

SCOMM

#22:55

State Senator Mike Colletta
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

March 13, 1978

Dear Senator Colletta:

I have devoted the last eight years of my life to minerals exploration in Alaska. Although young, I am an explorationist with a great deal of experience in the nature and occurrence of hard rock minerals in general and their relationship to the geology of Alaska in particular. I am associated with an Alaskan based firm that has a dozen geologists also with extensive understanding of ore deposits, the specific geology of widespread areas of Alaska, and the geology and mineral potential of Alaska in general. A number of my associates and I also maintain a rapport with other well known and respected geologists with major mining companies devoted to development of mineral resources of the State of Alaska.

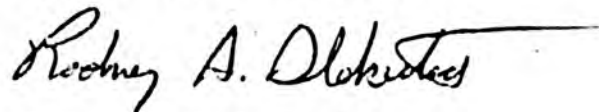
Many of us have been involved in the controversy of HR 39 and its companion bills now pending before congress. As a part of that involvement we (I use that term collectively) have been in communication with the Department of Natural Resources, through mutual interest, in an effort to relate the most up-to-date, hard minerals resource data to the Department so that they could use this very valuable and cherrished information in their evaluation of State lands, yet to be selected under the entitlements of statehood.

During my first few encounters with the Department of Natural Resources, I was convinced they were dilligently pursuing the quest for this private resource data and would use it not only in upgrading their computer file on resource potential (their computer file is named " Tentatively Identified State Selection Interest Townships"), but would also use this input in their battle with HR-39 and its companion bills. During the period between February 13 to 21, 1978, I was rudely awakened to the fact that the Department of Natural Resources, in particular the Division of Lands, had disregarded the maps

and detailed input that I and others transmitted to the Department. In hearings before the Senate Resource Committee in Anchorage, I was appauled to hear the Division of Lands say time and again "This area has a low rating for hard rock mineral potential." The fact is that the State Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys, the Division of Lands, and the Department of Natural Resources in general, have very little up-to-date information on but a few areas in Alaska with very high mineral potential. It is those of us devoted to the minerals industry that have a great deal of information in that respect and we gave that data to the Department, but they have decided not to use it; if they are using it at all, they are deffinitely not using it effectively. Major blows were delt by environmental special interest groups with their lock-up-the-land attitudes at the Senate Resource Committee Meetings, because the State did not use the data it had available to reveal the tremendous resource potential of the withdrawl proposals then in question.

I can not stess strongly enough the need for the State to get with it and press for the State's right to select the best natural resource lands available - regardless of whether those lands are desired by HR-39 or some other proposed withdrawl.

Respectfully Submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Rodney A. Blakestad". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Rodney A. Blakestad
P.O. Box 80747
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708

Marroyce Hall

S.R.A. Box 1417A
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
March 14, 1979

865-
Rec 3/21/79
344-0477
nd 3/20/79
does
Drug House

PEOPLE FOR BETTER
EDUCATION

Chairman of the Board

ANCHORAGE CITIZENS
ADVISORY EDUCATIONAL
CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Charter Member

NATIONAL CONGRESS
FOR EDUCATIONAL
EXCELLENCE

Executive Board
Member

ALERT

Chairman of the Board
of Directors

Senator Mike Colletta
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Colletta:

Thank you for keeping us informed. As you are aware, we have researched both of these pieces of legislation and favor passage of both bills.

The real burning issue and first priority of both Alert and People for Better Education this session is PASSAGE OF SB 65.

Municipal juvenile enforcement estimated that over a hundred kids have been expelled or suspended for drug use and sale since the December incident with Coach Larsen.

In light of previous conversations and your letter to us, we were perplexed to note that your name did not appear on the list of sponsors.

Now that we hold a majority in the Senate, it is unthinkable that a bill of this importance could not be passed. I know about the "politics" of this bill, the administration's position and how the "game" is played.

We are also aware that, as Senate Majority Leader, you are in a uniquely powerful position to help bring the necessary pressure to bear to make things happen.

As you know, we have been researching the drug problem for a year, and this problem is everywhere. Have you any idea how many of our kids just in Oceanview alone have been seriously involved with drugs? How long will it be before your son is vulnerable because drugs are "available" and his classmates and friends use them?

Will you help us pass this bill.

Sincerely,


Marroyce Hall

STATE OF ALASKA

BY & HONORABLE, GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

323 E. 4TH AVENUE - ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

December 12, 1977

File d-2 State Land Selections

Senator Mike Colletta
Box 3188
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

Dear Senator Colletta:

On November 28, 1977, Governor Hammond announced the tentative identification of 45 million acres of land generally suitable for state selection purposes. This action culminates an important phase of a process coordinated by the Department of Natural Resources to identify lands which complement existing state land selections within a time frame coincident with Congressional d-2 deliberations. These tentative state selection interest areas, as modified during the coming months of public and agency review, will be used to identify land which the state wishes to select by way of d-2 land legislation.

Over the past several months the administration has worked closely with the Legislature's d-2 Steering Council and members of the Alaskan delegation in pressing for Congressional assurances of land conveyance to the state as part of the final Congressional d-2 legislation. The support expressed for this concept reflects well on these cooperative state efforts. This identification is an important manifestation of these efforts.

The identification of potential state selection areas will serve two functions. One will be to alert Congress to areas of possible state selection so that Congress is aware of this state interest as it addresses the d-2 proposals now before it. There is a strong possibility that this action may preserve future selection opportunities that may be otherwise pre-empted by Congressional d-2 action. The favorable reaction of members of Congress, such as Representatives Meeds and Seiberling, to our preliminary identification of interest lands has confirmed for me the wisdom of coming forth with this indication of state interest at this time. The Department's recent presentations in Washington, D.C. were well-received and in many instances our work was highly complimented. Moreover, our identification of these lands comes at a time of considerable Congressional staff work in preparation for the d-2 mark-up sessions to begin in January. It is very likely that our preliminary selection interest areas, which are backed by the Department of Natural Resources' superior resource information and analyses, will considerably influence d-2 boundary adjustments during the forthcoming mark-up session.

The second important reason for announcing these preliminary interest areas is to obtain recommendations and comments from Alaskans on the identified pool of lands. Widespread public discussion of state selection areas will help augment and refine the state's recommendations and should ultimately lead to the conveyance of the best possible lands to the state. To facilitate public review of these potential state selection areas, the Department of Natural Resources will hold a series of public meetings throughout the state in the early months of next year. These meetings, in addition to the written comment period which will remain open until April 1st of next year, will give interested Alaskans the opportunity to register their comments and suggestions on selecting the remaining Statehood Act land entitlement. A schedule of these meetings will be forwarded to your offices.

For your information and review, I am enclosing an information package which generally explains the context and process of this preliminary identification and describes the state selection interest areas. More detailed resource information in the form of township by township computer listings is available for review at the Department of Natural Resources' district offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau. I would urge each of you to forward to the Department any particular comments, suggestions, or criticisms of this material or our general approach to the state land selections. The next few months will be a time of careful scrutiny of these tentative state selection areas, and the Department welcomes your input. Questions or comments can be addressed to me or to Dave Hanson, my chief of planning and research.

I hope this information is useful and of interest to you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert E. LeResche", with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Robert E. LeResche
Commissioner

Enclosures

**PLEASE NOTE: THE FOLLOWING PAGES WERE TREATED
AS A UNIT IN THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.**

PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF STATE SELECTION INTEREST LANDS

This packet contains the following documents:

1. Governor's announcement of identification of state selection interest lands. (Available Monday, November 28, 1977)
2. A description of the identification process and a summary of the outstanding values of the land selection pool.
3. Considerations for Alaska State Land Selections, Public Comment Draft. This document provides an assessment of state interests relative to state lands and sets forth guidelines for future land selections.
4. Draft Area Descriptions of State Interest Lands, containing descriptions of the seventy-one areas identified.
5. A computer printout of resource information for each township within the identified state selection areas. (Available at Department of Natural Resources' District Offices only)
6. An E Scale map of the selection areas in relation to present state lands. (Available at Department of Natural Resources' District Offices)

These materials will soon be available upon request from Alaska Department of Natural Resources District Offices and from the address below. Until that time, copies will be available for public review at Departmental offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Juneau.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources urges the public to submit written comments on the explanatory materials, as well as lands which could be included in the identified state selection pool.

Comments should be sent to:

Land Selection Program
Office of the Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
323 East 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501



STATE OF ALASKA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
ANCHORAGE

GOVERNOR HAMMOND OUTLINES LAND POOL FOR STATE SELECTION
November 28, 1977
#196

Governor Jay Hammond announced today that the State has completed the tentative identification of approximately 45 million acres of Federal and native over-selected lands in Alaska which may be suitable for State land selection purposes.

Hammond said, "This identification of a tentative land selection pool is the first step of a process which should ultimately lead to the conveyance of the majority of our remaining land entitlement through the D-2 legislation."

Hammond said, "The 45 million acres has been selected for general settlement and habitation purposes, commerce and economic development, to meet Alaskan recreation interest and to provide access along major rivers and coastlines."

"The land pool does not represent state land selections," Hammond said. "Rather this represents two functions: First to alert the Congress and to protect future state selection opportunities to those preliminary state interest lands while the D-2 bill is being considered. Second, to obtain public reaction among Alaskans about our future land selection opportunities. Such public reaction should help the state

augment and refine this state land interest pool to encompass the best lands possible."

To facilitate public discussion, the Department of Natural Resources will hold a series of public meetings throughout the state in the early months of next year. Public comment will extend through April 1, 1978.

The 43 million acre land pool would include:

- state lands around growing regional population centers such as Bethel, Dillingham, and Kotzebue, as well as over 60 smaller Alaskan communities
- doubling the amount of land the state would have along rivers and lakes
- increasing by 30% the amount of land the State would have along existing roadways
- increasing by 25% the amount of land the State would have along the Alaskan coastline
- adding an additional 23 million acres of land with hard rock mineral potential to state holdings.

If selected, this would increase present state holdings of valuable hard rock minerals by more than 50%, to 61 million acres,

- adding three million acres of the best agricultural land in the state, which if added to 4 million acres of present state lands with comparable agricultural capability, would give the state over half the best agricultural land in Alaska.
- increasing present state holdings of the best potential oil and gas lands by more than 30%
- augmenting existing high grade coal lands by 25%.

Hammond said, "It is our intention to press aggressively for conveyance of 25 to 30 million acres from this pool and other lands through the D-2 legislation. Our decision of which lands should ultimately be selected will only take place after an extensive process of public hearings, meetings, and public review. Identification of these tentative state interest lands initiates this process of public review and input to our eventual selection action."

The identification of these 45 million acres of land suitable for state ownership has been based upon extensive resource inventory work and land selection analysis within the state government. The identification process has relied on data analysis in the Department of Natural Resources statewide inventory and assessment which has been added to by information from industry, and citizens over the last ten months. The assessment also incorporates resource information from the Federal State Land Use Planning Commission, and the collective expertise of state land managers and resource experts.

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

PRELIMINARY IDENTIFICATION OF STATE LAND SELECTION POOL

November 24, 1977

INTRODUCTION

The d-2 national interest land legislation, a topic of heated debate in both Alaska and Washington, D.C., has focused Congressional attention on several other related Alaskan land issues. One important issue concerns completion of Alaska's general grant land selections as provided by the Statehood Act. The Statehood Act gives the State of Alaska the right to choose and gain title to one hundred and four million acres of federal land in Alaska. Increasing competition over allocation of land in Alaska accompanying the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the d-2 reserve lands has greatly complicated the state's land selection opportunities. Because of the importance to all Alaskans of maximizing state land selection opportunities, the state is actively requesting that Congress address state land selections rights within the final d-2 bill.

In August of this year, Governor Hammond announced that the state would begin a process to identify a pool of 40 to 60 million acres of land in Alaska generally suitable for state ownership from which the state would want to choose much of its remaining land entitlement. This selection pool would be used to further identify 25 to 30 million acres the State wishes to select by way of d-2 land legislation. Secretary of Interior Andrus, House subcommittee chairman John Seiberling and other Congressmen have indicated their support of this concept. The identification of these lands represents the first phase of a process directed toward gaining Congressional assurance of land conveyance to the State of Alaska of the majority of our remaining entitlement as part of any final d-2 land bill.

What follows is a summary of the process followed by the state in identifying these state interest lands, an analysis of the resource values contained in this land selection pool, and a discussion of the opportunities for public input into this state land selection project.

A program to develop a systematic state land selections process began two years ago within the Department of Natural Resources, which is designated by the Legislature as the responsible state agency for Statehood Act land selections. An early analysis of the state's selection opportunity suggested the need to develop both a set of viable land selection criteria to guide future land selections and a comprehensive assessment of Alaska's resources to better locate lands having specified values for selection purposes.

To provide for this critical need for usable information about Alaska's land, the Department of Natural Resources developed a statewide inventory and assessment of Alaska's natural resource base. Resource professionals from many state agencies and state land managers update, reviewed, and analyzed the resource data collected by the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission and other inventory data sources. As part of this analysis, the various resource experts comparatively evaluated Alaska's resource lands and ranked them on a scale of 10. The assessment compares blocks of land throughout Alaska regardless of land ownership or use history according to resource potentials for agriculture, forestry, land suitability for intensive uses, fish and wildlife values, coal, oil and gas, hard rock minerals, uranium and other values. The inventory also incorporates location factors such as proximity to coastline, major rivers and lakes, highways and communities. This statewide resource inventory and assessment is stored on computer and kept current by periodic review and updating. It has already proven to be an invaluable tool in locating high calibre resource lands for land selections made in April, 1977, when the state filed for 3.6 million acres of land under the Statehood Act.

