

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY JULY 2010 AMENDMENTS SOUTHEAST ALASKA NATIVE LAND ENTITLEMENT FINALIZATION ACT S 881 111TH CONGRESS

*Haa Aaní* (Tlingit)

*Íitl' gyaa Tlagáay* (Haida)

*Na Yuubm* (Tsimshian)

“Our Land”

The Act amends Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) to authorize out-of-withdrawal land conveyances to fulfill Sealaska's remaining land entitlement. Sealaska will not receive any more land than it is entitled to receive in accordance with ANCSA. Sealaska will receive:

## **Sacred Sites {Section 3(b)(2)}**

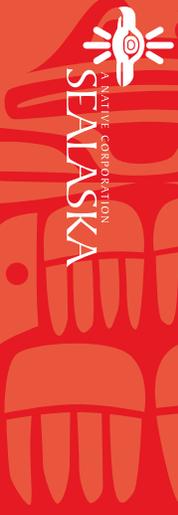
- 3,600 acres for sacred sites which include cultural, traditional and historic sites, including archaeological and anthropological sites and migration routes.
  - Up to 2,400 acres for 203 sites and 3 customary trade and migration routes.
  - 1,200 acres for sacred sites discovered in the future or existing sites determined to be culturally significant after further research; 90% of this acreage must be identified within 15 years of passage of the Act.
- 84 sites are within National Monuments/Wilderness Areas/Land-Use Designation (LUD) IIs (LUD II are managed to maintain wildland characteristics).
- Sacred, cultural, traditional and historic sites will be protected to preserve the culture, natural features and traditions and conveyed under this Act may be used for sacred and spiritual retreats, historic, cultural and anthropologic research, and education.
- Public access across migration corridors, and all other sites where there is no reasonably alternative access, is protected in the legislation.
- These sites are sacred; industrial activities such as logging or mining are prohibited.

## **Native Futures Sites {Section 3(b)(3)}**

- 5,000 acres, for 31 sites, will be conveyed that offer unique cultural, historical and biological experiences, as well as renewable energy opportunities. Sites heavily used by local communities have been excluded.
- These sites will appeal to guests seeking high-quality, low-intensity, but active tourism in a variety of geographical settings to meet individual client interests.
- Sealaska will seek partnerships with local tribes, clans, businesses and residents to enhance the indigenous experience and share local character and knowledge to guests.
- Emphasis will be placed on the hiring of local guides and cultural and historical interpreters and traditional entertainers.
- Sealaska shall extend guide permit term for existing federal permits.
- Industrial activities such as logging or mining would be prohibited on these sites.

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### **Economic Development Lands {Section 3(b)(1)}**

- Sealaska will take ownership of its remaining unfulfilled ANCSA land entitlement, some 65,000 to 75,000 acres, after the 8,600 acres for Sacred and Native Futures sites.
- The land pool from which these lands would come has been reduced from 197,000 acres to 80,000 acres to avoid important: areas to communities and stakeholders, anchorages, conservation areas, community watersheds and other concerns.
- These lands are largely (over 88%) roaded and will provide suitable timber to fulfill Sealaska's goal of a sustainable forestry economy for Southeast in perpetuity.
- Sealaska will receive approximately 37,000 fewer acres of old growth available for development than if it selected all its remaining lands from within ANCSA withdrawals.
- Unprecedented public access for subsistence and recreation activities on Economic Development Lands is guaranteed and protected in legislation {Sec. 4(d)(1)(D)(i)}.
- Public road and trail easements are reserved {Section 4(d)(1)(A) and 4(d)(1)(B)}.
- Economic development lands will be used primarily for forest management, which benefits the regional economy and shareholders through employment, distributions and financial support for cultural preservation activities and educational scholarships.
- Sealaska will continue to share its timber revenues with all Alaska Natives, regardless of where they live, in accordance with 7(i) revenue sharing provisions, and has already distributed over \$310 million, making it the second highest 7(i) contributor.

**Tongass Land Management Plan {Section 5(c)(1)}** *Haa Aaní* will not result in a federal action requiring amendment of the Tongass Forest Land Management Plan.

### **Administrative and Technical Amendments {Sections 4 and 5}**

- Upon fulfillment of its ANCSA land entitlement Sealaska will relinquish remaining selection rights to 327,000 acres of valuable land remaining in original withdrawal areas {Section 4(b)}, consisting of 277,000 acres of designated roadless areas and 112,000 acres of productive old-growth.
- Deeds for 89 original ANCSA 14(h)(1) historic site conveyances, are modified to be in alignment with the allowable uses of the sacred sites conveyed under the legislation {Section 4(g) and (f)}.
- Economic development land and Native enterprise sites will not come out of any conservation unit system (Wilderness or LUD II areas) in {Section 4(c)}.

**Resolution of Final Entitlement {Section 6}** *Haa Aaní* will identify the final entitlement acreage for Sealaska pursuant to ANCSA, to truly finalize Sealaska's land entitlement, rather than awaiting completion of the 14(h)(8) land entitlement formula and allocation.

**Conservation and Habitat Areas {Section 7}** *Haa Aaní* will designate approximately 150,000 acres as new Conservation and Wildlife Habitat Protection Areas to protect and enhance subsistence activities an unique biological and geological resources.