

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF MINING, LAND AND WATER

**DRAFT ADMINISTRATIVE FINDING
MINERAL ORDER NO. 1203
Closing Lands to Mineral Entry**

COPPER WILDERNESS SUBDIVISION - ADL 229732

Pursuant to AS 38.05.035, the State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land, and Water proposes to issue a Final Finding and Decision to convey State-owned land into private ownership within the Copper Wilderness Subdivision project area (ADL 229732). As noted in the Preliminary Decision – Proposed Land Offering Copper Wilderness Subdivision– ADL 229732, issued February 21, 2019, the project area is within Subunit 21C of the *Copper River Basin Area Plan*. In accordance with the area plan, DMLW proposes to close the entire project area to mineral entry. The attached mineral order includes the legal description of area to be closed to mineral entry.

The Division of Mining, Land, and Water requests the mineral estate of approximately 48.2 acres more or less, identified in the attached mineral order, be closed to mineral entry and location, in accordance with AS 38.05.300 for a land disposal. Mining activity on the project area would be incompatible with the current and proposed land estate uses. The land does not contain any known mineral deposits and was not selected for mineral values. There are no mining claims on the land.

Public notice of the comment period for the proposed mineral order was conducted in accordance with AS 38.05.945. (Review of comments will be addressed in the final document.)

In accordance with AS 38.05.185 (a) and AS 38.05.300, I find that the best interests of the State of Alaska and its residents are served by closure of the land to entry under the mineral location and mining laws of the State of Alaska as described by Mineral Order (Closing) No. 1203.

Concur:

Martin W. Parsons, Director
Division of Mining, Land and Water
Department of Natural Resources

Date

Approved:

Corri A. Feige, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources

Date