



**STATE OF ALASKA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
**Division of Mining, Land and Water**

*“Putting Alaska’s resources to work - now and in the future!”*

**MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** February 12, 2026

**SUBJECT:** UA Delong Mountains Selection File Numbers: GS-4068, GS-4069, GS-4070, GS-4071, GS-4850, GS-4852, GS-4854, GS-4985

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Summary

The Statehood Entitlement Unit (“Selections Unit”) received a request to relinquish priority 1 and 2 Statehood Act land selections in K.R.M. T. 33 N., Rs. 18 through 23 W., T. 34 N., Rs. 21 and 22 W., and U.M. T. 12 S., R. 50 W., to provide for additional land entitlement for the University of Alaska.

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 land 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 land located within:

Kateel Meridian, Alaska

- T. 33 N., R. 18 W., (Priority 1)  
Tract A, ALL (Secs. 1-16, inclusive);  
Containing approximately 8,472.37 acres.
- T. 33 N., R. 19 W., (Priority 1)  
Tract C, ALL (Secs. 29-32, inclusive);  
Containing approximately 2,556.48 acres.
- T. 33 N., R. 20 W., (Priority 2)  
Secs. 13-36, inclusive, ALL;

- Containing approximately 15,341 acres.
- T. 33 N., R. 21 W., (Priority 2)  
Secs. 25-36, inclusive, ALL;  
Containing approximately 7,675 acres.
- T. 33 N., R. 22 W., (Priority 2)  
Secs. 1-12, inclusive, ALL;  
Secs. 15-19, inclusive, ALL;  
Containing approximately 10,842 acres.
- T. 33 N., R. 23 W., (Priority 2)  
Sec. 13, ALL;  
Secs. 23-28, inclusive, ALL;  
Secs. 33-36, inclusive, ALL;  
Containing approximately 7,040 acres.
- T. 34 N., R. 21 W., (Priority 2)  
Tracts A, B, D, and E, ALL (Secs. 7-11, inclusive; 14-36, inclusive);  
Containing approximately 17,682.30 acres.
- T. 34 N., R. 22 W., (Priority 2)  
Sec. 13, ALL;  
Secs. 24-28, inclusive, ALL;  
Secs. 33-36, inclusive, ALL;  
Containing approximately 6,400 acres.

Umiat Meridian, Alaska

- T. 12 S., R. 50 W., (Priority 2)  
Secs. 25-27, inclusive, ALL;  
Containing approximately 1,998.24 acres.

Aggregating approximately 78,007.39 acres.

Discussion

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

- K.R.M. T. 33 N., R. 18 W.,
  - AKA 061299 D1 WITHDRAWAL
  - AKA 077381 WDL-NPS-WILDERNESS DESIG (outside UA selection)
  - AKFF 035218 ANCSA 14(H)(8) SEL-AK (closed)
  - AKFF 044451 GENERAL GRANT
  - AKFF 086070 WDL-NATIONAL PARKS (outside UA selection)
  - AKFF 095872 ROW-OTHER FEDERAL FAC (closed)
- K.R.M. T. 33 N., R. 19 W.,
  - AKFF 035214 ANCSA 14(H)(8) SEL-AK (closed)
  - AKFF 044452 GENERAL GRANT
  - AKFF 045507 ANCSA 14(H)(8) SEL-AK (closed)
  - AKFF 086061 WDL-AK-VLG/REG DEF AREA
  - AKFF 095872 ROW-OTHER FEDERAL FAC (closed)
- K.R.M. T. 33 N., R. 20 W.,
  - AKFF 035216 ANCSA 14(H)(8) SEL-AK (closed)
  - AKFF 044453 GENERAL GRANT

- AKFF 086061 WDL-AK-VLG/REG DEF AREA
- AKFF 095872 ROW-OTHER FEDERAL FAC (closed)
- K.R.M. T. 33 N., R. 21 W.,
  - AKFF 035217 ANCSA 14(H)(8) SEL-AK (closed)
  - AKFF 044454 GENERAL GRANT
  - AKFF 086061 WDL-AK-VLG/REG DEF AREA
  - AKFF 095872 ROW-OTHER FEDERAL FAC (closed)
- K.R.M. T. 33 N., R. 22 W.,
  - AKFF 044454 GENERAL GRANT
  - AKFF 086061 WDL-AK-VLG/REG DEF AREA
  - AKFF 095872 ROW-OTHER FEDERAL FAC (closed)
- K.R.M. T. 33 N., R. 23 W.,
  - AKFF 079799 GENERAL GRANT
  - AKFF 086061 WDL-AK-VLG/REG DEF AREA
  - AKFF 095872 ROW-OTHER FEDERAL FAC (closed)
- K.R.M. T. 34 N., R. 21 W.,
  - AKFF 079795 GENERAL GRANT
  - AKFF 086061 WDL-AK-VLG/REG DEF AREA
  - AKFF 095872 ROW-OTHER FEDERAL FAC (closed)
- K.R.M. T. 34 N., R. 22 W.,
  - AKFF 079797 GENERAL GRANT
  - AKFF 086061 WDL-AK-VLG/REG DEF AREA
  - AKFF 095872 ROW-OTHER FEDERAL FAC (closed)
- U.M. T. 12 S., R. 50 W.,
  - AKFF 079930 GENERAL GRANT
  - AKFF 086061 WDL-AK-VLG/REG DEF AREA

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

- General Grant Selections
  - GS-4068 (K033N018W)
  - GS-4069 (K033N019W)
  - GS-4070 (K033N020W)
  - GS-4071 (K033N021W, 022W)
  - GS-4850 (K034N021W)
  - GS-4852 (K034N022W)
  - GS-4854 (K033N023W)
  - GS-4985 (U012S050W)
- ADL 421083 (K033N020W, 021W), ANILCA Sec. 906(k) authorization

### Surrounding Land Pattern

This proposed selection lies approximately 73 miles east of Point Hope and approximately 44 miles north of Noatak, Alaska. The proposed selection is situated between the Kukpuk River, Wulik River and Sooner River.

The surrounding area to the east of the selection is controlled by the National Park Service, being the Noatak National Preserve. Most of the remaining surrounding area is owned by the State, with a smaller amount of ANCSA land in the southeastern edge. The remaining lands are managed by BLM, with scattered State land selections.

### 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 31, 2026.**