

# The Public Lands in Alaska

administered by the BLM



## BLM Offices in Alaska

Alaska State Office  
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599  
(907) 271-5960

Alaska Fire Service  
P.O. Box 35005  
Ft. Wainwright, Alaska 99703-0005  
(907) 356-5500

Anchorage District Office  
6881 Abbott Loop Road  
Anchorage, Alaska 99507  
(907) 267-1246

Arctic District Office  
1150 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844  
(907) 474-2300

Glennallen District Office  
P.O. Box 147  
Glennallen, Alaska 99588  
(907) 822-3217

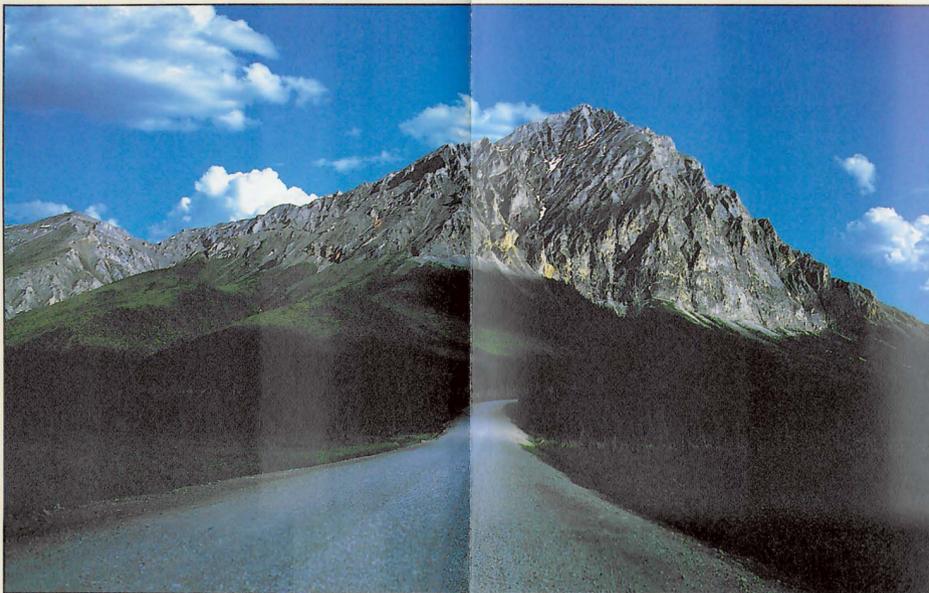
Kobuk District Office  
1150 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844  
(907) 474-2330

Kotzebue Field Office  
P.O. Box 1049  
Kotzebue, Alaska 99752  
(907) 442-3430

Nome Field Office  
P.O. Box 952  
Nome, Alaska 99762  
(907) 443-2177

Steese/White Mountains District Office  
1150 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3844  
(907) 474-2350

Tok Field Office  
P.O. Box 309  
Tok, Alaska 99780  
(907) 883-5121



Dalton Highway © Edward Bovy

THE PUBLIC LANDS are lands obtained by the U.S. government through treaty or purchase. As our nation developed, more than one billion acres were transferred to private ownership. Other federal lands were designated as parks, wildlife refuges, forests or military reservations.

The remaining areas, once described as "the lands nobody wanted," are now recognized as valuable national assets known as Public Lands.

These lands contain a wealth of minerals, fossil fuels, wildlife habitat, wilderness, timber and forage. They also provide opportunities for recreation and watershed protection. All Americans share in the benefits of the wise management of Public Lands.

THE BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, or BLM, is an agency in the U.S. Department of the Interior. BLM was created in 1946 when the U.S. Grazing Service merged with the General Land Office. In Alaska, BLM also has responsibilities once undertaken by the Reindeer Service and Alaska Fire Control Service.

Today, BLM provides multiple use management for more than 270 million acres of Public Lands, primarily in 11 western states. Approximately 90 million of these acres are in Alaska.

