

SCOMM

119:9

Alaska State Legislature

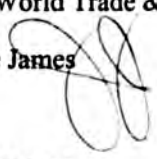
REPRESENTATIVE
JEANNETTE JAMES
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House Of Representatives

House District 34

Memorandum

To: Chair Ramona Barnes / World Trade & State & Federal Relations
From: Representative Jeannette James 
Date: 02/18/99
Re: Request for Hearing on HJR 15

I am requesting a hearing on HJR 15 at your earliest convenience. This legislation is intended to reaffirm the constitutional authority of the Congress as elected representatives of the people over federal lands of the United States. The State of Alaska wants Congress to make the decisions about land designations to international entities with a public process, not only the President or his appointees.

Jeannette

CONFIDENTIAL

Alaska State Legislature

REPRESENTATIVE
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House Of Representatives

House District 34

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

This legislation is to reaffirm and pledge continued support for the Alaska State Legislative Resolve 31 passed on to Congress in March 1997.

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. Stop to consider that major areas like the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve and other areas totaling over 40 million acres have already been listed as World Heritage Sites or Biosphere Reserves in Alaska.

Immediately following the recent designation of a portion of Kamchatka as a World Heritage Site, strong efforts began by environmental groups to block investment insurance for development projects on Kamchatka that the local communities supported. It is just as we feared, and is highly conceivable that most, if not all, National Parks and some National Wildlife Refuges and Wilderness areas in Alaska could qualify for listing under the Conventions.

You can be sure that each area listed in the future will also include buffer zones and transitory zones, and that the same ecological standards for use and development will apply to these areas as are applied to buffer zones surrounding Yellowstone National Park and other World Heritage Sites.

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

Another concern is if established subsistence uses could be eliminated within existing National Parks. And is it possible that established transportation corridors could be closed to use by Alaskans? Could the international convention community apply unilateral trapping standards to these areas? These are areas of deep concern and we urge congressional debate over these issues and eventual clarification by Congress.

Alaska State Legislature

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House Of Representatives

House District 34

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

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

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

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

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

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

I urge you to support HJR 15. Thank you.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
1999 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HJR 15

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

FISCAL NOTE

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

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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

as World Heritage Sites or as Biosphere Reserves. Please give your support to HJR 15....

Thanks

There is an amendment in your packets that needs your approval.

It is simple -- to correct an error of the resolution # ----- The

amendment deletes H.R. 833 from page 3, line 12 and page 3, line 14

and to inserts H.R. 883 in their place.

CS FOR HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 15(WTR)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

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

Offered: 3/5/99

Referred: Resources

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Links to the Past

World Heritage Sites in the United States

National Park Service- US/ICOMOS

This Home Page is a joint effort between the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service (NPS) and the United States Committee, International Council on Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS). Throughout the world, national ICOMOS committees work to support the World Heritage Convention. In the United States, the NPS serves as chief steward of the nation's natural and cultural patrimony.

There are twenty-two (22) World Heritage sites in the United States. The U.S. Department of the Interior, in cooperation with the Federal Interagency Panel for World Heritage has identified many more sites (cultural and natural) as likely to meet the criteria for future nomination to the World Heritage List. This tentative list is available for viewing. Some World Heritage Sites are threatened by development, neglect and natural decay.



Click on the map for a satellite image (50k) showing the location of World Heritage Sites in the continental United States, Alaska, Hawaii and Puerto Rico. These sites are indicated by blue dots.

List of World Heritage Sites in the United States of America

(text-only)

WORLD HERITAGE LINKS

World Heritage Review (a cultural resource journal)

Statement from the GW Society in favor of World Heritage designation

Internet Resource Guide for Heritage Conservation, Historic Preservation and Archeology

World Heritage Centre Home Page

Comments or Questions

Jim Charlton, International Cooperation Specialist

Phone: 302-565-1280

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

Glaciers 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

Tajeresin 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 Mounument

COLORADO

Colorado National Monument

Mesa Verde National Park **INSCRIBED 1978**

Lindenmeir Site

Rocky Mountain National Park

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chapel Hill, Gallaudet College

Washington Monument

FLORIDA/GEORGIA

Everglades National Park **INSCRIBED 1979**

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge

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

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INDICATIVE LIST, UNITED STATES (by state)

ALABAMA

Moundville Site

ALASKA

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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

Cerro 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
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Redwood National Park INSCRIBED 1980

Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks

Yosemite National Park INSCRIBED 1984

CALIFORNIA/NEVADA

Death Valley National Monument

COLORADO

Colorado National Monument

Mesa Verde National Park INSCRIBED 1978

Pedernales Site

Rocky Mountain National Park

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Chapel Hill, 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
Puuhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park

ILLINOIS

Auditorium Building, Chicago
Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site INSCRIBED 1982
Carson, Pirie, Scott and Company Store, Chicago
Eads Bridge, Illinois-St. Louis, Missouri
Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio
Leiter II Building, Chicago
Marquette Building, Chicago
Reliance Building, Chicago
Robie House, Chicago
Rookery Building, Chicago
South Dearborn Street-Printing House Row North Historic District
Unity Temple, Oak Park

INDIANA

New Harmony Historic District

LOUISIANA

Poverty Point

MAINE

Acadia National Park

MASSACHUSETTS

Goddard Rocket Launching Site

MISSOURI

Wainwright Building, St. Louis

MONTANA

Glacier National Park INSCRIBED 1995

NEW JERSEY/NEW YORK

Statue of Liberty National Monument INSCRIBED 1984

NEW MEXICO

Carlsbad Caverns National Park INSCRIBED 1995
Chaco Culture National Historical Park INSCRIBED 1987
Pecos National Monument
Taos Pueblo INSCRIBED 1992
Trinity Site

NEW YORK

Brooklyn Bridge
General Electric Research Laboratories, Schenectady
Prudential (Guaranty) Building, Buffalo
Pupin Physics Laboratory, Columbia University
Original Bell Telephone Laboratories

NORTH CAROLINA/TENNESSEE

Great Smoky Mountains National Park INSCRIBED 1983

OHIO

Mound City Group National Monument**OREGON****Crater Lake National Park****PENNSYLVANIA****Fallingwater****Independence National Historic Site INSCRIBED 1979****TEXAS****Big Bend National Park****Guadalupe Mountains National Park****UTAH****Arches National Park****Bryce Canyon National Park****Canyonlands National Park****Capitol Reef National Park****Rainbow Bridge National Monument****Zion National Park****VIRGINIA****McCormick Farm and Workshop****Monticello INSCRIBED 1987****University of Virginia Historic District INSCRIBED 1987****Virginia Coast Reserve****WASHINGTON****Mount Rainier National Park****Olympic National Park INSCRIBED 1981****North Cascades National Park****WISCONSIN****Taliesin****WYOMING****Grand Teton National Park****WYOMING/MONTANA****Snowstone National Park INSCRIBED 1978****PUERTO RICO****La Fortaleza-San Juan National Historical Site INSCRIBED 1983**

These sites are further detailed in the following Public Notice in the Federal Register (47 FR 19648), as amended by 48 FR 38101 and 55 FR 33781).

INDICATIVE INVENTORY OF POTENTIAL FUTURE U.S. NOMINATIONS TO THE WORLD HERITAGE LIST

I. Cultural Properties

Prehistory and Living Communities (formerly Archaeology)

Post-Contact Aboriginal

Taos Pueblo, New Mexico. (36 deg.25' N.; 105 deg.40' W.) A center of Indian culture since the 17th century, the pueblo of Taos, still active today, symbolizes Indian resistance to external rule.

The mission of San Geronimo, one of the earliest in New Mexico, was built near Taos Pueblo in the early 17th century. Criteria: (v) An outstanding example of a traditional human settlement which is representative of a culture and which has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.

Post-Contact Aboriginal/Developed Agriculture

Pecos National Monument, New Mexico. (35 deg.35' N.; 105 deg.45' W.) This site was occupied since before A.D. 900 up until the 19th century. The archaeological excavations of the area led to the development of a cultural sequence which in turn enabled the comparative dating of southwestern U.S. sites. This classification is the cornerstone of the understanding of Southwestern archaeology. In addition to the archaeology at Pecos, there are the foundations of a Spanish mission, the ruins of an 18th-century church, and numerous Pueblo Indian structural remains, including restored kivas. Criteria: (iii) Bears a unique testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.

Developed Agriculture

Moundville Site, Alabama. (33 deg.0' N.; 87 deg.40' W.) This is probably the site described by De Soto in his Mississippian expedition. This site demonstrates the Mesoamerican influence on the culture of the Southeast. It is a "ceremonial" site with over twenty extant mounds and burial areas. Criteria: (iii) Bears a unique testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.

Casa Grande National Monument, Arizona. (33 deg.0' N.; 111 deg.30' W.) Casa Grande is a four-story tower of packed earthen walls built over 600 years ago by the agricultural Indians of the Gila River Valley. The site also contains important Hohokam Indian remains dating from about 900 A.D. Criteria: (iii) Bears a unique testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.

Hohokam Pima National Monument, Arizona. (32 deg.55' N.; 111 deg.30' W.) Hohokam Pima is part of the site of Snaketown, which was continuously inhabited by the Hohokam/Pima cultures for over 2,000 years. This site contains essentially all phases of Hohokam cultural development from the earliest villages established around 400 B.C. up to A.D. 1450. Subsequently this same site was occupied by the Pima from the time of contact with the Spanish until around 1940. The Hohokam Pima site clearly demonstrates the Mesoamerican influence in the Southwestern U.S. The site is located in a Pima reservation. Criteria: (iii) Bears a unique testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.

Ocmulgee National Monument, Georgia. (32 deg.50' N.; 83 deg.40' W.) The large mounds and surrounding villages at Ocmulgee demonstrates the cultural evolution of the Indian mound-builder civilization in the southern U.S. Criteria: (iii) Bears an exception testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.

Poverty Point, Louisiana. (32 deg.40' N.; 91 deg.25' W.) An archaeological site that flourished from 1,000-600 B.C. It contains a geometric earthwork complex, consisting of 11.2 miles of raised terraces arranged in six concentric octagons, and Poverty Point Mound, a bird-shaped ceremonial structure. Criteria: (iii) Bears an exception testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.

