

ANCSA @50

ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

A historic new approach to aboriginal land claims and a massive land transfer

After a lengthy history of debate and litigation about whether Alaska Native people had aboriginal claims to ancestral lands and resources, the U.S. Congress answered in a very distinctive way. On December 18, 1971, Alaska Native aboriginal claims were 'settled' and extinguished by an Act of Congress and signed by President Nixon through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), the largest land claims settlement in U.S. history.



WHAT ANCSA DID FOR ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE

Within each region there is a complex landscape of governance, land ownership, roles, and relationships.



12 Alaska Native Regional Corporations

211 Alaska Native Village Corporations

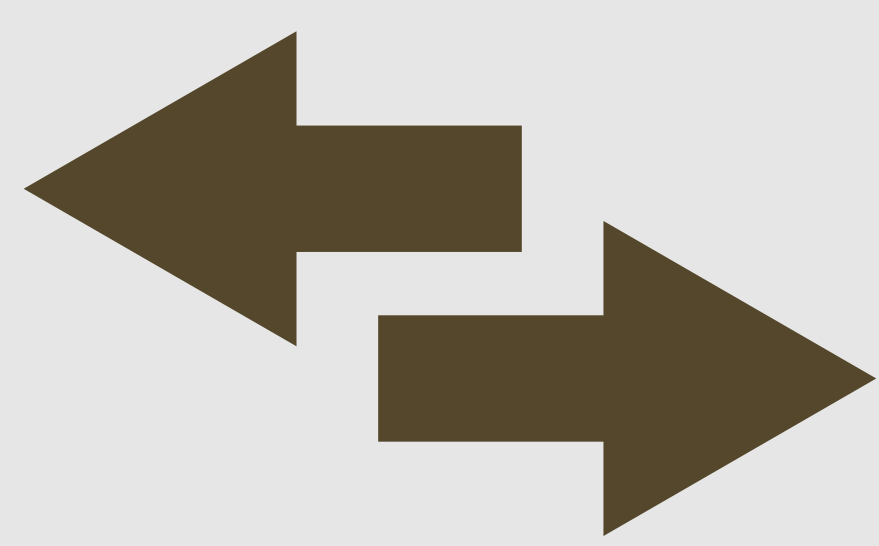
Made Alaska Native people shareholders in those newly created corporations.

Paid Corporations **\$962.5 million** in compensation for ancestral lands the federal government made unavailable for selection.

Mandated the transfer of **44.7 million acres** to the regional and village corporations. A later amendment increased this to **45.7 million acres**.

But most of all it meant that Alaska Natives could settle on traditional homelands.

