

ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES
2025 ANNUAL CONVENTION
RESOLUTION 25-27

TITLE: SUPPORT FOR RETAINING SUBSISTENCE ACCESS TO WILD FOODS ON US BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT ANCSA 17(D)(1) PUBLIC LANDS

WHEREAS: The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) is the largest statewide Native organization in Alaska, and its membership includes 176 federally recognized Tribes, 143 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and Tribal consortiums that contract and compact to run federal and state programs; and

WHEREAS: The mission of AFN is to enhance and promote the cultural, economic, and political voice of the entire Alaska Native community; and

WHEREAS: Many tribes reside in their historic use areas where the citizenry of the region continues their reliance of wild food resources to sustain rural villages and the traditional way-of-life of village residents who live off the road system; and

WHEREAS: Large swathes of historic and contemporary use areas of Tribes are on lands currently under the jurisdiction of the US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) under ANCSA section 17(d)(1) (“D1 Lands”) and managed by the guidance of resource management plans that determine allowable uses of public lands, including wild food harvesting practiced by federally-qualified subsistence users over 40 million acres of BLM managed land and resources; and

WHEREAS: ANCSA withdrew unreserved lands across Alaska for the purpose of ANCSA corporations and State of Alaska selections and to protect the public interests in those lands. BLM policies directed the agency to manage those lands through land planning processes and recent land planning processes have recommended retention of D1 lands; and

WHEREAS: Several Tribes across a broad region of rural Alaska participated as cooperating agencies in the preparation of regional planning documents with the BLM linked to the more recent federal environmental review for D1 Lands and commented extensively about the need for conservation measures to address the sustainable yield principles in US public lands management policies and regulations; and

WHEREAS: Multiple Alaska Native organizations and citizens commented on the need for conserving intact habitat for wild food resources and subsistence access on D1 Lands throughout the environmental review process and advocated for the alternative that is most sympathetic to the interests of federally-qualified subsistence users to halt the contemporary trend in depletion of wild food resources while supporting conservation policies to restore Pacific salmon populations in the freshwater spawning and rearing streams across Alaska; and

WHEREAS: BLM continues to consider its next steps regarding the future of D1 Lands; and

WHEREAS: Any withdrawal of federal protection over D1 Lands or opening of D1 Lands for disposal could adversely affect habitat for subsistence resources and Alaska Natives' ability to access those lands for subsistence purposes.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2025 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives urge the Secretary of the Interior to ensure that any future actions related to the D1 Lands are made only after consultation with Alaska Native Tribes and Alaska Native Corporations, thoroughly consider regional issues and priorities, continue to protect Alaska Native subsistence, and explore co-management opportunities on D1 Lands; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2025 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives suggest that BLM emphasize salmon habitat conservation in regional and statewide plans for any future actions related to the D1 Lands, and ensure that resource management plans are developed through consultation with Alaska Native Tribes and tribal organizations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates of the 2025 Annual Convention of the Alaska Federation of Natives affirm that it is in the public interest to wisely manage intact habitat that supports wild food resources on public lands consistent with the principle of sustained yield that is critical for sustaining rural hunting and fishing dependent Alaska Native villages across Alaska.

SUBMITTED BY: TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

BOARD ACTION: DO PASS

CONVENTION ACTION: PASSED