

August 2020

Petersburg questions on discussion draft of Landless legislation – general and initial information for discussion purposes only, this information is not final, authoritative, or definitive.

1. How will removing acreage from the National Forest System under the proposed legislation affect future PILT payments to the Petersburg Borough?

*There may be small impacts to PILT payments, although currently the population of Petersburg drives PILT calculations. We are working with the Department of the Interior to confirm these affects. We are also evaluating how to avoid any impacts that might occur.*

2. How will removing acreage from the National Forest System under the proposed legislation affect future SRS payments to the Petersburg Borough?

*There may be small impacts to SRS payments, although the acreage affected is a very small percentage of land driving SRS calculations. We are working with the Department of Agriculture to confirm these affects. We are also evaluating how to avoid any impacts that might occur.*

3. Will all lands selected within the Petersburg Borough be conveyed to the Urban Corporation formed by the Native residents of Petersburg?

*All of the approximately 23,000 acres of federal land indicated on the map will be transferred to the urban corporation, without a preliminary “selection” step or phase.*

4. Could lands selected under the proposed legislation within the Petersburg Borough be conveyed to one of the newly formed Urban Corporations in a different community?

*Each new urban corporation will receive specifically the respective lands indicated on the respective map.*

5. Could lands selected under the proposed legislation within the Petersburg Borough be conveyed to a Regional Corporation?

*There are not general restrictions on future conveyances by the village corporations, but under the proposed legislation lands would not be conveyed to a regional corporation.*

6. Must the entire 23,040 acres of compensation for the proposed Petersburg Urban Corporation be selected from within the Petersburg Borough?

*All of the approximately 23,000 acres of federal land indicated on the map will be transferred to the urban corporation, without a preliminary “selection” step or phase.*

7. Who will own the subsurface rights of lands conveyed under the proposed legislation?

*The legislation that those rights would transfer to the regional Alaska Native Corporation (in this case Sealaska).*

8. Will public access be maintained on all existing federal forest roads conveyed under the proposed legislation?

*Provisions of the legislation currently protect certain kinds of public access which may include certain uses on certain forest roads, but forest road access is not explicitly confirmed. There is the potential to*

*include further protections based on the nature and extent of public use of forest roads on the identified parcels. Any areas of identified concern would be appreciated.*

9. The State of Alaska Dept of Transportation is planning to construct the Kake Access Road. Per maps provided by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff, portions of the route are within selected lands; will public access be maintained throughout this route?

*The legislation is not meant to disrupt public access or infrastructure, and will engage with the Department of Transportation to assess how the legislation may affect the route or could be adjusted to avoid the route.*

10. Will utility corridors/easements be maintained along existing roads and platted right-of-ways on lands conveyed under the proposed legislation?

*The legislation maintains public access and easements, but does not explicitly identify utility corridors or rights-of-way. Examples of these on parcels identified on the maps would be appreciated.*

11. Will existing boat ramps, LTF sites, and other transportation infrastructure be conveyed under the proposed legislation?

*These facilities will be conveyed under the current discussion draft of the legislation.*

12. Per maps provided by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff, the selections appear to encompass the existing FS recreational cabin at Portage Bay. Will this cabin be conveyed under the proposed legislation?

*We are evaluating this question with the U.S. Forest Service.*

13. Per maps provided by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee staff, the selections include existing road infrastructure used by Petersburg residents to access long-standing hunting (moose/deer/black bear) and trapping areas in Thomas Bay, Portage Bay, and Mitkof Island. How will individual and commercial hunting and trapping activities be preserved once the lands are conveyed under the proposed legislation?

*There are provisions of the legislation meant to preserve both public and commercial hunting access in several respects.*

14. Could the Secretary of Interior accept or acquire lands conveyed under the proposed legislation in trust under the Indian Reorganization Act?

*The legislation would not provide specific legal status to the lands conveyed to the five new urban corporations with respect to the Indian Reorganization Act, they would be treated as any other Alaska Native Corporation land for purposes of the Act. The scope of the Secretary's authorities to acquire lands in trust, or not, would not be affected by the legislation.*