



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
ALASKA STATE OFFICE
222 W. 7th Avenue, #13
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99513-7599

FF-93920
1864 (932)

SEP 3 2003

Joseph Henry
P.O. Box 107
Fort Yukon, Alaska 99740

Dear Mr. Henry:

Thank you for your comments regarding the State of Alaska's application for a recordable disclaimer of interest for lands beneath the ordinary high water mark underlying a portion of Black River, the Black River Slough, the Salmon Fork, the Grayling Fork and Bull Creek. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) received your letter on August 6, 2003.

Your letter discusses your property rights and other concerns. The BLM will not approve an application if the application pertains to trust or restricted Indian lands, therefore your rights as an allottee will not be affected. The BLM will only issue a disclaimer if the State of Alaska can show that a specific property right is not held by the United States. The State asserts the water bodies listed above are navigable and that under the Equal Footing Doctrine and Submerged Lands Act of 1953, ownership of these submerged lands automatically passed from the United States to the State at the time of statehood in 1959. The recordable disclaimer of interest, if issued, will confirm the United States has no valid interest in the lands underlying these water bodies.

In addition, your letter requests a 90-day extension of time to comment on the State's application. Please be advised that no extensions of time will be granted.

This letter serves to acknowledge your comments and we will consider them as we take further action on the State's application.

Thank you for sharing your interest in this matter. For more information, visit our recordable disclaimer of interest website at <http://www.ak.blm.gov/ak930/realty/>.

Sincerely,

/s/ Mike Haskins

Mike Haskins
Chief, Branch of Lands and Realty

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