

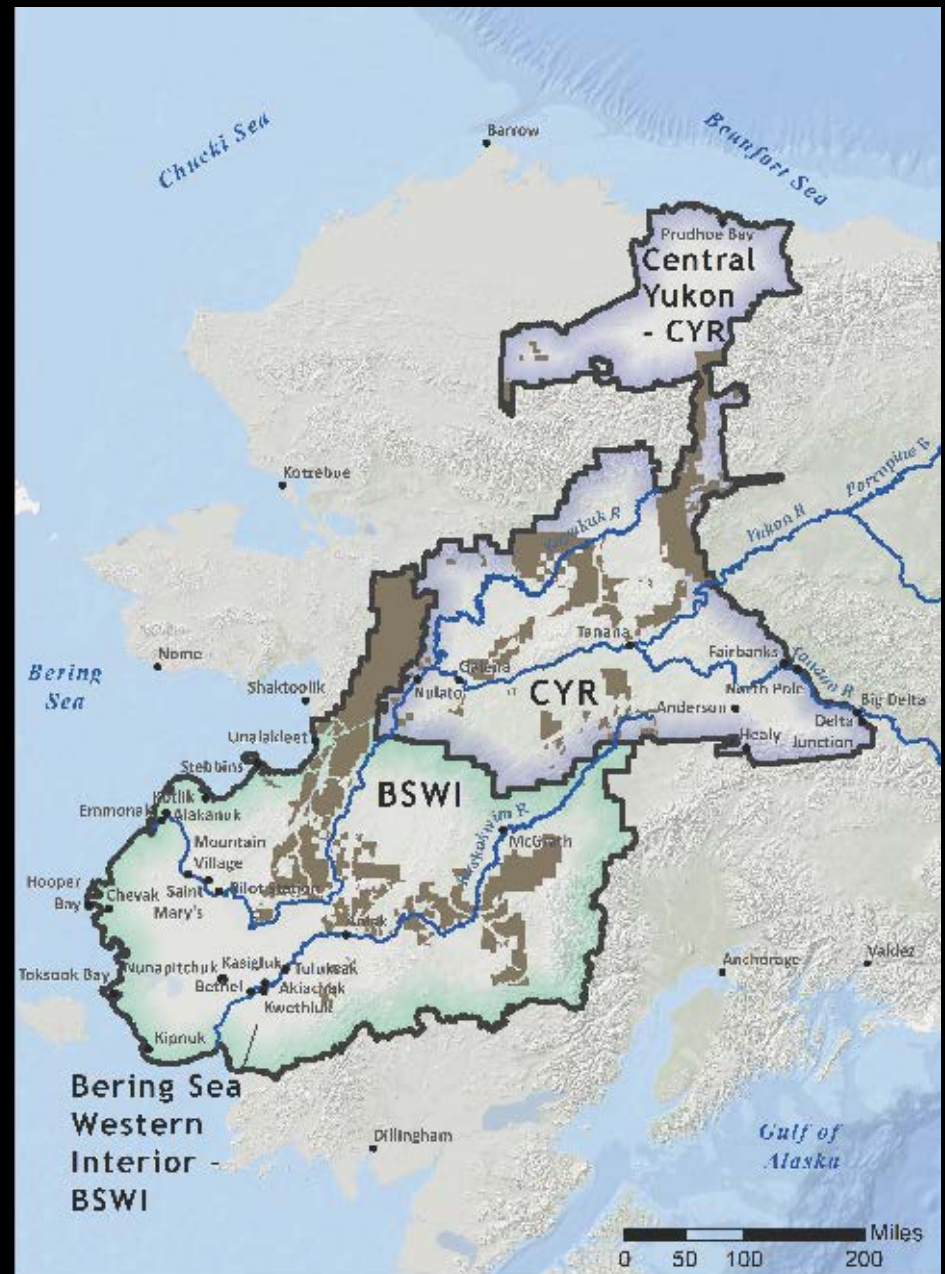
Impacts to Tribes in Bering Sea-Western Interior & Central Yukon Resource Management Plans BLM

Suzanne Little, The Pew Charitable Trusts

Authorized Advisor to the Bering Sea-Western Interior Tribal Commission

The US Bureau of Land Management is planning for the future uses of 26.5 MILLION Acres of Public Land in Alaska. (in brown)

Indigenous People have lived with this traditional land for centuries.