A parallel development within the Department of Natural Resources is the consideration and study of state land selection guidelines. A document which explains the Department's draft selection guidelines is available upon request from Departmental offices in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau. The document summarizes a set of general criteria which the Department developed to identify the most suitable land for State ownership. These guidelines call for selection of land located in settled areas of the state or where settlement might be anticipated, land with resources which would help insure a viable state economy, and lands that would provide for the recreational needs of Alaskans. Other key selection factors are consideration of Alaska's unique geography, accessibility, and both regional and statewide land ownership and land management patterns.

Given these guidelines, the Department analyzed strengths and weaknesses of state land holdings using the resource assessment. The Department was able to determine the kinds of lands needed to complement the state's existing land holdings in terms of these selection objectives. With this indication of the kinds of lands desired for future land acquisition, the resource assessment was used to identify a pool of lands which have outstanding selection value. These areas were mapped, analyzed and refined according to geographic and land pattern considerations.

The resulting designation of state selection interest areas was then reviewed within state government by resource professionals who had originally contributed to the resource inventory and by land managers who were familiar with the general

terrain and character of the lands. Comments and suggestions from divisions within the Department of Natural Resources, and other state agencies were used to further refine the preliminary areas of state interest. The identified state interest land selection pool is described below.

Supplementing its input into this process, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game had identified a separate pool of lands within which small sites (5-10 acres) would be desirable for fish and game management purposes. These sites, to be identified over the next few months, would provide for public access to important hunting and fishing areas, as well as special uses such as fish hatchery sites.

Seventy-one separate areas comprising 45 million acres (gross) and 41 million net acres have been identified. The net acreage total excludes from the gross area small amounts of existing state land present in the areas, as well as land which has been either conveyed on an interim basis to native corporations or falls within core townships of eligible native villages under the terms of the Native Claims Act. The 41 million acre figure includes almost 14 million acres of land which is under native selections (but not Native-conveyed land), as well as 5.5 million acres of federal land that is now set aside for special purposes, such as "d-2" lands reserved for study and possible inclusion into National Parks, Wildlife Refuges, Forests, and Wild and Scenic River systems. (A bar graph of the land ownership and status of the selection interest areas is shown on the following page). The state does not mean to challenge any valid, existing native land selections or legitimate federal land classifications by including these lands in its selection interest areas.

Rather, the state desires simply to identify lands which on the basis of their resource and locational values are suitable and appropriate for state land ownership. The Department of Natural Resources estimates that approximately 33 million acres of the pool could eventually be available for state selections after native selected lands in excess of allotted entitlements are relinquished.

Settlement and Intensive Use

The seventy-one areas vary widely in their character and geography, but complement existing state land well in both respects. State selection interest areas located around Dillingham, Bethel, Nome and Kotzebue focus upon land needs for expansion and services in these growing regional centers. There is presently little state-owned land around these important centers. Areas such as those identified around Bristol Bay, along the Kuskokwim River, Kantishna and lower Tanana Rivers and north of the Chitina River contain lands both physically and locationally suitable for habitation. Lands which are physically capable of supporting intensive settlement and development in these 71 interest areas total almost five million acres. This compares to a present state land total of 8.0 million acres and a statewide total of 20 million acres of land possessing comparable physical characteristics (that is, land which is stable, well drained, and of gentle slope).

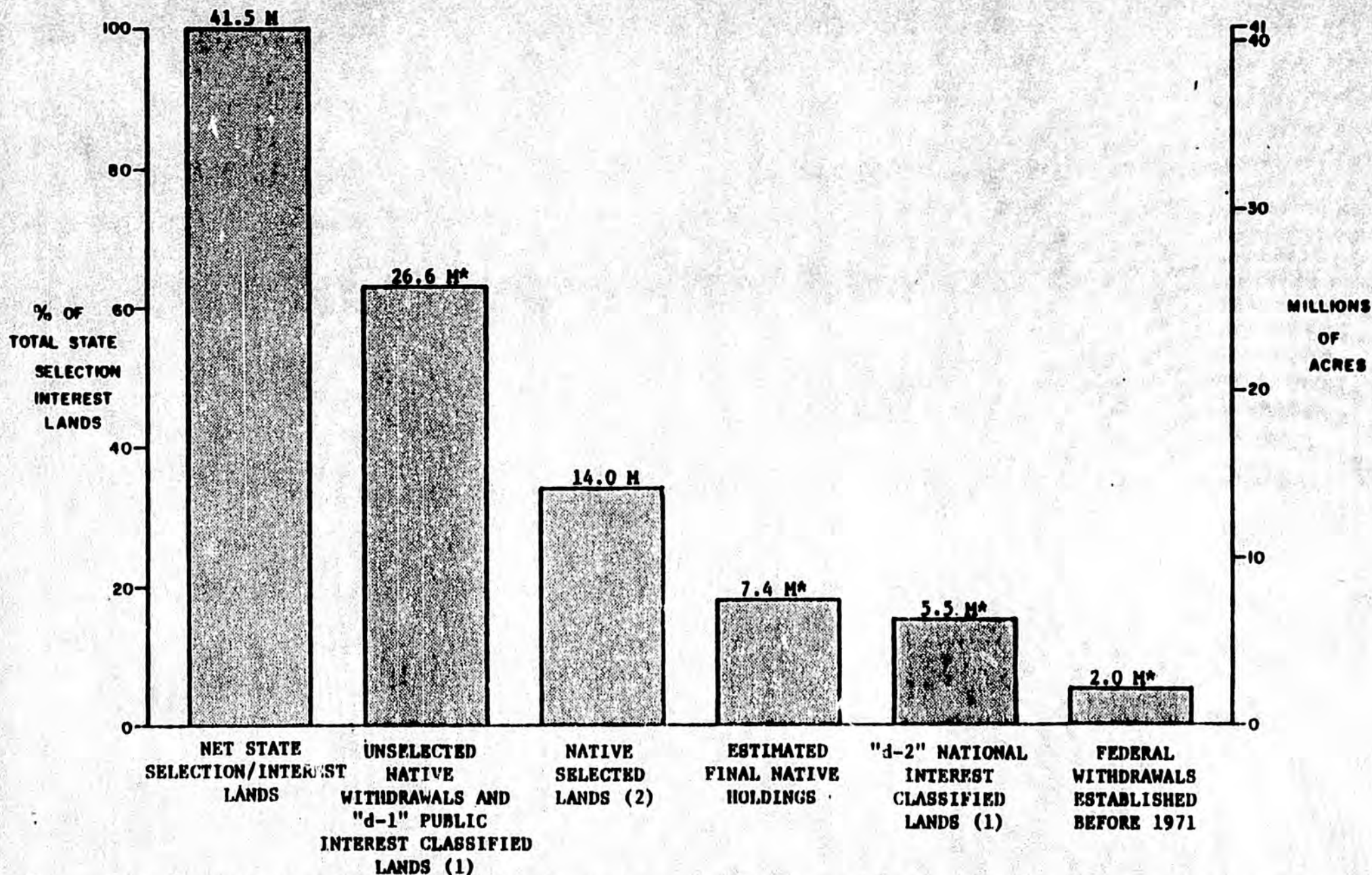
In terms of key access sites along major rivers such as the Yukon and Kuskokwim and other regionally important rivers, the areas identified contain an amount of land which exceeds the amount of similarly situated land presently in state ownership. Moreover, these areas would provide access to numerous small lakes and rivers with high recreational values, such as Tazlina Lake in the Copper River area.

Areas along the coast would increase state owned land in coastal townships by twenty-five percent. Townships located along highways within these interest areas, if acquired by the state, would increase state-owned land adjacent to major roads by one-third.

Commerce and Development

In terms of land for economic development the state selection interest areas include:

ANALYSIS OF STATE SELECTION INTEREST AREAS BY LAND STATUS



(1) Federal lands classified according to the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA), Sections 11, 17 (d)(1) and 17 (d)(2).

(2) Lands selected by Alaska native corporations under the terms of ANCSA.

* Status categories which add to Net Acreage.

1. Three million acres of the best agricultural land in the state, which added to the four million acres of present state lands with comparable agricultural capabilities, would give the state over half of the best agricultural land in Alaska.
2. Four million acres of land with commercial forests ranking in the top half of all timber lands in Alaska. This acreage would increase the state lands with comparable forest value by fifty percent.
3. Twenty three million acres of land with hard rock mineral potential, which would increase present state holdings for valuable hard rock minerals by half to 61 million acres. State holdings of hard rock mineral lands which rank in the top fifth of the entire state would more than double from the present six million acres to 13 million acres, and would comprise over 40% of all land in Alaska with comparable hard mineral potential.
4. Over 600,000 acres of high grade coal lands are contained within the state interest areas. While this is modest acreage on a statewide basis, it represents a twenty five percent increase in the acreage of present state coal lands of comparable value.
5. Three million acres of high potential oil and gas lands are contained within the proposed selection areas. This would increase present state holdings in valuable petroleum lands by almost one-third for the best petroleum potential areas in Alaska. Almost 1.2 million acres of this added acreage rates in the best tenth of all oil and gas lands in the state. This high potential land is located in the Marsh Creek area of the Arctic Wildlife Range and around Smith Bay and other areas within the National Petroleum Reserve.

Recreational Values

In terms of recreational lands, about 1.5 million acres within the state selection interest areas relate directly to proposed additions to the state park and recreation system. In addition, several areas were chosen primarily for their importance as high human use areas for fish and game resources. Over eight million acres have high wildlife values and over four million acres are especially important for sport and commercial fishing.

Land Pattern Considerations

In addition to these outstanding and complementary resource values, the state selection interest areas are generally contiguous and logical geographical extensions of existing state lands. This is particularly true in areas south of the Porcupine-Yukon-Kuskokwim Rivers. For example, the state interest area located west of Nenana in the Kantishna and Toklat River drainages, which has high agricultural values, abuts state land to the east and consolidates state land holdings to the north between the Tanana and Yukon Rivers.

State interest areas located north of the Porcupine-Yukon-Kuskokwim Rivers also adjoin existing state lands. A good example is the state interest area in the Ambler mining district. This area, in addition to being extremely

valuable for hard rock minerals, is adjacent to existing state land in the area and would fill out a manageable block of state land which has the potential of being developed into an economically viable hard rock mineral mining center. Similarly, state interest areas on the Seward Peninsula would establish a cohesive unit of state and native lands in that area.

In terms of the draft guidelines for the selection of the balance of the state's general grant land entitlement, (see preliminary draft "Considerations of State Land Selections") the state interest areas presented here rate extremely well. The location of state interest areas relative to major rivers and lakes, existing transportation corridors, and coastal areas balance well with these values on existing state lands. Moreover, the settlement, development, and recreational potential of these state selection interest lands likewise complement to a high degree the same values on existing state land.

COMPARISON OF STATE LAND HOLDINGS AND STATE SELECTION

INTEREST AREAS WITH PRIME RESOURCE LANDS* STATEWIDE

RESOURCE	PRIME RESOURCE LAND IN STATE*	PRIME RESOURCE LANDS ON EXISTING STATE LAND			PRIME RESOURCE LANDS IN STATE SELECTION INTEREST AREAS		TOTAL STATE INTEREST AND EXISTING STATE*	
AGRICULTURE	8,618,410	3,647,623	42%		2,680,193	31%	6,327,816	73%
FORESTRY	28,388,416	7,786,790	27%		3,126,071	11%	10,912,861	38%
LAND CAPABILITY	20,808,873	8,002,731	38%		5,192,274	25%	13,195,005	63%
OIL AND GAS	52,012,838	10,366,444	20%		2,997,311	6%	13,363,755	26%
COAL	11,689,198	3,134,211	27%		684,086	6%	3,818,297	33%
HARD ROCK MINERALS	65,513,272	12,408,461	19%		11,062,986	17%	23,471,447	36%
WILDLIFE	152,656,819	33,242,099	22%		20,040,878	13%	53,282,977	35%
FISHERIES	91,758,707	21,357,738	23%		12,743,592	14%	34,101,419	37%

*ACREAGES INCLUDE RESOURCE LANDS WHICH RANK IN THE TOP 40% FOR EACH RESOURCE CATEGORY ACCORDING TO THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES STATEWIDE INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT.

PUBLIC INPUT

The areas of state land selection interest described above are not state land selections. The identification of these areas is meant to serve two functions. One function is to alert Congress to areas of possible state selection, so that Congress is aware of this state interest as it addresses the d-2 legislation now before it. There is a strong possibility that this action may preserve future selection opportunities that may have otherwise been pre-empted by Congressional d-2 action. The second important reason for announcing these preliminary interest areas at this time is to obtain recommendations and comments from Alaskans on the identified potential selection lands. It is hoped that this public involvement will help augment and refine state interest land recommendations and ultimately lead to conveyance of the best possible lands to the State.

To facilitate public input into the land selection process, the Department of Natural Resources will hold a series of public meetings throughout the state in the early months of next year. These meetings, in addition to the written comment period which will remain open until April 1st of next year, will give interested Alaskans an opportunity to register their comments and suggestions on selecting the remaining Statehood Act land entitlement.

