

12/04/08 (X)
12/03/14 (6)



RG 95 RECORDS OF THE FOREST SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.
FOREST SERVICE. CHUGACH
NATIONAL FOREST. ANCHORAGE, AK.

Land Case Files, 1909 - 1990

ARC:

BOX 72 OF 78



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
Division of Field Services
Land Office

Chugach

IN REPLY REFER TO:

6.056-1L

5480

[Handwritten signature]

FEB 21 1963

Mr. Edward P. Cliff
Chief, Forest Service
Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Cliff:

This acknowledges the receipt of your letter of February 11, your reference: 5480, concerning the proposed airport at Portage, Alaska.

Copies of the letter have been sent to the Federal Aviation Agency and to our office at Fairbanks for their information and such action as is deemed appropriate.

Thank you for your prompt response and report on the national forest lands.

Sincerely yours,

[Handwritten signature: Morris H. Sachs]
Morris H. Sachs
Acting Chief,
Lands Adjudication Section

Enclosures

2 cc. Chugach

Mr. Tolson	
Mr. DeLoach	
Mr. Mohr	
Mr. Bishop	
Mr. Casper	
Mr. Callahan	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. Felt	
Mr. Gale	
Mr. Rosen	
Mr. Sullivan	
Mr. Tavel	
Mr. Trotter	
Tele. Room	
Miss Holmes	
Miss Gandy	

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
Division of Field Services
Land Office

6.07b-11

Mr. Cole Morrow
Director, Airports Service
Federal Aviation Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Morrow:

This refers to the request from your Agency, dated November 29, 1962, for the conveyance of certain lands to the State of Alaska under Section 16 of the Federal Airport Act.

Enclosed is a copy of the letter of February 11, 1963, from the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, concerning that portion of the requested lands which is in the Chugach National Forest. A copy of that letter has also been sent to our office at Fairbanks, Alaska.

Please advise this office whether the suggested alternate proposal is satisfactory, or whether you wish to select other lands for the proposed airport.

Sincerely yours,

Morris H. Sachs
Acting Chief,
Lands Adjudication Section

Enclosure

cc:
Chief, Forest Service



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
Division of Field Services
Land Office

IN REPLY REFER TO:

6.05b-11

FEB 21 1963

Mr. Edward P. Cliff
Chief, Forest Service
Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D. C.


Dear Mr. Cliff:

This acknowledges the receipt of your letter of February 11, your reference: 5480, concerning the proposed airport at Portage, Alaska.

Copies of the letter have been sent to the Federal Aviation Agency and to our office at Fairbanks for their information and such action as is deemed appropriate.

Thank you for your prompt response and report on the national forest lands.

Sincerely yours,


Morris H. Sachs
Acting Chief,
Lands Adjudication Section

Enclosures

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
WASHINGTON, D. C.
Division of Field Services
Lead Office

6.05b-11

Mr. Cole Morrow
Director, Airports Service
Federal Aviation Agency
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Morrow:

This refers to the request from your Agency, dated November 29, 1962, for the conveyance of certain lands to the State of Alaska under Section 16 of the Federal Airport Act.

Enclosed is a copy of the letter of February 11, 1963, from the Chief, Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, concerning that portion of the requested lands which is in the Chugach National Forest. A copy of that letter has also been sent to our office at Fairbanks, Alaska.

Please advise this office whether the suggested alternate proposal is satisfactory, or whether you wish to select other lands for the proposed airport.

Sincerely yours,

Morris H. Sacks
Acting Chief,
Lands Adjudication Section

Enclosure

cc:
Chief, Forest Service

OPTIONAL FORM NO. 10
5010-104-01

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

- Forest Service, R-10
Juneau, Alaska

Memorandum

*Map is in Chugach
Scatter room
in map case*

5430

DATE: January 30, 1963

Your reference: 1/9

SH

TO : Chief

FROM : P. D. Hanson, Regional Forester

SUBJECT: Sales and Grants (State of Alaska, Portage Airport)

AIRMAIL

The proposed transfer of lands for the Portage Airport would have a considerable impact on National Forest resources and values, the principal conflict being with recreation values. The Forest Service land included in the proposed conveyance falls within the Portage Glacier Recreation Area, which is the most important and heavily used recreation site on the Chugach National Forest.

