

**S J R**

**79**

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HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

RECAP OF  
CSSJR 79 (Res)

*Bering Land Bridge International Park*

Received April 5, 1990  
by Senate Resources Committee

Heard April 17, 1990

Passed Out of Committee April 17, 1990  
2 Do Pass  
2 No Recommendation

# HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

4/18

(7)

Date Referred: April 5, 1990

FURTHER REFERRALS:

RESOURCES

Date of Committee Action: \_\_\_\_\_

The STATE AFFAIRS Committee considered:

CSSJR 79(RES)

CS SJR NO. 79 (Res)

BERING LAND BRIDGE INTERNATIONAL PARK

Supporting the designation of the existing Bering Land Bridge National Preserve as part of a Joint Alaska-Siberia International Park.

### RECOMMENDATIONS:

- be replaced with \_\_\_\_\_  the same title
- have attached amendment(s)  a new title
- do pass
- do not pass
- no recommendation
- individual recommendations
- additional referral to the \_\_\_\_\_ Committee

ADOPTS: \_\_\_\_\_ letter of intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(s):  
(Dept)

APPROVES PREVIOUS:

(Date/Dept)

- fiscal impact \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fiscal note \_\_\_\_\_
- zero with analysis \_\_\_\_\_

- fiscal note(s) *Senate* \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fiscal note(s) *3/27/90. Sen Res.* \_\_\_\_\_
- zero fn/analysis \_\_\_\_\_

### SIGNING DO PASS:

*[Signature]* Finkelstein

*[Signature]* Boucher

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### SIGNING: (Check approp. column)

	Do Not Pass	No Rec	Amend
<i>[Signature]</i> Zawacki		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<i>[Signature]</i> Hanley		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
_____			
_____			
_____			
_____			
_____			
_____			

*[Signature]*

Chairman's Signature

Item 2

### FISCAL NOTE

**REQUEST:**

Revision Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: Bering Land Bridge Preserve

Agency Affected: \_\_\_\_\_  
BRU: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor: Sen. Sturgulewski  
Requestor: Senate Resources Committee

Components: \_\_\_\_\_

**EXPENDITURES/REVENUES:** (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 91	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96
PERSONAL SERVICES						
TRAVEL						
CONTRACTUAL						
SUPPLIES						
EQUIPMENT						
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	0	0	0	0	0	0

CAPITAL						
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REVENUE	0	0	0	0	0	0
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**FUNDING:** (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL	0	0	0	0	0	0

**POSITIONS:**

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

**ANALYSIS:** (Attach a separate page if necessary)

There is no state fiscal impact.

Prepared by: Nancy Petersen, Staff  
Division: Senate Resources Committee

Phone: 465-3834  
Date: 3/26/90

Approved by Commissioner: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Agency: \_\_\_\_\_

Distribution (by preparer):  
Legislative Finance  
Legislative Sponsor  
Requestor  
Office of Management and Budget  
Impacted Agency(ies)

would continue through 1990.

Changes in CS SJR 79 (Res)  
have no fiscal impact.  
This fiscal note is  
appropriate.

Item 3

# Alaska State Legislature



## Senate

2957 SHIELDON JACKSON STREET  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

While in Juneau  
P.O. BOX V  
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811  
(907) 465-3818

SENATOR  
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI  
Senate President Pro Tempore  
Chairman, Senate Rules Committee

MEMORANDUM

April 6, 1990

TO: Representative Red Boucher, Chairman  
House State Affairs Committee

FROM: Senator Arliss Sturgulewski *AS*  
Senate District F

RE: Hearing request for SJR 79 Supporting the designation of the existing Bering Land Bridge National Preserve as a part of a Joint Alaska-Siberia International Park.

This resolution supports the findings of a joint United States and Soviet Union feasibility study proposing an international park (a symbolic designation) along the Bering Straits.

The United States would designate the existing Bering Land Bridge National Preserve as its portion. This designation would not change any of the existing laws or regulations governing the Preserve as the attached letter from the National Park Service specifies.

Also attached are letters of support from the Bering Straits Native Corporation and the Nome Chamber of Commerce as well as the Joint U.S./Soviet Reconnaissance Study.