Additional information on these preliminary state selection interest areas is available upon request from District Offices of the Department of Natural Resources in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Juneau or by writing to the address below. Written comments may be submitted to:

Land Selections Program
Office of the Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
323 East 4th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALASKA STATE LAND SELECTIONS

PUBLIC COMMENT DRAFT

Prepared By

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

November 24, 1977

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Overview of Major Selection Actions Since Statehood	2
State Land Selection Concerns	4
Assessment of Current State Land Selections and Guidelines for Remaining Selections	10
Summary of Major Land Selection Guidelines	18
Appendix I: Summary of State Land Grants	20
Appendix II: Statutory and Constitutional References on Land Selection Guidance	21

CONSIDERATIONS FOR ALASKA STATE LAND SELECTION

INTRODUCTION

The total Alaska land grant authorized by the Alaska Statehood Act of 1959 is unique in U. S. history; both in its magnitude and in its generous terms. The grant totaled 104.5 million acres, including 102.5 million acres of general grant lands, 800,000 acres of community grant lands (400,000 from national forests), 1,000,000 acres of mental health lands, and 200,000 acres of university and school lands. (See Appendix I for details.) The 102.5 million acres of general grant lands which are the subject of this paper may be selected from any "vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved" lands held by the federal government. Since 1959 the State of Alaska has chosen all but approximately 35 million acres of our entitlement under this grant.

The purpose of this report is to explain the general considerations and criteria that have been used and continue to be used as the state identifies land for possible selection as part of its 102.5 million acres of general grant lands.

The State of Alaska has prepared and made available this discussion of selection considerations and criteria related to general grant lands for a number of reasons:

First, the available pool of federal land has been reduced since Statehood and other native and federal government claimants must now be considered in state selections strategies. Previous state selections and various provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, have dramatically decreased the land available for selection. Thus, the state must examine more closely its remaining entitlement to take into account these major changes and limitations.

Second, by setting out as systematically as possible the considerations to be employed for future selections, the state can follow a rational, planned approach as it acts on critical and time-constrained selection opportunities.

Third, by making these criteria available, we hope to encourage more public understanding of and involvement in the state's process of selecting our lands.

The discussion that follows is divided into four parts:

An overview of major selection actions since Statehood;

State land selection concerns (including the needs that should be met by state lands and an identification of the hypothetical types of land the state should select);

An assessment of the current 75 million acres of state selections, an analysis of the lands likely to be available for the remaining 35 million acres of selections, and an outline of the primary guidelines and criteria for making those remaining selections; and

A brief summary of the major land selection guidelines for future state land selections.

1. OVERVIEW OF MAJOR SELECTION ACTIONS SINCE STATEHOOD

Selection actions began at the time of Statehood in 1959. During the first six years of Statehood most selections were aimed at lands to further economic development and lands that were near the main population centers. These included centers in southcentral Alaska such as the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys, the western Kenai Peninsula, the Fairbanks vicinity and along the Alaska Highway as well as waterfront sites in Kodiak and southeastern Alaska. Most selections during this period were small. In 1966, the state filed applications for a total of 1,593,705 acres on the Arctic Slope north of the Brooks Range in the Prudhoe Bay region, later the site of the nation's largest oil field.

In 1968, the state filed on large quantities of mineral lands. These selections included about 7.5 million acres of mineral lands in the North Slope, Bristol Bay, and the Copper River regions. Total selections by the end of 1968 came to about 26 million acres, a little less than one-fourth of Alaska's general entitlement.

Two major federal actions affected land selections over the period from 1969 to 1976: the so called land freeze instituted by the federal government in response to Native claims, during which BLM took no action on state land selections within the area of those claims, and the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, (ANCSA), which settled these claims but also effectively eliminated the open federal area from which the state could select. The land freeze went into effect on December 11, 1968, when the Secretary of Interior ordered that BLM process no more state selection claims until native claims were settled. Three years later on December 18, 1971, Congress passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. The action provided the natives with 44 million acres of land and nearly 1 billion dollars. It ended the land freeze, and opened the way for the construction of the Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline.

The Act contained provisions that gave the Secretary of Interior the authority to allocate the federal land pool into lands withdrawn for native selections (about 116 million acres), d-1 lands (64 million acres) which were withdrawn for classification in the public interest by the Bureau of Land Management and d-2 lands (80 million acres) which were withdrawn for study as possible additional national park, refuge and forest units.

Immediately after ANCSA was passed, the state made a major selection of 77 million acres before the various lands were withdrawn. However, the Federal government did not act on this selection. In March of 1972, the Secretary of Interior withdrew 80 million acres for d-2 lands despite the prior state selections. The state sued the Secretary. A negotiated settlement left the state with a selection of 41 million acres, nearly 40% of the total entitlement. Consequently, by the end of 1972 the state had selected approximately 67 million acres of land.

In 1973 and 1974 the state selected an additional 2.5 million acres increasing the total state acreage to 70 million acres. These lands were selected on the Seward Peninsula, in the Kuskokwim River Valley, and along the Alaska Highway. These lands were primarily chosen for mineral potential.

On October 1, 1976, native selection rights expired on 12 million of the 116 million acres that had been withdrawn for Native selections. Land left over

after Native corporation selections were completed was available for state "selection." Thus, on December 29, 1976, the state filed on 2.8 million acres of these former native withdrawals and opened a two month public comment period. Following three months of review and evaluation of these selections, the state completed modifications and announced final selection of 3.6 million acres on April 1, 1977. As of that date, the state had selected nearly 75 million acres of its general grant land entitlement of 102.5 million acres. The state has received patent to 20 million acres and tentative approval to 15.6 million acres.

The December 1976 and April 1977 selection actions represented a new phase in the evaluations of state land selections. They were based on a formalized selection process which was systematic, and utilized an open written record and public review. Final selection action took place only after completion of the public review process.

IV. STATE LAND SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

This section discusses the public needs that should be served by state general grant lands and the types of land required to meet these needs. The discussion focuses on the ideal lands the state should select with its general entitlement of 102.5 million acres and assumes that no land has been previously selected. Such a hypothetical situation analysis provides a conceptual baseline for assessing the present portfolio of state lands and guidelines for future selection actions in Section III.

The basic intent of the state's general grant lands is to provide the state with a significant land base with which to meet the many land related needs of both the present and future generations of Alaskans. It is these state lands which must provide for most of the present and future settlement needs and fulfill many requirements for industry, development and recreation. The management of state lands will play a major role in assuring our economic well being as well as preserving our unique Alaskan life style. Appendix II discusses the existing Statutory and Constitutional references for state land selection guidance.

Most of Alaska's 367 million acres of land will continue to be owned and managed by the federal government even after completion of land selections. The federal government will retain ownership of approximately 218 million acres. As a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, a large portion of additional lands (44 million acres) will be owned by private native corporations. After all selections are completed, the state will own approximately 29% of the land area, the natives 12% and the federal government 59%. Although it is certain that both the native and federal lands will play a major role in fulfilling many of Alaska's land related needs, it is the state lands that will be managed directly by the people of Alaska through our state and local governments and which must assure provision for Alaskan interests. These facets emphasize the importance of careful selection actions.

The task of selecting these lands is a great opportunity and a great challenge. In view of their importance, state selections should be based upon the best technical information available as well as an understanding of the needs of the state's population. Considering the great range of Alaskan needs, the state should select a wide variety of land types and focus on the best lands in each resource category. Through ownership of some amount of every type of high quality land, the state can ensure that Alaskans may always have the opportunity to participate in all of the domestic, economic, social, cultural, and recreational activities available in Alaska.

Within this general guideline, priorities should be established which reflect the most important concerns of the Alaskan people. Major considerations should include the following:

- a. lands to meet existing and future settlement and population needs;
- b. resource lands to assure general commerce and continued economic well being;
- c. lands that provide for Alaska's recreation demands (hunting, fishing, trapping, intensive use and open space recreation areas);

d. lands along our limited transportation system (roads) and abundant natural corridors (rivers and coasts) to facilitate accessibility and use by Alaskans;

e. selections that take into account Alaska's size and unique geographic features; and

f. selections which assure wise management patterns and optimum use of state lands in relation to natural boundaries, private lands, and federal lands.

The remainder of this Section discusses in greater detail these basic guidelines and the relative importance of various selection categories.

1. General Settlement/Population Lands

One of the highest priorities is to provide for the basic needs of the state's people with lands suitable for habitation, development, commerce and industry. The State of Alaska will be the main provider of land to meet these needs. To a great extent, this will be accomplished by selecting state land and transferring it to municipalities or boroughs for their management of high density population and development centers. These lands will serve as the primary land base for local government to provide necessary services to the Alaskan population.

Land selections should focus on areas that have potential for settlement and development in the future as well as the currently settled and populated areas. The state should acquire land around existing population centers including the various regional centers across Alaska. Since Alaska has a limited amount of good land for settlement (about 5% of Alaska's total land area), selections should provide such land to the extent possible. Such selections will include limited acreages of appropriate lowlands, river valleys and plateaus, as well as take into account present and future transportation routes including roads, rivers and port areas, and rail lines.

2. General Commerce and Economy

The Alaskan economy relies heavily upon the use of our natural resources. Land selection should assure that the state will own lands which can provide for all aspects of the Alaskan economy. Lands identified with several economic and resource development values should be selected to complement lands of outstanding single resource and/or economic value. Moreover, selection discussions should take into consideration both present needs and long term requirements and emphasize both renewable and non-renewable resource concerns. The major resource land categories follow:

A. Agriculture: The State of Alaska should acquire a significant portion of high quality agriculture lands because of the future potential of agriculture as a renewable resource industry. Although less than 250,000 acres are being farmed or grazed today, approximately 17 to 18 million acres of land in Alaska are tillable and could be successfully used for agricultural purposes. Such a future agricultural base could serve both the domestic needs of the state

(decreasing our dependence on distant food producing areas) and those of expanding Pacific Rim export markets as the world food demand increases. Using only a small part of these lands, Alaska is currently providing 25% of its dairy produce needs and imports more than 90% of its food. It should also be noted that the agricultural lands are generally the most valuable multiple-use lands in Alaska.

B. Forestry: Logging has been a traditional industry in the state of Alaska. The timber industry has primarily been centered in the two national forest areas in southeast and southcentral Alaska. Selection should focus on obtaining an adequate supply of forest lands to help insure the future of the forest products industry. Since our land selection possibilities are limited in the extremely valuable timber lands of the two existing national forests, forest selections should take into consideration future types of forest industry (such as the production of chipped and pressed wood products) that might use interior forest species. Such forest selections could also help meet local needs for lumber and fuel in the interior portions of the state.

C. Commercial Fisheries: On a statewide basis, the commercial fishing industry is the leading renewable resource industry in Alaska. Land use and management decisions must not impair the water and watersheds vital to the production of important commercial fish species if commercial fishing is to continue its vital role in the state's economy. Key parcels of land must be in state ownership to protect particular watersheds and guarantee state management options. State selections should focus primarily on the existing and potential hatchery, enhancement, weir, research facility and access sites as well as certain key watershed areas.

D. Tourism: Tourism (people visiting Alaska for recreation or leisure time activities) was a 110 million dollar a year business in 1976 accounting for 270,000 visitors traveling here and 8,000 jobs. This industry is growing rapidly as Alaska's second most important renewable resource industry. Visitor surveys indicate that the primary attractions in Alaska are scenic wildlands and wildlife. Therefore, increased importance must be placed upon selecting park and recreation lands that allow high density use areas, the provision of services and facilities, and high quality sight-seeing areas. The federal government recreation management plans for lands should be considered in these selections.

E. Hard Rock Mineral Industries: Mining is a traditional Alaskan industry which has future potential as economics in the world change. It is estimated that approximately 189 million acres of Alaska's lands have mineral potential. Most of these lands have not been evaluated in detail at this time. In view of competing uses on these lands and increasing restrictive federal mining requirements, the state should select adequate hard rock mineral areas to ensure the industry's future. As the hard rock mineral industry develops, lease rentals and royalties may provide a significant future source of additional state revenue. The development of the mining industry will also contribute to an improved economic picture in the state.

F. Coal Lands: The state should identify and select coal lands with high potential for both present and future development. Because coal lands of the state are somewhat limited, selection of coal lands is extremely important. Their selection will help to provide a continuing energy and material supply for the Alaskan people and will increase in importance over the long term as the state's oil and gas supplies decrease. Although the state receives an 7% royalty from development on federal coal lands now compared to a minimum set

rate of 10 cents per ton royalty from state lands, future coal development on state land may produce more revenue for Alaska than coal development on federal lands. Ownership of Alaska coal lands by the state can provide for state control over the timing and type of future developments. Such control can maximize economic benefits, maximize employment, control boom and bust cycles, and determine infrastructure needs and other impacts to guarantee protection of state interests. Coal lands, like agricultural lands, are found in lowland areas which have multiple uses, and since coal is an exhaustible resource, the selection of coal lands should also take into consideration the multiple-use potential of those lands.

G. Oil and Gas Lands: For the purposes of maximizing state revenues and managing development of these lands to best serve the public interests, the state should select all available high potential oil and gas lands. Though the state currently receives revenues from production on federally owned as well as state owned oil and gas lands, the best assurance of continuing to maintain revenues from oil and gas lands is through direct state ownership. Oil and gas revenues currently provide the major portion of the state's budget. Through direct control of oil and gas lands, the state can also seek to avoid boom and bust cycles and extend the benefits of our non-renewable oil and gas production over the longest possible period. Furthermore, conditions of development of oil and gas at the well or the reservoir can be directly managed to insure adequate protection of the environment, avoid conflicts with other important resource values, and assure Alaska hire and purchasing policies.

3. Recreation

Traditionally, Alaskans have engaged in a lifestyle of using Alaska lands for outdoor recreation. Alaskans are greatly involved in fishing, hunting, trapping and making high use of unique recreational areas. State land selections should insure that these outdoor recreational needs of the state's population can continue to be met in the future.