Each state is divided into geographic areas or districts. BLM district managers and their teams of resource specialists and support personnel play a key role in determining what activities occur on Public Lands.

In Alaska, BLM state office in Anchorage provides support for specialized functions such as land conveyances, cadastral survey and information management.

Support centers in Fairbanks and Anchorage assist the five district offices which are located in Fairbanks, Anchorage and Glennallen. Field stations serve as public contact points in Tok, Kotzebue and Nome.



# BLM Alaska



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NOTE: This map is for general illustration purposes only. Scattered parcels of public land and private inholdings are not shown. Land ownership patterns are subject to change pending resolution of State of Alaska and Native land claims. Contact the nearest BLM office for detailed land ownership information.

## Arctic District



The **Arctic District** administers about 34 million acres of surface and nearly 70 million acres of subsurface Public Lands across Alaska's North Slope, the Trans-Alaskan Pipeline "Utility Corridor" and the northeastern interior.

Major resource values on these lands include: internationally important waterfowl habitat, calving and summer habitat for Alaska's largest caribou herd, high density nesting habitat for raptors (including the threatened peregrine falcon), internationally significant archaeological and paleontological sites, unlimited potential for recreational activities, and extensive reserves of oil, gas, coal and other minerals. Much of the district supports traditional subsistence lifestyles of local residents.

## Kobuk District



The **Kobuk District** office manages 17 million acres of public land in west-central Alaska, including tundra, forest and mountains. The Seward Peninsula provides forage for more than 25,000 reindeer, an important, Native-owned industry. These reindeer must be kept away from the wintering areas of the 400,000-animal Western Arctic Caribou Herd, the largest such herd in Alaska.

You can enjoy first-class recreation on the Squirrel River and in the Kigluak Mountains. Public Lands are popular for camping, snowmobiling, dog mushing, hunting, sport fishing, trapping, backpacking and river float trips.

Salmon from BLM-managed rivers are important to sport, commercial and subsistence fisheries. The 38 Native villages in the district also depend on subsistence harvest of game on nearby Public Lands.

The district manages active mining and easement programs and has field offices in Nome and Kotzebue to better serve the public.

## Steese-White Mountains District



The **Steese/White Mountains District** is responsible for 7.5 million acres of Public Lands in interior Alaska. Road access is by way of the Dalton, Steese and Taylor highways.

The district manages several nationally designated areas including the White Mountains National Recreation Area, the Steese National Conservation Area, the 27-mile Pinnell Mountain National Recreation Trail and Fort Egbert National Historic Site adjacent to the city of Eagle on the Yukon River. The district is also responsible for the management of more than 620 miles of national wild and scenic river corridors including Birch and Beaver creeks and the Fortymile River.

This district manages the largest recreation and mining programs on Public Lands in northern Alaska and monitors multiple use activities to accommodate subsistence-related activities and the public's needs for hunting, fishing and other wildland activities.

## Glennallen District



The **Glennallen District** manages approximately 5.5 million acres of Public Lands in east-central Alaska. Major resource programs include recreation, fisheries, wildlife habitat, cultural resources and rights-of-way management.

The 135-mile long Denali Highway, connecting Paxson and Cantwell, provides summer visitors with access to spectacular scenery and prime wildlife habitat in central Alaska. Hunters come in the fall to try their luck at finding moose and caribou.

Trumpeter swans, ducks, geese, and other birds use a vast network of remote lakes and streams for raising their young during the short summer. Visitors can glimpse this marvel of nature by floating the Gulkana and Delta Wild and Scenic rivers.

The Tangle Lakes Archeological District near Paxson preserves hundreds of cultural sites that give evidence of the first people to inhabit Alaska.

## Anchorage District



The **Anchorage District** manages 16 million acres in southwest, southcentral and southeast Alaska. The largest concentration of Public Lands are found along the Yukon and Kuskokwim rivers. Major resource responsibilities include realty, wildlife, recreation and mining.

