Chapter V: Consultation and Coordination

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Chapter V: Consultation and Coordination

A. Introduction

This chapter describes the public participation opportunities made available through the development of the Draft RMP/EIS and the formal consultation that has occurred to date. It also lists the preparers of the document and the agencies and organizations that received copies of the Draft RMP/EIS for review.

There have been and will continue to be many ways for the public to participate in the planning process for public lands under the jurisdiction of the Fairbanks District Office. The Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP/EIS was prepared by an interdisciplinary team of specialists from the Fairbanks District Office and the Alaska State Office of the BLM. Technical review and support were provided by Anchorage Field Office, Fairbanks District Office, and State Office staffs. Table 5-1 at the end of this chapter lists the preparers of the document. Members of the planning team have consulted formally or informally with numerous agencies, groups, and individuals in the RMP development process. Consultation, coordination, and public involvement occurred as a result of scoping and alternative development meetings and reviews, meetings and briefings with State, Tribal, and local government representatives, and informal meetings and individual contacts.

B. Public Participation Opportunities

Several steps of the planning process require that the public be provided the opportunity to participate. Major public participation events are described below.

1. Scoping

Scoping for the Draft RMP/EIS was initiated with publication of a Notice of Intent in the Federal Register on January 30, 2004. Besides identifying issues of concern, nominations for special management areas such as ACECs and Wild and Scenic Rivers were requested during scoping. The formal scoping period concluded on April 29, 2004, although comments received after that date were also considered.

During scoping, nine public meetings were held in nine locations to explain the planning process and gather input (March-April 2004). Scoping meetings were held in Fairbanks and Anchorage as well as seven communities within the planning area. Meetings were held in both Kotzebue and Nome as these are the two major hubs for the planning area. Village meetings focused on villages that were close to large blocks of BLM-managed land. Village meetings were held in Buckland, Kiana, Kivalina, Koyuk, and Shaktoolik. News releases to local and regional media sources advertised the times and locations of the scoping meetings. A total of 92 people attended these meetings.
2. Other Outreach Efforts

A Web site was established for the RMP in January 2004. The purpose of the Web site was to provide the public with information about the planning process, schedule, and planning area, to post maps and planning documents as they became available, and to provide the public with contact information. RMP team members were listed on the Web site with their e-mail addresses. A scoping report, summarizing public comment and the results of scoping was posted on the Web site in August 2004. Unfortunately, due to security concerns, the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP/EIS Web site was not available to the public from April 8, 2005-January 2006. Currently, the Web site can be accessed at http://www.ak.blm.gov/ksp.

Throughout the development of the Draft RMP/EIS, all individuals and organizations on the mailing list received copies of the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP newsletter. This newsletter summarized where the BLM was in the process and how the public could become and stay involved in development of the plan.

C. Consultation

1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service

Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) is required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 prior to initiation of any project by BLM that may affect any federally listed or endangered species or its habitat. This RMP/EIS is considered to be a major project and this document defines potential impacts to threatened and endangered species as a result of management actions proposed in the RMP.

An initial list of Federally listed threatened or endangered plant, animal, or fish species or habitats present in the planning area was requested on July 8, 2004. The FWS identified two listed species that may be affected by activities within the planning area: Steller's eider and spectacled eider. The planning area includes breeding and molting range for the spectacled eider. Steller's eider breeds and winters outside the planning area but likely migrates through the area. This Draft RMP has been submitted to the FWS for comment and informal consultation.

The NMFS is responsible for the administration of the Endangered Species Act as it applies to listed cetaceans and pinnipeds in Alaska. These include seven species of endangered whales, the threatened eastern population of Stellar sea lions, and the endangered western population of Stellar sea lions.

Informal consultation was initiated August 2, 2004, when the BLM described the planning process and requested a list of Federally listed threatened or endangered marine mammals and critical habitats present in the planning area. On December 30, 2004, NMFS responded with a letter stating that “No endangered marine mammals, nor designated critical habitats, for which the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) bears responsibility under the Endangered Species Act are likely to occur within the project area.”
On January 25, 2005, a second letter was submitted to NMFS to initiate consultation on Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). The planning area includes Essential Fish Habitat for all five species of salmon. An analysis of effects on Essential Fish Habitat is contained in Chapter IV of this document. This Draft RMP has been submitted to NMFS for comment and, if necessary, additional consultation.

2. **Tribal Consultation**

In recognition of the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the Federal government, letters were sent to 25 tribal governments to inform them of the planning process and to request government-to-government consultation. The letters also requested their input on issues and concerns to be considered during the planning. Representatives of tribes were invited to the public scoping meetings held in the planning area. Letters requesting input on issues and concerns were also sent to both the regional Native corporations and the non-profit Native corporations within the planning area.

