

HJR

15

# Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE  
**JEANNETTE JAMES**  
P O Box 56622  
North Pole, Alaska 99705  
(907) 488-1346  
FAX (907) 486-4271



White in Juneau  
State Capitol  
Juneau, Alaska  
99801-1182  
(907) 465-3743  
FAX (907) 465-2381

## House Of Representatives

House District 34

### **HJR 15 – RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR THE “AMERICAN LANDS SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT” IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.**

This legislation is to reaffirm and pledge continued support for the Alaska State Legislative Resolve 31 passed on to Congress in March 1997, for Congressional approval of any land designations in the United States.

We cannot afford to ignore what is happening to our sovereignty, or avoid examining the potential and practical impacts of World Heritage sites or Biosphere Reserve listings in Alaska. There are presently 352 biosphere reserves in 87 countries with 47 in the United States. There are 20 World Heritage Sites. Two World Heritage Sites are located in Alaska: Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve. Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve is also a biosphere reserve. There are over 51 million acres set aside in these international designations and over 40 million of those acres are in Alaska.

A big concern is that these designations will become an open invitation to certain environmental groups to block all development. This has been happening regularly around the world so the concern is not imaginary. A good example is that immediately following the recent designation of a portion of Kamchatka as a World Heritage Site, strong efforts began by environmental groups to block investment insurance for development projects on Kamchatka, even though the local communities supported the projects.

Alaska's National Parks and National Wildlife Refuge Systems are unique. In exchange for the delineation of large federal land withdrawals in our state, major concessions on further use by Alaskans were incorporated in their purposes and mission. Certain activities, normally excluded automatically in other similar areas of the United States, such as oil development, mining, hunting, fishing and trapping, were identified in some areas of Alaska as being legitimate potentially compatible uses. Congress specifically authorized existing transportation methods and means to assure continued traditional uses within the withdrawals. These methods also assure access to all the interspersed state and private lands within and surrounding federal lands. Could any proposed restrictions by the World Heritage Committee have the effect of over-riding congressional intent?

Another concern is if established subsistence uses could be eliminated within existing National Parks. It is not unrealistic to think that established transportation corridors could be closed to Alaskans. It has happened in the northern regions of Alaska already, and people fear that the international convention community might apply unilateral trapping standards to these areas. We object to the nomination and designation of any international sites in Alaska without Congressional approval and without the prior consent of the Alaska State Legislature.

I urge you to support HJR 15. Thank you.

**CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15(WTR)**

**IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA**

**TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION**

**BY THE HOUSE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON WORLD TRADE AND STATE/FEDERAL  
RELATIONS**

Offered: 3/5/99

Referred: Resources

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

**A RESOLUTION**

1 Relating to support for the "American Land Sovereignty Protection Act" in the  
2 United States Congress.

3 **BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

4 WHEREAS the United Nations has designated 67 sites in the United States as "World  
5 Heritage Sites" or "Biosphere Reserves," which altogether are about equal in size to the State  
6 of Colorado, the eighth largest state; and

7 WHEREAS art. IV, sec. 3, United States Constitution, provides that the United States  
8 Congress shall make all needed regulations governing lands belonging to the United States;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS many of the United Nations' designations include private property  
11 inholdings and contemplate "buffer zones" of adjacent land; and

12 WHEREAS some international land designations such as those under the United States  
13 Biosphere Reserve Program and the Man and Biosphere Program of the United Nations  
14 Scientific, Educational, and Culture Organization operate under independent national  
15 committees such as the United States National Man and Biosphere Committee that have no  
16 legislative directives or authorization from the Congress; and

1           **WHEREAS** these international designations as presently handled are an open invitation  
2 to the international community to interfere in domestic economies and land use decisions; and

3           **WHEREAS** local citizens and public officials concerned about job creation and  
4 resource based economies usually have no say in the designation of land near their homes for  
5 inclusion in an international land use program; and

6           **WHEREAS** former Assistant Secretary of the Interior George T. Frampton, Jr., and  
7 the President used the fact that Yellowstone National Park had been designated as a "World  
8 Heritage Site" as justification for intervening in the environmental impact statement process  
9 and blocking possible development of an underground mine on private land in Montana  
10 outside of the park; and

11           **WHEREAS** a recent designation of a portion of Kamchatka as a "World Heritage Site"  
12 was followed immediately by efforts from environmental groups to block investment insurance  
13 for development projects on Kamchatka that are supported by the local communities; and

14           **WHEREAS** environmental groups and the National Park Service have been working  
15 to establish an International Park, a World Heritage Site, and a Marine Biosphere Reserve  
16 covering parts of western Alaska, eastern Russia, and the Bering Sea; and

17           **WHEREAS**, as occurred in Montana, such designations could be used to block  
18 development projects on state and private land in western Alaska; and

19           **WHEREAS** foreign companies and countries could use such international designations  
20 in western Alaska to block economic development that they perceive as competition; and

21           **WHEREAS** animal rights activists could use such international designations to  
22 generate pressure to harass or block harvesting of marine mammals by Alaska Natives; and

23           **WHEREAS** such international designations could be used to harass or block any  
24 commercial activity, including pipelines, railroads, and power transmission lines; and

25           **WHEREAS** the President and the executive branch of the United States have, by  
26 Executive Order and other agreements, implemented these designations without approval by  
27 the Congress; and

28           **WHEREAS** the United States Department of Interior, in cooperation with the Federal  
29 Interagency Panel for World Heritage, has identified the Aleutian Island Unit of the Alaska  
30 Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Krusenstern  
31 National Monument, Denali National Park, Gates of the Arctic National Park, and Katmai

1 National Park as likely to meet the criteria for future nomination as World Heritage Sites; and  
2       **WHEREAS** the Alaska State Legislature objects to the nomination or designation of  
3 any World Heritage Sites or Biosphere Reserves in Alaska without the specific consent of the  
4 Alaska State Legislature; and

5       **WHEREAS** actions by the President in applying international agreements to lands  
6 owned by the United States may circumvent the Congress; and