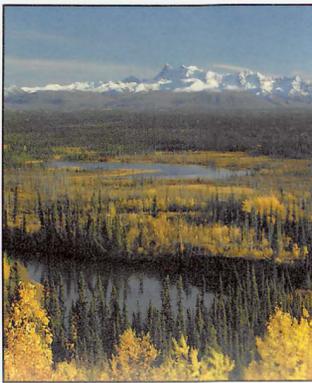
The Iditarod National Historic Trail traverses much of the district. Each March, world attention is focussed on the famous Iditarod sled dog race as the racers and their dog teams battle time, each other and the Alaskan winter.

The district's Campbell Tract in Anchorage is a recreation playground for half the state's population. Each May, thousands of grade school children come to the Tract to participate in a week-long series of outdoor learning experiences in all fields of natural resource education. BLM has sponsored this valuable program since 1975.

## It's all about land, ...

Alaska's 365 million acres were purchased by the federal government from Russia in 1867 for about two cents an acre. Most of this land was at one time administered by BLM or its predecessors.

Land—who owns it, who gets it and who can use it. These are the issues that BLM must deal with every day.



**Alaska has new owners.** Legislation such as the Alaska Statehood Act (1958), the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (1971), and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (1980), radically changed the land ownership pattern of Alaska. They allocated more than 104 million acres of Public Lands to the state of Alaska and about 44 million acres to Native corporations. More than 100 million acres of national parks, monuments, preserves and wildlife refuges were also established.

After all conveyances are completed, the remaining Public Lands will still be administered by BLM under the principles of multiple use management.



**It's the greatest survey project in history.** Boundary lines of all lands to be transferred, plus those of any inholdings, must be surveyed by BLM before new owners can receive patent. BLM survey crews carefully locate and establish survey monuments, often called "brass caps," to physically mark the points on the earth's surface and tie the land to its legal description.

Each summer BLM survey crews are sent to remote base camps in all parts of the state to get the job done.

A large survey camp of 14 to 16 people will typically need more than 200 items that collectively weigh up to 65,000 pounds. Helicopters will burn more than 60,000 gallons of fuel during the summer. BLM's warehouse crews and air logistics operations keep these camps operating. Almost one million pounds of equipment and supplies are transported annually.



**How can people obtain land from the federal government?** In general, Congress has directed that most Public Lands be retained in federal ownership. However, Public Lands can be transferred to private ownership in a variety of ways.

If BLM's land use planning process determines that disposal of a given parcel of land is in the national interest, the parcel can be sold for a fair market value or exchanged for another parcel of equal value.

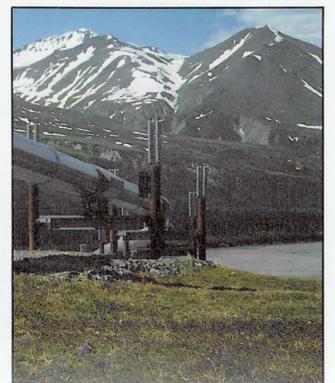
Miners can receive patent to lands with mineral deposits after performing assessment work on valid claims and meeting other requirements.

In Alaska, individual Native allotments up to 160 acres in size are being surveyed by BLM as part of the federal government's responsibilities under the 1906 Native Allotment Act.



**The history of the land is on file with BLM.** The BLM is the custodian of the nation's real estate records. BLM's Master Title Plats show land ownership and any leases, rights-of-way, withdrawals and public land actions in effect.

Anyone can determine the legal history of a parcel of land while it was under federal ownership by visiting a public land record information center at a BLM office.



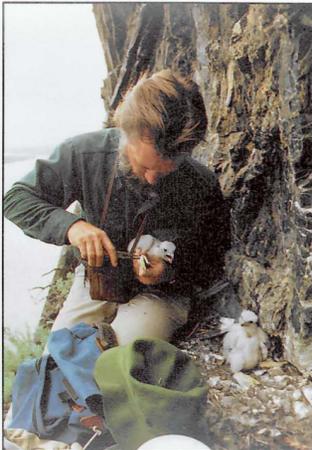
**Public lands are frequently used by others** even though ownership is retained by the federal government. BLM administers rights-of-way for hundreds of miles of roads, electrical transmission lines, pipelines and other uses. BLM also grants temporary use permits for parks, airstrips, storage facilities and other uses.

