

# University of Alaska Land Grant List 2005



Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
January 12, 2005

**Revised 2010**

# STATE OF ALASKA

SEAN PARNELL, GOVERNOR

□ 550 WEST 7<sup>TH</sup> AVENUE, SUITE 1400  
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501-3650  
PHONE: (907) 269-8431  
FAX: (907) 269-8918

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

January 13, 2010

Dear Interested Alaskan:

This document, **University of Alaska Land Grant List 2005**, provides a description of state land proposed for transfer to the University of Alaska under legislation requested by Governor Parnell. The new legislation would transfer 199,838 acres of state land managed by the Department of Natural Resources to the University of Alaska.

The legislation ratifies and reauthorizes the land conveyances in legislation enacted in 2000 (ch. 136, SLA 2000) and 2005 (ch. FSS08, SLA 2005). These statutes were found by the Alaska Supreme Court in *Southeast Alaska Conservation Council & Tongass Conservation Society v. State of Alaska & University of Alaska*, 202 P.3d 1162 (Alaska 2009), to violate Article IX, section 7 (the dedicated funds clause) of the Alaska Constitution, because the statutes specified that revenue generated from the University's management of the land was to be deposited in the University's endowment trust fund. The new legislation addresses this by specifying that revenue generated by the University of Alaska's management of this land will be managed as University receipts, subject to appropriation each year by the legislature.

The new legislation requested by the Governor directs DNR to convey specific lands to fulfill the intent of previous legislations.

The types of land proposed for conveyance to the University are summarized below:

| <b>Type of Property</b>                      | <b>Approximate Acreage</b> |
|--|----------------------------|
| Investment Properties,<br>Southeast Alaska   | 34,643                     |
| Investment Property,<br>other than Southeast | 39,222                     |
| Nenana Basin Oil & Gas                       | 90,000                     |
| Education Properties                         | 35,973                     |
| <b>Total</b>                                 | <b>199,838</b>             |

The parcels identified in the proposed legislation are the same parcels as those identified in the 2005 legislation (ch. FSS08, SLA 2005), and are described in the

*"Develop, Conserve, and Enhance Natural Resources for Present and Future Alaskans"*

attached document. This land list was arrived at after more than a year of intense work by DNR and the University to identify land that may be conveyed to the University without unreasonably conflicting with programs associated with, and uses of, state land managed by DNR.

This document lists all of the parcels originally considered in the 2005 legislation, but the proposed legislation removes some of these parcels from further consideration. Specifically, the land list in the proposed legislation reflects changes made by the legislature during the 2005 session, including the legislature's decision to drop certain parcels that were on the original list provided in January 2005. The bill also includes language added by the legislature to protect land for possible municipal entitlement selections by the City and Borough of Wrangell and a possible borough in the Petersburg area. In addition, two parcels were conveyed under separate statutory authority. The following table indicates which parcels have been removed from consideration in the proposed legislation and which parcels are deferred to address potential municipal entitlements.

The prior land conveyance statutes included a provision for establishment of a university research forest. This provision is not included in this bill because the Alaska Supreme Court found that the provision in the prior legislation could be severed from the unconstitutional dedication provisions, and it was therefore upheld as constitutional.

Sincerely,



Thomas E. Irwin  
Commissioner