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*Tell a Friend About the EARMP!*

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BLM GFO  
PO Box 147  
Glennallen, AK 99588

☺ **Please stay involved in the planning process for the East Alaska Resource Management Plan!**

☺ **PLEASE CHECK THE LOCAL PAPER, RADIO STATION, LIBRARY FOR THE NEXT PUBLIC MEETING NEAR YOU!**

☺ **Check out our web site for changes and up dates!**

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Would you like BLM to mail a friend an EARMP Information Packet? Just fill out the information below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Now, cut out this form and fold this side in first so that the person's information is covered by the panel with the web site information and then tape , add postage, and mail.

October 14, 2003  
Volume 1, Issue 1



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The top five issues that were most frequently mentioned by the public were:

- Off Highway Vehicle/Trail Management
- Minerals
- Recreation
- Vegetation
- Access

See Page 2 for more details....

Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office



*East Alaska Resource Management Plan Update*

The Bureau of Land Management's Glennallen Field Office had 30 public meetings last spring, mostly in the Copper Basin. The meetings were held to gain knowledge of the public concerns, issues and uses of BLM administered public lands for use in developing the East Alaska Resource Management Plan.

The BLM's Glennallen Field Office is preparing the East Alaska Resource Management Plan (EARMP) to provide a comprehensive framework for managing and allocating uses of the public lands and resources within the Glennallen District. This planning process will meet the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through a detailed description of the alternatives and environmental consequences resulting from each alternative. Currently, a Management Framework Plan (MFP) completed in 1980, and amended in 1983 and 1985, guides the use of these lands. An evaluation of the MFP was conducted in 2003, which indicated the need for a new East

Alaska Resource Management Plan to respond to increasing tourism and recreational use in the area, and new issues that have developed since 1980. The EARMP will attempt to resolve resource management issues not adequately addressed by the MFP and provide direction for site-specific activity planning and

widespread and focused on the numerous scattered within the planning area. Meetings were also held at the larger towns/cities of Fairbanks, Anchorage, Valdez, and Cordova. In most locations, two meetings were held. The purpose of the first meeting



*Beverly Oatman and Linda Rutledge at the second Kenny Lake Public Meeting on April 16 at Kenny Lake School.*

implementation of specific tasks in the future. Ultimately, an approved East Alaska Management Plan will supersede the existing Management Framework Plan. Public meetings began in mid-February, 2003 and extended to mid-June, 2003. A total of 30 public meetings were held, mostly within the Copper Basin. The meetings were Bruce Rogers, Planner for the

was to introduce the participants to the East Alaska Resource Management Plan: why BLM is doing it, where it covers, what it will do, and specific examples of decisions that might come out of the plan. A detailed land status map was also available for review. Then participants were split into groups and participated in an issue generating exercise. The first meetings resulted in a list of issues/concerns/questions regarding BLM-managed lands. The second meeting summarized the issues/concerns/questions identified at the first meeting and addressed each relative to how (or if) it would be covered in the EARMP.

*Continued top of page two*



An alpine lake in the Chugach mountains north of Valdez.

**"Aside from recreation, trails are an important means locally for subsistence and other activities."**  
-Bruce Rogers, Planner for the BLM's Glennallen Field Office



A river valley south of the Denali Highway.

## East Alaska Resource Management Plan Update

From page one

More detailed planning unit maps were available for review and participants were given a questionnaire that had them identify desired conditions by resource area (wildlife, recreation, minerals, off-road vehicle management, etc.). If you have yet to turn in this information, please mail it to the BLM at P. O. Box 147, Glennallen, AK 99588. If you would like a copy of this information, please call Liz Rice at 822-3217. In some locations (Fairbanks, Anchorage, Cordova, Cantwell, Valdez, and Delta Junction) only one meeting was held, due to travel time from Glennallen.

Concurrent with the meetings, an East Alaska Resource Management Plan web site was developed. Please visit our web site [www.glennallen.ak.blm.gov](http://www.glennallen.ak.blm.gov) and click on "Land Use Planning."

- Bruce Rogers, planner for the BLM's Glennallen Field Office, has prepared a report detailing this public scoping process. Some of the report topics include:
- Description of the Planning Area
  - Description of the Scoping Process
  - Cooperating Agencies/Invitees
  - Collaboration with Alaska Native Groups
  - Summary of Public Comments and Issues Identified During Scoping
  - Anticipated Decisions to be Made
  - Issues Raised that won't be Addressed
  - Special Designations, Including Nominations
  - Draft Planning Criteria
  - Data Summary / Data Gaps
  - Summary of Future Steps in the Planning Process

If you would like a copy of this report please visit the BLM's Glennallen Field Office website at: [www.glennallen.ak.blm.gov](http://www.glennallen.ak.blm.gov) and click on "Land Use Planning" or call the office, 822-3217 and request that one be mailed to you.



The Grindle Hills, a nunatak in the Bering Glacier.