*All laws relating to homesteading on Public Lands in Alaska expired in 1986. Public Lands are no longer available for cabins, trade and manufacturing sites, recreation sites or homes.*

## resources, ...

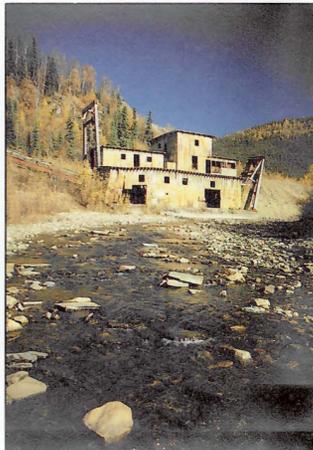
Alaska's Public Lands possess natural resources of enormous value. Traditional resources such as coal, timber and fish are traded world-wide to make life more comfortable for people everywhere.

Today, new opportunities in the realm of historical, cultural, scientific and recreational resources are emerging to assume new importance for the Alaska of the future.



**BLM manages habitat of the plants and animals** that live on our Public Lands. Special emphasis is placed on threatened or endangered species such as the arctic peregrine falcon.

BLM also cooperates with other agencies to monitor population levels so that scientists can predict how environmental changes will affect the species. Current research projects in Alaska are aimed at understanding the needs of caribou, marten, moose, waterfowl, salmon and peregrine falcons.



Alaska's mineral wealth has been recognized for more than a hundred years. Millions of ounces of gold have been removed from such places as Nome, the Fortymile country, and Fairbanks.

BLM surface protection specialists and geologists work with miners who have claims located on Public Lands to help them meet legal requirements necessary to receive patent and to advise them in techniques that will avoid unnecessary surface disturbances.

BLM has surface management responsibilities for on-shore oil and gas production in producing fields, such as those on the Kenai Peninsula, and oversight responsibilities for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System. BLM also administers the 23-million-acre National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska on the North Slope.



**There are unlimited recreation opportunities** on BLM lands in Alaska. People come to Alaska from all over the world seeking the adventure of a lifetime or a week of solitude amid scenic grandeur. Public Lands in Alaska offer outstanding opportunities for sightseeing, hiking, photography, wildlife observation, fishing, hunting and other recreational pursuits.

BLM administers six Alaska components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. These include portions of the Delta, Fortymile, Unalakleet and Gulkana rivers and Beaver and Birch creeks. Here recreationists can experience anything from a quiet float trip to challenging whitewater rapids.



Portions of the Iditarod National Historic Trail from Seward to Nome cross BLM-administered Public Lands. BLM has developed an extensive network of winter trails and cabins in the White Mountains National Recreation Area near Fairbanks.

Fort Egbert, on the banks of the Yukon River, dates back to 1899. It has been partially restored so that its long and colorful history will not be forgotten. The local Eagle Historical Society conducts guided tours in the summer.

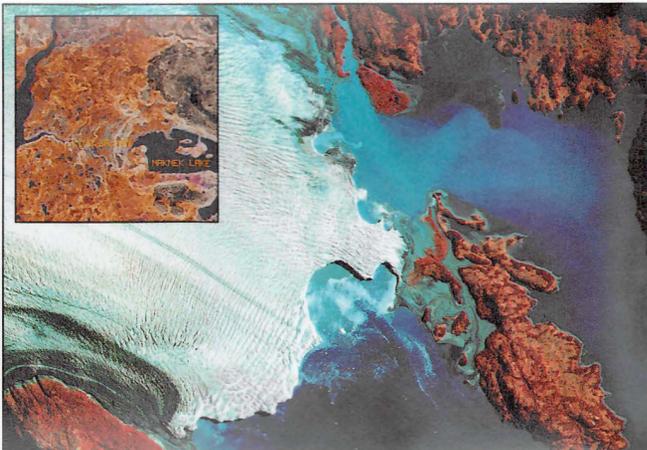


**Recent studies indicate that some forest fires can benefit other resources.** For example, the rapid increase of lush vegetation following a clean burn provides new wildlife habitat for a variety of birds and mammals. In Alaska, agencies evaluate the resources at risk against the cost of fighting a fire to determine an appropriate level of fire suppression.