I would appreciate your consideration for an early hearing on this resolution. Thank you.

Attachments

# Park would join Alaska, Siberia

By CHRIS JENSEN

DALLAS MORNING NEWS

WASHINGTON — Alaska and Siberia have been separated by the sea for thousands of years.

But near the icy Bering Strait, where the international date line divides the United States and the Soviet Union, a symbolic joining of the superpowers is under way.

U.S. and Soviet officials have proposed an international park in the Bering region that would protect millions of acres in both countries and allow unprecedented scientific exchange. It also would help restore the flow of Native culture and ideas stemmed by the tide of 20th-century politics.

"The climate is right, and the will to do it is there," said Denis Galvin, associate director for planning and development with the National Park Service in Washington. "It's a matter of when, not if."

After two decades of informal discussions, Galvin led a 17-member American delegation that joined a Soviet team to survey potential park sites last September.

The Beringian Heritage International Park, as it would be called, could open by 1995, Galvin said. It would feature joint research centers, cultural archives and programs that encourage Native groups, tour operators and universities to move freely across borders.

The Beringian park would be a first between the superpowers, although the United States shares five international parks with Canada and the Soviet Union has a joint park with Finland.

**'The climate is right, and the will to do it is there. It's a matter of when, not if.'**

— Denis Galvin,  
Of the National Park Service

For the U.S. portion, Galvin's team recommended an existing land preserve, the 2.8 million-acre Bering Land Bridge National Preserve located on the northern flank of the Seward Peninsula.

The Soviets, however, will face the more daunting task of carving out a brand new Siberian park from the Chukotskiy Peninsula.

"They're starting a little behind us," Galvin said.

But the Soviet Union already has a handful of parks, including some scientific preserves that are closed to the public, and has expressed strong interest in the project.

"Across the Soviet Union, environmental consciousness is really exploding right now," said Eric Green, a Soviet analyst with the American Committee on U.S.-Soviet Relations. "The park is symbolic of our changing relations, especially on

environmental issues."

Each side would manage its half of the park separately, although the superintendents would regularly meet and conduct joint cultural and scientific exchange programs.

Beringian Natives, who share common Yupik and Inupiat languages, are interested in discussing everything from reindeer herding to ivory carving with their neighbors across the strait, Galvin said.

"There's a real strong Native desire to get together," Galvin said.

What remains to be seen is whether the international park would increase visits to the remote tundra.

"I don't expect to see a flood of people coming up. It's just very difficult to get here," said Ernie Suazo, superintendent of the Bering preserve, located about 100 miles north of Nome.

There are no roads to the preserve, nor any accommodations. Visitors arrive by dog sled, chartered plane or occasionally by boat. The area abounds with grizzly bear, wolf and moose.

Last year about 2,000 people came to the Bering preserve. By comparison, during the same period more than 500,000 people visited the Lyndon B. Johnson National Historic Park at Stonewall, Texas.

But Galvin thinks the recent proposal is bound to pique American interest in the area.

"I think you could accommodate tourists," said Galvin, who praised the Siberian coastline for its spectacular fjords. "But it wouldn't be a Princess Cruise."

Item 4



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE  
2525 Gambell Street, Room 107  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2892

IN REPLY REFER TO

A3615(ARO-SA)  
xL62

8 0 MAR 1990

Honorable Arliss Sturgulewski  
Alaska State Senate  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Ref: SJR 79

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

We understand you have been asked whether international park designation will affect the existing management of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. In answer, we would appreciate your communicating the following information to the legislature:

International park designation is a form of recognition, not a change in management authority for the existing preserve. The term international park was used in a descriptive sense because "park" is a word that is recognized internationally to indicate an area with special natural and cultural resources. International park designation would not change the existing laws and regulations or modify existing permissions applying to Bering Land Bridge National Preserve in any way.