Chaco Culture National Historical Park, New Mexico. (36 deg.10' N.; 108 deg.0' W.) This property bears testimony to the first five periods of the Chacoan variant and one period of the Mesa Verdean variant of the Pueblo civilization. Chaco Canyon is a large canyon which contains

approximately 1100 ruins including 13 major Pueblo Indian villages. These villages consist of 3-5 story buildings which often contain over 1,000 rooms. The ceremonial complex consisting of the large villages is dated between A.D. 1,110 and 1,300 and clearly demonstrates the cultural links between the Mesoamerican cultures and the Pueblo Indians of the Southwestern U.S. Criteria: (ii) Exerted great influence, over a span of time and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in town-planning; and (iii) bears a unique testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.

Mound City Group National Monument, Ohio. (39 deg.25' N; 83 deg.1' W.) Twenty-three burial mounds of Hopewell Indians (200 B.C.-A.D. 500) have yielded vast quantities of artifacts that give insights into the ceremonial customs of the Hopewell people. Criteria: (iii) Bears a unique testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.

Archaic/Paleo-Indian

Cape Krusenstern Archaeological District, Alaska. (67 deg.0' N.; 164 deg.0' W.) Cape Krusenstern consists of a series of marine beach ridges (and nearby hills) which contain evidence of nearly every major cultural period in Arctic prehistory and history. This area is very near the probable route taken by man's first crossing into North America and is still inhabited today. Due to land subsidence along the coast a unique stratigraphy has formed which allows a complete dating sequence in an area where few dates are available. Each ridge represents approximately a 200-year time span for a total of approximately 8,000 years. Criteria: (iii) Bears a unique testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.

Ventana Cave, Arizona. (32 deg.25' N.; 112 deg.15' W.) Ventana Cave offers a unique history of the hunter/gatherer cultural development and continuity. This site has been occupied continuously from 200 B.C. until the present. Excavations here solidified the stratigraphic sequence dates, and made a significant contribution to knowledge of the development of Hohokam culture in this area. Criteria: (iii) Bears a unique testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.

Paleo-Indian

Lindenmeier Site, Colorado. (40 deg.55'; 105 deg.10' W.) This site was one of the earliest Folsom sites to be excavated by archaeologists and was instrumental in establishing man's presence in North America at its current early date. The site consists of a kill site marked by numerous bison bones and a camp a short distance away. This is one of the few early man sites where both site types were found, and it gives a more complete picture of the early hunters' life and cultural adaptation. Criteria: (iii) Bears a unique testimony to a civilization which has disappeared.

Hawaiian

Pu'uhonua O Honaunau National Historical Park, Hawaii. (19 deg.25' N.; 155 deg.55' W.) This area (formerly known as City of Refuge National Historical Park) includes sacred ground, where vanquished Hawaiian warriors, noncombatants, and kapu breakers were granted refuge from secular authority. Prehistoric housesites, royal fishponds, and spectacular shore scenery are features of the park. Criteria: (v) An outstanding example of a traditional human settlement which is representative of a culture and which has become vulnerable under the impact of irreversible change.

European Exploration and Colonial Settlement

La Fortaleza-San Juan National Historical Site, Puerto Rico. (18 deg.28' N.; 66 deg.10' W.) Spanish defenses at San Juan guarded their sea lanes to the Caribbean; at this site they founded one of their earliest colonies in the Americas. La Fortaleza, the first fortification of San Juan (built 1533-40), has been the residence of the island's governors since the 1620s. The massive masonry citadel of El Morro was begun in 1591. Criteria: (iv) An outstanding example of a type of structure which illustrates a significant stage in history; and (vi) directly and tangibly associated with events of outstanding universal significance.

San Xavier Del Bac, Arizona. (32 deg.10' N.; 111 deg.0' W.) One of the finest Spanish colonial churches in the United States, having a richly ornamented baroque interior. (Comparative national and international study will be necessary before the United States would consider nominating property representative of this important international development. For example, the California and Texas mission systems would be examined.) Criteria: (iv) An outstanding example of a type of structure which illustrates a significant stage in history.

Savannah Historic District, Georgia. The first settlement in the English colony of Georgia, which was founded with philanthropic intent, Savannah has retained much of James Oglethorpe's original city plan and possesses many structures of architectural merit. Criteria: (ii) Has exerted great influence, over a span of time, or within a cultural area of the world, on developments in town-planning; and (vi) directly and tangibly associated with events or with ideas of outstanding universal significance.

Architecture: Early United States

Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginia. (38 deg.0' N.; 78 deg.30' W.) Thomas Jefferson, the third American President, was a popularizer of the Classic Revival architectural style. In Monticello, his mansion, he combined elements of Roman, Palladian, and 18th-century French design with features expressing his extraordinary personal inventiveness. Criteria: (i) A unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of the creative genius; and (ii) has exerted great influence, over a span of time and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

University of Virginia Historic District, Charlottesville, Virginia. (38 deg.0' N.; 78 deg.30' W.) Includes original classrooms and professors' quarters housed in pavilions aligned on both sides of an elongated terraced court, as well as the domed Rotunda, a scaled-down version of the Pantheon which was the focal point of Thomas Jefferson's design. Jefferson envisioned a community of scholars living and studying in an architecturally unified complex of buildings. Criteria: (i) A unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of the creative genius; and (ii) has exerted great influence, over a span of time and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

Architecture: Modern U.S.

Consideration will be given to the nomination of a "thematic" Chicago School district, including some of the properties listed in this grouping.

Auditorium Building, Chicago, Illinois. (41 deg.52' N.; 87 deg.40' W.) Constructed in 1889, this building is one of the most important works by Chicago School architects Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan. Criteria: (i) A unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of creative genius; and (ii) has exerted great influence, over a span of time, and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

Carson, Pirie, Scott and Company Store, Chicago, Illinois. (41 deg.52' N.; 87 deg.40' W.) A commercial establishment designed by Louis Sullivan in an original and practical form, Carson, Pirie, Scott and Company was his last large commercial commission. An iron and steel framework supports the structure, which is most notable for its elaborate ironwork ornament on the first and second floor facades. Sullivan's designs combine organic and geometric shapes in intricate and delicate patterns, in a type of ornament that is the hallmark of his work. The addition was by Daniel H. Burnham in 1904-6. Criteria: (i) A unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of creative genius; and (ii) has exerted great influence, over a span of time, and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

Leiter II Building, Chicago, Illinois. (41 deg.52' N.; 87 deg.40' W.) Constructed in 1889-91, this building is the masterwork of architect William Le Baron Jenny. One of the earliest surviving examples of the Chicago School curtain wall proto-skyscraper. Criteria: (ii) Has exerted great influence, over a span of time, and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

Marquette Building, Chicago, Illinois. (41 deg.52' N.; 87 deg.40' W.) Architects William Holabird and Martin Roche made their first decisive statement on a new concept in building -- steel framing. Constructed 1893-4. Criteria: (ii) Has exerted great influence, over a span of time, and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

Reliance Building, Chicago, Illinois. (41 deg.52' N.; 87 deg.40' W.) This building (1890-5) by Daniel Burnham and John Root is a key monument of the "Chicago School." It has a steel framework and is covered with terra cotta sheathing except on the granite first floor. Windows form continuous bands and are "Chicago windows" -- large single, fixed panes of glass which fill an entire bay except for narrow, movable, double hung sash in the projecting bays. Criteria: (ii) Has exerted great influence, over a span of time, and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

Rookery Building, Chicago, Illinois. (41 deg.52' N.; 87 deg.40' W.) One of the last great masonry structures of the 19th century, designed by Daniel Burnham and John W. Root. Constructed in 1886-88, The Rookery is a transitional structure which presaged the modern steel frame office building. It combines skeletal cast-iron columns and spandrel beams supporting masonry with granite and brick and terra cotta. Criteria: (ii) Has exerted great influence, over a span of time, and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

South Dearborn Street-Printing House Row North Historic District, Chicago, Illinois. (41 deg.52' N.; 87 deg.40' W.) This commercial district contains landmark structures in the development of skyscraper construction and some of the finest achievements of the "Chicago School" of architects: The Manhattan Building by William Le Baron Jenny, the first complete steel skeleton building, with wind bracing; the Daniel Burnham-designed Fisher Building, an early curtain-wall structure; the Old Colony Building by Holabird and Roche, using Corydon Purdy's wind bracing system; and the Monadnock Building, by Burnham and Root (north section) and Holabird and Roche (south section), one of the largest masonry bearing-wall structures ever built. Criteria: (ii) Has exerted great influence, over a span of time, and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

Prudential (Guaranty) Building, Buffalo, New York. (42 deg.50' N.; 78 deg.50' W.) The last collaborative effort of Dankmar Adler and Louis Sullivan, the 13-story Prudential, constructed in

1895, is a triumph of early skyscraper design. It links two skyscraper periods and departs from the earlier commercial use of elaborate ornamentation in favor of an emphatically vertical appearance. Although appearing rectangular in shape, it is actually U-shaped due to light corridors above the first floor. Criteria: (ii) Has exerted great influence, over a span of time, and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

Wainwright Building, St. Louis, Missouri. (38 deg.40' N.; 90 deg.10' W.) Significant prototype of the modern office building, constructed in 1890-91. This building represents a deliberate attempt to create a historical form expressive of the new mass of the multistory office block. For Sullivan, the potential aesthetic quality of the tall building lay in its unusual height. To emphasize this height to the maximum degree, he devised a system of closely ranked, pier-like verticals that give the street elevations their forceful thrust. Criteria: (i) Represents a unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of the creative genius; and (ii) has exerted great influence, over a span of time, and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

Architecture: Wright School

A single, or thematic, nomination representative of this group will be considered.

