2013, Dena'ina Center, Anchorage**. More information along with an agenda will be posted on CACFA's website as it becomes available, visit at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/> or email dnr.cacfa@alaska.gov.

Please join the staff and other Commission Members of CACFA in welcoming our newest Commission member, Teresa Hanson. Ms. Hansen was recently appointed by Governor Parnell to the Commission in a public seat. She is currently studying as an Interdisciplinary Doctorate student at UAF. Ms. Hanson bring experience to the Commission from her years mining gold and garnet with her family, and her depth of knowledge and extensive research of Alaska and it's many diverse land management issues. Welcome Ms. Hanson!

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.usda.gov/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/>

Notice of Intent To Prepare a Resource Management Plan for the Central Yukon Planning Area Alaska and Associated Environmental Impact Statement

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Central Yukon Field Office, Fairbanks, Alaska, intends to prepare a Resource Management Plan (RMP) with an associated Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Central Yukon Planning Area. This notice announces the beginning of the scoping process to solicit public comments and identify issues. The RMP will replace the existing Utility Corridor RMP, Central Yukon RMP, and part of the Southwest Management Framework Plan. Additionally, the RMP will cover lands in the Fairbanks North Star Borough that are currently not included in any management plan.

Comments on issues may be submitted in writing until December 11, 2013. The date(s) and location(s) of any scoping meetings will be announced at least 15 days in advance through local media, newspapers, and the BLM-Alaska Web site at: www.blm.gov/ak. In order to be included in the Draft RMP/EIS scoping report, all comments must be received prior to the close of the 180-day scoping period or 15 days after the last public meeting, whichever is later. The BLM will provide additional opportunities for public participation upon publication of the Draft RMP/EIS.

You may submit comments on issues, planning criteria, and management questions and concerns related to the Central Yukon RMP by any of the following methods:

In person at public scoping meetings in communities within the planning area. The BLM will announce the meeting dates, times and specific locations through news releases and on the BLM Web site at www.blm.gov/ak;

Email: CentralYukon@blm.gov;

Fax: 907- 474-2282;

Mail: Attn: Central Yukon Field Office, 1150 University Avenue, Fairbanks, AK 99709.

For further information and/or to have your name added to our mailing list, contact Jeanie Cole, Planning and Environmental Coordinator, telephone 907-474-2200;



Horsetail Grass Flats, 1976. Photo Credit— USFWS

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

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Ron Somerville, Juneau (H)

Susan Smith, Chokosna (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

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.

Alaska Federal Lands Access Program Announces the First Round of Projects

The first round of Alaska Federal Lands Access Projects has been announced by the Programming Decision Committee (PDC). The PDC is responsible for the Alaska Federal Lands Access Program and has selected its short-list of projects. The list can be found at: [http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/ak/](http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/ak/documents/AK-Projects-Selected-2013.pdf) <http://www.wfl.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/flap/ak/>. ♦

Governor Parnell Submits ANWR Plan

On July 9, 2013 Governor Sean Parnell announced that the State of Alaska is officially submitting a plan for seismic exploration activities in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 1002 Area, pursuant to Section 1002(e) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

"The 1002 Area of ANWR holds enormous promise for Alaska and for our nation," Governor Parnell said. "Federal law provides clear direction and mandates a number of actions that the Interior Secretary must take upon the submission of a 1002 Area exploration plan. We look forward to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's prompt review and approval of this exploration plan."

On May 18, with support from North Slope Borough Mayor Charlotte Brower and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation President and Chief Executive Officer Rex Rock, the State of Alaska submitted a detailed 1002 Area exploration proposal and offered to help finance seismic studies in the 1002 Area. In late June, Interior Secretary Sally Jewell completely rejected the State's proposal and offer of funding support. Therefore, the State is submitting a formal exploration plan and special use permit application for the 1002 Area.

"ANILCA requires the Secretary to take formal action on this exploration plan," said Natural Resource Commissioner Dan Sullivan, noting that the U.S. Department of Interior approved 1002 Area exploration plans in the 1980s and that the law does not contain a sunset provision and therefore is still on the books.

"This 240-page, world-class document meets all the

statutory and regulatory requirements for a 1002 Area exploration plan contained within the Code of Federal Regulations and in ANILCA. If an exploration plan meets all of these requirements, the Secretary is required by law to approve it," Sullivan said.

The exploration plan and accompanying special permit application builds upon the detailed proposal the State submitted in May. The plan will take advantage of current technology, which will have significantly less environmental impacts than the exploration activities approved and conducted in the 1002 Area during the 1980s.

