

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

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To exchange non-Federal land held by the Chugach Alaska Corporation for certain Federal Land in the Chugach Region, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 10, 2025

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To exchange non-Federal land held by the Chugach Alaska Corporation for certain Federal Land in the Chugach Region, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Chugach Alaska Land Exchange Oil Spill Recovery Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES; FINDINGS.**

7 (a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

1 (1) to authorize, direct, and expedite the ex-
2 change of land and interests in land between Chu-
3 gach Alaska and the United States; and

4 (2) to consolidate Federal ownership of the sur-
5 face and subsurface estate of Federal land and in-
6 terests acquired under the Program.

7 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) on March 24, 1989, the oil tanker Exxon
9 Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound, Alas-
10 ka, spilling 11,000,000 gallons of crude oil, spread-
11 ing in the months that followed and covering ap-
12 proximately 1,300 miles of coastline, with immense
13 impact for fish and wildlife and their habitats, and
14 for local industries and communities;

15 (2) civil settlement funds of \$900,000,000 paid
16 by Exxon to the United States and the State of
17 Alaska were used to establish the Exxon Valdez Oil
18 Spill Trustee Council (referred to in this section as
19 “EVOSTC”) and to develop the Program;

20 (3) through the Program, the EVOSTC dedi-
21 cated nearly 60 percent of the funds to acquire fee
22 title of, and conservation easements on, the surface
23 estate of more than 600,000 acres in the area im-
24 pacted by the oil spill, including 241,000 acres of
25 surface estate land and conservation easements in

1 the Chugach Region, giving the United States own-
2 ership of, and conservation easements on, 241,000
3 acres of formerly Native-owned land within the Chu-
4 gach Region;

5 (4) the conflict described in the Chugach Re-
6 gion Land Study Report and in this Act occurred
7 when surface estate was purchased by the EVOSTC
8 for conservation purposes while development rights
9 remained for the subsurface (dominant estate)
10 owned by Chugach Alaska, which shall be resolved
11 by Chugach Alaska trading approximately 231,000
12 acres of subsurface estate under surface fee and con-
13 servation easements on surface land owned by the
14 Federal Government for 65,374 acres of fee simple
15 land owned by the Federal Government;

16 (5) most of the surface land and conservation
17 easements on surface land in the Chugach Region
18 described in paragraph (3) that were acquired by the
19 EVOSTC were purchased from 4 Alaska Native Vil-
20 lage Corporations—

- 21 (A) Chenega Corporation;
22 (B) the English Bay Corporation;
23 (C) the Eyak Corporation; and
24 (D) the Tatitlek Corporation;

1 (6) in accordance with section 14 of the Alaska
2 Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1613),
3 when a Village Corporation selects and receives title
4 to the surface estate to fulfill its land entitlement,
5 the Regional Corporation receives title to the sub-
6 surface, resulting in split ownership between Alaska
7 Native entities from the same region;

8 (7) Chugach Alaska holds the dominant sub-
9 surface estate to approximately 241,000 acres of
10 surface land acquired by the EVOSTC from the Vil-
11 lage Corporations under paragraph (5) that is pro-
12 tected under the Program;

13 (8) none of the acquisitions described in para-
14 graph (5) by the EVOSTC included the subsurface
15 interests owned by Chugach Alaska, despite aware-
16 ness by the EVOSTC of the provisions in the Alaska
17 Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et
18 seq.) creating split ownership and the existing right
19 of the subsurface owner to use the surface if it con-
20 stitutes reasonable use in the development of sub-
21 surface resources;

22 (9) due to the split estate ownership described
23 in paragraph (8), which became a split between Chu-
24 gach Alaska and the Federal Government, there is
25 a clear conflict with the preservation goal of the Pro-

1 gram and the responsibility of Chugach Alaska, on
2 behalf of the Alaska Native shareholders of Chugach
3 Alaska, to develop the subsurface estate under the
4 land;

