



Land Settlement in Alaska

Minchumina



GENERAL INFORMATION

Since 1981, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has been involved in assessing the federal public lands it administers in order to determine which lands might be open to public use and acquisition. This action was initially directed by then Secretary of the Interior James Watt.

The initial opening consisted of 10,800 acres in the Minchumina Planning Block, located in Interior Alaska northeast of, but not adjacent to, Lake Minchumina. This parcel was opened in February 1982 for settlement as homesites, headquarters sites, or trade and manufacturing sites. Additional parcels of 9,600 acres each were opened in December 1982 and December 1983. Public Land Order 6098, published December 17, 1981, contains the legal description of these areas.

A U.S. citizen may receive title to only one homesite, one headquarters site and one trade and manufacturing site. Filing requirements for the three settlement categories are available in separate publications from the BLM offices in Alaska. Use and occupancy must begin prior to October 21, 1986, when the settlement laws will cease to be in effect.

FACTS ABOUT THE MINCHUMINA SETTLEMENT AREA

Location

The Minchumina settlement parcels are part of a larger block of federal land located about 125 air miles southwest of Fairbanks, about 75 miles south of Tanana and 210 air miles northwest of Anchorage.

Access

No roads or major water bodies connect this area with any of the communities mentioned. The nearest airstrip is 33 air miles to the southwest at Lake Minchumina. Float plane access is possible into four small lakes in the settlement area and to Wien Lake which is about 20 air miles to the northeast. Winter travel by snowmachine is possible from these lakes. The Federal Government does not guarantee overland access across private lands to settlement claims.

Services

This area is not within any organized unit of local government, therefore, the traditional governmental services are not available. No school, post office, commercial facilities or utilities exist within the block. Mail service is available at Lake Minchumina once a week.

Forest fire protection is limited to that provided by seasonal State or Bureau of Land Management crews hired for the summer. A State Trooper is stationed at McGrath. Emergency medical facilities are located at Fairbanks and Anchorage.

Commercial airline service is available twice per week from Fairbanks to Lake Minchumina. Air taxi service is available on a charter basis.

Climate

Extreme temperatures range from a high of +89° F to a low of -62° F. Average precipitation is 13 to 20 inches. Average snowfall is 57 inches.

Water Quality

Water quality is unknown.

Vegetation

The scattered timber is not of commercial quantity or quality. Timber species are primarily black spruce with some birch and aspen. Shrubs include willow, alder and berries.

Terrain

Most of the area consists of rolling hills underlain with permafrost.

Wildlife

Big game animals, such as moose and bear, inhabit the area during certain seasons of the year. Hunting and fishing are regulated by the State Department of Fish and Game with bag limits and seasonal limits.

Minerals

Mineral leasing is not permitted within the settlement area at present.

Lifestyle

The lifestyle of rural residents in Alaska is very different from that of most United States residents today. Most of the services one takes for granted are not available. All supplies must be brought in by charter aircraft. The limited resources in the settlement area should not be relied on to meet basic needs for food and shelter. No employment opportunities exist within the area.

BASIC INFORMATION ON SETTLEMENT CLAIMS

Case Type	Proof Period (Maximum)	Other Proof	Cost	Max. Acreage
Homesite	Reside in a habitable dwelling 5 mos. each year for three years during a five (5) year period	Build a habitable house	\$2.50 per acre	5
Headquarters Site	Up to five (5) years	Prove business	\$2.50 per acre plus survey cost	5
Trade and Manufacturing Site	Up to five (5) years	Prove business	\$2.50 per acre plus survey cost	80