Bering Sea Western Interior

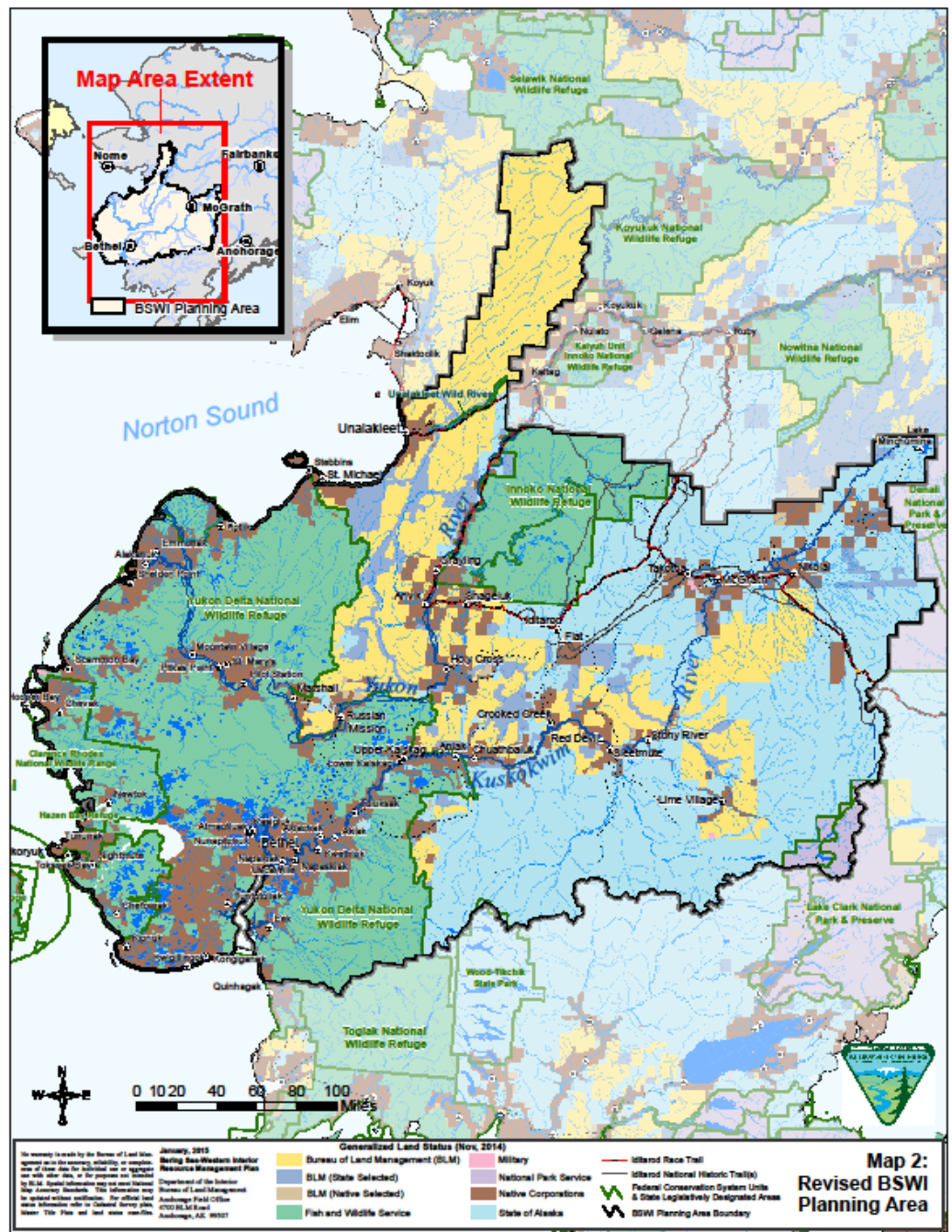
13.4 Million Acres BLM-Managed Land

Plan life: 20-30 Years

Draft Plan
MARCH 13, 2019

FINAL PLAN
Winter 2019

Record of Decision
Spring 2020



Central Yukon 13.1
Million Acres

Plan Life: 20-30 Years

Draft Plan: Expected
Winter 2019

Record of Decision:
Spring 2020



Federal Land Planning. Why are they doing this?

- All federal land managing agencies, like the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM), are *required to inventory land they manage and create a plan for how the land will be used* over a period of time.
- BLM calls these plans *Resource Management Plans* (RMP) and they are usually in place for 20 to 30 years before they are updated again.
- At the same time the BLM is undertaking a Resource Management Planning process, an *Environmental Impact Statement* is also prepared to assess the impact of the plan decisions.

What is decided in a Resource Management Plan?

- When the plan is complete, it will set rules in place about how the land can be used:
 - Mining,
 - Transportation, transmission lines, pipelines,
 - Oil and gas development
 - Conserved for subsistence resources,
 - Reindeer grazing. Etc.
- These rules will last the life of the plan – 20 to 30 years.

What decisions will be made in the Plan?

BLM MANAGED LAND



CONCERNS

LIFTING OF ANCSA 17 D-1 WITHDRAWALS EFFECT

Lifting 17 D-1 Withdrawals in the Resource Management Plan would make ALL BLM-Managed land available for mining claims and other development.

1872 MINING ACT EFFECT

Allows mining claim staking ANYWHERE on federally-managed land.

ROADS & PIPELINES INCLUDING RS 2477

Effect: Disturbs natural systems and wildlife migration.

PROTECTIONS

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN STIPULATIONS AND REQUIRED OPERATING PROCEDURES