## Top 5 Issues from the Public!

The following issues received the most public response during the scoping process:

**Off-Road Vehicle/Trail Management:** Aside from recreation, trails are an important means of access locally for subsistence and other activities. Opinions vary widely on this issue, with an almost equal division between those who would prefer no regulation or restrictions, to those who recognize resource impacts and see the need for some restrictions on trails. Most see the need for some "hardening" or maintenance of trails, but balanced with the desire to not encourage or increase use on the trail. Some discussion and recognition of opportunities for increased education regarding trails (marking of trails, trailhead signs, interpre-

tive work at trailheads regarding land status, etc.). There is also a growing demand for non-motorized trail opportunities. **Minerals:** Comments were scattered and widely varied on this topic, and most comments were written or received via e-mail. **Recreation:** Another important issue in the area, with the bulk of the comments focusing on the need for recreational cabins, on Gulkana River issues, and on the need for providing/maintaining a diversity of recreational experiences, including non-motorized. There were several comments regarding the need for additional developed facilities to handle increasing visitor demands in certain areas (Denali Highway). There were also comments directed at a need for maintaining

primitive recreation experiences by limiting certain activities or not promoting an area.

**Vegetation:** Comments focused on the need for fuels reduction, particularly in the Tielok area. Other comments were related to continued opportunities for firewood gathering and the need for prescribed burning to improve wildlife habitat.

**Access:** Concerns over maintaining/improving access for different activities dominated this topic, followed closely by concerns over trespass on Alaska Native land related to use of 17(b) easements and management of 17(b)s in general.



## Current Assessment and Inventory Underway..... BLM GFO staff's hard at work on the EARM.P.

### Current Land Use Planning Efforts (Fall, 2003)

**Management Situation Analysis** A "management situation analysis" (MSA) is written by each resource program at the Glennallen Field Office, with assistance from State Office personnel. Each MSA contains sections on Resource Overview, Specific Mandates and Authorities, Resource Demand Analysis and Forecast, Current Management Practices, Resource Capability Analysis, Consistency Requirements with other Government and/or Native Entities, and Public Issues and Management Concerns. MSAs are currently being developed for wildlife, fisheries, vegetation, forestry, soils, cultural resources, leasable minerals, locatable minerals, lands, and recreation.

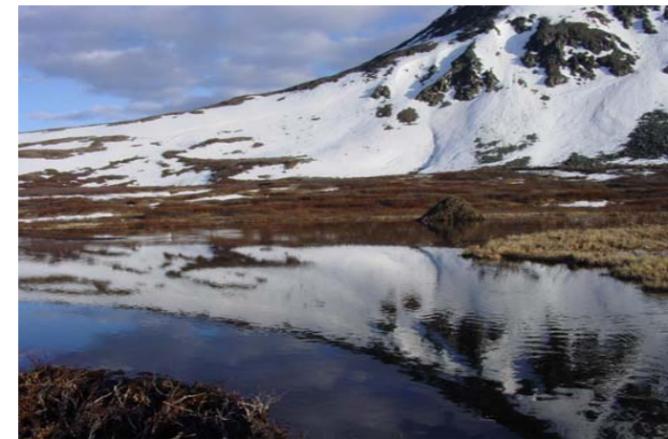
**Trail Inventory Utilizing Satellite Imagery** High resolution satellite imagery has been acquired for the purpose of trail mapping and for identifying portions of trails that have been damaged or degraded. Remote areas and areas receiving heavy use were prioritized for the inventory. The trail maps will give us a better idea of the amount and type of use occurring on public lands.

### Visual Resource Management

Visual resources are an important resource for both visitors and local residents alike, and are sensitive to disturbance activities. Visual Resource Management (VRM) classes describe both the quality and sensitivity to disturbance of visual resources, allowing managers to select the level and type of mitigation needed for surface disturbance activities. Visual resources in the district are under review to determine the appropriate VRM classes.

### Recreation Opportunity Spectrum Inventory

Recreation Opportunity Spectrum (ROS) describes recreational opportunities and the settings needed for those activities. For example, a user may prefer a primitive experience, emphasizing solitude and self-reliance, or a more social recreational experience. The goal in recreation management is to provide a wide diversity of settings for users. We are assessing current recreational opportunities throughout the district and will use that information to help determine possible future management direction.



A beaver pond at 4,500 feet in the Chugach mountains near Chitina.

**Withdrawal Review** The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Section 17(d)(1) withdrawals are a series of public land orders issued from 1972 to 1975 that placed a protective withdrawal on Federal lands for the purpose of study and review to determine the proper classification and "to ascertain the public values in the land..." In the 1980's, studies and assessments were completed and opening orders were issued on some lands covered by (d)(1) withdrawals. No further actions have taken place. The review currently being conducted will sort out the maze of public land orders and withdrawals so that current effect of withdrawals is clear and a determination can be made on whether or not each withdrawal is still appropriate.

### GIS Layers

We are currently identifying and obtaining data for Geographic Information System (GIS) "layers" that will be used in land use planning analysis. GIS allows planners to graphically or geographically display information for use in analysis.

## What Happens Next with the EARM.P?

This fall and winter the Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office staff will be taking on an interdisciplinary approach to the identification of goals, objectives, desired conditions, and management strategies for district lands.

In late winter or early spring,

there will be another series of public meeting to present these alternatives to the public for review and comment. If you want to mail information on the East Alaska Resource Management Plan to a friend or neighbor please fill out the form on the back panel and

mail back to the BLM. Please keep checking the web site for current news on the EARM.P planning process.

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**Please stay involved with the planning process! Keep checking the web site for current updates and for times and dates of public meetings!**

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