

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 9496

To provide for the conveyance to the University of Alaska of certain public land in the State of Alaska, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives from being used to determine eligibility for certain programs, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Chilkoot National Historic Trail and to provide for a study of the Alaska Long Trail, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 12, 2022

Mrs. PELTOLA introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Natural Resources

---

## A BILL

To provide for the conveyance to the University of Alaska of certain public land in the State of Alaska, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to exclude certain payments to aged, blind, or disabled Alaska Natives or descendants of Alaska Natives from being used to determine eligibility for certain programs, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Chilkoot National Historic Trail and to provide for a study of the Alaska Long Trail, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Alaska Land Convey-  
3 ances and Trails Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. CONVEYANCES TO THE UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA.**

5 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 (1) AVAILABLE STATE-SELECTED LAND.—The  
7 term “available State-selected land” means Federal  
8 land in the State that has been selected by the State  
9 pursuant to section 6(b) of Public Law 85–508  
10 (commonly known as the “Alaska Statehood Act”)  
11 (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21), including land upon  
12 which the State has, prior to December 31, 1993,  
13 filed a future selection application under section  
14 906(e) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Con-  
15 servation Act (43 U.S.C. 1635(e)), but not conveyed  
16 or patented to the State, pursuant to Public Law  
17 85–508 (commonly known as the “Alaska Statehood  
18 Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21).

19 (2) INHOLDING.—The term “inholding” means  
20 any interest in land owned by the University with-  
21 in—

22 (A) any conservation system unit (as de-  
23 fined in section 102 of the Alaska National In-  
24 terest Lands Conservation Act (16 U.S.C.  
25 3102)); or

1 (B) any unit of the National Forest Sys-  
2 tem in the State.

3 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
4 the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Di-  
5 rector of the Bureau of Land Management.

6 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means the State  
7 of Alaska.

8 (5) UNIVERSITY.—The term “University”  
9 means the University of Alaska, acting through the  
10 Board of Regents.

11 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish  
12 a program within the Bureau of Land Management—

13 (1) to identify and convey available State-se-  
14 lected land to the University to support higher edu-  
15 cation in the State; and

16 (2) to acquire, by purchase or exchange, Uni-  
17 versity-owned inholdings in the State.

18 (c) IDENTIFICATION OF LAND TO BE CONVEYED TO  
19 THE UNIVERSITY.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 4 years after  
21 the date of enactment of this Act, the State and the  
22 University may jointly identify not more than  
23 500,000 acres of available State-selected land for in-  
24 clusion in the program established under subsection

1 (b), of which not more than 360,000 acres may be  
2 conveyed and patented to the University.

3 (2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—On the request  
4 of the State and the University, the Secretary shall  
5 provide technical assistance in the identification of  
6 available State-selected land for inclusion in the pro-  
7 gram established under subsection (b).

8 (3) MAPS.—As soon as practicable after the  
9 date on which the available State-selected land is  
10 identified under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall  
11 submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural  
12 Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Nat-  
13 ural Resources of the House of Representatives 1 or  
14 more maps depicting the available State-selected  
15 land identified for potential conveyance to the Uni-  
16 versity.

17 (4) CONVEYANCE.—Subject to paragraph (5), if  
18 the State and the University notify the Secretary in  
19 writing that the State and the University jointly  
20 concur with the conveyance of all or a portion of the  
21 available State-selected land identified under para-  
22 graph (1), and that the State will conditionally relin-  
23 quish the selection rights of the State to the land  
24 covered by the notification on the issuance of the  
25 land being tentatively approved, and will fully relin-

1       quish those selection rights on final patent by the  
2       Secretary to the University, the Secretary shall con-  
3       vey the applicable identified available State-selected  
4       land to the University, subject to valid existing  
5       rights, in the same manner and subject to the same  
6       terms, conditions, and limitations as is applicable to  
7       the State under section 6(b) of Public Law 85–508  
8       (commonly known as the “Alaska Statehood Act”)  
9       (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21) and other applicable law,  
10      to be held in trust for the exclusive use and benefit  
11      of the University, to be administered in accordance  
12      with subsection (e).

13               (5) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

14                   (A) MAXIMUM ACREAGE.—Subject to sub-  
15                   paragraph (C), the Secretary shall convey not  
16                   more than a total of 360,000 acres of available  
17                   State-selected land to the University under this  
18                   subsection, not to exceed the remaining entitle-  
19                   ment of the State under section 6(b) of Public  
20                   Law 85–508 (commonly known as the “Alaska  
21                   Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21).

22                   (B) LETTERS OF CONCURRENCE.—For  
23                   purposes of paragraph (4) and subject to the  
24                   maximum acreage limitation under paragraph  
25                   (1), the State and the University may submit to

1 the Secretary 1 or more joint letters of concur-  
2 rence identifying parcels of available State se-  
3 lected land for conveyance as a subset of the  
4 total acres to be conveyed under this subsection.