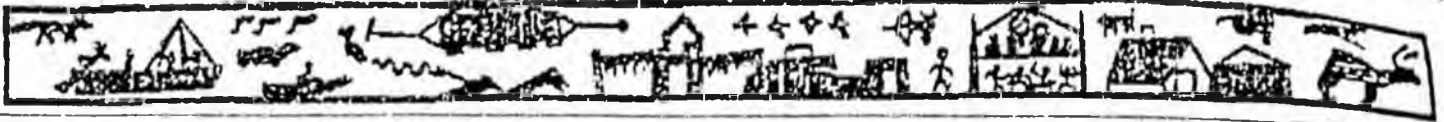
As noted in the study report distributed earlier this session, international park designation "would create a dramatic symbol of cooperation between two world superpowers." By encouraging and facilitating additional international scientific and cultural research and enhancing the growing communication and travel between Alaska and the Soviet Union, the international park should have significant values for Alaska. Adoption of SJR 79 by the state legislature would provide a positive message from Alaska at the forthcoming international meetings and summit this spring and summer and would emphasize the state's continuing interest in friendly exchange.

Sincerely,

Boyd Evison  
Regional Director

cc:  
Denis Galvin, WASO

Items  
TAKE  
PRIDE IN  
AMERICA



# BERING STRAITS NATIVE CORPORATION


March 30, 1990

Honorable Albert Adams  
Senator District L  
P.O. BOX 7  
Juneau, Ak 99811

Dear Senator Adams:

Bering Straits Native Corporation writes in support of SJR #79. Provided that the people of the Bering Straits Region are afforded the existing privileges in regard to hunting, fishing and access.

Sincerely,

  
Henry Ivanoff  
Chairman

MEMBER OF THE UNITED STATES CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



# Nome Chamber of Commerce

Post Office Box 251, Nome, Alaska 99782

March 30, 1990

Honorable Albert P. Adams  
Rm. 423, Capitol  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau 99811

Dear Senator Adams:

The Nome Chamber of Commerce supports SJR #79. We feel that this proposal will foster good will between Alaska and Siberia. We support this bill with only one stipulation; which is that all present privileges continue.

Sincerely,

Lennis O' Connor  
President



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

For Release after 4 p.m.  
Tuesday, January 9, 1990

Steve Goldstein 202/343-6416 (O)  
202/887-5248 (H)

### INTERNATIONAL PARK IN BERING STRAIT PROPOSED BY U.S.A. AND U.S.S.R.

Secretary of the Interior Manuel Lujan and V. G. Sokolovsky, 1st Deputy Chairman, U.S.S.R. State Committee for Protection of the Environment, today were presented with a joint American-Soviet report proposing an international park in the Bering Strait, between Alaska and Siberia.

The proposal arises from a study undertaken by representatives of the two nations in August and September. Although it does not propose boundaries for the protected areas, the study suggests that both nations identify and designate appropriate sites as components of the global park. Each nation would then manage its elements of the park in accordance with its own laws and regulations.

The U.S. team, staffed by the National Park Service (NPS), has identified the 2.8-million acre Bering Land Bridge National Preserve as a unit of the international site. The Soviets have several areas under consideration in the Chukotskiy Peninsula.

The study recognizes the geographic proximity of the two nations and the common heritage they share with native cultures and their natural and human history.

"This proposal offers a unique opportunity to share the rich resources of two nations in a protected environment," Secretary Lujan said. "It is a shared chance to preserve Eskimo and other native lifestyles as well as evidence of the rare geological, archeological, and biological heritage of this region."

The report also recommends the following steps:

- o the granting of enhanced authority for conclusion of cooperative agreements between the two parks and between each park and separate Alaskan and Siberian interests for increased coverage of shared heritage themes in cross border contacts promoted between the parks;
- o regular consultations and cooperation between Soviet and U.S. park administrations;

-more-

- o establishment of a joint park research and public information facility or facilities.

The Bering sites are of immense scientific interest because of the migration of people and wildlife between Asia and North America that has occurred over the long span of time.

Officials also noted that this was a special opportunity to develop close working relationships between their respective countries in devising a system to protect their shared heritage and exchange scientific information.

The proposed international park will require further study from both the United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics as well as authorization from both governments. "It also offers great potential as a model for international cooperation," Secretary Lujan said. "This is especially true," he added, "because the proposal calls for a joint center for research and public information, staffed by both countries. It will support the work of both countries and enhance present and future public visits to those exciting landscapes."

