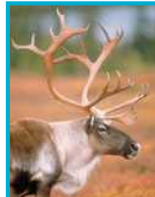


## BLM Wildlands Program

### Fact Sheet



### **The Bureau of Land Management Threatens the Culture, Resources and Economies of Alaska!**

Alaska's future depends on the health of its fisheries, wildlife and environment. Without these, the sustainable economies of commercial and sport fishing, recreation, tourism, hunting and subsistence will cease to exist. The BLM is quickly and carelessly working to allow oil and gas and mineral development on nearly 100 percent of the land it's mandated to manage in the public's best interest. Instead of taking a common-sense approach, the BLM is prioritizing dirty development over protecting Alaska's sustainable economies and cultures. A balanced approach must be taken to ensure that wildlife, critical habitat and communities are protected from the polluting forces of the mineral development industry.

### **Irresponsible Management Threatens Alaska's Greatest Treasures**

Alaska is home to the world's largest salmon fisheries, world-class glaciers, North America's largest caribou herd, and diverse and abundant wildlife habitat for bear, moose and migratory birds. Many of the BLM lands in Alaska have been historically protected for the purpose of inventory and classification to determine which areas warrant protection. BLM has failed to properly conduct this inventory and is now proposing to open nearly 100 percent of its 34.6 million acres to oil, gas and mineral development!

BLM lands support Alaska Native cultures, wildlife, and the sustainable economies of recreation, hunting and sport, and commercial fishing. The BLM's most recent decisions sacrifice the long standing traditions and Alaskan way of life for short-sighted boom-and-bust mineral development. Despite vast public opposition to BLM's actions, the agency continues forward with plans that will fragment and pollute some of the last and most beautiful undeveloped places in the United States, and the world.

### **How These Decisions Are Being Made**

BLM has been working on five land use plans, called Resource Management Plans or RMPs, for various regions of Alaska. The plans will establish a framework for managing public use on these lands for the next 20 years.

#### **Five Planning Area Descriptions:**

- 1) Bay RMP** covers 2.5 million acres and includes Goodnews Bay and Bristol Bay, which contain *the largest wild sockeye runs and salmon fishery in the world*. The Bristol Bay area generates over \$420 million in revenues for the state of Alaska as well as provides over 12,000 jobs annually.
- 2) East Alaska** covers 7.6 million acres and holds the Bering Glacier, *the largest glacier in North America* and a world renowned glacial study site.
- 3) Eastern Interior** covers 10.5 million acres and is home to the Yukon River, *Alaska's longest river*, which includes *an international salmon fishery* shared with Canada and directly supports the subsistence needs of over 45 rural communities.

4) **Kobuk-Seward** covers 13 million acres and is *home to the largest caribou herd in North America*, the Northwest Arctic Caribou Herd. The herd requires a large portion of the 13-million-acre planning area, roughly six times the size of Yellowstone, to maintain its health and size.

5) **Ring-of-Fire** covers 1.3 million acres and encompasses Kodiak, the Aleutian Islands, Southcentral and Southeast Alaska. This area contains over 500 miles of salmon streams, three caribou herds, over 10 million migratory birds, unparalleled moose and bear habitats, as well as the *most productive commercial fisheries in the world*.

Some of these plans have been or are nearly completed, but we can still make a difference. Visit our website at [alaskawild.org/blm-campaign](http://alaskawild.org/blm-campaign) to learn more about each of these planning areas.

Plan	Field Office	Important Dates
<a href="#">Bay RMP</a>	Anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of Decision issued November 2008.</li> <li>Site specific implementation could begin as early as 2009.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">East Alaska RMP</a>	Glenallen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RMP completed September 2007.</li> <li>Implementation level activities have begun for the Delta National Wild and Scenic River.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">East Interior RMP</a>	Fairbanks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scoping April 2008 through July 1, 2008.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Kobuk Seward RMP</a>	Fairbanks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of Decision issued September 2008.</li> </ul>
<a href="#">Ring of Fire RMP</a>	Anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of Decision released March 2008.</li> <li>Implementation schedule will depend on funding availability.</li> </ul>

**We can work together to save Alaska’s great places!**

The BLM quickly and quietly made decisions under the Bush administration based on politics instead of the public interest. Together, we can slow this process down and bring greater transparency to the BLM’s decisions and actions that threaten our nation’s treasures.

- The nation needs the BLM to prioritize existing uses and protect sensitive areas while taking a balanced approach to responsible development.
- Instead of the current fast-track approach, planning needs to be inclusive and on a realistic time-frame that ensures the public can be involved.
- Another look needs to be taken at BLM land use recommendations – current RMPs need to be amended to achieve a balance between development and critical habitat protection.

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