



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

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

To:	Public Notice	Date:	May 31, 2024
		File Nos.:	GS-5434, & GS-5439
Thru:	Lacy Hamner Natural Resources Manager 2	Telephone:	907.269.8607
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From:	Jim Ellis Natural Resource Specialist 3	Subject:	Upper Chilkat 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 located along the Chilkat River south of the U.S./Canada border. 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 consist of Federal lands within portions of two townships located north of Haines adjacent to the Chilkat River near the U.S./Canada border. Lands selected by the UA LMO are as follows and are depicted on the maps on pages 3 and 4.

T. 25 S., R. 56 E., Copper River Meridian, portions of Section 22, 23, 26, 27, 34, and 35. Containing approximately 1,241 acres.

T. 26 S., R. 56 E., Copper River Meridian, portions of Sections 1-4, and 9-13. Containing approximately 3,165 acres.

Excluding from the selected lands United States Survey 13752, the Chilkat River, and lands reserved by Presidential Proclamation 810.

Aggregating approximately 4,406 acres.

Dingell Act allotment applications AA-97340 and AA-95920 within Secs. 4 and 9 of C026S056E potentially reduce the total acreage of these selections by 160 acres each. The UA LMO has indicated they do not object to Dingell Allotments on lands they have selected. These applications are still under review by BLM and their status is unknown. A decision to relinquish these lands for UA or the applicants will be made after this public notice.

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. July 2, 2024**.

Enclosures:

1. Maps