

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve  
Alaska

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



BERING LAND BRIDGE NATIONAL PRESERVE  
FOUNDATION STATEMENT



# Bering Land Bridge National Preserve Foundation Statement

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# Elements of a Foundation Statement

The Foundation Statement is a formal description of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve's (preserve) core mission. It is a foundation to support planning and management of the preserve. The foundation is grounded in the preserve's legislation and from knowledge acquired since the preserve was originally established. It provides a shared understanding of what is most important about the preserve. This Foundation Statement describes the preserve's purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, primary interpretive themes, and special mandates.

The legislation that created Bering Land Bridge National Preserve guides the staff in understanding and documenting why Congress and the president created the preserve. The Foundation Statement includes the following elements:

- **Purpose Statement**

The purpose statement identifies why Congress and the president established the preserve as a unit of the national park system. The purpose of the preserve is based in the enabling legislation.

- **Significance Statement**

Directed by legislation and guided by the knowledge acquired through management, research, and civic engagement, statements of significance define what is ***most important*** about the preserve's natural and cultural resources and values.

The significance statements are used to guide planning and management decisions to ensure that the resources and values that Congress and the president wanted preserved are the first priority.

- **Fundamental Resources and Values**

The National Park Service works to preserve those resources and values fundamental to maintaining the significance of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. Through identifying and understanding the resources and values that support each significance statement, managers and their staff gain a clearer understanding of what is truly most important about the preserve. That which is ***most important*** about the preserve could be jeopardized if these resources and values are degraded.

- **Primary Interpretive Themes**

Primary interpretive themes describe the key stories and concepts that will help visitors understand and appreciate the purpose and significance of the preserve. The primary interpretive themes provide the foundation on which the preserve's educational and interpretive program is based.

- **Special Mandates**

Special mandates are legal requirements and administrative commitments that apply to the preserve. These special mandates may include direction from Congress or formal agreements with other public or private entities that are consistent with NPS legal mandates and policies. The special mandates are identified to ensure their consideration in planning and decision making for Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

# Establishment of Alaska National Parks

The National Park Service Organic Act of 1916 states that units of the national park system are established to “conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as to leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” This statement represents the most basic mission of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.

Most of the national parks in Alaska, including Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, were established or expanded under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which was adopted on December 2, 1980. ANILCA’s passage culminated more than 20 years of deliberation on federal land claims after Alaska statehood.

Prior to Alaska becoming a state in 1959, nearly all land was federal. The Alaska Statehood Act granted the state the right to select 104 million acres of federal land. Within a few years the state land selection process began to include lands traditionally used by Alaska Natives. This led to objections which eventually resulted in a freeze on further state land selections pending Congressional settlement of the Native claims.

In 1971 Native claims were resolved by passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). This act, in addition to Native land claims, also provided for withdrawal of 80 million acres for possible designation as national parks, fish and wildlife refuges, national forests, and wild and scenic rivers. Bering Land Bridge National Preserve is among those park areas created or expanded in 1978 by Presidential Proclamation by President Carter when he withdrew over 100 million acres of federal land, including 56 million acres as national monuments.

ANILCA mandates the specific purposes for each park established. Congress also provided that ANILCA would allow some key activities necessary to perpetuate the rural Alaskan lifestyle, such as subsistence uses, traditional uses, access, cabins, and hunting and trapping. Providing for ANILCA’s mandates and special uses makes management of Alaska parks unique within the national park system.

*We care for those special places in Alaska saved by the American people as a part of a national system of parks so that all may experience our heritage. We serve residents and visitors who seek inspiration, recreation and education, as well as those who come for traditional activities, subsistence and scientific study. We cooperate with local communities, tribes and others to protect the natural and cultural resources in these special places for this and future generations to experience and enjoy*

Alaska Region Mission Statement (2004)