5 (10) recognizing the conflicts between the man-
6 dates in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act
7 (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) on Native Corporations
8 and the goals of the Program, and the significant
9 social and economic impact of the Program on the
10 region and on Chugach Alaska and the land held by
11 Chugach Alaska, Congress directed, in section 1113
12 of the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Manage-
13 ment, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9; 133
14 Stat. 614), that the Bureau of Land Management
15 conduct a study and identify accessible and economi-
16 cally viable Federal land that could be exchanged
17 with Chugach Alaska, and to recommend exchange
18 options that would consolidate ownership of the sur-
19 face and subsurface estates of land in the Program;

20 (11) the Bureau of Land Management sub-
21 mitted the Chugach Region Land Study Report to
22 Congress in December 2022, over a year after the
23 18-month deadline;

24 (12) in the Chugach Region Land Study Re-
25 port, the Bureau of Land Management explained

1 that the Program acquisitions have greatly increased
2 the complexity and the costs of any development by
3 Chugach Alaska of its subsurface interests, signifi-
4 cantly reduced Native-owned land and Native control
5 over management of land in the region, and, along
6 with the larger oil spill cleanup effort, highly dis-
7 rupted the socio-cultural environment and economies
8 in the Alaska Native communities in the region;

9 (13) the Chugach Region Land Study Report
10 identifies land available for exchange from both the
11 Federal Government and Chugach Alaska to inform
12 a land exchange to address the impact of the Pro-
13 gram on Chugach Alaska and the ability of Chugach
14 Alaska to meet its responsibilities to its Native
15 shareholders under the Alaska Native Claims Settle-
16 ment Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.);

17 (14) the land exchange between Chugach Alas-
18 ka and the Federal Government in this Act—

19 (A) furthers objectives under the Alaska
20 Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601
21 et seq.), including balancing land selections be-
22 tween areas that are significant in cultural his-
23 tory and traditions and areas that have poten-
24 tial economic value for development; and

(B) facilitates more efficient Federal land management of the Program by Federal acquisition of nearly 231,000 acres of subsurface estate that underlies federally owned surface fee and conservation easements to perfect conservation of the surface, which is the purpose of the Program; and

(15) the land exchange in this Act, based on the findings in this section, is in the public interest.

10 SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

11 In this Act:

17 (2) CHUGACH ALASKA.—The term “Chugach
18 Alaska” means the Chugach Alaska Corporation, a
19 Regional Corporation.

1 ment, and Recreation Act (Public Law 116–9; 133
2 Stat. 614).

3 (4) FEDERAL EXCHANGE LAND.—The term
4 “Federal exchange land” means the approximately
5 65,374 acres of fee simple land located in the Chu-
6 gach Region as described in section 4(e).

7 (5) NON-FEDERAL LAND.—The term “non-Fed-
8 eral land” means the parcels of subsurface land
9 comprising approximately 231,000 acres—

10 (A) owned by Chugach Alaska and con-
11 veyed to Chugach Alaska pursuant to the Alas-
12 ka Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C.
13 1601 et seq.);

14 (B) described in section 4(f); and

15 (C) for which—

16 (i) the United States has acquired fee
17 title to the surface estate or a conservation
18 easement on the surface estate pursuant to
19 the Program; or

20 (ii) the State has acquired fee title to,
21 and the United States has acquired a con-
22 servation easement in, the surface estate
23 pursuant to the Program.

24 (6) PROGRAM.—The term “Program” means
25 the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Habitat Protection and

1 Acquisition Program of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill
2 Trustee Council.

3 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of the Interior.

5 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means the State
6 of Alaska.

7 **SEC. 4. LAND EXCHANGE.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, if Chugach Alaska offers
10 to convey to the Secretary all rights, title, and interest
11 in and to the non-Federal land, the Secretary shall accept
12 the offer and convey in exchange all rights, title, and inter-
13 est of the Federal Government in and to the Federal ex-
14 change land.

15 (b) CONDITION ON ACCEPTANCE.—Title to the non-
16 Federal land exchanged in subsection (a) shall be in a
17 form that is acceptable to the Secretary.

18 (c) TREATMENT OF LAND CONVEYED.—Except as
19 otherwise provided, any land conveyed to Chugach Alaska
20 under subsection (a) shall be considered to be land con-
21 veyed by the Secretary under the Alaska Native Claims
22 Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.).

