

**SJR**

**15**

<TARGET><BILL>SJR 15</BILL><SUBJECT>SJR  
15</SUBJECT><COMM>HRES28</COMM></TARGET>



# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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State Capitol  
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North to the Future

## Senator Cathy Giessel

Senate District N

### **Sponsor Statement SJR 15 Opposing International Designations**

Senate Joint Resolution 15 urges the federal government to cease pursuing the creation of a Beringia International Park. The framework for this Bering Strait-region park is currently progressing via a Memorandum of Understanding written by representatives of the Russian government and our then United States Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, present Secretary of State John Kerry and the National Park Service.

A park designation would connect areas of eastern Russia and parts of northwestern Alaska, bonding Russian and northwestern Alaska cultures together, recognizing their subsistence lifestyles and historic, geographic, archaeological and cultural ties.

While this MOU has yet to be signed by the President of the United States, the planning and execution has been advancing over the years, quietly, without any efforts to coordinate with the state of Alaska regarding possible impacts on fish and game resources, oil and gas development or mining opportunities in those proposed regions.

Alaska's United States Senator Lisa Murkowski, Congressman Don Young, as well as Governor Sean Parnell, have all outlined their concerns regarding an international designation to no avail or consideration; consequently the MOU continues to move forward without regard to or input from Congress or the state of Alaska.

It is undeniable that there exists a geographical, cultural and sociological bond that ties eastern Russia and Alaska's western coast; however, internationally designating more Alaska land to recognize that commonality is not necessary or welcomed by the state as it creates yet another layer of federal bureaucracy and regulation.

SJR 15 strongly urges that the federal government pause this process, consult the State of Alaska in regard to this MOU and any future federal or United Nations designations and that their creation require both the approval of the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature.

Please join me in opposition to international designations on Alaska land.

[Senator Cathy Giessel@akleg.gov](mailto:Senator_Cathy_Giessel@akleg.gov)

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North to the Future

**Senator Cathy Giessel**  
Senate District N

## **CS for SJR 15 Oppose International Designations**

### **Changes from Version U to Version N**

Page 2, line 26 changed "National Park Service" to "federal government"

Page 3, line 8 changed "would" to "potentially could evolve into"

Page 4, line 6 changed "would" to "could"

28-LS1192N  
Bullock  
2/28/14

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

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

**TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION**

**BY**

**Offered:  
Referred:**

**Sponsor(s): SENATORS GIESSEL, Dyson, Micciche, Dunleavy, Bishop, Coghill, Huggins, Kelly, Fairclough, Stedman, Meyer, McGuire, Stevens, Olson, Egan**

**REPRESENTATIVES Feige, Hughes**

**A RESOLUTION**

1 **Opposing any international designation of Alaska land or water as an international**  
2 **park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification of land**  
3 **or water that affects the use of land or water by the state or an Alaska Native**  
4 **corporation without approval by the United States Congress and the Alaska State**  
5 **Legislature; requesting the United States Department of State and the United States**  
6 **Department of the Interior to cease all further action related to an international**  
7 **designation for land and water in the state until the action is approved by the United**  
8 **States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature; requesting that the United States**  
9 **Congress pass legislation requiring Congressional approval of any international**  
10 **designation that affects the use of land or water by the state or the United States;**  
11 **requesting that the governor be involved in the process and development of any joint**  
12 **action plan; requesting that the state, including the departments responsible for the**  
13 **management of fish and wildlife and other natural resources, be an integral part of any**

1 **discussion, agreement, understanding, or other process that affects the use or**  
 2 **development of fish and wildlife and other natural resources in the state; and urging the**  
 3 **governor and the attorney general to reserve all legal remedies for a taking of the**  
 4 **natural resources of the state by an international designation of land and water in the**  
 5 **state.**

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

7 **WHEREAS** Alaska and the Russian Far East are close neighbors across the Bering  
 8 Sea, and archaeologists believe that the area was a migration route used by many peoples  
 9 moving from Asia and populating North and South America; and

10 **WHEREAS** some of the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far  
 11 East speak the same language and share the same customs and traditions but have, until recent  
 12 times, been separated by political differences between their respective countries; and

13 **WHEREAS,** in recent years, various events and exchanges have been organized to  
 14 reconnect the residents of Western Alaska and those of the Russian Far East; and

15 **WHEREAS** the areas of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East have been referred  
 16 to as Beringia; and

17 **WHEREAS,** in 2010, the United States and Russia began negotiations to develop a  
 18 Memorandum of Understanding for the purpose of establishing an international protected area  
 19 in the Bering Strait region that would include the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, the  
 20 Cape Krusenstern National Monument, and, in the Chukotka region of Russia, the yet-to-be-  
 21 created Beringia International Park; and

22 **WHEREAS** the National Park Service identifies and defines Beringia as the area  
 23 bounded on the east by the Mackenzie River in Canada, on the west by the Lena River in  
 24 Russia, on the north by 72 degrees North latitude, and on the south by the southern tip of  
 25 Kamchatka, leaving only the south-central and southeastern limits to be determined; and

26 **WHEREAS** the federal government historically has attempted to expand the scope of  
 27 its influence beyond Alaska park boundaries, including the attempt to establish game buffer  
 28 zones around Denali National Park and Preserve; and

29 **WHEREAS,** during the past two decades, the National Park Service has repeatedly

1 expanded the size of the area identified as Beringia; and

2       **WHEREAS** the National Park Service manages the Shared Beringian Heritage  
3 Program and seeks to foster mutual understanding and cooperation between the United States  
4 and Russia and between the indigenous peoples of Western Alaska and the Russian Far East  
5 by promoting cultural exchange, supporting subsistence opportunities, and working toward an  
6 international designation for the land and water in the area identified as Beringia; and

7       **WHEREAS**, for many years, the National Park Service has pursued a program to  
8 establish a Beringia International Park that potentially could evolve into a world heritage site  
9 or a marine biosphere reserve and would include land and water in Alaska and the Russian  
10 Far East; and

11       **WHEREAS** officials of the United States Department of State and the National Park  
12 Service have traveled throughout Russia and spoken before the Russian Duma in Moscow;  
13 and

14       **WHEREAS** the international designations contemplated by the National Park Service  
15 for the areas included in Beringia are an invitation and another means for United States and  
16 foreign environmental nongovernmental organizations to oppose resource development on  
17 public and Alaska Native land and water in the state; and

18       **WHEREAS** many Alaskans are concerned that the proposed Beringia International  
19 Park would impede future rights of access for the Red Dog Mine, the primary economic  
20 engine in Northwest Alaska; and

21       **WHEREAS** Alaska Native corporations and the state specifically selected much of  
22 their land because of the mineral potential and the opportunity to create jobs and other  
23 economic opportunities for the people of the state; and

24       **WHEREAS**, in September 2012, Governor Sean Parnell sent a letter to then United  
25 States Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton asking for time to conduct a meaningful  
26 review of the proposed Memorandum of Understanding regarding Beringia and to provide  
27 input on the possible effects of the Memorandum of Understanding on the region and the  
28 State; and

29       **WHEREAS**, on January 17, 2013, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev signed  
30 a decree creating Beringia National Park as a Russian National Park in the Chukotka Region;  
31 and

1           **WHEREAS**, in October 2013, members of the Alaska State Legislature learned that  
2 the United States Department of State, the National Park Service, and the Russian Federation  
3 were in the final stages of formalizing a Memorandum of Understanding regarding a  
4 transboundary protected area in the Bering Strait region; and

5           **WHEREAS** the current effort to formalize a transboundary protected area would be  
6 the first step in imposing international designations and could reduce the sovereignty of the  
7 state and the United States over the burdened parts of the state, in violation of the Alaska  
8 Statehood Compact, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and the Alaska National  
9 Interest Lands Conservation Act; and

10           **WHEREAS** the Department of Fish and Game is responsible for the management,  
11 protection, maintenance, enhancement, rehabilitation, and extension of fish and wildlife  
12 resources in the state, including management responsibilities on National Park Service land;  
13 and

14           **WHEREAS**, in the 1982 Master Memorandum of Understanding between the  
15 Department of Fish and Game and the National Park Service, the parties agreed to "consider  
16 carefully the impact on the State of Alaska of proposed treaties or international agreements  
17 relating to fish and wildlife resources which could diminish the jurisdictional authority of the  
18 State, and to consult freely with the State when such treaties or agreements have a significant  
19 impact on the State";

20           **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature asserts that any international  
21 Memorandum of Understanding or other action to designate land or water in the state as an  
22 international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land  
23 or water that affects the proper use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native  
24 corporation should require approval by Acts of the Alaska State Legislature and the United  
25 States Congress before taking effect; and be it

26           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the United  
27 States Department of State and the United States Department of the Interior cease all further  
28 action to establish an international designation of land or water in the state until the United  
29 States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature approve; and be it

30           **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature respectfully requests that  
31 the United States Congress enact a law that requires Congressional approval of any

1 international designation that affects the use of land or water by the state or the United States;  
2 and be it

3 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests that, if the United  
4 States Department of State or the United States Department of the Interior nevertheless  
5 pursues or proposes the designation of land or water as an international park, world heritage  
6 site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or classification of land or water that affects the proper  
7 use of the land or water by the state or an Alaska Native corporation, the governor be actively  
8 involved in the process and development of any joint action plan; and be it

9 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature requests that the state,  
10 including the departments responsible for the management of fish and wildlife and other  
11 natural resources, be an integral if not primary part of any discussion, agreement,  
12 understanding, or other process or document that affects the use or development of fish and  
13 wildlife and other natural resources in the state; and be it

14 **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Alaska State Legislature urges the governor and the  
15 attorney general to reserve all legal remedies, including the recovery of damages, for a taking  
16 of the natural resources of the state in violation of the Alaska Statehood Compact, should a  
17 designation of land and water in the state as an international park, world heritage site,  
18 biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification hamper the use or development of the  
19 natural resources of the state.