Frank Lloyd Wright Home and Studio, Illinois. (41 deg.52' N.; 87 deg.50' W.) Wright lived and practiced here, in the Shingle-style home he built for his family, during the "First Golden Age" of his long career. Constructed 1889-98. Criteria: (ii) Has exerted great influence, over a span of time, and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

Unity Temple, Oak Park, Illinois. (41 deg.52' N.; 87 deg.50' W.) Wright designed the Temple with a rooftop skylight, rather than a steeple. Constructed in 1906 of poured concrete, the Temple is basically a concrete cube with stark and largely unornamented interior walls. Criteria: (ii) Has exerted great influence, over a span of time, and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

Robie House, Chicago, Illinois. (41 deg.52' N.; 87 deg.40' W.) This brick house, with its low horizontal emphasis, was designed by Wright in his "Prairie" style, utilizing an open plan focused on a large central chimney mass. He continued inside walls to the exterior to tie the surrounding landscape to the house. Constructed 1907-9. Criteria: (ii) Has exerted great influence, over a span of time, and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

Taliesin, Wisconsin. (43 deg.10' N.; 90 deg.10' W.) The second great center of Wright's activity, this combination of home, workshop, laboratory, and retreat consists of several groupings of structures designed individually to suit their different uses. It is the summer home and studio of the Taliesin Fellowship. Criteria: (ii) Has exerted great influence, over a span of time, and within a cultural area of the world, on developments in architecture.

Fallingwater, Pennsylvania. (39 deg.55' N.; 90 deg.25' W.) One of the most famous of Frank Lloyd Wright's designs, regarded by many as his masterwork. Criteria: (i) A unique artistic achievement, a masterpiece of the creative genius.

Engineering

Brooklyn Bridge, New York. (40 deg.42' N.; 73 deg.57' W.) Built by John A. and Washington A. Roebling, the Brooklyn Bridge was one of the world's first wire cable suspension bridges. The

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addition, the uranium atom was split here on January 25, 1939, 10 days after the world's first splitting in Copenhagen. The cyclotron control room contains the table which held the instruments used on that night. The United States would consider nominating this site only if the Copenhagen location is no longer extant. Criteria: (vi) Directly and tangibly associated with an event of outstanding universal significance.

Trinity Site, New Mexico. (33 deg.45' N.; 106 deg.25' W.) The world's first nuclear device was exploded here in July 1945. Criteria: (vi) Directly and tangibly associated with an event of outstanding universal significance.

Humanitarian Endeavor and Social Reform

New Harmony Historic District, Indiana. (38 deg.08' N.; 87 deg.55' W.) Founded by the Rappite religious sect in 1815, New Harmony was purchased in 1825 by British visionary and socialist reformer Robert Owen, who sought to alleviate evils spawned by the factory system. Some 35 structures from the Rappite-Harmonist period survive. This property will be compared to Owenite remains in the United Kingdom and to other communal societies in the U.S. Criteria: (vi) Directly and tangibly associated with events of outstanding universal significance.

Chapel Hall, Gallaudet College, District of Columbia, District of Columbia. This large Gothic Revival structure (1867-70) is the earliest major building at the college, the only institution of higher learning specifically devoted to the education of the deaf. Criteria: (vi) Directly and tangibly associated with events or ideas of outstanding universal significance.

Warm Springs Historic District, Georgia. (32 deg.50' N.; 84 deg.40' W.) The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which grew out of the Warm Springs Foundation established by Franklin D. Roosevelt, became one of the leading charitable institutions of the 20th century. Warm Springs Hospital was the major international center for the treatment of infantile paralysis (polio); the research that led to the development of the preventive vaccines had its roots here. Criteria: (vi) Directly and tangibly associated with events of outstanding universal significance.

International Affairs

Aleutian Islands Unit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge (Fur Seal Rookeries), Alaska. (57 deg.30' N.; 170 deg. 30' W.) Originally frequented by the native peoples of Alaska, these islands have lured Russian, British, French, Spanish, and American fur hunters since the 18th century. The seal herds have several times been threatened with extinction due to indiscriminate hunting, but a notable 1911 convention between the United States, the United Kingdom, Russia (USSR), and Japan has provided them with international protection and management. Today's flourishing herds illustrate the international application of conservation principles. Criteria: (vi) Directly and tangibly associated with events of outstanding universal significance.

Statue of Liberty National Monument, New Jersey-New York. (40 deg.07' N.; 74 deg.03' W.) French historian Edouard Laboulaye suggested the presentation of this statue to the United States, commemorating the alliance of France and the United States during the American Revolution. The copper colossus was designed by Frederic Auguste Bartholdi and erected according to plans by Gustave Eiffel. The national monument also includes Ellis Island, the depot through which many millions of immigrants and emigrants passed. Criteria: (iv) An outstanding example of type of structure which illustrates a significant stage in history, and (vi) directly and tangibly associated with events of outstanding universal significance.

II. Natural Properties

Appalachian Ranges

Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Tennessee/North Carolina. (35 deg.37' N.; 83 deg.27' W.) This tract, which includes one of the oldest uplands on earth, has a diversity of lush vegetation associated with its varied topography, including spruce-fir, hemlock, deciduous, and mixed forests. The area has been designated a Biosphere Reserve. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Atlantic Coastal Plain

Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge, Georgia/Florida. (30 deg.48' N.; 82 deg.17' W.) This tract includes a vast peat bog, interspersed with upland prairies, marshes, and open water. These diverse habitats are some for a wide range of uncommon, threatened, and endangered species, including the American alligator. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of biological evolution, and (iv) habitat of endangered animal species.

Virginia Coast Reserve, Virginia. (37 deg.30' N.; 75 deg.40' W.) The Virginia Coast Reserve is the most well-preserved extensive barrier island system remaining on the Atlantic Coast of North America. The system of barrier islands, saltmarshes, and lagoons demonstrate dune and beach migration and storm action on barrier islands, and include virtually all of the plant communities which once occurred along the Atlantic Coast. The area has been designated a Biosphere Reserve. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes and biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena and formations.

Brooks Range

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska. (69 deg.0' N.; 143 deg.0' W.) This area's varied topography, extending from the Brooks Range north to the Arctic Ocean, is habitat for a tremendous diversity of wildlife, including caribou, polar and grizzly bears, musk ox, Dall sheep, Arctic peregrine falcons, and golden eagles. It is a virtually undisturbed arctic landscape, with coastal plain, tundra, valley, and mountain components. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of biological evolution, and (iii) superlative natural phenomena and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Gates of the Arctic National Park, Alaska. (67 deg.30' N.; 153 deg.0' W.) Gates of the Arctic includes a portion of the central Brooks Range and is characterized by jagged mountain peaks, gentle arctic valleys, wild rivers and numerous lakes. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant ongoing geological processes and biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Cascade Range

Crater Lake National Park, Oregon. (42 deg.55' N.; 122 deg.06' W.) This unique, deep blue lake lies at the center of Mount Mazama, an ancient volcanic peak that collapsed centuries ago. The lake is bounded by multicolored lava walls extending 500 to 2000 feet above the lake's waters. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains

superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Mount Rainier National Park, Washington. (46 deg.52' N.; 121 deg.41' W.) Mount Rainier National Park includes the greatest single-peak glacial system in the U.S., radiating from the summit and slopes of an ancient volcano. Dense forests and subalpine meadows here are characteristic of the Cascade Range. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes and biological evolution; and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

North Cascades National Park, Washington. (48 deg.40' N.; 121 deg.15' W.) The tall, jagged peaks of the North Cascades intercept moisture-laden winds off the Pacific Ocean, which produce glaciers, waterfalls, and ice falls in this wild alpine region where plant and animal communities thrive in mountain valleys. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes and biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Chihuahuan Desert

Big Bend National Park, Texas. (29 deg.15' N.; 103 deg.11' W.) This area has many excellent examples of mountain systems and deep canyons formed by a major river. A variety of unusual geological formations are found here, with many vegetation types -- dry coniferous forest, woodland, chaparral, and desert -- associated with them. The area has been designated a Biosphere Reserve. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes and biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico. (32 deg.10' N.; 104 deg.40' W.) This series of connected caverns, which include the largest underground chambers yet discovered, have many magnificent and curious cave formations, including an array of speleothems. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Guadalupe Mountains National Park, Texas. (31 deg.50' N.; 104 deg.50' W.) Rising abruptly from the surrounding desert, the mountain mass constituting this national park contains portions of the world's most extensive and significant Permian limestone fossil reef. A tremendous earth fault and unusual flora and fauna are also found here. Criteria: (i) An outstanding example illustrating a major stage of the earth's evolutionary history, (ii) an outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena and formations.

Colorado Plateau

Arches National Park, Utah. (38 deg.40' N.; 109 deg.30' W.) Arches National Park contains many extraordinary products of erosional processes, including giant arches, windows, pinnacles and pedestals. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah. (37 deg.30' N.; 112 deg.10' W.) Bryce Canyon includes innumerable highly colorful and bizarre pinnacles, walls and spires, perhaps the most colorful and unusual erosional forms in the world. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional

natural beauty.

Canyonlands National Park, Utah. (38 deg.20' N.; 109 deg.50' W.) this area's diverse geological features, which include arches, fins pillars, spires, and mesas, exemplify the array of erosional patterns carved primarily by running water. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Capitol Reef National Park, Utah. (38 deg.20' N.; 111 deg.10' W.) The 100-mile long Waterpocket Fold is one of the world's most graphic examples of a monoclinical folding of the earth's crust. A striking variety of features, including volcanic dikes and sills, arches and bridges, and monoliths and sinkholes, have been created or exposed by wide-scale erosion occurring over the past 270 million years. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Colorado National Monument, Colorado. (39 deg.0' N.; 108 deg.40' W.) Sheer-walled canyons, towering monoliths, bizarre formations, and dinosaur fossils are contained within this national monument. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Rainbow Bridge National Monument, Utah. (37 deg.0' N.; 111 deg.0' W.) Rainbow Bridge is the greatest of the world's known natural bridges, rising 290 feet above the floor of Bridge Canyon. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Zion National Park, Utah. (37 deg.20' N. 113 deg.0' W.) Zion's colorful canyon and mesa vistas include erosion and rock-fault patterns that produce phenomenal shapes and landscapes. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Hawaiian Islands

Hawaii Volcanoes National Park, Hawaii. (19 deg.20' N.; 155 deg.20' W.) This site contains outstanding examples of active and recent volcanism, along with luxuriant vegetational development at its lower elevations. The area has been designated a Biosphere Reserve. Criteria: (i) An outstanding example illustrating the earth's evolutionary history, (ii) an outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Mohave Desert

Death Valley National Monument, California/Nevada. (36 deg.30' N.; 117 deg.0' W.) This large desert area, which is nearly surrounded by high mountains, contains the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere. It is highly representative of Great Basin/Mohave Desert (mountain and desert) ecosystems. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes and biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena.