# Summary

## PURPOSE STATEMENT

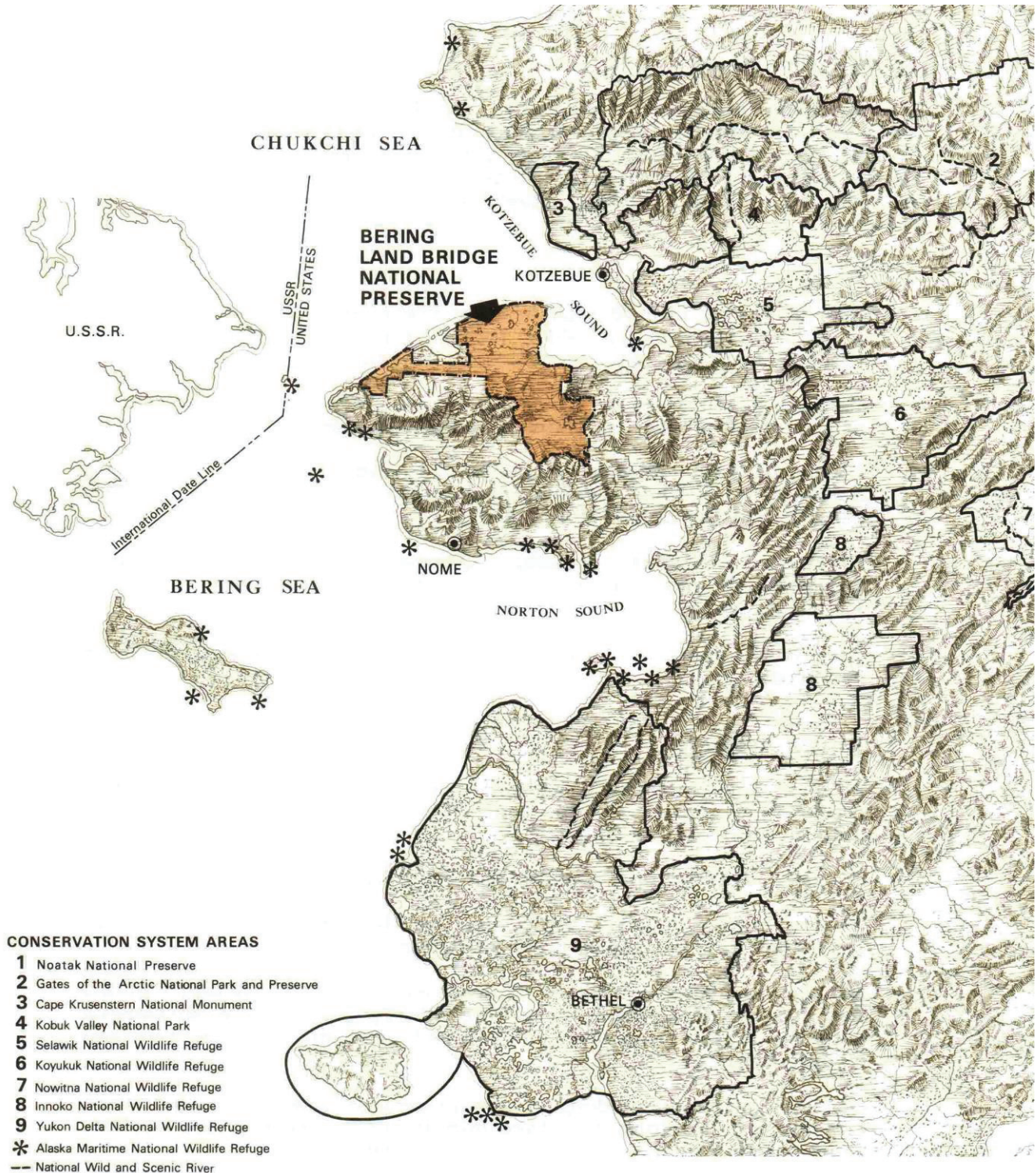
The purpose of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve is to protect and provide the opportunity to study and interpret the landscape which contains an invaluable record of floral, faunal, and human migration between Asia and North America and which supports an ongoing traditional subsistence culture.

## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENTS

1. Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects and provides opportunities for the study of paleontological, archeological, and biological resources that reveal a record of migration across the land bridge between Asia and North America.
2. Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects and interprets, in collaboration with Alaska Natives, thousands of years of use and occupation by the Inupiaq people and their continuing subsistence way of life.
3. Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects natural resources and native habitats that provide the opportunity for local rural Alaska residents to engage in customary and traditional subsistence uses.
4. Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects the integrity of the Serpentine Hot Springs, its natural setting, and its cultural and spiritual significance.
5. Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects and provides opportunities to study and interpret a variety of high latitude volcanic features unique to North America.
6. Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects reindeer herding habitat to ensure the continued opportunity for reindeer herding by Alaska Natives.



# Location



BERING LAND BRIDGE NATIONAL PRESERVE



## REGION

BERING LAND BRIDGE NATIONAL PRESERVE

United States Department of the Interior/National Park Service  
DSC / MARCH 1985 / 182-70,005 A

# Purpose Statement

The purpose of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve is to protect and provide the opportunity to study and interpret the landscape which contains an invaluable record of floral, faunal, and human migration between Asia and North America and which supports an ongoing traditional subsistence culture.

Specifically, section 201 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) states that the preserve shall be managed for the following purposes, among others:

- To protect and interpret examples of arctic plant communities, volcanic lava flows, ash explosions, coastal formations, and other geologic processes;
- To protect habitat for internationally significant populations of migratory birds;
- To provide for archeological and paleontological study, in cooperation with Native Alaskans, of the process of plant and animal migration, including man, between North America and the Asian Continent;
- To protect habitat for, and populations of, fish and wildlife including, but not limited to, marine mammals, brown/grizzly bears, moose, and wolves;
- To continue reindeer grazing use, including necessary facilities and equipment;
- To protect the viability of subsistence resources;
- To provide outdoor recreation and environmental education activities including public access for recreational purposes to the Serpentine Hot Springs area.

# Record of Migration

## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects and provides opportunities for the study of paleontological, archeological, and biological resources that reveal a record of migration across the land bridge between Asia and North America.

## FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Archeological Sites**

Archeological sites that are greater than 10,000 years old contribute to our understanding of early migration events.

- **Fossils**

Paleontological resources contribute to our understanding of climatic cycles, past environmental conditions, and the spread of life forms across the land bridge.

*(Paleontology is the study of prehistoric life forms on Earth through the examination of plant and animal fossils.)*

- **Education**

Educating a broad audience about the story of the land bridge, migration, and the historical connection to contemporary times helps people to understand relationships among different people and their uses of the land.

- **Migratory Bird Habitats**

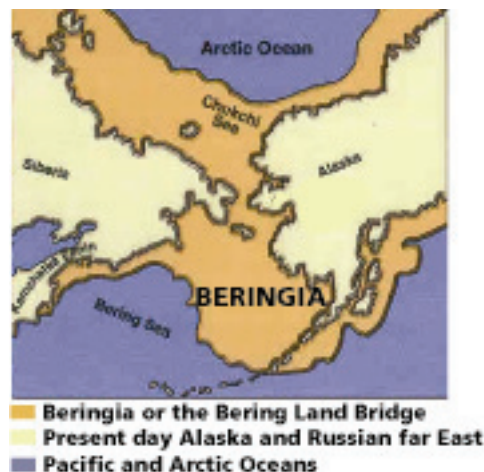
The preserve provides diverse habitats for internationally significant migratory bird populations.

- **Tundra Continuum**

The preserve contains one of the most complete systems of tundra communities in North America, ranging from the salt marsh grasslands of the Coastal Tundra to the lichen-covered ridges of the Alpine Tundra *(see page 30, Generalized Plant Communities)*.

