

APPENDIX 5

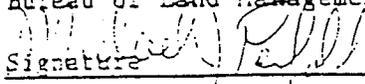
Policy for Signing ANCSA 17(b) Easements

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Section 17(b) easements have been mandated by Congress, defined by the courts and reserved in the land conveyance documents. These easements provide access across private lands located between tracts of public land, between tracts of public land and bodies of public waters, between separate bodies of public waters, and facilitate travel on bodies of public waters. This signing policy has been established to make it easier for the public to locate and use these easements and to avoid or minimize conflicts between private land owners and easement users.

It is the policy of the signatory agencies to post signs on ANCSA 17(b) easements:

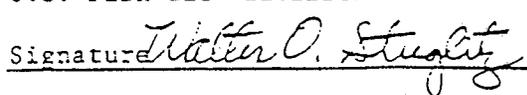
1. To provide easy recognition of and important use information about 17(b) easements. Use information will be consistent with the easement terms and conditions contained in conveyance documents;
2. In a manner consistent with the other Federal and State agencies, while recognizing individual agency sign standards;
3. Such that the basic signs are similar and recognizable in appearance, regardless of which agency is involved;
4. Such that, where practical and necessary, the appropriate signs shall be installed at the ends of each road and trail easement and at each access point along the road or trail.
5. Such that, where practical and necessary, markers shall be installed along each linear easement to identify the route of the easement;
6. Such that, where practical and necessary, appropriate signs shall be installed at each site easement to provide information needed by users, and the corners of site easements shall be staked and marked;
7. Such that additional signs may be constructed, installed, and used in conjunction with these basic easement signs at the discretion of the administering agency. Additional signs may present information about the particular area, speed limits, length and width of easement, distance to public lands, etc.;
8. Provided that "on the ground marking" and signing of these easements is subject to available funding. No timeframes are implied or suggested by this policy.

State Director, Alaska
Bureau of Land Management

Signature 

Regional Director, Alaska
National Park Service

Regional Director, Alaska
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Signature 

Regional Director, Alaska
U.S. Forest Service

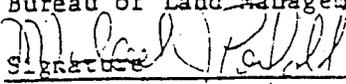
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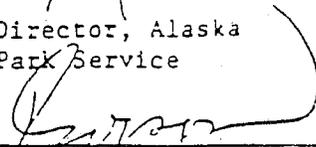
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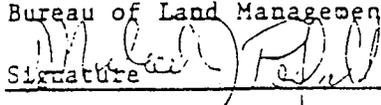
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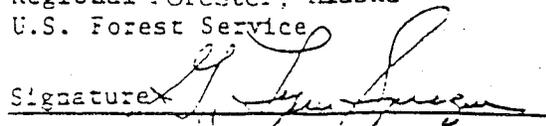
Regional Director, Alaska
National Park Service

Signature _____

Regional Director, Alaska
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Signature _____

Regional Forester, Alaska
U.S. Forest Service

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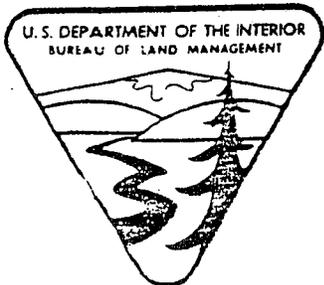
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

ACCESS ROUTE TO PUBLIC LANDS

UNLESS OTHERWISE RESTRICTED
AUTHORIZED USES INCLUDE

STAY ON TRAIL

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT



THE WILLFUL DEFACING OR
REMOVAL OF PUBLIC LAND
NOTICES SUBJECT TO CRIMIN
PROSECUTION WHICH MA
RESULT IN A FINE AND OR
IMPRISONMENT

18 USC 1361
UP TO \$10,000 FINE AND OR
10 YEARS

WINTER USE ONLY
LIMITED TO:
FOOT, DOGSLED, ANIMALS,
SNOWMOBILES, 2 OR 3 WHEEL
VEHICLES, ATV'S LESS THAN
3,000 POUND GVW.

1A

**SUMMER USE ONLY
LIMITED TO:
FOOT, DOGSLED, ANIMALS,
SNOWMOBILES, 2 OR 3 WHEEL
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3,000 POUND GVW.**

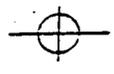
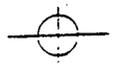
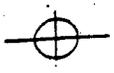
1B

LIMITED TO:
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16

WINTER USE ONLY
LIMITED TO:
FOOT, DOGSLED, ANIMALS,
SNOWMOBILES, 2 OR 3 WHEEL
VEHICLES, ATV'S TRACK VEHICLES
AND 4-WD VEHICLES.