A copy of the Draft RMP/EIS has been sent to all tribal entities for review and comment.

D. **Collaborative Efforts**

1. **Cooperation with the State of Alaska**

Because of the high percentage of State-selected lands within the planning area, the BLM has involved the State of Alaska from the beginning of this planning process. A joint BLM-State staff position was created, with that person acting as liaison between the State of Alaska and the BLM in this planning process. This has been effective in facilitating information exchanges and reviews of draft materials by State personnel. The State has reviewed the BLM’s draft alternatives and preliminary draft RMP. These reviews have produced a preferred strategy on management of State-selected lands.

2. **Other Collaborative Efforts**

A variety of public involvement strategies have been implemented throughout this planning process to improve communication and promote an understanding of the issues and the process in developing the RMP/EIS. A subgroup was formed by the Alaska Resource Advisory Council (RAC) under the provisions of the RAC charter to assist the BLM in addressing planning issues.

The RAC is a 15-member advisory panel that provides advice and recommendations to the BLM on resource and land management issues. Membership includes Alaskans from around the state who represent the energy industry, tourism, commercial recreation, environmental interests, archeological interests, elected officials, Alaska Native organizations, and the public-at-large. The RAC as a whole was kept informed of progress on the plan through briefings at quarterly meetings. Members of the RAC’s Kobuk-Seward Peninsula plan subgroup were kept
informed through e-mail and newsletters. RAC members were also invited to review the BLM’s draft alternatives.

E. Plan Distribution

Since initial scoping, the BLM has maintained a mailing list of individuals, businesses, special interest groups, and Federal, State, Tribal, and local government representatives interested in the development of the Kobuk-Seward RMP/EIS. In an effort to reduce printing costs, notices were mailed to everyone on the mailing list in December 2005 to remove those no longer interested in the process. In addition, copies of the draft RMP/EIS were also made available on CD-ROM rather than in paper format. Copies of the Draft RMP/EIS are also available for public inspection at the following locations:

- BLM Fairbanks District Office
- BLM Anchorage Field Office
- BLM Alaska State Office, public room, Anchorage
- BLM Kotzebue Field Station
- BLM Nome Field Station
- Noel Wein Library, Fairbanks
- Keyoayah Kozga Library, Nome
- Chukchi Consortium Library, Kotzebue
- Anchorage Municipal Library, Anchorage
- Alaska State Library, Juneau

The Draft RMP/EIS is available electronica]]ly at the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP Web site: http://www.ak.blm.gov/ksp.

Concurrent with the distribution of the Draft RMP/EIS, a Notice of Availability was published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register which marks the beginning of the 90-day review and comment period. The BLM also published a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register announcing the availability of the Draft RMP/EIS for public review and comment.

Hard copies of the Draft RMP/EIS have been distributed to the following organizations, agencies, and individuals who requested them, or as required by regulation or policy.

**Federal Government Agencies**

- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency – Region 10, Seattle Office
- USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Nome
- USDI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Fairbanks
- USDI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage
- USDI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
- USDI U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management
- USDI National Park Service, Western Arctic Parklands
- USDI National Park Service, Bering Land Bridge
- USDI Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance
- USDI Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Office
- USDI Bureau of Land Management, Washington Office, Planning Group
State Government Agencies and Organizations
Alaska Department of Commerce and Economic Development
Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
Alaska Department of Public Safety
Alaska State Historic Preservation Office
Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities
Honorable Frank Murkowski, Governor of Alaska

Local Governments and Committees
City of Ambler
City of Brevig Mission
City of Buckland
City of Deering
City of Elim
City of Golovin
City of Kiana
City of Kivalina
City of Kobuk
City of Kotzebue
City of Koyuk
City of Nome
City of Noorvik
City of Point Hope
City of Selawik
City of Shaktoolik
City of Shishmaref
City of Shungnak
City of Teller
City of Wales
City of White Mountain
Northwest Arctic Borough
North Slope Borough
USDI, BLM, Resource Advisory Council (RAC)

Native Corporations
Arctic Slope Native Association
Arctic Slope Regional Corporation, Barrow
Bering Straits Native Corporation, Nome
Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
Kawerak Inc., Nome
Maniilaq Association, Kotzebue
NANA Regional Corporation, Kotzebue
Shaktoolik Native Corporation
Shishmaref Native Corporation
Sitnasuak Native Corporation
Solomon Native Corporation
Teller Native Corporation
Tigara Corporation
Wales Native Corporation
White Mountain Native Corporation