- **Solution Caves**

The limestone solution caves at Trail Creek contain stratified deposits of faunal and human occupation.



*Beringia or the Bering Land Bridge was a landmass nearly 1000 miles wide north to south and east to west*

## PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve lies at the heart of continental crossroads that profoundly influenced the distribution of life in the Western Hemisphere, including migration to South America, Greenland, Europe, and Asia.



# Inupiaq People

## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects and interprets, in collaboration with Alaska Natives, thousands of years of use and occupation by the Inupiaq people and their continuing subsistence way of life.

## FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Archeology**

The archeological record is evidence of this long-term human occupation. The protected resources include prehistoric settlements, artifacts of human habitation, hunting implements, and objects from everyday life that are found within the preserve.

- **Ethnographic Resources**

The staff of the preserve works in collaboration with local Inupiaq peoples to document their historic and continuing presence on the land and foster the transmission of cultural knowledge and values associated with resources and features of the preserve.

- **Landscape**

The cultural and spiritual values of the Inupiaq people are intimately tied to the natural resources and dynamic landscapes of the preserve.



*NPS Interpreter Pearl Babb presents an interpretive program to Nome residents, sharing her stories and knowledge of the ulu, a traditional Inupiaq knife.*

## PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

Alaska Native people remain an integral part of the environment of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, as their ancestors have for thousands of years.

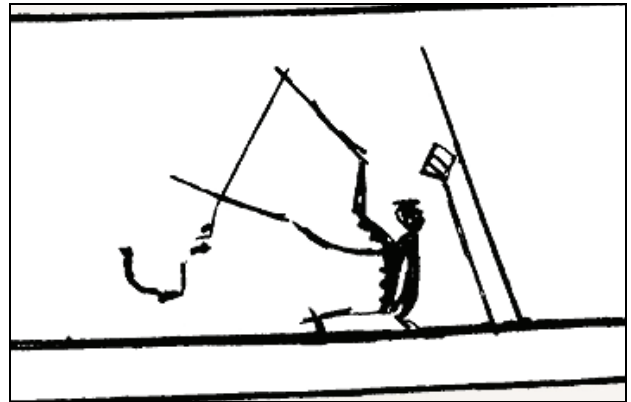
# Subsistence

## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects natural resources and native habitats that provide the opportunity for local rural Alaska residents to engage in customary and traditional subsistence uses.

## FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Subsistence Resources**  
The preserve contains a wide variety of wildlife, fish, and plants, allowing residents to hunt, trap, fish, and gather these resources in the continuation of their traditions and culture.
- **Habitat**  
The preserve protects a range of habitats that support a diversity of plants, fish, and wildlife.
- **Cultural Knowledge**  
The Park Service works collaboratively with local residents to document subsistence ways of life for educational purposes, to acknowledge the importance and value of subsistence practices, and to inform management decisions.



*A reproduction of an etching from an old ivory artifact depicts a person ice fishing. Subsistence practices such as ice fishing have occurred for centuries and continue to be a vital part of life today for rural Alaskan residents.*

## PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

Subsistence continues to be an integral part of the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve ecosystem and is essential to the physical, economic, traditional, cultural, and social existence of rural Alaska residents.

# Serpentine Hot Springs

## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects the integrity of Serpentine Hot Springs, its natural setting, and its cultural and spiritual significance.

## FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Sense of Place**

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects an isolated and dramatic site that stands out from the surrounding tundra landscape and evokes special psychological, physical, and spiritual feelings.

- **Inupiaq Cultural Significance**

The Serpentine Hot Springs site continues to provide opportunities for spiritual and medicinal training and renewal as it has for thousands of years.

- **Geologic and Natural Resources**

The preserve protects and interprets this unique assemblage of geologic, geothermal, and natural resources.

- **Visitor Use**

The preserve provides visitors with the opportunity to form their own emotional connections with Serpentine Hot Springs.



*Granitic erosional features called tors are prominent on the landscape surrounding Serpentine Hot Springs.*

## PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

The tors, along with the waters of Serpentine Hot Springs, have provided inspiration and healing to the people who have come to this place for thousands of years.



# Volcanic Features

## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects and provides opportunities to study and interpret a variety of high latitude volcanic features unique to North America.

## FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Volcanic Features and Processes**

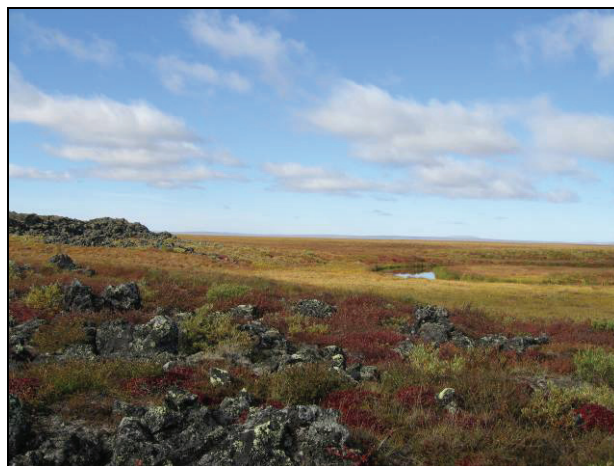
The preserve protects a variety of volcanic features including extensive lava flows rarely found in the Arctic. The national preserve protects the four largest maar lakes in the world.

- **Scientific Research**

The preserve provides opportunities to study volcanic features, events, and processes in an arctic environment.

- **Educational Tools**

The preserve makes accessible to diverse audiences multiple forms of educational and interpretive media about high latitude volcanic features, events, and processes.



*With the Noxapaga River in view, the crumbling rock of the western edge of the Lost Jim Lava Flow is evidence of volcanic events that have occurred in the sub-arctic region.*

## PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve contains internationally significant volcanic and geologic resources that illustrate the dynamic environment of the region.