Effect: Various limitations can be required such as no development within a certain distance of rivers, etc.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN WITHDRAWAL FROM MINERAL ENTRY

Effect: Oil and gas leases or mining claims would not be allowed in specific areas.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN AREAS OF CRITICAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERN (ACEC)

Effect: Management rules are put in place to protect important historical, cultural, and scenic values, or fish and wildlife or other natural resources or human life and safety from natural hazards.

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN 'NO SURFACE OCCUPANCY'

Effect: Does not allow disturbance of the land surface.

Bering Sea Western Interior

60+ Communities each a sovereign tribal government

Bethel, Unalakleet, Anvik, Aniak, McGrath, Chuathbaluk, Saint Michael, Telida, Nikolai, Takotna, Lime Village, Stony River, Sleetmute, Red Devil, Georgetown, Crooked Creek, Napaimute, Kalskag, Lower Kalskag, Tuluksak, Akiak, Akiakchak, Kwethluk, Oscarville, Napaskiak, Flat, Napakiak, Kasigluk, Egavik, Nunapitchuk, Atmautlauk, Tuntutuliak, Eek, Shageluk, Grayling, Holy Cross, Sleetmute, Stebbins, Russian Mission, Marshall, Pilot Station, Saint Marys, Pitka's Point, Mountain Village, Kotlik, Hamilton, Chuloonawick, Emmonak, Alakanuk, Stebbins, Koyuk, Shaktoolik, Elim Sheldon's Point

Central Yukon Communities - 24 Communities

Alatna, Allakaket, Evansville, Galena, Hughes, Huslia, Kaltag, Koyukuk, Minto, Manley Hot Springs, Nenana, Nulato, Rampart, Ruby, Tanana, Anaktuvuk Pass, Venetie, Anderson, Bettles, Fairbanks, North Pole,

15 of the 24 communities have tribal governments with government-to-government consultation responsibility.

Five of the 24 communities are accessible by road – 19 are accessible only by air or water.

