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Alaska Spatial Data Management System

SDMS

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Welcome to the Bureau of Land Management's Spatial Data Management System website. The SDMS website provides access to on-line BLM-Alaska land record documents, reports and GIS data.

Alaska Case Reporting Enterprise System

The ACRES reports contain BLM Alaska case information. Reports include native, state and private land conveyance cases, as well as, leases, permits, federal mining claims, easements and more.

SDMS Land & Resources Map Interface

Interactive map interface portraying lands and natural resources information in Alaska. Provides data download services, access to land parcel data, documents and case reports. Data streaming service available.

Conveyance Documents

Scanned images of BLM Alaska land conveyance documents including: Patents, Tentative Agreements and Interim Conveyances issued since 1965.

Master Title Plats

Scanned images of BLM Alaska MTPs. These maps portray the Bureau's record of current federal land ownership and land status.

Survey Plats

Scanned images of Cadastral land survey plats and field notes.

→ ANCSA 17(b) Easement Maps

Scanned images of federal easements across native lands, presented on USGS quadrangles.

Please note that the on-line data and documents available through this site do not constitute nor replace official legal records, documents or case files. Refer to specific records on file at BLM for official record information.

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Section 17(b) easement general information **Alaska**

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17(b) easements¹ are rights reserved to the United States. They take the form of 60-foot wide roads, 25- and 50-foot trails, and one-acre sites for short-term uses. These rights are reserved² when the BLM conveys land to a Native corporation under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). There are no 17(b) easements across public lands.



17(b) easement General Information
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Seldovia 17b easement

What is the purpose of 17(b) easements?

Most 17(b) easements are reserved to allow the public to cross private property to reach public lands³ and major waterways. Using 17(b) easements does not allow the public to use the private lands these easements cross. It is very similar to the street in front of many homes. The public has the right to travel on the street, but they do not have the right to dump litter on private property or trespass on private lawns.

Notes:

¹ 17(b) easements may also be reserved to and from communities, airports, docks, marine coastline, groups of private holdings sufficient in number to constitute public use and government facilities. See 43 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 2650.4-7 for a complete listing of the types of public easements.

² The authorities for reserving 17(b) easements are the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 43 U.S.C. 1616(b) and 43 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR) 2650.4-7.

³ Publicly owned land means all Federal, State, or municipal and borough lands or interests and submerged lands as defined by the Submerged Lands Act. This definition of public lands also includes lands selected by, but not conveyed to, a Native corporation.

General Legal Authorities & Agreements

- Section 17(b) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of December 18, 1971, 43 U.S.C. 1616 (1b) (authority for reserving public easements)
- Federal Land Management Policy Act of 1976 (FLPMA)
- Section 903 (a) and (b) of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of December 2, 1980, (adds guiding principles when reserving easements and authorizes the acquisition of easements)
- Code of Federal Regulations 43 CFR 2650.4-7 and 2650.0-5 (public easements)
- Code of Federal Regulations 43 CFR 4.410 (who can appeal)
- Departmental Manual 601 DM 4 (Department of the Interior guidance on administration of Section 17(b) easements)
- Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) among the BLM, NPS, and FWS dated 12/12/88 (governs which agency will administer, the process for administering, and the termination of Section 17(b) easements)
- MOU between the BLM and the USFS dated 9/4/90 (governs which agency will administer, the process for administering, and the termination of Section 17(b) easements)

How are 17(b) easements identified and reserved?

The identification process begins when a Native corporation prioritizes selected lands for conveyance. The BLM reviews the lands for public easement needs and requests comments from the Native corporations, the State of Alaska, and interested parties. The information is analyzed using the 17(b) easement criteria and the results are documented. The BLM includes the approved 17(b) easements in an appealable decision and the lands are later conveyed to the Native corporation with the easements reserved to the United States.

How can I tell the difference between private land and public land, and how do I know where 17(b) easements are found?

Prior to heading out to public lands, visit your nearest BLM public room to determine who owns the land you intend to cross to reach your destination. Master title plats show land ownership, but they don't show 17(b) easements. Lands that have been conveyed to a Native corporation are privately owned by that corporation, but public lands that have been selected by the corporation and not yet conveyed are still public lands and may be used by the public.



The 17(b) easement allows the public to cross conveyed lands, but the route reserved in the conveyance document and the uses allowed on that easement must be followed. The public room will assist you with looking up the title documents, which will show you the easements reserved. The documents conveying the land to the Native corporation

will identify the 17(b) easements, which are shown on easement maps, but the easement maps do not depict land ownership.

Can 17(b) easements be terminated?

Yes, but only the BLM can terminate a 17(b) easement, using the following process. When the BLM or the easement manager determines that an easement is no longer necessary, the BLM must provide public notice that the easement is proposed for termination and request comments from the public. After reviewing the comments and determining the easement is no longer required, the BLM issues an appealable decision terminating the easement. The BLM terminates the public easement when the decision is final by issuing a release of interest.

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View various 17(b) easement maps from the Spatial Data Management System (SDMS) map interface by selecting "Easements" and then ANCSA region's easements under the Layers menu. Or visit the [SDMS Home page](#) for more 17(b) map information.

