

## LAND STATUS RECORDS

Alaska's Bureau of Land Management land status records consist of four major elements; Master Title Plats, Historical Indices, the Miscellaneous Document Index, and the Alaska Land Information System. Each of the nearly 19,000 townships in the state has a corresponding Master Title Plat (MTP) and Historical Index (HI). The Miscellaneous Document Index (MDI) covers undefined lands throughout the state and should be checked for every township. The Alaska Land Information System, an online database system, contains land record information that is retrievable by attributes such as case number, land description, conveyance document, applicant/owner name, or survey number.

Three field offices and a central state office handle Land Management and public information responsibilities for the state. They are the Northern Field Office, located at 1150 University Avenue in Fairbanks – (907)474–2251; the Glennallen Field Office, located at mile 186.5 on the Glenn Highway in Glennallen – (907)822–3217; the Anchorage Field Office, located at 4700 BLM Rd in Anchorage – (907)267–1246; and the Alaska State Office, located at 222 West 7th Avenue in Anchorage – (907)271–5960. Additionally, Federal land information can be found at the Bureau's remote field stations in Nome, Bethel and Dillingham. These offices are open to the public year round Monday through Friday, except for Federal holidays.

### MASTER TITLE PLAT

The Master Title Plat illustrates title information through the use of various line weights (thickness) and line types. Each line type and weight represents different types of entries for application, ownership, or use of federal lands. Abbreviated notations are used to identify the entry and/or the controlling authority for the entry.

Master Title Plats are based on protracted township information until the township is surveyed. At that time, survey information from the official plat of survey is included on the MTP. Survey types include Rectangular Surveys, which define township boundary information, United States Surveys (USS), and Mineral Surveys (MS), which define small tracts or parcels of land. If more than one approved rectangular survey exists for a township, the MTP shows a composite survey picture.

Townships contain 36 one square mile sections (approximately 23,040 acres – 36 square miles). Every township is represented by a separate MTP illustrating its title information. Partial townships have less than 36 sections.

The MTP shows the lands which have been patented to private ownership, the patent numbers, and the reservations to the United States as stated in each patent document. Withdrawals, rights-of-ways, National Forests, Wildlife Refuges, classifications and other reservations are shown. Current applications and entries for title to, or use of public lands and resources are also shown. These filings are identified by serial numbers. Lands that have been patented and then reacquired by the United States through donation, purchase, or condemnation are shown when such information is available and are referred to as acquired lands. The absence of any such information would indicate the land is still vacant Federal land – National Resource lands, previously referred to as public domain.

### ALASKA LANDS INFORMATION SYSTEM

The Alaska Land Information System (ALIS) is a relational database that contains land record information such as land descriptions, applicant information, patent and case file serial numbers and case file abstract information detailing current historical data for that case. The ALIS contains information on issued and pending oil and gas leases, mining claim locations, and records for all leases and permits issued for more than one-year durations. Information for oil and gas, mining claims, and leases/permits of less than one-year durations will not be found on the MTP or Historical Index for that township. Information available in the ALIS covers the entire state.

### SERIAL NUMBER

All applications and claims filed with the Bureau of Land Management are assigned serial numbers. It is the key to our records system. The serial numbers are reflected on the associated MTP & HI. At such times as the lands are patented, the patent number is placed on the plat and the serial number removed. The HI contains the necessary cross-references from patent to serial number. The ALIS casefile abstract, which is retrieved by serial number, will reflect the history of actions for each application or claim, including the applicant's name and address, type of claim and the land description in addition to the current status or final disposition of that particular application or claim.

### HISTORICAL INDEX

The Historical Index (HI) is a chronological narrative of past and present actions which affect the use of, or title to public lands and resources. It also contains notations which may elaborate the information on the Master Title Plats.

### MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS INDEX

The Miscellaneous Document Index (MDI) lists documents involving unidentified lands or orders of a general nature. These documents are an integral part of the records and this index must be examined in conjunction with the records of each township to determine the complete status of public lands.