Process for Environmental Impact Statement & Resource Management Plan

Scoping – Planning Process Begins

- Completed for both Central Yukon & Bering Sea-Western Interior

Draft Resource Management Plan / EIS – subsistence hearings

- Bering Sea-Western Interior - March 13, 2019 – June 13, 2019
- Draft Central Yukon Plan - Expected Release Fall/Winter 2019

Final Resource Management Plan / EIS

- Bering Sea-Western Interior - Expected-Winter 2019 - 30-day Protest Period - 60-day Governor's Consistency Review
- Central Yukon Plan – Expected Spring 2020

Record of Decision – End of Process

- Expected for both plans Spring/Summer 2020

Tribes Nominated
21 Areas of Critical
Environmental Concern
(ACEC) asking BLM for
protections of local
watersheds from mining

Map Area

Norton Sound

BSW Planning Area Boundary

Legend:

- Existing ACECs (11)
 - 01 Box River Trestle RNA
 - 02 Kaitlee River
 - 03 Gisaasa River
 - 04 Igloodak
 - 05 Ungalik River
 - 06 Shaktolik River
 - 07 North River
 - 08 Drainages of the Unalakleet River ACEC
 - 09 Anvik River
 - 10 Peregrine Falcon Nesting Habitat ACEC
 - 11 Kuskoquim River Raptor Nesting Habitat ACEC
- Nominated ACEC Name (21)
 - 12 Tagagawik River
 - 13 Huslia
 - 14 Kaitlee River
 - 15 Honhosia River
 - 16 Gisaasa River
 - 17 Nulato River
 - 18 Unalakleet
 - 19 Egavik Creek Watershed
 - 20 Unalakleet River Watershed
 - 21 Tenmile River Watershed
 - 22 Anvik River Watershed
 - 23 Golsosva River Watershed
 - 24 Grayling Area Habitat
 - 25 Old Anvik Village Area
 - 26 Anvik Traditional Trapping Area ACEC
 - 27 Bonasila River Watershed
 - 28 Sheefish
 - 29 Holy Cross
 - 30 Ohogamut
 - 31 Whitefish Spawning
 - 32 Swift River Whitefish Spawning ACEC

Other Features:

- Koyuk National Wildlife Refuge
- Innoko National Wildlife Refuge
- Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
- Russian Mission
- Tuluksak
- Aniak
- Chuathbaluk
- Crooked Creek
- Red Devil
- Sleetmule
- Lime Village
- Takotna
- McGrath
- Nikolai

Scale: 0 10 20 40 60 80 Miles

Map 06

This map was made by the Bureau of Land Management as part of its ongoing effort to manage public lands in Alaska. It is intended to provide information about the location and extent of public lands in the State of Alaska. The map does not constitute a legal document and should not be used for legal purposes.

BSW Planning Area Boundary

Legend:

- BSM Managed Lands
- Federal Conservation Systems Units & State Legislatively Designated Areas
- BSM Planning Area Boundary
- Unalut National Historic Trail (NHT)
- Unalut NHT Connecting Trails
- Roads
- On BLM Lands, ANILCA CBL

