



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF MINING, LAND & WATER
Resource Assessment & Development Section

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1050
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3579
Main: 907.269.8534
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February 14, 2013

**Re: Proposed Land Exchange Between the Matanuska Susitna Borough and the State of Alaska
ADL 231717 and MSB 006782**

Dear Alaskan,

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has issued a Preliminary Decision to exchange land ownership with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The exchange will involve the state conveying 594 acres of land to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; in return the borough will convey 566 acres to the state. The borough and state land are of approximate equal value. The state land is situated along the expansion of the Alaska Railroad ROW between Houston and Port MacKenzie, generally west of Big Lake. The borough land is adjacent to, and on the west side of the Nancy Lake State Recreation area west of Willow. These areas are shown on the attached map. The purpose of this exchange is to allow the borough to acquire state land along the Alaska Railroad proposed ROW and for the state to acquire borough land adjacent to the Nancy Lake State Recreation Area in order to consolidate land ownership and management functions.

The Postmaster in each of the following communities will be requested to post the public notice per AS 38.05.945(b)(3)(B) and MSB 23.05.025: Anchorage, Houston, Wasilla and Willow. Public notice on the Internet will be posted on the State's web site (<http://www.state.ak.us>) under *Online Public Notice* and the Borough's web site (<http://www.matsugov.us>) under *Public Notices*. Additional public notice, as required by MSB 23.05.025 will be provided by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough concurrently with this notice.

The Preliminary Decision is available on the internet at: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning> or from the Division of Mining, Land and Water, Resource Assessment and Development Section (RADS), 550 W 7th Avenue, Suite 1050, Anchorage, AK 99501-3579; telephone 1-907-269-8534; fax 1-907-269-8915; email: Bruce.Phelps@alaska.gov

Submit comments in writing to: Division of Mining, Land and Water, Resource Assessment and Development Section, 550 W 7th Ave, Anchorage AK 99501, Fax (907)269-8915, or via email to: Bruce.Phelps@alaska.gov **OR** to: Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Community Development Department, 350 E. Dahlia Ave., Palmer, AK 99645, Fax (907) 745 -9635 or via email to: LMB@matsugov.us

Comments must be received **in writing, post marked or emailed on or before Wednesday, March 20, 2012** to ensure consideration. Following the comment deadline, all written responses will be considered and the decision may be modified to incorporate public comments. A copy of the final decision will be sent to any person who comments in writing on the Preliminary Decision. The final decision will include appeal instructions. In addition, the exchange must be approved by the Borough Assembly before it can be implemented.

We look forward to receiving your comments.

Sincerely,

Bruce Phelps