20 **COPIES** of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Barack Obama, President of  
21 the United States; the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., Vice-President of the United States and  
22 President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable John F. Kerry, United States Secretary of State;  
23 the Honorable Sally Jewell, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Jonathan B.  
24 Jarvis, director of the National Park Service, United States Department of the Interior; the  
25 Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable  
26 Nancy Pelosi, Minority Leader of the U.S. House of Representatives; the Honorable Harry  
27 Reid, Majority Leader of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mitch McConnell, Minority Leader  
28 of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Mary Landrieu, Chair of the Energy and Natural Resources  
29 Committee of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Mark  
30 Begich, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the  
31 Alaska delegation in Congress; and all other members of the 113th United States Congress.

# FISCAL NOTE

**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

Bill Version SJR 15  
 Fiscal Note Number 1  
 () Publish Date 2/5/2014

Identifier (file name) \_\_\_\_\_ Dept. Affected \_\_\_\_\_  
 Title SJR 15 OPPOSE INTERNATIONAL DESIGNATING OF Appropriation \_\_\_\_\_  
LAND Allocation \_\_\_\_\_  
 Sponsor Senator Giessel  
 Requester Senate Resources Committee OMB Component Number \_\_\_\_\_

**Expenditures/Revenues** (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

	FY15 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY15 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates				
			FY16	FY17	FY18	FY19	FY20
<b>OPERATING EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY15</b>	<b>FY16</b>	<b>FY17</b>	<b>FY18</b>	<b>FY19</b>	<b>FY20</b>
Personal Services							
Travel							
Services							
Commodities							
Capital Outlay							
Grants, Benefits							
Miscellaneous							
<b>TOTAL OPERATING</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**FUND SOURCE** (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts							
1003 GF Match							
1004 GF							
1005 GF/Prgm (DGF)							
1007 I/A Rcpts (Other)							
1156 Rcpt Svcs (DGF)							
	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>

**POSITIONS**

Full-time							
Part-time							
Temporary							

**CHANGE IN REVENUES**

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Estimated **SUPPLEMENTAL (FY14) operating costs** \_\_\_\_\_ (separate supplemental appropriation required)  
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated **CAPITAL (FY15) costs** \_\_\_\_\_ (separate capital appropriation required)  
 (discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

**ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS**

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? \_\_\_\_\_  
 If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended, or repealed? \_\_\_\_\_ Discuss details in analysis section.

**Why this fiscal note differs from previous version (if initial version, please note as such)**

Prepared by SENATE RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
 Division \_\_\_\_\_  
 Approved by /s/ Senator Giessel, Chair  
 Division \_\_\_\_\_

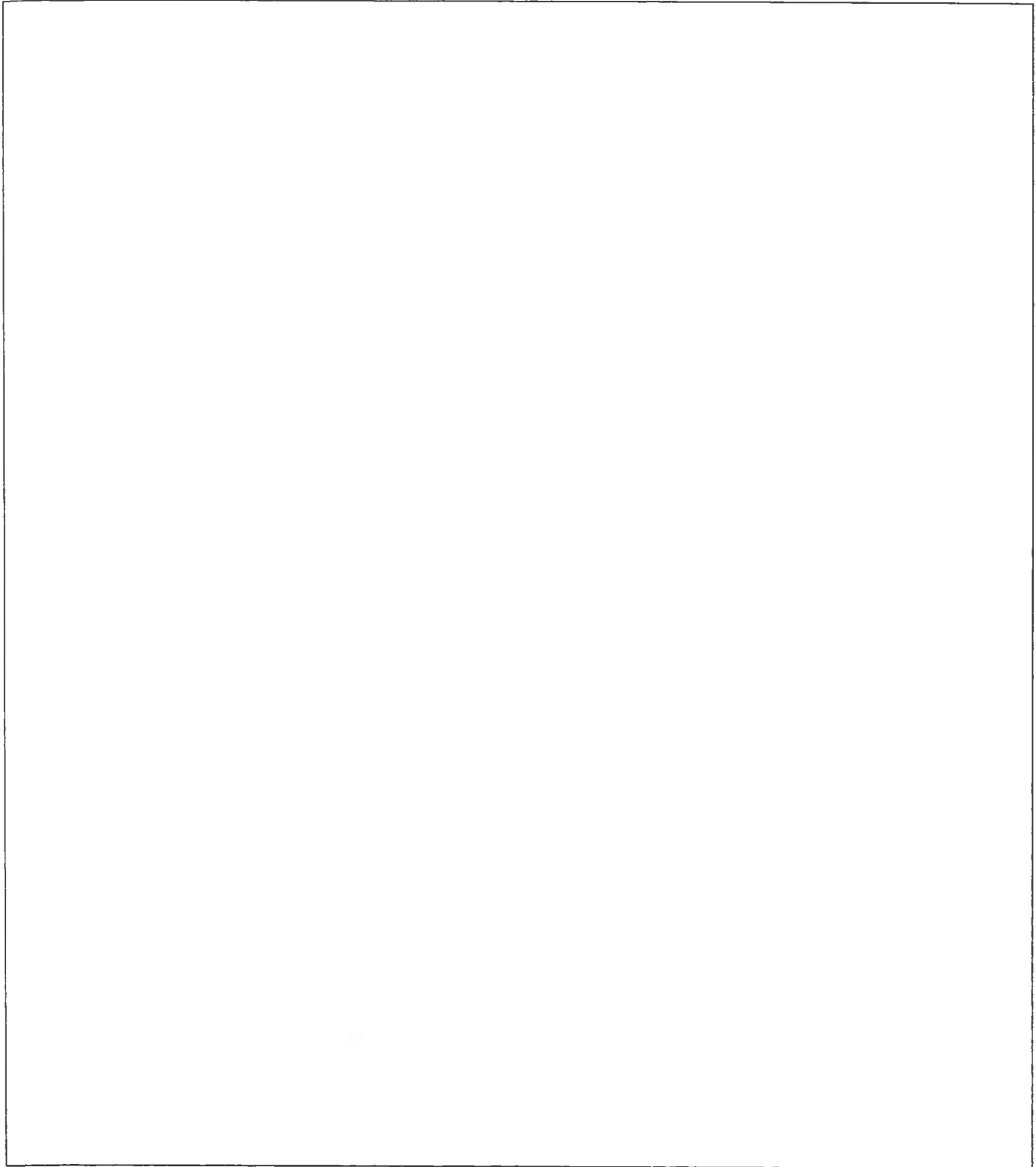
Phone 465-4843  
 Date/Time 2/5/14 12:00 AM  
 Date 2/5/2014

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA  
2014 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. SJR 15

