



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[A2407-014-004-065516, #O2509-014-004-125222; AKAK106470188]

Application for a Recordable Disclaimer of Interest for Lands Underlying Portions of the Goodnews River System, Alaska

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of application.

SUMMARY: On December 28, 2017, the State of Alaska (State) filed an application with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for a recordable disclaimer of interest (RDI) from the United States for the submerged lands underlying portions of the Goodnews River System, east of Goodnews Bay in western Alaska. On December 16, 2020, the BLM received a letter from the State which amended that application to remove Slate Creek. Thus, the final application includes the submerged lands for portions of Goodnews River, Goodnews Lake, Igmiumanik River, South Fork of the Goodnews River, Tivyagik Creek, an unnamed tributary of Tivyagik Creek, the Middle Fork of the Goodnews River, Middle Fork Lake, Kukaktlik River, and Kukaktlim Lake east of Goodnews Bay, Alaska. An RDI, if issued, would disclaim the United States' interest in the lands underlying the portions of the waterbodies in the RDI application. This notice informs the public of the pending RDI application and supporting evidence submitted by the State and requests additional information related to the waterbodies in the application.

DATES: All comments should be received on or before **[INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**. The BLM will issue a decision on the application on or after **[INSERT DATE 90 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]**.

ADDRESSES: The State’s RDI application and its attachments may be viewed at:

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional->

[information/alaska/RDI/kuskokwim](https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional-information/alaska/RDI/kuskokwim), under the section titled, “Goodnews River System.”

Public comments may be mailed, emailed, or hand delivered. Mail comments to: Bureau

of Land Management ATTN: Bettie Shelby, Acting Branch Chief, Lands and Realty

(AK-941), 222 West 7th Avenue #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513; email comments to

bshelby@blm.gov; or hand deliver comments during normal business hours (8 a.m. to 4

p.m. Alaska Time) to the BLM Public Information Center, 222 West 7th Avenue,

Anchorage, Alaska 99513.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Bettie Shelby, Acting Branch Chief,

Lands and Realty (AK-941), at 222 West 7th Avenue, #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513;

907-271-5596; bshelby@blm.gov; or visit the BLM’s RDI website at

<https://www.blm.gov/programs/lands-and-realty/regional-information/alaska/RDI>.

Individuals in the United States who are deaf, deafblind, hard of hearing, or have a

speech disability may dial 711 (TTY, TDD, or TeleBraille) to access telecommunications

relay services. Individuals outside the United States should use the relay services offered

within their country to make international calls to the point-of-contact in the United

States.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 16, 2020, the BLM received a

final amended application (AA-92956) from the State for an RDI pursuant to section 315

of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 as amended (43 U.S.C. 1745),

and the regulations in 43 CFR part 1860, subpart 1864, which authorize the BLM to issue

an RDI. An RDI is a legal document through which the BLM would disclaim the United

States’ interest in or ownership of specified lands. This notice of application is to inform

the public of the pending application and the State’s supporting evidence, as well as to

provide the opportunity to comment or provide additional information to the BLM.

The State's RDI application asserts that the waterbodies were navigable in fact on the date of Alaska Statehood, January 3, 1959. As such, the application contends that ownership of the lands underlying portions of the Goodnews River, Goodnews Lake, Igmiumanik River, South Fork of the Goodnews River, Tivyagik Creek, an unnamed tributary of Tivyagik Creek, the Middle Fork of the Goodnews River, Middle Fork Lake, Kukaktlik River, and Kukaktlim Lake automatically passed from the United States to the State on the date of Statehood under the Equal Footing Doctrine, the Submerged Lands Act of 1953, the Submerged Lands Act of 1988, the Alaska Right of Way Act of 1898, the Alaska Statehood Act, and other title navigability laws.

