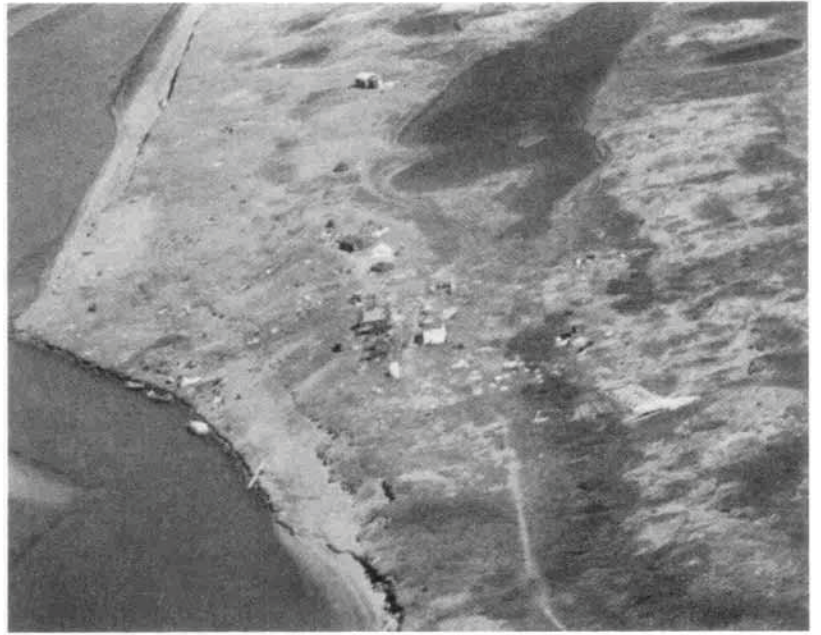




SULLIVAN BLUFFS



SEASONAL VILLAGE OF ESPENBERG



REINDEER CIRCLING IN CORRAL

LAND PROTECTION PLAN

SUMMARY

Current Landownership (in acres)	
Federal	2,509,360
Native corporation and individual land applications	180,819
Nonfederal	<u>94,781</u>
Total	2,784,960

Acres to be Protected
(includes 180,819 acres of selections by
native corporations and individuals) 275,600

Proposed Methods of Protection	
Fee-simple acquisition	1,920
Agreements/Alaska Land Bank	281,420
Mineral rights acquisition	approx. 1,580
Lease or acquire (outside preserve boundary)	1

Statutory Acreage Ceiling

There is no acreage ceiling for the preserve. Pursuant to minor boundary adjustment provisions of ANILCA (sec. 103(b)), 23,000 acres may be added to or taken away from the preserve. In addition, the secretary of the interior may acquire private land or may designate as federal lands areas not to exceed 7,500 acres that contain significant archeological or paleontological resources closely related to the preserve (ANILCA, sec. 1304). None have been identified to date.

Funding Status

Authorized	None
Appropriated	None
Obligated	None

High-Priority Recommendations

If the mining claim groups south of Serpentine Hot Springs are determined to be valid, the National Park Service will propose acquisition of the mining claim interests.

If Serpentine Hot Springs is conveyed to the Bering Straits Native Corporation, the National Park Service will develop a mutually agreeable land exchange with the native corporation.

INTRODUCTION

In May 1982 the Department of the Interior issued a policy statement for the use of the federal portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, which requires that, in carrying out its responsibility for land protection in federally administered areas, each agency using the fund will

identify what lands or interests in lands need to be in federal ownership to achieve management purposes consistent with objectives for the unit

use to the maximum extent practical cost-effective alternatives to direct federal purchase of private lands and, when acquisition is necessary, acquire or retain only the minimum interests needed to meet management objectives of the park system unit

cooperate with landowners, other federal agencies, state and local governments, and the private sector to manage nonfederally owned lands within units of the national park system for public benefit or resource protection

formulate, or revise as necessary, plans for land acquisition and resource use or protection to ensure that sociocultural impacts are considered and that the lands are properly managed

In response to this policy, the National Park Service requires that a land protection plan be prepared for each unit in the national park system that contains private or other nonfederal lands or interests in lands within its authorized boundary.

The guiding principle of each land protection plan is to ensure the protection of each national park system unit, consistent with the stated purposes for which it was created and administered. Besides identifying lands or interests in lands that need to be in public ownership and the minimum interests needed to protect them, land protection plans are prepared to

inform landowners and the public about the National Park Service's intentions for buying or protecting land through other means within the unit

help managers identify priorities for making budget requests and allocating available funds to protect lands and preserve resources

find opportunities to help protect the preserve by cooperating with state or local governments, native organizations, and other private landowners

The major elements addressed by this plan include

the identification of nonfederal lands within the preserve boundary

existing and potential uses of nonfederal lands as well as compatible and incompatible uses

external conditions affecting the preserve

existing protection measures and their adequacy

alternative protection measures and their effects

recommendations for protecting nonfederal lands in the preserve, boundary changes, and the acquisition of administrative sites outside preserve boundaries

Land protection issues that are addressed by this plan are the protection of natural and cultural resources. Specific areas and issues that are addressed include the protection of Serpentine Hot Springs, the prevention of adverse impacts resulting from mining operations, and the prevention of incompatible uses from occurring on private lands within the preserve and adjacent to its boundaries.

This plan does not constitute an offer to purchase lands or interests in lands; neither does it diminish the rights of nonfederal landowners. The plan is intended to guide subsequent land protection activities subject to the availability of funds and other constraints.

The land protection plan will be reviewed every two years by the superintendent to determine if revisions are required. The superintendent will maintain current land status information, which will be available for review at the park headquarters. If the plan requires revision other than routine updating of land status information, all affected landowners and the general public will be notified and provided a 60-day public comment period.

PURPOSE OF THE PARK AND RESOURCES TO BE PROTECTED

SIGNIFICANCE AND PURPOSE OF THE PRESERVE

The primary purpose for the establishment of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve is to protect and preserve for research and interpretation a portion of the 1,000-mile-wide land link that intermittently connected Asia and North America 14,000 to 25,000 years ago. The lands within the national preserve contain paleontological deposits that can be studied and analyzed to determine the climate and conditions that existed when plants and animals migrated between the North American and Asian continents. The preserve also has high potential for archeological evidence of early man's habitation in northwest Alaska. Serpentine Hot Springs is a significant geothermal resource and recreation area set in a strikingly scenic valley where granite spires and pinnacles rise to 100 feet. The cultural significance of the area has long been recognized for its use in native healing practices and as a training ground for shamans. The management purposes of the preserve are described in the "Introduction" to this document.

RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

The preserve resources are described in "The Bering Land Bridge Environment" section. No known federal or state listed or candidate rare, endangered, or threatened plant and animal species occur in the preserve.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITIES

Passage of ANILCA provided a general framework for land protection for the newly established conservation units in Alaska. Section 1302 provides the general authorities for land acquisition (see appendix A). The secretary of the interior is authorized to acquire by purchase, donation, exchange, or otherwise any lands or interests in lands within the preserve. However, any lands or interests owned by the state and local governments or by native village and regional corporations may be acquired only with the consent of the owners. Furthermore, lands owned by natives who received title to the surface estate of lands from a village corporation as a primary place of residence, business, or subsistence campsite (ANCSA, sec. 14 (c)(1)), or from the secretary of the interior as a primary place of residence (sec. 14(h)(5)), may be acquired only with the consent of the owner. However, land may be acquired if the secretary determines that it is no longer being used for the purpose for which it was conveyed and that the use is or will be detrimental to the purpose of the preserve.