Joshua Tree National Monument, California. (33 deg.50' N.; 116 deg.0' W.) This area, located at the junction of the Mohave and Sonoran Deserts, contains an unusually rich variety of desert

plants, including extensive stands of Joshua trees, set amongst striking granitic formations. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena and formations.

New England-Adirondacks

Acadia National Park, Maine. (44 deg.20' N.; 68 deg.20' W.) Acadia, situated on a rocky archipelago along the Maine coast, is an area of diverse geological features, dramatic topography (including the highest headlands along the entire Atlantic coast), and outstanding scenic beauty. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional beauty.

North Pacific Border

Point Reyes National Seashore/Farallon Islands National Wildlife Refuge, California. (38 deg.0' N.; 123 deg.0' W.) This proposal includes properties within the Point Reyes/Farallon Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The Point Reyes Peninsula, an unique living example of tectonic and seismic activity, has moved more than 300 miles in the past 80 million years. A complex active rift zone, including the famed San Andreas Fault, occurs where the Peninsula meets the California mainland. The area is characterized by a diverse set of habitats, striking scenery, and a large variety of terrestrial and aquatic animal species. The Farallon Islands support the largest seabird rookeries in the contiguous United States, including species such as the ash storm petrel, western gull, Brandt's cormorant, black oystercatcher, and Cassin's auklet. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes and biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Pacific Mountain System

Aleutian Islands Unit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska. (54 deg.40' N.; 164 deg.10' W.) The Aleutians represent a mixture of flora and fauna found in both the North American and Asian continents, and serves as a resting place for migratory species. The area has been designated a Biosphere Reserve. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of biological evolution.

Denali National Park, Alaska. (63 deg.20' N.; 150 deg.40' W.) This tract embodies a unique and spectacular combination of geologic features, including active glaciers, major earthquake faults, and Mt. McKinley, the highest mountain peak in North America. It also includes outstanding examples of tundra and boreal forest ecosystems. The area has been designated a Biosphere Reserve. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes and biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska. (58 deg.30' N; 136 deg.30' W) Great tidewater glaciers, a dramatic range of plant communities from rocky terrain recently covered by ice to lush temperate rainforest, and a large variety of animals, including brown and black bear, mountain goats, whales, seals and eagles, can be found in this Park. Criteria: (ii) an outstanding example of significant ongoing geological processes and biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Katmai National Park, Alaska. (58 deg.30' N.; 155 deg.20' W.) This area's interior wilderness includes the Valley of 10,000 Smokes, the result of the 1917 volcanic eruption of Mt. Katmai. The

eruption produced countless fumaroles, a few of which are still active. Criteria: (ii) an outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena and formations.

Rocky Mountains

(Includes northern, middle, and southern Rocky Mountain natural regions.)

Glacier National Park, Montana. (48 deg.40' N.; 113 deg.50' W.) With mountain peaks exceeding 10,000 feet, this site includes nearly 50 glaciers, many lakes and streams, and a wide variety of wild flowers and wildlife, including bighorn sheep, bald eagles and grizzly bears. The area has been designated a Biosphere Reserve. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Grand Teton National Park, Wyoming. (43 deg.40' N.; 110 deg.40' W.) Containing the most impressive portion of the Teton Range in the Rocky Mountains, this series of peaks rise more than a mile above surrounding sagebrush plains. The park includes the winter feeding ground of the largest American elk herd. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes and biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado. (40 deg.20' N.; 105 deg.40' W.) Within this 412-square mile national park, peaks towering over 14,000 feet shadow wildlife and wildflowers that are characteristic of the Front Range of the Rocky Mountains. The area has been designated a Biosphere Reserve. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes and biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Sierra Nevada

Sequoia/Kings Canyon National Parks, California. (36 deg.40' N.; 118 deg.30' W.) A combination of two adjoining national parks, this tract includes Mount Whitney, the tallest mountain in the United States outside of Alaska, Mineral King Valley, and two enormous canyons of the Kings River. Groves of giant sequoia, the world's largest living things, are found here. This area has been designated a Biosphere Reserve. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes and biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Yosemite National Park, California. (37 deg.50' N.; 119 deg.30' W.) Granite peaks and domes rise high above broad meadows in the heart of the Sierra Nevada, along with groves of sequoias and related tree species. Mountains, lakes, and waterfalls, including the nation's highest, are found here. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of significant geological processes and biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena, formations, and areas of exceptional natural beauty.

Sonoran Desert

Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, Arizona. (32 deg.0' N.; 112 deg.50' W.) This park contains block-faulted mountains separated by wide alluvial valleys, along with playas, lava fields,

and sands. It includes representative examples of the Sonoran Desert found in this region and nowhere else in the United States. This area has been designated a Biosphere Reserve. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena.

Saguaro National Monument, Arizona. (32 deg. 10' N.; 110 deg. 40' W.) Giant saguaro cactus, unique to the Sonoran Desert of southern Arizona and northwestern Mexico, reach up to 50 feet in height in the cactus forest in this park. Criteria: (ii) An outstanding example of biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural phenomena.

48 FR 38101

The addition to the U.S. Indicative Inventory will consist of the following section:

II. Natural Properties

Hawaiian Islands

Haleakala National Park, Hawaii. (20 deg. 40' N; 156 deg. 10' W) With an elevational range from sea level to 3000 m, the park has a great variety of habitats. Alpine deserts, subalpine shrubland, dry forests, subalpine grassland, bogs, rainforests, and coastal vegetation all occur within a linear distance of 25 km. Of international botanical significance, over 95 percent of the species, and 20 percent of the genera of flowering plants are found nowhere else on earth. Criteria: (i) An outstanding example representing major stages of the earth's evolutionary history, (ii) outstanding example representing ongoing biological evolution, and (iii) contains superlative natural beauty.

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MLO



Alaskans tell Babbitt to shun U.N. program

ADW 10-1-11

By DAVID WHITNEY

Daily News Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Frank Murkowski and Rep. Don Young have asked Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt to remove six Alaska parks and refuges from further consideration for United Nations designation as World Heritage sites.

"Bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., already treat Alaska like a colony," Young said in a written statement Thursday. "The last thing we need is for the

United Nations to stick its nose in our land issues."

Young wrote House-passed legislation that would require congressional approval before more American sites could be given the United Nations designation. Murkowski has introduced similar legislation in the Senate.

During congressional hearings on the legislation, Interior Department officials said that some 92 sites

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Alaska Sen. Frank Murkowski, top, and Rep. Don Young want to keep the U.N. out of Alaska land issues. "Alaskans ... have made it quite clear that we don't want another layer of bureaucratic review added to our federal lands," Murkowski said.



U.N.: State rejects site designations

Continued from Page B-1

in 31 states and the District of Columbia are on a list for possible consideration as World Heritage sites.

The Alaska sites include the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the Aleutian Island Unit of the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Denali National Park and Preserve, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Katmai National Park.

But the Interior Department officials said that the administration would not press to designate any sites where such action is opposed by local communities or the state's congressional delegation.

Murkowski and Young wrote to Babbitt last week to remove any possible doubt that the Alaska delegation opposes any United Nations designation of the state sites. They head House and Senate committees with jurisdiction over the Interior Department.

"Alaskans, from the Legislature to private individuals, have made it quite clear that we don't want another layer of bureaucratic review added to our federal lands," Murkowski said.

Stephanie Hanna, an Department of Interior press aide, said she doesn't know if Babbitt has responded to the letter. "We regard World Heritage designations as an honor that carries no force of law and that draws millions of tourists to the sites," she said.

□ Reporter David Whitney can be reached at dwhitney@adn.com.

HR 883 IH

106th CONGRESS

1st Session

H. R. 883

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 1, 1999

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

A BILL

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

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

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

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS- Congress finds the following:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEC. 5. INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS IN GENERAL.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SEC. 6. CLERICAL AMENDMENT.

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

END

PROPERTY RIGHTS FOUNDATION BACKGROUND BRIEF *cc: Officers, Directors, Mining District***DANGERS OF DESIGNATIONS**

REGIONAL, FEDERAL, STATE AND INTERNATIONAL LAND-USE INTRUSIONS
National/American Heritage Areas, UN Biosphere Reserves and UN World Heritage Sites

Myths

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

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

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

The designations are to promote tourism.

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

Reality

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

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

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

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

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

Over...

Dangers of Designations continued

Myths

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

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

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

Reality

The U.S. Congress failed to pass the legislation (H.R. 2379) to establish the **Biosphere Reserve** system when it was proposed in 1983. The **World Heritage Convention** was ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1979. Working in conjunction with the National Park Service, the Department of State does not consult Congress before designating individual **Biosphere Reserves** or **World Heritage Sites**. Neither of these agencies, nor Congress, holds public hearings and no Congressional vote takes place before the UN sites are designated.

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

"I think it perfectly understandable that people are concerned that when you set up a program, when you give it a designation, where you as international authorities recognize it, the implication is that down the road when there are conflicts, somebody's going to be leaned on, and the authority for this, at least the moral authority for this, will be an invocation of some very dubious international authority."

— **Dr. Jeremy Rabkin**, Associate Professor, Cornell University, from testimony before the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Resources Sept. 12, 1996, on the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act.



AVAILABLE FROM

THE PROPERTY RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA:

National Heritage Areas

(*Positions on Property*, Jan-Apr 1996) \$3.00 p. pd.

The National Park Service, No. 2 - UNESCO Biosphere Reserves

(*Positions on Property*, Jan-Mar 1993, 12 pp.) .. \$3.00 p. pd.

The American Heritage Areas

Background Brief, July 1993, 2 pp free

Building & Zoning Codes

(*Positions on Property* May-Dec. 1996, 32 pp) .. \$6.00 p. pd.

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

For up to 10 additional copies of *Dangers of Designations* at no charge, and additional information contact:
The Property Rights Foundation of America, Inc.
P.O. Box 73, Stony Creek, NY 12578 (516) 696-5748

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

The Foundation publishes *Positions on Property* (\$25.⁰⁰ yearly), a quarterly journal of information, analysis and ideas on private property rights, and the *New York Property Rights Clearinghouse* (\$25.⁰⁰ yearly), a quarterly newsletter of current information on property rights across New York and the Northeast.



