



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2591
www.blm.gov/alaska



In Reply Refer To:
4300 (AKA012)

MAY 02 2025

CERTIFIED MAIL 7006 0810 0000 6318 6538
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

John Handeland
City of Nome
Mayor
P.O. Box 281
Nome, AK 99762

Dear Mayor Handeland

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is seeking public input on proposed reauthorizations of existing as well as new reindeer grazing authorizations and related activities. The scoping period for this project runs from May 5th, 2025, to June 4th, 2025.

BLM is considering whether to authorize the following proposed actions and if so, under what terms and conditions:

1. The renewal of 16 existing reindeer grazing permits and up to 16 new permits for a total of 32 permits in “areas open to grazing” in the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan (RMP) Area and “open areas” in the Bering Sea-Western Interior RMP Area,
2. associated range improvements,
3. and associated livestock crossings.

The BLM will use input from this scoping period, including input from affected individuals, agencies, Tribal consultations, and members of the public to draft a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA). This scoping period provides the public the opportunity to submit ideas, issues, and concerns for the BLM to consider when developing the proposed action for this PEA.

You can review materials and submit comments on the project webpage (<https://eplanning.blm.gov/eplanning-ui/project/2036867/510>) by clicking on the green “participate now” link. The project webpage can be viewed by scanning this QR code:



Comments postmarked by June 4th, 2025, will also be accepted by postal mail to:

Bureau of Land Management
Attn: Reindeer Grazing Programmatic EA
4700 BLM Road
Anchorage, AK 99507

The BLM invites you to submit comments on this proposed action and to engage in government-to-government consultation consistent with current BLM policy. If government-to-government consultation is desired, please submit a request to Jacob 'Jake' Vialpando, Anchorage Field Manager at 907-621-4640 or jvialpando@blm.gov and Elia Nay, Alaska Native Coordinator at 907-267-1261 or enay@blm.gov.

For additional information, contact Ecologist Aliza DuComb at 907-621-4645 or aducomb@blm.gov.

Digitally signed by
JACOB VIALPANDO
Date: 2025.05.01
14:24:24 -08'00'

Jacob "Jake" Vialpando
Field Manager
Anchorage Field Office

Enclosure(s):

- 1) Proposal Summary
 - 2) Map
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BLM Anchorage Field Office Programmatic Reindeer Grazing Summary

Topic: The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Anchorage Field Office (AFO) is planning for proposed reauthorizations of existing as well as new reindeer grazing authorizations and related activities.

Current Issues: Reindeer grazing on BLM public lands in Alaska is regulated by 43 CFR 4300 - Grazing Administration, Alaska, Reindeer - and this use has occurred on BLM-managed federal public lands on the Seward Peninsula for over 100 years. The last time BLM conducted an environmental assessment for reindeer grazing in Alaska was in 2007. Environmental conditions and issues have changed since then and necessitate an updated review and analysis to continue to authorize this use into the future. Additionally, current permits will soon expire, and this updated review would not only renew existing permits but also consider authorizing up to 16 additional permits for the next 10 years.

Proposal:

BLM is considering whether to authorize the following proposed actions and if so, under what terms and conditions:

