

American Sportfishing Association, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, California Waterfowl, Camp Fire Club of America, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, Conservation Force, Delta Waterfowl, Ducks Unlimited, Houston Safari Club Foundation, Izaak Walton League of America, Mule Deer Foundation, National Deer Association, National Wildlife Federation, Orion the Hunters Institute, Safari Club International, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership Whitetails Unlimited, Wild Sheep Foundation, Wildlife Forever, Wildlife Management Institute, Wildlife Mississippi

October 21, 2021

David Schmid
Regional Forester
U.S. Forest Service, Alaska Region
P.O. Box 21628
Juneau, AK 99802-1628

Re: Support for Bering River inholding acquisition using LWCF

Dear Regional Forester Schmid,

Thank you for the opportunity to endorse the Forest Service's effort to purchase the Korea Alaska Development Company's coal title in the Bering River drainage of the Copper River Delta. Forty-six of the nation's leading hunting, fishing, and other conservation groups have signed-on to one or more of three prior letters supporting:

- Keeping a portion of Exxon Valdez funding available for habitat conservation in the 2010 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement;
- Conducting a "link to injury" determination in 2016 about Bering River's fish, wildlife, and human services being fully eligible for Exxon Valdez funds;
- Expanding the Exxon Valdez spill region to include the entire Copper River Delta (2020) including Bering River, which thankfully occurred this year;

This letter additionally supports Land & Water Conservation Fund being used to help complete the purchase of the Bering River coal field for inclusion in the Chugach National Forest.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this critically important and historic opportunity.

Sincerely,

American Sportfishing Association
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Houston Safari Club Foundation
Izaak Walton League of America
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