Native allotments or other private small tracts may be acquired without consent only after an exchange for other public lands of similar characteristics and like value, if available from lands outside the

preserve, is offered and if the owner chooses not to accept the exchange. Exchanges will be complicated by present selections and past conveyances of lands within the state, and the lack of suitable substitute lands.

No improved property will be acquired without the consent of the owner unless such acquisition is necessary for the protection of resources for which the preserve was established. When an owner of improved property consents to exchange lands or to sell to the United States, the owner may retain a right of use and occupancy for a period of 25 years or life for noncommercial residential and recreational use by agreement with the National Park Service.

Section 1302(i)(1) and (2) of ANILCA authorizes the secretary of the interior to acquire, by donation or exchange, state-owned or validly selected lands that are contiguous to the preserve. Any lands so acquired will become part of that conservation unit without reference to the 23,000-acre restriction included in minor boundary adjustments (section 103(b)).

In addition, the secretary of the interior "may designate federal lands or he may acquire . . . with the consent of the owner . . . any significant archeological or paleontological site" outside the preserve boundary that is closely associated with the purposes of the preserve (ANILCA, sec. 1304). Such acquisitions may not exceed 7,500 acres. The National Park Service may also acquire administrative sites and visitor facilities outside the boundaries of the preserve (ANILCA, sec. 1306).

Section 103(b) states that only the public lands within the boundaries of any conservation system unit shall be deemed to be included as a portion of the unit. The state, native, and other private lands within the boundaries are not subject to regulations applicable solely to the federal lands. If conveyed to the federal government under the provisions cited above, such lands will become part of the preserve and will be subject to those regulations.

In addition to complying with the above legislative and administrative requirements, the National Park Service must administer the area as a unit of the national park system, pursuant to the provisions of the act of August 25, 1916 (16 USC 1 et seq.), as amended and supplemented, and in accordance with the other provisions of title 16 of the United States Code, title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations, and other applicable laws. The National Park Service has proprietary jurisdiction over federally owned lands in the unit.

MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES

The objectives for the preserve are listed in the "Introduction" to this document.

LANDOWNERSHIP AND USES

LANDOWNERSHIP

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve contains 2,690,179 acres (96 percent) of federally owned land (see Land Status map). Also 180,819 acres (6 percent) are under application by native village or regional corporations (including overlapping applications made by both), cemetery sites and historical place selections, native small tract applications, or unpatented mining claims. Tidelands and submerged lands within the preserve boundary (87,554 acres) are state owned. There is one small portion of conveyed village corporation land (1,280 acres, 0.05 percent) northwest of the Killeak Lakes; in addition, 41 native allotments (5,947 acres) have been approved.

At present it appears that not all of the village and regional corporation selections within the preserve will be conveyed. These corporations have overselected their legal entitlements, and current information indicates that most entitlements will be filled from selections outside the preserve. It is anticipated also that most applications for historical places and cemetery sites will not be conveyed, because before the submittal of applications the lands were closed to any selections by Public Land Orders 5180 and 5250. Cemetery and historical sites that are within the boundary but not included in lands closed to selection by these public land orders may be approved by the Bureau of Land Management.

Public use easements and ANCSA 17(b) easements may exist on native lands within and adjacent to the preserve. See the access section of the plan and affected environment for a discussion of public use easements.

Table 8 lists the 104 Alaska native allotment applications and approvals. There are 167 parcels, with a total of 12,365 acres. The Bureau of Land Management is in the process of adjudicating these allotment applications. Most allotments are located along the Chukchi Sea and Goodhope Bay coastlines and along the lower Serpentine River. If applications are approved and conveyances are made, existing uses are not expected to change in the foreseeable future. Table 9 summarizes the land status in the preserve.

The state of Alaska contends that certain rights-of-way may be valid under Revised Statute 2477 (see discussion in Access section of plan). The validity of these rights-of-way has not been determined. Any valid rights-of-way will be included in future land protection plan revisions as nonfederal interests, and appropriate protection strategies will be identified.

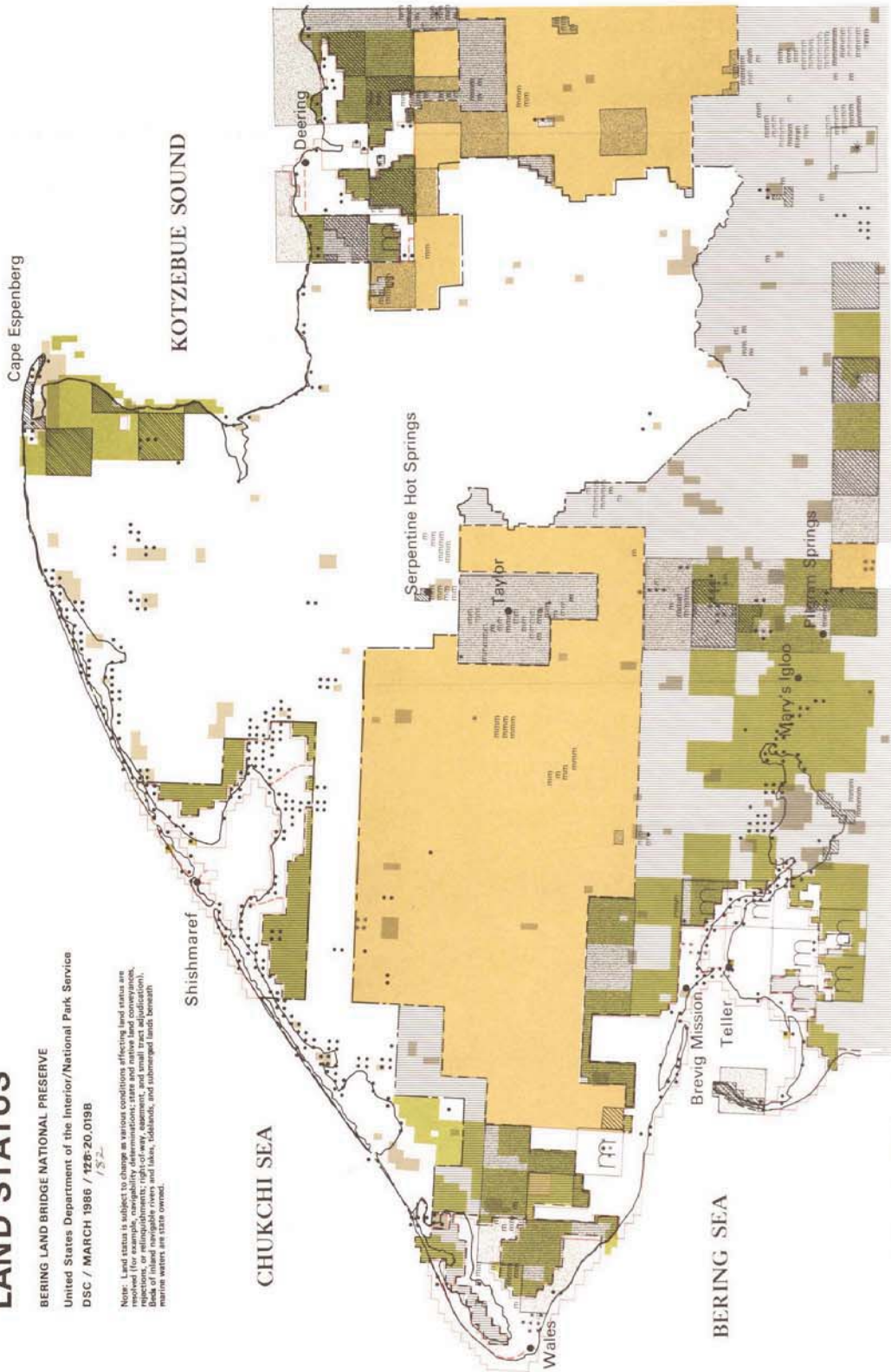
MINING CLAIMS

Altogether there are 41 lode and 38 placer unpatented mining claims within the preserve boundary. These claims are in three groups, one

LAND STATUS

BERING LAND BRIDGE NATIONAL PRESERVE
 United States Department of the Interior/National Park Service
 DSC / MARCH 1986 / 128-20.0198 / S2-

Note: Land status is subject to change as various conditions affecting land status are met, such as: rejections, or relinquishments; right-of-way, easements; and native land conveyance. Beds of inland navigable rivers and lakes, tidelands, and submerged lands beneath marine waters are state owned.