A. Wildlife Habitat and Use Areas: The Alaskan lifestyle, traditions, and Constitution emphasize the use of Alaskan lands for outdoor recreation including hunting, fishing, and non-consumptive uses. Because people value this type of land use highly, the state should assure adequate selections for the protection and management of high quality habitat and human use areas.

In view of potential federal policies restricting hunting and fishing, it is of utmost importance that the state assure its management options and provide for adequate consumptive use of all fish and wildlife and their habitat throughout the state. Ownership of land can play an important role in assuring that Alaskans will have continued use and management of a portion of the fish and wildlife resources of the state.

B. High Use Recreation Areas and Parks: Alaska's most intensively used recreation lands are located near the major population centers. In view of the fact that most existing and proposed federal recreation areas are located in areas distant from population centers and are being managed in favor of low intensity use, the state should select lands for high intensive recreation use near population centers. State parks and recreation areas are to a large extent set up for high density and intensive use which includes all forms of recreation involving motorized as well as non-motorized activities. These lands would become part of the state park system, which includes use-intensive parks, recreation areas, and highway waysides.

4. Geography

Alaska's geography is extremely diversified, includes a great variety of topographical regions and has dramatic climatic differences. State land selections should carefully consider these changes and differences.

A. General Land Quality: Much of the land in Alaska is poor in quality, inaccessible and has harsh climatic conditions. Emphasis should be given to the limited acreages of land that have prime settlement and multiple use potential. Furthermore, state land selections should encompass every type of land that has some resource or use value. Unless areas have a redeeming resource value, selections in poor quality and remote regions should be minimized.

B. Rivers and Coasts: Alaska's mountainous terrain is broken by several major gateway rivers such as the Yukon, Kuskokwim, Koyukuk, Matanuska and Susitna. These form natural transportation routes as well as provide much of the state's lowland and multiple use areas. River valleys and coastlines in general should have a high priority for selection.

C. Railbelt Area: The importance of southcentral Alaska and the settlement along the railbelt extending from Seward to Fairbanks cannot be overemphasized. The state should select as much land as possible throughout these accessible, heavily populated areas.

D. PYK Line: A line running along the Porcupine, Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers has traditionally been used as a border for high intensive settlement potential. In the past, the state and federal government generally felt that additional settlement and residential use north of this line should not be encouraged because of the difficulties of providing state services to the areas, the fragile sub-Arctic environment, and harsh living conditions. With the exception of selecting land around existing regional centers north of this line, the state should generally continue its policy of not selecting land for intensive use purposes north of the PYK line. Selections north of the line should instead emphasize the mineral or other resource values of the areas.

5. Wise Land Ownership and Management Patterns

State land selections should take into consideration the overall land ownership and land management patterns in Alaska. Our selections should seek to create manageable land use patterns. Such patterns should take into account the relationship between existing transportation corridors and other factors affecting the accessibility of land. The large general management areas can also be defined according to ecological units or along geographic boundaries. Although land management goals and adjacent state land should be kept in mind, these factors should not preclude selection of land on a more refined basis as a resource for human use. Geography and watershed boundaries must be considered in the general management theory approach. The most appropriate areas for large unit management considerations are state lands within 50 miles of major urban centers or 25 miles of regional centers. Other large management units might mean ownership of certain resource development areas such as the Prudhoe Bay oil field or mineralized areas in the Brooks Range. The questions concerning present and future management of the land should be answered for each area as part of the selection criteria.

State selections should take into account the location and probable uses of native and federal lands throughout Alaska and their probable uses. By doing so we can

maximize the effectiveness of our lands. For example, if the state were to select land for oil and gas development near federal or native lands which are designated for the same purpose the potential for economically developing both the federal lands and our own state reserves could be greatly increased. Similarly, state selections near federal recreation lands could provide the people of Alaska with additional recreation opportunities which might not be available on those federal lands, while at the same time providing Alaskans with access to the federal lands. Therefore, state selections for either development or recreation should be made adjacent to appropriate federal or native lands where possible. In this way, a beneficial land use pattern can be created by increasing the use potential of state, federal and native lands and by avoiding major land use conflicts.

This can be accomplished either through direct land selection and ownership of respective future corridors or through agreements with the federal or native owners of the land. As a result of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, there are now large private corporate land holdings throughout the state. Therefore, the consideration of access to state lands is a key concern and direct state ownership of corridors to provide accessibility to state lands is essential.

III. ASSESSMENT OF CURRENT STATE LAND SELECTIONS AND GUIDELINES FOR REMAINING SELECTIONS

The previous section dealing with state land selection concerns was written as initial working policy for state land selection in Alaska. It does not assume any previous state selections. The purpose of this section is to consider the state land selections which have been made to date and to develop guidelines for future selections in light of the selection concerns presented above. The assessment portion of this discussion considers the 75 million acres of state patented, tentatively approved and selected lands to determine state progress toward meeting the selection goals set forth in Section II. This assessment also considers future selection opportunities. Subsequent portions of the discussion set forth specific recommendations for remaining selections based upon the assessment conclusions and past general guidelines as selection criteria for the final selection of 30 to 35 million acres under the remaining Statehood entitlement.

Throughout the resource assessment portion of this section, references are made to the relative values of resource lands in Alaska. In all cases, the source of this information is the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources' "Statewide Resource Inventory and Assessment System". This system, which has been developed over the past two years, was created when resource professionals and land managers from many state agencies updated, reviewed, and analyzed the resource data collected by the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission and other resource inventory sources. As a result of this assessment effort, resource lands throughout Alaska were ranked according to their relative potentials on a scale of 10. This assessment involved the resource lands related to agriculture, forestry, fish and wildlife, coal, oil and gas, hard rock minerals, uranium, land suitability for intensive uses, and other values. This information was then computerized in such a way that land status considerations could be inter-related with the relative resource values. Through the use of this system we are able to determine the relative value of state lands for different resource uses as well as the relative resource values of potential selection lands. A complete explanation of this system is available in the document entitled "Resource Assessment of Current Alaska d-2 Proposals" put out by the State Department of Natural Resources in August of 1977.

The framework of this discussion follows the selection concern categories set forth in Section I. Each category is divided into two parts: assessment and guidelines.

1. Selections of General Settlement/Population Lands

Assessment: Selections to date have provided land around the majority of the major population and settlement areas in the state. Our land selection pattern is especially concentrated in southcentral Alaska, in the Kenai Peninsula, the Anchorage Municipality and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Land selections also follow a pattern along the railbelt from Seward north to a large quantity of land selections around Fairbanks. The state has also selected heavily on Kodiak Island and some lands in the Wood River - Tikchik Lake area. The current phase of the National Forest selection program which is soon to be completed is providing for adequate land to meet community and population needs in the Chugach and Tongass forest areas.

The state has selected minimal amounts of land around various regional centers west of the Alaska Range. This includes areas such as Bethel, Nome and Kotzebue.

The state has selected a sizeable portion of lands identified by the Resource Inventory/Analysis System as having good land capabilities (stability, good drainage and gentle slope) that are suitable for intensive development or settlement use. Though only 20 million acres in the state have been identified as having these qualities, the state has selected about 8 million of these 20 million acres. These state selected lands with good land capability coincide with much of the settled land in the southcentral and railbelt regions. Some areas with good land capability may be available for future selection in the Yukon Flats, the Kuskokwim River Valley and the Bristol Bay drainage.

Current state selections tend to cover many of the roadway transportation corridors in the state but do not adequately cover major waterways and coastlines. State land is present around most of the existing roads in Alaska. However, little or no land has been selected along most of the Yukon or the Kuskokwim River. The state's limited amounts of land along the coastline are concentrated in southeast Alaska, Kodiak, the Kenai Peninsula and the Alaska Peninsula. Little or no state land exists along the majority of Alaska's coastline.

In summary, current state selections are located around most of the existing and potential settlement areas serving the majority of the state's population. However, state land selections have been very sparse around regional centers in western Alaska and along major river valleys and coastlines. These areas support small settlements and are definitely future potential settlement and development areas.

Guidelines: The state's remaining selections should attempt to acquire lands around settled regional centers and potential future settlement areas. Areas requiring attention include Bethel, Nome, Kotzebue and, if possible, Barrow. Selections should also include favorable development land in major river valleys, especially the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. Lands should be chosen in certain plateau or level drainages and uplands such as in the Yukon Flats and the Bristol Bay drainage. Though the state is present in over 50% of the townships along existing roadways, we should continue to emphasize selections in the areas of existing transportation corridors. In view of our extremely limited coastal holdings, coastal selections which have some overall resource potential should be a high priority for the remainder of our entitlement. Generally, the state should continue to select available settlement land, which is already populated, and may be settled in the future.

2. Land for General Commerce and Economy

Assessment: The existing state selected lands provide a wide ranging balance of resource lands which can be used to support the Alaskan economy. In many cases, state selections have high graded lands for particular resource potentials. This is exemplified by our selection at Prudhoe Bay for oil and gas resources and our selection of much of the best agricultural land in the state in the Matanuska, Susitna and Tanana River valleys.

Guidelines: Remaining selections should place heavy consideration on the quantity and quality of previously selected lands for a particular resource value. This is necessary to carefully evaluate additional resource land selections against our limited remaining entitlement (approximately 30 million acres) and the vast acreages of land of average resource quality.

The following discussion assesses and sets forth guidelines for the various major categories of resource lands.

A. Agriculture

Assessment: The State of Alaska currently owns or has selected 6 million of the 18 million acres of land in Alaska identified as having agricultural potential. Of this six million acres, approximately one million acres of non-patented lands have been selected by native corporations. Consequently, five million acres of agricultural land remain state lands. The vast majority of the five million acres is identified as being in the top half of the state's agricultural lands having high potential. According to the Department of Natural Resources' resource evaluation system, the state has selected approximately 70% of the top ten percent of the agricultural land. Under likely circumstances, the state will probably only have an opportunity to select 2.9 million acres of additional land rated in the top 50% of the state's agricultural land, or 6.6 million acres of all agricultural lands in the state. Consequently, the state now has assured ownership of around 25% of the 18 million acres of agricultural land in Alaska, and will most likely have a possibility of selecting only 6.6 million additional acres of this valuable resource land. It should be noted that the native corporations have selected a large percentage of the remaining agricultural land in the river valleys and could develop this land in the future.

Guidelines: In view of agricultural potential to be a valuable renewable resource industry in the future, the importance of agricultural lands as general multiple use and inherent resource value lands, and the need to decrease our dependency on other areas for food products, the state should attempt to select all lands made available rated in the top half of the state's agricultural lands by the state's resource assessment evaluation. The additional 2 to 3 million acres of remaining available agricultural land should be selected if other valuable resource capabilities are specifically identified in each selection area. State agricultural selections will remain modest in view of the total Statehood entitlement.

B. Forestry:

Assessment: The state has selected approximately 30 million of Alaska's 110 million acres of lands with commercial forest potential. Twenty-three million acres of state owned forestry potential lands are not disputed by native selections. The vast majority of undisputed state forest selections (approximately 60%) is rated in the bottom half of Alaska's forest potential lands. The 17% of top ranked forest lands which the state has selected are primarily located in the Susitna Valley area. Future selection opportunities are available for over 4 million acres of general forest lands. However, most of the land that is expected to be available will be of low quality. Considering primarily d-1 lands and unselected Native lands, the state may have the opportunity to select as little as ten million additional acres in the top half of the state's forest potential lands.

Guidelines: Since the state has a large quantity of potential forest lands of low quality, forestry considerations in the remaining selection entitlement should attempt to emphasize high grade available areas. The

state should select forest lands from notably valuable areas within the remaining ten million acre pool.

C. Commercial Fisheries:

Assessment: Within the existing state selected areas, commercial fisheries concerns are adequately taken care of from a land ownership perspective. However, waters and watersheds important for commercial fish production occur throughout the state. These areas which have not been previously selected should also be protected by small acreage selections or general watershed selections. Such land acquisitions will be precluded in several areas due to native land selections.

Guidelines: Additional commercial fishery selections should consist of key parcels of limited acreage in prime locations for purposes of fishery enhancement, hatchery sites, research facilities, and access sites. It is also to the advantage of commercial fisheries if the state selects important watershed areas. However, such watershed selections should not take place on the basis of commercial fisheries interests alone. It should be but one positive consideration.

D. Tourism:

Assessment: The present posture and plans for expansion of the Alaska State Park System though basically formed through State land selection, is still incomplete. Key areas have been identified for selection to round off the geographical spread of recreational opportunities and parks in the future. Areas identified for future addition to the park system include sections along major highway and other travel corridors, lands north of Fairbanks in the White Mountain areas, near the south flank of Mt. McKinley, and the prehistorically important Tangle Lakes area. The White Mountains and Tangle Lakes areas in particular should be available for selection. They consist of less than 750,000 acres.

Guidelines: The lands identified for recreation sites north of Fairbanks (including the White Mountain proposal), near Paxson (Tangle Lakes), and near the Alaska-Yukon border will be of strong recreational/tourism importance and should be selected if possible. The campground system along highways and noted recreation sites along rivers account for little acreage and should also be selected.

