

HJR

15

SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT

DATE: 4/1/99

FURTHER:

DATE TURNED
IN TO OFFICE:

4/26/99

Resources Committee considered

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15(RES)

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

and recommends:

- be replaced with _____ CS _____ (_____)
- adopt previous _____ CS _____ (_____)
- attached amendment(s)
- adopt Letter of Intent by _____ Committee
- further referral to the _____ Committee

Senate Bill:

- same title
- new title

House Bill:

- same title
- technical title
- new: SCR# _____

SIGNING DO PASS	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	NR	DNP	AM
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓	<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓	<i>[Signature]</i>	✓		
CHAIR: <i>[Signature]</i>		CHAIR:			

NEW FISCAL NOTE(S):

Department Date Zero Fiscal

PREVIOUS FISCAL NOTE(S):*

Department Date Zero Fiscal

<i>WTR</i>	<i>8/2</i>	<i>X</i>	

APPROPRIATION -- no fiscal note

*include fiscal notes accompanying Governor's bill

FISCAL NOTE

No: 1

Bill Version: CSHJR 15 (WTR)

(H) Publish Date: 3/5/99

STATE OF ALASKA
1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: March 2, 1999

Dept. Affected All State Agencies

Title: A Resolution Relating to support for an
"American Land Sovereignty Protection Act"

BRU _____

Component _____

Sponsor: Re. James

Requester: House World Trade & State/
Federal Relations Comm.

Component Serial No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues

(Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()

FUND SOURCE

(Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1091 Designated Program Receipts						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0


Estimate of any current year (FY98) cost: _____

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This resolution would not have a significant fiscal impact on any state agency.

Prepared by Donald M. Riehle, staff /WTR 

Phone 907-465-3438

Phone _____

Date March 2, 1999

COMMITTEE COPY

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
JEANNETTE JAMES

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House of Representatives House District 34

HJR 15 - RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR AN AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY PROTECTION ACT IN THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS.

It is happening again, Mr. Chairman, and it isn't going to stop here if we ignore it. 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. We are feeling the impact of World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves in Glacier Bay and in Denali National Park. When we begin to see attempts to block traditional uses of land and resources in an area you can bet it has some association to World Heritage Sites, or the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), Man and the Biosphere (MAB), or some International Entity. The fact is these designations are being used continually by ideologues to impose their obsessions on us – whatever the cost, and for whatever it takes.

We are just seeing the first efforts of special interest groups to block the use of land and resource in Glacier Bay and Denali National Park. We just learned also that the United Nations Committee is actively working to stop mining in Jabiluka, Australia. They put a six-month moratorium in February 1999 on uranium mining there, and the intent of the UN Delegation is to scrap the mine. Even the environmental minister, Senator Robert Hill was not in agreement with their findings. Reports from dozens of scientists who studied or have worked for almost 20 years on the Ranger uranium mine near Kakadu claim it is causing no harm. Senator Hill has continued his attack against the delegation's findings, because he claimed the findings were "fundamentally flawed." (Report from Herald Sun).

There is currently a great urgency about subsistence issues in Alaska and it not unrealistic to think that the United Nations Committee could eliminate subsistence uses within our existing National Parks. These are concerns we cannot afford to ignore, and for this reason, I urge you to support HJR 15, to send our message of support to Washington DC for the swift passage of H.R. 883.

FISCAL NOTE

No: 1

Bill Version: CSHJR 15 (WTR)
 (H) Publish Date: 3/5/99

STATE OF ALASKA
 1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: March 2, 1999
 Title: A Resolution Relating to support for an
"American Land Sovereignty Protection Act"
 Sponsor: Re. James
 Requester: House World Trade & State/
Federal Relations Comm.

Dept. Affected: All State Agencies
 BRU: _____
 Component: _____
 Component Serial No. _____

Expenditures/Revenues		(Thousands of Dollars)				
OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 00	FY 01	FY 02	FY 03	FY 04	FY 05
Personal Services	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
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CHANGE IN REVENUES []						
------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--


FUND SOURCE		(Thousands of Dollars)				
1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
1091 Designated Program Receipts						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY98) cost: _____

POSITIONS						
Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

This resolution would not have a significant fiscal impact on any state agency.

Prepared by Donald M. Riehle, staff WTR 

Phone 907-465-3438

Phone _____

Date March 2, 1999

COMMITTEE COPY

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

Potential U.S. Nominations from the Tentative List (Complete Text)



Note: Complete text downloaded from US/ICOMOS [gopher](#) site.