American Land Rights Association

Biosphere Reserves-World Heritage Programs Threaten You

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

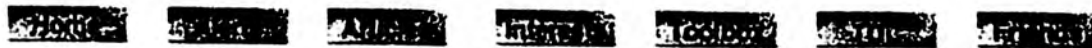
**Readers should call their Congressmen at
(202) 225-3121
to urge them to co-sponsor the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act when Rep.
Young reintroduces it in January.**

For More Information Contact:

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Send mail to alra@pacifier.com with questions or comments about this web site.

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Biosphere Reserves: Fact Sheet

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June 6, 1996
96-517 ENR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Role as Biosphere Reserve:

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

Major Issues:

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

Accomplishments and Benefits:

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

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

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

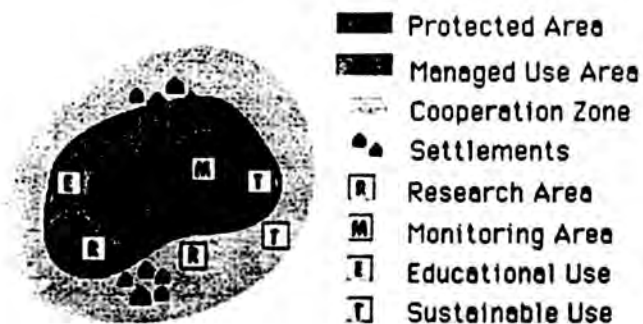
Biosphere reserve status is awarded by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) to those protected areas that combine scientific research and monitoring, conservation, education, and training. Each site is nominated by its country MAB Program. The Biosphere reserve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

###

U.S. MAB Biosphere Reserves

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

The main functions of biosphere reserves are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

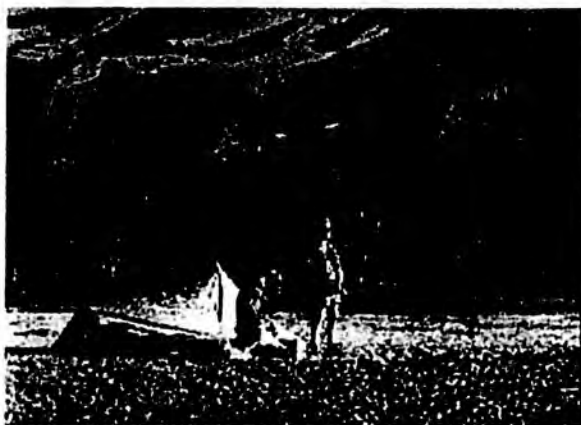
(###)



U.S. Biosphere Reserves

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

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



Three Sisters Wilderness, USDA-Forest Service

Conservation

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

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

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

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



Isle Royale National Park

Development

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

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

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



Apalachicola Research Reserve

Cooperation

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

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

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

Personal Comments

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

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

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

Ann Azari, Mayor
City of Fort Collins, Colorado

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

Floyd Flores, O'odham Nations,
Tucson, Arizona

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

Daniel Evans, Executive Director
Point Reyes Bird Observatory, California

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

Steps to Biosphere Reserve Designation

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

For further information please contact:

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

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

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

###

WHY DO WE NEED BIOSPHERE RESERVES

To conserve biological diversity.

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

To maintain healthy ecosystems.

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

To learn about natural systems and how they are changing.

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

To learn about traditional forms of land-use.

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

page 2: Frequently Asked Questions: Why do we need

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

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

To co-operate in solving natural resources problems.

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

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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.)

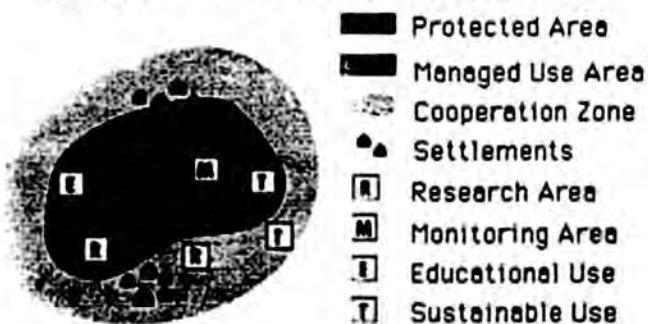
Biosphere reserve status is awarded by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organizations (UNESCO) to those protected areas that combine scientific research and monitoring, conservation, education, and training. Each site is nominated by its country MAB Program. The Biosphere reserve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



AMENDMENT

OFFERED IN THE HOUSE
TO: HJR 15

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

1 Page 1, line 1:

2 Delete "an"

3 Insert "the"

4 Page 3, line 8:

5 Delete "Lands"

6 Insert "Land"

7 Page 3, line 11:

8 Delete all material and insert

9 "WHEREAS Congressman Don Young has reintroduced this legislation in the 106th
10 Congress as House Resolution No. ⁸⁸³~~833~~, which is entitled the "American Land Sovereignty
11 Protection Act";

12 Page 3, line 12:

13 Delete "an "American Lands"

14 Insert "HR ⁸⁸³~~833~~, the "American Land"

15 Page 3, line 13:

16 Delete "Act"

17 Insert "Act,"

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. SCHAFER, 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



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 Forests)
- 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)
- Guanica 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

The National Park Service

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve is a remnant of the land bridge that connected Asia with North America more than 13,000 years ago. The land bridge itself is now overlain by the Chukchi Sea and the Bering Sea.

During the glacial epoch this was part of a migration route for people, animals, and plants whenever ocean levels fell enough to expose the land bridge. Archeologists agree that it was across this Bering Land Bridge, also called Beringia, that humans first passed from Asia to populate the Americas.

ACREAGE:

Total: 2,784,960

Federal: 2,690,179

NonFederal: 94,781

VISITATION:

Highest in June and July; lowest in December, January and February.

ADDRESS:

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

P.O. Box 220

Nome, AK 99762

TELEPHONE:

(907) 443-2522

Other ways to contact the preserve.

OPERATING HOURS AND SEASONS:

The Preserve is open year-round.

CLIMATE, RECOMMENDED CLOTHING:

Weather in the preserve is variable. Summer temperatures on the coast are usually in the low 50's ° F, with mid 60's to 70's and an occasional 80 or 90 in the interior. Average January lows are -15 on the coast and -50 in the interior. Winds average 8 to 12 mph, but 50 to 70 mph winds commonly accompany storms and produce extremely low and dangerous chill factors.

Though generally useful, these averages cannot account for the wide variance in temperature, wind and precipitation in the preserve. Even in summer, one can see snow, near freezing temperatures, and long periods of clouds, wind, and rain. Summer days are long, almost without darkness; winter days are short, with only a few hours of light. *Exposure and hypothermia are real threats throughout the year.*

DIRECTIONS:

The Preserve is located on the Seward Peninsula in northwest Alaska. It is accessible via small bush planes and boat in the summer months, and by snowmachine, dog sleds, or small plane on skis.

FACILITIES:

The visitor center is located at 240 Front Street in Nome, Alaska. There are limited federal facilities within the Preserve. Six shelter cabins, and a bunkhouse style cabin at Serpentine Hot Springs.

RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES / PARK USE:

Camping, hiking, backpacking, exploration, nature observation, photography, and coastal boating are among the many possible activities. Winter offers opportunities for snowmobiling, dog sledding, and some crosscountry skiing.

You can explore remains of the gold rush era and observe evidence of ancient Eskimo life. The preserve and surroundings (including nearby Native villages), offer opportunities to observe and learn about traditional subsistence lifestyles and historic reindeer herding.

Hunting and fishing are permitted under state regulations; Alaska hunting and fishing licences are required.

BASIC VISIT RECOMMENDATIONS:

Visit our visitor center in Nome, Alaska. Enjoy birdwatching. The preserve is home to raptors, waterfowl, and some rare Asiatic species. Fly out to Serpentine Hot Springs and spend a few nights in the bunkhouse while you hike, sightsee, fish, and relax in the hot springs' hot tub.

SPECIAL EVENTS / PROGRAMS:

Contact the visitor center for more information.

VISITOR IMPACTS:

There are no roads that lead into the Preserve, therefore no automobile access to the Preserve. Four-wheelers are prohibited, but snow machines are permitted in the winter months.

ADJACENT VISITOR ATTRACTIONS:

Visit the historical city of Nome.

Visit Northwest Alaska Areas (includes Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, and Noatak National Preserve).



View maps of the preserve at the NPS Alaska [Geospatial Data Clearinghouse](#)!

You are visitor **008729** to this site since 05/02/97.

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PARKS

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Bering Land Bridge National Preserve

Beringia - The Case for Protection

● Character of the Country; A Basis for Concern

● A Closer Look at the Problems

● Unknowns

● What Can Be Done?

Character of the Country; A Basis for Concern

All life is tenuous in Beringia. Conditions are harsh here. Ecosystems are simple and therefore easy to disrupt. And though biological productivity is often immense, especially at sea, it tends to be concentrated in a small fraction of the total area - where people often concentrate as well.

For millennia, Beringia was inhabited by people whose small numbers and sophisticated land ethic allowed them to coexist in harmony with this fragile area. This began to change in the 18th century with Russian subjugation of the Aleuts for exploitation of sea otters and fur seals. Rapacious hunting suddenly penetrated into the heart of Beringia during the mid-19th century with the advent of large scale sea mammal slaughters by Americans, which precipitated catastrophic declines in walrus and whales and starvation among coastal peoples dependent upon them. The Nome gold rush brought the first instances of major habitat destruction to Beringia about a century ago.

Until recently, exploitative events came as pulses of activity from outside Beringia. Once each episode had run its course, the human population subsided to near former levels. Jose Stalin changed that in the 1930's by collectivizing local people in Asian Beringia, establishing a substantial non-local population for military purposes, mineral development, and beginning the construction of a modern technological infrastructure. On the American side activity quickened in the last few decades with the establishment of Distant Early Warning (DEW) sites, oil development, and rejuvenation of mineral extraction.