We have prepared a photograph mosaic showing the proposed tract and the location of some of the features that would be affected. Referring to enclosed copies of this mosaic, you will note the following:

- (a) Proposed tract includes two areas currently planned for use as an administrative site for a recreation administration station. Approximately \$13,000 has already been spent for well drilling on site number 1. Site number 2 is an alternate for use in the event that sufficient water cannot be found on site number 1.
- (b) Proposed tract also includes a site (number 3) planned for use as a V.I.S. feature. Construction of the new Portage Glacier Forest Highway has left a part of the old road ideally suited for use as a loop road to a V.I.S. facility. This site affords an excellent view of a hanging glacier of intense blue color.
- (c) Clearing an approach zone 2,000 feet long on National Forest land southeast of the end of the existing airstrip would detract from the scenic values along the Portage Glacier Forest Highway. The highway traverses seven miles of this outstanding recreation area, providing access to three campgrounds, and terminating at Portage Glacier, where the Region has just completed a \$70,000 restroom facility. Plans call for addition of a \$300,000 V.I.S. building. Anything that diminishes the aesthetic values along this road is a detriment to the recreation facilities which the Region has installed and projected. Copies of the development plan map for the Portage Glacier Recreation Area are enclosed.

For the foregoing reasons, the Region objects to the proposed land transfer, as it affects National Forest land. The Region recommends that this part of the land transfer application be denied.

There is an alternative solution to the problems, i.e., to extend the existing runway to the northwest 1,500 feet, and use a portion of the National Forest lands applied for as an approach zone.

The Chugach Forest advises us that it is feasible to extend the runway to the northwest. This involves filling in all or a portion of a borrow pit, or if the alignment of the runway is changed slightly, the pit can be bypassed. The land involved is nearly level and the surface is underlain with gravel. This type of area represents the cheapest kind of construction opportunity found in Alaska. Clearing an approach zone to the northwest of the extended strip involves only a small clump of trees between the runway and a branch of Portage Creek. Beyond Portage Creek the trees are short enough and far enough from the runway as to require little or no clearing. Any clearing that might be needed to widen the southeast approach zone provided by the existing runway on National Forest land can be handled under special-use permit procedure with the objective of meeting air approach requirements with a minimum of damage to recreation values. All of the land that would be involved in that portion of the existing runway, extended runway, and approach zone to the northwest of the National Forest boundary is public land under control of the Bureau of Land Management.

The Portage Airport is used primarily as an emergency airstrip at this time, and we presume that this will continue to be the main use. It was built about 1946 by a contractor who was building tunnels on the railroad to Whittier, and was used at that time to supply the construction camp. Another minor airport is located 12 miles away at Girdwood. The Region has no objections to continued emergency use of the existing airstrip on National Forest land pending construction of a new facility.

In May of 1960, the State Division of Aviation applied to the Chugach National Forest for a special-use permit covering the National Forest part of the Portage Airport. They were asked for a plat of the area and evidence that the FAA had approved the aeronautical suitability of the site. This information was not supplied. The permit was never consummated.

Enclosures

cc: Chugach (2) w/enclosures and cc of Hendee's 1/9/63 memo

P. D. Hansen

- Forest Service
Washington 25, D. C.

5480

Regional Forester, R-10

January 9, 1963

Edward P. Cliff, Chief By

Grant - State of Alaska, Portage Airport

The Federal Aviation Agency has requested transfer of certain Government lands to the State of Alaska for public airport purposes. A part of the requested land is in the Chugach National Forest. The F.A.A. request and related papers are attached.

The Bureau of Land Management has asked if the Forest Service has any objections to the transfer and requested that we advise them of any special stipulations or reservations such as timber, minerals, etc., that should be included in the conveyance.

The plan is for BLM to handle the conveyance to the state for these lands. This will require a revocation of the withdrawal for National Forest purposes of the National Forest lands that will be involved. This can be handled here. We will recommend to BLM a provision in the conveyance to the state to the effect that, in the event the transferred property reverts to the United States, a withdrawal action will be initiated by the Forest Service to restore the lands originally in the Chugach to National Forest status.

Please review the F.A.A. request and advise if there are any Forest Service objections to the transfer as proposed. Also, suggest any additional clauses for inclusion in the conveyance, including the right to use the airport, which you consider essential for the protection of the Forest Service.

It will be helpful if you can give us a description of the portion of the requested area that will be derived from National Forest lands. Perhaps the BLM State Directors Office can provide this information. We will need the description in connection with the withdrawal revocation.

We will appreciate receiving your report on this request not later than February 1. Please return the map in the attached assembly with your reply.

Enclosures

Clare Hendee