- FEDERAL LAND
 - NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
 - ANCSA 17 (b) EASEMENTS
 - BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
- STATE LAND
 - SELECTED
 - TENTATIVELY APPROVED OR PATENTED
- REGIONAL CORPORATION LAND
 - SELECTED
- VILLAGE CORPORATION LAND
 - SELECTED
 - INTERIMLY CONVEYED OR PATENTED
- OTHER NATIVE APPLICATIONS
 - NATIVE ALLOTMENT APPLICATION
 - CEMETERY AND HISTORIC SITE APPLICATION
- MINING CLAIM
 - SECTION
 - ENTIRE TOWNSHIP
- OTHER PRIVATE LAND
 - SECTION
 - ENTIRE TOWNSHIP



ON MICROFILM

adjacent to and south of the Serpentine Hot Springs valley and the others along Humboldt Creek. None of these areas is now active. The validity of these claims is being examined.

COMPATIBILITY OF LAND USES

The National Park Service is required to examine existing and potential uses of nonfederal lands within the preserve in order to determine if these uses are compatible with the purposes for which the park was established (ANILCA, sec. 1301). For example, some of the purposes for establishing Bering Land Bridge National Preserve include the protection of arctic plant communities, wildlife habitat, rivers and lands, and wilderness resource values. Mining that would involve mechanized equipment, discharge of sediment to streams, and destruction of vegetation would be contrary to the purposes for establishing the preserve and would be incompatible uses of private land in the preserve.

The following compatible and incompatible uses of nonfederal lands in the preserve are presented to publicly inform landowners about what uses of nonfederal lands are generally compatible with the purposes of the preserve, and what uses will cause the National Park Service to initiate actions to protect preserve resources and values. These lists are intended to serve as general guidelines for both park managers and nonfederal landowners. Because all possible uses of nonfederal lands cannot be anticipated, and other compatible and incompatible uses may exist, the following lists are not all-inclusive.

At present most existing land uses are compatible with the purpose of the preserve. Existing compatible uses are subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering; cabins for subsistence activities; and reindeer grazing and related structures essential to herding activities. Associated activities include travel to subsistence areas or herd locations, and travel between villages and cabins (temporary and permanent). Other very limited activities within the preserve are hiking, cross-country skiing, and sporthunting. These uses are all compatible with the purposes of the preserve as long as access continues to be by traditional means and as long as the present number of cabins and facilities related to subsistence use or reindeer herding does not increase significantly.

Potential uses of nonfederal lands are for mining and access to these sites. Other potential uses are an expanded reindeer industry, along with an associated increase in facilities. Long-term uses may include visitor accommodations, lodges, and other recreation-related development. These uses except for mining would be compatible if they were in keeping with the purposes and character of the preserve, based on a case-by-case evaluation. New structures and uses should be compatible with the surrounding landscape and the preserve as a whole. In the repair, replacement, or modification of existing structures, or the construction of new structures, the size should be appropriate to the character of the preserve. New structures or modifications of existing structures should not impair the natural character or the scenic quality.

Table 8: Native Allotments--Applications and Conveyances

<u>File No.</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Number of Parcels</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
FF030127	Goodhope, Sr., Fred	2	120
FF030541	Moses, Sr., James	1	30
FF031702	Goodhope, Fannie	2	120
FF000049	Barr, Sr., Gideon K.	2	160
FF000072	Cross, Elizabeth B.	2	146.5
FF013821	Barr, Edward A.	1	160
FF015393	Moses, Bessie A.	1	160
FF016717	Barr, Gilford	1	160
FF016719	Barr, Pauline	1	160
FF016806	Barr, Walter	1	160
FF016934	Tocktoo, Vincent J.	3	160
FF017476	Karmun, Mamie	1	160
FF017477	Taft, Florence	1	160
FF017661	Moto, Donald	1	160
FF017662	Moto, Margaret M.	1	80
FF017696	Kiyutelluk, Morris U.	1	160
FF017961	Eutuk, Vern	1	80
FF017962	Olanna, Elliot	2	160
FF018434	Olanna, Alfred	2	160
FF018509	Eningowuk, Nellie	3	160
FF018510	Eningowuk, Philip K.	2	120
FF018512	Kiyutelluk, Steven A.	1	80
FF018514	Kuzuguk, Fanny	2	160
FF018515	Kuzuguk, Jennie	1	160
FF018516	Kuzuguk, Nora Ann	1	160
FF018517	Ningeulook, Ray H.	1	80
FF018518	Obruk, Christine J.	2	80
FF018519	Obruk, Sergie	1	120
FF018520	Okpowruk, Edith	1	160
FF018523	Sinnok, Loretta	1	80
FF018524	Tocktoo, Andrew	2	80
FF018525	Tocktoo, Jesse	2	80
FF018526	Tocktoo, Clarence G.	2	120
FF018527	Weyiouanna, Ardith M.	2	80
FF018534	Barr, Katherine	3	120
FF018535	Eningowuk, Delbert	2	120
FF018536	Kiyutelluk, Lillian	2	160
FF018537	Kokeok, Benjamin	1	120
FF018538	Kokeok, Harry	1	40
FF018539	Koonuk, Annie	2	80
FF018540	Kuzuguk, Rena	1	80
FF018541	Mingoona, Jakie N.	1	80
FF018542	Nayokpuk, Lawrence	1	40
FF018543	Cowart, Susan Nayokpuk	3	160
FF018544	Ningealook, Andrew	4	160
FF018545	Obruk, Delbert P.	2	120
FF018547	Obruk, Tommy	1	40
FF018549	Olanna, Albert	3	160
FF018550	Olanna, Arnold	2	160
FF018551	Pootoogoolook, Bertha	1	80
FF018553	Kokeok, Clara S. Sinnok	1	40
FF018554	Sinnok, James A.	2	160
FF018555	Sinnok, Rachel	1	80
FF018556	Sinnok, Ralph	1	40
FF018558	Tocktoo, Molly A.	2	120
FF018559	Weyiouanna, Alene	2	120
FF018560	Weyiouanna, Alex N.	1	40