ACECs - Existing and Nominated BSW Planning Area Overview

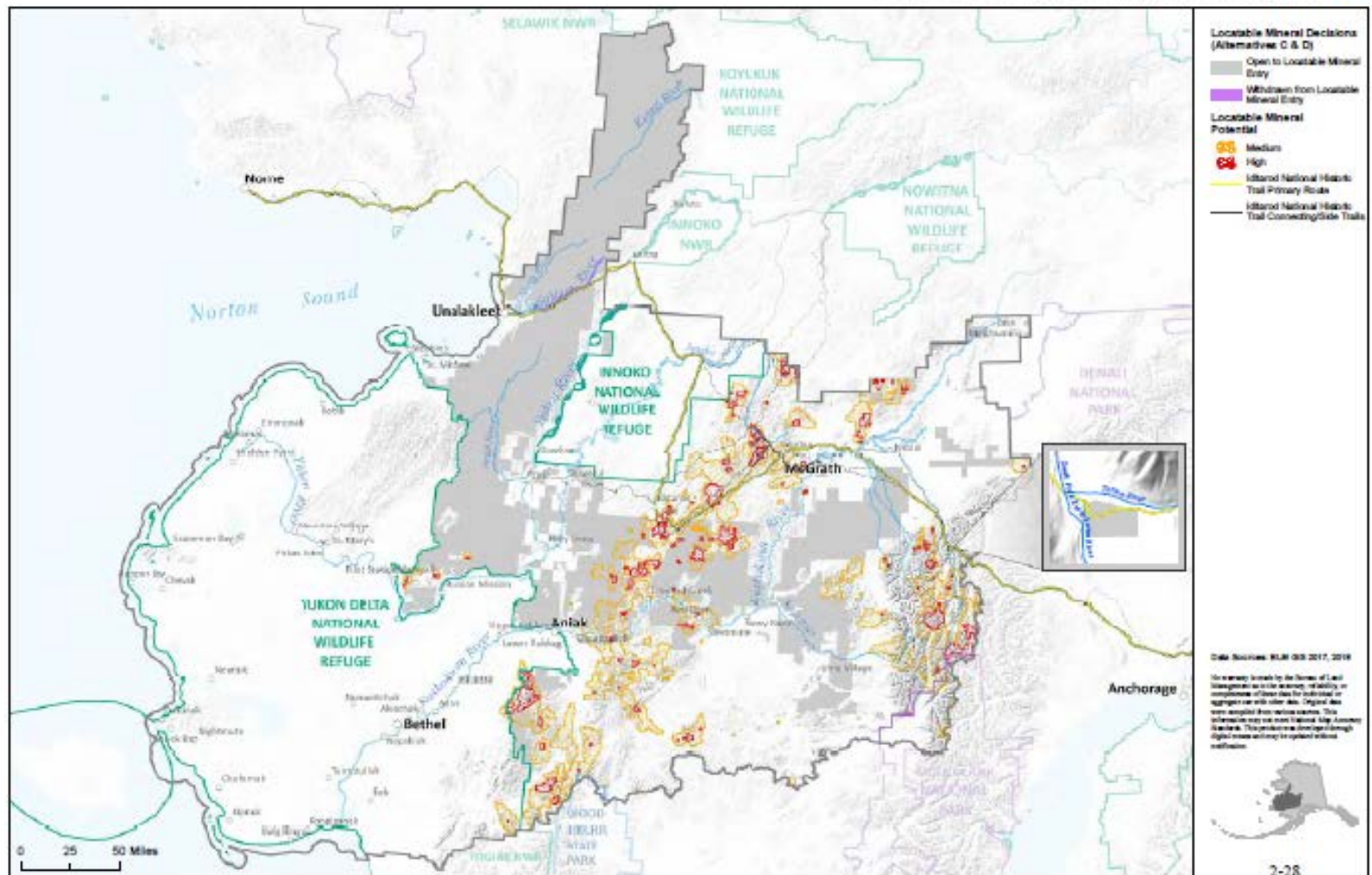
Bering Sea-Western Interior Draft RMP - Locatable Mineral Entry Grey = Open To Mining (99% of BLM land)

BWSI Draft RMP/EIS

Locatable Mineral Decisions

Alternatives C & D

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR | BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT | ALASKA | BERING SEA-WESTERN INTERIOR DRAFT



Bering Sea Western Interior Tribal Commission

BLM's BSWI Plan opens 99% of the 13.4 million acres to mining and provides conservation protection to 1%.

Ignores Tribes' nominations for protections of watersheds.

The Tribal Commission formed because of concerns for sustainability of Tribes' Traditional way-of-life.

Tribal Commission philosophy: Tribes don't own the land, but we belong to the land and what happens to the land happens to us.