5 (C) ACREAGE CHARGED AGAINST ALASKA  
6 STATEHOOD ACT ENTITLEMENT.—The acreage  
7 of land conveyed to the University under this  
8 subsection shall be charged against the remain-  
9 ing entitlement of the State under section 6(b)  
10 of Public Law 85–508 (commonly known as the  
11 “Alaska Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec.  
12 21).

13 (D) SURVEY COSTS.—In accordance with  
14 Public Law 85–508 (commonly known as the  
15 “Alaska Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec.  
16 21), the Secretary shall be responsible for the  
17 costs of required surveys.

18 (E) SUBMERGED LANDS.—Lands beneath  
19 navigable waters (as defined in section 2 of the  
20 Submerged Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1301)) shall  
21 not be available for conveyance to the Univer-  
22 sity under the program established under sub-  
23 section (b).

24 (d) UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA INHOLDINGS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or the Sec-  
2           retary of Agriculture, as appropriate, may acquire  
3           by purchase or exchange, with the consent of the  
4           University, University-owned inholdings within Fed-  
5           eral land in the State.

6           (2) APPRAISALS.—The value of the land to be  
7           exchanged or acquired under this subsection shall be  
8           determined by the Secretary or the Secretary of Ag-  
9           riculture, as appropriate, through appraisals con-  
10          ducted—

11                   (A) in accordance with—

12                           (i) the Uniform Appraisal Standards  
13                           for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

14                           (ii) the Uniform Standards of Profes-  
15                           sional Appraisal Practice; and

16                   (B) by a qualified appraiser mutually  
17                   agreed to by the Secretary or the Secretary of  
18                   Agriculture, as appropriate, and the University.

19          (3) EQUAL VALUE EXCHANGES.—For any land  
20          exchange entered into under this subsection, the  
21          Federal land and University-owned inholdings ex-  
22          changed shall be of equal value.

23          (4) PURCHASE ACQUISITIONS.—Pursuant to  
24          chapter 2003 of title 54, United States Code,  
25          amounts in the Land and Water Conservation Fund

1 established by section 200302 of that title may be  
2 used for the purchase of University-owned inholdings  
3 within Federal land in the State under this sub-  
4 section.

5 (5) REQUIREMENT.—Any land acquired by the  
6 United States under this subsection shall be admin-  
7 istered in accordance with the laws (including regu-  
8 lations) applicable to the conservation system unit or  
9 unit of the National Forest System in which the  
10 land is located.

11 (e) ADMINISTRATION OF CONVEYED OR EXCHANGED  
12 LAND.—All available State-selected land that is ten-  
13 tatively approved or conveyed to the University under this  
14 section, and all land or assets acquired by the University  
15 through an exchange under this section, together with the  
16 income therefrom and the proceeds from any dispositions  
17 thereof, shall be administered by the University in trust  
18 to meet the necessary expenses of higher education pro-  
19 grams, similar to prior Federal land grants to the Univer-  
20 sity.

21 (f) STATE AND UNIVERSITY PARTICIPATION.—Noth-  
22 ing in this section requires the State or the University—

23 (1) to participate in the program established  
24 under subsection (b); or



1           (2) to enter into sales or exchanges of Univer-  
2           sity-owned inholdings under subsection (d).

3           (g) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than  
4 90 days after the date of any conveyance and patent to  
5 the University under this section, the Secretary shall no-  
6 tify the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of  
7 the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of  
8 the House of Representatives of the land conveyed and  
9 patented.

10          (h) NO EFFECT ON ALASKA STATEHOOD ACT ENTI-  
11 TLEMENT.—Except for any available State-selected land  
12 conveyed under subsection (c) and charged against the re-  
13 maining entitlement of the State under section 6(b) of  
14 Public Law 85–508 (commonly known as the “Alaska  
15 Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C. note prec. 21)—

16           (1) the operation of the program established  
17           under subsection (b) shall not diminish or alter the  
18           rights of the State to receive the entitlement of the  
19           State in any way; and

20           (2) the State may continue to pursue the trans-  
21           fer of the remaining entitlement of the State under  
22           section 6(b) of Public Law 85–508 (commonly  
23           known as the “Alaska Statehood Act”) (48 U.S.C.  
24           note prec. 21) at any time.

1 **SEC. 3. EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN SETTLEMENT TRUST PAY-**  
2 **MENTS TO CERTAIN ALASKA NATIVES FOR**  
3 **PURPOSES OF DETERMINING ELIGIBILITY**  
4 **FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL PROGRAMS.**

5 Section 29(c) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement  
6 Act (43 U.S.C. 1626(c)) is amended, in the undesignated  
7 matter following paragraph (3), by striking subparagraph  
8 (E) and inserting the following:

9 “(E) an interest in a Settlement Trust or an  
10 amount distributed from or benefit provided by a  
11 Settlement Trust to a Native or descendant of a Na-  
12 tive who is an aged, blind, or disabled individual (as  
13 defined in section 1614(a) of the Social Security Act  
14 (42 U.S.C. 1382c(a))).”.