The joint study, which was endorsed under terms of a 1972 U.S.A.-U.S.S.R. Environmental Agreement, also furthers NPS policy of active cooperation with border nations to improve the management and conservation of shared resources.

In the preservation of the world heritage -- as well as endangered wildlife, migratory species, and wetlands -- the NPS and other bureaus of the Department of the Interior are working cooperatively with other nations in almost every region of the world.

"I believe," said Secretary Lujan, "that such examples of positive outreach between and among nations are making valuable contributions to global conservation needs and to the survival of the global environment."

Officials are hopeful that a Beringian Heritage International Park can be approved by both governments in the next two years, perhaps as early as August 1991, the 75th anniversary of the NPS.

## STATEMENT

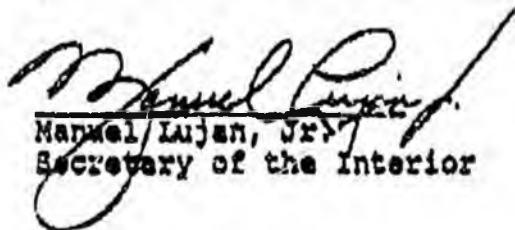
Under the terms of the US-USSR Environmental Agreement, the Working Group on Heritage Conservation and Management has completed a joint technical study of the feasibility of establishing a US-Soviet international park at the Bering Strait.

Prior to the presentation of the study to the Joint Committee, copies have been formally exchanged between the Soviet and American sides in ceremonies at the Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. on the Ninth day of January, 1990.

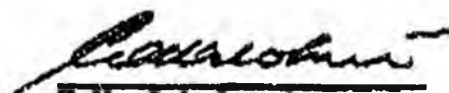
The study furnishes a substantial basis for confidence that this is a worthy project that should proceed.

We are pleased to endorse the study in that spirit.

For the American Side

  
Manuel Lujan, Jr.  
Secretary of the Interior

For the Soviet Side

  
V.V. Sokolovskiy  
Deputy Chairman  
State Committee on  
Environment Protection



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

ALASKA REGIONAL OFFICE  
2525 Gambell Street, Room 107  
Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2892

Item 6



A38 (ARO-PA)

19 JAN 1990

Arliss Sturgulewski  
Alaska State Senate  
P.O. Box V  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Park Supporter:

Last fall in Alaska and the Soviet Union, an unprecedented survey of possible international protected sites along the remnants of the Bering Land Bridge took place.

The participants -- park planners and scientists from both nations -- recommended that existing national park units in northwest Alaska, and a yet-to-be created conservation unit on the Chukotsky Peninsula of the Soviet Union be designated as an international park.

An international designation would recognize the close cultural and natural resource ties the people and the land have retained in the centuries since the Bering Land Bridge was engulfed by a rising sea. It would also make possible closer cooperation among researchers, park managers and residents living on both sides of the border. Each nation, however, would retain its right and authority to manage its park units as it wished.

The enclosed booklet describes the reconnaissance trip, the recommendations and the protocols signed by each nation. I welcome your review of the proposal, and ask your support when plans are finalized and brought to the Congress for action.

Sincerely,

Boyd Evison  
Regional Director

Enclosure

## The Goals of the International Park

principal goals of parks united across international borders would be to promote cooperation among nations, to preserve natural and cultural sites, and to provide opportunities for the coordinated administration of resources.

An international park spanning the Bering Strait would recognize this region's common heritage, it would constitute a joint effort to preserve the important natural elements of the land bridge and the cultural traditions that continue today, and it would create a dramatic symbol of cooperation between two world superpowers.

Page 5

## The Recommendations in the Report

### CREATION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONAL PARK

The United States and the Soviet Union would each recommend areas to promote the protection, understanding, and enjoyment of the common heritage of Beringia. The international designation would be accomplished when both sides have established a protected unit in Beringia.

Because of its international significance, after joint designation the United States and the Soviet Union should explore the establishment of a biosphere reserve or a world heritage site.

#### Park Management

Once the international park units were designated, regular meetings should be scheduled between the individual directors or superintendents to establish joint programs and to direct common activities that would be mutually beneficial. Such meetings should occur at least annually. The meetings could design scientific and cultural programs to be undertaken by other organizations for the benefit of the international park and the preservation of Beringian heritage.

