



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: March 17, 2026
SUBJECT: UA Slana Selection Background File Number: GS-2573

Summary

The Statehood Entitlement Unit ("Selections Unit") received a request to relinquish a Statehood Act land selections in T. 11 N., R. 8 E., C.R.M. 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:

- T. 11 N., R. 8 E., C.R.M.
- Sec. 28, excluding Lot 1 and Slana River
- Comprised of approximately 613 acres

Discussion

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

- AA-021163 State Selection (General Grant selection 2573)
- AA-074264 State Selection (Community Grant selection 121)

- FF-085667 D1 Withdrawal (PLO 5184)
- AA-006716 ANCSA Village withdrawal (closed due to ineligibility ruling for Slana)
- AA-071905 Trespass (closed)
- AA-091187 Row-Roads (Slana Community Assoc. Road)
- AA-085610 – Row-Pwr Facility & Tran (Ak Power and Telephone)
- AA-98819 – ROW-Tel & Teleg, FLPMA (application from Copper Valley Telephone CO-OP for existing line on Tok Cutoff to South Slana)
- AA-098821 – Row-Tel & Teleg, FLPMA (application from Copper Valley Telephone CO-OP for upgrades to line along Tok Hwy)

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

- General Grant Selection GS-2573
- Community Grant Selection CG-121

Surrounding Land Pattern

This proposed selection lies approximately 1 mile southeast of Slana, approximately 53 miles southwest of Tok, Alaska and approximately 65 miles northeast of Glenallen, Alaska. The proposed selection is situated on the on Nabesna Road as well as the banks of the Slana River, near its confluence with the Copper River, and Rufus Creek.

The surrounding area to the north of Nabesna Road is controlled by the BLM, although it is selected by AHTNA, Inc. Areas to the south is under the National Park Service. The Townships to the east and west are owned by Native Corporations and there are several sections owned by the State to the north. Around Slana and the Tok Cutoff Highway are parcels of privately owned land.

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 land 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 **3:00 p.m., April 21, 2026.**