



**MEMORANDUM:
State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources**

**Division of Mining, Land & Water
Realty Services Section**

To:	Public Notice	Date:	October 10, 2023
		File Nos.:	GS-2595, & GS-2600
Thru:	Lacy Hamner Natural Resources Manager 2	Telephone:	907.269.8607
		E-mail:	James.ellis@alaska.gov
From:	Jim Ellis Natural Resource Specialist 3	Subject:	Mentasta Creek University Lands Selection

Summary

The Statehood Entitlement Unit received a request from the University of Alaska Land Management Office (UA LMO) to relinquish land selections in two blocks of land northerly of Mentasta Lake and southerly of the Tok River in the Mentasta Creek area. Relinquishment of the State land selection would enable the University to obtain title. Realty Services believes it is appropriate to public notice the proposed relinquishment of the State's selection.

Background

The Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal year 2023 (Pub. L. 117-328) and the University of Alaska Fiscal Foundation Act provides that the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) may convey up to 360,000 acres of land to the University of Alaska. The land available for conveyance has been selected by the State of Alaska pursuant to Section 6(b) of the Alaska Statehood Act. More information about the Fiscal Foundation Act can be found at: <https://www.alaska.edu/ualand/about/land-grant/index.php>

The UA LMO will submit potential land selections in approximately 100,000-acre batches for review to be completed by the Division of Mining, Land & Water (DMLW) Realty Services Section (Realty). Following their review, Realty will complete state-wide agency review and public notice for the proposed relinquishment of State selections in favor of conveyance to the University. Once the agency review and public notice have been completed Realty will issue a decision noticing the public of the relinquishment decision. The UA LMO will work with the Governor's Office or their delegate to refine the list of desired lands and concur with the relinquishment of the State's selection. The UA LMO and DNR will jointly submit to BLM lists of lands to be conveyed along with letters conditionally relinquishing the State's selection. Relinquishment of the selection would be enacted upon conveyance of the lands to the University.

Affected Lands

This group of lands consists of parcels of Federal lands within portions of two townships located northerly of Mentasta Lake and southerly of the Tok River in the Mentasta Creek area. The legal description of the lands follows and is depicted on the maps on pages 3 and 4.

T. 15 N., R. 8 E., C.R.M.

Secs. 1 & 2;

Sec. 3, S1/2;

Sec. 4, SE1/4,;

Secs. 7-24, & 27-34.

Containing approximately 18,400 acres.

T. 14 N., R. 9 E., C.R.M.

Secs. 20-26, 28, & 29.

Containing approximately 5,760 acres.

Aggregating approximately 24,160 acres.

Surrounding Land Ownership Pattern

Lands immediately surrounding the parcels are a mix of State, Alaska Native Corporation, private property, and Federally owned lands. The Federal lands are selected by both the State and Alaska Native Corporations.

Requested Action

The State is seeking public comment regarding the proposed voluntary relinquishment of the State of Alaska's selection of these lands. Please provide comments regarding this relinquishment by **3 p.m. November 15, 2023**.

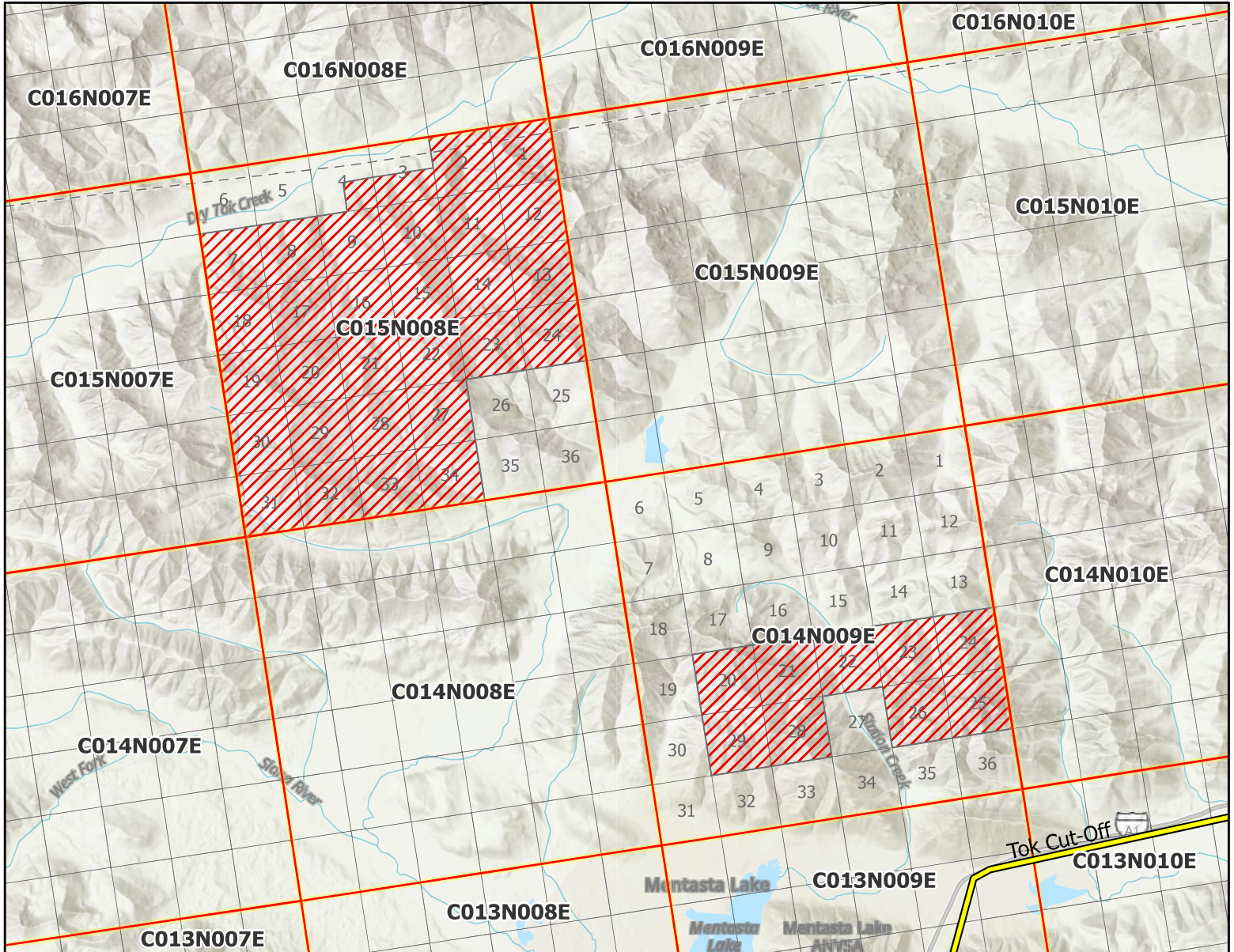
Enclosures:

1. Maps



Copper River Meridian
Township 14 N., Range 9 E
Township 15 N., Range 8 E

Attachment A: Vicinity Map University of Alaska Mentasta Creek Selections



State of Alaska, Esri, HERE, Garmin, SafeGraph, METI/NASA, USGS, Bureau of Land Management, EPA, NPS, USDA, Esri, USGS, J. DiPaola

 University of Alaska
Selections

USGS QUAD 1:63,360
Nabesna 078 D6
For more information contact:
James Ellis
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Mining, Land, and Water
Realty Services Section
Phone: 907-269-8607
Email: james.ellis@alaska.gov