# Reindeer Herding

## SIGNIFICANCE STATEMENT

Bering Land Bridge National Preserve protects reindeer herding habitat to ensure the continued opportunity for reindeer herding by Alaska Natives.

## FUNDAMENTAL RESOURCES AND VALUES

- **Research and Monitoring**  
The Park Service manages habitat to ensure continued opportunities for reindeer herding.
- **Physical Record**  
The Park Service protects and preserves original objects, facilities, records, and photos documenting reindeer herding activities.
- **Ethnographic Resources**  
The Park Service acquires and preserves bodies of knowledge that help interpret ethnographic resources associated with reindeer herding.



*An old reindeer corral near the Goodhope River. Corrals like this one were used to gather reindeer to brand them, remove the antlers, and examine the general health and size of the herd.*

## PRIMARY INTERPRETIVE THEME

Reindeer and the reindeer herding way of life developed into a distinctive element of the historic fabric of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve following its introduction into Alaska in the late 1800's by missionary teachers.

# Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

## **Public Law 96-487, Sec. 201 (2):**

The national preserve shall permit the continuation of customary patterns and modes of travel during periods of adequate snow cover within a one-hundred-foot right-of-way along either side of an existing route from Deering to the Taylor Highway, subject to such reasonable regulations as the Secretary of Interior may promulgate to assure that such travel is consistent with the purpose of the preserve and section 201 of ANILCA.

To continue reindeer grazing use, including necessary facilities and equipment, within the areas which on January 1, 1976, were subject to reindeer grazing permits, in accordance with sound range management practices.

# Participants

## **Western Arctic National Parklands:**

George Helfrich, Superintendent, Western Arctic National Parklands  
Nancy Swanton, Acting Superintendent, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve  
Thomas Heinlein, (former) Superintendent, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve  
Ken Adkisson, Subsistence Manager  
Nichole Andler, Park Ranger, Interpretation  
Eileen Devinney, Acting Cultural Resource Program Manager  
Bob Gal, Archeologist  
Willie Goodwin, Subsistence Coordinator/Community Liaison  
Linda Hasselbach, Botanist  
Linda Jeschke, Acting Chief of Interpretation  
Jan Maslen, Administrative Officer  
Mike Thompson, Park Ranger, Law Enforcement  
Fred Tocktoo, Subsistence Ranger  
Tara Whitesell, Biological Technician – Arctic Network

## **Alaska Regional Office**

Judy Alderson, Environmental Specialist  
Herbert Anungazuk, Alaska Native Liaison and Heritage Specialist  
Zach Babb, Outdoor Recreation Planner  
Don Callaway, Anthropologist  
Joan Darnell, Team Manager, Environmental Planning and Compliance  
Lisa Fox, Environmental Protection Specialist  
Tim Hudson, Associate Regional Director, Operation & Resources Leader  
Paul Hunter, Program Analyst  
Sandy Rabinowitch, Subsistence Manager

## **Denver Service Center**

Chris Church, Natural Resource Planner  
Stephan Nofield, Community Planner

# Appendix A - Legislation



*Rolling tundra with uninterrupted views to the distant mountains, the landscapes of the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve are varied. The landscape and tundra change with elevation. From sand dunes to wet tussock tundra, to drier uplands tundra and alpine tundra, these varied environments, in turn, support a variety of wildlife and plant species.*

# An Act

## Public Law 96-487

To provide for the designation and conservation of certain public lands in the State of Alaska, including the designation of units of the National Park, National [H.R. 39] Wildlife Refuge, National Forest, National Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Wilderness Preservation Systems, and for other purposes.

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the “Alaska National Interest Lands Interest Lands Conservation Act”.**

\* \* \* \* \*

## **TITLE I—PURPOSES, DEFINITIONS, AND MAPS**

### **PURPOSES**

SEC. 101. (a) In order to preserve for the benefit, use, education, and inspiration of present and future generations certain lands and waters in the State of Alaska that contain nationally significant natural, scenic, historic, archeological, geological, scientific, wilderness, cultural, recreational, and wildlife values, the units described in the following titles are hereby established.

(b) It is the intent of Congress in this Act to preserve unrivaled scenic and geological values associated with natural landscapes; to provide for the maintenance of sound populations of, and habitat for, wildlife species of inestimable value to the citizens of Alaska and the Nation, including those species dependent on vast relatively undeveloped areas; to preserve in their natural state extensive unaltered arctic tundra, boreal forest, and coastal rainforest ecosystems; to protect the resources related to subsistence needs; to protect and preserve historic and archeological sites, rivers, and lands, and to preserve wilderness resource values and related recreational opportunities including but not limited to hiking, canoeing, fishing, and sport hunting, within large arctic and subarctic wildlands and on free-flowing rivers; and to maintain opportunities for scientific research and undisturbed ecosystems.

(c) It is further the intent and purpose of this Act consistent with management of fish and wildlife in accordance with recognized scientific principles and the purposes for which each conservation system unit is established, designated, or expanded by or pursuant to this Act, to provide the opportunity for rural residents engaged in a subsistence way of life to continue to do so.

\* \* \* \* \*



## **TITLE II—NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM**

### **ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW AREAS**

SEC. 201. The following areas are hereby established as units of the National Park System and shall be administered by the Secretary under the laws governing the administration of such lands and under the provisions of this Act:

(2) Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, containing approximately two million four hundred and fifty-seven thousand acres of public land, as generally depicted on map numbered BELA-90,005, and dated October 1978. The preserve shall be managed for the following purposes, among others: To protect and interpret examples of arctic plant communities, volcanic lava flows, ash explosions, coastal formations, and other geologic processes; to protect habitat for internationally significant populations of migratory birds; to provide for archeological and paleontological study, in cooperation with Native Alaskans, of the process of plant and animal migration, including man, between North America and the Asian Continent; to protect habitat for, and populations of, fish and wildlife including, but not limited to, marine mammals, brown/grizzly bears, moose, and wolves; subject to such reasonable regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, to continue reindeer grazing use, including necessary facilities and equipment, within the areas which on January 1, 1976, were subject to reindeer grazing permits, in accordance with sound range management practices; to protect the viability of subsistence resources; and in a manner consistent with the foregoing, to provide for outdoor recreation and environmental education activities including public access for recreational purposes to the Serpentine Hot Springs area. The Secretary shall permit the continuation of customary patterns and modes of travel during periods of adequate snow cover within a one-hundred-foot right-of-way along either side of an existing route from Deering to the Taylor Highway, subject to such reasonable regulations as the Secretary may promulgate to assure that such travel is consistent with the foregoing purposes.

