

STATE OF ALASKA  
SENATE

1987

Source

CSSR 14(Res)

Senate

Resolve No.

13



Relating to the Bureau of Land Management draft Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan.

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE:**

WHEREAS in 1971, PLO 5150 withdrew land for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline right-of-way; and

WHEREAS the land was withdrawn subject to valid existing rights from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws except for the location of metalliferous metals under the mining laws; and

WHEREAS the land affected by PLO 5150 comprises approximately 5,343,300 acres and is known as the Outer Corridor; and

WHEREAS PLO 5150 also withdrew the land in the Outer Corridor from leasing under the mineral leasing laws, from selection by the State of Alaska under the Alaska Statehood Act, and from selection by regional or village corporations under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971; and

WHEREAS the land in the Outer Corridor was reserved as a utility and transportation corridor under sec. 17(c) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in aid of programs of the U.S. Government and of the State of Alaska; and

WHEREAS approximately 2,897,520 acres were withdrawn from prospecting, location, and purchase under the mining laws of the United States and this land is known as the Inner Corridor; and

WHEREAS PLO 5150 subjected the land in the Inner Corridor to the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to make contracts and grant licenses, permits, rights-of-way, easements, and leases other than mineral leases unless PLO 5150 was expressly modified; and

WHEREAS the Trans-Alaska oil pipeline was built after PLO 5150 was issued and its construction has had a substantial regional effect and constitutes a major economic benefit to the State of Alaska and the United States; and

WHEREAS in 1980, 90 percent of the 200 people living within the land in the corridor were receiving their income from the Trans-Alaska Pipeline and the remainder were involved in mining and transportation activities; and

WHEREAS the Dalton Highway, opened by the State of Alaska in 1980, has created opportunities for mining access as well as use for recreation; and

WHEREAS there would be a substantial and beneficial effect on the economy of the Fairbanks area if this singular transportation link were available for increased precious and strategic mineral development; and

WHEREAS opportunities for recreational use of the corridor have resulted from the construction of roads, trails, bridges, and similar improvements without significant long-term adverse effects on the environment;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate strongly recommends that the draft Utility Corridor Resource Management Plan prepared by the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, should

(1) retain as the primary purpose of the Inner Corridor energy transmission for the existing and future pipelines;

(2) not discriminate among users of the corridor, whether they are guides and outfitters, recreational users, miners, residents of the corridor, or the State of Alaska;

(3) in any consideration of a limitation on trail use by requiring a permit, acknowledge valid existing rights, including those of miners and loggers;

(4) identify and reserve a transportation corridor to provide future access from the Ambler Mining District to the Dalton Highway in each draft plan alternative;

(5) limit each closure for the protection of wildlife lick sites to mining operations of an area within the corridor to an area with a quarter-mile radius and each closure should last only until alternate mineral lick sites occur outside the corridor;

(6) not designate an area of critical environmental concern only on the basis of scenic values;

(7) not base the closure of an area only on agency convenience, particularly within the Inner Corridor, but rather on the engineering requirements of the pipeline, now and in the future;

(8) not establish as an area of critical environmental concern an area of importance for the transportation and utility needs of the pipeline within the corridor;

- (9) not contain any wilderness designations;
- (10) accept the state's selection application for 1,100,000 acres of land within the utility corridor, top filed on June 23, 1986, under sec. 906(e) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and the Alaska Statehood Act;
- (11) include plans to invest planning and development funds in recreation enhancement such as waysides, trailheads, boat launch sites, and camping areas;
- (12) consider developing access into conservation system units in cooperation with the state, the U.S. National Park Service, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service;
- (13) consider opening the corridor to oil and gas leasing;
- (14) provide for the effects on subsistence lifestyle of local residents;
- (15) include plans to protect threatened and endangered species and to enhance fish habitat.

COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Donald P. Hodel, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; to Michael J. Penfold, Director of the Bureau of Land Management; and to the Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.