Bering Sea Western Interior Tribal Commission Formed 22 Tribes

Member Tribes from Tanana Chiefs Council Region

Nulato*, Grayling*, Anvik*, Nikolai*, Holy Cross*, Kaltag, Ruby, Loudon, Huslia, Koyukuk, Shageluk, Takotna

Member Tribes from Kawerak Region

Shaktoolik*, Koyuk*, Unalakleet*, St. Michael*, Stebbins, Elim,

Member Tribes from Association of Village Council Presidents Region

Iqurmiut (Russian Mission)*, Ohogomiut (Marshall)*, Native Village of Eek, Chevak Native Village, Tununak Tribal Council, Orutsararmiut Native Council (Bethel), Napakiak, Kasigluk, Chevak

* indicates Cooperating Agency Tribe

Bering Sea Western Interior Tribal Commission

Purpose:

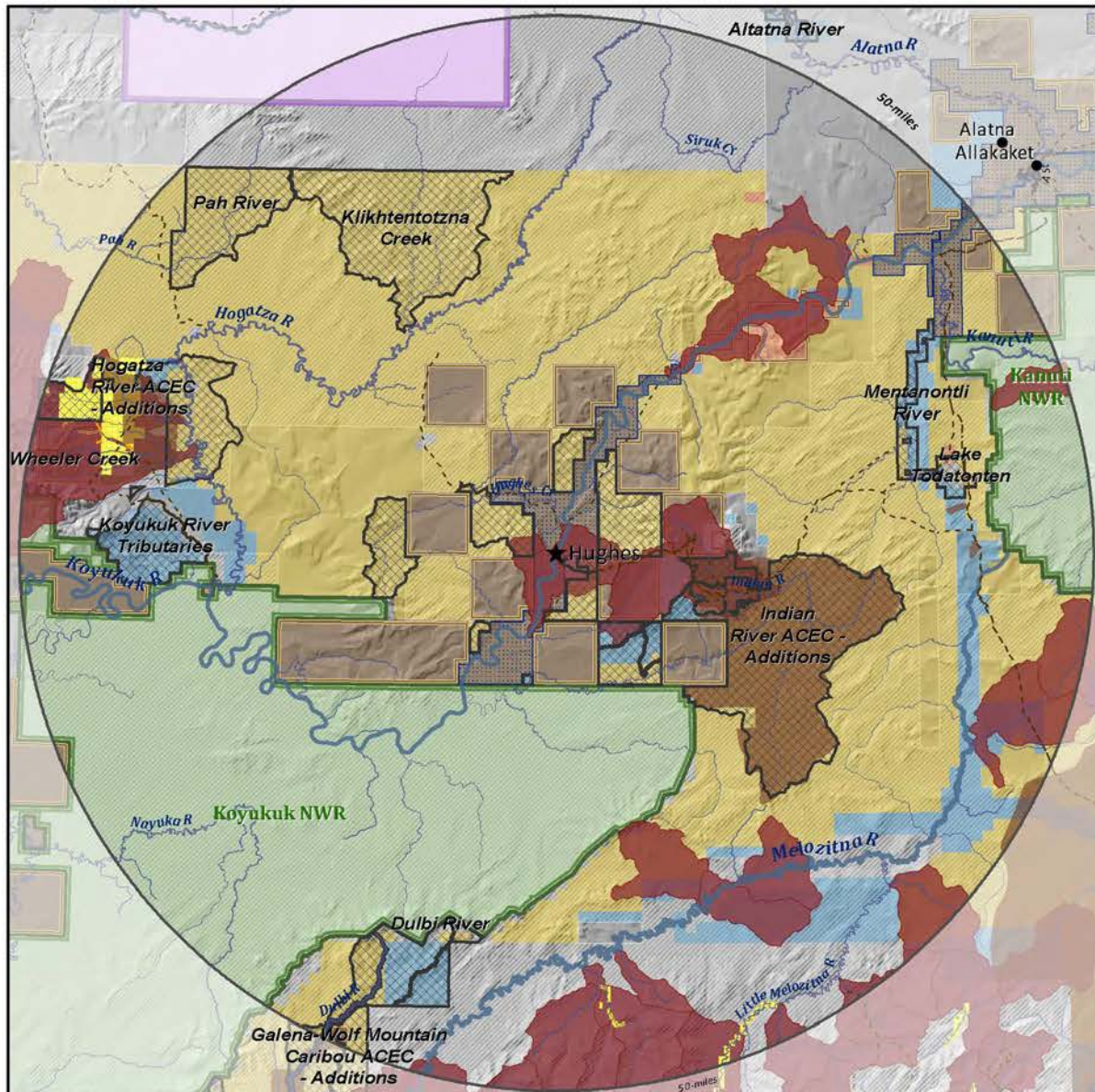
- To speak with a unified voice on behalf of impacted Tribes in the land planning process;
- To advocate for sustainability of our traditional way-of-life. (The Tribal Commission wishes our traditional uses of the land to be protected and we are especially seeking special management of of key watersheds); **To ensure voices of Indigenous People living with the land are reflected in the final Bering Sea-Western Interior Plan;**
- To remain engaged in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in the throughout implementation of the plan over the next 20 years.

