

Frequently Asked Questions:

How do I know which land is private land and which land is public land?

Contact the Bureau of Land Management or the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources for the most recent information on land status. By 2009 final land management patterns within the State of Alaska will be known. At that time new maps can be developed that will help identify public and private land.

I have seen “No Trespassing” signs, are they accurate?

Many private land owners are trying to help the public become aware of what lands are now in private ownership and they are posting these lands. If you believe that a “No trespassing” sign has been posted in an inaccurate location, you may contact the Bureau of Land Management or the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources to obtain current land status information. It is helpful if you record specific information related to the posting, a highway milepost or GPS coordinate, for example. A photo may also be helpful in identifying the location in question.

How do I get to public land through private land?

17b Easements are rights reserved under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to provide access to public land across Native private land. These easements are reserved when the land title is transferred. The BLM must follow specific guidelines when reserving these easements.

Where can I find more information on ANSCA 17b easements?

You can refer to the BLM’s “ANSCA 17b Easements” brochure. This brochure answers the most common questions about these easements and explains what different types of easements exist and the allowable uses of the easements. This information is also available on the BLM website at: www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/lands_realty/17b_easements.html

If I use a 17b easement, can I be charged for parking at the trailhead?

In some places, a one-acre site easement exists at the 17b easement trailhead for changing modes of transportation. If a one-acre site easement exists, parking, temporary camping, and loading or unloading is permitted (camping, loading and unloading are only permitted up to 24 hours) and does not require a permit. If a one acres site easement does not exist at the 17b easement trailhead, then parking on the easement is not an allowable use of the easement. This action would be considered trespassing to the private land holder. It also may be considered as blocking the easement. Parking on private land at the trailhead would require permission or a permit from the private land holder. The 17b easement in this case allows the public to cross private land, but the allowable uses of that easement must be followed.

Can I be charged to use a trail that is not a 17b easement?

If the trail exists on private land and was not reserved as a 17b public easement, the private land holder has full ownership of this trail. If you want to use a trail on private land, you would have to obtain permission or a permit from the land holder.

How do I know which trails are public easements that I can use?

BLM has developed brochures and map, and will continue to develop more, that identify ANCSA 17b Easements, and some high-use trailheads have been identified. Contact the BLM, the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources or the private land holder for detailed information and land status.

Can a 17b easement be reserved after lands have already been transferred into private ownership?

Once the land has been transferred to a private owner by the BLM, clear title of that land has also been transferred. Easements cannot be reserved after the transfer of title to the land. Private land owners can give permission or permits to cross their land, even if an easement was not reserved.

How can I get answers about public trails and trail management on public lands?

If the trail is on lands that are federally managed by the BLM, you can contact the BLM and ask for their current management plan that covers that trail. The BLM's East Alaska Resource Management Plan Record of Decision and Approved Plan provides the BLM with management guidance and objectives for public trails under BLM federal management in the Ahtna region. For more information on this plan contact the BLM Glennallen Field Office at 907-822-3217. The plan can also be found on the web at:

www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/east_alaska_plan.html