LEGAL DESCRIPTION OF MINCHUMINA SETTLEMENT PARCELS

FAIRBANKS MERIDIAN

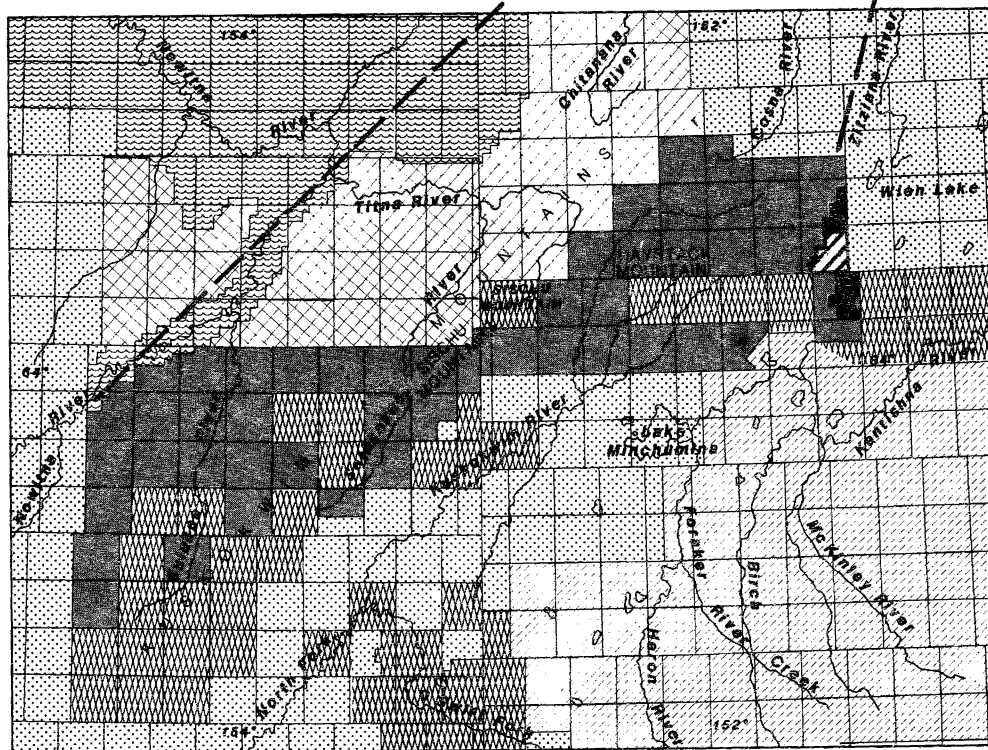
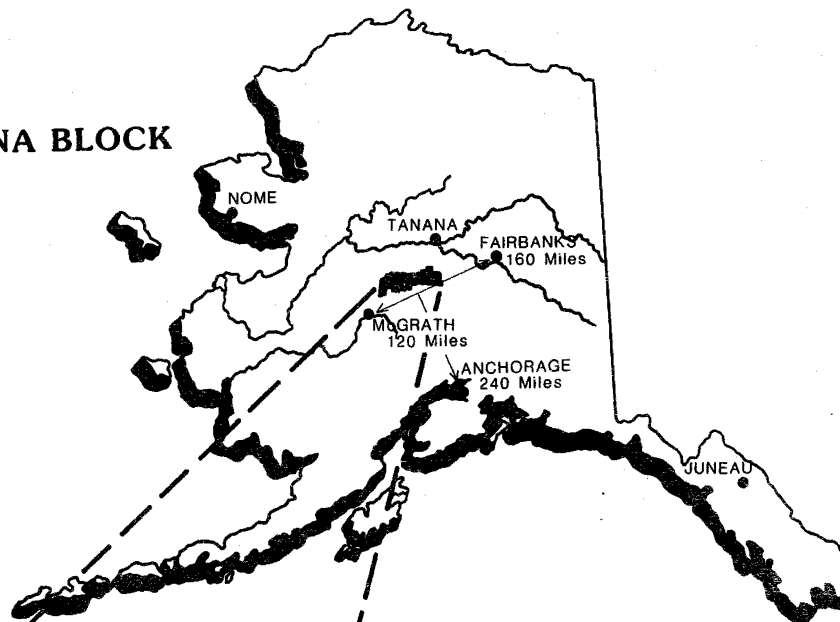
T. 7 S., R. 20 W.,
Secs. 12 and 13; Secs. 23 to 26, inclusive; Secs. 34 to 36, inclusive.

T. 8 S., R. 20 W.,
Secs. 1 to 3, inclusive; Secs. 10 to 15, inclusive; Secs. 22 to 28, inclusive; Secs. 32 to 36, inclusive.

T. 9 S., R. 20 W.,
Secs. 1 to 3, inclusive; Secs. 10 to 15, inclusive; Secs. 21 to 23, inclusive; Secs. 26 and 27; Secs. 34 to 36, inclusive.

The areas described aggregate approximately 30,080 acres.