At sea, many nations began to exploit the Bering Sea's huge fisheries several decades ago). Now most stocks of larger fishes and crustaceans are intensely harvested.

Pressures on modern Beringia are not only generated within its boundaries. Because of global circulation patterns, air and water borne pollutants tend to concentrate in the Arctic, with the result that the greenhouse effect, ozone depletion, and pesticide, heavy metal, and radionuclide contamination have disproportionate effects here. And because many Beringian species migrate out of the region, they have problems if unlucky enough to occupy habitats now greatly modified by people.

Management has not kept pace with the increase of human pressure. The break-up of the Soviet Union and pro-development attitudes in the state and federal levels of American government may weaken the fabric of environmental protection at a time when it is badly needed.

There is reason to be concerned for Beringia. The cumulative effects of population growth, widespread pollution, large-scale resource use, political and economic uncertainty and encroachments from the outside world are increasingly at odds with a fragile ecosystem. Yet Beringia remains largely intact. It is

still possible to retain almost all of this superb area's productivity and its key position in the ecology of our planet - if we act now.



A Closer Look at the Problems

Mineral exploration and development are major activities in Beringia. Placer mining for gold, instrumental in early industrialization of the Seward Peninsula and western Chukotka, has altered large areas of once-productive valley-bottom and coastal habitat. The decline of mining in recent years on the American side has been more than offset regionally by the continued expansion of placer mining in Chukotka. Lead, zinc, tungsten and coal mining, with their corresponding acid and metal pollution, occur in scattered localities. Many deposits are in remote areas; development has required long roads, towns and even ports in otherwise pristine country.

Oil and gas exploration and development and the related trans-Alaska pipeline corridor have opened a huge area on Beringia's periphery to industrial entry. Impacts to date are debated, but will increase as more activity is drawn into the area. Expanded oil development is being contemplated, even in several immensely productive marine areas, including Bristol and Anadyr bays and the Beaufort and Chukchi seas, where major impacts to salmon, seabirds, polar bears, walrus, and whales are possible.

Military activity has had a major influence on coastal Beringia as a legacy of the cold war. Development has been especially intense in Chukotka. Impacts are many and serious, including the tangible ones of port and base development, and the less tangible ones of pollution, disruption of local lifeways and wildlife destruction. Military airborne shooting has been rumored to be a major element in the decimation of snow sheep.

Population
Population concentration is a serious impediment to living within the capacity of a harsh environment. In the north, the ability to absorb pollution and concentrated harvest is low; a major principle, long adhered to by local people, is to disperse use. Yet economic imperatives and government policies on both sides of Beringia have favored (sometimes forced) large settlements. The result has been air and water pollution and resource depletion in a number of areas. There is some discussion of reversing this policy on the Russian side.

Industrialization of traditional activities has become an important component in the support of increasing human populations in Beringia, especially on the Asian side. Native sea mammal hunting and reindeer herding have been mechanized and expanded. Foxes are raised on farms and fed whale, seal and walrus meat. Salmon runs are harvested commercially as well as for subsistence. An erosion of traditional conservation practices has resulted in instances of sea mammal depletion, overgrazing by reindeer, predator reduction, tundra degradation by overland vehicles, even water pollution from a tannery. Recently, management has had some success in adjusting methods and harvest levels to diminish these problems.

Major non-traditional fish and wildlife harvests extend and intensify the pressures on the Beringian fauna. Hunting for walrus, whale and fur seal was expanded in the 19th century to include hunting from large vessels. Bowhead whales are still reduced because of hunting in that era. In the last few decades fisheries have been developed on crabs and marine fishes. King crabs and pollock are among the species thought to be reduced at present as a direct result of over-harvesting. Several colonial seabirds, Steller sea lions and fur seals may be secondary victims through disruption of their food base. Sport hunting is expected to expand in Beringia, and will add stress to already reduced brown bear and Chukotka sheep populations. Sport fishing may do likewise on easily over-harvested species like grayling.

Poaching is a rising concern. Recent investigations on the American side have uncovered a substantial trade in walrus ivory. Traffic illicitly acquired body parts of bears for oriental medicines and trophies is thought to be substantial. Gyrfalcons and Peregrine falcons are sometimes poached for the world falconry market.

Habitat loss and over-harvest outside of Beringia are major and growing concerns for migratory birds, like Asian species of geese which are over-hunted in China, and American chum salmon which are intercepted by a major fishery in the Aleutian Islands. Songbirds and shorebirds that winter in the tropics are vulnerable to habitat loss there.

Tourism is relatively new to Beringia, but is expected to increase considerably. Locals have little experience with this activity, and there will probably be significant impacts on wilderness and existing lifestyles, at least until expertise is built up among tour operators, government regulators and local people.

Atmospheric pollution is occasionally severe in the most densely settled localities, especially during winter temperature inversions. However, the major impact comes from outside the region on global air currents which transport pollutants from more southerly latitudes. Hydrocarbons, acidity, heavy metals and radionuclides from nuclear accidents or tests have been found in northern food chains. The greenhouse effect and ozone depletion are predicted to become particularly severe in Beringia.

Weakened environmental management authority in the wake of a dismantled Soviet state has increased the opportunity in Asian Beringia for circumvention of good management practices. The degree to which this is actually happening is not known.



Unknowns

Why are some species of Beringian eiders decreasing? Why are there increased incidents of sick and malnourished marine mammals observed by American Eskimo hunters in the Bering and Chukchi seas? Why do walrus livers now contain elevated levels of mercury and cadmium? In each instance, the causes seem subtle and obscure. These are three particularly obvious examples of our ignorance about the ecology of Beringia. Suspicion is rising that the cumulative impacts of recent human use, with its complex ramifications, are beginning to show in cases like these.



What Can Be Done?

It should be an international goal to conserve and restore the biological diversity in Beringia 1) to sustain the health of ecological systems; 2) to provide for human well being, and 3) because flora and fauna are of intrinsic value.

Fundamental to any strategy to conserve Beringian biodiversity is a clear understanding of the ecological characteristics which make this arctic ecosystem unique. These characteristics include sunlight, ice cover that inhibits energy penetration, extremely cold temperatures, low species diversity, short food chains, and long-lived organisms with high fat levels. All contribute to making Beringia an extremely sensitive and vulnerable ecosystem. As stated in the Arctic Environmental Protection Strategy developed by the eight circumpolar nations in 1991, "this vulnerability of the Arctic to pollution requires that action be taken now, or degradation may become irreversible."

It is also important to recognize that native flora and fauna in Beringia, the ecological communities they inhabit, and indigenous cultures whose continued survival depends on them, evolved until quite recently in the absence of major impact from industrial-agrarian society. Today the most threatened or endangered portions of biological diversity are often those most sensitive to human disturbance. Therefore, major portions of Beringia will need to be reserved for evolutionary processes to continue with minimal human disturbance if these natural communities are to prosper and continue to meet our

needs.

As has been the pattern elsewhere, what we see evolving in Beringia is a patchwork of land ownerships and activities. This mosaic should have both small and large reserves committed to nature protection. But this alone will not save biological diversity. The surrounding landscapes and seascapes will need to be managed under policies and guidelines to meet essential human needs for resource development, to maintain viable local and regional economies, to maintain biological diversity that tolerates some level of human activity, and to provide corridors for genetic and species dispersal through and among core reserves or sanctuaries.

Two particularly serious areas of vulnerability in conserving Beringian flora and fauna are lack of adequate protection to marine ecosystems, and the fact that most Arctic wildlife spend only a brief part of their life cycle in the North.

Despite the fact that marine and coastal waters are by far the most biologically productive of arctic ecosystems, they have received the least amount of permanent protection. Although Alaska is blessed with a diverse system of terrestrial protected areas (parks, wildlife refuges, forests and wilderness areas) that are the envy of the world, it does not have any marine sanctuaries. So if we are to be successful in conserving Beringian biodiversity, we must design strategies for conserving marine living resources. A good place to start would be the Bering Sea, where scientists warn of an ecosystem collapse unless over exploitative commercial fisheries' practices are brought under control.

Problems for Beringia arise from many directions within and outside the area. Given their scope and complexity, they must first be addressed on both governmental and personal levels. Governments can establish marine and terrestrial reserves and determine settlement and resource use policies; they and large businesses often determine where and how it is profitable to work and live. So it is important to urge these agencies toward ecologically appropriate policies. For instance:

- We can support the proposed Beringian Heritage International Park, asking that it include areas the areas of high natural and cultural values that are most in need of protection, and that its management encourage the continuance of sustainable uses by local people.
- We can encourage policies and economies that disperse human use. Example: support Russian governmental consideration of reestablishing some traditional Chukotkan settlements eliminated during the Stalin era.
- We can encourage cooperation between and within governments so that jurisdictional boundaries or political changes do not hinder ecosystem management. Example: US cooperation with Russia to quickly establish a post-Soviet resource management presence. Example: Cooperative agreements with China to protect bean goose winter range.
- We can advocate strong environmental and wildlife management policies that protect Beringian biota and sustainable human lifeways. Example: support ongoing crackdown on walrus ivory poaching. Example: review of marine mammal hunting for fox farm food. Example: review US salmon policy that allows interception of Beringian stocks to the detriment of subsistence and local commercial fisheries. Example: demand that the US become a leader rather than a footdragger in international attempts at agreement on strategies to combat global pollution and over-harvesting of common resources.
- We can oppose major new incursions into presently undeveloped areas or unexploited populations pending a thorough scientific evaluation of impacts, and installation of a monitoring program. This is a major concern as interests from the multinational to local level jockey to exploit Beringian resources during this period of uncertain Russian management. The oil, minerals and tourism industries can be expected to burgeon, and must receive particular attention.

- We must hold the military to high environmental standards. DEW line sites in Alaska and many installations in Chukotka contain hazardous (including radioactive) wastes and ugly ruins that must be removed. A growing concern in controlling disturbance to wilderness and wildlife by military exercises and recreational activities. We must encourage ongoing ecological research and inventory/monitoring programs where current knowledge is insufficient to define problems clearly. A pressing need is to support the excellent research institutes in Russian Beringia that are struggling to stay open in the post-Soviet depression.

While all necessary research, monitoring and inventory of biodiversity should continue, the greater need is to use the scientific facts already available to develop more enlightened national policies and action strategies for conserving Beringian flora and fauna.

