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BLM-Alaska Conveys 729,000 Acres to State of Alaska



MAP: BLM-ALASKA

ANCHORAGE, AK—The Bureau of Land Management held a signing ceremony patenting a large block of land near Sleetmute to the State of Alaska. BLM-Alaska State Director Bud Cribley signed the patent and presented the final documents to Alaska Department of Natural Resources Deputy Commissioner Ed Fogels.

“Getting to today’s signing ceremony is the result of a lot of cooperation and collaboration with the State of Alaska,” Cribley said.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLM-ALASKA

BLM-Alaska State Director Bud Cribley (right) signing the patent as Alaska Department of Natural Resources Deputy Commissioner Ed Fogels looks on.

The 729,000 acres patented today were previously conveyed to the State in Tentative Approval (TA) status, subject to survey. The BLM completed survey in 2011, leading to final patent. The lands are located along the Kuskokwim River about 100 miles downriver from McGrath. About 5 million acres of the State's 105-million-acre total allotment remain to be conveyed under the Statehood Act. About 37 million of that 105 million acres have been conveyed with Tentative Approval and are just awaiting survey for final patent.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLM-ALASKA

Cribley filling in blocks of land patented to the State of Alaska.

For more than 30 years, the BLM has been involved with the survey and conveyance of lands in Alaska under three statutes: the Native Allotment Act of 1906; the Alaska Statehood Act, and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). The work being done to implement these laws is collectively called the Alaska Land Transfer Program. When completed, over 150 million acres, approximately 42% of the land area in Alaska, will have been transferred from federal to state and private ownership.

Cribley said that today's signing comes at a pivotal time in the BLM's Land Transfer Program.

"We just completed a comprehensive inventory and analysis of our Land Transfer Program and can now clearly see what is left to

accomplish,” he said. “We are laying out a plan to finish the job, and taking action on all fronts, maximizing the resources we’re given to expedite actions and get to completion.”



PHOTO COURTESY OF BLM ALASKA

From left, State of Alaska Director of Mining, Land and Water Brent Goodrum; Ron Dunton, BLM Deputy State Director; Fogels, Cribley stand in front of the BLM's Land Transfer Program map.

SOURCE: BLM-Alaska