FULFILLING LAND ENTITLEMENT



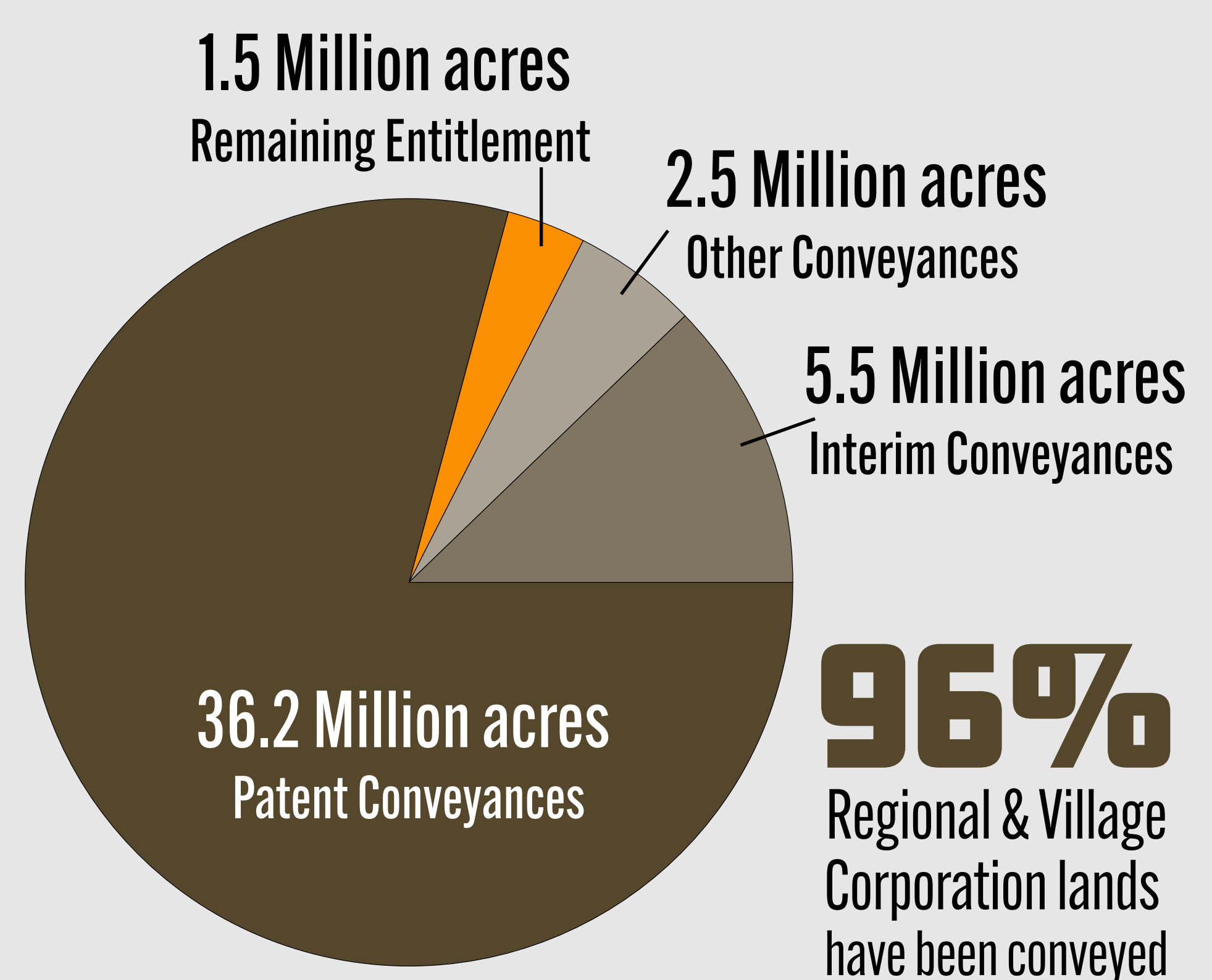
The BLM's monumental mandate: Coordinate the transfer of **45.7 million acres** of federal land, roughly the size of Washington state, to over 200 corporate entities for private ownership.

PROCESS AT A GLANCE

- 1 Selection**
After Alaska Village and Regional Corporations enrolled eligible shareholders it was time to select lands. Alaska Native village corporations selected lands where any part of the village was located, and Alaska Native regional corporations selected any lands from within their ANCSA regional boundaries. All applications were sent to the BLM to process.
- 2 Adjudication**
Some selections were straight forward, and the application had all the required documents. While others proved to be more complex especially when there were competing selections and interests, easements and roads to work out, navigable water issues, and any other special legislations to consider.
- 3 Approval**
Everything checks out or was resolved and the decision to transfer title is made. Notice of the decision is published in the Federal Register and in the newspaper.
- 4 Conveyance**
All the legal complexities are worked out and all rights, title, and interests to the land is formally transferred from the federal government to the village or regional corporation through an Original Patent. The BLM can also issue an Interim Conveyance (IC) for un-surveyed or inadequately surveyed lands and later issue a Confirmatory Patent once survey is completed.

2021 PROGRESS

44 Million Acres+ Conveyed



3,000+ Patents issued

2,000+ Interim Conveyances

99% Village Corporation lands have been surveyed

98% Regional Corporation lands have been surveyed

61,000 Survey monuments

140,000 Survey miles

THE 'EASY' WORK IS DONE AND WHAT'S LEFT IS THE COMPLEX



Finalizing our commitment to Alaska Natives requires input from all sides to complete the final, remaining, complex land entitlements.

Learn more at <https://www.blm.gov/alaska/land-transfer>

References:
<https://ancsaregional.com/>
<https://www.blm.gov>