

**DECISION RECORD AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
PROPOSED RUSSIAN RIVER CORRIDOR WITHDRAWAL**

I. Decision:

It is my decision that the Director of BLM recommend to the Secretary of the Interior that the National Forest system land described below be withdrawn from the public land laws, including location and entry under the United States mining laws, subject to valid existing rights. The National Forest system lands will remain open to mineral leasing but closed to mining laws to protect the fisheries, recreational, and archaeological resources of the area for the period of 20 years. The subject lands are described to be within the Chugach National Forest, Seward Ranger District, and further described as:

Seward Meridian Alaska

Township 4 North, Range 4 West

Sec.9, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, E $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 10, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, W $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 16, E $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 21, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$, fractional parts of S $\frac{1}{2}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$ lying east of the Forest boundary, SW $\frac{1}{4}$ lying east of the Forest boundary;

Sec. 28, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$, fractional parts of W $\frac{1}{2}$ lying east of the Forest boundary;

Sec. 29, fractional part of E $\frac{1}{2}$ lying east of the forest boundary;

Sec. 32, fractional part of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ lying east of the Forest boundary;

Sec. 33, W $\frac{1}{2}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$, fractional parts of W $\frac{1}{2}$ lying east of the Forest boundary.

Township 3 North, Range 4 West

Sec. 4, fractional parts of N $\frac{1}{2}$ lying east of the Forest boundary, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ lying east of the Forest boundary;

Sec. 9, fractional part of NE $\frac{1}{4}$ lying east of the Forest boundary;

Sec. 10, fractional part N $\frac{1}{2}$ lying north of the Forest boundary;

Sec. 11, fractional part lying north of the Forest boundary, excluding the N $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$;

Sec. 12, fractional part of the S $\frac{1}{2}$ lying northeast of the Forest boundary;

Sec. 13, fractional part of N $\frac{1}{2}$ lying north of the ordinary high water mark along the northeast shore of Upper Russian Lake.

Approximately 2, 998 acres.

The area described contains approximately 2,998 acres within the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska.

The withdrawal will be issued under the authority of Section 204(a) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of October 21, 1976, as amended, (43 U.S.C. 1714 and the regulations at 43 CFR 2300).

II. Rationale for the Decision:

The proposed withdrawal will protect the area's fisheries, recreational, and archaeological resources and will not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation. The proposed withdrawal is in conformance with the Chugach National Forest Revised Land and Resource Management Plan, which was signed on May 31, 2002. The attached environmental assessment, which was prepared by Forest Service personnel, was reviewed and adopted by BLM.

A mineral potential report prepared by the Forest Service concluded the area has low potential of hosting any valuable deposits of locatable, leasable, saleable, or critical and strategic mineral commodities.

III. Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI):

Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that the impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

IV. ANILCA Section 810 Compliance:

No significant restrictions of subsistence uses under Section 810 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) have been found.

V. Adverse Energy Impact Compliance:

This action has been analyzed as required by Washington Office Instruction Memorandum 2002-053 to determine if it will cause an adverse impact on energy development. The action will not have an adverse direct or indirect impact on energy development, production or distribution. The preparation of a Statement of Adverse Energy Impact is not required.

/s/ Peter J. Ditton
Peter J. Ditton, Anchorage Field Manager

November 1, 2002
Date