7       **WHEREAS** Congressman Don Young introduced House Resolution No. 901 in the  
8 105th Congress entitled the "American Land Sovereignty Protection Act of 1997" that required  
9 the explicit approval of the Congress prior to restricting any use of United States land under  
10 international agreements; and

11       **WHEREAS** Congressman Don Young has reintroduced this legislation in the 106th  
12 Congress as House Resolution No. ~~833~~<sup>883</sup>, which is entitled the "American Land Sovereignty  
13 Protection Act";

14       **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature supports House Resolution ~~833~~<sup>883</sup>,  
15 the "American Land Sovereignty Protection Act," that reaffirms the constitutional authority  
16 of the Congress as the elected representatives of the people over the federally owned land of  
17 the United States and urges the swift introduction and passage of such act by the 106th  
18 Congress; and be it

19       **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature objects to the nomination  
20 or designation of any sites in Alaska as World Heritage Sites or Biosphere Reserves without  
21 the prior consent of the Alaska State Legislature.

22       **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Bill Clinton, President of the  
23 United States; Honorable Al Gore, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and President of  
24 the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Trent Lott, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable  
25 J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and to the Honorable Ted  
26 Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young,  
27 U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

HR 883 IH

106th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 883

To preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 1, 1999

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself, Ms. DANNER, Mr. DELAY, Mr. PICKETT, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. COBURN, Mr. GOODE, Mr. POMBO, Mr. BARCIA, Mrs. CHENOWETH, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. DUNN, Mr. SISISKY, Mr. HERGER, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. BONO, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. KASICH, Mr. MCINTOSH, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. SKEEN, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. COMBEST, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. STUMP, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. LARGENT, Mr. GARY MILLER of California, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. METCALF, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. CRANE, Mr. BRYANT, Mr. ARCHER, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. BLILEY, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. RADANOVICH, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. LINDER, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. NEY, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. BAKER, Mr. CALLAHAN, Mr. WATKINS, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. PACKARD, Mr. ROGERS, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. COOKSEY, Mr. DICKEY, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. ROGAN, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. PITTS, Mr. WELLER, Mr. BARR of Georgia, Mr. GOSS, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. CANNON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. THORNBERRY, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. BASS, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. WAMP, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. RILEY, Mr. GOODLING, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. BARTON of Texas, and Mr. FLETCHER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Resources

---

A BILL

To preserve the sovereignty of the United States over public lands and acquired lands owned by the United States, and to preserve State sovereignty and private property rights in non-Federal lands surrounding those public lands and acquired lands.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the 'American Land Sovereignty Protection Act'.

## **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

(a) **FINDINGS-** Congress finds the following:

- (1) The power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations governing lands belonging to the United States is vested in the Congress under article IV, section 3, of the Constitution.
- (2) Some Federal land designations made pursuant to international agreements concern land use policies and regulations for lands belonging to the United States which under article IV, section 3, of the Constitution can only be implemented through laws enacted by the Congress.
- (3) Some international land designations, such as those under the United States Biosphere Reserve Program and the Man and Biosphere Program of the United Nations Scientific, Educational, and Cultural Organization, operate under independent national committees, such as the United States National Man and Biosphere Committee, which have no legislative directives or authorization from the Congress.
- (4) Actions by the United States in making such designations may affect the use and value of nearby or intermixed non-Federal lands.
- (5) The sovereignty of the States is a critical component of our Federal system of government and a bulwark against the unwise concentration of power.
- (6) Private property rights are essential for the protection of freedom.
- (7) Actions by the United States to designate lands belonging to the United States pursuant to international agreements in some cases conflict with congressional constitutional responsibilities and State sovereign capabilities.
- (8) Actions by the President in applying certain international agreements to lands owned by the United States diminishes the authority of the Congress to make rules and regulations respecting these lands.

(b) **PURPOSE-** The purposes of this Act are the following:

- (1) To reaffirm the power of the Congress under article IV, section 3, of the Constitution over international agreements which concern disposal, management, and use of lands belonging to the United States.
- (2) To protect State powers not reserved to the Federal Government under the Constitution from Federal actions designating lands pursuant to international agreements.
- (3) To ensure that no United States citizen suffers any diminishment or loss of individual rights as a result of Federal actions designating lands pursuant to international agreements for purposes of imposing restrictions on use of those lands.
- (4) To protect private interests in real property from diminishment as a result of Federal actions designating lands pursuant to international agreements.
- (5) To provide a process under which the United States may, when desirable, designate lands pursuant to international agreements.

## **SEC. 3. CLARIFICATION OF CONGRESSIONAL ROLE IN WORLD HERITAGE SITE LISTING.**

Section 401 of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 (Public Law 96-515; 94 Stat. 2987) is amended--

(1) in subsection (a) in the first sentence, by--

(A) striking 'The Secretary' and inserting 'Subject to subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e), the Secretary'; and

(B) inserting '(in this section referred to as the 'Convention')' after '1973'; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsections:

'(d)(1) The Secretary of the Interior may not nominate any lands owned by the United States for inclusion on the World Heritage List pursuant to the Convention, unless--

'(A) the Secretary finds with reasonable basis that commercially viable uses of the nominated lands, and commercially viable uses of other lands located within 10 miles of the nominated lands, in existence on the date of the nomination will not be adversely affected by inclusion of the lands on the World Heritage List, and publishes that finding;

'(B) the Secretary has submitted to the Congress a report describing--

'(i) natural resources associated with the lands referred to in subparagraph (A); and

'(ii) the impacts that inclusion of the nominated lands on the World Heritage List would have on existing and future uses of the nominated lands or other lands located within 10 miles of the nominated lands; and

'(C) the nomination is specifically authorized by a law enacted after the date of enactment of the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act and after the date of publication of a finding under subparagraph (A) for the nomination.

'(2) The President may submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate a proposal for legislation authorizing such a nomination after publication of a finding under paragraph (1)(A) for the nomination.