The application of tools such as tax incentives, landowner agreements, conservation easements, land exchanges and land acquisition will all prove essential for finding a compatible balance between maintaining and restoring biological diversity and providing for other human needs. Native groups will be critical in protecting biological diversity in all economically viable Beringian landscape of the future.

But as crucial as these steps are, they cannot succeed without an additional focus on the local and personal. Generalized solutions seldom work unless tempered by local understanding. To quote American ecologist Wendell Berry: "The question ... is not how to care for the planet, but how to care for each of the planet's human and natural neighborhoods, each of its millions of small pieces and parcels of land, each one of which is in some exciting and precious way different from all others." It is the local people who know these neighborhoods. They must be strongly represented among the planners of Beringia's future.

Finally, it must be recognized that the fundamental driving force for Beringian problems is the accelerating demand that humanity is placing upon the area. The most important - and most difficult - thing we can do for Beringia is to review our own personal appetite for resources. Only if we each come to live as if the world is finite is there the hope that a millennium from now the songs of the wolf and bowhead whale will still be heard in Beringia.

From:
Beringia Natural History Notebook Series - April, 1993
National Audubon Society
Alaska-Hawaii Regional Office
308 G. Street, Suite 217
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Where is the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve?

<u>Access</u>	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Scenery</u>	<u>Facilities</u>
<u>Plants & Animals</u>	<u>Climate & Weather</u>	<u>Precautions & Safety</u>	<u>Preserve Information</u>
<u>Historical & Cultural Significance</u>			

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URL: http://www.nps.gov/bela/html/bering_b.htm

Last Updated: 22 December, 1995

The Biosphere Reserve Concept

In 1968, the UNESCO Conference on the Conservation and Rational Use of the Biosphere gave rise to the Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme within UNESCO. The biosphere reserve concept was key to achieving MAB's objective of striking a balance between conserving biodiversity, encouraging economic and social development, and preserving cultural values.

Biosphere reserves are areas of terrestrial and coastal/marine ecosystems where, through appropriate zoning patterns and management mechanisms, the conservation of ecosystems and their biodiversity is ensured. Each biosphere reserve has three basic functions:

- *a conservation function:* to contribute to the conservation of landscapes, ecosystems, species and genetic variation;
- *a development function:* to foster economic and human development which is socially and ecologically sustainable;
- *a logistic function:* to provide support for research, monitoring, education and information exchange related to local, national and global issues of conservation and development.

For management purposes, each reserve is divided into three zones:

- *core zone:* strictly protected areas with very little human influence, which are used to monitor natural changes in representative ecosystems and serve as conservation areas for biodiversity;
- *buffer zone:* areas surrounding the core zone where only low impact activities are allowed, such as research, environmental education, and recreation;
- *transition zone:* the outer zone where sustainable use of resources by local communities is encouraged and these impacts can be compared to zones of greater protection.



While traditional parks often attempt to form small protected areas in a world increasingly dominated by severe human impacts, biosphere reserves are designed to bring people and nature together to demonstrate how to both use and preserve nature.

The Global Picture

A primary goal of UNESCO-MAB is the exchange of scientific knowledge and management experience. There are currently more than 335 biosphere reserves in 85 countries, forming a global network of scientists and natural resource managers working to maintain the long-term survival of fragile ecosystems. Because of its unique structure, this biosphere reserve network has the ability to serve as a medium for the worldwide exchange of ideas and information on conserving biodiversity and monitoring ecological changes in the environment.

A major international conference held in Seville, Spain in 1995 refined and strengthened the strategy for this global cooperative effort. By recognizing the value of partnerships among local communities, government institutions, non-governmental organizations and private enterprises -- such as that between UNESCO, CI, Intel, and NEC -- the network is capitalizing on the shared strengths and needs among each of its participants.

Biosphere Reserves FAQ





Biosphere Reserves: Fact Sheet

Susan R. Fletcher

Senior Analyst in International Environmental Policy
Environment and Natural Resources Policy Division

June 6, 1996

96-517 ENR

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Role as Biosphere Reserve:

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

Major Issues:

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

Accomplishments and Benefits:

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

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

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

Contact:

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ALERT!!

American Land Rights Association



THANKS TO YOU!

S 2098, a Companion Bill to HR 901 (The American Land Sovereignty Protection Act) Has Been Introduced in the Senate by Senator Ben Campbell (R-Colorado)

HR 901, *The American Land Sovereignty Protection Act*, and its Senate companion, S 2098, asserts the Constitutional power of Congress over management and use of lands belonging to the United States by requiring the specific approval of Congress before any area within the US is made a World Heritage Site or Biosphere Reserves. These international land reserves are created without the approval of Congress and with virtually no Congressional oversight.

Act Now to Get This Legislation Passed

Write or call both of your Senators and ask them to co-sponsor S 2098

The Capital Switchboard is: 202-224-3121

The address for all Senators is: The Honorable _____
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20515

Talking Points

- The public, state and local governments, are not informed of pending designations and no public process is followed in nominating an area for World Heritage Site or Biosphere Reserve status.
- World Heritage Site and Biosphere Reserve designations give the international community an open invitation to interfere in US domestic policy decisions.
- Although the United Nations has no direct input into management decisions in Biosphere Reserves or World Heritage Sites, the United States does agree to comply with international agreements, some of which may restrict use of private property.
- Federal agencies take international land designations into account when making land-use decisions and formulating long range management plans.
- UN land designations centralize policy-making authority in the Executive Branch bureaucracy and reduce input into Federal land-use decisions by individual citizens.
- By creating these UN land reserves, the US indirectly agrees to terms of international treaties, such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, to which the US is not a party or

which the US Senate has refused to ratify.

For More Information Contact:

American Land Rights Association

Tel: 360-687-3087

FAX: 360-687-2973

Send mail to alra@pacifier.com with questions or comments about this web site.

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Last modified: November 02, 1998

PROPERTY RIGHTS FOUNDATION BACKGROUND BRIEF *cc: Officers, Directors, Mining District*

DANGERS OF DESIGNATIONS

REGIONAL, FEDERAL, STATE AND INTERNATIONAL, LAND-USE INTRUSIONS
National/American Heritage Areas, UN Biosphere Reserves and UN World Heritage Sites

Myths

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

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

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

The designations are to promote tourism.

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

Reality

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

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

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

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

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

Over...

Dangers of Designations continued

Myths

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

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

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

Reality

The U.S. Congress failed to pass the legislation (H.R. 2379) to establish the Biosphere Reserve system when it was proposed in 1983. The World Heritage Convention was ratified by the U.S. Senate in 1979. Working in conjunction with the National Park Service, the Department of State does not consult Congress before designating individual Biosphere Reserves or World Heritage Sites. Neither of these agencies, nor Congress, holds public hearings and no Congressional vote takes place before the UN sites are designated.

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

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

AVAILABLE FROM

THE PROPERTY RIGHTS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA:

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

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

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

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

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

For up to 10 additional copies of *Dangers of Designations* at no charge, and additional information contact:
The Property Rights Foundation of America, Inc.
P.O. Box 75, Stony Creek, NY 12578 (518) 696-9748

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

The Foundation publishes *Positions on Property* (\$25.⁰⁰ yearly), a quarterly journal of information, analysis and ideas on private property rights, and the *New York Property Rights Clearinghouse* (\$25.⁰⁰ yearly), a quarterly newsletter of current information on property rights across New York and the Northeast.

American Land Rights Association

Biosphere Reserves-World Heritage Programs Threaten You

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For More Information Contact:

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Liberty Matters News Service

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Earth First! Raids Congressman's Office

Last month, more than 60 Eco-terrorists from Earth First! stormed the district office of Rep. Frank Rigg (R-CA) in Eureka. The EF group, which is trying to lock up 60,000 acres of privately owned forest, was led by an environmentalist wearing a ski mask and carrying a walkie-talkie. While Rigg's staff called police, the protesters trashed and vandalized the office "throwing bark and sawdust six inches deep on office equipment, desks and floor." They then wheeled in and dropped a gigantic tree stump, that according to a staffer, sounded like a bomb going off. Four women wore metal sleeves and chained themselves to the stump. After several attempts by the Police to remove the protestors, law enforcement eventually used pepper spray to force the protestors to unchain themselves. Last Thursday, the protestors went back to the Congressman's office and staged a media event in which they charged the police with brutality, handed out awards to themselves for protesting, and "demonized" the Congressman. *Faxback Doc. 212*

Climate Change Takes Heat

Two weeks of intense negotiations among delegates from 150 nations ended with little progress toward a final agreement on how to reduce greenhouse gases that allegedly cause global warming. The Clinton administration is pushing for an agreement so he can have a signing ceremony of the Climate Change Protocol in Kyoto, Japan in December. Despite 18 hour work days, delegates could not agree on targets for greenhouse gas emissions reductions, a timeframe for reductions, which countries should be bound and how monitoring will be enforced. To prove just how split the scientific community is on this issue, a four-part series in the Washington Post stated that: "Another decade of research is likely needed to solve some of global warming's most perplexing riddles." Believe it or not, one of the suggested "techno-fixes" for global warming is "launching vast sheets of foil into orbit" to cool regions of Earth. In a related story, Undersecretary of State Tim Wirth outraged GOP leaders last week by telling them privately that they should "keep their mouths shut and not criticize" the Clinton administration's global warming stance heading into next month's climate change conference in Kyoto. The White House defended the statement by saying it was meant to ensure the US speaks with "one voice" in Japan..... *So much for free speech!*

Western Wilderness Invades the East

The House Resources Committee approved by voice vote HR 1567 introduced by Rep. Jim Hansen (R-UT) that would study "massive areas" of federal, state and private lands east of the Texas Panhandle "that might be suitable for wilderness protection." However, Jim Saxton (R-NJ), convinced the committee that the bill's sponsor had gone too far by including private lands in the wilderness study and got private and state lands exempted from the study. That struck a chord with many Westerners, including Committee Chairman Don Young (R-AK) who said: "You've (Eastern legislators) run over us, stepped on us, spit on us and kicked us." Since the Wilderness Act was passed in 1964, four million acres have been designated in the East, whereas 100 million acres have been designated in the West... *do unto others... Faxback Doc. 213*

"Strike for Liberty" Gain's Momentum

The American Policy Center is leading the nationwide "Strike for Liberty" scheduled for December 5, 1997 to protest President Clinton's signing of the Climate Change Protocol, which would mandate rolling back energy use within the United States to 15% less than 1990 levels. The Center is coordinating truckers, farmers, service clubs, family groups and other organizations along with the national conservative media to rally in protest of Clinton's actions. Already, major events are being organized in 14 states, thousands of truckers are preparing to stop on the side of the road for one hour, and farmers are planning to drive equipment into key cities. To find out how you can help, contact the Center at (703) 925-0881 or at their website www.americanpolicy.org. You can also get a list of specific activities and locations order *Faxback Doc. 211 & 211a*

To access FaxBack, dial 518-725-7890 from your fax machine.