23 (d) VALID EXISTING RIGHTS.—The conveyances
24 under subsection (a) shall be subject to any valid existing
25 rights, reservations, rights-of-way, or other encumbrances

1 of third parties in, to, or on the Federal exchange land
2 or the non-Federal land as of the date of enactment of
3 this Act.

4 (e) CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL EXCHANGE LAND.—

5 On receipt of title to the non-Federal land, the Secretary
6 shall simultaneously convey to Chugach Alaska—

7 (1) all rights, title, and interest in and to the
8 National Forest System land of the Forest Service
9 identified in the Chugach Regional Land Study and
10 Report, comprising approximately 63,414 total
11 acres, comprising—

12 (A) T. 3 N., R. 10 E., Seward Meridian,
13 Drier Bay Parcel, comprising approximately
14 2,996 acres of surface estate;

15 (B) T. 17 and 18 S., R. 7 and 8 E., Cop-
16 per River Meridian, Kushtaka Lake Parcel,
17 comprising approximately 7,876 acres of sur-
18 face and subsurface estate;

19 (C) T. 2 N., R. 1 and 2 E., Seward Merid-
20 ian, Snow River Parcel, comprising approxi-
21 mately 11,462 acres of surface and subsurface
22 estate;

23 (D) T. 17 and 18 S., R. 8 W., Copper
24 River Meridian, Hinchinbrook Island Parcel,

1 comprising approximately 2,617 acres of sur-
2 face and subsurface estate;

3 (E) T. 17 S., R. 7 E., secs. 5, 8, 18, 19,
4 and 30 through 33, Copper River Meridian,
5 Kushtaka Lake Parcel, comprising approxi-
6 mately 6,375 acres of surface and subsurface
7 estate;

8 (F) T. 18 S., R. 7 E., secs. 6 and 7, Cop-
9 per River Meridian, Kushtaka Lake Parcel,
10 comprising approximately 1,280 acres of sur-
11 face and subsurface estate;

12 (G) T. 16 S., R. 5 E., secs. 24 through 26
13 and 36, Copper River Meridian, Martin River
14 Parcel, comprising approximately 2,240 acres of
15 surface and subsurface estate;

16 (H) T. 16, S., R. 6 E., secs. 16, 19
17 through 21, and 25 through 36, Copper River
18 Meridian, Martin River Parcel, comprising ap-
19 proximately 8,305 acres of surface and sub-
20 surface estate;

21 (I) T. 17 S., R. 6 E., secs. 1 through 4,
22 and 10, Copper River Meridian, Martin River
23 Parcel, comprising approximately 3,170 acres of
24 surface and subsurface estate;

1 (J) T. 16 S., R. 4 E., secs. 1 through 4,
2 9 through 13, and 24, Copper River Meridian,
3 Johnson River Parcel, comprising approxi-
4 mately 5,200 acres of surface and subsurface
5 estate;

6 (K) T. 16 S., R. 5 E., secs. 5 through 9,
7 and 15 through 22, Copper River Meridian,
8 Johnson River Parcel, comprising approxi-
9 mately 6,165 acres of surface and subsurface
10 estate; and

11 (L) T. 19 S., R. 15 E., secs. 12 through
12 14, 23, 24, 26, 27, 33, and 34, Copper River
13 Meridian, Robinson Mountains Parcel, com-
14 prising approximately 5,728 acres of surface
15 and subsurface estate; and

16 (2) all rights, title, and interest in and to the
17 Federal land administered by the Bureau of Land
18 Management and National Park Service identified in
19 the Chugach Regional Land Study and Report, com-
20 prising approximately 1,960 total acres, com-
21 prising—

22 (A) T. 21 S., R. 24 E., Copper River Me-
23 ridian, Taan Fjord Parcel, comprising approxi-
24 mately 450 acres of surface and subsurface es-
25 tate;

(C) T. 9 S., R. 2 W., secs. 5 and 6, Cop-
per River Meridian, Thompson Pass Parcel,
comprising 1,200 acres of surface and sub-
surface estate.