**Analysis**



# ed Transboundary Area of Shared Beringian Heritage

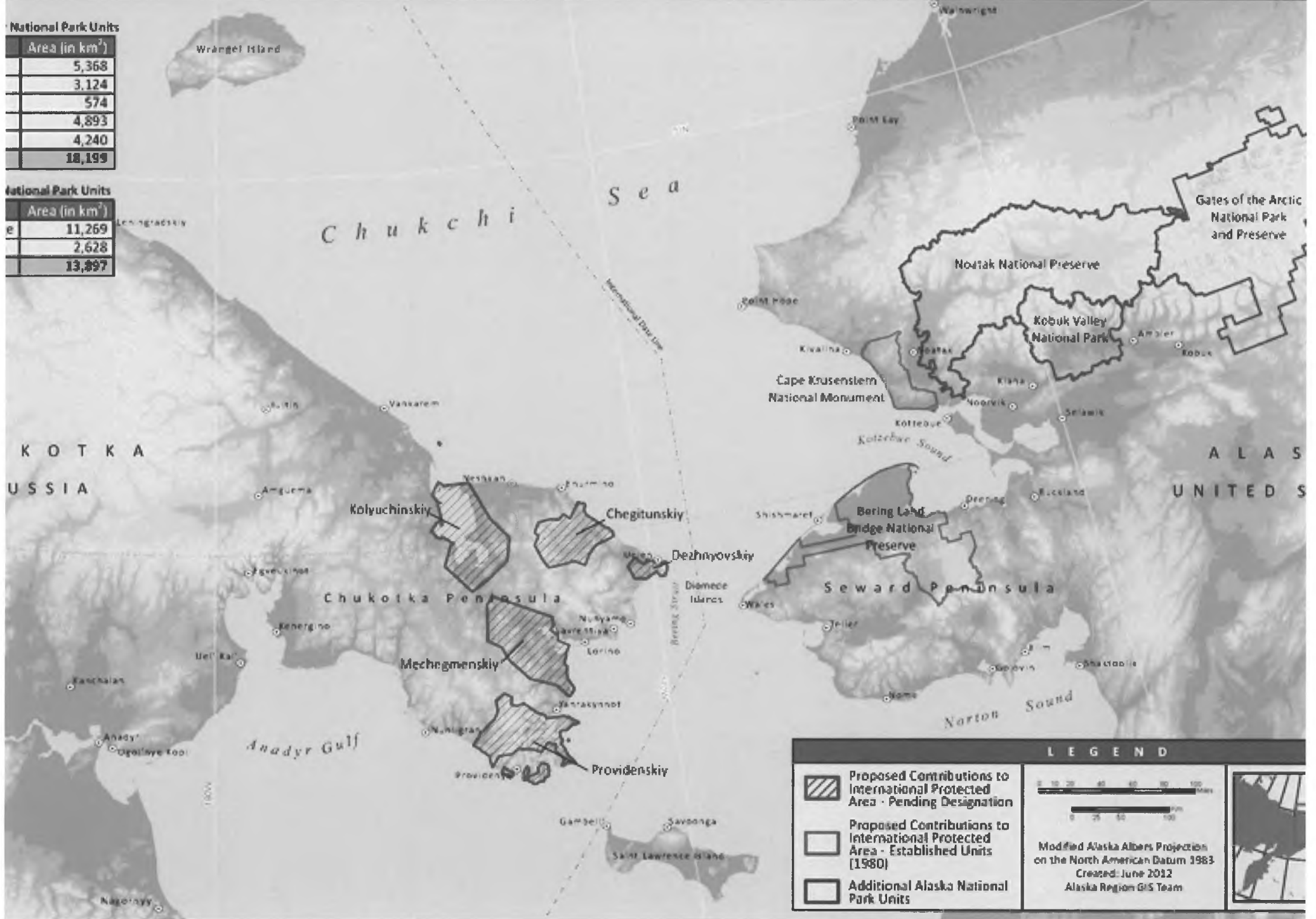
Alaska Region  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Park Units

Area (in km <sup>2</sup> )
5,368
3,124
574
4,893
4,240
<b>18,199</b>

National Park Units

Area (in km <sup>2</sup> )
11,269
2,628
<b>13,897</b>



**LEGEND**

- Proposed Contributions to International Protected Area - Pending Designation
- Proposed Contributions to International Protected Area - Established Units (1980)
- Additional Alaska National Park Units

0 20 40 60 80 100 Miles  
0 25 50 100 Km

Modified Alaska Albers Projection on the North American Datum 1983  
Created: June 2012  
Alaska Region GIS Team

Draft of October 28, 2013

MEMORANDUM  
of Understanding  
between the Government of the United States of America  
and the Government of the Russian Federation  
Symbolically Linking National Parks in  
the Bering Strait Region

The Government of the Government of the United States of America and the Russian Federation, hereinafter referred to as the Governments,  
calling for protection of the shared natural and longstanding cultural heritage of Chukotka and Alaska;

recognizing the worldwide cultural and natural significance of the Bering Strait region, both as an ancient crossroads and as an area of present-day cooperation between our two countries;

noting that the Bering Strait region is important to the economies of our two countries;

recognizing the success of joint cooperation under the National Park Service's "Shared Beringian Heritage Program" in preserving and strengthening the shared heritage and cultural vitality of the indigenous and other local inhabitants in the Bering Strait region;

confirming the mutual interest of our two countries in deepening cooperation and strengthening ties, particularly in the area of the U.S.-Russian boundary in the Bering Strait region;

noting the important need to protect the rights of indigenous and other local inhabitants in Chukotka and Alaska and to ensure their access to natural resources in accordance with each country's laws;

highlighting the importance of bilateral cooperation in protecting the environment and natural resources and preserving cultural heritage in the Bering Strait region;

understanding the significance of unique Arctic ecosystems of Chukotka and Alaska in the Bering Strait region;

conscious of the effects of human activities, climate change, and other environmental factors on the natural resources and cultural heritage of the Bering Strait region,

affirm that the linking of national parks in the Bering Strait region on both sides of the border between United States and Russia is intended to promote conservation of flora, fauna, and natural ecosystems; preservation of kinship ties, cultural practices, and languages of indigenous peoples of Chukotka and Alaska; and collaboration on environmental protection in the Bering Strait region and environmental research and monitoring, and also symbolize the link of two continents, our Governments, and people.

The Governments have reached the following understandings:

1. The Governments designate the following Participants for the implementation of cooperation under this Memorandum:

for the United States of America - the National Park Service of the U.S.  
Department of the Interior.

for the Russian Federation - the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment  
of the Russian Federation;

2. The geographic scope of cooperation under this Memorandum is defined as the Bering Strait region, including the transboundary area comprising the Beringia National Park, which is located in the Russian Federation, and the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and Cape Krusenstern National Monument, which are located in the United States of America. The Participants acknowledge that they have exchanged information concerning the boundaries of these national parks, including their cartographic coordinates. Either Government may change the aforementioned boundaries of the

national parks in its territory in accordance with its country's laws. In the event either Government changes the aforementioned boundaries, a written notification should be sent to the other Government.

3. The linking of national parks in the Bering Strait region under this Memorandum is intended to:

- exemplify constructive cooperation between the Participants at the national level;
- provide an opportunity for social and economic benefit for both countries by promoting ecological tourism, recreation, and sustainable development, as well as environmental awareness and education;

- foster mutual understanding and cooperation respecting environmental protection and the preservation of cultural heritage and in public education;

- advance the unique, traditional way of life of indigenous peoples of the Bering Strait region;

- respect subsistence rights of indigenous and other local inhabitants, in accordance with each country's laws;

- promote the study and enjoyment of natural resources, as well as the study and understanding of cultural heritage of international significance in the region;

- support cultural, scientific, and educational exchanges and exchanges of experts and specialists; and

- provide a framework for the people of Russia and the United States to participate in the conservation of the natural and cultural heritage and to work jointly to protect the fragile Arctic ecosystems in the Bering Strait region.

4. The Participants intend to develop a joint action plan that describes the specific work to be accomplished under this Memorandum and that identifies specific projects and types of activities, as well as the roles and responsibilities of the both countries' Participants and organizations in implementing them. The Participants intend to annually review and update the plan as needed.

5. Each Participant confirms that it intends to designate a Coordinator responsible for developing and coordinating implementation of the joint action plan. Each Participant may designate a different Coordinator at any time by notifying the other Participant in writing. The Coordinators should interact directly with one another and

may also facilitate direct contacts among the Participants, institutions, and other organizations of both countries to achieve the goals of this Memorandum.

6. Cooperative activities that may occur under this Memorandum include exchanges of information and technical expertise concerning natural and cultural resource management and use, including study tours, internships, training courses, workshops, symposia, joint research projects, and other forms of joint activities, including activities related to cultural traditions, subsistence, kinship, and languages of indigenous peoples, as mutually decided by the Participants and reflected in the joint action plan. Where appropriate either Participant may seek the assistance of other agencies or organizations in performing requested actions in support of the implementation of this Memorandum.

7. Cooperation under this Memorandum is subject to the availability of personnel, funds, and other material resources of each Participant. Additionally, each Participant intends to approve and conduct activities under this Memorandum in accordance with its country's laws. Nothing in this Memorandum is intended to affect other existing or future arrangements between the Governments or between one of the Governments and a third party.

8. This legally nonbinding Memorandum is not an international agreement and does not create any rights or obligations under international law.

9. Cooperation under this Memorandum commences upon signature. Either Government may discontinue cooperation under this Memorandum for any reason, in which event the Government discontinuing cooperation should take all possible measures to provide the other Government written notification at least 90 (ninety) days in advance.

10. Nothing in this Memorandum abrogates or in any way infringes upon the sovereign rights and authorities of each of the Governments and their Participants to manage lands within its respective borders in accordance with its country's laws, or upon the rights of third parties. The Participants intend to resolve any differences in interpretation or application with respect to this Memorandum through consultations between them.

Signed at \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_, in two originals, in duplicate in the Russian and English languages.

