

Congressional Disapproval of the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan (CYRMP)

Restore balanced land management in Alaska and across the West.

Introduced by Senators Dan Sullivan & Lisa Murkowski; House Companion: **Rep. Nick Begich**

Overview

H.J. Res. 106, introduced by Alaska at-large Congressman Nick Begich, and S.J. Res. 63, introduced by Alaska Senators Sullivan and Murkowski, provides for congressional disapproval of the November 2024 Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Central Yukon Record of Decision and Approved Resource Management Plan, under the Congressional Review Act. This resolution would overturn the plan and prevent BLM from implementing sweeping and permanent restrictions on access, development, and infrastructure across more than 13 million acres of public land in Alaska within the 56 million-acre planning area (a land mass nearly the size of Virginia, Maryland, and Pennsylvania combined).

Background and Legal Basis

On **February 28, 2025**, Alaska's congressional delegation submitted a request to the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to determine whether the CYRMP Record of Decision (ROD) constitutes a "rule" under the **Congressional Review Act (CRA)**. GAO issued its **legal opinion on June 25, 2025**, concluding that the CYRMP is subject to CRA disapproval. The opinion was entered into the **Congressional Record on June 26, 2025**, triggering the CRA timeline.

In addition, the CYRMP ROD is explicitly identified in **President Trump's Executive Order 14153, "Unleashing Alaska's Extraordinary Resource Potential."** The order directs the Secretary of the Interior to rescind the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan (CYRMP) and reinstate a prior draft plan, recognizing that the 2024 ROD imposes unjustified barriers to development, access, and land use in violation of longstanding federal policy toward Alaska. **H.J. Res. 106 and S.J. Res. 63 directly fulfill the President's directive** to reverse harmful Biden-era land restrictions and restore lawful, pro-development planning.

This CRA Disapproval Resolution is the Senate's statutory tool to fulfill that directive.

Why the CYRMP Record of Decision Should Be Rejected

1. Overly Restrictive Land Use and Regulatory Overreach that Undermines National Interests.

The CYRMP designates 21 Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs) spanning **3.6 million acres** (roughly 25% of the 13 million acres of federal land in the planning area), reclassifies Visual Resource Management areas in ways that hinder infrastructure development, and maintains outdated Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) 17(d)(1) withdrawals blocking mineral development, road construction, and infrastructure investment across federal, state, and Alaska Native Corporation lands.

2. Threatens U.S. Energy and Mineral Security.

The plan encircles and constrains lands conveyed under the **Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA)**, impeding the ability of Alaska Native corporations—including **Doyon, Limited and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC)**—to access, develop, and responsibly manage their landholdings. The plan locks up access to **critical minerals and hydrocarbons** at a time when the U.S. is attempting to **counter foreign resource dependency**, especially from adversaries like China.

3. Contradicts Federal Law and Policy.

The CYRMP is incompatible with the **multiple-use mandates of the Federal Land Management and Policy Act (FLPMA)**, ignores access protections guaranteed under the Alaska National Interest Land Conservation Act (**ANILCA**), and retains outdated **17(d)(1) withdrawals** without justification, counter to BLM's findings in their Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act Report to Congress.

4. Disregards Local Sovereignty and Stakeholder Input.

Despite years of engagement, BLM's final record of decision failed to correct serious flaws identified by landowners and local governments. These include unsupported environmental justice findings, inappropriate Visual Resource Management (VRM) classifications, and lack of access planning for energy and transportation corridors. The CYRMP is a textbook example of Washington, D.C. bureaucracy ignoring the law, local voices, and the national interest in favor of an extreme preservationist agenda.

Strategic and National Security Implications

- The Central Yukon region is known to contain **critical mineral and rare earth element** potential, which the U.S. needs for **defense, tech, and manufacturing**.
- Blocking access to this land strengthens the hand of **adversaries like China**, which currently dominates the global supply chain for many of these minerals. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the **U.S. imported more than 95 percent of the rare earths** that it consumed. From 2019 through 2022, almost **three-quarters of these imports came from China**.
- The **Biden-era CYRMP undermines** efforts to achieve energy independence and delays infrastructure that could support military and national security logistics in Arctic and Interior Alaska.