'(e) The Secretary of the Interior shall object to the inclusion of any property in the United States on the list of World Heritage in Danger established under Article 11.4 of the Convention, unless--

'(1) the Secretary has submitted to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate a report describing--

'(A) the necessity for including that property on the list;

'(B) the natural resources associated with the property; and

'(C) the impacts that inclusion of the property on the list would have on existing and future uses of the property and other property located within 10 miles of the property proposed for inclusion; and

'(2) the Secretary is specifically authorized to assent to the inclusion of the property on the list, by a joint resolution of the Congress after the date of submittal of the report required by paragraph (1).

'(f) The Secretary of the Interior shall submit an annual report on each World Heritage Site within the United States to the Chairman and Ranking Minority member of the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and of the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the

Senate, that contains for the year covered by the report the following information for the site:

- '(1) An accounting of all money expended to manage the site.
- '(2) A summary of Federal full time equivalent hours related to management of the site.
- '(3) A list and explanation of all nongovernmental organizations that contributed to the management of the site.
- '(4) A summary and account of the disposition of complaints received by the Secretary related to management of the site.'

#### **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION AND TERMINATION OF UNAUTHORIZED UNITED NATIONS BIOSPHERE RESERVES.**

Title IV of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 470a-1 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

'SEC. 403. (a) No Federal official may nominate any lands in the United States for designation as a Biosphere Reserve under the Man and Biosphere Program of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

'(b) Any designation on or before the date of enactment of the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act of an area in the United States as a Biosphere Reserve under the Man and Biosphere Program of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization shall not have, and shall not be given, any force or effect, unless the Biosphere Reserve--

- '(1) is specifically authorized by a law enacted after that date of enactment and before December 31, 2000;
- '(2) consists solely of lands that on that date of enactment are owned by the United States; and
- '(3) is subject to a management plan that specifically ensures that the use of intermixed or adjacent non-Federal property is not limited or restricted as a result of that designation.

'(c) The Secretary of State shall submit an annual report on each Biosphere Reserve within the United States to the Chairman and Ranking Minority member of the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate, that contains for the year covered by the report the following information for the reserve:

- '(1) An accounting of all money expended to manage the reserve.
- '(2) A summary of Federal full time equivalent hours related to management of the reserve.
- '(3) A list and explanation of all nongovernmental organizations that contributed to the management of the reserve.
- '(4) A summary and account of the disposition of the complaints received by the Secretary related to management of the reserve.'

#### **SEC. 5. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS IN GENERAL.**

Title IV of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 470a-1 et seq.) is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

'SEC. 404. (a) No Federal official may nominate, classify, or designate any lands owned by the United States and located within the United States for a special or restricted use under any international agreement unless such nomination, classification, or designation is specifically authorized by law. The President may from time to time submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President of the Senate proposals for legislation authorizing such a nomination, classification, or designation.

'(b) A nomination, classification, or designation, under any international agreement, of lands owned by a State or local government shall have no force or effect unless the nomination, classification, or designation is specifically authorized by a law enacted by the State or local government, respectively.

'(c) A nomination, classification, or designation, under any international agreement, of privately owned lands shall have no force or effect without the written consent of the owner of the lands.

'(d) This section shall not apply to--

'(1) agreements established under section 16(a) of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4413); and

'(2) conventions referred to in section 3(h)(3) of the Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 712(2)).

'(e) In this section, the term 'international agreement' means any treaty, compact, executive agreement, convention, bilateral agreement, or multilateral agreement between the United States or any agency of the United States and any foreign entity or agency of any foreign entity, having a primary purpose of conserving, preserving, or protecting the terrestrial or marine environment, flora, or fauna.'

## SEC. 6. CLERICAL AMENDMENT.

Section 401(b) of the National Historic Preservation Act Amendments of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 470a-1(b)) is amended by striking 'Committee on Natural Resources' and inserting 'Committee on Resources'.

END

PROPERTY RIGHTS FOUNDATION BACKGROUND BRIEF *cc: Officers, Director, Mining District***DANGERS OF DESIGNATIONS****REGIONAL, FEDERAL, STATE AND INTERNATIONAL LAND-USE INTRUSIONS**  
*National/American Heritage Areas, UN Biosphere Reserves and UN World Heritage Sites***Myths**

*The Designation of National American Heritage Areas is merely honorary and has no regulatory power.*

*The designation of UN Biosphere Reserves is for research and education only.*

*The designation of UN World Heritage Sites does not bring foreign influence over land in the United States.*

*The designations are to promote tourism.*

*According to United Nations testimony before Congress, local officials are always consulted before Biosphere Reserves are proposed.*

**Reality**

Congressional bills and federal laws for National or American Heritage Areas require a contract between the state government regional entity and the U.S. Secretary of Interior to manage the land-use of the region for preservation. This means federal control of zoning, either directly, by the terms of the "management compact," or indirectly, by the use of funds dispensed by preservation agencies to influence zoning under a seductive porkbarrel system, the iron-clad zoning is enforced locally, with home-rule seemingly preserved, but private property owners' rights diminished and locally generated land-use patterns foreclosed.

The preponderance of research (published in specialized journals) about Biosphere Reserves is about "restoring" rural areas so that human influence on nature is eliminated. The "international significance" of the designated region is trumpeted by the national environmental groups to lobby for government land acquisition and more "environmental" restrictions on land-use.

Exactly what people feared happened near Yellowstone National Park, which is a World Heritage Site. When environmentalists acting in conjunction with the Clinton Administration persuaded UNESCO to declare the park a "World Heritage Site in Danger," United Nations officials in the U.S. from Paris to complain about a gold & copper mine that was planned outside the park, but inside an area the environmentalists call "Greater Yellowstone." President Clinton himself then stopped the environmental impact review required under the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) from being completed and disapproved the mine based on the UN World Heritage Committee's recommendation.