For the Government of the  
Russian Federation

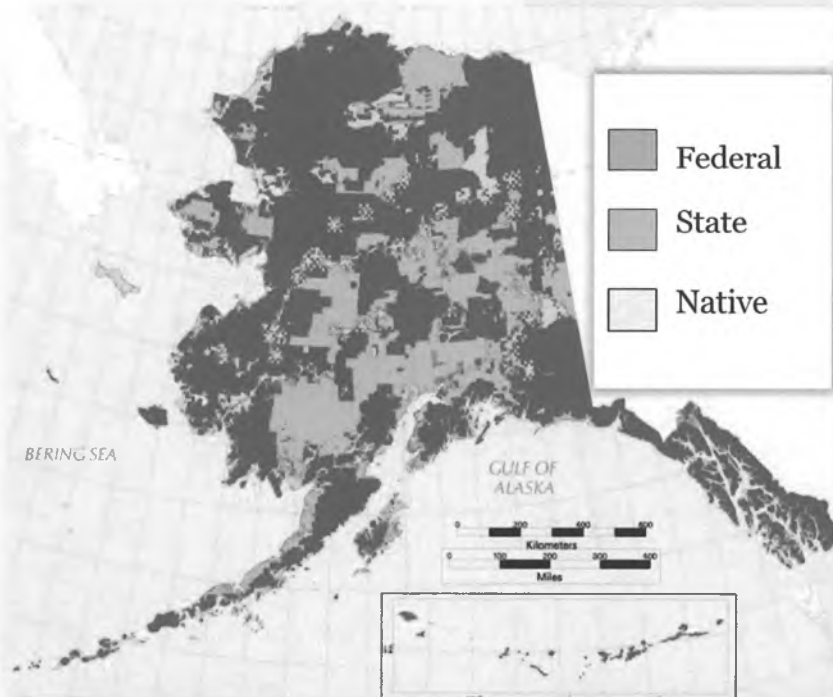
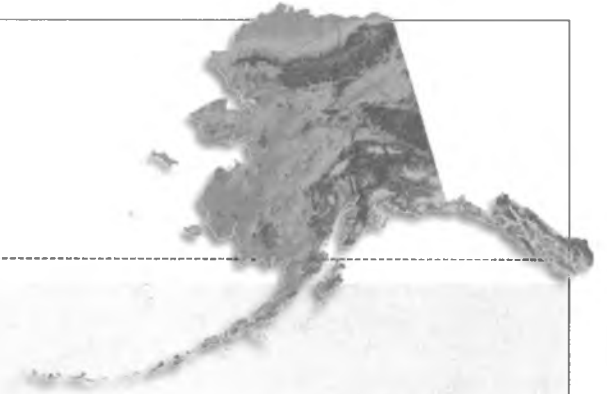
For the Government of the  
United States of America

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# State of Alaska

*Provided by the Department of Natural Resources*



## Land Ownership

- *Total Land in Alaska:* Approx. 365.5 million
- *Federal Land:* More than 200 million acres
- *State Land:* Approx. 100 million acres of uplands, 60 million acres of tidelands, shore lands, and submerged lands, and 40,000 miles of coastline
- *Native Corporation Land:* 44 million acres

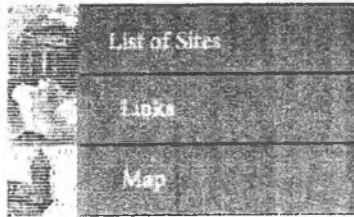
## Percent Ownership<sup>1</sup>:

- *Federal:* 60.7%
- *State:* 27.5%
- *ANCSA:* 11.6%
- *Private (includes municipal and borough):* 0.2%

<sup>1</sup> Percent Ownership estimates do not include tidelands, shore lands, and submerged lands

# U.S. World Heritage Sites

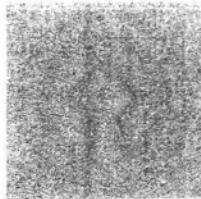
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



[World Heritage  
Home Page](#)

[Links to the Past](#)

[Search NPS](#)



## The U.S. Tentative List (Complete Text)

Note: Complete text downloaded from US/ICOMOS gopher site.

Under the terms of the World Heritage Convention, each signatory nation is asked to submit to the World Heritage Committee a tentative list of properties, which it intends to nominate for inscription to the World Heritage List during the following five to ten years. This tentative list constitutes the "Inventory" (provided for in Article 11 of the Convention) of the cultural and natural properties situated within the territory of each State Party and which is considered suitable for inclusion in the World Heritage List. The purpose of these tentative lists is to enable the Committee to evaluate within the widest possible context the "outstanding universal value" of each property nominated to the List.

### 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

## LIST OF U.S. BIOSPHERE RESERVES BY CATEGORY

**Protected Natural Area.** Protected area managed for conservation and designated wholly or primarily as a core area.

Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge, AK (1976: FWS)  
Big Thicket National Preserve, TX (1981: NPS)  
**Denali National Park and Preserve, AK (1976: NPS)**  
Everglades/Dry Tortugas National Parks, FL (1976: NPS)  
Guanica State Forest, PR (1981: state)  
Isle Royale National Park, MI (1980: NPS)  
Noatak National Preserve/Gates of the Arctic National Park, AK (1976, 1984: NPS)  
Olympic National Park, WA (1976: NPS)  
Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, AZ (1976: NPS)  
Virgin Islands National Park, USVI (1976: NPS)  
Yellowstone National Park, MT-WY (1976: NPS)

**Research Reserve.** Protected areas managed primarily for research to understand ecosystem processes or support development of sustainable ecosystem uses.

Beaver Creek Experimental Forest, AZ (1979: FS)  
Central Plains Experimental Range, CO (1976: ARS) LTER site  
Desert Experimental Range, UT (1976: FS)  
H.J. Andrews Experimental Forest, OR (1976: FS) LTER site  
Hubbard Brook Experimental Forest, NH (1976: FS) LTER site  
Konza Prairie Research Natural Area, KS (1979: TNC, university) LTER site.  
Luquillo Experimental Forest, PR (1976: FS) LTER site  
San Dimas Experimental Forest, CA (1976: FS)  
San Joaquin Experimental Range, CA (1976: ARS)  
University of Michigan Biological Station, MI (1979: university)

**Biosphere Reserve Cluster.** An association of separately designated administrative units that cooperate in implementing biosphere reserve roles. (Clusters of Protected Natural Areas and Research Reserves provided the basis for many initial U.S. Biosphere Reserve nominations in 1976)

Big Bend National Park, TX (1976: NPS) and Jornada Experimental Range, NM (1976: ARS) LTER site. Also includes Mapimi Biosphere Reserve in Mexico.  
Fraser Experimental Forest, CO (1976: FS), Niwot Ridge, CO (1979: FS, university) LTER site, and Rocky Mountain National Park, CO (1976: NPS)  
Glacier National Park, MT (1976: NPS) and Coram Experimental Forest, MT (1976: FS). Also includes Waterton National Park in Alberta, Canada (1979: Parks Canada)  
Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, CA (1976: NPS) and Stanislaus-Tuolumne Experimental Forest, CA (1976: FS)

### *Correction*

*Three Sisters Wilderness, OR (1976: FS) and H.J. Andrews, OR (1976: FS)*

*Olympic National Park, OR (1976: NPS) and Cascade Head Experimental Forest and Scenic-Research Area, OR (1976: FS)*

**Multisite Biosphere Reserve.** A group of two or more administrative units designated together as a single biosphere reserve. Designated primarily between 1980 and 1986.

California Coast Ranges Biosphere Reserve, CA 10 units in 2 clusters (1983: BLM, FS, NPS, state, TNC, university)

Carolinian-South Atlantic Biosphere Reserve, NC-SC-GA 13 units in 3 clusters (1986: FWS, NOAA, NPS, TNC, states, private, university) includes North Inlet LTER site

Central Gulf Coastal Plain Biosphere Reserve, FL 1 unit, other units not yet designated (1983: state)

Channel Islands Biosphere Reserve, CA 2 units (1976 and 1986: NPS, NOAA)

**Glacier Bay-Admiralty Island Biosphere Reserve, AK 2 units (1986: FS, NPS)**

Hawaiian Islands Biosphere Reserve, HI 2 units (1980: NPS)

Mojave and Colorado Deserts Biosphere Reserve, CA-NV 5 units (1984: BLM, FS, NPS, state, university)

South Atlantic Coastal Plain Biosphere Reserve, SC 1 unit, other units not yet designated (1983: NPS)

**Regional Biosphere Reserve.** A large multiple use area or an association of administrative units designated together as a single biosphere reserve. The designated area(s) participate in an organized, cooperative program involving multiple agencies and nongovernmental entities. Designated primarily since 1988.

Central California Coast Biosphere Reserve, CA 13 units (1988 and 1991: FWS, NPS, NOAA, state, local, private)

Champlain-Adirondack Biosphere Reserve, NY-VT (1988: FS, local, private, state, complex ownerships)

Land Between the Lakes Area Biosphere Reserve, TN-KY multiple use area (1991: TVA)

Mammoth Cave Area Biosphere Reserve, KY regional development district and a national park (1990: NPS, regional development authority)

New Jersey Pinelands Biosphere Reserve, NJ regional multiple use reserve (1983, 1988: FWS, local, state, complex ownerships)

Southern Appalachian Biosphere Reserve, GA-NC-SC-TN-VA 5 units (1976, 1988, 1993: DOE, FS, NPS, state, private) includes Coweeta LTER site

Virginia Coast Reserve, VA multiple islands TNC bioreserve (1979: TNC) LTER site

*Taken from:*

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE U.S. BIOSPHERE RESERVE  
BIOSPHERE RESERVE DIRECTORATE  
U.S. MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE PROGRAM 1994

## A Major Promise of ANILCA - Valid Existing Rights

**QUESTION:** How could Congress been clearer?

## A Major Promise of ANILCA - No More

Section 101 This act provides sufficient protection for the national interest in the scenic, natural....**thus Congress believes that the need for future legislation designating new conservation system units, new national conservation areas or new national recreation areas has been obviated thereby.** (emphasis added)

Section 1326(a) No future executive branch actions...