Last updated: 04-07-2009

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The uses allowed on a 17(b) easement are limited, and they are described in the conveyance document issued to a Native corporation. Common allowable uses for most 17(b) easements are described below. Any use other than what is described in the conveyance document is not authorized. Please check with the agency managing the easement or the owner of the land it crosses if authorized uses are not posted at the trailhead or site easement.

An example of authorized use is: motorized vehicles on 25-foot-wide trails are generally limited to snowmobiles, two- and three-wheeled vehicles, and all-terrain vehicles having less than 3,000 lbs. gross weight. Larger vehicles are not authorized on a 25-foot public easement, even if the physical condition of the trail would support the use. An easement may also be limited to seasonal use. The land owner is not bound by these restrictions.

Common Allowable Uses

25-Foot Trail— The uses allowed on a 25-foot-wide trail easement are travel by: foot, dogsleds, animals, snowmobiles, two- and three-wheeled off-highway vehicles; and small all-terrain vehicles (less than 3,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight).

50-Foot Trail— The uses allowed on a 50-foot-wide trail easement are those allowed for a 25-foot trail plus large all-terrain vehicles (more than 3,000 lbs. gross vehicle weight), tracked vehicles, and four-wheel-drive vehicles.

60-Foot Road— The uses allowed on a 60-foot-wide road easement are those allowed for 25- and 50-foot trails plus automobiles and trucks.

1-Acre Site— The uses allowed on a site easement are: vehicle parking (such as aircraft, boats, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, cars, and trucks), temporary camping, and loading or unloading. Temporary camping and loading or unloading is limited to 24 hours.

Can I hunt, fish, or trap on or from a 17(b) easement?

No. Hunting, fishing, or trapping on or from the easement are never allowed, unless you obtain a permit from the landowner for this purpose.

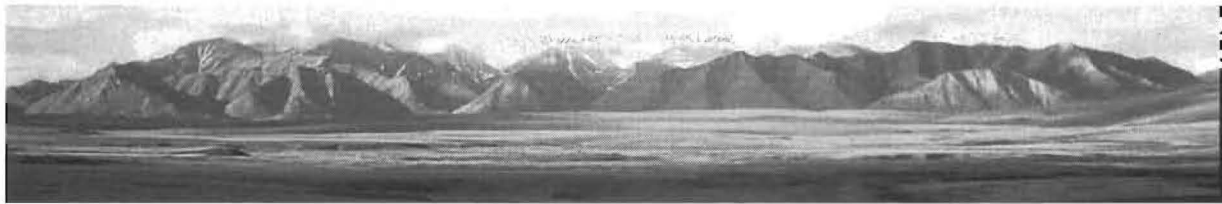


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Where can I find information on 17(b) easements?

Alaska Easement General Information

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Download **Black and White** 17(b) Easement brochure- 2.2 MB

Download **Color** 17(b) Easement brochure- 2.9 MB

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Federal Land Agencies

Bureau of Land Management www.blm.gov/ak
 Alaska State Office (907) 271-5960
 Anchorage District Office
 Anchorage Field Office (907) 267-1246
 Glennallen Field Office (907) 822-3217
 Fairbanks District Office (907) 474-2251

US Fish and Wildlife Service
 Anchorage Div. of Realty and Natural Resources (907) 786-3490
 1-888-697-9826
<http://alaska.fws.gov/nwr/realty/map/easements.htm>

National Park Service www.nps.gov/state/ak
 Alaska Regional Office (907) 644-3427

State of Alaska Agencies

Dept. of Fish and Game www.adfg.state.ak.us
 Anchorage Office (907) 267-2463

Dept. of Natural Resources www.dnr.state.ak.us
 Anchorage Office (907) 269-8400
 Fairbanks Office (907) 451-2705

Native Regional Corporations

Corporation	Town	Website	Phone number
Ahtna, Inc.	Glennallen, AK	www.ahtna-inc.com	(907) 822-3476
Aleut	Anchorage, AK	www.aleutcorp.com	(907) 561-4300
Arctic Slope	Anchorage, AK	www.asrc.com	(907) 339-6000
Bering Straits	Nome, AK	www.beringstraits.com	(907) 443-5252
Bristol Bay	Anchorage, AK	www.bbnc.com	(907) 278-3602
Calista	Anchorage, AK	www.calistacorp.com	(907) 279-5516
Chugach Alaska	Anchorage, AK	www.chugach-ak.com	(907) 563-8866
Cook Inlet (CIRI)	Anchorage, AK	www.ciri.com	(907) 274-8638
Doyon, Limited	Fairbanks, AK	www.doyon.com	(907) 459-2000
Koniag	Kodiak, AK	www.koniag.com	(907) 486-2530
NANA	Kotzebue, AK	www.nana.com	(907) 442-3301
Sealaska	Juneau, AK	www.sealaska.com	(907) 586-1512

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Last updated: 12/06/2012

rick elliott

From: "Blome, Russ" <rblome@blm.gov>
Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013 5:30 PM
To: <rickelliott@gci.net>
Subject: 17(b) Easement Links on BLM Alaska External Site
Rick -

Try these two links and let me know if they work for you:

<http://sdms.ak.blm.gov/sdms/> (17b easement quads and other useful information)

http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/lands_realty/17b_easements.html (General 17b easement Information)

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