The 1002 Area is thought to be one of the most prolific regions for undiscovered oil in America. The State seeks to conduct low-impact, three-dimensional surveys across the 1002 Area from 2014 to 2017. This work will only be done during the winter, with very limited impact to tundra, fish and wildlife.

"I am renewing my pledge to seek support from the Alaska Legislature during its 2014 session to fund a 3-D seismic program for the 1002 Area," Governor Parnell said. "If this plan and permit application is promptly reviewed and approved as required by ANILCA, I will request a minimum of \$50 million to execute this plan."

Governor Parnell's letter to Secretary Jewell is available at:

http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell_media/resources/files/07_09_13_the_honorable_sally_jewell_anwr.pdf.

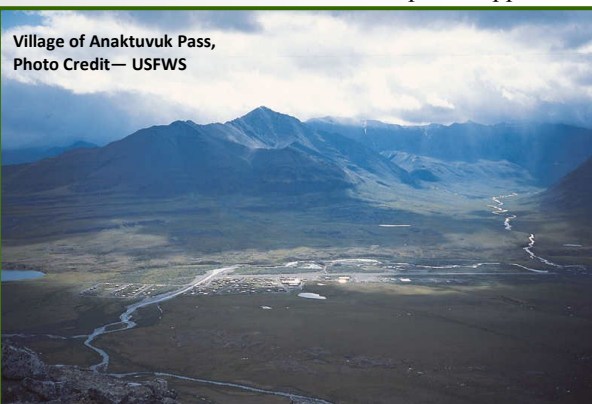
State of Alaska's ANILCA Section 1002(e) Exploration Plan and Special Use Permit Application and supporting materials are available at: http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/priorities/ANWR/ANWR_Exploration_Plan_7_9_13.pdf. ♦

NPS to Issue Certificate of Access for Chandler Lake Clean-up

The National Park Service (NPS) will be issuing a right-of-way certificate of access (RWCA) to Ms. Mabel Burris of Anaktuvuk Pass for access through Gates of the Arctic National Park to her Native allotment to base activities for removal of abandoned Department of Defense (DOD) debris from lands owned by the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and individual Alaskan natives around the Chandler Lakes area within park boundaries. An environmental assessment (EA) was prepared to evaluate potential impacts to cultural and natural resources associated with the proposed access project, a no-action alternative and a third alternative. The completed application

for access from Ms. Burris requested permits to authorize two 8-wheeled Argo all-terrain vehicles to travel over NPS lands between Anaktuvuk Pass Village and the Burris allotment and project cleanup sites in the area during the summers of 2013 and 2014. Other members of clean-up crews will fly to base camp at the Burris allotment on Little Chandler Lake from which to stock-pile and bundle debris at seven sites in the area. Bundles of debris will be removed by snowmobiles and sleds across NPS lands during spring of 2014 and 2015. The project is funded by the Native American Land Environmental Mitigation Program through a cooperative agreement (CA) between DOD and the village of Anaktuvuk Pass, a federally recognized Alaska Native tribe. The NPS selected Alternative 2, which is the NPS Preferred Alternative in the EA. This alternative allows for the most economical access and provides for contingency trips for emergency.

More information can be found at the4 project website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=11&projectID=45085&documentID=54290>. ♦



Village of Anaktuvuk Pass,
Photo Credit— USFWS

Weather and Climate Monitoring Program at Glacier Bay NPP

The Southeast Alaska Inventory and Monitoring Network (SEAN) designs and operates long term ecological monitoring programs for three National Park Service units: Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (GLBA), Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, and Sitka National Historic Park. In 2008, the SEAN Vital Signs Monitoring Plan identified priority Vital Signs for each park. Weather and Climate were identified as priority Vital Signs for Glacier Bay.

Detecting changes in climate will inform managers about a broad range of resource effects including glacial ice mass wasting, shifts in marine salinity and nutrients, timing and abundance of marine mammal prey, forest and early successional plant community advance, spread of invasive species, and adjusting park infrastructure to more intense storm events or rising sea levels.

The National Park Service will prepare an Environmental Assessment to consider placement of automated climate monitoring stations in Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. A grid of new Remote Automated Weather Stations (RAWS) has been proposed for GLBA that would be designed to capture conditions along the west-east, north-south, and high-low elevation gradients in the

park. Remote Automated Weather Stations record air and soil temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, wind, solar radiation, and snow depth data. Stations are powered by solar panel, wind generator, or methanol fuel cell. In addition to storing data, each station also transmits hourly weather conditions and sensor condition by satellite. Park resources may be affected by such installations and an Environmental Assessment will be prepared to identify and analyze the environmental effects of a range of alternatives. A 30-day comment period will end on July 17, 2013.