9 (f) CONVEYANCE OF NON-FEDERAL LAND.—

10 (1) CONVEYANCE.—The non-Federal land to
11 which Chugach Alaska may convey to the Secretary
12 all rights, title, and interest, that the Secretary de-
13 termines to be applicable, includes—

(ii) T. 13 S., R. 2 W., secs. 23 through 27, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 2,627 acres;

19 (ix) T. 14 S., R. 4 W., secs. 1 through
20 11, 15 through 21, 25, 30, and 31, Copper
21 River Meridian, comprising approximately
22 6,750.98 acres;

23 (x) T. 15 S., R. 4 W., secs. 8 through
24 12, 16 through 22, and 24, Copper River

1 Meridian, comprising approximately
2 5,839.15 acres;
3 (xi) T. 13 S., R. 5 W., secs. 3, 9
4 through 11, 14 through 20, a portion of
5 sec. 21, and secs. 31 and 36, Copper River
6 Meridian, comprising approximately
7 4,216.36 acres;
8 (xii) T. 14 S., R. 5 W., sec. 1, a por-
9 tion of sec. 2, secs. 6 through 12, 14
10 through 21, 29, and 30, Copper River Me-
11 ridian, comprising approximately 9,057.6
12 acres;
13 (xiii) T. 15 S., R. 5 W., secs. 23 and
14 24, Copper River Meridian, comprising ap-
15 proximately 292.97 acres;
16 (xiv) T. 12 S., R. 6 W., secs. 11, 13,
17 14, 23, and 24, Copper River Meridian,
18 comprising approximately 1,980.69 acres;
19 (xv) T. 12 S., R. 7 W., secs. 32, 34,
20 35, and 36, Copper River Meridian, com-
21 prising approximately 343 acres;
22 (xvi) T. 13 S., R. 7 W., secs. 1
23 through 22, 24, 25, and 27 through 36,
24 Copper River Meridian, comprising ap-
25 proximately 17,234.88 acres;

(xvii) T. 14 S., R. 7 W., secs. 2, 3,
and 6, Copper River Meridian, comprising
approximately 203 acres;

4 (xviii) T. 13 S., R. 8 W., secs. 1, 9
5 through 11, 13 through 29, and 32
6 through 36, Copper River Meridian, com-
7 prising approximately 9,282.25 acres;

(xix) T. 14 S., R. 8 W., secs. 1 through 5, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 629.25 acres;

14 (xxi) T. 10 S., R. 10 W., sec. 32,
15 Copper River Meridian, comprising ap-
16 proximately 1.19 acres;

(xxiv) T. 3 N., R. 8 E., secs. 4
through 7, 18, and 19, Seward Meridian,
comprising approximately 1,120.50 acres;

(xxvi) T. 1 N., R. 10 E., secs. 5 and
8, Seward Meridian, comprising approxi-
9 mately 743 acres;

10 (xxvii) T. 3 S., R. 2 W., secs. 22, 23,
11 25, 26, 33, 35, and 36, Seward Meridian,
12 comprising approximately 2,125 acres;

(xxxiii) T. 6 S., R. 5 W., secs. 4, 9,
28, 29, 32, and 33, Seward Meridian, com-
prising approximately 3,205 acres;

(xxxiv) T. 7 S., R. 5 W., sec. 4, Seward Meridian, comprising approximately 230 acres;

(xxxvii) T. 8 S., R. 7 W., secs. 24, 25,
35, and 36, Seward Meridian, comprising
approximately 705.65 acres; and

16 (iv) T. 11 S., R. 8 W., secs. 4 and 9,
17 Copper River Meridian, comprising ap-
18 proximately 579 acres;

19 (v) T. 12 S., R. 8 W., sec. 1, Copper
20 River Meridian, comprising approximately
21 130 acres;

22 (vi) T. 9 S., R. 9 W., secs. 26, 27, 33,
23 34, and 35, Copper River Meridian, com-
24 prising approximately 1,524.26 acres;

(viii) T. 4 N., R. 7 E., secs. 12 and
13, Seward Meridian, comprising approxi-
mately 1,145 acres;

(xi) T. 4 N., R. 9 E., secs. 6, 7, 17,
18, and 19, Seward Meridian, comprising
approximately 1,417 acres; and

(ii) T. 14 S., R. 2 W., secs. 4 through
8, and 31, Copper River Meridian, com-
prising approximately 2,104.92 acres;