If the stated purpose of tourism succeeds for the National Heritage Areas, of which over 200 are proposed encompassing much of the West, the entire 2,500-mile Mississippi River and adjacent counties, and most of the land east of the Mississippi, the United States will theoretically become one vast "heritage" tourism complex, to the detriment of productive, less "beautiful" industries, agriculture and forestry. In addition, for Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites to be successful, areas must be off-limits to hunting, and many roads used by hunters and tourists closed. Tourism is one of the first sectors to suffer from recessions and depressions. Much tourism is both weather-dependent and seasonal, and tourism jobs are predominately low-paid. The only things that are "sustainable" are the views that new restrictions protect. Flexibility to respond economically is lost. Most communities cannot afford to focus a large part of their resources on their past heritage. Communities with sagging economies become run-down and uninviting. Preservation zoning and lack of jobs force ordinary people to move away, whereby wealthier people may move in and gentrify the area without generating a productive local economy.

When state and local elected officials in New York learned from property rights activists about the secret proposal to designate the Catskill Mountains Biosphere Reserve, they were angry, and the application ultimately had to be withdrawn from the U.S. Department of State. Biosphere Reserve applications are usually done secretly, and local people and their elected representatives excluded from information.

Over...

# Dangers of Designations continued

## Myths

## Reality

*UN Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites are approved only after public hearings and Congressional vote.*

The U.S. Congress failed to pass the legislation (H.R. 2379) to establish the Biosphere Reserve system when it was proposed in 1983. The World Heritage Convention was ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1973. Working in conjunction with the National Park Service, the Department of State does not consult Congress before designating individual Biosphere Reserves or World Heritage Sites. Neither of these agencies, nor Congress, holds public hearings and no Congressional vote takes place before the UN sites are designated.

*The Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage Site programs have potentially little impact on government or private property.*

There are 17 Biosphere Reserves and 20 World Heritage Sites in the United States. The designations involve not only government, but private property. The largest Biosphere Reserve in the U.S. is the 10-million acre, secretly designated Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Reserve. Private landowners were not notified and their permission was not granted for the designation, but environmental groups quickly publicized it among their members, who thereupon lobbied for stricter environmental regulations of the private land in the region. Official goals for "core" and "buffer" regions of Biosphere Reserves and for World Heritage Sites are not consistent with the continued population of the regions.

*UN Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Site designations present no threat to American sovereignty.*

"I think it perfectly understandable that people are concerned that when you set up a program, when you give it a designation, where you as International authorities recognize it, the implication is that down the road when there are conflicts, somebody's going to be leaned on, and the authority for this, at least the moral authority for this, will be an invocation of some very dubious International authority." - Dr. Jeremy Rabkin, Associate Professor, Cornell University, from testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Resources Sept. 12, 1996, on the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act.



**AVAILABLE FROM**

**THE PROPERTY RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA:**

*National Heritage Areas*  
(Positions on Property, Jan-Apr 1996) ..... \$3.00 p./pl.

*The National Park Service, No. 2 - UNESCO Biosphere Reserves*  
(Positions on Property, Jan-Mar 1995, 12 pp) .. \$3.00 p./pl.

*The American Heritage Areas*  
Background Brief, July 1995, 2 pp ..... free

*Building & Zoning Codes*  
(Positions on Property May-Dec. 1996, 32 pp) .. \$6.00 p./pl.

Single copies priced as listed. Please enquire for multiple copies.

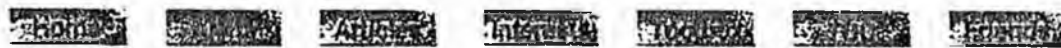
For up to 10 additional copies of *Dangers of Designations* at no charge, and additional information contact:  
The Property Rights Foundation of America, Inc.  
P.O. Box 75, Stony Creek, NY 12578 (518) 696 5748

The Property Rights Foundation of America, Inc. is a national, New York-based not-profit organization dedicated to the right to own and use private property guaranteed in the United States Constitution.

The Foundation publishes *Positions on Property* (\$25.<sup>00</sup> yearly), a quarterly journal of information, analysis and ideas on private property rights, and the *New York Property Rights Clearinghouse* (\$25.<sup>00</sup> yearly), a quarterly newsletter of current information on property rights across New York and the Northeast.



## American Land Rights Association



### Biosphere Reserves-World Heritage Programs Threaten You

Since the mid 1980's, ALRA has been warning its members about UNESCO's (United Nations Environmental, Scientific and Cultural Organization) Biosphere Reserve and World Heritage programs, now 25 years old.

To date, 20 World Heritage sites and 47 Biosphere Reserves have been designated in the US. Despite the fact that almost 43 million acres have been designated as Biosphere Reserves in the US, the Interior Department operates this program without any legislative direction and no authorization from Congress.

The 1995 designations of Glacier National Park in Montana and the Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico as World Heritage Areas, preceded by the 1989 designation of the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem as a Biosphere Reserve, were made with no public or Congressional input.

Federal agencies and non-governmental organizations, such as the Sierra Club, the Greater Yellowstone Coalition, the National Parks and Conservation Association are using these designations to support their efforts to get rid of inholders, buy up private land, limit mining (they stopped the New World Mine in Montana and hundreds of new jobs by calling in the United Nations), oil and gas, tourism, grazing, logging, farming, and development. Example, ALRA helped lead the fight to defeat the 1990 Greater Yellowstone Vision Document.

The Interior Department and the National Park Service, which actually runs the programs, say they get their authority from treaties. In the case of World Heritage Sites, it is the Convention on World Heritage and was ratified by the Senate in 1972. As we said before, there is no treaty and no authorizing legislative authority for Biosphere Reserves.

A treaty can override acts of Congress. This means that despite legislation that is made with public input and many compromises, the Park Service feels it may ignore that legislation and any guarantees of property rights included in it by relying on the authority in a treaty which was completed with no public input.

By definition, Biosphere Reserves are to have a legally constituted core protected area of sufficient size and minimal human activity plus a buffer zone around the core where non-compatible uses are limited. In the case of the New World Mine, the UN recommended a 50 mile buffer zone after their inspection.

Congressman Don Young (R-AK) introduced the American Lands Sovereignty Protection Act late in 1996 and expects to reintroduce it in January. This bill would require Congressional oversight of federal agency actions involving World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves. Any "buffer zones" would have to be approved by Congress. The Young bill would preserve the sovereignty of the US over its own lands as well as state sovereignty and private property rights on surrounding non-federal lands before designations are made.

