

U.S. Department of Interior  
Bureau of Land Management

Report to Congress  
June 2006

# Sec. 207 Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act

## A Review of D-1 Withdrawals

**BLM**



Alaska





# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240



JUN - 2 2006

Honorable Pete V. Domenici  
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with Section 207 of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (Public Law 108-452), we are submitting the required report on the review of withdrawal orders made pursuant to Section 17(d)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, commonly referred to as "d-1" withdrawals.

The "d-1" withdrawals are a series of orders issued by the Secretary of the Interior in the 1970's for the purpose of maintaining the status quo of the lands in Alaska in order to complete inventories and assess resources for consideration in land management objectives. Most of the "d-1" withdrawal orders closed or segregated the lands from entry under all the public land laws, including mining and mineral leasing laws. Section 207 of Public Law 108-452 directed the review and a report that identifies lands so withdrawn that can be opened to appropriation consistent with the protection of the public interest in these lands. The required report is enclosed.

Sincerely,

R. M. "Johnnie" Burton  
Director, Minerals Management Service  
Exercising the delegated authority of the  
Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals  
Management

Enclosure



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240



JUN - 2 2006

Honorable Richard Pombo  
Chairman, Committee on Resources  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with Section 207 of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (Public Law 108-452), we are submitting the required report on the review of withdrawal orders made pursuant to Section 17(d)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, commonly referred to as "d-1" withdrawals.

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Enclosure



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT  
Alaska State Office  
222 West Seventh Avenue, #13  
Anchorage, Alaska 99513-7599  
<http://www.ak.blm.gov>



2300 (AK-932)

## Memorandum

To: Director

Thru: Jeff Holdren, Acting Group Manager Lands & Realty (350)

From: State Director, Alaska

Subject: Review of d-1 Withdrawals in Alaska and Report to Congress

Based on Washington Office directions received on March 30, 2006, the final report is attached pursuant to Section 207 of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (Public Law 108-452). We have bound our transmittal Memorandums into the report for your reference, and they may easily be removed for transmittal to Congress. A draft transmittal letter and a briefing paper are also attached for your consideration.

Recommendations for d-1 lands managed by the BLM are included in the attached report which incorporated comments from other federal land managers and the public. The report contains recommendations without alternatives and has been reviewed by the Regional Solicitor for legal sufficiency. Preparation and submission of the report to Congress is advisory and requires no environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The report is to be submitted to Congress by June 10, 2006.

Questions concerning this BLM report may be directed to David Mushovic, Realty Specialist, Division of Resources, Lands and Planning (AK-930) 907-271-3293.

### 3 Attachments:

- 1- Final Report Sec. 207 Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (125 pp)
- 2- Draft Transmittal Letter to Congress(1 p)
- 3- Briefing Paper(1 p)

932:DMushovic;jlh:03/30/06:5477:207ltr



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## Memorandum

To: Director

Thru: Jeff Holdren, Acting Group Manager Lands & Realty (350)

From: State Director, Alaska

Subject: Review of d-1 Withdrawals in Alaska and Report to Congress

Pursuant to Section 207 of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (Public Law 108-452), a draft report is forwarded for your consideration and concurrence. Congress directed a review of a series of orders issued by the Secretary of the Interior in the 1970s under the authority of Section 17(d)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and are referred to as “d-1” PLOs or withdrawals. Most of the original d-1 withdrawals closed or segregated the lands from entry under all the public land laws including mining and mineral leasing laws. One exception was PLO No. 5180 which allowed location for metalliferous minerals. The purpose of these orders was to maintain the status quo of the lands in order to complete inventories and assess resources for consideration in land management objectives. The Bureau of Land Management’s (BLM) current land use planning process serves as the means to review the d-1 withdrawals and make determinations regarding opening lands. However, schedules, time-frame requirements, and priorities for this process are a frustration for many stakeholders. In response to this concern, Congress, through the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act of December 10, 2004, directed the Secretary to submit a report that determines if any lands withdrawn by the d-1 PLOs can be opened to entry.

Recommendations for d-1 lands managed by the BLM are included in the attached report which incorporated comments from other federal land managers and the public. The report contains recommendations without alternatives and has been reviewed by the Regional Solicitor for legal sufficiency. Preparation and submission of the report to Congress is advisory and requires no environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The report is to be submitted to Congress by June 10, 2006.

In order to meet the June 10, 2006, deadline, please have your review completed by May 1, 2006. Questions concerning this BLM report may be directed to David Mushovic, Realty Specialist, Division of Resources, Lands and Planning (AK-930) 907-271-3293.

Attachment:

Final Draft Sec. 207 Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act (125pp)

cc:

Senior Advisor for Alaskan Affairs  
Office of the Solicitor, attn: Paul Kirton

932:DMushovic;jlh:02/24/05:207ltr:5477

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**Sec. 207 of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act**

This report responds to Sec. 207 of the Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act of December 10, 2004, PL 108-452, which requires:

Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall-

- (1) review the withdrawals made pursuant to section 17(d)(1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1616(d)(1)) to determine if any portion of the lands withdrawn pursuant to that provision can be opened to appropriation under the public land laws or if their withdrawal is still needed to protect the public interest in those lands;
- (2) provide an opportunity for public notice and comment, including recommendations with regard to lands to be reviewed under paragraph (1); and
- (3) submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives a report that identifies any portion of the lands so withdrawn that can be opened to appropriation under the public land laws consistent with the protection of the public interest in these lands.



**Report Prepared by  
David Mushovic & Susan Lavin  
Bureau of Land Management  
Alaska State Office**

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