INDICATIVE LIST, UNITED STATES (by state)

ALABAMA

Moundville Site

ALASKA

Aleutian Islands Unit of the Alaska Maritime National
Wildlife Refuge (Fur Seal Rookeries) C (vi); N (ii)

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Cape Krusenstern Archaeological District

Denali National Park

Gates of the Arctic National Park

Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve **INSCRIBED 1992**

Katmai National Park

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve **INSCRIBED 1979**

ARIZONA

Casa Grande National Monument

Grand Canyon National Park **INSCRIBED 1979**

Hohokam Pima National Monument

Lowell Observatory

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument

Saguaro National Monument

San Xavier Del Bac

Taliesin West [added 17 Aug 90]

Ventana Cave

CALIFORNIA

Joshua Tree National Monument

Point Reyes National Seashore/Farallon Islands National
Wildlife Refuge

Redwood National Park **INSCRIBED 1980**

Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks

Yosemite National Park **INSCRIBED 1984**

CALIFORNIA/NEVADA

Death Valley National Mounment

COLORADO

Colorado National Monument

Mesa Verde National Park **INSCRIBED 1978**

Lindenmeir Site

Rocky Mountain National Park

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chapel Hall, Gallaudet College

Washington Monument

FLORIDA/GEORGIA

Everglades National Park **INSCRIBED 1979**

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

GEORGIA

Ocmulgee National Monument

Savannah Historic District

Warm Springs Historic District

HAWAII

Haleakala National Park [added 22 Aug 83]

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park **INSCRIBED 1987**

Pu'uhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park



U.S. List of Biosphere Reserves

Below is a list of U.S. Biosphere Reserves and their administrative unit(s), if applicable. The (****) indicates the ownership or administering entity for each site. For contact information please go to the [U.S. Biosphere Reserves Directory](#). The following acronyms are used:

NPS - National Park Service, Department of Interior
 NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Department of Commerce
 FWS - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Department of Interior
 FS - Forest Service, Department of Agriculture
 ARS - Agricultural Research Service, Department of Agriculture
 DOE - Department of Energy
 BLM - Bureau of Land Management, Department of Interior
 Private - Denotes Some Form of Private Ownership
 Complex - Denotes Multiple Ownership

- Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge (FWS)
- Beaver Creek Experimental Watershed[Alternate Site] (FS)
- Big Bend National Park (NPS)
- Big Thicket National Preserve [Alternate Site] (NPS)
- California Coast Ranges Biosphere Reserve (8 Units)
- Elder Creek Area of Critical Environmental Concern (BLM)
- Heath and Marjorie Angelo Coast Range Preserve (University of California)
- Jackson Demonstration State Forest (California Department of Forestry)
- Landels-Hill Big Creek Reserve (University of California)
- Redwood Experimental Forest (FS)
- Redwood National Park (NPS)
- North Coast Redwoods District State Parks (3 Units)
- --Del Norte Coast Redwoods State Park (California Department of Parks and Recreation)
- --Jebediah Smith Redwoods State Park (California Department of Parks and Recreation)
- --Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park (California Department of Parks and Recreation)
- Western Slopes of Cone Peak, Los Padres National Forest (FS)
- Carolinian-South Atlantic Biosphere Reserve (11 Units)
- Blackbeard Island and Wolf Island National Wildlife Refuges (FWS)
- Cape Lookout National Seashore (NPS)
- Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge (FWS)
- Capers Island Heritage Preserve (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources, Marine Resources Division)
- Cumberland Island National Seashore (NPS)
- Gray's Reef National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA)
- Hobcaw Barony (North Inlet) (Complex Private)
- Little St. Simons Island (Private)
- Santee Coastal Reserve (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources) and Washo Reserve (The Nature Conservancy)
- Ten Fathom Ledge and Big Rock (NOAA)
- Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center (South Carolina Department of Natural Resources)
- Cascade Head Experimental Forest & Scenic Research Area (FS)
- Central California Coast Biosphere Reserve (See Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve)
- Central Gulf Coastal Plain Biosphere Reserve
- Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve [Alternate Site] (NOAA)
- Central Plains Experimental Range (ARS)