15 **SEC. 4. CHILKOOT NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL; ALASKA**  
16 **LONG NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL STUDY.**

17 (a) DESIGNATION OF THE CHILKOOT NATIONAL HIS-  
18 TORIC TRAIL.—Section 5(a) of the National Trails System  
19 Act (16 U.S.C. 1244(a)) is amended by adding at the end  
20 the following:

21 “(31) CHILKOOT NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL.—  
22 “(A) DEFINITION OF INDIAN TRIBE.—In  
23 this paragraph, the term ‘Indian Tribe’ has the  
24 meaning given the term in section 4 of the In-  
25 dian Self-Determination and Education Assist-  
26 ance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

1           “(B) DESIGNATION.—The Chilkoot Na-  
2           tional Historic Trail, an approximately 16.5-  
3           mile route within the Klondike Gold Rush Na-  
4           tional Historical Park that was traditionally  
5           used as a trading route by the Tlingit and  
6           Tagish people and as the primary route by  
7           which people made their way to the Klondike  
8           during the gold rush, as generally depicted on  
9           the map entitled ‘Proposed Chilkoot National  
10          Historic Trail’, numbered KLGO-461-173787,  
11          and dated October 2020.

12           “(C) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The map de-  
13          scribed in subparagraph (B) shall be on file and  
14          available for public inspection in the appro-  
15          priate offices of the National Park Service.

16           “(D) ADMINISTRATION.—

17           “(i) IN GENERAL.—The Chilkoot Na-  
18          tional Historic Trail shall be administered  
19          by the Secretary of the Interior, in con-  
20          sultation and coordination with affected  
21          Indian Tribes.

22           “(ii) CONTRACTS, COMPACTS, AND  
23          AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of the Inte-  
24          rior may enter into contracts, compacts,  
25          and cooperative agreements with Indian

1 Tribes to protect, preserve, maintain, in-  
2 terpret, or operate any site, service, or  
3 property included within or outside the  
4 Klondike Gold Rush National Historical  
5 Park that is associated with the Chilkoot  
6 National Historic Trail.

7 “(iii) FUNDING AGREEMENTS.—The  
8 Secretary of the Interior may enter into  
9 funding agreements with Indian Tribes to  
10 encourage Tribal participation in the plan-  
11 ning, protection, operation, development,  
12 or maintenance of the Chilkoot National  
13 Historic Trail in accordance with the In-  
14 dian Self-Determination and Education  
15 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

16 “(E) EFFECT.—The designation of the  
17 Chilkoot National Historic Trail shall not affect  
18 any authorities under Public Law 94–323 (16  
19 U.S.C. 410bb et seq.).

20 “(F) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The  
21 Secretary of the Interior may coordinate with  
22 public and nongovernmental organizations and  
23 institutions of higher education in the United  
24 States and Canada, and, in consultation with  
25 the Secretary of State, the Government of Can-

1           ada, and any political subdivisions of the Gov-  
2           ernment of Canada, for the purposes of—

3                   “(i) exchanging information and re-  
4                   search relating to the Chilkoot National  
5                   Historic Trail;

6                   “(ii) supporting the preservation of,  
7                   and educational programs relating to, the  
8                   Chilkoot National Historic Trail;

9                   “(iii) providing technical assistance  
10                  with respect to the Chilkoot National His-  
11                  toric Trail; and

12                  “(iv) working to establish an inter-  
13                  national historic trail incorporating the  
14                  Chilkoot National Historic Trail that pro-  
15                  vides for complementary preservation and  
16                  education programs in the United States  
17                  and Canada.”.

18           (b) ALASKA LONG NATIONAL SCENIC TRAIL  
19 STUDY.—Section 5(c) of the National Trails System Act  
20 (16 U.S.C. 1244(c)) is amended by adding at the end the  
21 following:

22                   “(48) ALASKA LONG TRAIL.—

23                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Alaska Long  
24                   Trail, extending approximately 500 miles from  
25                   Seward, Alaska, to Fairbanks, Alaska.

1           “(B) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of  
2 the Interior, acting through the Director of the  
3 Bureau of Land Management (referred to in  
4 this paragraph as the ‘Secretary’), shall study  
5 the feasibility of designating the trail described  
6 in subparagraph (A), including evaluating the  
7 potential impacts of the trail on rights-of-way,  
8 existing rights, or other recreational uses of the  
9 land proposed to be used for the trail.

10           “(C) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall  
11 conduct the study under this paragraph in con-  
12 sultation with—

13                   “(i) the Secretary of Agriculture, act-  
14 ing through the Chief of the Forest Serv-  
15 ice;

16                   “(ii) the State of Alaska;

17                   “(iii) units of local government in the  
18 State of Alaska;

19                   “(iv) applicable Indian Tribes (as de-  
20 fined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Deter-  
21 mination and Education Assistance Act  
22 (25 U.S.C. 5304)) in the State of Alaska;  
23 and

24                   “(v) representatives of the private sec-  
25 tor in the State of Alaska, including any

1                   entity that holds a permit issued by the  
2                   Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.”.

○