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### **Cooperative Agreements**

The managers of U.S. and U.S.S.R. park units that would be designated as part of the international park should be granted broad authority to pursue cooperative agreements. Such

cooperative agreements could include provisions for mutual work in planning, design, and architecture, as well as research in linguistics, ethnography, archeology, native arts, history, and prehistory. Many opportunities for mutual work also are envisioned in natural resource research and management. The products of these agreements would increase the opportunities for education in Beringia and beyond.

These cooperative agreements could include other governmental agencies or ministries, Alaska native corporations, state farms, ivory carvers, universities, and academies to carry out and support the terms of the agreements. The cooperative agreements would be one means to extend the preservation and understanding of the common heritage beyond the boundaries of the designated parks.

Upon successful negotiation of a cooperative agreement between the parties, barriers to transportation and communication should be reduced. Eased restrictions could include the right to movement between Chukotka and the Seward Peninsula without a visa. Scientists, natives, and others involved in the protection and promotion of the Beringian heritage would be included, if covered by the terms of a cooperative agreement.

Pages 41, 42

### **Establishment of a Joint Center for Research and Public Information**

To promote scientific and cultural research and to provide public information about Beringia, a joint center, or centers, should be established. The center would work on projects relevant to resources of the common heritage and would provide scientific support for the international park. Information gained in doing the scientific work would be archived at the center and made available to the international scientific community. Cultural activities would also be studied and promoted, and information relating to these activities would be stored at the center. Such activities could include cultural festivals, exhibits, demonstrations of carving, seminars, and classes on issues affecting common resources.

The center could be established in cooperation with existing institutions already active in the research and public information fields. The program of the center would be determined by regular meetings of the director and superintendents of the international park.

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The U.S. Designation would be an existing Unit

The team has recommended to its respective governments that an international park – embodying an existing national park in the United States and a newly created preservation unit in the Soviet Union – be designated by the national legislatures. The

Page 4

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve was one of the areas established by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. Its primary purpose is to protect and preserve for research and education a portion of the prehistoric land link with Asia. Its other management purposes include the following:

- Protect and interpret arctic plant communities, volcanic lava flows and ash explosions, habitat for and populations of migratory birds, and fish and wildlife.
- Provide for archeological and paleontological study of plant, man, and animal migrations across the land bridge.
- Protect subsistence resources.

Bering Land Bridge is the principal area of the U.S. national park system that is related to the history of the Bering land bridge. Other areas managed by the National Park Service within the Beringian region are Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Noatak National Preserve, and Kobuk Valley National Park. These areas have similar mandates for their preservation, protection, and understanding of natural and cultural resources.

Pages 33, 34

For the Soviet Union, this alternative would require the creation of a national park described above, and for the United States, designation by the government of an existing park unit.

Page 36

Where are we now and what happens next? (From the Protocol of October 4, 1989)

3. The American side agreed to publish 1,000 copies of the report, half of which would be sent to the Soviet side. In order that the report would be available and understood by a broad public, the text would be enhanced by the use of graphics. The American side also agreed to hand out the working group's (02.04-20) published report during the XIIth Session of the Joint Soviet-American Commission Collaborating on Environmental Protection, which will occur in January 1990 in Washington, D.C.

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4. Both sides agree that after approval of the idea to create an international park in the Bering region at the XIIth Session of the Joint Soviet-American Commission, they will conduct a joint program. Within 6 months time, this program will describe the respective steps each government will take to establish an international park. To this end, during the period of preparation, 2-3 specialists on each side would exchange visits for a period of 5-7 days.

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THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT HAS  
NOT BEEN FILMED BUT IS  
AVAILABLE IN THE ORIGINAL  
FILE



Программа международного парка  
**НАСЛЕДИЕ РАЙОНА  
БЕРИНГОВА ПРОЛИВА:**  
ПРЕДВАРИТЕЛЬНОЕ ИЗУЧЕНИЕ

International Park Program  
**BERINGIAN HERITAGE  
RECONNAISSANCE STUDY**