## PROCEDURE FOR USING MASTER TITLE PLAT

As mentioned before, the records are designed to portray the title story through the use of numbers, lines and notations. The guides listed below, if followed in each case, should help in making the records quite easy to read:

1. Look at the remarks column on the right-hand margin of the plat to determine if there are any notations that may not be plotted on the plat, but may affect the status of the lands. Generally, but not always, status notations in the remarks column affect the entire township.
2. Always follow a particular line around until you come back to the point of beginning. The area within the bounds of the line is the land affected.
3. To find the notation for a particular line, you must determine what the line stands for. Refer to the legend of abbreviations and symbols which explains the information portrayed by the different lines.
4. The identification for the area circumscribed by a line usually appears at the center of the bottom edge of the area involved. In some instances where space is limited, the identification may be "arrowed" in. The legend of abbreviations gives the full wording.
5. Whenever the plat area is too congested to adequately tell the story, a supplemental plat has been made for the section or sections affected. The MTP will indicate the supplemented sections. The title information for those sections will be shown only on the supplemental plat.

SURVEY STATUS OF TOWNSHIP  
SURVEYED, UNSURVEYED, OR  
PARTIALLY SURVEYED

# SURVEYED TOWNSHIP 6 SOUTH RANGE 23 WEST OF THE KATEEL RIVER MERIDIAN, ALASKA

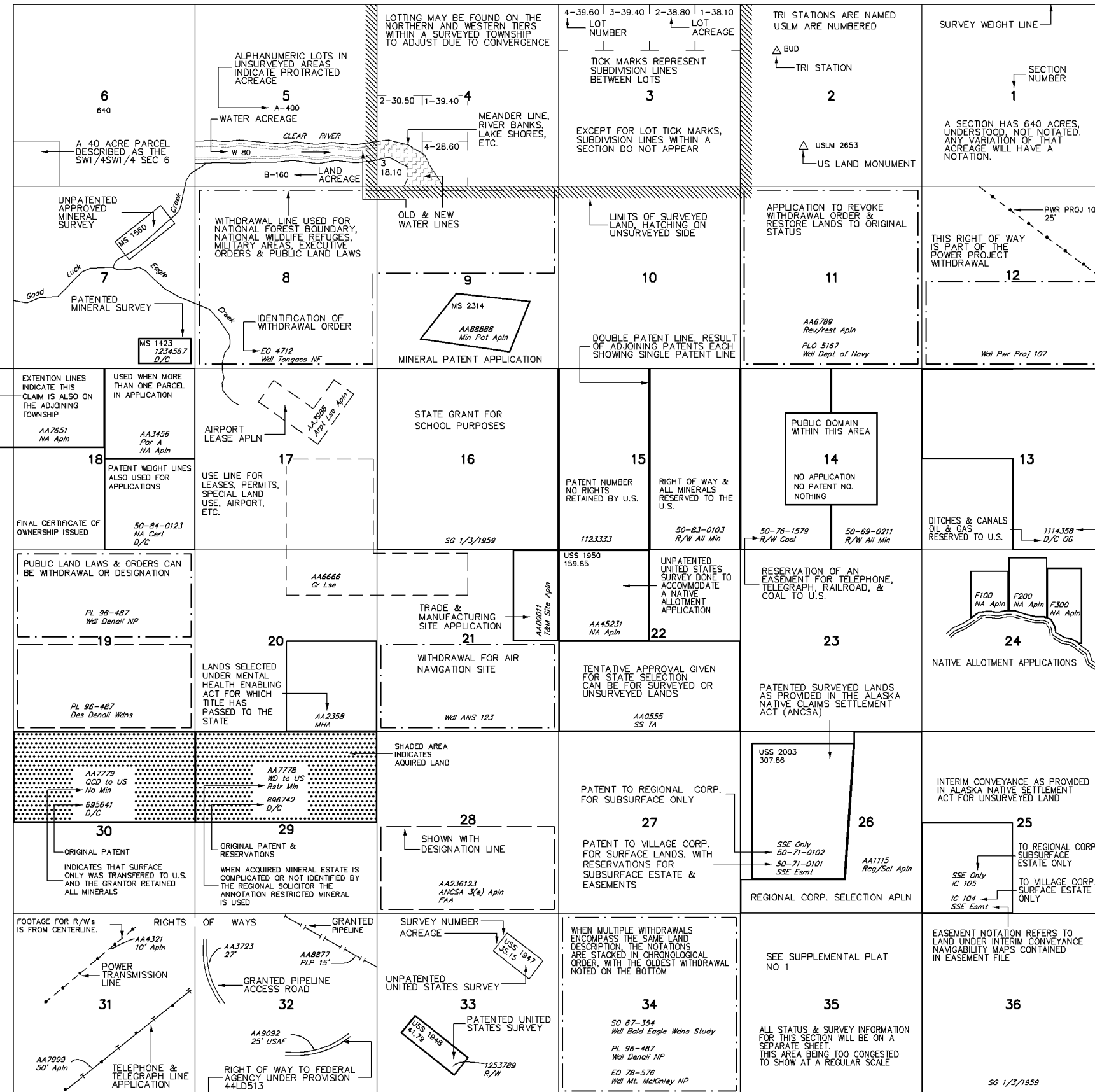
PROTRACTION DIAGRAM K4-2 OFFICIALLY FILED 6/16/1962