The RDI application includes the eligible submerged lands for the following land descriptions: 1) Goodnews River, including Goodnews Lake: All submerged lands between the lines of ordinary high water of the left and right banks of the Goodnews River, from the confluence with an unnamed creek near river mile 78 within sec. 3, T. 7 S., R. 66 W., Seward Meridian, downstream and including Goodnews Lake, to the location where the river enters T. 10 S., R. 71 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska; 2) Igmiumanik River: All submerged lands between the lines of ordinary high water of the left and right banks of the Igmiumanik River from the confluence with an unnamed creek within the NE1/4NE1/4 sec. 19, T. 7 S., R. 66 W., Seward Meridian, downstream to the confluence with the Goodnews River in sec. 35, T. 7 S., R. 66 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska; 3) South Fork Goodnews River: All submerged lands between the lines of ordinary high water of the left and right banks of the South Fork Goodnews River from the confluence with an unnamed creek near river mile 25.7 within sec. 3, T. 12 S., R. 70 W., Seward Meridian, downstream through sec. 22, T. 12 S., R. 72 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska; 4) Tivyagik Creek: All submerged lands between the lines of ordinary high water of the left and right banks of the Tivyagik Creek from the confluence with an "unnamed tributary" near river mile 8.25 within sec. 28, T. 12 S., R. 71 W., Seward Meridian,

downstream to its confluence with the South Fork Goodnews River in sec. 7, T. 12 S., R. 71 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska; 5) Unnamed Tributary of Tivyagik Creek: All submerged lands between the lines of ordinary high water of the left and right banks of the Unnamed Tributary of Tivyagik Creek from the confluence of the unnamed tributary and an unnamed creek near river mile 3 within sec. 32, T. 12 S., R. 71 W., Seward Meridian, downstream to its confluence with Tivyagik Creek in sec. 28, T. 12 S., R. 71 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska; 6) Middle Fork Goodnews River and Middle Fork Lake: All submerged lands between the lines of ordinary high water of the left and right banks of the Middle Fork Goodnews River from river mile 53 within the SE1/4NE1/4 Sec. 10, T. 9 S., R. 67 W., Seward Meridian, downstream and including Middle Fork Lake, to the location where the river enters T. 11 S., R. 71 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska; and 7) Kukaktlik River and Kukaktlim Lake: All submerged lands within the ordinary high water lines of Kukaktlim Lake and between the lines of ordinary high water of the left and right banks of the Kukaktlik River from the outlet of Kukaktlim Lake in sec. 1, T. 9 S., R. 67 W., Seward Meridian, downstream to its confluence with the Middle Fork Goodnews River in sec. 23, T. 10 S., R. 69 W., Seward Meridian, Alaska.

The BLM is seeking additional information related to the waterbodies in the State's RDI application. Examples of additional information are photographs or videos capturing boats being used on the waterbodies, historical or present-day use diaries, or specific verbal knowledge, whether passed down through the region, or present-day use, information on the type of boat or watercraft used, and information on the time of year boats are, or were, used. In addition to boat use, the BLM is seeking hydrological data and/or photographs that capture waterbody characteristics such as depth, width, obstructions or obstacles, or shallow stream sections.

In previous *Federal Register* notices regarding RDI applications, the BLM provided a 90-day public comment period. The BLM determined that 30 days is adequate

and sufficient time under the circumstances to receive substantive and relevant public input as is permitted under 43 CFR 1864.2. Additionally, a 30-day public comment period provides the BLM with a minimum of 60 days to review comments received before making a decision on the application on or after 90 days from the date of publication in the *Federal Register*.

Copies of the State's RDI application and comments provided in response to this notice will be available for public review at the BLM Alaska State Office (see **ADDRESSES** above), during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Alaska Time, Monday through Friday, excepting Federal holidays.

Before including your address, phone number, email address, or other personally identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personally identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask the BLM in your comment to withhold your personally identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

(Authority: 43 U.S.C. 1745 and 43 CFR part 1860, subpart 1864)

Bettie Shelby,

Acting Deputy State Director,

Division of Lands and Cadastral.

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