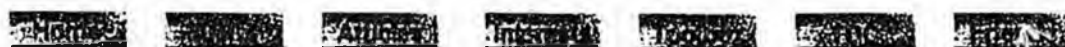
- Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Reserve (3 Units)
 - Adirondack Park Agency (Private)
 - Green Mountain National Forest (FS)
 - Mount Mansfield State Natural Area (Vermont Agency of Natural Resources)
- Channel Islands Biosphere Reserve (2 Units)
 - Channel Islands National Park (NPS)
 - Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA)
- Coram Experimental Forest (FS)
- Denali National Park and Biosphere Reserve (NPS)
- Desert Experimental Range (ARS)
- Everglades National Park (with Fort Jefferson NM) (NPS)
- Fraser Experimental Forest (FS)
- Glacier Bay-Admiralty Island Biosphere Reserve (2 Units)
 - Admiralty Island National Monument (FS)
 - Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve (NPS)
- Glacier National Park (NPS)
- Golden Gate Biosphere Reserve (13 Units)
 - Jasper Ridge Biological Preserve (Coordinator) (Stanford University)
 - Audubon Canyon Ranch (Private)
 - Bodega Marine Reserve (University of California)
 - Cordell Bank National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA)
 - Farallon National Wildlife Refuge (FWS)
 - Golden Gate National Recreation Area (NPS)
 - Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary (NOAA)
 - Marin Municipal Water District (Marin County, California)
 - Mount Tamalpais State Park (California Department of Parks and Recreation)
 - Point Reyes National Seashore (NPS)
 - San Francisco Peninsular Watershed (City of San Francisco, California)
 - Tomales Bay State Park (California Department of Parks and Recreation)
 - Samuel P. Taylor State Park (California Department of Parks and Recreation)
- Guánica Commonwealth Forest Reserve (Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources)
- Hawaiian Islands Biosphere Reserve (2 Units)
 - Hawaiian Volcanoes National Park (NPS)
 - Haleakala National Park (NPS)
- H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest (FS)
- Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest (FS)
- Isle Royale National Park (NPS)
- Jornada Experimental Range (ARS)
- Konza Prairie Research Natural Area (The Nature Conservancy)
- Land Between the Lakes (Tennessee Valley Authority)
- Luquillo Experimental Forest [Alternate Site] (FS)
- Mammoth Cave Area (2 Units)
 - Barren River Area Development District, BRADD (Complex)
 - Mammoth Cave National Park (NPS)
- Mojave and Colorado Deserts Biosphere Reserve (5 Units)
 - Anza-Borrego Desert State Park (California Department of Parks and Recreation)
 - Death Valley National Monument (NPS)
 - Joshua Tree National Monument (NPS)
 - Philip L. Boyd Deep Canyon Desert Center (University of California)
 - Santa Rosa Wildlife Management Area, San Bernadino National Forest (FS)
- New Jersey Pinelands Biosphere Reserve (Pinelands Commission, Complex)
- Niwot Ridge Biosphere Reserve (University of Colorado)
- Noatak National Preserve (2 Units)
 - Gates of the Arctic National Park (NPS)
 - Noatak National Preserve (NPS)
- Olympic National Park (NPS)
- Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument (NPS)
- Rocky Mountain National Park (NPS)

- San Dimas Experimental Forest (FS)
 - San Joaquin Experimental Range (ARS)
 - Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks (2 Units)
Sequoia National Park (NPS)
Kings Canyon National Park (NPS)
 - South Atlantic Coastal Plain Biosphere Reserve
Congaree Swamp National Monument (NPS)
 - Southern Appalachian Biosphere Reserve (5 Units)
Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory (FS)
Grandfather Mountain (Private)
Great Smoky Mountains National Park (NPS)
Mt. Mitchell State Park (North Carolina Department of Environmental Health and Natural Resources)
Oak Ridge National Environmental Research Park (DOE)
 - Stanislaus-Tuolumne Experimental Forest (FS)
 - Three Sisters Wilderness, Deschutes National Forest (FS)
 - University of Michigan Biological Station (University of Michigan)
 - Virgin Islands National Park and Biosphere Reserve (NPS)
 - Virginia Coast Reserve (The Nature Conservancy)
 - Yellowstone National Park (NPS)
-

Number of Sites/Administrative Units:

NPS - 29
NOAA - 6
FWS - 4
FS - 16
ARS - 4
DOE - 1
BLM - 1
Private - 7
State/Local - 15
University - 7

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:

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Biosphere Reserves: Fact Sheet

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"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 effects 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.

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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.)

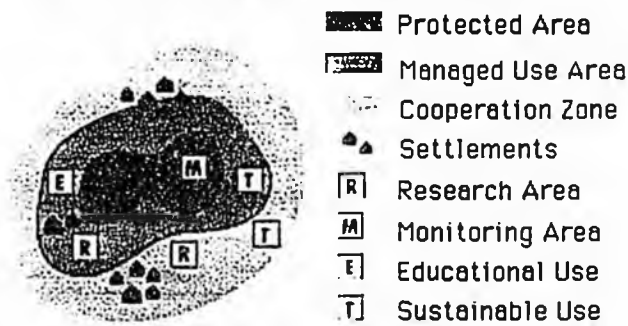
Biosphere reserve status is awarded by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) to those protected areas that combine scientific research and monitoring, conservation, education, and training. Each site is nominated by its country MAB Program. The Biosphere reserve 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.

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