E. Hard Rock Mineral Industries:

Assessment: The state has selected approximately 38 million of the state's 189 million acres of known mineral potential lands. Approximately 30 million acres of these selections are undisputed by Native top filed selections. Most of the state lands with hard rock mineral potential are found in the southern Brooks Range, the base of the Seward Peninsula south of Kotzebue Sound, the northern flank of the central Alaska Range, the Kuskokwim Mountains and the McCarthy area of the Wrangell Mountains. These state selections are balanced between high, medium and low rated areas for mineral potential by the state resource evaluation system; over 50% of the lands the state has currently selected are judged to have hard rock mineral potential. The state has selected very little land in high rated mineral areas on the Seward Peninsula proper,

and in the western Brooks Range. However, in view of our limited statehood entitlement of 100 million acres and the fact that over half of what has currently been selected is in mineral lands, current selections appear to have provided quite well for hard rock resource concerns.

Guidelines: Our remaining selection efforts for hard rock mineral values should be directed toward refining our mineral holdings, selecting limited high grade potential areas of noteworthy importance, and land selections in areas of high mineral potential which may become centers of mining activities to facilitate provision of state services and state regulation. Specific emphasis should be placed upon the Seward Peninsula where we have no selections and the southwest portion of the Brooks Range. The state should continue to consider mineral values a high priority on multiple use selections and consider any new mineral areas of special quality.

F. Coal Lands:

Assessment: Existing state selections provide state ownership for 8 of the 30 million acres of potential coal lands in the state. Of this, nearly 6 million acres are undisputed by top filed native selections. State coal lands include approximately 20% of the top 50% of the coal lands in the state. Most of these coal land selections are centered on the Beluga coal fields, the Nenana-Healy area coal fields and the northwest side of the North Slope. In view of competing land owners and interests, past state selections of coal lands have been quite successful.

A large portion of the remaining quality coal land is on federal land (NPRA, etc.) or has been selected by the Natives. About 1,250,000 acres of the top one-third of the coal potential lands are likely to be available for selection. About 6 million acres of all coal lands may yet be available for state selection.

Guidelines: Since slightly more than one million acres of appropriate coal land may be available, the state should place a high priority on selecting any land ranked in the top third of the state's coal potential lands. Other coal areas should be considered if augmented by additional resource values or appropriate location considerations. Additional high quality coal selections in areas such as the northwest Arctic should be given consideration if available.

G. Oil and Gas Lands:

Assessment: Alaska has selected or owns around 17.6 million acres of the state's 113 million acres of potential oil and gas lands. Approximately 12 million acres of the state's selections are unencumbered by native selections. The state owns a large proportion of the best oil and gas lands on these upland acres. Approximately 40% of the top ten percent of oil and gas lands, according to the state resource inventory assessment, are under state ownership. The State of Alaska owns the best areas with oil and gas potential in Prudhoe Bay region as well as several other high potential areas such as the west side of the Alaska Peninsula. The state also owns nearly all of the potential oil producing areas in the state tidelands and the submerged lands within the three mile limit. Consequently, the state already controls a large portion of the best oil and gas lands in Alaska.

The majority of the remaining oil and gas uplands are on Federal lands which will probably not be available for state selection (NPRA and Arctic

National Wildlife Range). Approximately 6.7 million acres of oil lands ranked in the top third of the state's areas with oil potential may be available for state selection in the future. The majority of the 28 million acres of oil potential land constituting the remaining oil potential lands and which may be available are generally of much lower quality.

Guidelines: Any future state selections of oil and gas land should primarily focus on high quality lands included in the 6.7 million acre block ranked by the resource assessment. The state's strategy should be to refine and augment existing oil and gas holdings or select new areas of extremely high resource values potential. The existence of oil and gas potential on lands with other resource values should continue to count as an important factor for the selection of those lands.

3. Recreation

A. Wildlife Habitat and Use Areas:

Assessment: Good wildlife habitat and human use areas occur throughout the state. According to the Department of Fish and Game's statewide wildlife habitat rating system, the state has selected over four million acres, or 17% of the best 10 percent of wildlife habitat and use lands in the state. The majority of the best wildlife habitat lands are included in Native selections or prior federal withdrawals. State selected wildlife habitat and use lands are generally in more accessible areas closer to our population centers. Since wildlife habitat lands encompass the entire state, the state's total wildlife habitat land is directly proportionate to the total acreage of state selections. Probably little more than 8 million acres of additional top wildlife habitat lands will be available in the future for state selection.

In addition, much of the locally important wildlife habitat and human use areas are not among this top 10% as rated. Nevertheless, the state has a responsibility to assure provision for local areas. Currently, the state has covered many but not the majority of local use areas. In several cases native selections preclude state ownership.

Guidelines: In view of the importance of hunting and fishing to the state's population, the state should continue to place a high priority on the top level wildlife habitat and use lands which appear appropriate for state ownership. The state must also select strategic small parcels where required and available for selection. These parcels will not only provide access for various wildlife user groups, but also insure the state's wildlife resource management options on important wildlife and/or use lands throughout the state.

B. High Use Recreation Areas and Parks:

Assessment: The state currently has existing or proposed state parks covering 6.5 million acres of Alaska. The state owns or has selected two-thirds or 4.3 million acres of the existing and proposed park lands. Of this area, approximately 1.5 million acres are in existing parks, about 700,000 acres of unselected proposed areas may be available in the future for selection. Another 226,000 acres of selected Native withdrawals may be partially available in the future. Other federal

lands contain only 11,000 acres of the proposed park land areas. Consequently, the state has been fairly successful in providing for the majority of the lands required to fulfill the state's long range park and recreation plan. And nearly 75% of these proposed park lands which are outside of state ownership will probably become available for state selection in the future.

Guidelines: Since only 750,000 acres of potential park lands which fit into our park development plan will be available for selection, it is recommended that all potential park lands be considered as high selection priorities.

4. Geography

A. General Land Quality:

Assessment: Existing state land selections include several areas of very high quality land and multiple use value. The Matanuska-Susitna Valley, the west side of the Kenai Peninsula and the Tanana River Valley are examples of some of the most valuable lands in Alaska for a variety of purposes. Current selections, however, also include many rugged and mountainous areas which do not have multiple use values. The selections are fairly balanced but have a high proportion of mountainous and high altitude regions.

Guidelines: The state should continue to have high selection interest in any lands which have a high land quality and multiple use value. Our policy should be to select stable, usable, lowlands throughout the state.

B. Rivers and Coasts:

Assessment: Though current state holdings provide for the major river corridors and coasts in the southcentral Alaska area and some of the area around Fairbanks and the Tanana River Valley, the State owns very little land along the Yukon or Kuskowim Rivers, two of the state's major waterways. In addition the state has little land along the coastline outside of southcentral Alaska and the western side of the Alaskan Peninsula. The Natives have selected heavily in the Yukon and Kuskokwim River valleys and along the coastline. The combination of Native selections and d-2 proposals probably provide only a limited opportunity for state selections along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers and very little selection opportunity along a good part of Alaska's western coastline.

Guidelines: The state should place a high priority on selecting land for settlement, recreational use, and access values along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. The state should also attempt to select any lands in appropriate locations and with some additional values along the coastline of Alaska.

C. Rail Belt Area:

Assessment: Current state land selections have placed a great emphasis on the rail belt area and the selections have been quite adequate. Additional land may become available in certain parts of the area near the Denali and Glenn Highways, further to the west of the railroad itself.

Guidelines: The state should continue to try to fill in its land pattern

in the rail belt area with appropriate multi valued lands. Selection decisions take into consideration lands which are within 50 miles of the major urban centers or along transportation corridors.

D. PYK Line:

Assessment: The state has made a number of selections north of the Porcupine, Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. However, in keeping with the policy guidelines, nearly all of this land was selected for oil and gas potential or hard rock mineral values. Additional lands near the Haul Road corridor and on the Seward Peninsula as well as around Kotzebue will be available north of this line to a limited extent.

Guidelines: The state should continue to generally respect the policy of discouraging large residential establishments north of the PYK line away from the main regional centers. Selection priority, however, should be placed upon lands on the Seward Peninsula, Kotzebue, and lands near the southern end of the Haul Road corridor. Other land selections north of the PYK line should be primarily for high graded resource use.

5. Wise land Ownership and Management patterns

Assessment: Most of the existing state selections are completed in a contiguous and compact formation. Almost all the state land is arranged in 14 blocks. Consequently, the selections approach for existing state land emphasizes management patterns. In some cases, however, current selection units suffer from a lack of accessibility to rivers, coasts or highways. This is especially true west of the Alaskan Range and to the north of the Yukon. Furthermore, many of the block selections do not take into consideration terrain as much as they take into consideration contiguous township units.

Guidelines: Emphasis should be placed upon insuring that there is adequate accessibility to existing state land areas. Focus should be on selecting lands that provide accessibility between existing state lands and major transportation corridors, rivers, and coastlines. Furthermore, the major emphasis should be placed upon suitable lowlands for development rather than mountainous areas.

IV. SUMMARY OF SELECTION GUIDELINES

This section presents a brief summary of the selection guidelines for the major consideration categories discussed in this document. The following statements highlight the main themes of present selection guidance policies:

1. **SETTLEMENT LANDS:** The state should select land around regional centers such as Kotzebue, Nome, Bethel and Dillingham as well as additional potential settlement areas for the future in regions such as the Yukon and Kuskokwim River valleys, the uplands of the Yukon Flats and the Bristol Bay drainage.
2. **ROADS:** The state should continue to emphasize selections in the vicinity of existing transportation routes and potential transportation crossroads or key areas.
3. **AGRICULTURE:** The state should attempt to select all lands made available rated in the top half of the state's agricultural land. Any remaining agricultural lands should be selected if other valuable resource capabilities are specifically identified.
4. **FORESTRY:** Future selections should attempt to acquire notably valuable forest lands from the top half of the state's forest potential areas.
5. **COMMERCIAL FISHERIES:** Selections should consist of key parcels of limited acreage and prime locations for purposes of fishery enhancement, hatchery sites, research facilities, and access sites.
6. **TOURISM:** Recreation lands identified in the White Mountain area, Tangle Lakes area, and near the Alaska Yukon border should be selected if possible as well as additions to the highway campground system and noted recreation sites along major waterways.
7. **HARD ROCK MINERAL LANDS:** Selections should emphasize enhancement of existing mineral holdings, acquisitions of limited high mineral potential areas of noteworthy importance, and areas of mining potential which may become activity centers, such as on the Seward Peninsula and the southwest portion of the Brooks Range, to facilitate provision of state services.
8. **COAL LANDS:** The state should acquire appropriate coal lands ranked in the top third of coal potential lands in the state.
9. **OIL AND GAS LANDS:** The state's strategy should be to refine and augment existing oil and gas holdings or select new areas of extremely high resource potential including consideration of heretofore unavailable areas such as the NPRA.
10. **WILDLIFE HABITAT AND USE AREAS:** The state should select strategic small parcels which will provide access for various wildlife user groups and also key areas to insure continuation of the state's resource management options for wildlife.
11. **HIGH USE RECREATION AREAS AND PARKS:** The state should select 750,000 acres of potential park lands which are needed to fulfill the state's recreational development plan as well as prime areas for recreation facilities along major roads and waterways.

12. **LAND QUALITY:** The state should select stable and useable lands of high quality and multiple use value throughout the state.

13. **RIVERS AND COASTS:** The state should select land for settlement, recreation use, and access values along the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers as well as appropriate locations along the coastline of Alaska.

14. **PYK LINE:** The state should continue past policies of generally not encouraging large residential establishments north of the Porcupine-Yukon-Kuskokwim River line away from main regional centers.

15. **OWNERSHIP PATTERN:** Selections should attempt to ensure adequate access to existing and future state land areas with particular emphasis on accessibility between state lands and major transportation corridors, rivers and coastlines.

Appendix I: Statehood Act Land Grants

The state has been given a number of different types of land grants by the federal government, both as a territory and at the time of statehood. The following discussion explains these various grants to provide a perspective within which to understand the role of the "general selection grant" in the overall state land entitlement.

General Grant Lands: Section 6(b) of the Statehood Act entitles the state to select up to 102.55 million acres of unreserved Federal land in Alaska by January of 1984. The state has selected approximately 75 million acres.

Community Grant Lands: Under Section 6(a) of the Statehood Act, Alaska is entitled to select 400,000 acres from the national forests and another 400,000 acres from the public domain lands for the purpose of providing for community related needs. By the end of 1977, less than 200,000 acres remained to be selected from the national forest land grant and 320,000 acres will remain to be selected under the public domain lands. The state has seven more years to complete its community grant land selections. The primary purpose of the national forest selections are for existing and future community needs and the state residential recreational needs in the national forests.

Mental Health Lands: Public Law 84-830, passed in 1956, gave the then Territory of Alaska 10 years in which to select 1 million acres of unreserved Federal land to be administered for the support of Alaska's mental health program. This land grant vested with the State of Alaska at statehood. The full entitlement of 1 million acres has been selected.

University Lands: Alaska was granted 100,000 acres of land to support university programs. The selection of this land is 99% complete. This grant supplements an earlier university grant of specific sections and townships in the Tanana Valley.

Common School Lands: Alaska was granted Section 16 and 36 in each township of federal land which was surveyed at the time of statehood for the support of Alaska's common school program. Over a 100,000 acres have been received under this grant.

Appendix II: Existing Selection Guidance

The land selection considerations of this document are limited to the general grant lands of 102.55 million acres entitled to us through the Statehood Act. This section discusses Congressional, Constitutional, and Statutory guidance provided for the selection of general grant lands.

1. **Congressional Intent:** The U. S. Congress was quite concerned about the validity of the newly formed State of Alaska to support itself during the Statehood Act deliberations. It was hoped that the grant of these lands would provide for economic and resource development which was regarded as a condition for Statehood. It was stated that this development should be set up to benefit the state's population and mankind. The purpose of such a large land grant was to make the state independent of the Federal Government. The Congressional Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs recommendations for admission of the State of Alaska made clear that the state should not remain a ward of the Federal Government.