IDENTIFICATION OF PROTRACTION  
INFORMATION WILL ONLY BE ON  
UNSURVEYED OR PARTIALLY  
SURVEYED PLATS

## SAMPLE PLAT

SURVEYED SECTIONS      UNSURVEYED SECTIONS

STATUS OF PUBLIC DOMAIN  
LAND AND MINERAL TITLES



SPACE FOR TITLE OF PLAT

LOCATION OF SUPPLEMENT NO 1

**MTP**

REMARKS COLUMN USED FOR:

ITEMS THAT CANNOT BE PLOTTED.

EACH ENTRY IN THE REMARKS COLUMN IS SELF-EXPLANATORY.

ENTRIES AFFECT THE ENTIRE TOWNSHIP UNLESS OTHER DESCRIPTIONS ARE GIVEN.

PATENT NUMBERS USUALLY APPEAR IN LOWER PORTION OF PATENTED AREAS

APPLICATION FOR A MINERAL SURVEY, SURVEY NOT PLOTTED ON MTP UNTIL APPROVED.

FOR ORDERS EFFECTING DISPOSAL OR USE OF UN-IDENTIFIED LANDS WITHDRAWN FOR CLASSIFICATION MINERALS, WATER AND/OR OTHER PUBLIC PURPOSES REFER TO INDEX OF MISCELLANEOUS DOCUMENTS.

PL 92-203 Wdl F14956 Lds W/1 F14956-B2

PL 92-203 Wdl F15925 Lds W/1 F15925-A, F15925-B

PL 5184 Wdl CI affects Lds/Interests not conveyed

PL 5179 Amdt by PL 5257 Wdl Aid of Leg & CI affects Lds/Interests not conveyed

F24210 Reindeer Gr Per affects Unapprop Lds W/1 Tp

F44496 SS Amdt PL 96-487 Sec 906(e) Top Filed

PL 96-487 Wdl Innoko NWR entire Tp

PL 96-487 Des Innoko Wdns entire Tp

AA2341 Apln for MS 789 affects this Tp

## SAMPLE PLAT

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE COORDINATES FOR THE SE CORNER THIS TOWNSHIP

Lat 00°00'00.000"N

Long 000°00'00.000"W

ID NUMBER OF SUPPL NO 1

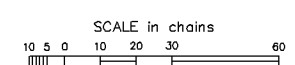
ROUTING CODE(S) OF OFFICE(S) TO RECEIVE MTP COPY

CURRENT TO 3-10-2001

INDICATES DATE OF LAST UPDATE

KR Mer T 6 S R 23 W

**AUTO**



ADJOINING TOWNSHIP LINE R37W R36W OFFSET

WARNING: This plat is the Bureau's Record of Title, and should be used only as a graphic display of the township survey data. Records hereon do not reflect title changes which may have been effected by lateral movements of rivers or other bodies of water. Refer to the cadastral surveys for official survey information.