<u>File No.</u>	<u>Applicant</u>	<u>Number of Parcels</u>	<u>Total Acres</u>
FF018561	Weyiouanna, Shirley	1	120
FF018562	Weyiouanna, Stephen	3	120
FF018571	Barr, Gilbert S.	1	160
FF018586	Cross, Milton R.	1	160
FF018610	Iyatunguk, Daniel	1	160
FF018612	Jones, Paul K.	1	80
FF018613	Jones, Rebecca	2	160
FF018614	Karman, Alice A.	1	160
FF018646	Barr, Martha A.	1	160
FF018647	Barr, Replogle	1	160
FF018649	Reuben, Alice B.	1	160
FF018650	Reuben, Sr., Jacob	1	160
FF018662	Kuzuguk, Bert W.	2	80
FF018663	Nayokpuk, Ida R.	1	40
FF018665	Ningeulook, Davey	1	120
FF018666	Ningeulook, Frieda	3	120
FF018667	Obruk, Esther	1	40
FF018668	Olanna, Katherine	3	160
FF018670	Sinnok, John	2	120
FF018672	Weyauvanna, Charles A.	2	80
FF018677	Kiyutelluk, Martha A.	2	160
FF018741	Weyiouana, Clifford	1	80
FF018763	Anderson, Mary E. Cross	1	23
FF018770	Kiyutelluk, Clayton W.	2	130
FF018772	Ningeulook, Marie	3	160
FF018773	Olanna, Emma	1	160
FF018774	Kokbok, Susie A. Weyauvanna	1	40
FF018775	Weyiouanna, Esau K.	1	40
FF018777	Weyiouanna, Nellie	1	160
FF018817	Olanna, Harold	1	80
FF019465	Olanna, Wilfred	1	160
FF064697	Barr, Fannie K.	1	80
FF064698	Pootoogooluk, Anna	2	120
FF064699	Ninealook, Jack H.	2	120
FF064700	Pootoogooluk, Sr., Alvin	3	120
FF064701	Goodhope, Sr., Fred	2	120
FF064702	Goodhope, Fannie M.	2	135
FF065973	Olanna, Irene	2	120
FF065974	Pootoogooluk, Harvey	1	160
FF065976	Kigrook, James R.	3	160
FF065977	Kokeok, Signa	3	160
FF065978	Nayokpuk, Elizabeth	1	80
FF065979	Nayokpuk, Herbert	1	80
FF065980	Ningealook, Marjorie	3	160
FF065982	Okpowruk, Willa	1	60
FF065983	Barr, Zaccheus, Wm.	2	120
FF083750	Ahgupuk, Annie A.	1	160

Total: 104
Total Parcels: 167
Total Acres: 12,364.5

Source: Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior, Case File Activity Report, August 22, 1984.

Note: These case files are constantly being updated, and there may be some discrepancies.

Table 9: Land Status Summary

<u>Current Landownership</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Federal--National Park Service	2,509,360
State of Alaska Submerged Lands/Tidelands (navigable waters)	87,554
Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation	1,280
Native Allotments (41 allotments, 61 parcels)	<u>5,947</u>
Total	2,604,141
<u>Native Land Applications</u>	
Bering Straits Native Corporation (ANCSA, sec. 14(h)(8))	1,920
Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation	54,843
Inalik Village Corporation	27,367
Native allotments (63 allotments, 106 parcels)	6,418
Cemetery/historical sites (ANCSA, sec. 14(h)(1))	26,652
NANA Regional Corporation and Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation	55,879
NANA Regional Corporation and Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation cemetery/historical sites	5,020
NANA Regional Corporation and NANA cemetery/historical sites	627
Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation and NANA cemetery/historical sites	<u>2,093</u>
Total	180,819
<u>Submerged Lands/Tidelands (Navigable Waters)</u>	
Arctic Lagoon	15,775
Unnamed lagoon southwest of Kividlo	28,591
Ikpek Lagoon	32,168
Unnamed inlet west of Cape Espenberg	4,535
Nugnugaluktuk estuary	<u>6,485</u>
Total	87,554
<u>Other Nonfederal Interests</u>	
Mining claims (unpatented)--41 lode, 38 placer	Approx. 1,580

Acres are subject to change as navigability determinations are made and land selections are adjudicated.

An undetermined amount of land may be encumbered with RS 2477 rights-of-way or ANCSA 17(b) easements.

Incompatible uses would damage or destroy natural resources (vegetation, habitat, landforms, and paleontological resources) and cultural resources (such as old village sites, remains of exploration and mining activities, and prehistoric sites), as well as altering the present wilderness character of the preserve. New roads and airstrips would be incompatible, as would mining. Isolated temporary use cabins for subsistence purposes could be compatible in some areas, while in other unaltered natural areas even a single structure could be a change in the existing character and thus be incompatible. In some areas where several structures are clustered, such as Espenberg, additional structures could be compatible.

ADJACENT LANDOWNERSHIP

Lands adjacent to the preserve are owned primarily by the state of Alaska; the United States, with management by the Bureau of Land Management; and the Shishmaref Village Corporation. There are also two areas of active mining claims (the Rainbow and Utica areas). Alaska state lands, most of which have been tentatively approved, are primarily on the southwestern and eastern borders of the preserve. The largest area of BLM-managed lands is generally in the south-central portion of the Seward Peninsula and extends from the Bendeleben Mountains to the Noxapaga River valley and then north to Upper Taylor Creek. Other small unconnected tracts of BLM-managed lands are located between NPS-managed lands and Shishmaref Village Corporation lands (about 94,080 acres), as well as 103,680 acres south of the southwestern portion of the preserve. The Park Service will work toward compatible management of adjacent lands.

ONGOING PROJECTS AND PROPOSALS AND EXTERNAL USE

Several ongoing projects and proposals may have an effect on the natural and cultural values of the preserve as well as general patterns of use.

Alaska Department of Natural Resources - Northwest Area Plan

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources is preparing a comprehensive land use plan for state lands in the Bering Straits Native Corporation and NANA Regional Corporation areas of northwest Alaska. The plan will identify state lands suitable for resource development, settlement, and resource conservation. It will also address other regional land use management issues. The Park Service will work closely with the state in the preparation of the plan, especially concerning issues related to lands adjacent to the preserve.

Bering Straits Regional Strategy

The Bering Straits regional strategy is a planning program that has objectives of establishing economic development policies and identifying

projects appropriate for and consistent with local needs and conditions. Another objective is to assign regional priorities for proposed capital improvement projects so that these projects are in a better position to receive state funds. In addition, this program will facilitate the coordination of local, state, and federal plans and proposed economic development projects.

Interagency Fire Management Plan

The 1984 Alaska Interagency Fire Management Plan: Seward-Koyukuk Planning Area is concerned with 51,860 square miles of western and central Alaska. The plan establishes broad fire management strategies and encourages coordination among the many land managers and owners within the planning area in their approach to fire suppression.

Shishmaref Inlet Area

The Shishmaref Village Corporation has requested the Park Service to consider exchanging approximately 30,080 acres of land in two parcels, one along the lower Serpentine River and the other to the west along the Arctic Lagoon. The village corporation has requested these lands because of their subsistence value for hunting, fishing, and gathering; also one area near the Arctic Lagoon could be used as a source for sand and gravel. The proposed exchange area includes 35 parcels of land that have applications pending as native allotments and four parcels that have cemetery site and historical area applications. The lands proposed for exchange include prime shoreline along the Chukchi Sea that has high potential for cultural resources and visitor use, plus the Arctic Lagoon and Serpentine River. Other distinguishing resource values are sand and gravel in some sections along the Arctic Lagoon. Except for a general survey of these lands, no further action on this proposed exchange will be taken until submerged lands in the Shishmaref Inlet are identified so that there will be a clearer understanding of native, state, and federal landownership in the area.

Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation Proposed Land Exchange

The Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation (KIC) has proposed to exchange two sections (1,280 acres) of interimly conveyed lands within the preserve for an equal area of lands within Cape Krusenstern National Monument on or near Sheshalik Spit. The present KIC lands are vacant, and no change in the current undeveloped condition is proposed. An unsuccessful oil exploration well was drilled at this site in 1978. The Park Service will continue to discuss the proposed land exchange with the corporation to see if a mutually agreeable exchange can be developed.

Potential Shishmaref Relocation

Since the mid 1970s when storms caused great damage to the village of Shishmaref, the residents have been studying moving the village to a less vulnerable location while protecting their current subsistence lifestyle. Although no moves are imminent, relocation continues to be a possibility. One relocation site is near Tin Creek on Shishmaref Inlet, south of the present village location. This site and other potential sites would put the village within 6 miles of the preserve boundary, which could increase use of the preserve by Shishmaref residents.