Public Lands throughout Alaska are valuable outdoor laboratories for research studies about our natural world.

## and technology.

Units of Public Land in Alaska vary in size from parcels of only a few acres to those the size of some states. Gathering information about these lands and their resources can be expensive and time consuming if done by traditional methods. Today BLM-Alaska makes use of state-of-the-art equipment and space-age technology to get the job done quickly and efficiently.

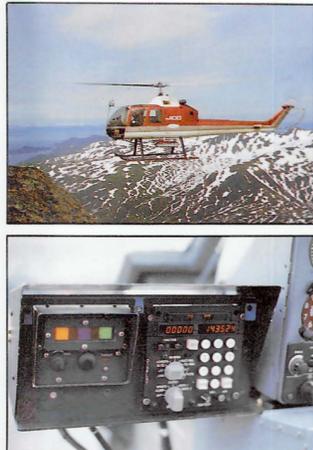


**BLM is already using the technology of the 21st century** to help manage your Public Lands in Alaska.

Aerial photos are invaluable yet inexpensive tools that help many BLM resource specialists to observe and manage Public Lands. Environmental changes in remote areas can be easily monitored. For example, wildlife biologists use photos to evaluate wildlife habitat conditions. Surface protection specialists monitor rehabilitation success in areas where mining has occurred. Lakes and shorelines can be easily mapped. Aerial photos are also used to determine how much federal land has yet to be transferred to the state of Alaska and Native corporations.

*(inset)* A Landsat satellite, orbiting 575 miles above the earth, scanned the vegetation of a six-million-acre area in southwest Alaska. BLM resource specialists combined the information with computerized elevation data derived from topographic maps to produce a composite image.

Skilled resource professionals can obtain an amazing amount of information from this product. For example, if a new road is needed to move equipment to a drilling site, potential gravel deposits needed for construction can be identified. Then, travel routes that avoid steep or wet, boggy terrain can be planned, lowering construction costs. Wildlife habitat can be identified and avoided during road construction.



**Modern technology has tripled the efficiency of survey field work.** The multi-million-dollar Auto-Surveyor system is the key element in the BLM tool kit. The Auto-Surveyor is mounted in a helicopter and uses satellite orientation procedures to determine its starting position. The exact location of rivers and shorelines can be recorded in seconds as the pilot flies over them. It would take months of work to obtain the same data using traditional survey methods.



**There are more than 200,000 land record casefiles maintained by BLM in Alaska.** Tracking the location of each file is now easily accomplished by the use of magnetic bar codes, portable optical scanner pens and computers. The system is similar to those used on products at grocery stores. BLM-Alaska led in the development of this system, which was then adopted by many other BLM offices nationwide.

Biologists have been tracking large game animals for years by using radio collars and airplanes. New developments in electronics allow the same techniques to be applied to fish. Tiny transmitters surgically implanted in steelhead trout allowed radio monitoring to identify critical fish habitat in portions of the Copper River basin. Another type of satellite monitoring system helps BLM keep track of aircraft flying anywhere in the state.



**Remote sensors around the state instantly record lightning strikes** and relay the information to a central computer. Fire managers' predictions of where wildfires are most likely to occur allow fire fighting crews to be stationed in high-risk areas, cutting response time and saving thousands of dollars annually in fire suppression costs. The lightning detectors were modified to help the U. S. Geological Survey monitor volcanic eruptions on Mount Redoubt.