## Explanation Sheet

The Sample Township Plat included with this explanation sheet has been prepared to show most of the "line types" used and the information conveyed by each. The following explanation will further assist the reader in using and understanding the Sample Plat.

Each Master Title Plat (MTP) is identified by a header comprised of Township, Range and Meridian. Included in the header will be the survey status of the township reflected by the notation "UNSURVEYED, PARTIALLY SURVEYED OR SURVEYED" whichever may be true. In the case of Unsurveyed or Partially Surveyed plats, information identifying the Protraction Diagram used to produce the plat will be located just below the header.

The state of Alaska has five (5) meridians: Seward, Kateel River, Copper River, Umiat and Fairbanks

Information on the MTP is shown using a combination of "line-weights" (thickness) and notations. The basic line weight used is called a "survey-weight" and is used to depict township, section and survey lines, also used for hydrography and lot tick marks.

**Section 3** Illustrates lotting along the northern tier. Lotting is generally located, but not confined to, the northern and western tiers of a surveyed township, compensating for convergence of longitude lines. Note the pattern used to number the lots is from east to west then west to east, continuing in this manner for the entire section. This is the same system used to number the sections within a township.

**Section 4** Illustrates lotting along a meandered (surveyed) water body. Both sections 3 & 4 are bordered by hatchure marks. Hatchures show the boundary between surveyed and unsurveyed areas with the hatchures on the unsurveyed side.

**Section 5** Illustrates a typical protracted section. The numbers A-400, B-160 indicate protracted land acreage, and W 60 is for the water acreage. To determine the total acreage, add land and water lots.

**Sections 7,9,22, 26 & 33** Show examples of patented and unpatented Mineral Surveys & United States Special Surveys. All lands must be surveyed, either to accommodate an individual claim or by the survey of all or part of a township, before title is passed from the United States. If an official mineral survey has been made of a mining claim, it is outlined with a survey weight line and is identified by the mineral survey number, such as MS 1560. No acreage is noted. If a mineral survey or a portion of a mineral survey has been patented, a single-patent line is drawn around the patented area and a patent number, such as "1234567" in Sec 7, is inserted in the affected area. United States Surveys (USS) are executed to accommodate an individual land entry. Sec 33 shows the unpatented USS delineated with a survey-weight line and notated with the survey number and acreage within the surveyed boundaries. A patented USS as shown in sec 33, is delineated in the same manner as patented mineral surveys, with a "patent-line" and notated as to the patent number and any reservations to the United States.

NOTE: Prior to 1964, a patent number was issued sequentially on a national basis. Example: 1234, 1235, etc. After 1964, the system for issuing patent numbers changed to identify the state, fiscal year and sequence. Example: 50-98-0145. The first two digits identify the state, the middle digits the fiscal year and the last four the sequence of patents issued for that year. Every fiscal year starts with 0001.

**Sections 8,9,11,21 and 34** Illustrates a dash-dot line called a "withdrawal line". The withdrawal line is used to delineate Withdrawals, Classifications and Reservations affecting a part of the township, and is combined with a notation identifying the type and number of the order which accomplished the action. If the entire township is within the withdrawal it is not delineated, unless it is a "border township". Instead, a notation in the remarks column of the plat will state that the entire township is affected by the particular action. A good rule to follow, as mentioned above, is to always first check the remarks column for notations. Section 11 is an example of a withdrawal and a revocation/restoration application. When an agency's need for withdrawn land ends, they advise BLM of their intent to relinquish, and the plat is noted. At such time as the relinquishment is accepted, an order is issued revoking the original withdrawal and the withdrawal notation is removed from the records. Section 34 illustrates multiple withdrawals on identical lands with the notations stacked in ascending chronological order, with the earliest withdrawal on the bottom.