**Readers should call their Congressmen at  
(202) 225-3121**

**to urge them to co-sponsor the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act when Rep.  
Young reintroduces it in January.**

---

***For More Information Contact:***

**American Land Rights Association**  
Tel: 360-687-3087  
FAX: 360-687-2973



Send mail to [alra@pacifier.com](mailto:alra@pacifier.com) with questions or comments about this web site.

All pages on this website are ©1999, American Land Rights Association. Permission is granted to use any and all information herein, as long as credit is given to ALRA.

Last modified: November 02, 1998



## Biosphere Reserves: Fact Sheet

Susan R. Fletcher  
Senior Analyst in International Environmental Policy  
Environment and Natural Resources Policy Division  
June 6, 1996  
96-517 ENR

"Biosphere Reserve" is a term denoting an area that has been nominated by the locality and the country in which it is located for participation in the worldwide Biosphere Reserve Program under the U.S. Man and the Biosphere Program (MAB), and accepted for such recognition by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Areas are nominated and recognized on the basis of their significance for research and study of representative biological regions of the world. The United States has 47 biosphere reserves, part of a worldwide network of 324 biosphere reserves in 82 countries.

Biosphere Reserve recognition does not convey any control or jurisdiction over such sites to the United Nations or to any other entity. The United States and/or state and local communities where biosphere reserves are located continue to exercise the same jurisdiction as that in place before designation. Areas are listed only at the request of the country in which they are located, and can be removed from the biosphere reserve list at any time by a request from that country.

**The Biosphere Reserve System.** The Biosphere Reserve network was established in 1968 as one program area of the Man and the Biosphere program of UNESCO, which operates through independent national committees in each of the 114 participating countries. The U.S. MAB program operates under the U.S. National MAB Committee, which coordinates six "directorates" studying various kinds of environmental and biological regions and issues. One of these six directorates is the Biosphere Reserve Directorate. The U.S. MAB Committee is composed of scientists from universities, government agencies, and other members from entities such as private conservation organizations.

The purpose of the Biosphere Reserve program is to promote cooperation and communication among a worldwide network of areas that would include all the major ecosystem types globally, with sites identified as areas where research on ecological concerns -- especially the impacts of human activity on ecological systems -- could be performed. A major goal of the network is to allow comparative work in various countries in similar, or dissimilar, areas to assess how the systems work and how they can be used productively without destroying their essential ecological properties and life-support potential.

The goals and functions of biosphere reserves are to enable research, study, and exchange of information among scientists and policymakers to facilitate these goals:

- conservation of important biological resources;
- development of environmentally sound economic growth;
- support of environmental research, monitoring, education, and training;
- creation of a framework to bring people together around these goals.

**Criteria for Biosphere Reserves.** In order to facilitate research on ecosystems in various stages of protection as well as development, biosphere reserves meet these criteria: (1) they have a legally protected core area relatively free from outside or human activity-in the United States, usually an already designated park, wilderness or wildlife refuge area; (2) there is a "buffer zone" or zones, surrounding or contiguous to the core area, where human activity is carried out, but generally at low/rural intensity and types of activity that are compatible with conservation objectives; and (3) transitional areas outside the buffer zone where human activity is more intensified, but presumably with some cooperative effort underway in these adjacent communities to achieve sustainable development in which conservation and economic development are jointly pursued according to the values and guidance of the local community.

When a local community, state or national MAB committee begins to pursue recognition of the area as a biosphere reserve, these criteria are usually already being met. It is not expected that steps will have to be taken to create core areas or change activity patterns after recognition. However, local communities are encouraged to develop cooperative mechanisms to maximize opportunities for the research and information focus of the Biosphere Reserve program.

**Designation Process for Biosphere Reserves.** An area to be considered for recognition as a Biosphere Reserve is nominated locally-always with the support of the local community, and the nomination is considered by the U.S. National Committee. Documentation on the recommended area and how it meets the criteria of the Biosphere Reserve system is assembled by the local proponents and forwarded by the U.S. MAB program to the International Coordinating Council (ICC) of the MAB Programme in Paris, which considers the recommendation and makes a decision, which is conveyed to the U.S. MAB Program.

**Policy Implications of Designation/Recognition.** There are no legally binding requirements on countries or communities regarding the management of biosphere reserves. Full sovereignty and control over the area continues as it was before recognition. The main effect of recognition is to publicize the inclusion of an area in the Biosphere Reserve Network, thus making it known that research on the area's ecosystem type and impacts of adjacent human development on the area is appropriate as part of an international network of such research. It is expected that research in such areas--conducted mainly by private and/or government scientists -- will be shared through the Biosphere Reserve program in order to maximize benefits of information exchange. Funding for the U.S. Biosphere Reserve program is provided by pooled resources from several participating Federal agencies; totaling some \$225,000 in FY 1996, funding goes almost entirely to U.S. programs and local organizations, with some relatively small amounts supporting research by U.S. scientists in other countries, or assisting developing country scientists to attend MAB meetings.

**State: Alaska****Biosphere Reserve: Aleutian Islands Biosphere Reserve**

**Administered by:** Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Aleutian Islands Unit; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior

**Role as Biosphere Reserve:**

Nearly all the islands in the Aleutian Island chain are part of the national wildlife refuge, a conservation unit in the Bering Sea Ecosystem. These islands exhibit extensive biological diversity closely tied with the surrounding marine environment. The refuge protects these islands for seabirds, marine mammals and other wildlife, Aleut archaeological resources and World War II historic sites. Presently, several Aleut villages are within the Aleutian Island chain, as well as private holdings belonging to The Aleut Corporation. Other stakeholders in the Aleutians include the U.S. Department of Defense, which has military bases in several locations. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service currently works closely with these partners in the Aleutians. Information centers are located in Adak and Homer offering distribution of refuge brochures. Naturalists are available on board the state ferry and commercial cruise ships.

**Major Issues:**

- Seabird populations and productivity.
- Eradication of introduced species, especially arctic foxes, Norway rats, and caribou.
- Aleutian Canada goose restoration.
- Marine mammals, especially Steller's sea lions and sea otters.
- Winter waterfowl populations monitoring.
- Removal of contaminants remaining from military activities.
- Prevention of rat introduction to rat-free islands.

