Bring Back Balance

To Bristol Bay land management

1967 - BLM management focuses on conservation and protection of salmon and recreation.

1971 - Alaska legislature unanimously pass resolutions (S.J.R. No. 4 and H.J.R. No. 16) which “urgently requested” the federal government “to manage the Kvichak, Naknek, Egegik, and Aglaungh watersheds in a manner designed to give primary recognition to the extremely valuable commercial and sport fishing resources existing there.”

1972 - Alaska legislature designates state-owned beds of navigable waters as the Bristol Bay Fisheries Reserve.

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1976 - Congress and Alaska legislature ratify the Cook Inlet Land Exchange by which the State acquires federal land in the Kvichak and Nushagak drainages to protect fish. State then acquires the land where the Pebble claims are now located to protect fish.

1978 - Alaska legislature enacts comprehensive land use planning legislation for state lands, and establishes Wood-Tikchik State Park to protect fish and wildlife.


1983 - Bristol Bay Native Association adopts resolution urging the Alaska Legislature to protect all state land within five miles of the Nushagak River (including its major tributaries Nuyakuk, Mulchanna, Kekwok, Kochulti, Swan, King Salmon, and Chichitok rivers), the Kvichak River, and Iliamna Lake, and manage the land exclusively for subsistence and recreational uses. A second resolution opposes any land disposals in the Bristol Bay region.

1984 to 2005 - State’s 1984 Bristol Bay Area Plan gives primary recognition to fish and wildlife and public uses of them.

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1984 BBAP

DNR ignores past priorities that put fish first

2005 - DNR adopts 2005 Bristol Bay Area Plan. It uses primarily marine criteria, such as whether land is a walrus haulout, to identify upland habitat. Salmon streams qualify as habitat only if navigable, which is irrelevant to salmon. Moose and caribou are omitted from criteria. All this eliminates 93 percent of prior habitat classifications under the 1984 BBAP, including at Pebble. The 2005 BBAP defines recreation as excluding sport hunting and fishing. This eliminates 86 percent of prior recreation classifications, including at Pebble.

2005 BBAP

It is up to us to determine the future Bristol Bay land management priorities. Write to the DNR by May 6th and tell them you want balance brought back to Bristol Bay.

Support the Citizen’s Alternative

www.BalanceForBristolBay.org