**Section 12** Illustrates a withdrawal for a Power Project. This type of withdrawal is under the jurisdiction of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**Sections 13-15, 26, 33** Illustrate examples of patents. Note the single patent line between sections 10 and 15. A patent line is drawn around the lands described in the patent. When two patented areas abut, there is a double-patent line, as shown between sections 14 and 15. The patent number usually appears in the center of the bottom edge of the area patented. Land which is still vacant and unappropriated will not have a notation. Note the SW1/4NE1/4, SE1/4NW1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, NW1/4SE1/4 in the MIDDLE of SECTION 14.

**Sections 16 & 36** Illustrate grants of land made to the state of Alaska under the Admission Act of July 7, 1958 when the state became part of the Union. The date shown is the effective date of the grant.

**Sections 17,20,21** Illustrate a type of lease. Leases of less than one year duration will not be plotted on the MTP. The information for those leases will be in the ALIS only.

**Sections 18 & 21** Illustrate a Native Allotment Application and a Certificate of Allotment. Section 21 illustrates a type of settlement claim. The line weight for these types of claims is the same as used for patents. The notation identifies the serial number and type of application or claim. All numbers beginning with "A0" or "AA" are assigned from the Alaska State Office in Anchorage and all "F0" or "F" numbers are assigned from the Northern Field Office in Fairbanks. While they are no longer used, "JO" and "NO" serial numbers from the period of time when offices were maintained in Juneau and Nome, Alaska, may be reflected on the Historical Index.

**Section 19** Illustrates a Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) withdrawal and designation. A designated area may be inside a withdrawn area.

**Section 20** Illustrates Mental Health Approved lands for which title rests with the State of Alaska.

**Section 22** Illustrates lands which have been "tentatively approved" to the State of Alaska. This type of conveyance is made to the state for lands which have not yet been surveyed. Upon survey a patent will be issued.

**Section 24** Illustrates the line weights used (patent line weight) to show the boundaries of the three unsurveyed Native Allotment Applications that also share common boundaries (double-patent line weights).

**Sections 25 & 26** Reflect two types of conveyances as provided in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Sec. 25 shows "Interim Conveyances" (IC) to the Village Corp. for the surface lands, and to the Regional Corp. for the subsurface estate. An IC is used to convey unsurveyed lands. If lands are surveyed, as in section 26, conveyance is made in the form of a patent, one to the Village and one to the Regional Corp. In each case, patent will follow Interim Conveyance once the lands are surveyed.

**Section 28** Illustrates an application for Sec 3(e) Determination.






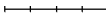
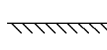
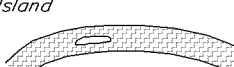










**Sections 29 & 30** The United States occasionally receives title to land which has been previously patented. Such land is referred to as "Acquired Land" if obtained by donation, purchase or condemnation. Such acquired land is identified on the MTP by the use of a "shaded pattern" as seen in sections 29 & 30. The notations used to describe all the actions are stacked in ascending chronological order to show chain of title, any reservations by the original patentee, and what was acquired by the United States.

**Sections 31 & 32** Illustrate rights-of-way. The notation "Apln" indicates the right-of-way is an application only. When granted, the notation "Apln" is removed and the HI will be noted with the right-of-way.

NOTE: The right-of-way symbol should appear only on Federal lands unless the right-of-way was in effect before the land was patented. In such cases, the patent would be issued "subject to" the right-of-way. An actual right-of-way case file is identified by serial number. A right-of-way notation identifies the casefile number, the width (shown on the MTP as measured from the centerline). A right-of-way notation followed by the name of a federal agency denotes a granted right-of-way under the provisions of a land decision in volume 44 page 513 (44LD513)

LEGEND OF ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS ON RECORDS  
THIS LIST DOES NOT INCLUDE ALL ABBREVIATIONS USED ON THE LAND STATUS RECORDS