2. **Constitutional Guidance:** The Alaska State Constitution in Article 8, Natural Resources, Section 1, sets forth the following policy for use of the state's lands and other resources. "It is the policy of the State of Alaska to encourage the settlement of its land and the development of its resources by making them available for maximum use consistent with the public interest."

Under Section 2, General Authority, of the same Article the Constitution states: "The Legislature shall provide for the utilization, development, and conservation of all natural resources belonging to the state, including lands and waters for the maximum benefit of its people."

3. **State Statutes:** Article 9, Land Selections of the Alaska Statutes Public Land Laws states in Section 38.05.290 that the Commissioner of Natural Resources "shall give preference of selection to the land which will provide the maximum benefits to the people of the state."

4. **Court Decisions:** Federal courts have had few occasions to interpret the Statehood Act and in each instance their interpretation of the purpose of the land grants was that the grants were to serve Alaska's overall and social well being. The court cases which have dealt with this subject were limited to considerations of land selections for the purposes of protecting mineral deposits, safeguarding wildlife, and protecting domestic water supplies.

AREA DESCRIPTIONS OF STATE INTEREST LANDS

PUBLIC COMMENT DRAFT

Prepared By

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

November 24, 1977

INTRODUCTION

The following narrative provides a summary description of the rationale used for identification of the areas which may be valuable for future ownership by the state. Each description is referenced by identification numbers which correspond to areas shown on the accompanying 1:2,500,000 scale maps, or the smaller map located in the accompanying document entitled "Preliminary Identification of Lands Suitable for State Ownership."

PRELIMINARY STATE SELECTION INTEREST AREA

— NOVEMBER 1977 —

Highways
 Previous Selections
 Interest Areas

State of Alaska - Department of Natural Resources

-  Highways
-  Previous Selections
-  Interest Areas

State of Alaska - Department of Natural Resources

THE ALASKA PENINSULA

The state recognizes the uniqueness of the Alaska Peninsula, with regard to the large variety and high values of natural, and human resources present, along with the complexities and problems associated with future ownership and land management patterns. Because of this, the state recommends that the Alaska Peninsula be set aside as a special area for future study to determine the most efficient and manageable land ownership patterns. This joint state-federal-private study will provide guidance for future selection submissions by the state on the peninsula.

However, the state has identified, in the following 23 areas, a preliminary selection pool, and will continue to solicit information on specific selection possibilities in this area in case the above recommendation on the peninsula is not included in the final "d-2" bill.

Area #1 Lands in the False Pass area

This interest area is located around False Pass, 35 miles southwest of Cold Bay. The tract consists of three townships situated on Isanotski Strait, which separates Unimak Island from the Alaska Peninsula. The area does include a portion of the Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

The state interest here centers on the possibility of access within the False Pass area. The area also contains marginal land capability, and some wildlife and fisheries capability along with a large amount of coastal land. Native selections must be taken into account before final selections are made. This land is rated as a high priority (A) to guarantee state presence in an area near a major water transportation corridor between the Pacific Ocean and Bering Sea on the Alaska Peninsula.

Area #2 Lands on the Pacific Coast south of Cold Bay

This single township is situated 15 miles south of Cold Bay on the Pacific shoreline. The elevation ranges from sea level to over 2,600 feet reflecting the very rugged terrain of this area.

The township is of interest not only for its access to the Pacific but also for the well-documented geochemical anomalies that indicate possible hard mineral potential. It also contains wildlife and fishery values. The township is rated a lower priority (C) selection because of the speculative nature of the mineral potential.

Area #3 Lands on the southwest side of Cold Bay

These two townships include the community of Cold Bay, the west shore of Cold Bay and a portion of the Izembek Wildlife Range. Terrain ranges from sea level in the eastern and northern portions to over 3,000 feet in the south.

This high priority (A) land is of interest primarily because it provides access from Cold Bay to the peninsula. The unit contains a fish hatchery site, one township rated within the top 10% of oil and gas potential, marginal land capability, and medium fisheries and wildlife values.

Area #4 Lands on the northeast side of Cold Bay on the Bering Sea Coast

This selection is situated in the east portion of Izembek Wildlife Range eight miles northeast of the Cold Bay community. The narrow strip of townships, which are predominately flatlands interspersed with lagoons and wetlands, include the east shores of Cold Bay, Moffett Lagoon and the Bering Sea coast.

This area is of primary interest (A) because it contains lands ranked in the top 10% for oil and gas potential, access to the Bering Sea, marginal land capability, and potential as a transportation corridor from Cold Bay to the Bering Sea coast.

Area #5 Lands east of Pavlof Bay

This selection is located on the Alaska Peninsula across Unga Strait from Sand Point. The two townships are composed of rugged terrain ranging from sea level to approximately 3,000 feet. A valley, intersecting the tract from east to west, connects Pavlof Bay with Beaver Bay.

Primary interest in this high priority (A) area includes a fish hatchery site, moderate coal and uranium resource potential, moderate wildlife and fisheries values, a proposed transportation corridor site and coastal access.

Area #6 North Coast of Unga Island

This interest area covers the north half of Unga Island, situated across Popof Strait from Sand Point. The tract is composed of two peninsulas separated by Zachary Bay. Although terrain is moderate on both peninsulas the southern area consists of several hills over 2,000 feet in elevation.

These lower priority (C) lands are of interest primarily for the coal and mineral potential, moderate wildlife and fisheries resources and coastal access.

Area #7 Lands on the southeast coast of Unga Island

This area is an old mining district and ranks in the top 30% of all mineral potential land in the state. The area contains coastal acreage and marginal land capability values. The area is of moderate priority (B) interest.

Area #8 Land on east coast of Unga Island

Interest in this area is for the same purpose as area #7, except there is no known mineral production, although geologic trends and geochemical anomalies suggest the area may have potential mineral values equal to area #7. It also contains suitable coastline for access in protected bays. The area is ranked as a lower priority (C) for selection interest.

Area #9 Lands south of Port Moller extending to the Pacific Ocean

The primary interest in this area is for a possible transportation corridor across the peninsula and the large amount of coastal acreage on the Pacific side within well protected bays. However, the value of the area for state interest will have to be readjusted in conformance with the Native selections in this area. The townships on the Bering Sea side of the transportation corridor have moderate potential for coal resources, and include hot springs and archaeological sites. The northern part of the area also has fairly high potential for oil and gas, along with high wildlife values. There is one township directly to the east of this area which contains a documented geochemical anomaly which may indicate possible hard mineral potential. This is a high priority (A) area subject to Native selections.

Area #10 Lands northeast of Stepovak Bay

The interest in this high priority (A) area is primarily due to the fact that it is within the second highest land capability category and includes a large amount of acreage along the Pacific coast (which if not selected by the Natives may be valuable to the state). The area also contains moderate hard mineral and fish and wildlife values.

Area #11 Lands southwest of Chignik Bay

This high priority (A) land is of interest primarily because it contains a proposed fish hatchery site, although it also contains marginal land capability, moderate hard mineral potential and coastal acreage.

Area #12 Land southwest of Chignik Lake

This low priority (C) township contains low uranium and geochemical anomalies which may indicate hard mineral potential.

Area #13 Lands southwest of Chignik Bay

Principal reasons for interest in this lower priority (C) area lie in the fact that it has a large amount of coastline on the Pacific Ocean for access purposes, it may contain some hard mineral potential including geochemical anomalies, and presently is undergoing intense exploratory activity. It would be valuable for coastal access only if the Natives do not gain title to the coastline.

Area #14 Lands along Chignik Bay and Black Lake

Interest in this area is primarily for access from the Pacific Ocean into the Black Lake, Chignik Lake areas. There is also some coal potential in this area and some land with coastal access on the Pacific side. Parts of the area have marginal land capability, some uranium and moderate mineral potential with some coal potential. The area is of high (A) selection interest.

Area #15 Lands just south of Port Heiden

Lands in this area are in the top category for land capability and the top 10 to 20 percent for oil and gas potential. Portions of the area are high on the list of priorities for fish and game due to access to the Black Lake-Chignik fish spawning area, are top rated for wildlife values (brown bear habitat), and include the northern part of a possible transportation and access corridor from the Pacific Ocean to the Bering Sea. State lands abut the area on the northwest. This area is a high priority (A) selection.

Area #16 Central uplands southwest of Port Heiden

The primary reason for interest in these two low priority (C) townships

is presence of geochemical anomalies which may indicate hard mineral potential. The area also contains high wildlife values, moderate fisheries values and low uranium potential.

Area #17 Lands south of Port Heiden to Pacific Coast

The principal reason for state interest in this area is as a transportation corridor from Bristol Bay to the Pacific Ocean. The northwestern most township is in the top 10 percent of the oil and gas potential for the state. The other townships have moderate mineral potential and low uranium potential. The area also contains low potential for coal resources. State land abuts the area on the northwest. The area is rated high priority (A).

Area #18 Lands to the east of Port Heiden

This low priority (C) area contains a concentration of intrusive igneous rocks which may have potential for mineral development although this has not been confirmed. Within this area there are also two access points to the Pacific side of the peninsula. The area contains some marginal land capability values, and some high wildlife values.

Area #19 Lands northeast of Port Heiden

This area is rated a high priority for access purposes by the Department of Fish and Game, is in the top category for intensive settlement capability, in the top 10 and 20 percentile for oil and gas resources, and is in the highest category for wildlife values. State lands border the west side of this area. It is rated high priority (A) for state interest.

Area #20 Lands directly south of Becharof Lake

This area is of interest due to its high priority for access for fish and game purposes, particularly those townships which border Becharof Lake, and those townships which border Lower Ugashik Lake in the southern portion. In addition, the area contains townships in the top land settlement and development capability category and also contains lands in the top first or second percentile for oil and gas potential. The area also contains some low agricultural potential. The area is bordered on the west by state lands. It is of high priority (A) interest.

Area #21 Lands southeast of Becharof Lake to the Pacific Coast

The primary reason for interest in this area is to provide a corridor from the Pacific side of the peninsula to the lake, and to provide lake access. The area also contains low hard mineral potential, and a few townships contain marginal land settlement capability. There are two townships on the northeast side which are designated as a fish hatchery site. These are rated high priority (A) for selection purposes; the rest of the area is rated moderate priority (B).

Area #22 Lands east of Becharof Lake

This area is of interest primarily for fish and game purposes. It contains valuable wildlife habitat and access points which are needed in this area because it is a high use area for sport hunting and sport fishing. There are two townships surrounding Puale Bay, designated high priority (A). They would serve as the main access points. The area is bordered on the west by Becharof Lake, and the area may provide public access depending on Native selections. The remaining area is rated medium priority (B).

Area #23 Lands west of Cook Inlet surrounding Lake Iliamna

The area encloses about three million acres of land surrounding Lake Iliamna. It is adjacent to selection area #24 on the west and state land to the north and east.

A northern extension of the area includes land valuable for agriculture, land capability, and fisheries. A part of Lake Clark, all of the Newhalen River, and the villages of Nondalton and Iliamna are located in the area.

The eastern part of the area covers the Chigmit Mountains, abutting state land on the Iniskin Peninsula. The only land access between Cook Inlet and Lake Iliamna in this area is the road from Williamsport to Pile Bay Village. The area also abuts lands around Kamishak Bay on the east that the state can select under provisions of the Cook Inlet Land Trade.

To the south the area includes part of the Aleutian Range, the lowlands around Lake Iliamna and the Kvichak River, part of Nonvianuk Lake, and all of Kukaklek Lake. This land, except for the mountainous areas, is rated high for agriculture, land settlement capability, and fisheries, and is accessible by the Kvichak River and the coast. A further extension to the south includes the village of King Salmon and a section of the Naknek River.

There are many Native selections in the Lake Iliamna area. Generally, the state has interest in the region because it is highly accessible, has high values for possible future settlement, is in close proximity to Lake Iliamna, has potential for a future road corridor, has high fisheries values, and has hard mineral potential. In addition, the lake and surrounding lands offer superb recreational opportunities. The area is adjacent to other state land. This is a high priority (A) interest area.

Area #24 Lands southwest of Lake Clark extending west to the Wood-Tikchik area and south to Bristol Bay

This area of more than four million acres is located in the coastal lowlands of the Nushagak River northeast of Dillingham, about 300 air miles southwest of Anchorage. The area extends to Kvichak Bay to the south, to the Seward base line to the north, to the Wood River-Tikchik Lakes on the west, and to the Kvichak River and Lake Iliamna on the east. It abuts state land to the west and north.

The area is gently sloping with hundreds of lakes. The Nushagak River is braided and meandering. There are some forested areas, the largest of which is in the northwest corner. It includes the villages of Ekwok, New Stuyahok,

and Koliganek on the Nushagak River and Levelock and Igluigig on the Kvichak River.

Because of its coastal location, suitability for agriculture and proximity to a regional center (Dillingham), the area rates high for possible future settlement and development. The area would also connect with land already owned by the state in the region, constituting one of the largest blocks of state owned land in Alaska.

The region is highly accessible along the two rivers and from Lake Iliamna, and the Wood River-Tikchik Lakes area provides a recreation site. The area is rated high for agriculture and for land settlement capability. It is also a rich salmon spawning area. It is a high priority (A) interest area.

Area #25 Lands near Dillingham-Nushagak

This lower priority (C) interest land includes Dillingham and the area to the south surrounding Nushagak Bay, and the townships of Nushagak, Kanakanak, Clark's Point and Ekuk. State land, currently without coastal access, abuts the northern border. All 40 townships are flat tundra or marsh, with many small lakes. In addition to the value of this area for coastal access, there is some potential agriculture and land settlement capability. Over half the townships have moderate to high ratings for oil and gas.

