Federal Subsistence Management Program

Review of the Rural Determination Process

Presentation Overview

1. Why we are here
2. Framework
3. Current Process
4. The Questions to Address
5. Resources
6. How you can Provide Comments

Why we are Here

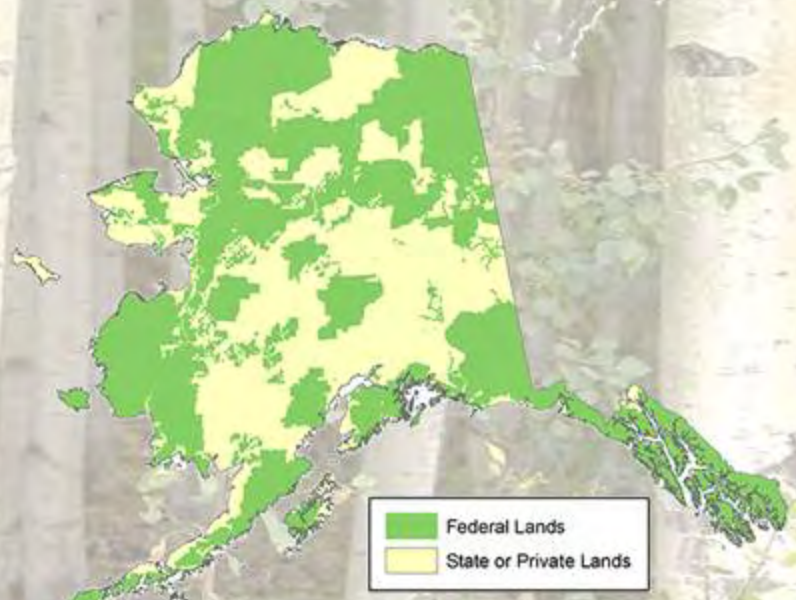
December 2010, the Secretaries directed the Federal Subsistence Board to:

- Conduct review of rural determination process
  - Regional Advisory Council
  - Public Input
  - Tribal Consultations
  - ANCSA Corporation Consultations
- Develop recommendations to improve the process

Framework

Title VIII - ANILCA

- Rural Subsistence Priority
- Residents of Rural Communities / Areas



Framework

9th Circuit Court of Appeals Decision

- Sparsely Populated Areas
  - Primary Indicator of Rural
- Hunting/Fishing Resource Use
  - Only One Indicator of Rural

Current Process

Overview of Criteria

1. Aggregation of Communities
2. Population Threshold
3. Rural Characteristics
4. Timelines
5. Information Sources

Current Process

1. Aggregation of Communities

- **Economic, Social, Communal Integration**
  - Do 30% or more working people commute from one community to another?
  - Do they share a common high school attendance area?
  - Are the communities in proximity and road accessible to one another?

Questions

Are these aggregation criteria useful for determining rural and nonrural status?

- If not, please provide ideas on how to better indicate how communities are integrated for the purposes of determining rural and nonrural status.

Current Process

2. Population Threshold

- Below 2,500
  - Presumed Rural
- Between 2,500 and 7,000
  - No Presumption-Rural Characteristics Applied
- Above 7,000
  - Presumed Non-rural

Questions

Are these population threshold guidelines useful for determining whether a specific area of Alaska is rural?

- If they are not, please provide population size(s) to distinguish between rural and nonrural areas, and the reasons for the population size you believe more accurately reflects rural and nonrural areas in Alaska.

Current Process

3. *Rural Characteristics*

- Use of Fish and Wildlife
- Economic Development and Diversity
- Infrastructure
- Transportation
- Educational Institutions

Questions

Are these characteristics useful for determining whether a specific area of Alaska is rural?

- If they are not, please provide a list of characteristics that better define rural and nonrural status.

Current Process

4. *Timelines*

- 10-year Cycle
- Out of Cycle in Special Circumstances

5. *Information Sources*

- Recent Census Population Data
- Census Information Varies Decade to Decade

Questions

Should the Board review rural determinations on a 10-year cycle? If so, why and if not, why not?

The information sources as stated in the regulations will continue to be the foundation of data used for rural determinations. Do you have any additional sources you think would be beneficial to use?

Questions

Do you have any additional comments on how to make the rural determination process more effective?

Resources

Available to You

Web Site-http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/rural.cfml

- Federal Register Notice (Vol. 77 Number 250)
- News Release

Email

- subsistence@fws.gov

Phone

- 800-478-1456

All resources are located on our web site and on the handouts available here in the room.

Please pick up copies.

How you can Provide Comments

Testimony –

- Regional Advisory Council meetings, for RAC consideration
- Public Hearings, to inform Federal Subsistence Board

Electronically - by email at subsistence@fws.gov

U.S. mail / hand deliver - to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Subsistence Management, 1011 Tudor Road-MS121, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Hand Deliver - to Designated Federal Official, or Council Coordinator, attending any of Regional Advisory Council or Federal Subsistence Board public meetings

Thank You