

From: [Patterson, Parker W. \(LAW\)](#)
To: [Senate Resources](#)
Cc: [Sen. Cathy Giessel](#); [Samantha Freeborn](#); [GOV.Legislative.Office](#); [Legislation, Department of LAW \(LAW sponsored\)](#); [Matiashowski, Raymond A \(DNR\)](#)
Subject: SB 224 - follow up on question
Date: Wednesday, March 25, 2026 2:22:44 PM

Good afternoon Senator Giessel,

At the Senate Resources Committee meeting last Monday, March 16, 2025, Senator Kawasaki asked a question relating to SB 224 about what would need to happen for the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and or the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge to be terminated.

In 1941, both refuges were created by Presidential Executive Orders. However, in 1980, Congress adjusted both of the Refuges' boundaries and passed a law expressly creating the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge and the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in Section 303 of ANILCA; thus they were no longer just executive branch land withdrawals.

Under ANILCA, both Refuges are managed by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to 16 USC § 668dd. For example, 16 USC § 668dd(a)(5) states that "No acquired lands which are or become a part of the System may be transferred or otherwise disposed of under any provision of law" absent a few exceptions. This language affirms that because Congress created these refuges, congressional legislation would be required to significantly alter the management of the refuges and thus remove these refuges from the management provisions of 16 USC § 668dd.

Therefore, repealing these state refuges does not impact the federal law and federal protections on these federal refuges.

Please let me know if I may be of further assistance.

Respectfully yours,

Parker W. Patterson
Senior Assistant Attorney General
Legislation, Regulations, and Legislative Research Section
Alaska Department of Law
123 4th Street, Suite 600
PO Box 110300
Juneau, Alaska 99811
907 465 3600