**Accomplishments and Benefits:**

Several significant resource accomplishments and resource concerns have occurred in the Aleutian Islands region since its designation as a Biosphere Reserve in 1976. The Aleutian Canada Goose, formerly listed as an endangered species, is currently listed as a threatened species, due to restoration of its breeding habitat in the Aleutians as well as protection on its wintering grounds. The refuge continues

to focus on eradication of introduced foxes as the primary means for restoration of goose and seabird populations. Annual seabird monitoring sites have been established in the eastern, central, and western Aleutians to document populations and productivity.

Several issues of concern in recent years are the focus of attention in the Aleutian Islands. As of June 1997, the Aleutian population of Steller's sea lions is being listed as an endangered species. In the central Aleutians, an unexplained decline in sea otter numbers has occurred. Findings of contaminants left over from WW II military activities, and later nuclear test explosions, are necessitating further sampling to determine affects on the tundra environment and wildlife.

To accomplish refuge goals, and to expound on our understanding of the Bering Sea Ecosystem, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has formed partnerships with other organizations resulting in mutual benefits. These include the National Marine Fisheries Service, the University of Alaska Institute of Marine Science, the U.S. Geological Service Biological Resources Division, numerous academic researchers, and other cooperators conducting biological and archaeological research.

Designation of the Aleutian Islands as a Biosphere Reserve in no way infringes on nor influences how these public lands are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Management mandates are determined by statutes and agency policies. In the Aleutian Islands Unit of this refuge, no Man and the Biosphere funds were used to achieve the accomplishments noted above.

**Contact:**

Laura Greffenius, Unit Manager  
or Jeff Williams, AIU Wildlife Biologist,  
Aleutian Islands Unit,  
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge,  
PSC 486, Box 5251,  
Adak, Alaska FPO-AP 96506  
Tel. (907) 592-2406,  
Fax. (907) 592-3473,  
E-mail: R7AIUWR@mail.fws.gov

John Manager, Refuge Manager  
or Dan Boone, Deputy Refuge Manager,  
Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge,  
2355 Kachemak Bay Dr., Suite 101,  
Homer, Alaska 99603-8021  
Tel. (907) 235-6546,  
Fax. (907) 235-7783,  
E-mail: R7AMNWR@mail.fws.gov

## Model Biosphere Reserve

A biosphere reserve is a unique category of protected area dedicated to solving problems associated with human impacts on natural ecosystems.

A model biosphere reserve consists of a protected (core) area, a managed use area (buffer zone), and a zone of cooperation (transition area.)

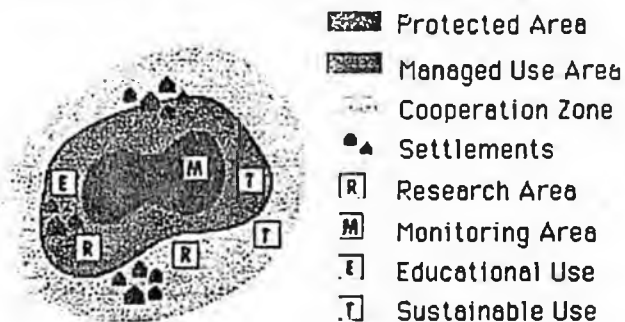
Biosphere reserve status is awarded by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) to those protected areas that combine scientific research and monitoring, conservation, education, and training. Each site is nominated by its country MAB Program. The Biosphere reserve designation does not provide any additional international protection to the site nominated. Together, the 352 biosphere reserves in 87 countries form an international network that represents the world's major ecoregions.

A protected area consists of examples of minimally disturbed ecosystems and has secure domestic legal protection. Only activities that do not adversely affect the natural habitat are allowed. The managed use area is adjacent to the protected area. Here, activities such as fishing, hunting, camping and other activities are encouraged.

The zone of cooperation is a regional size area which contains settlements, croplands, managed forests, recreation areas, and other economic uses characteristic of the region. The UNESCO Biosphere Reserve designation does not recognize the zone of cooperation. It is a suggested concept to promote the establishment of cooperative programs and partnerships between the protected area managers and the surrounding community.

Since 1984 the management agencies of a site have been asked to serve as focal points for regional environmental cooperation. Biosphere reserves thus help to bring together the diverse regional stakeholders so as to find practical strategies to deal with the complex and interrelated environmental, land use, and socioeconomic concerns affecting a particular region. The MAB Biosphere Reserve concept serves as a means of exchanging information and ideas regarding the conservation, sustainable use and management of natural resources in harmony with the needs of local populations.

### BIOSPHERE RESERVE ZONATION



## HOW ARE BIOSPHERE RESERVES ORGANIZED?

To carry out the complementary activities of nature conservation and use of natural resources, Biosphere Reserves are organized into three interrelated zones, known as the core area, the buffer zone and the transition area.

The protected area:

needs to be legally established and give long-term protection to the landscape, ecosystem and species it contains. It should be sufficiently large to meet these conservation objectives. As nature is rarely uniform and as historical land-use constraints exist in many parts of the world, there may be several protected areas in a single Biosphere Reserve to ensure a representative coverage of the mosaic of ecological systems. Normally, the protected area is not subject to human activity, except research and monitoring and, as the case may be, to traditional extractive uses by local communities.

Zones of managed use

which is clearly delineated and which surrounds or is contiguous to the protected area. Activities are organized here so that they do not hinder the conservation objectives of the protected area but rather help to protect it, hence the idea of "buffering". It can be an area for experimental research, for example to discover ways to manage natural vegetation, croplands, forests, fisheries, to enhance high quality production while conserving natural processes and biodiversity, including soil resources, to the maximum extent possible. In a similar manner, experiments can be carried out in the area of managed use to explore how to rehabilitate degraded areas.