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You can reach Liberty Matters at 1-800-847-0227,

PO Box 143345, Austin, TX 78714-3345.

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For further information contact us on the internet:

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ALASKA MINERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

801 W. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 203, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 FAX: (907) 275-7997 Telephone: (907) 276-0347

February 23, 1998

Honorable Craig Thomas
Chairman
Subcommittee on Parks, Historical Preservation and Recreation
354 Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: H.R. 901, the American Land Sovereignty Protection Act

Dear Senator Thomas,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on House Resolution 901 which would require Congressional approval of all international designations that involve any lands or waters owned by the United States. The Alaska Miners Association supports H.R. 901 and urges its passage at the earliest possible date.

H.R. 901 is possibly the single most important land management issue now before the U.S. Congress. This Act is needed to protect and help insure the sovereignty of our country. This Act is also needed to reduce the opportunity for foreign governments and foreign companies to dictate and adversely impact the policies and economy of the United States. It is crucial that the U.S. Congress and only the U.S. Congress be allowed to offer any area of land or water of the United States or any of its territories as part of an international designation that could, or may, in any way affect the use or management of that area.

History Shows
World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves have been used in the past and are now being used by environmental groups to harass and stop projects. This occurred at the New World Mine located in Montana just outside Yellowstone National Park. Yellowstone has been designated as both a World Heritage Site and a Biosphere Reserve. The New World Mine was on private property about three miles outside the park and on a watershed that drained away from the park. The Department of Interior invited the United Nations World Heritage Committee to visit the Park with the pre-determined goal of getting the Committee to oppose the mine and thereby add international pressure to block development of the mine. After the visit and without any scientific basis or evaluation of the facts, the Committee predictively came out against the New World Mine.

In the Kamchatka area of the Russian Far East, immediately after designation of the "Volcanoes of Kamchatka World Heritage Site", environmental groups issued a press release attacking OPIC (Overseas Private Investment Corporation) support for a mine project near the newly designated site. This project and the surrounding area had been extensively explored for more than a dozen years and was strongly supported by the local communities. The people of the Russian Far East are desperate for jobs and a means to support their families. But because of the international World Heritage Site designation, outside groups were given a tool to harass the project and add outside international pressure to block development that would be a tremendous benefit to the area.

It has been argued that World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves are only "symbolic" and that such designations do not have any impact on a nation's sovereignty over its lands and waters. We submit that for the New World Mine and the residents of Kamchatka such designations are far more than just "symbolic".

Where World Heritage Sites or Biosphere Reserves are established there exists an undefined "buffer" around the designated area that is also subject to outside influence. In both the New World Mine and the Kamchatka instances, the projects were several miles outside the boundaries of the respective World Heritage Sites. This means that not only is the designated Site subject to outside influence, but that private and government lands and waters around the Sites are also susceptible to harassment.

This "buffer" aspect is of extreme importance in Alaska. Specifically, about 165 million acres of Alaska (an area equal to the combined acreage of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois) is already in federally designated parks, preserves, monuments, refuges, and wild & scenic rivers which are often given the general name of Conservation System Units or CSUs. If any of these CSUs are given international designations, the adjacent State-owned or Native-owned lands would be in jeopardy. How wide is the buffer? Is it three miles as occurred at the New World Mine? Or is it 10 miles or 20 miles? We have calculated that each one-mile width of buffer around the federal CSUs in Alaska would cover another 8 million acres of mainly State or Native owned lands.

The "buffer" affect constitutes a danger to privately owned Native lands in Alaska which total about 45 million acres. Most of these lands were selected because they have the highest mineral potential and therefore the greatest opportunity to create jobs and economic development opportunities for the Native people. The opportunities presented by these lands are essential for the Native people, many of whom live in remote villages that are plagued with chronic unemployment. State and federal programs to create jobs and improve the lives and self-worth of the Native people have utterly failed. It is therefore essential that debate and an act of Congress be required before any international designation is allowed that could in any way be used to harass or block the Native people from normal use and enjoyment and developing their resources.

The impacts of Biosphere Reserves would be even worse than those of World Heritage Sites. The reason is that boundaries of Biosphere Reserves are not defined. They do not have specific clearly established boundaries but rather are made up of a core area where no development can occur and surrounding intermediate "buffer" areas where minimal development can occur. Neither the Congress nor a private citizen can predict what can or cannot be done in the non-core areas or on lands adjacent to a Biosphere Reserve. All of the problems and uncertainties of World Heritage Sites continue and some new dangers are added.

We have focused on World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves. However, are there any other international designations that we do not know about? Are there any other designations that could in any way be construed to result in some measure of compromise of sovereignty? H.R. 901 would require Congressional approval of all international designations.

We believe that international designations could be used to disrupt and hurt U.S. business and industry. If international pressure can be exerted on development in the U.S. through World Heritage Sites or Biosphere Reserves, it is a small step for our international competitors to fund environmental groups to harass and block projects in the U.S.

One example of the danger posed by an international designation involves Native owned private lands in Northwest Alaska. The Red Dog Mine is one of the greatest success stories for the Native people of Alaska. In 1985 the U.S. Congress passed a Act that provided a right of way for the NANA Regional Corporation (a Native corporation) to build a road from its Red Dog Mine across Cape Krusenstern National Monument to the only feasible port site in the area. This mine is now the largest private employer in Northwest Alaska and provides high-quality, skilled, year-around jobs to more than 450 people, 54% of which are Native shareholders. This single mine now produces more than 8% of the world's zinc concentrate.

However, if back in 1985 Cape Krusenstern had been a World Heritage Site, or if the off-shore area had been a Biosphere Reserve, the outcome may have been very different. Environmental groups fought against the road right of way and would have used international pressure to block it if international designations had been in place. Also, it is likely that international competitors would have done everything possible, including funding groups like Greenpeace, in an attempt to block the right of way needed for the mine. World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves expose any area, and especially Alaska, to this type of economic harassment from foreign competitors.

Furthermore, if an international designation is in place, nothing would keep foreign governments from using such designations and the same tactics to advance their political agendas at the expense of the U.S. interests.

Another aspect that must be addressed is the ability of the international community to change the definitions, management regime or use requirements for World Heritage Sites or Biosphere Reserves. If such changes occur, the U.S. could find itself bound to some new requirements and added limitations.

One final point must be raised. All governments have the propensity to grow and continually reach for more power and control. When this occurs in the United States, we the people can elect representatives that will curb this expansion of government without the need for a revolution. There is no such mechanism in place to change the direction of the United Nations. Also, under the U.S. Constitution the Congress has the authority and responsibility for such lands issues and any international designation without Congressional approval is an usurpation of that authority.

For all of the reasons and situations discussed above, it is essential that only the U.S. Congress have the power to allow a World Heritage Site, Biosphere Reserve or any other international designation over our lands or waters.

Sincerely,



Steven C. Borell, P.E.
Executive Director

cc: Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank Murkowski
Congressman Don Young
Governor Tony Knowles



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It has been argued that World Heritage Sites and Biosphere Reserves are only "symbolic" and that such designations do not have any impact on a nation's sovereignty over its lands and waters. We submit that for the New World Mine and the residents of Kamchatka such designations are far more than just "symbolic".

Where World Heritage Sites or Biosphere Reserves are established there exists an undefined "buffer" around the designated area that is also subject to outside influence. In both the New World Mine and the Kamchatka instances, the projects were several miles outside the boundaries of the respective World Heritage Sites. This means that not only is the designated Site subject to outside influence, but that private and government lands and waters around the Sites are also susceptible to harassment.

This "buffer" aspect is of extreme importance in Alaska. Specifically, about 165 million acres of Alaska (an area equal to the combined acreage of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois) is already in federally designated parks, preserves, monuments, refuges, and wild & scenic rivers which are often given the general name of Conservation System Units or CSUs. If any of these CSUs are given international designations, the adjacent State-owned or Native-owned lands would be in jeopardy. How wide is the buffer? Is it three miles as occurred at the New World Mine? Or is it 10 miles or 20 miles? We have calculated that each one-mile width of buffer around the federal CSUs in Alaska would cover another 8 million acres of mainly State or Native owned lands.

The "buffer" affect constitutes a danger to privately owned Native lands in Alaska which total about 45 million acres. Most of these lands were selected because they have the highest mineral potential and therefore the greatest opportunity to create jobs and economic development opportunities for the Native people. The opportunities presented by these lands are essential for the Native people, many of whom live in remote villages that are plagued with chronic unemployment. State and federal programs to create jobs and improve the lives and self-worth of the Native people have utterly failed. It is therefore essential that debate and an act of Congress be required before any international designation is allowed that could in any way be used to harass or block the Native people from normal use and enjoyment and developing their resources.

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Furthermore, if an international designation is in place, nothing would keep foreign governments from using such designations and the same tactics to advance their political agendas at the expense of the U.S. interests.

Another aspect that must be addressed is the ability of the international community to change the definitions, management regime or use requirements for World Heritage Sites or Biosphere Reserves. If such changes occur, the U.S. could find itself bound to some new requirements and added limitations.

One final point must be raised. All governments have the propensity to grow and continually reach for more power and control. When this occurs in the United States, we the people can elect representatives that will curb this expansion of government without the need for a revolution. There is no such mechanism in place to change the direction of the United Nations. Also, under the U.S. Constitution the Congress has the authority and responsibility for such lands issues and any international designation without Congressional approval is an usurpation of that authority.

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