\* \* \* \* \*

### **GENERAL ADMINISTRATION**

SEC. 203. Subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall administer the lands, waters, and interests therein added to existing areas or established by the foregoing sections of this title as new areas of the National Park System, pursuant to the provisions of the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535), as amended and supplemented (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), and, as appropriate, under section 1313 and the other applicable provisions of this Act: Provided, however, That hunting shall be permitted in areas designated as national preserves under the provisions of this Act. Subsistence uses by local residents shall be allowed in national preserves and, where specifically permitted by this Act, in national monuments and parks.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **TITLE VIII—SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT AND USE FINDINGS**

SEC. 801. The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) the continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses by rural residents of Alaska, including both Natives and non-Natives, on the public lands and by Alaska Natives on Native lands is essential to Native physical, economic, traditional, and cultural existence and to non-Native physical, economic, traditional, and social existence;

(2) the situation in Alaska is unique in that, in most cases, no practical alternative means are available to replace the food supplies and other items gathered from fish and wildlife which supply rural residents dependent on subsistence uses;

(3) continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses of resources on public and other lands in Alaska is threatened by the increasing population of Alaska, with resultant pressure on subsistence resources, by sudden decline in the populations of some wildlife species which are crucial subsistence resources, by increased accessibility of remote areas containing subsistence resources, and by taking of fish and wildlife in a manner inconsistent with recognized principles of fish and wildlife management;

(4) in order to fulfill the policies and purposes of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and as a matter of equity, it is necessary for the Congress to invoke its constitutional authority over Native affairs and its constitutional authority under the property clause and the commerce clause to protect and provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses on the public lands by Native and non-Native rural residents; and

(5) the national interest in the proper regulation, protection, and conservation of fish and wildlife on the public lands in Alaska and the continuation of the opportunity for a subsistence way of life by residents of rural Alaska require that an administrative structure be established for the purpose of enabling rural residents who have personal knowledge of local conditions and requirements to have a meaningful role in the management of fish and wildlife and of subsistence uses on the public lands in Alaska.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **POLICY**

SEC. 802. It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress that—

(1) consistent with sound management principles, and the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife, the utilization of the public lands in Alaska is to cause the least adverse impact possible on rural residents who depend upon subsistence uses of the resources of such lands, consistent with management of fish and wildlife in accordance with recognized scientific principles and the purposes for each unit established, designated, or expanded by or pursuant to titles II through VII of this Act, the purpose of this title is to provide the opportunity for rural residents engaged in a subsistence way of life to do so;

(2) nonwasteful subsistence uses of fish and wildlife and other renewable resources shall be the priority consumptive uses of all such resources on the public lands of Alaska when it is necessary to restrict taking in order to assure the continued viability of a fish or wildlife population or the continuation of subsistence uses of such population, the taking of such population for nonwasteful subsistence uses shall be given preference on the public lands over other consumptive uses; and

(3) except as otherwise provided by this Act or other Federal laws, Federal land managing agencies, in managing subsistence activities on the public lands and in protecting the continued viability of all wild renewable resources in Alaska, shall cooperate with adjacent landowners and land managers, including Native Corporations, appropriate State and Federal agencies, and other nations.

\* \* \* \* \*

## DEFINITIONS

SEC. 803. As used in this Act, the term “subsistence uses” means the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation; for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible byproducts of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption; for barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade. For the purposes of this section, the term—

(1) “family” means all persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, or any person living within the household on a permanent basis; and

(2) “barter” means the exchange of fish or wildlife or their parts, taken for subsistence uses—

(A) for other fish or game or their parts; or

(B) for other food or for nonedible items other than money if the exchange is of a limited and noncommercial nature.

\* \* \* \* \*

## PREFERENCE FOR SUBSISTENCE USES

SEC. 804. Except as otherwise provided in this Act and other Federal laws, the taking on public lands of fish and wildlife for nonwasteful subsistence uses shall be accorded priority over the taking on such lands of fish and wildlife for other purposes. Whenever it is necessary to restrict the taking of populations of fish and wildlife on such lands for subsistence uses in order to protect the continued viability of such populations, or to continue such uses, such priority shall be implemented through appropriate limitations based on the application of the following criteria:

(1) customary and direct dependence upon the populations as the mainstay of livelihood;

(2) local residency; and

(3) the availability of alternative resources.

## COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

SEC. 809. The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements or otherwise cooperate with other Federal agencies, the State, Native Corporations, other appropriate persons and organizations, and, acting through the Secretary of State, other nations to effectuate the purposes and policies of this title.