Bering Sea Western Interior Tribal Commission

“From our perspective the planning process is fundamentally flawed. Tribal nominations for conservation of critical watersheds were affirmed by BLM as being ‘Relevant and Important’ but were rejected for protection in the Draft Plan and the pre-public Proposed Plan. We believe impacts from mining to our customary and traditional use areas were not considered nor evaluated seriously, and will seriously impact our traditional way of life.”

Hughes: Land Management Planning

Total Acres: 2,397,693 (2,076,563 acres BLM, 321,130 acres State Selected)



— Roads

- - - Trails

Existing BLM ACECs (Dulbi-Kaiyuh Mountains Subunit, Hogatza River Tributaries, Indian River, and Tozitna River ACEC; Lake Todatonten Pingos and South Todatonten Summit RNA)

▨ Nominated BLM ACECs

■ Federal Mining Claims

■ State Mining Claims

■ High mineral resource potential, medium-high certainty (CY)*

■ Regional Lands

■ Village Lands

■ National Wildlife Refuge

■ National Park and Preserve

■ Bureau of Land Management

■ Native Patent or IC

■ Native Selected

■ State Selected (currently managed by BLM)

■ D-1 Withdrawal Lands

* Areas with high mineral resource potential are for six selected deposit types: REE-Th-Y-Nb (-U-Zr), Au (placer and paleoplacer), PGE (-Co-Cr-Ni-Ti-V), Carbonate-hosted Cu (-Co-Ag-Ge-Ga), Sandstone-hosted U (-V-Cu), Sn-W-Mo (-Ta-In-fluorspar)

Data Sources:

Land managers (BLM, March 2017), Bering Sea-Western Interior (BSWI) Locatable mineral potential (BLM, 2017, Available: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=dispatchToPatternPage¤tPageId=48439>), Central Yukon (CY) mineral resource potential (US Geological Survey, 2015, Available: <https://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2015/1021/>), D-1 Withdrawals (BLM, February 2018), Mining claims (Alaska Department of Natural Resources, February 2018)

0 25 50 Miles

Map created by the Alaska Center for Conservation Science, University of Alaska Anchorage, March 2018.

Cooperating Agency Status for Tribes

- Federally recognized Tribes have the opportunity to become a **Cooperating Agency** in the planning process. The Tribe and BLM agree to review drafts of the written plan before it is released to the public. Being a **Cooperating Agency** is the most effective way for a Tribe to protect tribal rights and address tribal needs in the Resource Management Plan.
- The state government and other federal agencies will also be a **Cooperating Agency** in the planning process



All Tribes in the Central Yukon and Bering Sea-Western Interior planning area are welcome to join the Tribal Commission.

Tribes can join the Tribal Commission by passing a Resolution.

Support available:

Bering Sea-Western Interior Tribal Commission Advisors:
Austin Ahmasuk, Suzanne Little, Wayne Jenkins, Bob Sattler