Section 1326(b) No further studies of federal lands in the State of Alaska for the single purpose of considering the establishment of conservation system unit, national recreation area, national conservation area or for related or similar purposes shall be conducted unless authorized by Congress.

**QUESTION:** How could Congress have been clearer?

SENATOR  
CHARLIE HUGGINS  
SENATE PRESIDENT

SENATOR  
LESIL MCGUIRE  
RULES CHAIR

SENATOR  
KEVIN MEYER  
SENATE FINANCE CO-CHAIR

# Alaska State Legislature



## Senate Leadership

SENATOR  
JOHN COGHILL  
SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

SENATOR  
PETE KELLY  
SENATE FINANCE CO-CHAIR

November 14, 2013

The Honorable Secretary Sally Jewell  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street N.W. – M.S. 7229  
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Secretary John Kerry  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W. – Room 7226  
Washington, D.C. 20520

Re: Draft Beringia Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) between the governments of the United States and Russia

Dear Secretary Jewell and Secretary Kerry:

Alaska Senate Leadership has analyzed the October 28, 2013 Draft Beringia *Memorandum of Understanding* (“MOU”) from the United States Department of State. See attached.

The draft MOU arrives, almost concurrently, with the news that President Obama, via executive order, created a task force of officials to respond to the impacts of climate change.<sup>1</sup>

The MOU, specifically, is concerning for a number of reasons:

1. As written, the MOU may impede future natural resource development.
  - a. In 1957, a House of Representatives Report (No. 624) accompanied H.R. 7999 (which provided for the admission of Alaska into the Union). On page 7 of the report, it stated:

As previously noted, tremendous acreages of land in Alaska have been tied upon in the status of Federal reservations and

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<sup>1</sup> See Exec. Order No. 13653, 78 C.F.R. 66817 (2013). The task force would be largely immune from legislative oversight. Many are concerned the task force would be used to force a federal agenda on certain states, without proper input from the residents affected.

withdrawals for various purposes. The committee feels strongly that this practice has been carried to extreme lengths in Alaska, to a point which has hampered the development of such resources for the benefit of mankind. As a result, a long list of potential basic industries in [Alaska], including...oil and gas, coal, various other minerals...can exist in Alaska only as tenants of the Federal Government, and on the sufferance of the various Federal agencies. The committee considers that to be an unhealthy situation.<sup>2</sup>

- b. The intent, when Alaska became a state, was that it was to use its natural resources to become self-sufficient and less reliant on the federal government.
    - i. Many are concerned that the Department of Interior and Department of State, have, without proper extended input (beyond the 2010, 2011 National Park Service ("NPS") solicitations) negotiated an "international park" (linking the Bering Strait Region), which may have a tremendous negative economic effect on Alaska.
    - ii. Here is one example: Red Dog mine has been operating since 1989 in Northwest Alaska near Kotzebue. It is one of the world's largest producers of zinc concentrate. The mine is operated by NANA Regional Corporation, Inc. ("NANA"), a Native corporation owned by the Inupiat people, and Teck Alaska Incorporated. The MOU references that the National Governments, through their respective Park Services will cooperate and manage the proposed "international park" with a heavy emphasis on "climate change" and "other environmental factors." Senate Leadership shares the concerns of the Parnell Administration that the proposed MOU may impede future easements for the Red Dog Mine road (which runs through Cape Krusenstern National Monument).
  - c. The MOU appears to be a troubling "step-back" in both substance and procedure from what Congress originally intended in 1957.
2. On page 3 of the MOU there appears to be a substantially increased emphasis on promoting "ecological tourism" and "recreation." While those issues are important they sustain a mere fraction of the affected economy in the region.

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<sup>2</sup> See H.Rep.No.624, at 7 (1957).

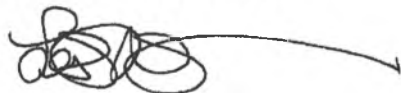
- a. There is also reference to "sustainable development." However, "sustainable development" is undefined, and, according to many Alaskans, a notoriously nebulous term. "Sustainable development" should be further defined after input and analysis from the stakeholders and the State Administration.
3. Alaska is concerned that NPS authorities may seek to incorrectly stretch their influence beyond park boundaries. Particularly as it pertains to fish and wildlife management. Clear "sideboards" should be included (for the benefit of the Russian government and NPS agents) to understand the "scope of influence." Input should be sought by State agents including the Alaska Board of Game.
4. Communication regarding the MOU has not met the expectations of many of the affected residents. Before finalization, Alaskans should have another opportunity (through public hearings) to give their recommended changes and improvements. The Governor of Alaska (or his designee), along with the locally affected Russian government official, should be included in the proposed development of the joint action plan.

Sincerely,



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Senator Charlie Huggins



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Senator Lesil McGuire



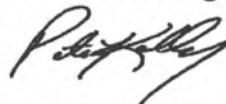
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Senator Kevin Meyer



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Senator John Coghill



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Senator Pete Kelly

Enclosed: Draft October 28, 2013 Memorandum of Understanding

cc: Governor Sean Parnell  
Senator Lisa Murkowski  
Senator Mark Begich  
Congressman Don Young  
Alaska Attorney General Michael Geraghty

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ROBERT DILLON (202) 224-6977

OCTOBER 30, 2013  
5765

MATT SHUCKEROW (202) 225-  
5765

### **Murkowski, Young Express Concern Over Bering Strait Park Proposal with Russia**

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski and Rep. Don Young (both R-Alaska) this week voiced concerns about the ongoing effort to create an international park in the Bering Strait region with Russia. Murkowski and Young outlined their concerns in a letter to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell and Secretary of State John Kerry.

The proposed park – referred to as Transboundary Area of Shared Beringian Heritage – would link the proposed Beringia National Park in the Russian Far East, with the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and Cape Krusenstern National Monument on Alaska's Seward Peninsula.

In their letter, Murkowski and Young said there has been a woeful lack of transparency and communication with Alaska officials regarding the creation of such a park.

“While your departments appear to have decided this arrangement is in the best interest of our nation, Alaskans remain unconvinced that it will benefit those who actually live in the region. To the contrary, the most direct impact is likely to be another layer of federal bureaucracy that serves only to restrict Alaskans' rightful access to – and lawful activities on – these public lands,” Murkowski and Young wrote.

The National Park Service (NPS) and State Department are currently working with their Russian counterparts to finalize a memorandum of understanding establishing cross-border collaboration and cooperation. The NPS released a draft of that agreement Monday. Murkowski and Young criticized the administration for moving forward without first consulting Alaskans.

“In our view,” Murkowski and Young wrote, “international influence has been excessive, while local, state and Native participation has been insufficient.”

Among the issues Alaskans have with the park proposal is the lack of any direct benefit to the Alaska Native communities in the region, inadequate protection of subsistence activities, and possible restrictions on mineral and other economic development.

“While we support the general concept of fostering a strong, international relationship between Alaska and Russia across the Bering Strait, we hereby request that you consider the views of Alaskans prior to any final decisions on this issue,” Murkowski and Young wrote.

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 28, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell  
Secretary  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street N.W. – M.S. 7229  
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable John Kerry  
Secretary  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street, N.W. – Room 7226  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretaries:

We write to express our continued concern over the looming possibility of an international transboundary park arrangement between the National Park Service (NPS) and Russia that would span the Bering Straits region. Our understanding is that a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) has been agreed to by the Department of State and Russia, and that a delay in translating it for both sides is the reason it has not been released. While your Departments appear to have decided this arrangement is in the best interest of our nation, Alaskans remain unconvinced that it will benefit those who actually live in the region. To the contrary, the most direct impact is likely to be another layer of federal bureaucracy that serves only to restrict Alaskans' rightful access to – and lawful activities on – these public lands.

Our staffs met with representatives for the Shared Beringian Heritage Program last November and listed our concerns over this concept at that time. Alaska Governor Sean Parnell similarly outlined his reservations in a letter to then-Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in September 2012. Yet, nothing has changed. The proposed “sister park” arrangement, with its cross-border collaboration and cooperation defined by the MOU, continues to present several potential problems for Alaskans. Local communities still stand to receive no direct benefit to our knowledge. Subsistence activities and access are still not adequately protected. New limitations are still likely to deprive rather than foster economic opportunities, particularly with regard to resource development. In our view, international influence has been excessive, while local, State and Native participation has been insufficient.

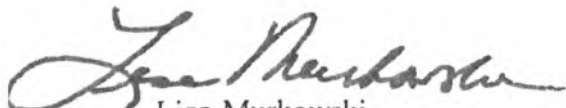
To our knowledge, none of these concerns have been addressed, and it is difficult to fathom how additional bureaucracy will do anything but further slow and complicate decisions by federal agencies in the Bering Sea region. Accordingly, as Alaskans continue to communicate to us their valid apprehension over the negative impacts an international arrangement could have, we have decided to elevate this issue and formally request that you fully account for local and statewide concerns.