\* \* \* \* \*

## SUBSISTENCE AND LAND USE DECISIONS

SEC. 810. (a) In determining whether to withdraw, reserve, lease, or otherwise permit the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands under any provision of law authorizing such actions, the head of the Federal agency having primary jurisdiction over such lands or his designee shall evaluate the effect of such use, occupancy, or disposition on subsistence uses and needs, the availability of other lands for the purposes sought to be achieved, and other alternatives which would reduce or eliminate the use, occupancy, or disposition of public lands needed for subsistence purposes. No such withdrawal, reservation, lease, permit, or other use, occupancy or disposition of such lands which would significantly restrict subsistence uses shall be effected until the head of such Federal agency—

(1) gives notice to the appropriate State agency and the appropriate local committees and regional councils established pursuant to section 805;

(2) gives notice of, and holds, a hearing in the vicinity of the area involved; and

(3) determines that (A) such a significant restriction of subsistence uses is necessary, consistent with sound management principles for the utilization of the public lands, (B) the proposed activity will involve the minimal amount of public lands necessary to accomplish the purposes of such use, occupancy, or other disposition, and (C) reasonable steps will be taken to minimize adverse impacts upon subsistence uses and resources resulting from such actions.

(b) If the Secretary is required to prepare an environmental impact statement pursuant to section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, he shall provide the notice and hearing and include the findings required by subsection (a) as part of such environmental impact statement.

\* \* \* \* \*

## ACCESS

SEC. 811. (a) The Secretary shall ensure that rural residents engaged in subsistence uses shall have reasonable access to subsistence resources on the public lands.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or other law, the Secretary shall permit on the public lands appropriate use for subsistence purposes of snowmobiles, motorboats, and other means of surface transportation traditionally employed for such purposes by local residents, subject to reasonable regulation.

## RESEARCH

SEC. 812. The Secretary, in cooperation with the State and other appropriate Federal agencies, shall undertake research on fish and wildlife and subsistence uses on the public lands; seek data from, consult with and make use of, the special knowledge of local residents engaged in subsistence uses; and make the results of such research available to the State, the local and regional councils established by the Secretary or State pursuant to section 805, and other appropriate persons and organizations.

\* \* \* \* \*

## LIMITATIONS, SAVINGS CLAUSES

SEC. 815. Nothing in this title shall be construed as—

(1) granting any property right in any fish or wildlife or other resource of the public lands or as permitting the level of subsistence uses of fish and wildlife within a conservation system unit to be inconsistent with the conservation of healthy populations, and within a national park or monument to be inconsistent with the conservation of natural and healthy populations, of fish and wildlife.

(3) authorizing a restriction on the taking of fish and wildlife for nonsubsistence uses on the public lands (other than national parks and park monuments) unless necessary for the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife, for the reasons set forth in section 816, to continue subsistence uses of such populations, or pursuant to other applicable law;

Aid in Fish Restoration Act (64 Stat. 430; 16 U.S.C. 77777K), or any amendments to any one or more of such Acts.

\* \* \* \* \*

## CLOSURE TO SUBSISTENCE USES

SEC. 816. (b) Except as specifically provided otherwise by this section, nothing in this title is intended to enlarge or diminish the authority of the Secretary to designate areas where, and establish periods when, no taking of fish and wildlife shall be permitted on the public lands for reasons of public safety, administration, or to assure the continued viability of a particular fish or wildlife population.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or other law, the Secretary, after consultation with the State and adequate notice and public hearing, may temporarily close any public lands (including those within any conservation system unit), or any portion thereof, to subsistence uses of a particular fish or wildlife population only if necessary for reasons of public safety, administration, or to assure the continued viability of such population. If the Secretary determines that an emergency situation exists and that extraordinary measures must be taken for public safety or to assure the continued viability of a particular fish or wildlife population, the Secretary may immediately close the public lands, or any portion thereof, to the subsistence uses of such population and shall publish the reasons justifying the closure in the Federal Register. Such emergency closure shall be effective when made, shall not extend

for a period exceeding sixty days, and may not subsequently be extended unless the Secretary affirmatively establishes, after notice and public hearing, that such closure should be extended.

\* \* \* \* \*

## **ALASKA MINERAL RESOURCE ASSESMENT PROGRAM**

SEC. 1010. (a) MINERAL ASSESSMENTS.—The Secretary shall, to the full extent of his authority, assess the oil, gas, and other mineral potential on all public lands in the State of Alaska in order to expand the data base with respect to the mineral potential of such lands. The mineral assessment program may include, but shall not be limited to, techniques such as side-looking radar imagery and, on public lands other than such lands within the national park system, core and test drilling for geologic information, notwithstanding any restriction on such drilling under the Wilderness Act. For purposes of this Act, core and test drilling means the extraction by drilling of subsurface geologic samples in order to assess the metalliferous or other mineral values of geologic terrain, but shall not be construed as including exploratory drilling of oil and gas test wells. To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall consult and exchange information with the State of Alaska regarding the responsibilities of the Secretary under this section and similar programs undertaken by the State. In order to carry out mineral assessments authorized under this or any other law, including but not limited to the National Uranium Resource Evaluation program, the Secretary shall allow for access by air for assessment activities permitted in this subsection to all public lands involved in such study. He shall consult with the Secretary of Energy and heads of other Federal agencies carrying out such programs, to determine such reasonable requirements as may be necessary to protect the resources of such area, including fish and wildlife. Such requirements may provide that access will not occur during nesting, calving, spawning or such other times as fish and wildlife in the specific area may be especially vulnerable to such activities. The Secretary is authorized to enter into contracts with public or private entities to carry out all or any portion of the mineral assessment program. This section shall not apply to the lands described in section 1001 of this Act.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Activities carried out in conservation system units under subsection (a) shall be subject to regulations promulgated by the Secretary. Such regulations shall ensure that such activities are carried out in an environmentally sound manner—

- (1) which does not result in lasting environmental impacts which appreciably alter the natural character of the units or biological or ecological systems in the units; and
- (2) which is compatible with the purposes for which such units are established.

