

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

Salazar Outlines Broad Opportunities for Common Ground on Wilderness

Washington, DC, June 1, 2011 – In a [memo](#) to Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Director Bob Abbey, Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today confirmed that, pursuant to the 2011 Continuing Resolution, the BLM will not designate any lands as “Wild Lands,” and outlined how the Department will work in collaboration with Members of Congress, states, tribes, and local communities to identify public lands that may be appropriate candidates for congressional protection under the Wilderness Act.

“The protection of America’s wilderness for hunting, fishing, and backcountry recreation should be a unifying issue that mobilizes us to a common purpose,” said Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar. “We will focus our effort on building consensus around locally-supported initiatives and working with Members to advance their priorities for wilderness designations in their states and districts. Together, we can advance America’s proud wilderness legacy for future generations.”

In the memo, Secretary Salazar directs Deputy Secretary David J. Hayes to work with the BLM and interested parties to develop recommendations regarding the management of public lands with wilderness characteristics.

Noting the longstanding and widespread support for the designation of wilderness areas, Salazar also directed Hayes to solicit input from members of Congress, state and local officials, tribes and federal land managers to identify BLM lands that may be appropriate candidates for Congressional protection under the Wilderness Act. Hayes will deliver a report to the Secretary and Congress regarding those areas.

In the memo, Salazar also confirmed that BLM must continue to meet its responsibilities under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), including the requirement that it maintain inventories of the public lands, their resources and other values that it manages.

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River meander—Innoko Wildlife Refuge
near McGrath, Alaska

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Segregation of Lands for Renewable Energy Projects

Interim and Proposed BLM Regulations

On April 26, 2011 the Bureau of Land Management issued notice of an [interim temporary rule](#) (Interim Rule) to amend the regulations found in 43 CFR parts 2090 and 2800 by adding provisions allowing the BLM to temporarily segregate from the operation of the public land laws, by publication of a *Federal Register* notice, public lands included in a pending or future wind or solar energy generation right-of-way (ROW) application, or public lands identified by the BLM for a potential future wind or solar energy generation ROW authorization under the BLM's ROW regulations, in order to promote the orderly administration of the public lands. If segregated under this rule, such lands will not be subject to appropriation under the public land laws, including location under the Mining Law of 1872 (Mining Law), but not the Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 (Mineral Leasing Act) or the Materials Act of 1947 (Materials Act), subject to valid existing rights, for a period of up to 2 years. The Interim Rule is effective

April 26, 2011 through April 26, 2013. However, public comments received within 60 days of the publication of this rule will be considered by the BLM. Any necessary changes will be made to the Interim Rule. Also on April 26, the BLM published a [proposed rule](#) that would make this segregation authority permanent. At the completion of the rulemaking process for the proposed rule, or at the end of 2 years, whichever occurs first, the Interim Rule will expire.

The comment period on both the interim and proposed rules ends June 27, 2011. Send by mail to: Director (630) Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, Mail Stop 2143LM, 1849 C St., NW., Washington, DC 20240, *Attention:* 1004-AE19. You may deliver comments to U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management, 20 M Street, SE., Room 2134LM, *Attention:* Regulatory Affairs, Washington, DC 20003. Submit via the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>.

DOI Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes

The Department of the Interior is seeking comment on a proposed [policy](#) with Indian tribes. This policy would establish standards for improved consultation with Indian Tribes to the extent that a conflict does not exist with laws or regulations. The policy would apply to any Department action that affects Indian tribes and would require that the Department's government-to-government consultation involve appropriate Tribal and Departmental officials.

Consistent with Federal appropriations law, the Department will also develop a policy for consultation with Alaska Native Corporations. That Policy will address when a Department action im-

pacts an Alaska Native Corporation's interest. The Policy will not conflict with the requirements of the tribal consultation policy. The Secretary's designee will provide a Plan of Action for developing the Alaska Native Corporation consultation policy.

Comments on the proposed policy will be accepted until July 18, 2011. Submit comments by e-mail to consultation@doi.gov or by US mail to Consultation Policy Comments, Department of the Interior, Room 5129 MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

For further information contact: Kallie Hanley, Office of the Secretary, 202-208-5397 or kallie_hanley@ios.doi.gov.

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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.

NPS to Amend General Management Plan Amendment for Lake Clark National Park & Preserve

The National Park Service has announced that it will prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on a General Management Plan (GMP) Amendment & Wilderness Study for Lake Clark National Park & Preserve. The current GMP was adopted in August 1984. According to a May 31, 2011 notice in the Federal Register, the GMP amendment will establish the overall direction for both the park and preserve, setting broad management goals for managing the area during the next 15 to 20 years. The plan will prescribe desired resource conditions and visitor experiences that are to be achieved and maintained throughout the park based on such factors as the park's purpose, significance, special mandates, the body of laws and policies directing park management, resource analysis, and the range of public expectations and concerns.