A, Ac	Acre or Acres	Hdq Site	Headquarters Site	Resc	Rescind, Rescinded
ACEC	Area of Critical Environmental Concern	HE	Homestead Entry	Rest	Restoration, Restored
Acq	Acquired	HES	Homestead Entry Survey	Resvr	Reservoir
Act of Cong	Act of Congress	HI	Historical Index	Rev	Revocation, Revoked
Adm S, Admin S	Administrative Site	HP	Historical Place	Rfg	Refuge
AEC	Atomic Energy Commission	Hwy	Highway	Rmks	Remarks
Agri	Agriculture, Agricultural	IA	Indian Allotment	RR	Railroad
Agri Exp Sta	Agriculture Experiment Station	IBLA	Interior Board of Land Appeals	Rstd	Restricted
AHA	Alaska Housing Authority	IC	Interim Conveyance	R/W	Right-of-Way
AHE	Additional Homestead Entry	Inc	Including, Inclusive	S	South
Aid of Leg	Aid of Legislation	Ind Res	Indian Reservation	SAH	Soldiers Additional Homestead
Ak	Alaska	IS	Indemnity Selection	Sal	Salmon
All Min	All Minerals	Juris	Jurisdiction	Sch	School
Allot	Allotment	KCLA	Known Coal Leasing Area	SE	Southeast
Amdt	Amendment, Amended, Amends	KGRA	Known Geothermal Resource Area	Sec	Section
ANCSA	Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (PL92-203)	KGS	Known Geologic Structure	Sec of Agri	Secretary of Agriculture
ANILCA	Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (PL96-487)	KRM	Kateel River Meridian	Sec on Int	Secretary of Interior
ANS	Air Navigational Site	Lat	Latitude	Segr	Segregate
Apln	Application	LD	Interior Land Decision	Sel	Selection
Appvd	Approved	LH	Lighthouse	Sew Mer	Seward Meridian
APS	Alaska Public Sale	Lic	License	SG	School Grant
ARC	Alaska Road Commission	Loc	Location	SLUP	Special Land Use Permit
Appt	Airport	Long	Longitude	SO	Secretarial Order
ARR	Alaska Railroad	LS	Lieu Selection	Sq Ft	Square Feet
ARRCS	Alaska Rural Rehabilitation Corp. Sale	Lse	Lease	SS	State Selection
Auth	Authorization	Ltr	Latter	SSE	Subsurface Estate
Bdy, Bdrs	Boundary, Boundaries	M&B	Metes and Bounds	ST	Small Tract
BIA	Bureau of Indian Affairs	Mat S	Material Site	ST Cl	Small Tract Classification
Blk	Block	ME	Mineral Estate or Mineral Entry	ST Lse	Small Tract Lease
BLM	Bureau of Land Management	Mer, M	Meridian	Subj	Subject
BLMO	Bureau of Land Management Order	Mgmt	Management	Subm Lds	Submerged Lands
BPR	Bureau of Public Roads	MHA	Mental Health Approved	Suppl	Supplemental
BSFW	Bureau of Sports, Fisheries & Wildlife	Mil Pur	Military Purpose	Sur	Survey, Sueveyed
C of E	Corp of Engineers	Mil Res	Military Reservation	Sus	Suspended
Canc	Cancellation, Cancelled	Mill S	Millsite	SW	Southwest
CE	Cash Entry	Min	Mineral	SX	State Exchange
Cert	Certificate	Min Cert or MC	Mineral Certificate	T, Tp, Tps	Township, Townships
Chg	Change	Min Mat Sale	Mineral Material Sale	T&M Site	Trade and Manufacturing Site
Circ	Circular	Misc	Miscellaneous	TA	Tentative Approval
CIRI	Cook Inlet Region, Incorporated	Mod	Modification	TCP	Timber Cutting Permit
Cl	Classification	Mon	Monument	Tel	Telephone
CL	Clear List	MS	Mineral Survey	Teleg	Telegraph
CNF	Chugach National Forest	MTP	Master Title Plat	Temp	Temporary