An outer transition area:

or area of co-operation extending outwards, which may contain a variety of agricultural activities, human settlements and other uses. It is here that the local communities, conservation agencies, scientists, civil associations, cultural groups, private enterprises and other stakeholders must agree to work together to manage and sustainably develop the area's resources for the benefit of the people who live there. Given the role that Biosphere Reserves should play in promoting the sustainable management of the natural resources of the region in which they lie, the transition area is of great economic and social significance for regional development.

Although presented schematically as a series of concentric rings, the three zones are usually implemented in many different ways to accommodate local geographic conditions and constraints. This flexibility allows for creativity and adaptability, and is one of the greatest strengths of the concept.

###

## U.S. MAB Biosphere Reserves

Fact Sheet released by the Department of State, Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, July 1, 1998.

The main functions of biosphere reserves are:

- conservation of important biological resources;
- development of environmentally sound economic growth;
- support of environmental research, monitoring, education, and training;
- as a framework to bring people together to accomplish the above three.

The United States has 47 biosphere reserves with 99 administrative units. The *protected areas* and *managed use areas* are owned/administered by the National Park Service; U.S.D.A.-Forest Service; state, county, or city governments; U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; The Nature Conservancy; universities; private owners; U.S.D.A.-Agricultural Research Service; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration; Bureau of Land Management; Tennessee Valley Authority; and the Department of Energy.

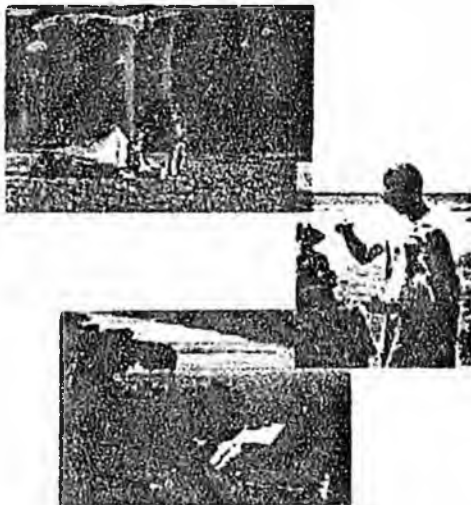
A biosphere reserve ideally consists of a "protected area", an adjacent managed use area" and a broader "zone of cooperation." The *protected area* is legally protected from activity which would adversely affect the natural features of the area. The *managed use area* contains lumbering, grazing, and fishing activities, settlements, recreational facilities etc., managed to benefit local residents and the local environment. The *zone of cooperation* is the larger region in which local residents, cultural groups, economic interests, scientists, managing agencies etc. work together to link conservation and economic development guided by the cultural values of the local community.

The biosphere reserve concept emphasizes cooperation among the landowners and local residents in developing a program of research, conservation, and development. No restrictions, land purchase authority, or land use regulations are conveyed with the award of biosphere reserve status.

The biosphere reserve designation facilitates sharing of scientific and land management information. A biosphere reserve is a member of a network of worldwide sites. As of October 1997 there are 352 biosphere reserves in 87 countries. Each nation exercises sovereignty over its sites.

A biosphere reserve is nominated locally, recommended nationally, designated internationally, and administered locally. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) awards the title of biosphere reserve and provides guidelines. The National Committee for the U.S. Man and the Biosphere Program (U.S. MAB) gives program support. The Biosphere Reserve Directorate of U.S. MAB coordinates national activities. The biosphere reserve generates program and activities for ecosystem conservation, management, and use with local cooperation.

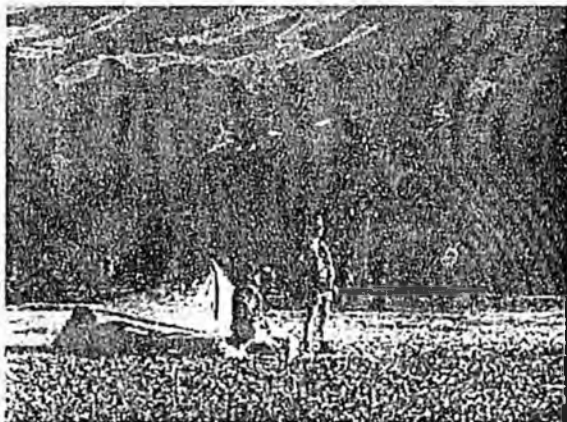
(###)



## U.S. Biosphere Reserves

A brief explanation of the U.S. Biosphere Reserves Program.

There are presently over 352 biosphere reserves in 87 countries. The 47 U.S. biosphere reserves include 99 legally protected sites under government or private ownership.



Three Sisters Wilderness, USDA-Forest Service

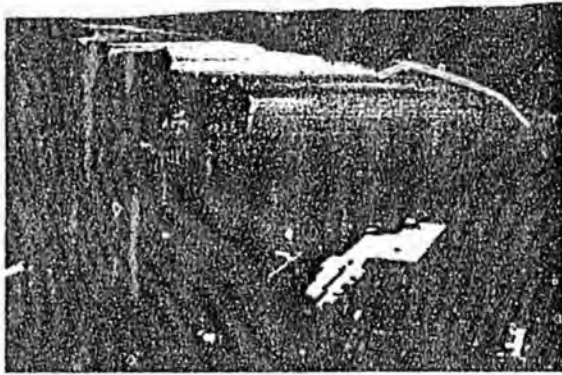
### Conservation

A biosphere reserve conserves the natural resources and special natural qualities of its region.

Each biosphere reserve must have at least one legally protected natural area. This area could be used for such activities as hiking, diving, bird watching, educational field trips, scientific research and monitoring of plant and animal life.

In the U.S. most biosphere reserves are either national parks (22) or national forests (15). Others are under federal, state, or private ownership and management.

One purpose of a biosphere reserve is to encourage local residents to maintain the variety of plants and animals representative of the region.



Isle Royale National Park

### Development

The ideal biosphere reserve has areas locally managed for economic development with respect for the conservation of the protected areas. These managed areas are used for tourism, agriculture, fishing, forestry, and recreation.

The managers of a protected area encourage the development of a zone of cooperation near the protected areas. This zone contains towns, factories, farms, fisheries, and other human activities. The economic and cultural development can also help protect the natural areas.