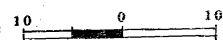
LOCATION OF MINCHUMINA BLOCK



MINCHUMINA BLOCK AND SURROUNDING AREA



APPROXIMATE SCALE



TOWNSHIP
36 SQUARE MILES

SECTION
1 SQUARE MILE

6 MILES

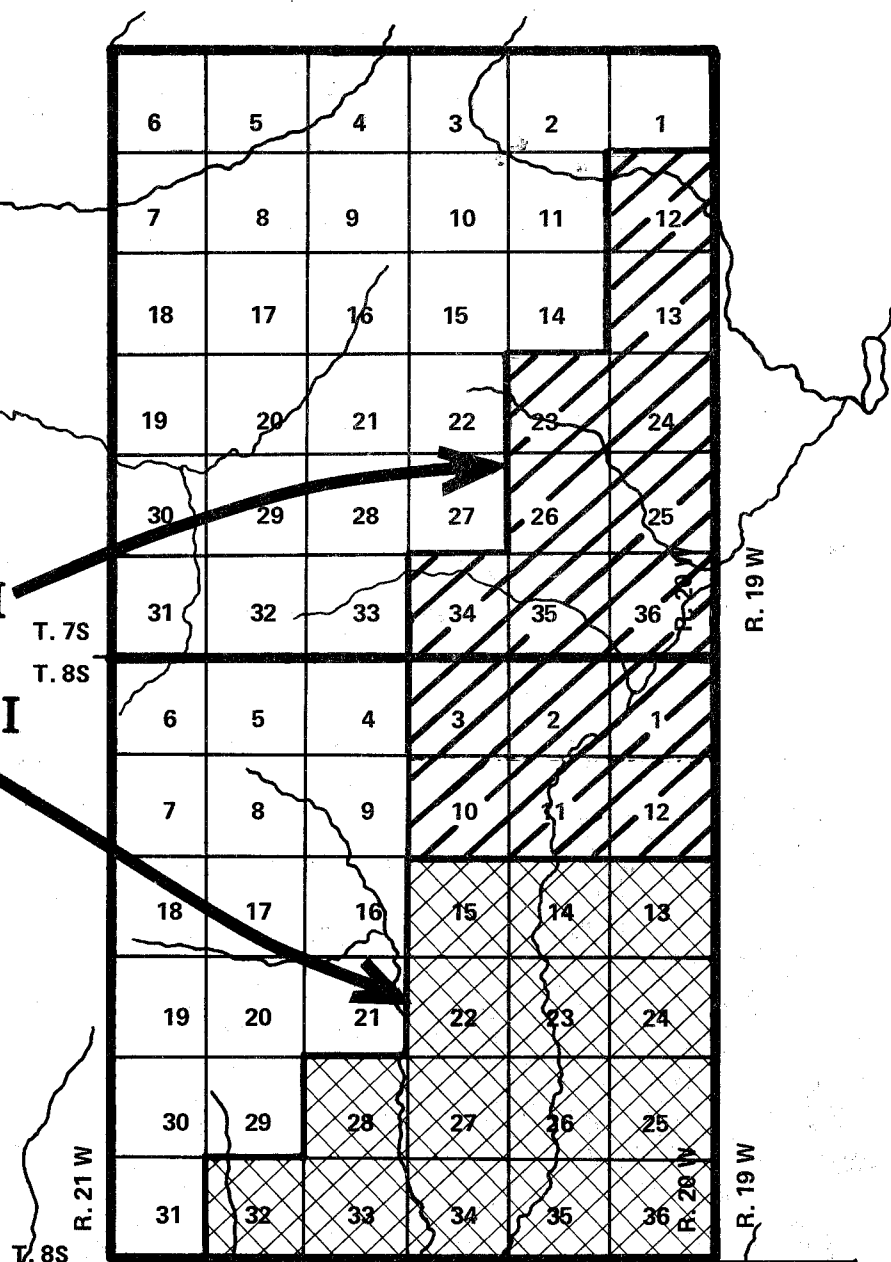
MINCHUMINA II

MINCHUMINA III

**SETTLEMENT
AREA WITHIN
MINCHUMINA
BLOCK**

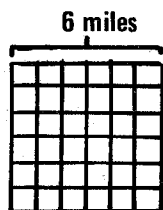
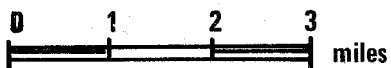
Township 8S
Range 20 W.
FAIRBANKS
MERIDIAN

Refer to 1:250,000
Kantishna River Quadrangle
A3, A4, B3, and B4



MINCHUMINA I

Township 36 square miles
approximate scale



section
1 square mile

5 acres

NOTICE OF LOCATION

The Minchumina settlement parcel land opening was on February 19, 1982; December 31, 1982; and December 31, 1983. Before staking the land, a prospective claimant should visit the nearest BLM office for guidance on land status, locations and staking requirements. Within 90 days after a tract has been staked on the ground, a Notice of Location must be filed with:

Bureau of Land Management
Fairbanks District Office
Land Office
1541 Gaffney Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99703
(907) 356-2025

Various maps are available of the Minchumina settlement parcel areas. A photo map of each of the Minchumina settlement parcels is available for \$15, or a blue line map for \$3:

Bureau of Land Management
Fairbanks District Office
Land Office
1541 Gaffney Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99703
(907) 356-2025

Alaska residents may order topographic maps from:

U.S. Geological Survey
101 12th Avenue, Box 12
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-7535

Residents of the continental U.S. may order from:

U.S. Geological Survey
Branch of Distribution
Central Region
Box 25286
Federal Center
Denver, Colorado 80225

Maps may be bought in person from:

U.S. Geological Survey
701 C Street, Box 53 [Room E-146]
Anchorage, Alaska 99513
(907) 271-4307

U.S. Geological Survey
4230 University Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508-4664
(907) 561-5555

Information on the cost of living may be obtained from:

State of Alaska
Department of Labor
Research and Analysis Section
P.O. Box 1149
Juneau, Alaska 99802

Subscriptions to local papers will provide information about current events and cost of living.

Fairbanks Daily News-Miner
200 Cushman
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 456-6661

Anchorage Daily News
Pouch 6616
Anchorage, AK 99502
(907) 274-2561

Anchorage Times
Box 40
Anchorage, AK 99510
(907) 279-5622