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MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 13, 2026
SUBJECT: UA Honolulu Pass Selection _ Background _ File Numbers: GS-5223, GS-5224, GS-2670, GS-2671

Summary

The Statehood Entitlement Unit ("Selections Unit") received a request to relinquish a Statehood Act land selections in T. 21 S., R. 8 W., T. 21 S., R. 9 W., T. 22 S., R. 8 W., and T. 22 S., R. 9 W., F.M. to provide for additional land entitlement for the University of Alaska. These lands have a medium conveyance priority.

Background

In anticipation of the passage of legislation to enable the University of Alaska to receive title to an additional 360,000 acres of land, the University of Alaska Land Management Office (UA LMO) began selecting lands for consideration. The UA LMO will be submitting land selections in approximately 100,000-acre batches for State agency review, to be completed by the Division of Mining, Land & Water (DMLW) Realty Services Section (Realty). Once agency review has been completed, the lands will be reviewed by UA LMO for inclusion on the final 500,000-acre list to be submitted to the Governor's Office and the Dept. of Natural Resources (DNR) Commissioner. 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. Following their review and approval, Realty will complete public notice for the proposed relinquishment of State selections to facilitate the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) transfer of the lands to the University. The UA LMO and DNR will jointly submit a list of lands to BLM along with letters conditionally relinquishing the State's selection to be enacted upon conveyance of the lands to the University.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act for fiscal Year 2023 was passed and included language from Senator Murkowski's University of Alaska Fiscal Foundation Act which enables the BLM to transfer State Selected lands to the University of Alaska as described above.

Affected Lands

The land consists of parcels of Federal lands located within:

Fairbanks Meridian, Alaska

T. 21 S., R. 8 W.,

Secs. 1-36, inclusive, ALL.

Containing approximately 23,075 acres

T. 21 S., R. 9 W.,

Sec. 1, ALL;
Sec. 2, ALL;
Secs. 11-14, inclusive, ALL;
Secs. 23-26, inclusive, ALL.
Containing approximately 12,819 acres

T 22 S., R. 8 W.,
Secs. 1-18, inclusive, ALL.
Containing approximately 11,562 acres

T. 22 S., R. 9 W.,
Secs. 1-8, inclusive, ALL;
Secs. 9-10, inclusive, excluding 125-acre lake;
Secs. 11-18, inclusive, ALL.
Containing approximately 11,437 acres

Aggregating approximately 58,893 acres

Discussion

Selections Unit staff review of BLM online records, Historic Indices, TWPALL, MTP, and LMaR GIS system produced the following:

- 09/29/1972 PLO 5180
- 01/25/1979 PLO 5657
- 08/30/1982 PLO 6329
- 11/18/2009 AKFF 016304, 231120 Wdl-Ak-D1 Withdrawal
- 08/01/2010 AKAA 070235, 292803 Unauthorized Occupancy
- 02/09/2018 AKAA 070205, 293000 Permits Recreation Use
- 11/15/2022 AKAA 092860, 293000 Permits Recreation Use

Review of State records including the Recorder's Office database, LAS records, DBRS, and Mapper produced the following:

- 11-10-1986 General Grant Selection application GS-5223
- 11-10-1986 General Grant Selection application GS-5224
- 11-14-1978 General Grant Selection application GS-2670
- 11-14-1978 General Grant Selection application GS-2671
- ADL 233419 issued for an ANILCA Sec. 906(k) concurrence for federal authorization on State-selected lands
- LAS 28038 issued for an ANILCA Sec. 906(k) concurrence for federal authorization on State-selected lands

Surrounding Land Pattern

The selected land is located approximately 20 miles southwest of Cantwell and approximately 55 miles northeast of Talkeetna. The surrounding areas to the northeast, east, and south have been conveyed to the State of Alaska, are selected by the State (currently managed by BLM), selected by AHTNA, Inc. (currently managed by BLM), although certain areas to the north and south are ANCSA conveyed land. Lastly, land immediately to north and west contain State of Alaska mining claims and land further north and west consist of Denali National Park.

Request

We are seeking your input as to whether DNR should relinquish its land selection, which will allow BLM to convey the parcel to the University.

Should DNR relinquish the selection the lands will be a direct federal conveyance to the University. Consequently, there are several important factors that differentiate this proposed relinquishment from others, including:

1. The State has **no** ability to require that BLM reserve or make the University's title subject to easements on these lands. This means that access areas, public easements, or other common tools used to ensure *public access across private lands may not be available after conveyance to the University*.
2. These lands will pass directly from the Federal government to the University of Alaska *and will be treated as private trust lands*.
3. It is unclear how existing RS2477 trails will be handled during the conveyance process. BLM has indicated that existing valid rights will be addressed prior to conveyance to the University, however BLM does not consider most RS2477 trails to be valid.
4. It is unclear how BLM will resolve issues involving navigable waters.

Please provide your comments regarding the proposed relinquishment, along with reasoning and evidence supporting your recommendation(s) to Realty Services no later than **March 20, 2026**.