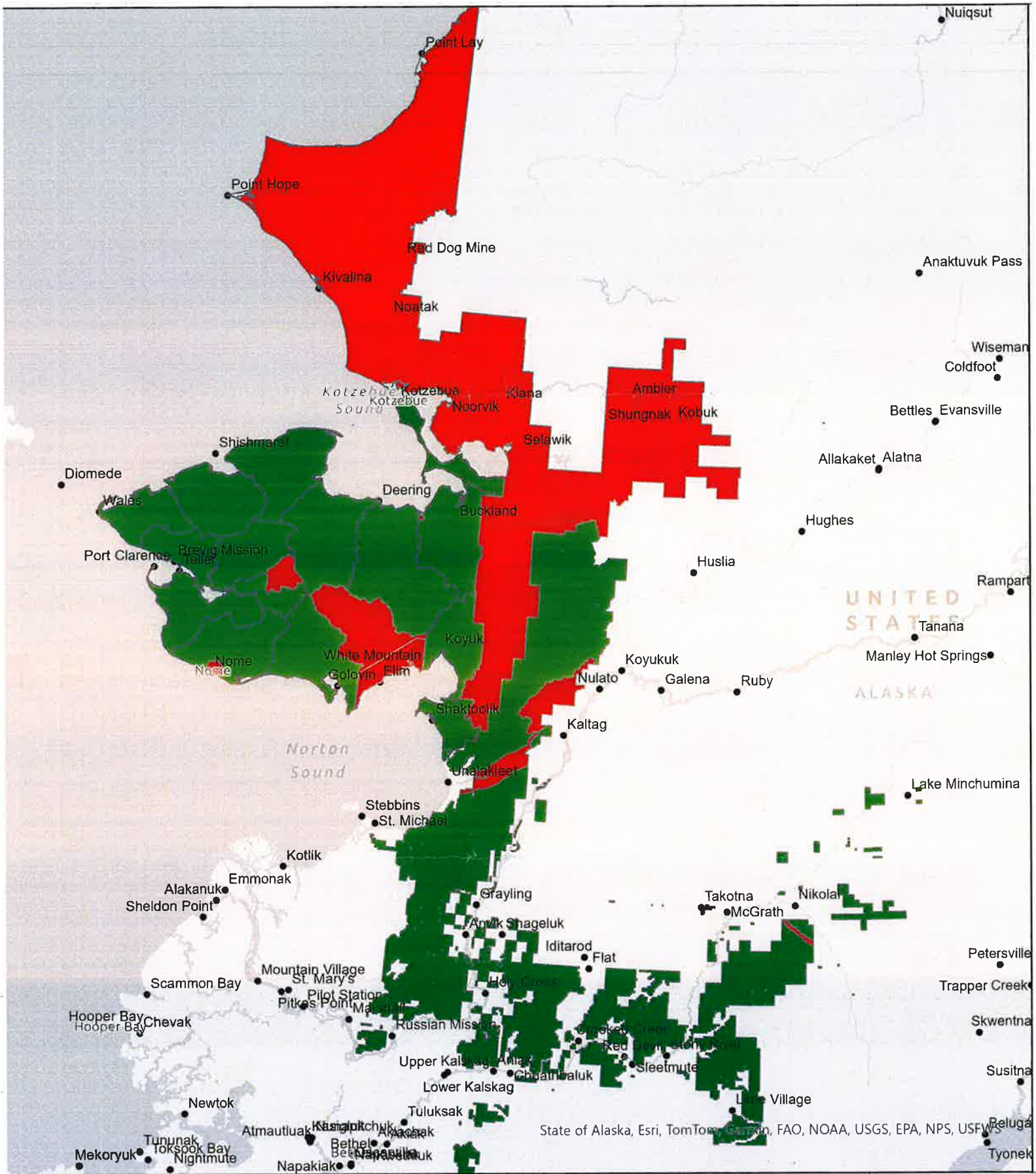
1. The renewal of 16 existing reindeer grazing permits and up to 16 new permits for a total of 32 permits in "areas open to grazing" in the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan (RMP) Area and "open areas" in the Bering Sea-Western Interior RMP Area,
2. associated range improvements,
3. and associated livestock crossings.

Key Points:

- The Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP and Bering Sea-Western Interior RMP define areas that are open and areas that are closed to grazing and include X open areas in the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP and X open in the Bering Sea-Western Interior RMP.
- 16 grazing permits are currently authorized on the Seward Peninsula: one permit in each of the grazing allotments defined in the Kobuk Seward RMP and none in the "open areas" defined in the Bering Sea-Western Interior RMP.
- 16 additional, up to 32 total, grazing permits would be considered by the BLM in allotments "open for grazing" in the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula RMP planning area and within "open areas" identified in the BSWI RMP planning area. Each permit would be authorized for:
 - A 10-year term,
 - Up to 5,000 animals per allotment,
 - An additional 5,000 animals, if warranted.

Map:

1. Areas open to grazing in the Kobuk-Seward Peninsula Resource Management Plan Area and Bering Sea Western Interior Resource Management Plan Area



- Closed to Grazing
- Open to Grazing

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This map was generated using a DOI accessible web application and