Potential Road from Ear Mountain to Shishmaref

Ear Mountain is one of the few sources of gravel and stone in the region. As such, the need may arise for a road to transport gravel and stone from Ear Mountain to Shishmaref or to the site of a relocated village. This route would cross the narrowest portion of the preserve (6 miles) and would require careful siting and surface preparation to minimize adverse impacts. Any proposed road or utility corridor would require compliance with ANILCA, title XI.

Offshore Oil Lease Sales

Two offshore oil lease sales may affect the preserve. The proposed state oil and gas lease sale 45 in Hope Basin is immediately adjacent to the northwestern and northern boundaries of the preserve. Offshore oil exploration development and production could have adverse effects on the fragile preserve coastline, as well as on waterfowl and marine mammals. The sale is scheduled for May 1989.

The second oil lease sale is sale 100 on the federal portion of the outer continental shelf. This sale is south of Nome in Norton Sound. Although this sale is not expected to have direct effects on the preserve, there could be indirect effects due to population growth and development. Population growth in Nome could result in more hunting or other uses on preserve lands.

Existing Roads and Road Improvements

Existing roads approach the preserve from Deering on the northeast and Nome on the south. The road from Deering follows the Inmachuk River valley and ends less than 5 miles from the preserve boundary. The Kougarak Road from Nome is in good condition as far as the Kougarak airstrip, 86 miles from Nome and some 30 miles south of the preserve boundary and 15 miles from the boundary to the northeast by way of the route to Deering. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities has plans to improve the Kougarak Road from the Kougarak airstrip to Taylor, about 20 miles. This road improvement currently seems to have a low priority statewide.

Kougarok Mountain Mineral Exploration

Anaconda Minerals Company has been exploring minerals at Kougarok Mountain, 15 miles south of the preserve. If this mine was ever developed, an access road would be constructed and improved from the Kougarok airstrip to Kougarok Mountain. This road would most likely be 4 miles from the preserve at its closest point. Other Anaconda properties near the preserve boundary are at Ear Mountain and at the headwaters of the Arctic River. If mines at Ear Mountain were developed, an access road could be proposed across the preserve to either the Arctic Lagoon or Shishmaref Inlet.

PAST ACQUISITION ACTIVITIES AND CURRENT PROTECTION PROGRAM

No lands have been acquired since the preserve was established in 1980. There is no acquisition ceiling, nor has money been appropriated for land acquisition at Bering Land Bridge. This is the first land protection plan for the preserve.

SOCIOCULTURAL CHARACTERISTICS

The primary importance of the preserve to residents of nearby villages and northwest Alaska is as a source for subsistence food and fibers and as a place to continue a traditional lifestyle. Subsistence uses include hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering within the preserve. Seasonal hunting camps, with associated cabins, drying racks, and food caches, are present, along with access to these sites. Another traditional activity is reindeer herding.

Active mining areas that are adjacent to the preserve are remnants of major mining operations on the Seward Peninsula. These mining areas and the two areas of unpatented mining claims are generally small family operations that represent an important lifestyle to the owners and operators of the mines.

A third sociocultural characteristic of the preserve is the traditional healing, spiritual revitalization, and recreational activities of Serpentine Hot Springs. This site is important to both the native and nonnative communities. Continued use and maintenance of the present character of the site are primary concerns of those who now use the site.

PROTECTION ALTERNATIVES

Several alternative methods are available for protecting the values of the preserve from potentially damaging activities on nonfederal lands. Each alternative is analyzed for its applicability, effectiveness, and sociocultural impacts on nonfederal landowners and communities. No single land protection method would be best for all nonfederal lands within the boundary. A combination of alternatives could be used to obtain the minimum interest necessary to achieve the purposes of the preserve.

EXISTING REGULATIONS

Private resource development activities on private, state, and federal lands must meet applicable state and federal environmental protection standards. These standards are cooperatively enforced by the Alaska Departments of Environmental Conservation and Natural Resources, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Park Service.

Regulations could be applied to activities on small private tracts, native corporation lands, mining claims, and state lands. Regulations would generally not prohibit uses that are inconsistent with the purposes of the preserve; they would usually only mitigate, not eliminate, impacts. Therefore, regulations usually would not fully achieve purposes of the preserve.

Enforcement of federal and state laws and regulations can prevent or minimize harm to certain natural and cultural resources in the preserve, but such regulations do not prohibit all activities that might adversely affect the preserve. For example, large-scale mineral development or cabin or lodge development could adversely affect the preserve and would be allowable under federal and state laws.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act

ANILCA is primarily directed to national interest lands. However, there are provisions that address federal-state cooperation to help protect nonfederal or other lands not designated to be in conservation system units. Section 907 specifically addresses private lands that have an effect on federal and state lands and provides that these lands may be cooperatively planned and managed as part of the Alaska Land Bank.

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA, 42 USC 4321 et seq.)

NEPA requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement for proposed major federal actions that could have a significant effect on the environment, including projects that require federal permits or federal funding. Environmental impact statements include a statement of the

environmental consequences of the proposed action, any unavoidable or adverse effects on the environment, an analysis of short-term versus long-term effects of the action, alternatives to the proposal, and documentation of public involvement.

Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972 (33 USC 1251)

Section 404 requires that dredge-and-fill permits be obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for shoreline modification along navigable waterways. Types of projects that require permits are any modification of shorelines for a beach landing area or for beach stabilization, such as a seawall or bulkhead.

Mining in the Parks Act of 1976 (16 USC 21-54)

This act and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 9A) are intended to minimize resource impacts by requiring operators to adhere to an approved plan of operations. Operations are monitored by NPS staff for compliance.

Coastal Zone Management Act (16 USC 1451 et seq.)

This act and its amendments of 1976 and 1980 establish a national policy and program for the management, beneficial use, protection, and development of the land and water resources of the nation's coastal zones. Pursuant to the federal Coastal Zone Management Act, the state of Alaska has developed and adopted the Alaska coastal zone management program (ACMP). This program establishes broad policies and procedures for actions and projects affecting the coastal zone. The city of Nome has completed a separate CRSA plan for its city limits. Draft CRSA plans have also been developed for areas of the NANA Regional Corporation and the Bering Straits Native Corporation. CRSA plans identify sensitive natural resource areas as well as areas meriting special attention and further study. Federal actions affecting the state's coastal zone will comply to the maximum extent practicable with the ACMP. The provision applies not only to federal construction, but also to permits, licenses, and grants. NPS actions and plans will comply with the NPS and state memorandum of understanding regarding the process to achieve consistency with the ACMP.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as Amended

Section 106 of the act requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of federal or federally assisted undertakings on properties that are eligible to or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The Advisory Council on Historic Preservation must also have an opportunity to comment on such undertakings.

Classification of State Lands

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water Management, is responsible for managing state lands that are not specially designated. This division classifies the state lands it manages. Types of classifications include "resource management," "public recreation," and "wildlife habitat." Classifications establish primary uses for state lands; however, multiple uses of classified lands can occur as long as these uses are compatible with the designated primary use.

Within the boundaries of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve there are 87,554 acres of state-owned tidelands and submerged lands. In addition, state lands abut portions of the southern and eastern preserve boundaries. The National Park Service, or any individual or organization, can request that the Division of Land and Water Management to classify or reclassify state lands. The classification of state lands may be useful in cases where the interests of the National Park Service and the state of Alaska are similar.

