

Overview of The Land List

This section provides a general description of the Land List and a table containing specific information related to the parcels in the Land List.

Geographic Distribution.

Most of the land conveyed to the University of Alaska is in the Northern and Interior area of the state. This is primarily because two large parcels — the University Research Forest and the Nenana Oil and Gas Basin are in the Interior. Both South-central and Southeast have considerably smaller amounts of state land.

- Northern/Interior. Most state land on the Land List occurs in the Northern region, which comprises 202,776 acres or 80.6% of the total acreage. Most of this land is associated with oil and gas (90,000 acres) and coal (16,000 acres) resource values, or are intended for educational/research functions (87,784 acres). The oil and gas tract is situated west of Nenana and the coal tract, within an area known as ‘Jarvis Creek’, which is situated south of Delta Junction. Tracts with an intended education function are associated either with forestry research in the proposed University Research Forest (a part of today’s Tanana Valley State Forest) and the Tok Research Forests (55,835 acres) or with watershed research in the Caribou and Poker creeks watersheds north of Fairbanks (24,250 acres). There is a small amount of investment properties in the Northern region, which are primarily intended for residential, commercial, or industrial development.
- Southcentral. Southcentral tracts total 14,230 acres (5.7% of the total) and consists of mostly of investment properties near the Willow-Houston (1,730 acres) and McCarthy (12,500 acres).
- Southeast. Southeast, with 34,655 acres or 13.8% of the total, consists largely of remote tracts and areas around communities, which have mostly settlement, general recreation, and some limited forestry values. These tracts are scattered throughout Southeast Alaska, extending from the Lynn Canal north of Juneau to south of Ketchikan. Most of these tracts are situated within Prince of Wales Island or near the communities of Wrangell, Sitka, and Tenakee Springs. Only a small amount (12 acres) of education properties occur in the Southeast (a research facility in Juneau and the Sitka Campus of the University).

Parcel Description

The table that follows gives a brief description of the each parcel proposed for transfer. It describes Investment and Oil and Gas tracts geographically by the three regions of Northern/Interior, South-central, and Southeast. A description of Educational Properties follow this listing. The table contains the following information: parcel number, parcel name, acreage, and a column titled ‘Comments’. The Comments column indicates the general location of each parcel, describes the main features of the parcel, indicates its

possible use, and indicates the land use designation(s) for the parcel based on existing DNR land use plans. The land use designations contained in the DNR land use plans do not apply to the land after it is transferred to the University.

This table is linked to the maps that follow the Land List. Parcel numbers and names are the same in the land list, table, and maps.

Summary of Parcel Resource Values

- Nenana Oil and Gas Tract (90,000 acres)

A 90,000 acre tract of state-owned land with oil and gas potential within the Nenana Basin is to be conveyed. This basin has a high probability for presence of gas source, and a high probability that reservoir quality rocks are also present. This tract excludes previous state subdivisions and DNR remote recreational cabin staking areas. Although the tract includes the remote recreational cabin staking area known as Teklanika II, where staking is still underway, buffers of state land will be retained by DNR before this tract is conveyed to the University. The area is part of the Oil and Gas License owned by Andex Corporation, and the land will be transferred subject to the License.

- Investment Properties *other than* in Southeast (39,222 acres)

This includes 39,222 acres of state land within the South-central and Northern/Interior regions that are considered to have investment potential. Certain of these tracts are probably best suited for commercial or industrial development; examples include the tracts along the Dalton Highway. The majority are probably best suited for some form of residential development, either for rural subdivisions near community areas (Willow Creek Road and Frying Pan Lake) or for remote recreational development (Lake Snohomish and Wien Lake).

The Jarvis tract provides a coal production potential. A 16,000-acre area near Jarvis Creek occupies the easternmost sub-basin of the Nenana Basin, a coal trend that holds the third largest coal reserve in Alaska. Identified resources are 75 million short tons with a hypothetical resource of 175 million short tons. The areas of Mental Health Trust Land and active mining claims are excluded from the tract. The 2,560 acres of coal leases would be conveyed, subject to the continuation of the lease for the period of their duration.

- Southeast Alaska (34,655 acres)

34,910 acres of state land in Southeast Alaska are to be conveyed. Because the state owns only a small amount of land scattered throughout Southeast, these tracts are comparatively small in size and are distributed throughout Southeast. Most of these tracts were acquired by the state for community and recreational development and may be developed by the University for community or remote recreational settlement; examples include state land at Hollis, Ketchikan, or Edna Bay. There are also a few that have commercial potential; examples include Harris Road Junction, Ward Cove, and El Capitan South, although most of these could also be used for residential purposes.

- Educational Properties (87,796 acres)

This category includes eleven properties that are either important to current University educational or research programs or that can be developed for such programs. Their primary purpose is educational, not for revenue-generation. These state land tracts occur in the Northern Region, except for the Sitka Campus and Auke Weir tracts in Juneau. Two tracts constitute the bulk of the acreage in this category: the Caribou-Poker creeks watershed and the proposed University Research Forest. The former, consisting of about 24,250 acres is located north of Fairbanks and is used exclusively by the University for hydrologic research. The University Research Forest includes land currently within the Tanana Valley State forest. It is 51,820 acres and is situated southwest of Fairbanks. This acreage of this parcel constitutes the bulk of the Educational Property acreage.

The University Research Forest will be retained and managed by DNR for a period of 50 years, after which a decision will be made on the final disposal of this area. This will allow DNR to continue to manage the public uses such as recreation and hunting, and to continue the commercial timber harvest operation for this period of time. However, all management activities are to be consistent with the research needs for the Forest. This Forest will be one of the country's largest university-related forests and may be an important asset for University forest-related research.

Public Access

Public access is retained across the state land conveyed to the University. DNR has identified known access routes, including Omnibus Roads, existing state or federal rights-of-way, and RS2477 trails). These routes are depicted on the parcel maps. Public access is also been retained along coastlines, navigable rivers and lakes, routes traditionally used by the public for access, and along section-line easements. Except for section line easements, these access routes are depicted on the parcel maps.

On-line information and Contact Information

This report, including the parcel maps, may be viewed at the DNR website:
<http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/>

For more detail on specific parcels, contact Bruce Phelps at 269-8592 in Anchorage or email: bruce_phelps@dnr.state.ak.us