Stakeholder Support

- **Doyon, Limited** submitted a formal letter of support for H.J. Res. 106, calling the CYRMP “misguided and harmful.” Doyon holds title to and selections for **more than 4.65 million acres** in the region, and emphasized the plan’s impact on its development rights, infrastructure access, and ANCSA obligations.
- **Alaska Miners Association (AMA)**, representing more than 1,400 members across Alaska’s mining sector, strongly supports H.J. Res. 106, saying the CYRMP restricts economic and infrastructure development, complicates access to inholdings, and is in direct conflict with the federal government’s stated goals for critical minerals and rural connectivity.
- **Americans for Prosperity (AFP)** urged support for H.J. Res. 106, emphasizing that the CYRMP imposes sweeping restrictions on energy development and land use, retains unjustified federal control over the Dalton Highway corridor, and undermines state and local management decisions.
- **American Energy Alliance (AEA)** formally scored a “YES” vote on H.J. Res. 106 in its American Energy Scorecard, calling the CYRMP a product of “radical environmentalists” that should never have been finalized. AEA highlighted the importance of reversing these “last-minute draconian restrictions” to protect energy affordability and free markets.
- **National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB)** expressed support for repealing the CYRMP, warning that it will drive up domestic energy costs and production burdens. NFIB represents approximately 300,000 small businesses, 88% of which support streamlining regulations to boost U.S. energy production.
- **American Exploration and Mining Association (AEMA)** supports the resolution, citing the plan’s threat to U.S. mineral access and disregard for stakeholder input.
- **Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions (CRES)** formally endorsed S.J. Res. 63 / H.J. Res. 106, with President & CEO Heather Reams stating that the Biden Administration’s CYRMP “unnecessarily lock[s] up vital energy and mineral reserves.” CRES applauded the Alaska delegation’s leadership, emphasized Alaska’s long history of responsible development consistent with stewardship and conservation, and underscored that rescinding

the plan will unlock access to critical minerals, bolster energy security, support the Alaska LNG Project, and create thousands of jobs.

- **Resource Development Council for Alaska (RDC)** expressed strong support for S.J. Res. 63, calling the CYRMP “misguided and harmful.” RDC emphasized that the plan’s unwarranted ACEC designations lack scientific basis, further complicate access to ANCSA lands, and undermine multiple-use principles. The Council highlighted that the CYRMP disregards Alaska’s critical mineral and rare earth potential, threatens infrastructure and access, and poses risks to both economic opportunities and national security.
- **North Slope Trilateral (Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, North Slope Borough, and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation)** strongly supports S.J. Res. 63/H.J. Res. 106, emphasizing that the 2024 Central Yukon RMP undermines ANCSA self-determination, violates ANILCA access guarantees, and devalues Alaska Native lands through excessive ACEC designations. The Trilateral warned that the plan blocks critical infrastructure initiatives like the Arctic Strategic Transportation and Resources (ASTAR) project and threatens the economic and cultural foundations of North Slope communities.
- **The Trump Administration** issued a Statement of Administration Policy noting that the CYRMP ignored the State of Alaska’s input and hinders America’s ability to boost mineral production.

While the CYRMP applies to Alaska, its implications are national. If allowed to stand, it sets a dangerous precedent that BLM can override **state interests, private property rights, and Native land claims**—all while ignoring federal statutes and economic priorities.

Support H.J. Res. 106 / S.J. Res. 63

This resolution is a straightforward, time-limited opportunity for Congress to:

- **Reject unlawful regulatory overreach;**
- **Reinforce U.S. mineral and energy security;**
- **Uphold federal law and Native land rights;**
- **Fulfill President Trump’s directive in Executive Order 14153.**

We urge support of H.J. Res. 106 / S.J. Res. 63 to restore balanced land management in Alaska and across the West.