16 (vi) T. 16 S., R. 3 W., secs. 1, 11, 12,
17 14, and 15, Copper River Meridian, com-
18 prising approximately 506 acres;

19 (vii) T. 14 S., R. 4 W., secs. 28 and
20 29, Copper River Meridian, comprising ap-
21 proximately 660.15 acres;

22 (viii) T. 14 S., R. 4 W., secs. 1, 5
23 through 8, 10 through 15, 22 through 27,
24 and 34 through 36, Copper River Merid-
25 ian, comprising approximately 3,516 acres;

(ix) T. 15 S., R. 5 W., secs. 27, 28,
33, and 34, Copper River Meridian, com-
prising approximately 1,455.63 acres;

(xii) T. 11 S., R. 7 W., sec. 31, Cop-
per River Meridian, comprising approxi-
mately 577.8 acres;

(xiv) T. 13 S., R. 7 W., secs. 18 and
19, Copper River Meridian, comprising ap-
proximately 700 acres;

22 (xv) T. 10 S., R. 8 W., secs. 33 and
23 34, Copper River Meridian, comprising ap-
24 proximately 1,197 acres;

(xvi) T. 11 S., R. 8 W., secs. 1 through 4, 10 through 16, 21 through 26, 31, 35, and 36, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 7,647.41 acres;

(xvii) T. 12 S., R. 8 W., secs. 1, 12 through 14, and 24, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 591.75 acres;

(xviii) T. 12 S., R. 8 W., secs. 1 through 3, 10, 11, 14 through 16, 21 and 22, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 2,112 acres;

(xix) T. 12 S., R. 8 W., secs. 5 through 8, 18, and 19, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1,220.5 acres;

(xx) T. 13 S., R. 8 W., secs. 13, 14, 17, 19 through 21, 23, 24, and 28 through 30, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1,400 acres;

(xi) T. 11 S., R. 9 W., secs. 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, and 36, Copper River Meridian, comprising approximately 1,157.75 acres;

(xxiii) T. 13 S., R. 9 W., secs. 24 and
25, Copper River Meridian, comprising ap-
proximately 345.33 acres;

(xxiv) T. 2 N., R. 7 E., sec. 1, Seward
Meridian, comprising approximately 64.16
acres;

(xxv) T. 3 N., R. 7 E., secs. 24, 25,
and 36, Seward Meridian, comprising ap-
proximately 385.75 acres;

1 (xxix) T. 4 N., R. 8 E., sec. 35, Sew-
2 ward Meridian, comprising approximately
3 1.5 acres;

4 (xxx) T. 1 N., R. 9 E., secs. 1, 2, 11
5 through 14, and 24, Seward Meridian,
6 comprising approximately 1,560.25 acres;
7 and

8 (xxxi) T. 1 N., R. 10 E., secs. 6, 7,
9 17 through 20, 29 and 30, Seward Merid-
10 ian, comprising approximately 2,720.65
11 acres.

12 (2) MANAGEMENT.—Land acquired by the Sec-
13 retary under this subsection shall—

14 (A) become part of the unit of Federal
15 land in which the land acquired by the Sec-
16 retary is located; and

17 (B) be administered in accordance with
18 that unit of Federal land.

19 (3) EXCLUSION OF VILLAGE CORPORATION DE-
20 VELOPMENT AND SHAREHOLDER SITES.—Notwith-
21 standing paragraph (1), Chugach Alaska shall ex-
22 clude from the conveyance of non-Federal land all
23 rights, title, and interest in any land, not to exceed
24 a total of 209 acres, that—

- 1 (A) a Village Corporation has retained de-
2 velopment rights, other than timber develop-
3 ment rights; or
4 (B) has been designated for a shareholder
5 homesite program.

6 **SEC. 5. MAPS, ESTIMATES, AND DESCRIPTIONS.**

- 7 (a) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary and Chugach
8 Alaska may correct, by mutual agreement, any minor er-
9 rors in any map, acreage estimate, or description of any
10 land conveyed or exchanged under this Act.
11 (b) CONFLICT.—If there is a conflict between a map,
12 an acreage estimate, or a description of land in this Act,
13 the map shall control unless the Secretary and Chugach
14 Alaska mutually agree otherwise.

○