Area #26 Lands located west of Wood-Tikchik area

Interest in this moderate priority (B) area is primarily for its value as an extension of the proposed Wood River Mountains State Park. The area contains headwaters of the Wood-Tikchik drainages and has high scenic value. The southern part of the area rates very high for fisheries values, and parts have moderate agriculture values and moderate land settlement capability.

Area #27 Lands surrounding Bethel

Seven townships surrounding Bethel, a regional center situated near the Kuskokwim River delta, comprise this area. The tract is characteristic of the surrounding areas. Terrain is very flat and dotted with small lakes.

Proximity to a regional center and river access are the prime reasons for the identification along with the desire to add state presence in the area. Native corporations have also selected this tract. This is a high priority (A) interest area.

Area #28 Lands south of McGrath on the Kuskokwim River

The southwestern portion of this area, which includes the junction of the Kuskokwim and Holitna Rivers, has a mixture of lowlands and gently rolling hills. The village of Sleetmute is situated near the river junction. Noted resources are wildlife, fisheries and agricultural potential, along with a possible transportation corridor. The south boundary abuts state land, giving the area added importance.

The area is bordered on the south and southeast by a continuous block of land already owned by the state. Situated in lowlands just south of the Stony and Kuskokwim River junction, the area is noted for good river access and wildlife values.

The Kuskokwim River dissects the northeast tract of this area. Terrain north of the river is characterized by gently rolling hills. The remainder is quite flat and, in some places, wet. Access to the Kuskokwim River is the tract's greatest asset. All areas were selected primarily for river access and proximity to existing state land. This is an overall lower priority (C) area.

Area #29 Lands located in the central Kuskokwim Valley

This moderate priority (B) area, is situated on the upper reaches of the Kuskokwim River drainage basin between the Kuskokwim Mountains and Mt. McKinley Park. The foothills of the Kuskokwim Mountains comprise the western and northern portions of the area. The remainder of the tract includes the northwest edge of a broad plain which sits between the Alaska Range and the Kuskokwim Mountains. Within this area are numerous lakes, small rivers and streams. Though elevations range from approximately 400 to 3,500 feet the terrain is generally moderate to gentle.

The two communities within the township, McGrath and Medfra, are situated on the Kuskokwim River. A large tract of state land abuts the north and west boundaries.

Primary interest in this area is access to the Kuskokwim River, agricultural capability and land settlement capability. Areas just southeast of McGrath and east of Medfra are noted for their settlement potential. Because this tract is adjacent to existing State land, a sizable, contiguous area would fall under state management.

Area #30 Upper Susitna Valley

This interest area is in three units of one to three townships each to the north and west of Talkeetna. All townships are on the south slopes of the Alaska Range near Mt. McKinley. The areas are drained by major tributaries of the Susitna River. Topography ranges from mountainous to flat along river valleys. Forest covers the flat areas and lower slopes. The area is next to state lands in the Susitna Valley. These townships have excellent ratings for agriculture, forestry and hard minerals. This, coupled with proximity to the populous rail belt, render this area of high priority (A) interest.

Area #31 Isolated townships in the Susitna Valley

These are high priority (A) areas identified primarily to create a continuous land pattern and management area. They are isolated lands completely surrounded by state land.

Area #32 Lands on North Tazlina Lake

These high priority (A) lands provide public access to Tazlina lake, a

high use area for recreation and sport hunting and fishing.

Area #33 Lands in Chitina and Copper River Valleys

Four different areas, situated approximately 75 miles northeast of Valdez, three of one township each, make up this selection area. The three single township areas lie in the valley of the Copper River, east of Glennallen: CRM 7N 2E which lies on the Glenn Highway ten miles north of Gakona Junction, and rates high for forestry and agriculture; CRM 3N 1E and CRM 5N 1E which lie east of the Richardson Highway about ten miles northeast and southeast of Glennallen rate high for agriculture, forestry and land capability.

The largest area includes portions of the Copper River and Chitina River valleys south of Copper Center. The tract extends from Klutina Lake in the west to the Crystalline Hills in the east, encompassing 50 miles of forested lowlands and gentle slopes.

The communities of Chitina and Lower Tonsina are connected by road to the Richardson Highway. Chitina, located at the confluence of the Copper and Chitina Rivers, may eventually be connected to Cordova via the proposed Copper River Highway.

Generally the area is valuable to the state because of its present intensive use along one of the state's major highways, proximity to population centers, and capability for future increased settlement. It also abuts present state land on the Richardson Highway. The area contains land rated high for land settlement capability, agriculture, and forestry, and is a high use area for recreation and sport hunting and fishing (one of the state's two Bison herds in this area graze this land on the northeast side of the Copper River). Proposals for the Wrangell Mountains Park conflict with some parts of this high priority (A) interest area.

Area #34 Mineral Lands in the northern Wrangells

This interest area is situated in the Wrangell Mountains about 40 miles northeast of McCarthy. The 28 townships form a narrow strip extending from the Canadian border 65 miles west to the Nabesna River. Elevations range from 3,000 feet in the valleys to over 9,000 feet. Several glaciers, including Chisana Glacier, are located in the southwest area. The Chisana River flows northward from the selection towards the Alaska Highway. This interest area is located in the Wrangell Mountains D-2 withdrawal.

The area is valued for its wildlife and hard rock mineral attributes. A number of townships have been rated in the top percentile for hard mineral potential primarily for possible large low grade porphyry copper prospects. The area has moderate wildlife values, specifically related to mountain goat and sheep. Due to inaccessibility, the speculative nature of the economics of the minerals, and the fact that both mining and hunting may be allowed under the Federal "preserve" system in this area, the area is of lower priority (C) for state interest. The area will be of higher priority if placed in park status.

Area #35 Glacier Hill-Island Lake area of the Alaska Highway, Alaska North Slope

Based on a land selection study conducted in 1977, the State Division of Parks identified the Glacier Hill-Island Lake area as the only suitable location for recreational developments along a 93 mile stretch of highway in the area. At present, the state provides three small ex-BLM campgrounds on this 93 mile highway corridor. Travelers entering or departing Alaska now find inadequate, crowded facilities which offer no room for expansion nor opportunities for active recreation activities. This selection would be developed as a state recreation area, including camping, picnic facilities, trail systems and information programs on the State of Alaska.

The Glacier Hill-Island Lake area is characterized by hilly terrain, with upland spruce-hardwoods on the higher elevations and extensive black spruce bog and muskeg intermixed with lakes and slow moving streams in the lowlands. The Alaska Highway bisects the area, providing good access to developable sites including the better building sites. The highway accommodates heavy use with over 115,000 people traveling the highway each year. In summer months, about 20,000 travelers cross the border each month, with an estimated two-thirds of these visitors seeking recreation. The area also has fair to good land settlement capability and ranks in the highest percentile for wildlife values. This is a high priority (A) state interest area.

Area #36 Lands to the east of the Richardson Highway and south of the Alaska Highway

These lower priority (C) lands are of interest to complete a state land management block in the Tanana uplands. Portions of the area fall within the top 10% of potential mineral areas in the state.

Area #37 Tangle Lakes area

Scattered through this proposed selection are more archeological sites than in any other area of comparable size in the American subarctic. Since 1965 over 150 sites have been discovered. This area's greatest significance lies in its contribution to the unfolding story of human migrations onto the North American continent from Asia and Siberia. Artifacts and soil profiles indicate human occupancy in the Tangle Lakes area as early as 15,000 years ago. In addition to these unique prehistoric values, the area offers a rolling forested terrain with numerous lakes and streams well suited for a wide variety of recreational activities. Camping, hiking, fishing and boating are commonly enjoyed throughout this area. The area appears well suited for classification as a major state park focusing on interpretation of prehistoric values and the provision of recreation facilities such as campgrounds, trails, picnic areas, boat launching ramps and a visitor center.

About 10 major lakes, interconnected with streams and rivers, edged with spruce and birch, characterize this accessible area. Black and grizzly bear, moose and smaller mammals and birds are common here. The lakes, rivers, streams and marsh areas in the proposed selection are important waterfowl habitat. The Bureau of Land Management has developed some recreation facilities in the area, including a campground.

Prehistoric values described earlier, are of international interest. The area of archeological site concentration is now on the National Register of Historic Places. A number of the sites clearly show affinities

with Central Siberia. The rich archeological site concentration of Tangle Lakes is related to the unique glacial topography of the area which includes the largest section of stagnant ice moraine in all of Alaska, and perhaps in North America. This area is of high priority (A) for state interest.

Area #38 Lands located north of the Denali Highway

This area is of interest primarily due to its proximity to the highway and its high potential for hard minerals. The northernmost townships have high coal resource potential, and the area is used intensively for sport hunting and other recreation pursuits. The area is of moderate priority (B) for state interest purposes.

Area #39 Lands in the southern Alaska Range

This lower priority (C) area is located in the Alaska Range, south of Delta Junction, running east from the Delta River and the Richardson Highway. The land is mountainous, rugged, and has little resource value, except for recreation. It is surrounded entirely by state land with the exception of a utility corridor to the west, and thus would fit in the area's overall land management pattern.

Area #40 Land in the Tanana uplands

This area is located south and west of Delta Junction, with some of the eleven townships located along the Delta River and Richardson Highway. This area is partially flat and suitable for agriculture, though the land settlement capability is poor. There is also an abundance of coal in part of this area. The area is of high priority (A) interest because it is close to Fairbanks with road and river access, has agricultural and mineral values, and is surrounded by state land.

Area #41 Tanana uplands north of Tanana River near Delta

Selection #41 is a narrow strip of 35 townships situated 5-10 miles north of the Alaska Highway between Tok and Delta Junction. Though the parcel is characterized by hilly terrain including several 3,000 foot peaks, it attains primary significance for its proximity to the Tanana River lowlands. Several factors were influential for giving this selection a high priority (A) rating. Management procedures could be simplified by adding this tract to adjacent State lands to the south. The uplands serve as a watershed for many streams which flow through the lowlands and empty into the Tanana River. The high values of this area for forestry, mining and, in particular, fisheries and wildlife are of added significance due to the close proximity of the Tanana River lowlands.

Not only is the valley serviced by a major transportation route but it has high potential for agricultural development. The resources within this tract will gain importance as the lowlands develop.

Area #42 Yukon-Charley Area

This interest area is situated on the Yukon River approximately 120

miles northeast of Fairbanks and 50 miles west of the Canadian border. Circle and Circle Hot Springs, both served by the Steese Highway, are 25 miles north and west of the parcel, respectively.

The parcel consists of the Yukon and Charley River Valleys which junction near the center of this area. The lowlands have agricultural potential, and could serve as a transportation corridor. The mountainous terrain above the valleys are important for forestry resources and wildlife. Most townships are rated high for existing or proposed transportation access. The total area is ranked moderate interest priority (B) due to lack of accessibility, isolation from populated centers, general overall lower resource values, and the fact that it is in the center of a D-2 withdrawal area.

Area #43 Lands in the Circle - Yukon Flats area

This 72 township area (approximately 1.5 million acres) lies along the Steese Highway, starting at Twelve Mile Summit, about eighty miles from Fairbanks, and extending northward along the Yukon River. The area abuts a state selection area on the western border. It also contains a sixty mile stretch of the Yukon River Valley and communities of Central, Circle and Circle Hot Springs.

This area includes an important road corridor to the east central part of the state. It is extremely valuable due to its high resource ratings and its relatively (for the interior) intensive human use. State land in the area has already been scheduled for homesite disposal. The area would also provide a corridor between present state land in central Alaska and land the state might receive (if not selected by Native corporations) along the eastern border of the state.

The area is rich in natural resources. The western part of the area contains sixteen townships rated in the top tenth percentile for hard minerals. Valleys in the Crazy Mountain vicinity are particularly suited for agriculture. Several townships also rate high for forestry, uranium, and geothermal potential, and the area already has good access by the Steese Highway and existing roads in the Circle Hot Springs area. East of Central, the area contains land valuable for agriculture and land capability. The area east of the Yukon River is particularly rich with several townships in the top rating for land settlement capability. Other areas are rated high for agriculture, forestry and river access. The area overlaps parts of the Yukon Flats and Charley River Park proposals. This is a high priority (A) state interest area.

Area #44 Eielson Air Force Base

This area includes a tract of townships situated approximately 20 miles southeast of Fairbanks in the Eielson Military Reservation. Mountainous terrain in the eastern portions of the tract serves as a watershed for creeks flowing into the Chena and Nenana Rivers. The western portion borders on the Tanana River lowlands which have been rated in the top tenth percentile for agricultural capability. Eielson Air Force Base and the Richardson Highway are within one mile of the west boundary.

The selection's high agricultural capability, excellent accessibility, recreational potential, and close proximity to Fairbanks make this area a high interest priority (A).

Area #45 Fort Wainwright

This moderate priority (B) interest area of approximately 450,000 acres, lies across the Tanana River from Fairbanks. The area is entirely flat and swampy but improves to the south where the elevation gradually rises. The area is presently part of Ft. Wainwright and is surrounded by state land. It is drained by several small creeks which run into the Tanana River. Only part of the area is covered by forest. Sections of the area have high values for agriculture, forestry and wildlife, and are near both the Parks and Alaska Highways.

Area #46 White Mountains

The area is located in the central White Mountains approximately 30 miles north of Fairbanks. Access to southern portion of the tract is via the Steese Highway. This selection would ultimately be proposed as a state wilderness park, though significant recreation developments would be provided along its southern edge. The proposed Beaver Creek Wild River (Department of Interior proposal) is contained within the above area, a proposal containing 200,000 acres.