The plan also will outline the kinds of resource management activities, visitor activities, and developments that would be appropriate in the park in the future. In addition the plan amendment will address visitor-use issues and provide management direction for the

three designated wild rivers (Chilikadrotna, Mulchatna and Tlikakila) within the park. The wilderness study will be included as part of the plan amendment and will evaluate portions of the park and preserve for possible designation as wilderness.

Public scoping will begin in early June 2011 via a newsletter to state and federal agencies; associated American Indian tribes; associated Native corporations; neighboring communities; borough commissioners; local organizations, researchers and institutions; the congressional delegation; and other interested members of the public. Public scoping meetings regarding the general management plan amendment will be held in Anchorage, Soldotna, and Homer and in the resident zone communities of Port Alsworth, Nondalton, Pedro Bay, and Newhalen. Specific dates, times, and locations will be announced in the local media, on the Internet at <http://www.nps.gov/lacl> and will also be available by contacting the park/preserve headquarters (907-781-2218).

In addition to attending the scoping meetings, people wishing to provide input may mail or email comments to the park/preserve at the address below. Written comments on the scope of the plan amendment/wilderness study/environmental impact statement will accepted until September 1, 2011. Comments may be submitted via the Internet to <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lacl>.

For additional information contact Joel Hard, Superintendent, Lake Clark National Park and Preserve, 240 W. 5th Avenue, Suite 236, Anchorage, AK 99501. Telephone: 907-644-3626.



Lake Clark in Winter

Salazar Wilderness Memo (continued from page 1.)

The BLM currently manages 221 Wilderness Areas designated by Congress and 545 Wilderness Study Areas, comprising approximately 8.8 percent of the nearly 245 million acres managed by the BLM.

In December, 2010, Secretary Salazar issued Secretarial Order 3310, directing the BLM to use the public resource management planning process to gather public input and designate certain lands with wilderness characteristics as "Wild Lands." On April 14, 2011, Congress passed the Department of Defense and Full-Year Continuing Appropriations Act of 2011, which includes a provision that prohibits the use of appropriated funds

to implement, administer, or enforce Secretarial Order 3310 in FY 2011.

To read Secretary Salazar's memo, click [here](#).

For additional information contact:

Kate Kelly, DOI (202) 208-6416 or
Celia Boddington, BLM (202) 208-6913

Announcement

The next meeting of the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas is :

Wednesday, JUNE 22 from 1 pm to 5 pm and

Thursday, JUNE 23 from 8:30 am to 5 pm

Fairbanks Legislative Information Office

1292 Sadler Way, Fairbanks, 907-452-4448

Members of the Public who wish to participate during the scheduled public comment periods may call (outside Juneau) 1-855-463-5009 or (in Juneau) 463-5009.

Public Comment periods are scheduled at 3:00 pm on Wed. June 22, and at 3:00 pm on Thursday, June 23.

Geothermal Leases on the Tongass

The U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Tongass National Forest has announced it will prepare a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) to a 2008 programmatic environmental impact statement (PEIS) titled *Geothermal Leasing in the Western United States*. This analysis is needed for consent determination to allow the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to issue three pending leases to a private geothermal developer. These leases encompass much of Bell Island and a portion of the Cleveland Peninsula within the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska.

The agency invites comments and suggestions on the scope of the analysis to be included in the draft SEIS. In addition, the agency gives notice of this environmental analysis and decision making process so that interested and affected people know how they may participate and contribute to the final decision.

A scoping document, as well as project updates will be posted on the Tongass National Forest public website at <http://www.fs.fed.us/r10/tongass/projects/projects.shtml>. Scoping letters inviting comments have been sent to interested parties on the Tongass National Forest. Any person who would like to receive a scoping letter should contact Linda Pulliam at the Ketchikan Misty Fiord Ranger District or by e-mail: comments-alaskatongass-ketchikan-mistyfiord@fs.fed.us. Please put "Bell Island" in the subject line of the e-mail.

Comments concerning the scope of the analysis must be received by **June 24, 2011**. Comments may be sent as follows: Send written comments to Ketchikan-Misty Fiord Ranger District, Tongass National Forest, Attn: Bell Island Geothermal Lease, 3031 Tongass Ave., Ketchikan AK 99901. Comments may also be sent via e-mail to comments-alaska-tongassketchikan-mistyfiord@fs.fed.us. Again, please put "Bell Island" on the subject line; or via facsimile to 907-225-8738. Include your name, address and organization name if you are commenting as a representative of an organization.

The draft SEIS is projected to be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the fall 2011 and will begin a 45 day comment period. The Final Environmental Impact Statement and the Record of Decision are expected to be published in the spring of 2012.

For further information contact: Sarah Samuelson, Tongass Minerals Group, 8510 Mendenhall Loop Road, Juneau, AK 99801. 1-907-789-6274.



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/>