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## **SPECIAL ACCESS AND ACCESS TO INHOLDINGS**

SEC. 1110. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or other law, the Secretary shall permit, on conservation system units national recreation areas, and national conservation areas, and



those public lands designated as wilderness study, the use of snowmachines (during periods of adequate snow cover, or frozen river conditions in the case of wild and scenic rivers), motorboats, airplanes, and nonmotorized surface transportation methods for traditional activities (where such activities are permitted by this Act or other law) and for travel to and from villages and homesites. Such use shall be subject to reasonable regulations by the Secretary to protect the natural and other values of the conservation system units, national recreation areas, and national conservation areas, and shall not be prohibited unless, after notice and hearing in the vicinity of the affected unit or area, the Secretary finds that such use would be detrimental to the resource values of the unit or area. Nothing in this section shall be construed as prohibiting the use of other methods of transportation for such travel and activities on conservation system lands where such use is permitted by this Act or other law.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Act or other law, in any case in which State owned or privately owned land, including subsurface rights of such owners underlying public lands, or a valid mining claim or other valid occupancy is within or is effectively surrounded by one or more conservation system units, national recreation areas, national conservation areas, or those public lands designated as wilderness study, the State or private owner or occupier shall be given by the Secretary such rights as may be necessary to assure adequate and feasible access for economic and other purposes to the concerned land by such State or private owner or occupier and their successors in interest. Such rights shall be subject to reasonable regulations issued by the Secretary to protect the natural and other values of such lands.

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## TEMPORARY ACCESS

SEC. 1111. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act or other law the Secretary shall authorize and permit temporary access by the State or a private landowner to or across any conservation system unit, national recreation area, national conservation area, the National Petroleum Reserve— Alaska or those public lands designated as wilderness study or managed to maintain the wilderness character or potential thereof, in order to permit the State or private landowner access to its land for purposes of survey, geophysical, exploratory, or other temporary uses thereof whenever he determines such access will not result in permanent harm to the resources of such unit, area, Reserve or lands.

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## **TITLE XIII—ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS**

### **MANAGEMENT PLANS**

SEC. 1301. (a) Within five years from the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop and transmit to the appropriate Committees of the Congress a conservation and management plan for each of the units of the National Park System established or to which additions are made by this Act.

(b) NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—Each plan for a unit established, redesignated, or expanded by title II shall identify management practices which will carry out the policies of this Act and will accomplish the purposes for which the concerned National Park System unit was established or expanded and shall include at least the following:

(1) Maps indicating areas of particular importance as to wilderness, natural, historical, wildlife, cultural, archeological, paleontological, geological, recreational, and similar resources and also indicating the areas into which such unit will be divided for administrative purposes.

(2) A description of the programs and methods that will be employed to manage fish and wildlife resources and habitats, cultural, geological, recreational, and wilderness resources, and how each conservation system unit will contribute to overall resources management goals of that region. Such programs should include research, protection, restoration, development, and interpretation as appropriate.

(3) A description of any areas of potential or proposed development, indicating types of visitor services and facilities to be provided, the estimated costs of such services and facilities, and whether or not such services and facilities could and should be provided outside the boundaries of such unit.

(4) A plan for access to, and circulation within, such unit, indicating the type and location of transportation routes and facilities, if any.

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### **ARCHEOLOGICAL AND PALEONTOLOGICAL SITES**

SEC. 1304. Notwithstanding any acreage or boundary limitations contained in this Act with respect to the Cape Krusenstern National Monument, the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, and the Kobuk Valley National Park, the Secretary may designate Federal lands or he may acquire by purchase with the consent of the owner, donation, or exchange any significant archeological or paleontological site in Alaska located outside of the boundaries of such areas and containing resources which are closely associated with any such area. If any such site is so designated or acquired, it shall be included in and managed as part of such area. Not more than seven thousand five hundred acres of land may be designated or acquired under this section for inclusion in any single area. Before designation or acquisition of any property in excess of one hundred acres under the provisions of this section, the Secretary shall—

- (1) submit notice of such proposed designation or acquisition to the appropriate committees of the Congress; and
- (2) publish notice of such proposed designation or acquisition in the Federal Register.

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## NAVIGATION AIDS AND OTHER FACILITIES

SEC. 1310. (a) EXISTING FACILITIES.—Within conservation system units established or expanded by this Act, reasonable access to, and operation and maintenance of, existing air and water navigation aids, communications sites and related facilities and existing facilities for weather, climate, and fisheries research and monitoring shall be permitted in accordance with the laws and regulations applicable to units of such systems, as appropriate. Reasonable access to and operation and maintenance of facilities for national defense purposes and related air and water navigation aids within or adjacent to such areas shall continue in accordance with the laws and regulations governing such facilities notwithstanding any other provision of this Act. Nothing in the Wilderness Act shall be deemed to prohibit such access, operation and maintenance within wilderness areas designated by this Act.

(b) NEW FACILITIES.—The establishment, operation, and maintenance within any conservation system unit of new air and water navigation aids and related facilities, facilities for national defense purposes, and related air and water navigation aids, and facilities for weather, climate, and fisheries research and monitoring shall be permitted but only (1) after consultation with the Secretary or the Secretary of Agriculture, as appropriate, by the head of the Federal department or agency undertaking such establishment, operation, or maintenance, and (2) in accordance with such terms and conditions as may be mutually agreed in order to minimize the adverse effects of such activities within such unit.

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## ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL PRESERVES

SEC. 1313. A National Preserve in Alaska shall be administered and managed as a unit of the National Park System in the same manner as a national park except as otherwise provided in this Act and except that the taking of fish and wildlife for sport purposes and subsistence uses, and trapping shall be allowed in a national preserve under applicable State and Federal law and regulation. Consistent with the provisions of section 816, within national preserves the Secretary may designate zones where and periods when no hunting, fishing, trapping, or entry may be permitted for reasons of public safety, administration, floral and faunal protection, or public use and enjoyment. Except in emergencies, any regulations prescribing such restrictions relating to hunting, fishing, or trapping shall be put into effect only after consultation with the appropriate State agency having responsibility over hunting, fishing, and trapping activities.