The White Mountains surrounding Beaver Creek average 3,000 to 4,000 feet and provide a continuous backdrop to the spruce-forested valley floors. Streams and rivers run clear through these unglaciated mountains. The overall landscape of this area is considered superior and/or unique in scenic value by the joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission. Numerous trails thread through the White Mountains attesting to long-term human use for recreation and limited placer mining and trapping activities. The proposed selection contains pockets of commercial-quality interior type forest land and a scattering of active gold placer mines. The area is rich in wildlife and fishing values. Grayling populations are excellent and attract comparatively high angler pressure considering access difficulties. Moose, caribou, grizzly and other mammals range throughout the area. This area is designated medium priority (B).

Area #47 Livengood

This high priority (A) state interest area lies northeast of Fairbanks and south of the Yukon Flats in the White Mountains, and includes the townsite of Livengood. The Elliot Highway and the haul road provide access to this area. The townsite of Livengood is within its bounds. State owned land abuts the southern border. Several small rivers drain the area running into the nearby Yukon and Tanana Rivers. Topography is rolling to steep. Much of the area is under forest cover. Of the variety of resource values characterizing this area, agriculture, forestry and good land capability dominate.

Area #48 Lands north of Fairbanks, north and south of the Yukon River

This selection, bisected by the Yukon River, consists of 105 townships located 100 miles north of Fairbanks. Livengood, connected by road to Fairbanks, is situated just outside the southeast boundary. Stevens Village and Rampart, both located on the Yukon River, are within the boundaries.

The northeast portion is the western edge of the Yukon Flats. The region's

low terrain and multitude of small lakes is characteristic of the flats. The area is rated highly for agricultural potential, forestry, and wildlife.

Areas sloping gradually upward north and west of the Yukon Flats have favorable land settlement and agricultural capability ratings. The hilly terrain south of the Yukon River has agricultural and some forestry potential.

The agriculture potential in the northeastern section of this unit along with its proximity to present transportation corridors and overall moderate land capability ratings for intensive settlement make this a high priority (A) for state selections.

The heart of the Yukon Flats, just to the west of this interest area, is rated very high for agriculture potential, but has not been identified as an interest area by the State for two reasons. First, it is highly unlikely the state will be allowed to select in this area due to its d-2 land status and high priority for national interest lands. Second, native selections and reservations presently comprise around 50% of the highest value agriculture land in the Yukon Flats area, guaranteeing that a high proportion of the most valuable lands will be in private ownership and thus at least partially developable in the future, if needed.

Area #49 Lands northwest of Fairbanks on the Yukon River

This moderate priority (B) area is of interest primarily for providing access along the Yukon River. It has lower agricultural, forestry, and land settlement capability values. The area is characterized by second and third levels for wildlife values. This area links surrounding interest areas and existing state lands.

Area #50 Lands southwest of Fairbanks just to the north of McKinley Park and north to the Yukon River

This interest area consists of 119 townships situated in the central portion of the state approximately 75 miles west of Fairbanks. Generalized boundaries are Mt. McKinley Park to the south, the Kuskokwim Mountains to the west, the Toklat River to the east and the Tanana River to the north.

The area is a drainage basin for several major rivers including the Toklat, Kantishna and Cosna, which empty into the Tanana River. The southern and western portions include the foothills of the Kantishna Mountains, but relief becomes progressively more moderate towards the Tanana River. The far northern section includes the junction of the Tanana and Yukon Rivers and the village of Tanana.

This area was identified for its resource potential, accessibility, and proximity to existing state land. A block of state land abuts the east boundary of this addition and would create a rather sizable area under state management. Areas adjacent to the Cosna, Kantishna and Toklat Rivers are rated highly for land settlement capability, agricultural potential, and accessibility, to major rivers, and the Parks Highway. Several townships in the southwest sector are rated highly for coal resources. Other areas, particularly near the Yukon, are important for forestry potential and wildlife habitat. This area is high priority (A) for state interest.

Area #51 Lands near the headwaters of the Kuskokwim River

This area, of moderate priority (B), is located around the upper reaches of the Kuskokwim River's North Fork, about 150 miles west southwest of Fairbanks. The area is north of McKinley Park and the state's Lake Minchumina land. It abuts state interest area #50 to the north and the east.

The area has some lower agriculture potential and moderate to low land settlement capability, and rates high in certain parts for fisheries values. The eastern part of the area, south of Wien Lake, is flatter and more valuable for agriculture and land settlement capability. The three township finger in the southeast provides accessibility via the Kantishna River. The entire area lies about fifty miles west of the Parks Highway.

Area #52 Lands along the Yukon River west of Fairbanks

This moderate priority (B) land is of primary interest for obtaining access to the Yukon River. It has some agricultural and forestry potential although most of the area lies in the floodplain. The area is in close proximity to state land both north and south of the Yukon, although much will be selected by the Native corporations.

Area #54 Lands along the central Yukon River between Galena and Ruby

This land of moderate priority (B) is primarily valuable for access to the Yukon River. A twenty mile stretch of the river is contained in the area as well as a portion of the floodplain to the south, including parts of the Yuki River and Ruby Slough. The area also adjoins state lands to the south.

The land has moderate agriculture and land settlement capability, and low forestry potential. It also rates in the top twenty percent for wildlife.

Area #55 Lands in the lower-central Yukon Valley

This moderate priority (B) area is located on the east bank of the Yukon between the communities of Nulato and Kaltag, approximately 50 miles southwest of Galena. It is identified primarily for recreational access to the Yukon River and because of adjacent state land to the west and south. Wildlife habitat, fisheries and forestry are important area resources. Some potential for oil, gas, and uranium and agriculture exist. This area is part of the Innoko Refuge proposal.

Area #56 Lands along the Yukon near Kaltag

This moderate priority (B) area follows the Yukon River to the north and south of the Kaltag townsite. Kaltag is the portage point to Unalakleet. Nulato and Koyukuk are immediately upstream and Galena is 50 miles to the northeast. The area to the east of the Yukon is flat and partially marshy while the west side is hilly. Land settlement capability and agriculture potential are favorable along the Yukon with some areas showing forestry potential. Wildlife and transportation considerations are also important.

Area #57 Lands along the lower central Yukon River Valley

This five township block covers about twenty miles of the Yukon River. It is located about fifty miles east of the Norton Sound village of Unalakleet. It abuts on state land to the southwest. About fifty miles upstream is the village of Nulato. The state has interest in the area for its accessibility to the river and resource ratings for land capability, agriculture, forestry, wildlife and fisheries. It is of moderate (B) selection priority.

Area #58 Lands along the Lower Yukon Valley

This moderate priority (B) area is of state interest to provide public access to the Yukon River and to provide a complete manageable land pattern with already existing state land in this area. The unit also has agricultural, forestry, and intensive use potential, along with moderate to high fish and wildlife values.

Area #59 Land selections around Nome

The state has interest in the Nome area, not only for state presence near a regional center, but also because it includes a major transportation corridor, a proposed park area, and significant hard mineral potential. Twelve townships in the area just north of Nome are rated extremely high for their gold potential, and also contain antimony and tungsten prospects. The area is noted for its active gold dredging on a large scale basis. Townships in the Solomon area are also rated high for hard rock minerals. The Pilgrim Hot Springs area, which coincides with the park proposal, has potential geothermal resources and the ability to support a local agricultural economy since the hot springs keep the ground unfrozen year round. The coastline of this area has valuable placer gold deposits, and could become an intensively developed area due to offshore oil and gas prospects. Recognizing Native lands in the area, the state places a high interest priority (A) on most of the unselected lands.

Area #60 Imuruk Basin area

This area is of interest primarily because of the wildlife values and some hard rock mineral potential. The Teller area, in the western portion, is valuable for its potential as an OCS port site. The area is rated a lower priority (C).

Area #61 Lost River area of Seward Peninsula

This area is of interest to the state due to its high potential for tin, fluorine, and tungsten. Recent exploration indicates at least 30 million tons of economic material are available in the area. This occurrence combined with the history of the region as a mining area makes it of value to the state. The area is of high priority (A) interest, being one of the highest ranked mineral areas available.

Area #62 Lands on the Baldwin Peninsula including Kotzebue

The northern half of the Baldwin Peninsula, including the area surrounding Kotzebue, is the site of this state interest area. Although all the land is

presently selected under Native claims, the state has high interest in procuring land, if possible, primarily for state presence in the Kotzebue area.

Five of the seven townships have coastal access and any future transportation corridor to Kotzebue would run through the selection. Potential resources in the area include uranium, oil, gas, and fisheries.

Area #63 Lands northeast of Kotzebue in the Baird Mountains

This moderate priority (B) area, which includes the Noatak and Kobuk River deltas, is situated on the western border of the Selawik Refuge proposal. The topography is lowland swamp and marsh vegetation excellent for wildlife habitat. It is also of interest because of its coastal location near Kotzebue.

The area has moderate potential for gas, oil and uranium. The land itself is unsuited for intensive use.

Area #64 Ambler mining district

This area is noted as a high priority for development of copper and other important minerals. It is adjacent to state land on the east where development is already taking place or expected to take place in the near future. This is identified as one of the specific areas that the state should encourage hard rock mineral development. Part of this area has the highest rating in the state for hard minerals and contains all the known strata-bound Brooks Range copper deposits. The area is divided between high (A) and medium (B) interest priorities. Portions of this area are also noted for abundant fish and game as well as access points for sportsmen. In addition, the upper valley of the Ambler River is particularly scenic.

Area #65 Lands around Walker Lake in the Brooks Range

This is a 13 township block on the Upper Kobuk River, including most of Walker Lake and all of Nutuvukti Lake. Fairbanks is 250 air miles to the southeast. State holdings adjoin the area to the west and east. Elevation ranges from 600 feet on the Kobuk River in the southern part of the area to 4,500 feet in the mountains in the north.

Primary state interest in the area is hard rock mineral potential. The strata bound copper deposits of the Ambler District trend into the northern part of the area, hence it is of high priority (A) for selection purposes. The remainder of the area also has potential for copper and zinc deposits and is rated of moderate priority (B). The area is also noted for its high scenic and recreational values and is within a d-2 land withdrawal.

Area #66 Lands east of Wiseman in the Brooks Range

This lower priority (B) interest area of over 500,000 acres lies within the Endicott Mountains of the Brooks Range. It is 45 miles southeast of Anaktuvuk Pass and 200 miles north of Fairbanks. Major valleys include the Dietrich and Chandalar (North Fork) Rivers. The topography is very mountainous, rugged and scenic. The western half of this area is part of the utility corridor with access to the Haul Road. The nearest village is Wiseman to

the south. The primary reason for interest in this area is to preserve state owned lands in the Brooks Range for sport hunting of Dall Sheep. Part of the area is also considered of high potential for hard minerals.

Area #67 Red Dog Prospect in the DeLong Mountains

This area is located southeast of Point Hope, bordering on the Arctic Ocean and extending east almost to the Kelly River in the DeLong Mountains, with the Noatak River to the southeast. There are 39 townships with this area, four of which are coastal. The land is hilly in the west, swampy in the center, fairly mountainous to the east, and is entirely tundra. It is of interest primarily because of hard rock mineral potential and fish and game access needs. The hard rock mineral potential is highest around the Red Dog Prospect which is a recently discovered lead zinc and silver massive sulfide deposit. Portions of the mineral lands around the Prospect area are of less potential and are denoted as a medium (B) or low (C) selection priority denoting diminishing potential. The Red Dog Prospect itself is denoted as a high (A) priority for selection.

Area #68 Coal lands on the northwest Arctic coast.

The state has an interest in selecting this area exclusively due to its coal potential. The coals found in this area are of medium to high grade bituminous quality and may have up to twice the BTU content of the coals in the Beluga area; however, the majority of the coal has an unknown amount of overburden which would have to be stripped before development could take place. The coal which does outcrop on the surface has for the most part been previously selected by the Arctic Slope Native Corporation or the State of Alaska. Our selection interest consequently is limited to the northern portion of the area, although much of this area has also been conveyed on an interim basis to the Point Lay and Arctic Slope Corporations. The area has considerable acreage on the Chukchi Sea coast. It is of moderate (B) priority pending final outcome of Native selections.

Area #69 Oil potential lands to the north of Gates of the Arctic Park proposal

This area is located just north of the Colville River and immediately to the west of Umiat and largely within NPRA. The area has never been drilled but the general subsurface geology indicates the possibility of a rather large oil and gas potential, along with the possibility of potential for commercial coal deposits. This area is noted a low (C) interest priority because of its speculative potential.

Area #70 The Marsh Creek Area

This portion of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge, which directly abuts state land, is believed, to have the most valuable potential for oil and gas in Alaska at this time. State selection interests in the area would be limited to subsurface rights with all access and development regulations remaining with the Federal management agency, since it is in the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. The eastern five townships in this area are noted as having the highest oil and gas potential. The entire area is rated as a high (A) priority selection.

Area #71 The Drew Point-Cape Simpson area of NPRA

This area, particularly around Smith Bay, is considered one of the best prospects in NPRA for oil and gas development. State selection interest is centered on this potential, and the area borders generally follow the favorable geology for oil potential in the region. This selection should also help protect State development rights offshore within the three mile limit. This area is designated a high (A) selection priority.

**PLEASE NOTE: THE PRECEDING PAGES WERE TREATED
AS A UNIT IN THE ORIGINAL DOCUMENT.**