While we support the general concept of fostering a strong, international relationship between Alaska and Russia across the Bering Straits, we hereby request that you consider the views of Alaskans prior to any final decisions on this issue. Specifically, we ask that you engage directly with the Alaskans this arrangement will directly affect, that you schedule public

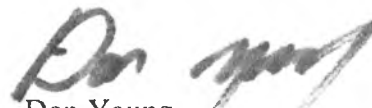
meetings in our state to familiarize yourselves with local concerns, that you engage on this matter with the State of Alaska, and that you convene government-to-government consultations with the Alaska Native Tribes who are likely to be impacted.

Our offices are ready to help in any way we can. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



Don Young  
Congressman for all Alaska



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550 West 7th Avenue #1700  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
907-269-7450  
fax 907-269-7463  
www.Gov.Alaska.Gov  
Governor@Alaska.Gov

Governor Sean Parnell  
STATE OF ALASKA

September 7, 2012

The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton  
Secretary  
United States Department of State  
2201 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Clinton,

I was deeply concerned to learn that the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. National Park Service were in the final stages of formalizing a transboundary protected area in the region of the Bering Strait via a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Russian Federation.

Until last week, my Administration has received little information on these efforts since the spring of 2011, when the U.S. and Russia issued a joint statement on cooperation in the region. Since action on the proposed MOU has been temporarily deferred until certain remaining issues are resolved between the U.S. and Russia, I respectfully request that U.S. federal agencies delay further action on a formal designation until we have had a meaningful opportunity to review the MOU and share input.

While I agree that promoting a better understanding of our shared history with the Russian Federation and sustaining the cultural vitality of the indigenous people of the region are important priorities, I remain concerned that designation of a new international protected area might limit economic opportunity for rural Alaskans in the region. For example, such a designation could complicate future easement negotiations for the Red Dog Mine road, which runs through Cape Krusenstern National Monument.

While I am aware the National Park Service solicited input from local stakeholders in 2010 and 2011 regarding establishment of the international protected area, I understand that affected Alaskan communities continue to have concerns.

I hope the State of Alaska will have the opportunity for meaningful consultation with federal agencies before further action is taken to establish an international protected area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sean Parnell".

Sean Parnell  
Governor

cc: Jonathan Jarvis, Director, United States National Parks Service  
The Honorable Dan Sullivan, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Kip Knudson, Director of State and Federal Relations, Office of the Governor

**DON YOUNG**  
CONGRESSMAN FOR ALL ALASKA  
WASHINGTON OFFICE:  
2314 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
202-225-5765



Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

February 7, 2014

COMMITTEE ON  
NATURAL RESOURCES  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
INDIAN AND ALASKA NATIVE AFFAIRS  
COMMITTEE ON  
TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE  
REPUBLICAN  
POLICY COMMITTEE

Honorable Cathy Giessel  
Alaska State Senator  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427  
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

I am writing to express my support for SJR15, opposing designations in Alaska. I appreciate the opportunity to provide input regarding SJR15 and thank you for your leadership and steadfastness in protecting the rights of Alaskans.

As you know, Alaskans remain unconvinced that the proposed Beringia International Park will actually benefit those who live in the region. To the contrary, the most direct impact is likely to be another layer of federal bureaucracy that serves only to restrict Alaskans' rightful access to, and lawful activities on their public lands.

My staff has met with representatives for the Shared Beringia Heritage Program and I signed a letter to Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell and Secretary of State, John Kerry last October expressing my concern over this concept. To date, nothing has changed. In fact, I have not yet received a response from Secretary Jewell on the matter. The proposed "sister park" arrangement, with its cross-border collaboration and cooperation defined by the MOU, continues to present several potential problems for Alaskans, and local communities still stand to receive no direct benefit to my knowledge. I have not received any assurance from this Administration that Subsistence activities nor access to resources are adequately protected. New limitations are still likely to deprive Alaskans rather than foster economic opportunities, particularly with regard to resource development.

In my view, international influence has been excessive in crafting this proposal while local, State and Alaska Native participation has been insufficient. Although the Department of the Interior has made cursory attempts to address these concerns, it is difficult to fathom how additional bureaucracy will do anything but further slow and complicate decisions by federal agencies in the Bering Strait region. Accordingly, Alaskans continue to communicate to us their valid apprehension over negative impacts an international arrangement could have. It is also my view that the proposed MOU could be designed as an administrative "taking" of lands without the approval of Congress, once again, violating the "no more clause" of ANILCA.

Please be assured that I will continue the fight against the over-reach of our federal government as well as any proposal such as this that would allow further intrusion by not only our own government, but that of an international entity. SJR15 supports this view and will assist me in advising my colleagues in

VISIT OUR WEBSITE  
[HTTP://DON YOUNG.HOUSE.GOV](http://donyoung.house.gov)

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100 CUSHMAN STREET, SUITE 307  
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FAIRBANKS, ALASKA 99707  
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612 W. WILLOUGHBY AVENUE, SUITE B  
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907-586-7400

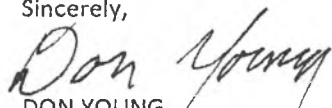
805 FRONTAGE ROAD  
SUITE 110  
KENAI, ALASKA 99611  
907-283-7701

CALL TOLL-FREE  
1-866-990-5979

Congress as well as the Obama Administration that Alaskans will not stand idly by while more lands are subjected to increased federal bureaucracy.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this very important matter and thank you for your continued dedication to the matter. I look forward to working with you and all in the Alaska State Legislature.

Sincerely,

  
DON YOUNG  
Congressman for All Alaska



THE STATE  
of **ALASKA**  
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

## Department of Natural Resources

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION ON  
FEDERAL AREAS  
Stan Leaphart, Executive Director

3900 Airport Way  
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709  
Main: 907.374.3737  
Fax: 907.451.2751

February 7, 2014

Senator Cathy Giessel  
Chair, Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Legislature  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

Dear Senator Giessel:

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas supports passage of **SJR 15 - Oppose International Designations**. The Commission shares your concerns about designations of lands within Alaska under various international initiatives such as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Man in the Biosphere Program and World Heritage Program; and the Ramsar Convention. No designations should be made without the full agreement and approval of the United States Congress, the Alaska State Legislature and the Governor of Alaska.

While technically, these international designations do not establish any regulatory authority over land owners or managers, they are always considered and invariably influence agencies' management decisions affecting designated areas. A recent example of this influence is found in the final environmental impact statement (FEIS) analyzing a proposed land exchange and road construction within the Izembek National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The designation of the Izembek NWR as a Wetland of International Importance under the Ramsar Convention was a notable factor in the analysis of the proposal and in the decision to reject the land exchange and the road.

The FEIS concluded that direct and indirect effects of road construction would result in the loss of less than 5 acres of wetlands and would be considered "moderate" within the 416,193 acre Ramsar site. However, under the articles of the Ramsar Convention, even this moderate impact to the wetlands must be reported. Although the FEIS states that the Ramsar Convention is "*not regulatory and has no sanctions for violating treaty commitments, the terms of the Ramsar Convention constitutes (sic) a solemn treaty and are binding in international law.*" (*Izembek NWR Land Exchange/Road Corridor Final EIS- pg.4-123*)

In disapproving the proposed land exchange and road, Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell, cited the "internationally significant" eelgrass beds in the State owned Izembek and Kinzarof Lagoons as the core of the protected area, even though the lagoons are not part of the Izembek NWR.

It is important to point out that the U.S. Senate ratified the Ramsar Convention in 1986 and the Izembek wetlands were designated concurrently with that ratification. The designation was supported by the State of Alaska. While the Ramsar designation in Izembek NWR was only one factor in the final decision disapproving the land exchange and road, this example emphasizes the importance of both Congressional and State approval before these types of designations are made.

In the 1990's national environmental groups advocating the elimination of commercial fishing in Glacier Bay National Park cited the designation of the park as both a Biosphere Reserve and a World Heritage Site as one of the reasons they considered the State managed fishery in the bay to be an incompatible use.

The Commission is also opposed to the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the United States and the Russian Federation which would form an International Protected Area in the Bering Strait region until such time as Congress and the State of Alaska have been fully consulted and given the opportunity to thoroughly assess all potential social and economic impacts resulting from the formation of the area. We find no requirement in the MOU for consultation with the State of Alaska. There is a growing lack of trust between the State and Federal government over the implementation of MOU's and other agreements. Consequently, no MOU should be signed without approval of Congress and the State of Alaska.

The idea of an international park in this region has been around for more than 25 years, as have significant local and regional concerns about creation of such an area. In 1992, the original Commission opposed a bill that would have created a Beringian Heritage International Park. The Alaska Federation of Natives also passed a resolution at its 1991 annual convention calling for meaningful participation in the Beringian Conservation Program which had been proposed by the National Audubon Society.

The Commission appreciates that the National Park Service Shared Beringian Heritage Program has funded numerous projects over the last 12 years. These projects have collected useful archeological, cultural, historical, natural resource and environmental data. We note, however, that many of these projects are undertaken not in Alaska, but within the Russian Federation. At the same time, the Commission regularly hears complaints from Federal agencies about declining budgets for managing the lands in Alaska for which they are statutorily responsible.