1D



08

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1E

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IF

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

**SITE EASEMENT
USES LIMITED TO**

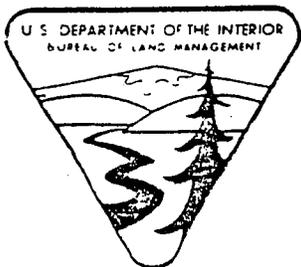
VEHICLE PARKING

CAMPING LESS THAN 24 HOURS

LOADING & UNLOADING EQUIPMENT

SITE BOUNDARY MARKED BY SIGNS

HELP MAINTAIN YOUR EASEMENTS



THE WILLFUL DEFACTING OR
REMOVAL OF PUBLIC LANDS
NOTICES SUBJECT TO CRIMINAL
PROSECUTION WHICH MAY
RESULT IN A FINE AND OR
IMPRISONMENT

18 USC 5 1361
UP TO \$10,000 FINE AND OR
10 YEARS

REQUIREMENTS FOR PREPARING TO LOCATE, MARK, SIGN, AND GPS SURVEY
17(b) EASEMENTS

A. Records review and research.

We should review the records prior to going on the ground. The review should include:

1. Conveyance documents and easement quads. It is important to compare the current easement quads to the quads issued with the original IC to determine the easement's reserved location. Some current quads have indexing errors and portray the easement's location incorrectly.
 2. MTPs and aerial photos.
 3. Determine and verify land status and any conflicts or discontinuity of the easement.
 4. Determine which easements are marked and adequately GPS surveyed or do not require marking or GPS survey.
 5. Research locations of RS2477 and other rights-of-way (such as Omnibus Roads) for the same alignment. Review 14© reconveyances involving easements. Also, check State of Alaska MTPs for easements acquired by the State.
 6. Determine any valid existing rights.
 7. Review any reports concerning hazards or hazardous materials in the area.
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8. Review applicable public and Native corporation land and resource plans.
 9. Determine whether any other item applies to or affects the easement route or location.
 10. Complete NHPA review to determine whether there are any cultural resource concerns (See Chapter VIII.).
 11. Complete NEPA compliance (See Chapter VIII.).

B. Field file folder.

The Field Offices should prepare a field file folder as a way to organize and document its activities. This folder should contain all the relevant information necessary to document the easement file, database, digitized quads or other public record. It is a work file and should be used in the field. It is not part of the official records but information stored or recorded in it may be copied into or transferred to the official easement file.

The file should contain the following information:

1. Copies of the conveyance, easement quad, MTP, and USGS 1" = 1 mile topo map. When available, an aerial photo of appropriate scale for the task at hand is helpful.
2. Name of the designated on-the-ground representative. Name, designated contact, address, and phone number of the appropriate village and regional corporation, if the representative does not accompany the field crew.
3. Information concerning any adjacent landowners. For example, a Native allotment that abuts the easement.
4. Any reports, concerns, clearances, etc., obtained or found in the **Review** stage above.
5. Any other information deemed appropriate.
6. All information obtained from an actual field inspection should be kept in this folder. For example, GPS readings for location data, types of markers and signs, their placement and spacing, difficulties encountered, possible future problems to watch for, etc. This information would be useful in a post-inspection report with recommended actions.

C. Landowner contact or notification.

As early in the planning stage as possible and prior to any on-the-ground activities, BLM will contact and coordinate with the landowner or corporation. The landowner or corporation may have useful information about cultural or other resources on or near the subject area. This contact may be verbal if we have an established relationship with them but written contact is generally preferred. If written contact is made, the notification should explain the project and request a meeting to discuss the project and answer questions or address concerns. Early contact can help ensure the project's success. When meeting with the landowner, Field Offices should:

1. Discuss the project to locate, mark, sign, and GPS survey the easements; solicit input; provide details of the proposed activities; and any other appropriate information.

2. Identify possible problems and solutions.
 3. Discuss ways to resolve the easement's location if it is wrong (title affirmation, donation/release). If it is known beforehand that the reserved location is not the same as the on-the-ground location, then we should have written permission to obtain data about the on-the-ground location.
 4. Ask the landowner to have a designated on-the-ground representative for the project with knowledge of the area or easements and who has the authority to resolve the problem or who will take problems back to the landowner for resolution. Request that the representative be designated in writing with address and phone number, if appropriate.
 5. Agree to have a method or process in place to address a problem that arises on-the-ground so it can be resolved immediately, if possible.
 6. Ask for a quick response from the landowner if problems are identified that can not be resolved on-the-ground.
 7. Document the file and describe whether the problem has or has not been resolved.
- D. Other agency contact.

Any agency that may be involved should be contacted as early in the process as possible. For example, BLM may have reserved an easement on a road or trail where the State has maintenance responsibilities and we want to locate, mark, sign, and GPS survey the easement. Involving the State would ensure mutual sharing of data and information. The State may already have GPS or other survey information that we can incorporate into our records.