One purpose of a biosphere reserve is to promote economic and cultural development for generations to come.



Apalachicola Research Reserve

### Cooperation

The biosphere reserve is a place for long term study of changes in the physical, biological, and human environment. Scientists and managers at biosphere reserves cooperate with each other to share data from research and monitoring programs to better understand nature and mankind's impact on the environment.

The biosphere reserve is a place for education and training. Land management methods can be demonstrated. Local people, landowners, and organizations cooperate on conservation and development issues affecting the region. The involvement of local people is essential to a biosphere reserve.

One purpose of a biosphere reserve is to foster cooperation among residents and landowners to plan the research, development, conservation, and education activities of the area.

### Personal Comments

"We in Pittman Center have been involved with the Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere (SAMAB) Program for almost five years. I want to make it clear that the SAMAB Program does not infringe upon private property rights, try to depopulate an area, allow outsiders to direct future development, nor bring additional regulatory pressures. Our association with the program has resulted in many benefits to the community especially the recognition that economic development and natural resource protection are complementary goals, not competing ones!"

James B. Coykendall, III, Board of Alderman  
Pittman Center, Tennessee

"Let's keep humankind in touch with reality. Reality is that we exist within our natural world, part of nature and part of the family of living systems. The creation of biosphere reserves in our urban world allows us to continue being a part of total living systems."

Ann Azari, Mayor  
City of Fort Collins, Colorado

"In the Native American perspective, the preservation of the earth's environment is based on two key principles; time and relationship. Components of the earth's natural environment interact and complement each other. If man fails to recognize these fundamental relationships and does not institute preservation measures, the interaction will slowly decrease and eventually cease altogether. The long-term preservation concepts and success of the Biosphere Program will be measured by man's relationship with the earth's natural environment over time. The Man and the Biosphere Program is a necessity for the very existence of man."

Floyd Flores, O'odham Nations,  
Tucson, Arizona

"A Biosphere Reserve creates a biologically relevant framework to recognize and protect the broader range of resources required by many forms of wildlife. Natural systems can only be protected over larger areas. A Biosphere Reserve creates the collaborative goals between groups to accomplish more than would be accomplished individually."

Daniel Evans, Executive Director  
Point Reyes Bird Observatory, California

Biosphere reserve designation encourages voluntary cooperation, and requires no special programs, methods of management, financial obligations, or changes in ownership. U.S. MAB provides program support to U.S. Biosphere Reserves, but the local partners in the biosphere reserves are in charge.

### **Steps to Biosphere Reserve Designation**

1. A federal, state, or local agency, organization, or individual completes the nomination form. Owners and managers of the protected lands and local government leaders write letters of support.
2. The completed nomination form and letters of support are sent to the U.S. Man and the Biosphere Program (U.S. MAB) for review and recommendation.
3. U.S. MAB sends the recommended nomination to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) office in Paris. The Man and the Biosphere Program office there makes the final approval and awards the biosphere reserve designation.

For further information please contact:

U.S. MAB Program  
U.S. Department of State  
OES/ETC/MAB

Washington, DC, 20522-4401  
Tel. (202) 776-8318, Fax. (202) 776-8367

Department of State Publication, released September 1996, updated July 1, 1998

###  
###

## WHY DO WE NEED BIOSPHERE RESERVES

### To conserve biological diversity.

Human pressures on land and water resources are drastically reducing the diversity of genes, plant and animal species, ecosystems and landscapes on the planet. This threatens human welfare, since this biodiversity is the potential source of foods, fibers, medicines, and raw material for industry and building. It constitutes an irreplaceable wealth for research, education and recreation for the whole of humankind. The core areas and buffer zones of Biosphere Reserves serve as repositories to safeguard samples of the biodiversity of the world's major biogeographical regions, and as reference and study sites to help improve our knowledge on biodiversity.

### To maintain healthy ecosystems.

Biosphere reserves, which may represent large areas of land and water, contribute significantly to the maintenance of the life support systems which serve to avoid soil erosion, maintain soil fertility, regulate river flow, recharge aquifers, recycle nutrients, and absorb air and water pollutants.

### To learn about natural systems and how they are changing.

Research may be conducted on the structure and dynamics of the minimally disturbed natural systems of the core areas of Biosphere Reserves, and compared with the functioning of human-affected landscapes in the buffer and transition areas. Such studies, when carried out over the long term, show how these systems may be changing over time. Setting up similar long-term monitoring plots, and harmonizing methods and measurements allows comparison of results regionally and worldwide. The information thus obtained allows us to better understand global environmental changes.

### To learn about traditional forms of land-use.

People in many parts of the world have devised, over a long period of time, ingenious land-use practices which do not deplete the natural resources and which can provide valuable knowledge for modern production systems. Biosphere Reserves are areas where such peoples can maintain their traditions, as well as improving their economic well-being through the use of culturally and environmentally appropriate technologies. Moreover, such traditional systems are highly useful for conserving ancient breeds of livestock and old land races of crops, which are invaluable gene pools for modern agriculture.

page 2: Frequently Asked Questions: Why do we need

### To share knowledge on how to manage natural resources in a sustainable way.

Research to find land-use practices that improve human well-being, without degrading the environment, is a central purpose of Biosphere Reserves. The lessons learned are transmitted at the field level through on-the-spot training and demonstrations. They can then be applied in the transition area and in the region beyond. Government officials, national and foreign scientists, visitors, as well as local community leaders, all benefit from this experience. The Biosphere Reserve thus serves to share knowledge and skills at the local, national and international levels.

### To co-operate in solving natural resources problems.

A major obstacle to reconciling environment with development is the sectoral structure of our institutions. Biosphere Reserves provide places where conflicts in interest can be debated by all the stakeholders concerned: local officials, local landowners, nature conservation associations, government leaders, scientists, local farmers, fishermen, private enterprises, etc. -- all must work together to find appropriate co-ordination mechanisms to plan and manage the Biosphere Reserve. Biosphere Reserves therefore provide opportunities for conflict resolution which could be applied in other land and water development issues.

###