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GSA FORM 6801-C (REV. 1-73)

RG 126

OFFICE OF TERRITORIES  
CLASSIFIED FILES, 1907-1951

9-1-33 ALASKA, GAME, RESERVATIONS  
9-1-33 ALASKA, GAME, YAK

Box No. 321

RG 126, Off. of Territories  
E. 1-B, CCF, 1907-51  
Box 321

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

File No. 9 1 33

( Part 2 )

DIVISION OF TERRITORIES AND ISLAND POSSESSIONS

-0-

ALASKA

-0-

GAME  
RESERVATIONS  
GENERAL

**IMPORTANT**

This file constitutes a part of the official records of the Department and should not be separated or papers withdrawn without express authority of the Secretary.

All files should be returned promptly to the File Room.

Officials and employees will be held responsible for failure to observe these rules, which are necessary to protect the integrity of official records.

*Harold C. Ickes*

Secretary.

Sept. 17, 1937  
to

*Jan. 2, 1946*

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

-738\*

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IN REPLY REFER TO:  
1

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
DIVISION OF TERRITORIES AND ISLAND POSSESSIONS  
WASHINGTON

AIR MAIL

June 10, 1941.

Mr. Paul W. Gordon,  
c/o the Governor's Office,  
Juneau, Alaska.

My dear Mr. Gordon:

Reference is made to your letter of May 27 relative to the requests of the Army for a bombing range on Kenai Peninsula and in the Wood River region.

I understand that the General Land Office is opposed to reserving land on Kenai for either a moose reserve or a bombing range. The matter is still under discussion. Apparently Fish and Wildlife had no objections to the War Department's request for a reserve in the Wood River region. I enclose a copy of a proposed ~~mail~~ *executory order* on which Fish and Wildlife reported relative to this region.

Sincerely yours,

*Ruth Hampton*  
Ruth Hampton,  
Assistant Director.

Enclosures.

Rec'd for filing

SEP 23 1941

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Box 321

TERRITORY OF ALASKA  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
JUNEAU

CONFIDENTIAL

May 27, 1941

Mrs. Ruth Hampton, Assistant Director  
Division of Territories and Island Possessions  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mrs. Hampton:

Sometime before I left Washington the General Land Office referred to the Division two requests for reserves on the Kenai Peninsula which conflicted and overlapped. One was a request from the Fish and Wildlife Service for a moose reserve on the North end of the Peninsula. The War Department requested a reserve for a bombing range which included the area desired by the Fish and Wildlife Service. You will find from the files that the Division has gone on record recommending the moose reserve and that the Army seek another area for its use. As the memo which I prepared for the Director's signature will indicate, the Kenai Peninsula is one of *The home of* the largest species of moose in the world; also the lower Susitna area could be used by the Army for its bombing range.

Since coming to Juneau two other matters bearing upon the question of wild life protection, its conflicting with the desires of the Army have been brought to my attention which I believe should be referred to you for discussion with Mr. Gabrielson, and possible with officials of the General Land Office, with Mr. Burlew and with the Secretary.

I am informed that the War Department has asked for a reserve in the Wood River region, a reserve similar to that requested on the Kenai Peninsula. This area also is one rich in wildlife resources and to me it is an area not as available as other areas might be for the use of the bombers stationed at Fairbanks. I do not recall having seen the Wood River request before leaving Washington. Perhaps the files should be consulted however to make sure. At any rate it appears to me that neither the Kenai Peninsula area nor the Wood River area should be surrendered for bombing purposes.

There has also come to my attention the desire of Army officials stationed in Alaska to secure hunting privileges for Army personnel on the same basis as those enjoyed by resident Alaskans. In this connection I enclose copies of a letter dated April 30 to Mr. Keith McCoy, Field Director of the American Red Cross at Fort Richardson sent by Mr. Bartlett as Acting Governor, copies of a letter of May 5 to Mr. Folta from General Buckner of Fort Richardson and copies of a letter dated May 13 to General Buckner from Mr. Folta.

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Mrs. Ruth Hampton

-2-

A copy of the opinion dated November 2 by Mr. Folta, I believe, is on file with the Division. A copy was sent also, I understand, to the Solicitor. This correspondence is furnished you because in my opinion it is essential as background material and also because it occurs to me the exchange of letters between Mr. Folta and General Buckner may be brought to the attention of the Department by War Department.

