

Alaska Lands Update

monthly updates on Federal management
actions for the people of Alaska

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Photo

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

Public Meetings Scheduled for Nabesna ORV Management Plan

The National Park Service will hold 5 public meetings on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Nabesna Off-Road Vehicle Management Plan. Each meeting will start with a short presentation by NPS, followed by open-house style format with displays. Copies of the draft EIS will be available and personnel will be on hand to answer questions. Comments on the DEIS will be accepted until November 10, 2010.

To view the document, go to the park planning website <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/wrst>. Hardcopies also are available upon request from the Park Headquarters in Copper Center (Mile 106.8 Richardson Highway, Copper Center, Alaska). For more information, contact Bruce Rogers at 907-822-7276. Written comments can be submitted to *(ORV Plan continued on page 3)*

State Files RDI Application for Kuskokwim

The State of Alaska has filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest (RDI) from the United States in lands underlying the Kuskokwim River in Southwestern Alaska. The State asserts that the Kuskokwim River was navigable and unreserved at the time of Statehood; therefore, title to the submerged lands passed to the State at the time of Statehood (1959). Certain lands included in the application are within the exterior boundary of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

All comments to this action should be received on or before December 2, 2010. Comments on the State of Alaska's application or the BLM Draft Summary Report must be filed with the Chief, Branch of Survey Planning and Preparation (AK-9270), Division of Cadastral Survey, BLM Alaska State Office, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jack Frost, 907-271-5531; E-mail Jack_Frost@blm.gov; or visit the BLM Recordable Disclaimer of Interest Web site at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/>

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Alaska Petitions to De-List Steller Sea Lions

The State of Alaska this week petitioned the federal government to remove the Eastern distinct population segment (DPS) of Steller sea lions from the list of species protected by the Endangered Species Act (ESA). The state coordinated its filing with Oregon and Washington, which also filed a similar petition this week.

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has divided Steller sea lions into two "distinct population segments" - a Western DPS and an Eastern DPS. The Western DPS is listed as endangered; the Eastern DPS is currently listed as threatened.

The Eastern DPS has surpassed the recovery objectives set by NMFS and the threats facing the sea lions have been addressed, meriting their removal from the list of threatened species.

The State of Alaska also submitted comments on NMFS' recent draft biological opinion and associated environmental assessment on the impact of federal groundfish fisheries on the health of the Western DPS. Despite significant scientific uncertainty and an increasing population trend, the draft opinion concludes that commercial fisheries are inhibiting the recovery of two of seven sub-populations of the Western DPS and calls for substantial curtailment of commercial fisheries in the Western Aleutian Islands.

NMFS has 90 days to decide whether the de-listing petition presents enough scientific or commercial evidence of recovery that removal of the Eastern DPS from the Endangered Species List may be warranted. With regard to the Western DPS, the comments NMFS receives, including the state's, will inform the agency's decision on what, if any, new restrictions it may impose on commercial fisheries.

A copy of the de-listing petition and the state's comments on the BIOP are available at:

http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell_media/documents/letter_DelistPetition_8-30-10.pdf



Photo by Carolyn Kurde, 2001, NMMML

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CACFA Staff

Stan Leaphart
Executive Director
907-374-3737
stan.leaphart@alaska.gov

For more information, visit our website:

<http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/index.htm>

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.

(ORV Plan continued from page 1)

Bruce Rogers at Wrangell St. Elias National Park & Preserve, P.O. Box 439, Copper Center, Alaska 99573.

MEETING SCHEDULE

Monday, September 20...Campbell Creek Science Center, Anchorage 7 - 9 p.m.

Tuesday, September 21...Wrangell St. Elias NPP theatre at the visitor center,

mile 106.8 Richardson Highway, 2 - 4 p.m.

Tuesday, September 21...Slana School, Slana, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 22...Tok School, Tok, 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 23...National Park Service office, 4115 Geist Road, Fairbanks, 6 - 8 p.m.

In addition to these 5 NPS meetings, there will be other opportunities for public input, comments and questions during the public review comment period, including the

including the Wrangell-St. Elias NPP Subsistence Resource Commission meeting on October 6 and 7 in Tok, the Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council meeting in Fairbanks on the 14th of October, and the Southcentral Regional Advisory Council meeting in Cordova on October 19. The DEIS is also on the agenda for the CACFA meeting October 21 in Anchorage.



National Park Service Photo

Denali Park & Preserve Overflights Advisory Council to Meet

The Denali National Park & Preserve Overflights Advisory Council will hold its next meeting on Friday, September 10, 2010. The meeting is scheduled from 9:00 am to 5:00 and will be held at the Murie Science and Learning Center, mile 1.5 of the Denali Park Road, Denali National Park & Preserve.

The Denali National Park Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council was established in 2007 to advise the Superintendent, through the Secretary of the Interior, on mitigation efforts that should be made to reduce the impacts from aircraft overflights in Denali National Park and Preserve. The group is developing voluntary measures for assuring the safety of passengers, pilots, and moun-

taineers and for achieving desired future resource conditions at Denali that were outlined in the 2006 Backcountry Management Plan.

Additional information, including transcripts from previous meetings and other documents, can be found on the council website: [Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council](#). For information about the September 10 meeting contact : Miriam Valentine, Denali Planning. Telephone: (907) 733-9102 Email: Miriam_Valentine@nps.gov. 9102 at Denali National Park, Talkeetna Ranger Station, P.O. Box 588, Talkeetna, AK 99676

Commission Meeting Scheduled in Anchorage

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas has scheduled its next meeting for October 21 & 22, 2010 in Anchorage.

An agenda along with exact meeting times and location will be available at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

For additional information contact the Commission office at (907) 374-3737

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
<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/>

Scoping Continues for Integrated Activity Plan and EIS for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska—Meetings Scheduled

On July 28, 2010, the BLM announced that it was beginning a new plan for all federally managed land in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). A scoping period began immediately.

During scoping the BLM requests the public's input on management decisions and resources to be addressed and the issues for analysis. Formal scoping will continue until 4 p.m Alaska time on October 1, 2010.

The BLM will issue a draft of its plan for public comment in early 2012, a final plan late in 2012, and its decision approximately a month after issuance of the final plan.

Scoping meetings are planned for the following communities. There will be

an open house beginning at 6:30 p.m. and a public meeting beginning at 7 p.m. in the North Slope communities and in Anchorage. In Fairbanks the open house will begin at 6 p.m. and the public meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Anaktuvuk Pass: Tuesday, September 14, 2010, Community Center

Anchorage: Thursday, September 23, 2010, Campbell Creek Science Center

Atkasuk: Tuesday, September 21, 2010, Community Center

Barrow: Thursday, September 9, 2010, NSB Assembly Room

Fairbanks: Monday, September 13, 2010, Noel Wein Library

Nuiqsut: Thursday, September 16, 2010, Kisik Community Center

Wainwright: Monday, September 20, 2010, Community Center

Comments may be submitted by any of the following methods:

Web site: <http://www.blm.gov/ak>

• *Fax:* 907-271-5479.

• *Mail:* BLM Alaska State Office, Attention—NPR-A Planning Team, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Ducker, 907-271-3130; e-mail: jducker@blm.gov; or by mail: Bureau of Land Management, 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599.