An examination of the proposed FY 2014 National Park Service budget, indicates that the budget for the four National Park Units managed as the Western Arctic National Parklands – Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Noatak National Preserve, Cape Krusenstern National Monument and Kobuk Valley National Park – is approximately \$3.7 million. The Cape Krusenstern National Monument and the Bering Land Bridge National

Preserve are included in the Bering Strait region identified in the proposed MOU for formation of the International Protected Area.

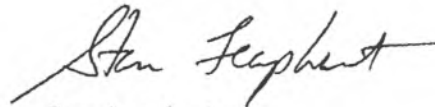
The proposed budget for the Beringia program is \$661,000. While this is not a large budget, these funds would be better spent on the national park units in this region for which the National Park Service has direct management responsibility than used to support an administratively created program.

In its 2013 Annual Report the Commission included the following:

**Recommendation: Avoid spending scarce federal funds and resources on special, non-designated areas such as the Beringia International Park or administratively created programs such as the National Water Trails System, National Blueways System, and the BLM Wildlands Program.**

The Commission is also concerned about the potential for any international park or heritage area designation to adversely affect the ability of the State of Alaska and ANCSA Regional and Village Corporations to manage their lands without interference. The creation of an International Protected area, as envisioned in the proposed MOU, could affect the future of economic development in the region. For these reasons, the Commission supports the passage of SJR 15.

Sincerely,



Stan Leaphart  
Executive Director

**Borell Consulting Services LLC**

6420 Rockridge Drive  
Anchorage, AK 99516  
907-230-7580

January 25, 2014

Honorable Cathy Giessel  
Resources Committee  
Alaska State Senate  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel,

Thank you for introducing SJR-15 which opposes international designations of lands and waters of Alaska unless previously approved by the State Legislature and U.S. Congress.

International land designations such as International Parks, World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves provide one more mechanism for environmental non-governmental organizations (ENGOS) to harass and block development projects. Over the past 25 years I have watched how such designations have been used against projects around the world.

The New World Mine in Montana was blocked in large part by pressure from local and international ENGOS arguing that it was adjacent to Yellowstone National Park, a World Heritage Site. The proposed mine was across the Wyoming border in Montana; it was several miles into Montana; it was on a drainage flowing away from the Park; it was in an historic mining district where mining first began more than 100 years ago; the mine would have cleaned up the historic tailings and environmental problems from the early mining that occurred before current environmental criteria; the mine would have created several hundred skilled, year-around, high-quality jobs. However, the project was blocked by this pressure.

On December 18, 1996 the Volcanoes of Kamchatka World Heritage Site was "enrolled" as a World Heritage Site by the United Nations office that manages such listings. That very day ENGOS sent letters and press releases pressuring the Overseas Private Insurance Corporation (OPIC) to not provide political risk insurance for the proposed Aginskoye Mine because it was near this new World Heritage Site. The area of the proposed mine was not some pristine site. It included all manner of facilities and a village of more than 1000 people that had been exploring the area for a dozen years. If memory serves me, when Russia realized what was happening it moved the boundary of the World Heritage Site and the mine was built. Try that in the U.S.

A uranium mine in Australia that had been in operation for more than 10 years needed additional permits when it came under ENGO attack. It was surrounded by a World Heritage Site and the internationally-organized-connected ENGOS staged protests in Europe outside the board meeting of the company that was buying the yellowcake from the mine.

I cringe to think of what would have happened to the Red Dog Mine if Cape Krusenstern National Monument had been designated an international park as is now being proposed by the

U.S. State Department. The road across Krusenstern required an Act of Congress and I am certain the ENGOs would have lobbied hard against that Act. If such a park was created today what affect would it have on: making changes to the Red Dog Port (DeLong Mountains Transportation System); commercial fishing; developing Port Clarence for spill and emergency response vessels; offshore drilling; other offshore minerals exploration; development of state and private lands?

The very existence of an internationally designated area can and has been used in an attempt to block development on adjacent lands. I would fully expect to see a new international park used to harass and block development on State, Bering Straits Native Corporation and NANA lands.

I urge passage of this SJR-15 to help protect the future of all Alaska with my immediate concern being Western Alaska.

Singerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Borell', written over a horizontal line.

Steven C. Borell, P.E.  
Principal



## ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

121 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 120 Anchorage, Alaska 99503 (907) 563-9229 [www.alaskaminers.org](http://www.alaskaminers.org)

February 6, 2014

Senator Cathy Giessel  
Alaska State Capitol Room 427  
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

The Alaska Miners Association writes to express its support for Senate Joint Resolution 16, urging the Federal Government to stop providing funding, through federal agencies, to nongovernmental organizations that oppose the development of Alaska's resources.

The Alaska Miners Association (AMA) is a non-profit membership organization established in 1939 to represent the mining industry in Alaska. We are composed of more than 1,500 individual prospectors, geologists, engineers, vendors, suction dredge miners, small family mines, junior mining companies, and major mining companies. Our members look for and produce gold, silver, platinum, molybdenum, lead, zinc, copper, coal, limestone, sand and gravel, crushed stone, armor rock, and other materials.

Upon being admitted to the United States, Congress recognized that while having a small population, Alaska was rich with natural resources. They realized that the state had the ability to sustain itself through the development of those resources by making them "available for maximum use consistent with the public interest." Today, lawmakers have the responsibility to implement measures that responsibly develop our natural resources: ensuring Alaska has a diverse, vibrant economy while protecting the environment, wildlife, and human health.

Despite the superb management of Alaska's natural resources, there are multiple organizations and individuals who adamantly oppose natural resource development in Alaska; choosing to ignore science and employ exaggerated, disingenuous campaigns to publicize their opposition. AMA does not believe these organizations should be funded by federal government agencies and taxpayer dollars. Therefore, we urge the passage of SJR16 to encourage the federal government to not fund them.

Thank you for introducing this resolution and protecting Alaska's economy.

Sincerely,

Deantha Crockett  
Executive Director



Council of  
**Alaska Producers**

**Comments on SJR015  
Opposing International Designations**

February 6, 2014

The Honorable Senator Cathy Giessel  
Capitol Building  
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Giessel:

The Council of Alaska Producers (CAP) is writing in support of Senate Joint Resolution 15, a resolution opposing any international designation of Alaska land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification of land or water that affects the use of land or water by the state or an Alaska Native Corporation without approval of the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature.

CAP is a non-profit trade association formed in 1992 and serves as a spokesperson for the large metal mines and major metal developmental projects in the state. Bringing together mining companies with interest in Alaska, the Council represents and informs members on legislative and regulatory issues, supports and advances the mining industry, educates members, the media, and the general public on mining related issues, and promotes economic opportunity and environmentally sound mining practices.

Governor Sean Parnell and U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski have expressed concern that the federal government has not consulted the State of Alaska on its proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Russian Federation to create the Berengia International Park.

Locking up land in an international park simply adds more federal bureaucracy to the management of Alaska's lands and marine resources. CAP does not support measures that could impede access to Alaska's lands or preclude the development of resources on those lands.

Thank you for introducing this resolution and for your efforts to ensure that Alaska can continue to develop its resources for the maximum benefit of its people.

Sincerely,

Karen Matthias  
Managing Consultant



# RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Founded 1975

Executive Director

Rick Rogers

2013-2014 Executive Committee

Phil Cochran, President

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Karen Matthias

Sam Mazzeo

Ron McPheters

James Mery

Eddie Packee

Lisa Parker

Judy Patrick

Charlie Powers

Shannon Price

Glenn Reed

Mike Satre

Keith Silver

Lorall Simon

John Sturgeon

Jan Trigg

Doug Ward

Ex-Officio Members

Senator Mark Begich

Senator Lisa Murkowski

Congressman Don Young

Governor Sean Parnell

February 5, 2014

Senator Cathy Giessel, Chair  
Senate Resources Committee  
Alaska State Senate  
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support for SJR 15: *A resolution opposing any international designation of Alaska land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification of land or water that affects the use of land or water by the state or an Alaska Native Corporation without approval by the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature.*

Dear Chairwoman Giessel and members of the Senate Resources Committee:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing in support of SJR 15, a resolution opposing any international designation of Alaska land or water as an international park, world heritage site, biosphere reserve, Ramsar site, or other classification of land or water that affects the use of land or water by the state or an Alaska Native Corporation without approval by the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature.

RDC is an Alaskan business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism, and fisheries industries. Our membership includes all of the Alaska Native regional corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

It is a policy of RDC to advocate for access to and across lands in Alaska for resource and community development. RDC is concerned the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the creation of the Beringia International Park (Beringia) will create another level of bureaucracy inhibiting access to areas in Alaska.

The area under consideration in this proposed MOU is vast and surrounds many rural communities. The MOU lacks consultation and coordination with local and state government, as well as ignores possible impacts to resources, such as oil and gas, and mining exploration and development.

It is also a policy of RDC to advocate for multiple-use of lands, and resource development in the area could provide economic benefits to the region where well-paying jobs are scarce, as well as improved or added infrastructure and access to areas for multiple-users.