If the wildlife resources of Alaska, especially in the neighborhood of the military establishments, are to be protected and preserved, proper cognizance must be given the fact that for the most part the game animals of the Territory already require strict protection. It is not believed possible to permit hunting under existing laws and regulations by the increased number of hunters represented by the military cantonements of Alaska without depleting many species over many areas. It is surprising, that the areas chosen by the Army for bombing practice for its two main air bases are among the richest of the Territory's game areas. This is so startling that it has given rise to the suspicion that perhaps these areas may indeed be desired as shooting (not bombing) reserves for the Army. It is not necessary however to subscribe to this suspicion in order to resist vigorously the use of these areas for bombing purposes.

I do not know what, if any, action has been taken on the Army's recommendations but if they have not already been rejected you may want this material for discussions with those of the Department in a position to take proper action. My conversations regarding the Kenai area were with Mr. Henderson of the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Kenai request was also the subject of a discussion in one of the meetings of the Alaska Committee held by Mr. Wolfsohn. Presumably if the requests of the War Department have not been acted upon by the Department of Interior they are resting somewhere in the General Land Office. Undoubtedly Mr. Wolfsohn or Mr. Havell will know about them.

Of course this matter has been discussed with Mr. Bartlett. This letter and materials are sent with his knowledge, concurrence and endorsement.

Very sincerely yours,



Paul W. Gordon  
Supervisor of Alaskan Affairs

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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
DIVISION OF TERRITORIES AND ISLAND POSSESSIONS  
WASHINGTON

9-1-33  
Preservation  
General  
Emling

February 8, 1941.

MEMORANDUM to Mr. Johnson,  
Commissioner, General Land Office.

I have given considerable thought to your memorandum of January 10 asking my reaction to the conflicting requests of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the War Department represented by their applications for reserves of land on the Kenai Peninsula.

Naturally we have not been able to make a field examination of the area covered by the overlapping requests, nor of the areas which might be substituted. My judgment in the matter is, therefore, predicated upon the general assumption that human beings can adapt themselves to any one of a variety of locations far more easily than other animals-- in this case the moose of Kenai Peninsula.

The area chosen by the Fish and Wildlife Service is more or less unique in that it is the habitat and breeding ground of the largest species of moose and it represents perhaps one of the last stands of the moose. So far as I know, no other area in Alaska would serve the same purpose; neither can the reserve fulfill its mission if the portion covered by the Army request be eliminated. I may also say that wildlife in this area and the area adjacent to which moose migrate is an important factor in the economy of the Kenai Peninsula and can if protected become a permanent source of interest and income.

Although I am not technically qualified to pass upon the requirements of the War Department, it seems to me possible to find a bombing range in some other locality say, the lower Susitna area immediately across from Anchorage, Knik Arm and Cook Inlet. Your memorandum indicates that a conference on this matter will probably be held between representatives of the Fish and Wildlife Service and representatives of the War Department. I somehow feel certain that an agreement can be reached between the two which will accommodate both services. So far as I can see, such an agreement cannot, however, be based upon dual use of the area involved. Another location will need to be chosen by the War Department. It occurs to me that perhaps the War Department has chosen the upper end of the Kenai Peninsula thinking that it is more or less useless because it is so covered by lakes and marshes, overlooking perhaps the fact that these same lakes and marshes are important to the protection of the moose.

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It is my opinion, therefore, that the request of the Fish and Wildlife Service should be given precedence over that of the War Department, but also I believe the matter can be settled graciously in conference.

This Division has no information which would cause it to object to the extension of Executive Order No. 7102 of April 29, 1929, to include the area indicated in the last paragraph of your memorandum.

✓ continue  
note  
18  
with drawings  
Territories

(Sgd.) RUPERT EMERSON

Rupert Emerson,  
Director.

PWG:abc.

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
WASHINGTON

ADDRESS ONLY THE  
COMMISSIONER OF  
THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

STATES  
OF THE INTERIOR  
AND OFFICE  
WASHINGTON

*Approved  
Box 2896*

JAN 10 1941

Mr. Jordan:

It would take some years of study for me to work out the answer to this one. Your answer has an admirably plausible ring to it &, being disinclined to years of study, I hereby approve it.

