



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Central Yukon Field Office  
222 University Avenue  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-3816  
[www.blm.gov/alaska](http://www.blm.gov/alaska)



Dear Partner,

In response to public requests, the BLM Central Yukon Field Office plans to install signs at the Yukon River boat launch along the Dalton Highway that identify land ownership along the river and promote the use of public lands. We are inviting the attached list of entities to review the enclosed draft sign panels and map. The display is intended to inform river users of public and private lands as well as provide contact information for public land managers along the river. It would consist of three panels: one discussing traditional connections to the river; one encouraging responsible use along the river corridor, including respect for public and private land; and one with a 2'x 6' map showing land ownership along the Yukon River from Beaver to Tanana. Note that the draft materials are simplified versions of the final product. The final map will also include USGS placenames. At the reduced scale of the enclosed map, the USGS placenames were removed.

We would like to have the signs printed and installed this summer. Your feedback on the proposed panels (attached) would be appreciated and we welcome photos for the panels that showcase traditional uses of the river, such as families camping or subsisting.

- Do you have photos you would like to share for this project?
- We have included Koyukon and Gwich'in river place names on the map. Are there other place names or landmarks that should be included?
- Alaska Native lands are currently depicted as "private" on the map. Is this representation acceptable or do you have a recommendation on how to depict it differently?
- Is there other information relevant to the theme of the panels that you would like to see represented?

We ask that you provide comments by March 31<sup>st</sup>. The BLM point of contact is Steve Taylor, Outdoor Recreation Planner at [sctaylor@blm.gov](mailto:sctaylor@blm.gov) or 907-474-2242. Please reach out to Steve if you have any questions or wish to discuss this in person.

Sincerely,

Paul Grant  
Acting Central Yukon Field Office Manager

Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers  
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Baan O Yeel Kon Corporation  
Beaver Kwit'chin Corporation  
Beaver Tribal Council  
City of Tanana  
Eastern Interior Regional Advisory Council  
Dineega Corporation  
Dinyee Corporation  
Doyon Ltd  
Gana-A'Yoo Ltd  
Kaltag Tribal Council  
Koyukuk Nowitna Innoko National Wildlife Refuges  
Koyukuk River Advisory Committee  
Koyukuk Tribal Council  
Louden Tribal Council  
Middle Yukon Advisory Committee  
Rampart Tribal Council  
Resident Hunters of Alaska  
Ruby Tribal Council  
Stevens Village Tribal Council  
Tanana Chiefs Conference  
Tanana - Manley - Rampart Advisory Committee  
Tanana Tribal Council  
Tozitna Ltd  
Western Interior Regional Advisory Council  
Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve  
Yukon Flats Advisory Committee  
Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge



# The Yukon River – Lifeblood of Interior Alaska

## Welcome

The Yukon River is the ecological and cultural lifeblood of Interior Alaska and provides essential habitat for dozens of species of fish, animals, and migratory birds. Nearly half of its length – including where you are standing – crosses the homelands of Koyukon and Gwich'in Athabascan peoples.

For thousands of years the Yukon River has been a source of identity, spiritual connection, transportation, and sustenance for Athabascan communities. This river:

- Enables families to spend time together
- Provides a forum for storytelling and teaching younger generations traditional values and language
- Connects people with the land, ancestors, and identity, and
- Facilitates spiritual and physical health and well-being.

Please enjoy your time on the river and help care for the land so it's available for the continued use and enjoyment for generations of families to come!

Thank you

*Connection to  
the land is so  
important. It's  
our spiritual  
heritage.*

-Eliza Jones  
Koyukon Elder

[Source: Middle Koyukuk River of Alaska,  
Atlas of Fishing Places and Traditional Place Names]

[ADD ADDITIONAL PHOTOS IF AVAILABLE]



# This river support many lifestyles; what does it mean to you?

- How do you ensure future generations will have opportunities to enjoy the experiences and traditions you have?
- Are there ways you contribute to wildlife and fish conservation?
- Is role-modelling and mentoring important to you?
- How can you leave the river in a condition that others can enjoy?

## Public land information

Land ownership along the Yukon River is a patchwork of federal, state and private lands. Plan your route to stay on public lands and obtain permission prior to accessing private lands; always know whose land you are on or near. Abide by all applicable laws and regulations. *Please do not trespass on private property, depicted as white on the map.*

## Public land contacts along the Yukon River:

### Bureau of Land Management

- Central Yukon Field Office (907-474-2200)

### Fish and Wildlife Service

- Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge (800-531-0676)
- Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge (907-656-1231)
- Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge (907-656-1231)
- Innoko National Wildlife Refuge (907-524-3251)

### National Park Service

- Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve (907-459-3730)

### State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources

- Department of Natural Resources (907-451-2705)
- Department of Fish and Game (907-459-7206)