RDC maintains that multiple uses should include mining (exploration, leasing, development) for oil and gas, coal, and minerals, as well as recreational and other potential

121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

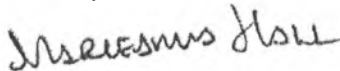
Phone: 907-276-0700 • Fax: 907-276-3887 • Email: resources@akrdc.org • Website: akrdc.org

uses. With less than one percent of Alaska in conventional private ownership, access should be available on other lands, and should not be restricted by an unprecedented one-size fits all MOU that will likely add another layer of federal bureaucracy.

SJR 15 is timely, given the MOU has yet to be signed by the President. Input from those most knowledgeable about Alaska and Alaska's resources should not be ignored. This MOU could seriously jeopardize the ability to access resources that fall in and around Beringia. In addition, past federal government promises assured access to allow resource development in this area and others not set aside through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The passage of ANILCA in 1980 set aside 106 million acres of federal lands in Alaska as conservation system units. Today, Alaska accounts for 70 percent of all national park lands in the United States, as well as 53 percent of designated Wilderness for all of the U.S.

RDC thanks Senator Giessel for introducing this resolution, and urges the Alaska Legislature to pass SJR 15 and to continue to assert the State of Alaska's rights, and consult with the State on this and any future designations of the State's lands and resources.

Sincerely,



Marleanna Hall  
Projects Coordinator



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Alaska Region  
240 West 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Room 114  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

IN REPLY REFER TO:

February 28, 2014

Honorable Cathy Giessel  
Alaska State Senate  
State Capitol Room 427  
Juneau AK, 99801

Dear Senator Giessel:

We have received Senate Joint Resolution 15, and understand through a conversation with Rep. Dan Saddler on February 27, 2014, that the resolution will be considered by the House Resources Committee on March 3, 2014. Recent media reports with inaccurate information regarding Beringia associated with the resolution also concern us. We would like to provide your office and others in the Alaska Legislature with comments on several provisions of the resolution. Our comments are organized by topic and note specific page and line numbers in the Senate Joint Resolution.

### **Participation by the State of Alaska**

In several sections (Page 1, Lines 11-13; Page 2, Lines 1-2; Page 3, Lines 23-27; Page 5, Lines 6-7) the resolution urges participation by the Governor and other parts of the Executive Branch in discussions related to an agreement with Russia.

We welcome that participation, and note for the record that the National Park Service has already enjoyed substantial involvement from the Governor's Office and others in his administration over a period of several years. Specific examples include participation by the Lieutenant Governor in a panel discussion at our semi-annual Beringia Days Conference in Nome in 2011, and participation by Kip Knudsen and Mark Robbins of the Office of the Governor in subsequent meetings on the subject. Mr. Robbins and others in the administration have also been frequent recipients of email updates by the National Park Service as the international diplomatic process moved forward.

Additionally, in November 2012, the State of Alaska provided comments on a draft of the non-binding Memorandum of Understanding with Russia as well as the associated action plan. That input is associated with the request of September 2012, which is noted on Page 3, Line 23.

While the Service has never had the opportunity to brief you or others in the Alaska State Senate on the 23-year-old Beringia Heritage Program and the range of work conducted with many Alaska communities and organizations, we would be pleased to do so at your convenience.

## **Geographic Scope**

On Page 2, Lines 22-25, the resolution notes that the National Park Service defines Beringia as a broad area stretching from the Lena River to the Mackenzie River. That is the geographer's common definition of Beringia, but does not accurately reflect the location of work we have done since the Beringia program began more than 20 years ago.

The as-yet-unsigned non-binding Memorandum of Understanding between Russia and the United States focuses on the Bering Strait Region, and specifically the Beringia National Park in Russia and Bering Land Bridge National Preserve and Cape Krusenstern National Monument in Alaska.

The cooperative work that the two nations have conducted for more than two decades has focused on that much smaller area, while including valuable participation by residents of Bering Strait communities such as Nome, Shishmaref and Kotzebue. The type of work and the distribution of federal funding that has been extended to the University of Alaska, Native Corporations and community organizations is detailed on the Service's Beringia web site, [www.nps.gov/akso/beringia](http://www.nps.gov/akso/beringia).

Page 2, Lines 26-28, asserts that the National Park Service has attempted to expand the scope of its influence beyond Alaska park boundaries. We note for the record that Congress has made several provisions for our work outside of unit boundaries of the National Park System. Some are described in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (P.L. 96-487) while others are described in other federal legislation.

Page 3, Lines 7-9, states that "...for many years, the National Park Service has pursued a program to establish a Beringia International Park, a world heritage site, and a marine biosphere reserve that would include land and water in Alaska and the Russian Far East." The statement is generally correct so far as an international park is concerned; that was the recommendation of the 1991 study conducted by the National Park Service and representatives of the then-Soviet Union. The National Park Service is not proposing a world heritage site or a marine biosphere reserve. The Memorandum of Understanding does not establish an international park, but does describe in detail the intentions of the two nations.

## **Scope of Effects**

Page 4, Lines 4-8, asserts that the current MOU effort would lead to international designations and reduce the sovereignty of the State of Alaska and the United States. We would refer members of the Legislature to the language of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Section 8 of the Memorandum of Understanding says, "This legally nonbinding Memorandum is not an international agreement and does not create any rights or obligations under international law."

Section 10 says "Nothing in this Memorandum abrogates or in any way infringes upon the sovereign rights and authorities of each of the Governments and their Participants to manage lands within its respective borders in accordance with its country's laws, or upon the rights or third parties."

The National Park Service appreciates the opportunity to provide information to the Alaska Legislature, and looks forward to continuing our work with the State of Alaska on our mutual interests. Please feel free to contact me directly at 907-644-3512 if you would like additional information about the Beringia program or any of our work in Alaska.

Sincerely,

John Quinley  
Associate Regional Director, Communications and Partnerships

Cc: Alaska Governor Sean Parnell  
Rep. Dan Saddler (c/o Trevor Fulton)  
Pat Pourchot, United States Department of the Interior

**Jane Conway**

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**From:** Jane Conway  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2014 2:54 PM  
**To:** Jane Conway  
**Subject:** SJR 15 Hrg Request  
**Attachments:** SJR 15 Fiscal Note.pdf; SJR 15 Sponsor Statement HRES.pdf; SJR 15 Support Letters.pdf; SJR 15 Don Young.pdf; Proposed Transboundary Area of Shared Beringian Heritage.pdf; SJR15 AK Land Ownership Map.pdf; SJR15 Biosphere List.pdf; SJR15 Governor Letter to US Secs of State.pdf; SJR15 MOU US and Russia.pdf; SJR15 Murkowski - Young letter to Secs of State.pdf; SJR15 Murkowski Young response.pdf; SJR15 Promise of ANILCA.pdf; SJR15 Sen. Majority letter to Kerry & Jewell.pdf; SJR 15 Hrg Request HRES.pdf; SJR 15 AK Heritage Site List.pdf; SJR 15 Vote record.pdf; SJR15 Oppose Int. Designation.pdf

Hi Trevor and Linda:

Attachments for SJR 15 Oppose International Designations

For Hearing Monday, March 3:

Senator Giessel  
Jane Conway  
Stan Leaphart (CAFCA) off net calling from (907)-374- 3737  
Marleanna Hall, AK Resource Development Council number forthcoming  
Karen Matthias, Council of AK Producers calling from (907) 301-1022

What else do you need?  
I will bring down packets for both of you soon.

Thanks.

**Jane M. Conway**

Staff to Senator Cathy Giessel  
Alaska State Capitol, Room 427  
Juneau, Alaska 99801  
907-465-8181

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

Session  
State Capitol Building  
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182  
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Fax: (907) 465-3871




District  
716 West 4th Avenue  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2133  
Phone: (907) 269-0181  
Fax: (907) 269-0184

SENATOR CATHY GIESSEL

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 26, 2014

TO: Representative Dan Saddler, Co-Chair, House Resources Committee  
Representative Eric Feige, Co-Chair, House Resources Committee

FROM: Senator Cathy Giessel 

RE: Request for Hearing, Senate Joint Resolution 15,  
Oppose International Designations

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I respectfully request that SJR 15 Oppose International Designations be scheduled for a hearing before the House Resources Committee at your earliest convenience.

Senate Joint Resolution 15 urges the federal government to cease pursuing the creation of a Beringia International Park. The framework for this Bering Strait-region park is currently progressing via a Memorandum of Understanding written by representatives of the Russian government and our then United States Secretary of State Hilary Clinton, present Secretary of State John Kerry and the National Park Service. SJR 15 strongly urges that the federal government pause, consult the State of Alaska in regard to this MOU, and any future federal or United Nations designations, and that their creation require both the approval of the United States Congress and the Alaska State Legislature.

Attached you will find:

1. Sponsor Statement
2. SJR 15
3. Zero Fiscal Note
4. Support Documents
5. Letters of Support
6. Previous Voting Sheets
7. Possible Testifiers

Please contact Jane Conway, 465-8181, in my office if you need any further information.