CNI	Chugach Natives, Incorporated (Chugach Alaska Corporation)	Mult Use	Multiple Use	Term	Terminate
Comm P	Community Pit	N	North	Tmb	Timber
Comm S	Community Site	NA	Native Allotment	TNF	Tongass National Forest
Comp	Completed	NALA	North Anchorage Land Agreement	Tns	Townsite
Corp	Corporation	Nav	Navigable	Tr	Tract
CRM	Copper River Meridian	NE	Northeast	Trans	Transmission
CS	Cemetary Site	NG/Sel	Native Group Selection	Trf, Trfd	Transfer, Transferred
C/T	Color of Title	NF	National Forest	Trf Juris	Transfer Jurisdiction
D	Director	N Mon	National Monument	Tri Sta	Triangulation Station
D/C	Ditches and/or Canals	NOE	Not Open to Entry	Trsp	Trespass
Dept	Department	NP	National Park	TUP	Temporary Use Permit
Dept of Int	Department of Interior	NPPB	Native Primary Place of Business	UA	Unit Agreement
Des	Designated, Designation	NPPR	Native Primary Place of Residence	U Mer	Umiat Meridian
Det	Determination	NRHP	National Register of Historic Places	US	United States
Dist	District	NRL	National Resource Lands	USAF	United States Air Force
DO	Departmental Order	NW	Northwest	USCG	United States Coast Guard
E	East	NWR	National Wildlife Refuge	USLM	United States Land Monument
Eff	Effective	O	Order	USS	United States Survey
Elim	Elimination	OE	Open to Entry	V, V/Sel	Village, Village Selection
Enlgmt	Enlargement	OG	Oil & Gas	Var, Var Int	Variable, Variable Interest
EO	Executive Order	Par	Parcel	W	West
ES	Exchange Survey	Part	Partially	WD	Warranty Deed
Esmt	Easement	Pat	Patent	Wdns	Wilderness
Excl	Excluding, Excluded	PD	Public Domain	Wdl	Withdrawal
Exp	Expire, Expired	Per	Permit	Wdn	Withdrawn
FWS (F&WS)	Fish and Wildlife Service	Pet Res	Petroleum Reserve	W/I	Within
FAA	Federal Aviation Agency	PL	Public Law	W/O	Without
Fbx	Fairbanks Meridian	PLP	Pipeline	WS	Watershed
Fed	Federal	Proc	Proclamation	WSRS	Wild & Scenic River System
FERC (FPC)	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission	Proj	Project	X	Exchange, Exchanged
FF Lse	Fur Farm Lease	Purp	Purpose		
Fis	Fissionable Materials (Obsolete)	Pwr Proj	Power Project		
FPA	Federal Power Act	QCD	Quitclaim Deed		
FPGP	Favorable Petroleum Geologic Province	Re & PP	Recreation and Public Purpose		
Frac	Fractional	Re-Cl	Reclassified		
FS	Forest Service	Recon	Reconveyed		
FUP	Free Use Permit	Reg	Regional		
FX	Forest Exchange	Reg/Sel	Regional Selection		
Geo	Geothermal	Rej	Rejected, Rejection		
GLO	General Land Office	Rel	Relinquished, Relinquishment		
Gr Lse	Grazing Lease				

<i>Survey Line</i>		<i>Land District Boundary</i>		<i>Trail</i>		<i>Acquired Land</i>	
<i>Patent or Claim</i>		<i>Railroad</i>		<i>Limits of Surveyed Land (hatching on unsurveyed side)</i>		<i>Rivers and Island</i>	
<i>Double Patent or Claim</i>		<i>Pipeline</i>					
<i>Withdrawal Line</i>		<i>Power Transmission Line</i>					
<i>Lease Line</i>		<i>Telephone</i>					
<i>Designated Line</i>		<i>Telephone/Telegraph</i>					
<i>Tri Station</i>		<i>Road</i>					
<i>City Limits</i>	