

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1879

To resolve the claims of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., to lands adjacent to the Russian River in the State of Alaska.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 20 (legislative day, DECEMBER 18), 2001

Mr. MURKOWSKI (for himself and Mr. STEVENS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To resolve the claims of Cook Inlet Region, Inc., to lands adjacent to the Russian River in the State of Alaska.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Russian River Land
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

9 (1) Certain lands adjacent to the Russian River
10 in the area of its confluence with the Kenai River

1 contain abundant archaeological resources of signifi-
2 cance to the Native people of the Cook Inlet Region,
3 the Kenaitze Indian Tribe, and the citizens of the
4 United States.

5 (2) Those lands at the confluence of the Rus-
6 sian River and Kenai River contain abundant fish-
7 eries resources of great significance to the citizens of
8 Alaska.

9 (3) Cook Inlet Region, Inc., an Alaska Native
10 Regional Corporation formed under the provisions of
11 the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971
12 (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) (hereinafter in this Act re-
13 ferred to as “ANCSA”), has selected lands in the
14 area pursuant to section 14(h)(1) of such Act (43
15 U.S.C. 1613(h)(1)), for their values as historic and
16 cemetery sites.

17 (4) The United States Bureau of Land Man-
18 agement, the Federal agency responsible for the ad-
19 judication of ANCSA selection, has not finished ad-
20 judicating Cook Inlet Region, Inc.’s selections under
21 section 14(h)(1) of that Act as of the date of the en-
22 actment of this Act.

23 (5) The Bureau of Indian Affairs has certified
24 a portion of Cook Inlet Region, Inc.’s selections
25 under section 14(h)(1) of ANCSA as containing pre-

1 historic and historic cultural artifacts, and meeting
2 the requirements of section 14(h)(1) of that Act.

3 (6) A portion of the selections under section
4 14(h)(1) of ANCSA made by Cook Inlet Region,
5 Inc., and certified by the Bureau of Indian Affairs
6 lies within the Chugach National Forest over which
7 the United States Forest Service is the agency cur-
8 rently responsible for the administration of public
9 activities, archaeological features, and natural re-
10 sources.

11 (7) A portion of the selections under section
12 14(h)(1) of ANCSA and the lands certified by the
13 Bureau of Indian Affairs lies within the Kenai Na-
14 tional Wildlife Refuge over which the United States
15 Fish and Wildlife Service is the land managing
16 agency currently responsible for the administration
17 of public activities, archaeological features, and nat-
18 ural resources.

19 (8) The area addressed by this Act lies within
20 the Sqilantnu Archaeological District which was de-
21 termined eligible for the National Register of His-
22 toric Places on December 31, 1981.

23 (9) Both the Forest Service and the Fish and
24 Wildlife Service dispute the validity and timeliness of

1 Cook Inlet Region, Inc.'s selections under section
2 14(h)(1) of ANCSA.

3 (10) The Forest Service, Fish and Wildlife
4 Service, and Cook Inlet Region, Inc., determined
5 that it was in the interest of the United States and
6 Cook Inlet Region, Inc., to—

7 (A) protect and preserve the outstanding
8 historic, cultural, and natural resources of the
9 area;

10 (B) resolve their disputes concerning the
11 validity of Cook Inlet Region, Inc.'s selections
12 under section 14(h)(1) of ANCSA without liti-
13 gation; and

14 (C) provide for the management of public
15 use of the area and protection of the cultural
16 resources within the Sqilantnu Archaeological
17 District, particularly the management of the
18 area at the confluence of the Russian and
19 Kenai Rivers.

20 (11) Legislation is required to enact the resolu-
21 tion reached by the Forest Service, the Fish and
22 Wildlife Service, and Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

23 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to ratify
24 an agreement between the Department of Agriculture, the
25 Department of the Interior, and Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

1 **SEC. 3. RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE**
2 **UNITED STATES FOREST SERVICE, UNITED**
3 **STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE, AND**
4 **COOK INLET REGION, INC.**

5 (a) RATIFICATION OF AGREEMENT.—The terms, condi-
6 tions, covenants, and procedures set forth in the document
7 entitled “Russian River Section 14(h)(1) Selection Agree-
8 ment”, which was executed by Cook Inlet Region, Inc.,
9 the United States Department of Agriculture, and the
10 United States Department of the Interior on July 26,
11 2001 (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the “Agree-
12 ment”), are hereby incorporated in this section, and are
13 ratified, as to the duties and obligations of the United
14 States and the Cook Inlet Region, Inc., as a matter of
15 Federal law. In the event any of the terms of the Agree-
16 ment conflict with any other provision of law, the terms
17 of the Agreement shall be controlling.

18 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF ACTIONS.—Notwithstanding
19 any other provision of law, the Secretaries of Agriculture
20 and the Interior are authorized to take all actions required
21 under the terms of the Agreement.

22 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.**

23 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Depart-
24 ment of Agriculture, Office of State and Private Forestry,
25 \$13,800,000, to remain available until expended, for Cook
26 Inlet Region, Inc., for the following:

1 (1) Costs for the planning and design of the
2 Joint Visitor's Interpretive Center.

3 (2) Planning and design of the Sqilantnu Ar-
4 chaeological Research Center.

5 (3) Construction of these facilities to be estab-
6 lished in accordance with and for the purposes set
7 forth in the Agreement.

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