

## University Land Legislation – Update

The legislation to implement the University land transfer was introduced at the request of the Governor on February 7, 2005 and was approved by the Alaska Legislature during the Special Session held in May 2005. The final bill that was passed by both the Alaska House of Representatives and the Alaska Senate was House Bill 130, as amended. The Governor intends to sign the legislation on July 25.

In response to lengthy public hearings on the bill, the Legislature removed nine parcels from the list, including the Kodiak Rocket Launch facility at Narrow Cape and eight of the 45 parcels in Southeast Alaska. Another nine parcels in Southeast Alaska were set-aside until at least 2009 for use in potential borough formations in Wrangell, Petersburg and the Northwest Chichagof region.

Also in response to public comments, the legislation establishes public notice requirements for future University land sales, ensures protection of existing trails and access, ensures that historic recent public use of the land can continue as long as they do not interfere with the use or management of the land by the University, and protects Native allotments from transfer. The legislation was also revised to allow DNR to make minor boundary adjustments, correct miscellaneous errors and omissions, protect timber harvest in the University Research Forest, and ensure that new municipalities do not receive less municipal entitlement acreage as a result of the bill.

The nine parcels removed from the Lands List are:

- (1) Parcel Number CS.DI.1001, Duke Island;
- (2) Parcel Number MF.1002, Idaho Inlet;
- (3) Parcel Number CS.KI.1001, Kelp Island;
- (4) Parcel Number HA.CH.1001, Haines-Chilkoot;
- (5) Parcel Number KT.1004, Neets Creek;
- (6) Parcel Number MA.KR.1001, Kodiak Rocket Range;
- (7) Parcel Number ST.1002, Pelican;
- (8) Parcel Number PA.1001, Port Alexander; and
- (9) Parcel Number ST.1002, Warm Springs Bay.

The eight parcels that are set-aside until 2009 for possible borough formation in the Wrangell Petersburg area are:

- (1) Parcel Number SD.1001, Beecher Pass;
- (2) Parcel Number SD.1001, Favor Peak;
- (3) Parcel Number CS.TL.1001, Three Lake Road;
- (4) Parcel Number SD.1001, Read Island;
- (5) Parcel Number SD.1001, Whitney Island;
- (6) Parcel Number CS.EW.1001, Earl West Cove;
- (7) Parcel Number CS.OV.1001, Olive Cove; and
- (8) Parcel Number SD.1001, Thoms Place.

The parcel set aside until 2009 for possible borough formation in the Northern Chichagof Island area is Parcel Number PA.1002, Mite Cove.

With the exception of the University Research Forest Parcel and the parcels set-aside for potential municipal entitlements, the land transfers should occur during the next three years.