Classification can provide protection for state lands within and adjacent to the preserve. The classification of land has no acquisition cost and no need to exchange lands. However, land classification lacks permanent protection.

The classification of state lands is established through a public process. Any impacts upon the people of the region and state would likely be identified and eliminated or minimized during the process. The uses of the lands subject to classification and the type of classification determine what impacts may result.

Anadromous Fish Act (AS 16.05.870)

The Alaska Anadromous Fish Act provides protection to specific rivers, lakes, and streams or sections of them that are important for the spawning, rearing, or migration of anadromous fish. The act requires that any person or governmental agency proposing construction that involves or uses a specified river, lake, or stream must notify the commissioner of the Department of Fish and Game of this intention. Approval must be received from the Department of Fish and Game before beginning such construction or use.

AGREEMENTS (INCLUDING THE ALASKA LAND BANK)

Agreements define administrative arrangements among two or more parties and usually include an exchange of services or other benefits. Agreements can be used to encourage the management of private lands in a manner consistent with the purposes of the preserve. Agreements are flexible and may include provisions for access, facility use and maintenance, protection of property, and visitor services.

The Alaska Land Bank provides for agreements in which owners of lands conveyed under ANCSA agree to manage their lands consistently with the purposes of the preserve. Landowners receive exemptions from property taxes and certain corporate liabilities and also land management assistance. Native corporations receive two types of benefits from the land bank: first, land-banked properties are immune from judgments to recover corporate debts or penalties, and second, the National Park Service may offer technical assistance in matters of fire control, reduction of visitor trespass, resource and land use planning, and fish and wildlife management. The waiver of property taxes for lands in the land bank would provide no incentive to untaxed native corporations or owners of native allotments.

Agreements could be developed with the NANA Regional Corporation and the Bering Straits Native Corporation, owners of small private tracts, and the state.

Advantages of agreements include their flexibility, relative low cost, and the establishment of cooperative management arrangements. Disadvantages include the need for funds to continue agreements, the ability of one party to terminate the agreement on short notice, and the lack of permanent protection. The effectiveness of agreements depends on common or compatible goals between landowners. Agreements would be most effective with native corporations and the state.

Specific impacts would be defined by the terms of each agreement. It is unlikely that any negative or adverse impacts would result.

COORDINATION WITH OTHER AGENCIES

Actions by federal and local agencies to permit, license, or provide financial assistance may have significant impacts on preserve resources. Under provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act, major federal actions are subject to public review processes to ensure adequate consideration of possible impacts on the environment. The draft CRSA plans for the NANA and Bering Straits corporations also provide opportunities for review of state and federal permit and funding activities that may have a significant impact on preserve resources so that adverse impacts can be minimized.

As a concerned land manager and neighbor, the Park Service can ensure that other agencies are fully aware of any impacts that proposed actions could have on preserve resources. Participation in public hearings and review processes is one means for the Park Service to express its concerns. Coordination also may be improved by developing memorandums of understanding or by requesting agencies to notify the Park Service in advance when certain actions are being considered. Participation by the Park Service in project designs, locations, and operating requirements for new construction wherever possible would help minimize impacts.

Coordination would particularly apply to state lands and lands outside the unit, and the effectiveness would depend on similar or common goals of agencies. Coordination would usually involve public notice and participation. It is unlikely that negative or adverse impacts would result.

EASEMENT ACQUISITION

Landownership may be envisioned as a package of rights. Easements convey only some of those rights from one owner to another, while other rights of ownership remain unchanged. Easements can be positive (for example, conveying a right of access) or negative (limiting specific uses of the land). Specific easement terms can be developed to fit the topography, vegetation, visibility, and character of existing or potential developments.

Easements can be acquired to ensure the preservation of scenic views, to maintain compatible land uses, and to provide public access. An easement remains with the land as an encumbrance when the land is transferred to another owner. The amount of consideration or payment depends upon the interest being acquired.

Easements can be acquired for small private tracts where some, but not all, existing or potential uses are compatible with the purposes of the preserve. Easements are extremely flexible, and they could be drafted to fit the specific characteristics of the land and the special concerns of the owner. Easements enable specific aspects and values to be protected while the land remains in private ownership and use. There are additional long-term costs to the Park Service to monitor and enforce the conditions and terms of easement provisions.

The sociocultural effects of easements on individuals as well as on the National Park Service, would vary, depending on the rights acquired. In the majority of cases, an easement would continue the current conditions while compensating owners for the loss of potential uses.

FEE ACQUISITION

When all of the interests in land are acquired, it is owned in fee simple. Methods of acquisition include donation, exchange, and purchase.

Fee acquisition could be employed for native corporation lands, patented mining claims, and small private tracts. Fee acquisition is most often used when the land is needed for facility development or intensive public use, when it must be maintained in pristine natural condition (thus precluding reasonable private use), when it is owned by individuals who do not wish to sell a less-than-fee interest, or when other alternatives would not be cost-effective.

Fee acquisition would ensure the achievement of legislative purposes; however, it could be expensive unless land exchanges or donations were made. Exchanges would depend upon the availability of comparable lands outside the boundary.

The acquisition of native corporation lands by exchange would not result in a net loss of corporation lands; however, fee-simple purchase would result in a loss of lands. Individual landowners could be adversely affected by a loss of livelihood, loss of home, problems of moving, and inability to will land to their heirs. However, ANILCA contains several provisions that mitigate the severity of these impacts. For example, sellers of improved noncommercial property could retain a right of continued use or occupancy for a set period of time or for the lifetime of the owner or surviving spouse. All sellers would be fairly compensated for their properties, and land exchanges might be available if the owners preferred. Native allottees who used their lands for subsistence purposes could sell the lands or exchange them for lands of equal value outside the boundary and could continue to use the preserve for subsistence activities. The acquisition of active claims could affect local mining employment.

METHODS OF ACQUISITION

There are three primary methods of acquisition of fee and less-than-fee interests in lands: donation, purchase, and exchange. Lands that have been selected by native corporations may be relinquished, resulting in present federal lands remaining in federal ownership and under management by the National Park Service.

Donation

Landowners may be motivated to donate their property or interests in the land to achieve conservation objectives. Tax benefits of donation also may be an important incentive. Donations of fee are deductible from taxable income. Easement donations also may provide deductions from taxable income, but they are subject to certain Internal Revenue Service requirements to qualify as charitable contributions. Landowners are encouraged to consult qualified tax advisors to discuss the advantages of donations.

Exchange

Sections 1302(c) and (h) of ANILCA allow for land exchanges as a method of land acquisition with the consent of the landowner. In evaluating land exchanges, the National Park Service will consider the relative values of parcels of land to be exchanged as well as the general public interest. Relative values and the public interest are defined, in part, to include the following factors:

resource values, such as wildlife or migratory bird habitat, nesting or fawning areas, or archeological sites

subsistence use areas and access

potential public use areas or access points

All lands will be surveyed for cultural resources before exchange. If any significant resources are identified, measures will be taken to ensure their protection.

Lands to be exchanged must be located within Alaska and must be of approximately equal value except that if the parties agree and the secretary determines it is in the public interest, such exchanges may be made for other than equal value. Differences in value may be resolved by making cash payments. The National Park Service will also consider other federal lands within the authorized boundary as potential exchange lands to consolidate NPS jurisdiction so that lands can be in more manageable units.

Other federal lands in Alaska that become surplus to agency needs would normally go through disposal procedures, including public sale. The National Park Service will work with the Bureau of Land Management and the General Services Administration to determine if any additional federal lands may be available for exchange purposes.

