

DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management****Emergency Closure Notice**

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Folsom Field Office, California, Interior.

ACTION: Emergency closure of public lands in Yuba County, California.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given that two parcels of public land are temporarily closed to all motorized vehicle use. The purpose of this emergency order is to protect federally-listed anadromous fish species, specifically Central Valley fall-run chinook salmon (federal candidate species), Central Valley spring-run chinook salmon (federally threatened), and Central Valley steelhead (federally threatened).

The closed area, approximately 160 acres, is described as follows: All public lands in T16N, R5E, Section 22 and lands in T16N, R5E, Section 27, Lots 7 and 8, and the riverbed between the above stated lands.

Closure signs will be posted at main entry points to these areas. Maps of the closure area may be obtained from the Folsom Field Office, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630. Phone: (916) 985-4474.

DATES: The closure will take effect immediately, and will remain in effect for less than six months until the Sierra Resource Management Plan and supplemental rules relevant to this closure are finalized.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bill Haigh, Bureau of Land Management, 63 Natoma Street, Folsom, CA 95630. Phone: (916) 985-4474.

Discussion of the Rules: Under the authority of 43 CFR 8364.1(a) and 8341.2, the Bureau of Land Management will enforce the following rules on public lands within the closed area: One must not enter the closed area with a motorized vehicle.

Exemptions: This closure order does not apply to: (1) Any federal, state or local government law enforcement officer engaged in enforcing this closure order or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force while in the performance of an official duty; and (2) Any BLM employee, agent, or contractor while in the performance of an official duty, or any person expressly authorized by BLM.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: BLM is implementing this action on 160 acres of public land in Yuba County, California. BLM has observed motorized vehicles entering the river over salmon and steelhead spawning redds. Salmon

and steelhead spawning in this reach of the river are all listed in some capacity by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. This reach of the river is also designated as critical habitat for these species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Motorized use is adversely impacting spawning habitat and redds for these anadromous fish species. Consequently, this area is being closed to motorized use.

Penalties: The authority for this closure is found under section 303(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1733(a), 43 CFR 8341.2, and 43 CFR 8364.1(a)). Any person who violates this closure may be tried before a United States Magistrate and fined no more than \$1,000 or imprisoned for no more than 12 months or both. Such violations may also be subject to the enhanced fines provided for by 18 U.S.C. 3571.

Dated: November 15, 2007.

William S. Haigh,
Manager, Folsom Field Office.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Land Management**

[AK-040-07-1610-DQ-087L]

Notice of Availability of the Bay Proposed Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Availability.

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*) and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA, 43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has prepared a proposed Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement (RMP/EIS) for the Bay planning area, located in southwest Alaska.

DATES: BLM Planning Regulations (43 CFR 1610.5-2) state that any person who participated in the planning process, and has an interest that is or may be adversely affected, may protest the BLM's approval or amendment of an RMP. That person must file a protest within 30 days of the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes its Notice of Availability in the **Federal Register**. Instructions for filing protests are described in the Dear Reader letter of the Bay Proposed RMP/

Final EIS and in the "Additional Protest Information" section of this notice. Please consult BLM's Planning Regulations at 43 CFR 1610.5-2 for further instructions on protests.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Chuck Denton, BLM Anchorage Field Office, 6881 Abbott Loop Road, Anchorage, AK 99507, (907) 267-1246 or (800) 478-1263.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bay planning area includes 1,927,083 acres of BLM-administered public lands and resources in the Bristol Bay and Goodnews Bay areas of southwest Alaska. The Bay Proposed RMP/Final EIS focuses on the principles of multiple use and sustained yield as prescribed by Section 202 of FLPMA. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS considers and analyzes four alternatives, including a No Action and a Preferred Alternative. The alternatives provide for an array of variable levels of commodity production and resource protection.

The alternatives were developed based on public scoping and participation, as required by the BLM's Land Use Planning Handbook (H-1601-1). The public involvement and collaboration process included nine public scoping meetings, six public meetings on the Draft RMP/EIS, and meetings with other interested parties. The BLM consulted with Alaska Native tribes; federal, state, and local government agencies; elected community officials; and the BLM's Alaska Resource Advisory Council. Involvement with the State of Alaska throughout the planning process was achieved through a joint BLM/State position, which provided a liaison between the State and the BLM.

Primary issues addressed through this planning process include: (1) Natural resources protection, primarily water and fisheries resources, due to the proposed lifting of land withdrawals and possible locatable mining exploration and development on BLM- and State of Alaska-managed lands; (2) social and economic conditions, including subsistence resources; and (3) ACEC (Area of Critical Environmental Concern) determination.

In addition to these issues, the Bay Proposed RMP/Final EIS addresses management of various program areas such as vegetation, fish and wildlife habitat, fire management, cultural resources, visual resources, forest resources, and realty. The Proposed RMP/Final EIS also resulted in development of required operating procedures (ROPs), which are requirements, procedures, management practices, or design features the BLM