

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2010

Robert Abbey
Director
Bureau of Land Management
1849 C Street, Mail Stop 5655
Washington, DC 20240-0001

Dear Mr. Abbey:


I am writing to draw your attention to the potential long-term impacts of the Bay Resource Management Plan (RMP) that was finalized at the end of the last Administration. This plan will guide management decisions on more than one million acres of public lands in the Bristol Bay, Alaska watershed including lands adjacent to the Nushagak and Kvichak Rivers, two of the most productive wild salmon producing rivers in the world. In fact, the region's sport, commercial and subsistence fisheries generate approximately \$440 million each year and provide jobs for some 12,500 people in Southwestern Alaska.

Unfortunately, I believe the current RMP appears not to fully account for the economic value of the fishery in this area and in doing so, unnecessarily jeopardizes a world-class fishery and sporting destination. I respectfully request that the Bureau of Land Management maintains the current prohibition on hard rock mining in the Bristol Bay region until further analyses is completed. We further request that the BLM supplement the Bay RMP and analyze an alternative that will ensure the long-term health of this important commercial, sport and subsistence fishery.

I am convinced that the BLM can produce and implement a land use plan for Bristol Bay that will generate economic opportunities while also conserving sporting and indigenous traditions for future generations. We look forward to working with the BLM as we move quickly to guarantee the long term productivity of the Bristol Bay watershed.

I look forward to working with you in your role to conserve America's public lands for future generations.

Sincerely,


JAMES P. MORAN
Member of Congress


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Member of Congress