Purchase

Acquisition by purchase requires funds to be appropriated by Congress or donated from private sources. Further funding for purchases depends primarily on future appropriations. Potential donations of funds or purchases by individuals or organizations interested in holding land for conservation purposes will be encouraged.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS

Several boundary adjustments are being considered as part of this "Land Protection Plan," pursuant to ANILCA, section 103(c). This section states, "Whenever possible boundaries must follow hydrographic divides or embrace other topographic or natural features." These boundary adjustments must not increase or decrease the amount of land within any conservation system unit by more than 23,000 acres.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommended land protection approaches for nonfederal lands are listed below in order of priority (see the Land Protection Priorities map). Ownership, location, acreages involved, minimum interest needed for protection, and justification are also given. Priorities may be readjusted if incompatible uses develop, as additional information is obtained, or to address emergencies or hardships. The land protection plan will be reviewed every two years and revised as necessary to reflect new information and changing uses and priorities. Review and revision procedures, including public involvement, are discussed in the "Introduction" to this document.

This plan identifies a minimum interest needed for protection but recognizes that the actual means of protection may change as a result of negotiation. In carrying out the purposes of ANILCA, section 1302 authorizes the secretary of the interior to acquire by purchase, donation, exchange, or otherwise any lands within the boundaries of conservation system units. Where acquisition is proposed, exchange is the preferred method whenever possible. Donations, or relinquishments where applicable, are encouraged. Purchase with appropriated or donated funds is another possible method. It should be noted that the appropriation of funds for land acquisition is expected to be very limited for the next few years. Therefore, the purchase of nonfederal interests in the preserve is expected to be minimal.

A minimum interest has been defined for the protection of native allotments. However, the National Park Service recognizes that the traditional use of native allotments is compatible with the purposes of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. If the owners of native allotments continue to use their property as it has been traditionally used, the Park Service does not intend to acquire allotments. The need for federal acquisition to protect resource values will be triggered if a change is perceived from this traditional use to an incompatible land use.

No estimates of the cost of implementing the recommendations of this plan have been prepared at this time. A useful estimate requires appraisals that are costly and have a short shelf life because of variable and changing market conditions. Appraisals for individual tracts will be prepared following agreement in concept with the landowner to acquire a specific interest in real property.

The National Park Service will acquire property, or portions of property, only when necessary to further purposes of the preserve. As an example of a partial acquisition of a property, if an important archeological site occurs only on a portion of a property, and if fee-simple acquisition was the only method of protecting the site, the Park Service would attempt to acquire only as much of the property as necessary to protect this archeological site.

If the land use activities produce an imminent threat or actual damage to the integrity of preserve lands, resources, or values, the National Park Service will diligently negotiate for the acquisition of sufficient interest to prevent such damage. If a negotiated settlement cannot be reached, the secretary of the interior may exercise the power of eminent domain to preclude or cease activity damaging to park resources. Condemnation proceedings, where allowed by law, will not be initiated until negotiations to achieve satisfactory resolution of the problem have been exhausted. Under certain circumstances, condemnation action may be used during the process of acquisition involving willing sellers to overcome defects in title.

In recognition of the Bureau of Indian Affairs' responsibility to owners of native allotments, the National Park Service will notify the bureau before taking actions relating to native allotments, such as securing agreements, acquiring easements, acquiring full title to lands, or leasing the property for administrative purposes.

Landowners who no longer wish to retain their land for the purposes for which it was acquired or who wish to sell property within the preserve are encouraged to contact the superintendent. The National Park Service is interested in the opportunity to review all proposed land offerings or proposals. These proposals will be reviewed for possible purchase by the National Park Service, based on their priority in the land protection plan recommendations and on their potential contribution to the enhancement of scenic values, resource protection, continuation of community subsistence opportunities, enhancement of recreational opportunities, and maintenance of the wilderness or undeveloped character of the area. Extenuating circumstances, including hardship as defined in ANILCA, section 1302(g), will also be considered. The availability of appropriated funds will determine the Park Service's ability to act on proposals from willing sellers.

When an owner of an improved property offers to sell to the United States, the owner may retain a right of use and occupancy for noncommercial residential or recreational use. Such a right is an agreement with the National Park Service and may last for a period of up to 25 years or for life.

HIGH PRIORITIES

Mining Claim Group South of Serpentine Hot Springs

The mining claim group immediately adjacent to the Serpentine Hot Springs valley is an area of rolling tundra, with ridges topped by granite tors (or spires) and valleys. Rough-legged hawks are common around the granite spires, and gyrfalcons are also known to nest in this area. Except for the airstrip, cabin, and bathhouse, there is little or no evidence of human disturbance, and the area is in a very natural condition.

This mining claim group is currently undergoing a validity determination. If the claims are determined to be valid, their development would be subject to NPS approval of a plan of operations. Because of the present natural condition of the mining claim area, it is likely that the impacts of any mining operations would be unacceptable. In addition, this is the primary visitor use area of the preserve. It is significant as a cultural resource site where traditional spiritual and cultural practices take place and there is access for recreation. If the claims are found to be valid, the mining claims will be acquired by purchase to protect the natural and cultural values of the area.

Serpentine Hot Springs (FF33837, 1,920 acres)

The Serpentine Hot Springs are located in a broad, tundra-covered valley with rounded, pinnacle-covered ridges. The hot springs have long been recognized by natives for their spiritual and medicinal values, and the hot springs have traditionally been used as a training ground for shamans. Serpentine Hot Springs is probably the most frequently visited site on the Seward Peninsula that is not accessible by the state highway system. It is one of the few areas in the preserve where access is available by wheeled aircraft, and there are structures for shelter. The valley is good moose habitat and provides nesting areas for rough-legged hawks and gyrfalcons.

The Bering Straits Regional Corporation has selected a significant section of the Serpentine valley under the provisions of ANCSA, section 14(h)(8). If this selection is conveyed, fee-simple acquisition of these lands will be necessary to ensure public access and to protect natural and cultural resource values for the long term. The preferred method will be to develop a mutually agreeable land exchange to acquire the area. If a land exchange cannot be developed, an agreement or access easement will be used to provide for public access and resource protection.

MODERATE PRIORITIES

Mining Claim Groups along Humboldt Creek

The Humboldt Creek mining claims are in two groups. A group of lode claims are at the head of the valley, and the placer claims are further downstream. Resource values to be protected are the natural, undeveloped character of the area, wildlife habitat, vegetation, and water quality. Any proposed development or mining activity with its associated ground disturbance would have significant impacts on the character of the area.

These mining claim groups are currently undergoing a validity determination. If the claims are determined to be valid, their development would be subject to NPS approval of a plan of operations. Because of the present natural condition of the mining claim area, it is likely that the impacts of any mining operations would be unacceptable. If the claims are found to be valid, the mining claims will be acquired by purchase to protect the natural and cultural values of the area.

Native Allotments

41 approved allotments, 61 parcels	5,947 acres
63 allotment applications, 106 parcels	6,418 acres

Most native allotments are located along the Chukchi Sea and Goodhope Bay coasts, as well as along the lower Serpentine River. Currently, all allotments are on lands that do not have known significant natural and cultural resources. Existing uses are for subsistence hunting, fishing, and gathering. Temporary and permanent structures are on many allotments for shelter, storage, and drying. Existing uses are compatible with the purposes of the preserve. There are no threats to the character of the preserve nor are any known incompatible uses proposed for these lands at this time.

No changes in land uses are expected. There are no resource protection or public access problems at this time. Agreements and placing of lands in the Alaska Land Bank will be used to ensure that the current compatible land uses are continued. Some of the allotments along the coastal beaches, the Serpentine River, and the shores of the maar lakes, however, could potentially be used to provide access to areas within the preserve, and some allotments could be found to contain significant resources.

