



# United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
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## **Bureau of Land Management – Anchorage Field Office Updates to the Bristol Bay Subsistence Regional Advisory Council October 28-29, 2020**

- New BLM Alaska Subsistence Coordinator – Chris McKee
- Campbell Creek Science Center distance learning opportunities
  - <https://www.blm.gov/learn/interpretive-centers/campbell-creek-science-center/distance-learning>
- Alaska Native Veterans Allotment Act updates
  - <https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-reealty/regional-information/alaska/land-transfer/ak-native-allotment-act/alaska-native-vietnam-veterans-land-allotment>
- Bering Sea – Western Interior Resource Management Plan
  - Next stage for this project is the eventual release of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and Proposed RMP. Once that document is released, this starts a 30-day public protest period.
  - <https://www.blm.gov/programs/planning-and-nepa/plans-in-development/alaska/BSWI>

### Aquatic Resources:

- Goodnews Block - Ongoing quantification of flow for preparation of water rights applications is underway using 5 years' worth of data collected from streams. These data are being analyzed using BLM's new AQUARIUS database software. BLM hopes to have quantification for application of instream water rights for the protection of fisheries resources completed in this area by the end of 2020.
- In 2020 BLM initiated a design for establishing improved fish passage at the Salmon River south of Platinum, AK. The Salmon River flows through mine tailings which currently restrict fish passage during all but very high-water events. Instruments are in place on the Salmon River through the mine site that continuously measure and record water temperature and depth. The equipment will continue monitoring conditions and has the capability to store data for approximately 5 years. BLM hopes to be able to check on monitoring equipment and collect important instantaneous discharge and water quality measurements as soon as pandemic travel restriction are eased.

### Archaeology:

- Working on an on-going project to conduct survey and testing of sites in the Carter Spit Area of Critical Environmental Concern north of Platinum, AK.

Recreation:

- Special Recreation Permits. 80% of permit holders are still operating but at limited capacity.

Mining:

- Compliance activities continue with a mix of on-the-ground and overflight inspections. The mining team is staying in close contact with mine operators as they work through COVID related hiring, camp, and transportation issues.
- NYAC: BLM has approved 22 acres of post mine closure reclamation in 2020. The operator continues to work with BLM to complete the remaining three acres of stream reclamation.
- Platinum Mine. Goodnews Resources and Mining has an active exploration Notice and is interested in possibly re-opening the platinum mine. Due to COVID, the company was not able to conduct operations this year. Claimant plans to restart Notice-level exploration in 2021.