US/Russia Formally State Intent on Beringia

Saturday September 8th, 2012---A new directive was accorded The National Park Service's Shared Beringian Heritage Program following the meeting in Vladivostok between US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. For the first time in 20 years, the United States and Russia formally stated their intention to 'bridge" the Bering Strait in a symbolic linkage of parklands and indicated that the objective is to have a formal arrangement in place by the New Year. Several official statements were released concerning the establishment of a "Transboundary Area of Shared Beringian Heritage" connecting parks in Alaska and in Chukotka, Russia. In accordance with these statements and recognizing the goals set by Clinton and Lavrov, the Beringia Program will continue to pursue deeper and more meaningful collaborations with Russian partners. Further, the two leaders advised continuing consultations, discussions, and engagement with local residents and indigenous people in the region on the issue of a Transboundary Area. The Beringia Program will continue efforts toward community engagement and knowledge exchange while gathering feedback and listening to the opinions of Beringia residents. While the announcement continues to be progress toward the realization of an international protected area, the work has just begun. Please see the official State Department releases on Beringia for more information.

1. **On Cooperation in the Bering Strait Region**
   http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/09/197522.htm

2. **U.S.-Russia Cooperation on Antarctica, Interregional Areas, and Beringia**
   http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/09/197523.htm

3. **Signing Ceremony With Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov**
   http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/2012/09/197518.htm

4. **Video of Clinton/Lavrov Remarks**
   http://www.apec2012.ru/mm/20120908/462954633.html

5. **Historic Visa Agreement Between US & Russia**
   http://www.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2012/09/197476.htm