Tribal Governments and Committees
Ambler Traditional Council
Chinik Eskimo Community, Golovin
Kiana Traditional Council
Kotzebue IRA Council
Mary’s Igloo Traditional Council
Native Village of Brevig Mission
Native Village of Buckland
Native Village of Council
Native Village of Deering
Native Village of Elim
Native Village of Kivalina
Native Village of Kobuk
Native Village of Koyuk
Native Village of Notatak
Native Village of Point Hope
Native Village of Point Lay
Native Village of Shaktoolik
Native Village of Shishmaref
Native Village of Shungnak
Native Village of Wales
Native Village of White Mountain
Nome Eskimo Community
Noorvik Native Community
Selawik IRA Council
Solomon Tribal Council
Teller Traditional Council

Congressionals
U.S. Representative Donald Young
U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski
U.S. Senator Ted Stevens

State Legislators
Senator Donald Olsen, Senate District T
Representative Reggie Joule, House District 40
Representative Richard Foster, House District 39

Non-governmental Organization and Businesses
Arctic Research Commission
Alaska Audubon
Alaska Coalition
Alaska Miners Association
Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance
Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition
Conoco Philips Alaska Inc.
Dowl Engineers
Mactec Engineering and Consulting
Midnight Sun Adventures
National Parks Conservation Association
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Kawerak Reindeer Herders Association, Nome
Tryck Consulting
Trustees for Alaska
Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc.
Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group

Other Interested/Affected Individuals
The Kobuk-Seward Draft RMP/EIS was also mailed to individuals who requested either a hard copy or a CD version. Additional copies of the draft will be mailed out upon request.

F. List of Preparers

The Draft RMP/EIS was prepared by an interdisciplinary team of specialists and included expertise from outside the Fairbanks District Office. Table 5-1 lists the members of the planning team and their area of expertise. Abbreviations for BLM offices and agencies include Fairbanks District Office (FDO), Anchorage Field Office (AFO), Alaska State Office (ASO), and Environmental Careers Organization (ECO).

Table 5-1. Kobuk-Seward RMP/EIS Planning Team

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Area of Expertise</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andi Bauer</td>
<td>BLM-ASO</td>
<td>Writer/Editor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Belenski</td>
<td>BLM-ASO</td>
<td>Visual Information Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henri Bisson</td>
<td>BLM-ASO</td>
<td>BLM Alaska State Director</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boyce Bush</td>
<td>BLM-FDO</td>
<td>Realty Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rob Brumbaugh</td>
<td>BLM-AFO</td>
<td>Leasable Minerals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeanie Cole</td>
<td>BLM-FDO</td>
<td>RMP Project Lead, ACEC, Wildlife</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Deininger</td>
<td>BLM-FDO</td>
<td>Locatable Minerals, Mineral Materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>Roger Delaney</td>
<td>BLM-FDO</td>
<td>Wilderness</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom Dilts</td>
<td>ECO</td>
<td>GIS Specialist, Visual Resources</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cindy Hamfler</td>
<td>BLM-FDO</td>
<td>GIS Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelly Jacobson</td>
<td>BLM-FDO</td>
<td>Central Yukon Field Office Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kyle Joly</td>
<td>BLM-FDO</td>
<td>Livestock Grazing, ACEC, Wildlife</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mike Kasterin</td>
<td>BLM-ASO</td>
<td>Social and Economic Conditions</td>
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<td>Lon Kelly</td>
<td>BLM-FDO</td>
<td>Wild and Scenic Rivers</td>
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<td>Jon Kostohrys</td>
<td>BLM-FDO</td>
<td>Soil, Water, and Air</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wendy Longtin</td>
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<td>Writer/Editor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stacie Maclntosh</td>
<td>BLM-FDO</td>
<td>Subsistence, Section 810 Analysis</td>
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<tr>
<td>Craig McCaa</td>
<td>BLM-FDO</td>
<td>Public Affairs Specialist</td>
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<td>Beth MacLean</td>
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<td>Mark Meyer</td>
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<td>Randy Meyers</td>
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<td>Forestry, Vegetation, Special Status Plants</td>
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<td>Dave Parker</td>
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<td>Fisheries, Special Status Fish</td>
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<td>Gary Reimer</td>
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<td>Robert Schneider</td>
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<td>Fairbanks District Manager</td>
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<td>Shawn Servoss</td>
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<tr>
<td>Howard Smith</td>
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<td>Wayne Svejnoha</td>
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<td>Cal Westcott</td>
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