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## **WILDERNESS MANAGEMENT**

SEC. 1315. (a) APPLICATION ONLY TO ALASKA.—The provisions of this section are enacted in recognition of the unique conditions in Alaska. Nothing in this section shall be construed to expand, diminish; or modify the provisions of the Wilderness Act or the application or interpretation of such provisions with respect to lands outside of Alaska.

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## **ALLOWED USES**

SEC. 1316. (a) On all public lands where the taking of fish and wildlife is permitted in accordance with the provisions of this Act or other applicable State and Federal law the Secretary shall permit, subject to reasonable regulation to insure compatibility, the continuance of existing uses, and the future establishment, and use, of temporary campsites, tent platforms, shelters, and other temporary facilities and equipment directly and necessarily related to such activities. Such facilities and equipment shall be constructed, used, and maintained in a manner consistent with the protection of the area in which they are located. All new facilities shall be constructed of materials which blend with, and are compatible with, the immediately surrounding landscape. Upon termination of such activities and uses (but not upon regular or seasonal cessation), such structures or facilities shall, upon written request, be removed from the area by the permittee.

(b) Notwithstanding the foregoing provisions, the Secretary may determine, after adequate notice, that the establishment and use of such new facilities or equipment would constitute a significant expansion of existing facilities or uses which would be detrimental to the purposes for which the affected conservation system unit was established, including the wilderness character of any wilderness area within such unit, and may thereupon deny such proposed use or establishment.

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# Bering Land Bridge National Monument

*By the President of the United States of America*

## A Proclamation

The Bering Land Bridge, now overlain by the Chukchi Sea, the Bering Sea and Bering Strait, was the migration route by which many plants, animals, and humans arrived on the North American continent. The monument hereby created has within it an invaluable record of this migration.

There are found here rich archeological sites giving evidence of human migration during the periods the Bridge was waterfree. Also found are paleontological sites providing abundant evidence of the migration of plants and animals onto the continent in the ages before the human migrations. The arctic conditions here are favorable to the preservation of this paleontological record from minute pollen grains and insects to the large mammals such as the mammoth.

The monument is also the summering area for a number of Old World bird species, which feed and nest in the area. It is one of the few places in North America where ornithologists are able to study these species.

The diversity of the soils, topography, permafrost action and climate within the monument leads to an excellent representation of varied, yet interrelated tundra plant communities. Their proximity and diversity make the area a prime outdoor laboratory.

The area is also rich in volcanics. Here is the opportunity to study unique Arctic lava flows which erupted through deep permafrost. The tubes and cracks of these flows are now filled with the sheen of permanent ice. In the Devil Mountain area are the uniquely paired maar explosion craters which were formed by violent explosions resulting from the steam pressure released when the hot volcanic ejecta contacted the water and ice that covered this wetland area. These craters are now crystal clear lakes bounded by a shoreline of volcanic ash, cinders and scoria.

The land withdrawn and reserved by this Proclamation for the protection of the geological, archeological, paleontological, biological and other phenomena enumerated above supports now, as it has in the past, the unique subsistence culture of the local residents. The continued existence of this culture, which depends on subsistence hunting, and its availability for study, enhance the historic and scientific values of the natural objects protected herein because of the ongoing interaction of the subsistence culture with those objects. Accordingly, the opportunity for local residents to engage in subsistence hunting is a value to be protected and will continue under the administration of the monument.

Section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), authorizes the President, in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and to reserve as part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected.

Now, THEREFORE, I, JIMMY CARTER, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by Section 2 of the Act of June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. 225, 16 U.S.C. 431), do proclaim that there are hereby set apart and reserved as the Bering Land Bridge National Monument all lands, including submerged lands, and waters owned or controlled by the United States within the boundaries of the area depicted as the Bering Land Bridge National Monument on the map numbered BELA-90,006 attached to and forming a part of this Proclamation. The area reserved consists of approximately

2,590,000 acres, and is the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected. Lands, including submerged lands, and waters within these boundaries not owned by the United States shall be reserved as a part of the monument upon acquisition of title thereto by the United States.

All lands, including submerged lands, and all waters within the boundaries of this monument are hereby appropriated and withdrawn from entry, location, selection, sale or other disposition under the public land laws, other than exchange. There is also reserved all water necessary to the proper care and management of those objects protected by this monument and for the proper administration of the monument in accordance with applicable laws.

The establishment of this monument is subject to valid existing rights, including, but not limited to, valid selections under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), and under or confirmed in the Alaska Statehood Act (48 U.S.C. Note preceding Section 21 ).

Nothing in this Proclamation shall be deemed to revoke any existing withdrawal, reservation or appropriation, including any withdrawal under Section 17(d) (1) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1616(d) (1) ); however, the national monument shall be the dominant reservation. Nothing in this Proclamation is intended to modify or revoke the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding dated September 1, 1972, entered into between the State of Alaska and the United States as part of the negotiated settlement of Alaska v. Morton, Civil No. A-48-72 (D. Alaska, Complaint filed April 10, 1972).

The Secretary of the Interior shall promulgate such regulations as are appropriate, including regulation of the opportunity to engage in a subsistence lifestyle by local residents. The Secretary may close the national monument, or any portion thereof, to subsistence uses of a particular fish, wildlife or plant population if necessary for reasons of public safety, administration, or to ensure the natural stability or continued viability of such population.

Warning is hereby given to all unauthorized persons not to appropriate, injure, destroy or remove any feature of this monument and not to locate or settle upon any of the lands thereof.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 1st day of December, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and seventy-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and third.

JIMMY CARTER  
President of the United States



## Appendix B – Tundra Plant Communities



*As elevation changes, so does the plant life that comprise the tundra communities of the Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. From the wet tussocks of the coastal and riparian lowlands to the low growing plants and shrubs of the uplands to alpine plants in the mountains, the preserve encompasses one of the most complete tundra ecosystems in North America.*