As more information is gained about the preserve, public access needs are identified, or allotments are found to be on the sites of significant natural or cultural resources, a land protection analysis will be undertaken, with public involvement. A protection strategy will be determined, and this land protection plan will be revised appropriately. The National Park Service will seek agreements with all allotment owners and notify the Bureau of Indian Affairs to ensure the continued compatible use and management of these areas.

Cemetery/Historical Sites

ANCSA 14(h)(1) Sites	26,652 acres
Overlapping applications:	
NANA Corporation, Cemetery/Historical Sites, and Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation	5,020 acres
NANA Corporation and Cemetery/Historical Sites	627 acres
Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation and Cemetery/Historical Sites	2,093 acres
	<u>34,392 acres</u>
Total	

These sites are part of the cultural resource base of the preserve and should be protected. They have been selected under the provisions of ANCSA, section 14(h)(1), by the regional native corporations. Present uses are the same as the vast preserve lands and include hunting and grazing by both wildlife and domesticated reindeer. At the present time there are no threats to these areas. It is anticipated that most of these

sites will remain in federal ownership. If sites are conveyed to the regional native corporations, use of the Alaska Land Bank would provide continued protection. These agreements would address scientific research at these sites and allow for NPS assistance in management as well as protection from other users who could damage cultural values.

Submerged Lands and Tidelands

Several coastal lagoons within the boundary of the preserve are submerged lands and tidelands and are owned by the state. These include

Arctic Lagoon	15,775 acres
Unnamed Lagoon southeast of Kividlo	28,591 acres
Ikpek Lagoon	32,168 acres
Unnamed inlet west of Cape Espenberg	4,535 acres
Nugnugaluktuk estuary	6,485 acres
Total	<u>87,554 acres</u>

These submerged lands and tidelands provide habitat for waterfowl and marine mammals, and they are highly productive areas.

The National Park Service reconfirms its 1983 recommendation to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources that state mineral closing orders be placed upon all submerged lands, submerged marine lands, and tidelands within the boundaries of the preserve. Additionally, the National Park Service recommends that the state close these areas to the extraction of sand and gravel resources, and the Park Service will apply to the state for these closures. The National Park Service will work cooperatively with the state to ensure that existing and future activities occurring on all submerged lands underlying the waters within the preserve's boundary are compatible with the purposes for which the preserve was established.

Native Corporation Conveyances and Applications

Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation (KIC) (conveyed)	1,280 acres
KIC (application)	54,843 acres
Inalik Village Corporation (application)	27,367 acres
NANA Regional Corporation and KIC (applications)	55,879 acres
NANA Regional Corporation, Cemetery/ Historical Sites, and Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation (applications)	5,020 acres
NANA Regional Corporation and Cemetery/ Historical Sites (applications)	627 acres
Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation and Cemetery/Historical Sites (applications)	<u>2,093 acres</u>
Total	<u>147,109 acres</u>

At present all uses are compatible. If these lands are conveyed, an agreement to include these lands in the Alaska Land Bank would provide sufficient protection. The land bank agreement should include provisions for scientific research on these lands and public access, if necessary.

Administrative Sites

Shishmaref - 2,000 square feet plus storage
Deering - 2,000 square feet plus storage
Nome - variable, depending on cooperative agreements (see discussion under "Administration" in the plan)

To provide for administrative sites in Nome, Shishmaref, and Deering, the National Park Service will lease or acquire native corporation, city, or private lands. Agreements with other agencies or organizations having compatible needs may also be developed.

Boundary Modification South of Serpentine Valley

Modify the preserve boundary near the Continental Divide and Midnight Mountain to ensure the protection of scenic views and the watershed of the upper Serpentine River and valley and to align the boundary with topographic features (see Boundary Adjustments and Land Exchanges map).

Other Boundary Adjustments

Negotiate with the state, the Bureau of Land Management, and the Shishmaref Village Corporation to complete boundary adjustments and land exchanges. This recommendation involves three areas. The first area includes a "stair-step" segment of the eastern boundary, and negotiations will be undertaken with the state to adjust the boundary in this area to conform with topographic features. The other two areas involve the Shishmaref Inlet vicinity and the southwestern portion of the preserve, where several small tracts of land exist. In the Shishmaref Inlet area, the National Park Service will negotiate with the Shishmaref Village Corporation and the Bureau of Land Management to combine these small tracts into larger, more manageable units. In the southwestern portion of the preserve, the Park Service will undertake negotiations with the Bureau of Land Management and the state to facilitate management. Both land exchanges and boundary adjustments will be considered for the latter two areas. NPS-managed lands available for land exchange are limited.

COMPLIANCE

National Environmental Policy Act requirements for proposals in this plan related to native corporation lands and state lands will be fulfilled at a later date when, and if, conceptual agreements are reached with these landowners. The effects of land exchanges can be evaluated only when both the lands to be acquired and the lands to be removed from federal ownership are identified; this land protection plan currently identifies only the lands (or interests in lands) to be acquired. Environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements will be prepared prior to the implementation of any land exchange, with the exception of land exchanges involving the conveyance of lands to native corporations that fulfill entitlements under the terms of ANCSA as provided by ANILCA section 910.

Other actions of the land protection plan that propose no significant change to existing land or visitor use are categorically excluded from NEPA considerations (516 DM 6, appendix 7.4) and are not listed as exceptions in the Department of the Interior implementing procedures (516 DM 2, appendix 2). The recommendations for native allotments, mining claims, and land exchanges would not significantly change existing land or visitor use, and consequently they are excluded from NEPA compliance provisions. Boundary adjustments in the Serpentine Hot Springs area would require compliance with NEPA, and the effects of such actions are addressed in the "Environmental Consequences" section of the Draft General Management Plan/Environmental Assessment.

Consistent with current policies on implementation of section 810 of ANILCA, evaluations will be prepared on any proposals in this land protection plan that require the preparation of environmental assessments and/or environmental impact statements, or any proposals that result in the removal of lands (or interests in lands) from federal ownership.

Section 103(b) of ANILCA requires that Congress be notified of the intent to make boundary adjustments. The public will also receive reasonable notice of the intent to implement boundary adjustments and will be provided the opportunity to review and comment on such adjustments. The compliance requirements of NEPA and ANILCA will be fulfilled in the case of administrative boundary adjustments.



HIGH PRIORITIES

MODERATE PRIORITIES

NOTE: LAND STATUS IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE AS VARIOUS CONDITIONS AFFECTING LAND STATUS ARE RESOLVED (FOR EXAMPLE, NAVIGABILITY DETERMINATIONS, STATE AND NATIVE LAND CONVEYANCES, REJECTIONS, OR RELINQUISHMENTS, RIGHT-OF-WAY, EASEMENT, AND SMALL TRACT ADJUDICATION), BEDS OF INLAND NAVIGABLE RIVERS AND LAKES, TIDELANDS, AND SUBMERGED LANDS BENEATH MARINE WATERS ARE STATE OWNED.

BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT AND POTENTIAL LAND EXCHANGE AREAS ARE SHOWN ON BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS AND LAND EXCHANGES MAP.



LAND PROTECTION PRIORITIES

BERING LAND BRIDGE NATIONAL PRESERVE

United States Department of the Interior/National Park Service
DSC / AUGUST 1985 / 192 20 029 A

ON MICROFILM



- VILLAGE CORPORATION LAND EXCHANGE REQUEST
- BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT OR LAND EXCHANGE NEGOTIATED WITH VILLAGE CORPORATION, BLM, AND NPS
- PROPOSED ADDITION
- PROPOSED DELETION



BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENTS AND LAND EXCHANGES
 BERING LAND BRIDGE NATIONAL PRESERVE
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ON MICROFILM