R.E.

Island Possessions.

on and recommendation is a copy of  
publish the Kenai National Moose Range  
northwest portion of Kenai Penin-

has been returned to that bureau since the proposed reservation conflicts with a request of the War Department for the withdrawal for use as an aerial gunnery range of a tract embracing the entire northern portion of the moose range and described as follows:

Beginning at a point known as Point Possession, in Lot No. 2, Section 17, Township 11 North, Range 6 West, S. M.; thence Southwest along the South shore of Cook Inlet, a distance of approximately 40 miles, to Boulder Point; thence due South a distance of approximately 14 miles to a point approximately 2 miles North of Kenai Village; thence due East, a distance of approximately 19 miles to the Moose River; thence up the Moose River, a distance of approximately 10 miles; thence in a North-easterly direction to the mouth of Mystery Creek; thence down the Chickaloon River to its mouth; thence Northwest along the South shore of Chickaloon Bay to the point of beginning, excluding the Nicoli Indian Village at Point Possession and the Matthison Village at the mouth of Chickaloon River, as well as the trail leading from the mouth of the Moose River to the Village of Kenai.

It is presumed that the Fish and Wildlife Service will confer with the War Department concerning the conflict and it will, therefore, be appreciated if you will let me have an expression of your views at your earliest convenience.

*Copy on  
9-1-33  
Moose*

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REFER TO:

1841730  
1761619

ADDRESS ONLY THE  
COMMISSIONER OF  
THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
GENERAL LAND OFFICE  
WASHINGTON

1841730 "LP"  
1761619

*Handwritten:*  
For 2896

JAN 10 1941

MEMORANDUM to the Director,  
Division of Territories and Island Possessions.

Enclosed for your consideration and recommendation is a copy of a draft of a proclamation to establish the Kenai National Moose Range comprising 2,300,000 acres on the northwest portion of Kenai Peninsula, Alaska.

This draft which was prepared by the Fish and Wildlife Service has been returned to that bureau since the proposed reservation conflicts with a request of the War Department for the withdrawal for use as an aerial gunnery range of a tract embracing the entire northern portion of the moose range and described as follows:

Beginning at a point known as Point Possession, in Lot No. 2, Section 17, Township 11 North, Range 6 West, S. M.; thence Southwest along the South shore of Cook Inlet, a distance of approximately 40 miles, to Boulder Point; thence due South a distance of approximately 14 miles to a point approximately 2 miles North of Kenai Village; thence due East, a distance of approximately 19 miles to the Moose River; thence up the Moose River, a distance of approximately 10 miles; thence in a North-easterly direction to the mouth of Mystery Creek; thence down the Chickaloon River to its mouth; thence Northwest along the South shore of Chickaloon Bay to the point of beginning, excluding the Nicoli Indian Village at Point Possession and the Matthison Village at the mouth of Chickaloon River, as well as the trail leading from the mouth of the Moose River to the Village of Kenai.

It is presumed that the Fish and Wildlife Service will confer with the War Department concerning the conflict and it will, therefore, be appreciated if you will let me have an expression of your views at your earliest convenience.

*Handwritten:*  
Copy on  
9-1-33  
Moose

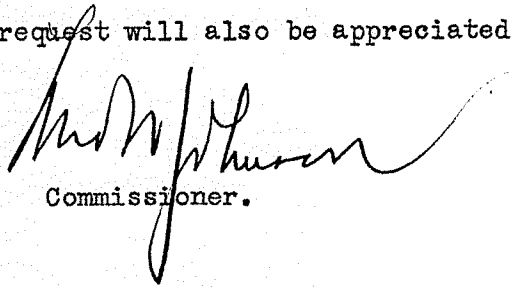
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1841730 "LP"  
1761619

The War Department also desires the withdrawal for use as a demolition and practice bombing range and as additional ranges for artillery combat exercises of all land in T. 14 N., R. 2 W., S. M., generally west of The Alaska Railroad, exclusive, which was not reserved by Executive Order No. 8102 of April 29, 1939, and all land in T. 15 N., R. 2 W., lying generally to the west of The Alaska Railroad, exclusive.

note  
1-8-4  
withdrawal  
transfers

Your recommendation on this request will also be appreciated.

  
Commissioner.

Enc.