For more information visit the project website at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/projectHome.cfm?projectId=44972>; or contact: Allison Banks, Environmental Protection Specialist at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve; PO Box 140; Gustavus, AK 99826; phone 907-697-2611; email: Allison_Banks@nps.gov.

Read more about how the SEAN Climate and Weather Inventory and Monitoring program is being developed at the following link: http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/sean/AuxRep/0_SEAN/0_SEAN%20Climate%20Inventory_final.pdf ♦

Secretary Vilsack Announces Steps to Conserve 17-Million Acre Tongass National Forest by Transitioning to Sustainable, Second Growth Forest Management

Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack outlined on July 3, 2013 a series of actions by the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to conserve the old-growth forests of the Tongass National Forest. The actions will focus on speeding the transition to management of second-growth (previously harvested) forests.

At 17 million acres, the Tongass is the largest national forest in the United States. It contains large stands of old-growth rainforest, and provides world-class recreation and fishing while supporting local communities through a variety of economic activities.

"The Tongass National Forest is a national treasure. Today, I am outlining a series of actions by USDA and the Forest Service that will protect the old-growth forests of the Tongass while preserving forest jobs in southeast Alaska," said Secretary Vilsack. "I am asking the Forest Service to immediately begin planning for the transition to harvesting second growth timber while reducing old-growth harvesting over time."

These actions will conserve the outstanding coastal rainforests of the Tongass. They will ensure a smooth transition to second-growth forests so the forest industry can continue to provide jobs and opportunity in Southeast Alaska.

A persistent challenge on the Tongass National Forest has been low availability of second growth timber for use by the forest industry, making a transition away from old

growth timber difficult. Flexibility, like that provided in the Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization and Jobs Protection Act, recently passed by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, is critical to making second growth forest available for timber harvest.

Additional actions announced by the Secretary include:

1. Allocating Forest Service staff and financial resources to development of second growth sales;
2. Developing a new work plan for the Tongass that includes a growing mix of second growth projects;
3. Asking the Forest Service to consider an amendment to the Tongass National Forest land management plan that would speed the transition;
4. Supporting research into second growth management and market development.

The intent of the announcement is that second growth timber sales will continue to increase, and within 10 to 15 years that the vast majority of timber sales on the forest will be from second growth forests.

The Secretary's memorandum is available online at

<http://www.ocio.usda.gov/document/sm1044-009-%E2%80%99Caddressing-sustainableforestry-southeast-alaska>. ♦

Comment Period Extended for NPS Draft Land Protection Plans

The National Park Service is extending the public comment period for draft land protection plans for Lake Clark National Park & Preserve, and Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve. The plans are open for public comment through August 12.

Land protection plans are required for all National Park System areas that contain private or nonfederal lands or interests within their boundary. The plan articulates what lands or interests in land the park may have and what means of protection are available to achieve the purposes for which the unit was created. A land protection plan is not an offer to purchase land, nor does it diminish the rights of non-federal landowners. The plan is intended to guide the park's land protection activities subject to the availability of funds and other constraints.

Most Alaska parks developed a land protection plan in the mid-1980s as part of their broader general management plans, although Lake Clark did not have such a plan. Most Alaska parks, including Gates of the Arctic and Lake Clark, have a significant amount of non-federal land within their boundaries.

Comments may be submitted online :<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/publicHome.cfm>; or by mail at National Park Service - Alaska Region; Joan Darnell, Team Manager; Environmental Planning and Compliance; 240 W. 5th Ave.; Anchorage, Alaska, 9950; phone (907) 644-3526. ♦



Fisherman with Northern Pike 1976. Photo Credit – USFWS

Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council Planning Teleconference

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have announced in the Federal Register on July 15, 2013, they will be holding a public teleconference of the Wildlife and Hunting Heritage Conservation Council (Council). The teleconference will be held on Tuesday, July 30, 2013, 2-3:30 p.m. (ET).

The Council was formed in February 2010, to provide advice about wildlife and habitat conservation endeavors that: benefit wildlife resources; encourage partnership among the public, sporting conservation organizations, States, Native American tribes, and the Federal Government; and benefit recreational hunting. The Council advises the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture, reporting through the Director, USFWS, in consultation with the Directors of the BLM and the National Park Service; the Chief Officers of the USFS and NRCS and the Administrator for the Farm Services Agency.

For background information on the council and a final agenda for the teleconference visit online at: <http://www.fws.gov/whhcc>.

If you would like to listen to the teleconference, submit written information or questions for the council to consider or give an oral presentation during the teleconference you must contact Joshua Winchell, Council Coordinator, at telephone (703) 358-2639 and email joshua_winchell@fws.gov; no later than Monday, July 22, 2013. ♦