



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

Kawerak Funding Agreement

Factsheet – Bureau of Land Management, Alaska

The BLM-Kawerak multi-year, self-governance funding agreement – FAQs

Glossary of Terms

- **AFA** – Annual Funding Agreement
- **BIA** – Bureau of Indian Affairs
- **Co-stewardship**: (refer to the BLM IM that came out this spring for definition: [Co-Stewardship with Federally Recognized Indian and Alaska Native Tribes Pursuant to Secretary’s Order 3403 | Bureau of Land Management \(blm.gov\)](#))
- **Designated Official** – The person designated by each party in sections 8 and 21 of the Kawerak MFA.
- **MFA** – an Annual Funding Agreement that spans multiple years (multi-year, self-governance funding agreement)
- **PFSA**: Programs, functions, Services, and Activities (PFSA) that can be assumed by Tribes under self-governance
- **Self-governance**: Self-governance refers to the exercise of authority over oneself - whether that is at the individual, organization or national level.

The Basics of the BLM/Kawerak Agreement

This is a multi-year, self-governance funding agreement that transfers a portion of the BLM’s cultural resource activities and functions to Kawerak, Inc., through authority provided by the [Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act](#) (Public Law 93-638), the signing represents a significant step forward in the exercise of self-determination for the member Tribes of the Kawerak consortium. Kawerak represents nearly one-quarter of the federal lands managed by the Anchorage Field Office in Alaska.

- PFSA’s assumed by Kawerak
 - Cultural Resources-related activities:
 - NHPA Sec 106 Support:
 - Performance of any cultural resources-related activities to include preparing information, analyses, and recommendations that arise within the Bering Strait Region relating to either external requests to use BLM managed lands or internal requests to perform work on BLM managed lands. This work will support the Anchorage Field Manager or other authorized line officer with decision-making authority.

- NHPA Sec 110 Projects:
 - Performance of cultural resources-related activities in the Bering Strait Region that the Anchorage Field Office Archaeologist would typically perform. These activities include: providing resource-related expertise for the Anchorage Field Office; completion of NHPA Section 106 and Section 110 work; development of Section 110 project proposals; and review and contributions to environmental documents.
 - Environmental documents are reviewed in an interdisciplinary team setting and relate to either external or internal requests to use BLM-managed lands within the Bering Strait Region. Attendance at the team meetings and collaboration on environmental documents within established timeframes by policy or Anchorage Field Manager direction is required.
- Outreach and Engagement:
 - Outreach and engagement to Bering Strait Region Tribes about BLM activities that may be of interest to or impact the region. This may include phone and email outreach, village travel, logistical support, or other activities.
 - This would involve both sharing of information about BLM actions, as well as soliciting feedback from region residents, as well as subsistence management support.
 - This will ensure that Bering Strait residents remain informed about these activities, have a consistent contact person, and are able to remain informed and provide input about such activities.
- Final Report:
 - Kawerak will prepare and submit to the Designated Official a final report on the Activities performed by Kawerak under this PFSA Attachment annually, by September 30, each year.
 - The report will contain information sufficient for the Designated Official, the BLM, and the Interior Secretary to prepare any reports to Congress they are required to prepare concerning the Activities included in this PFSA Attachment.

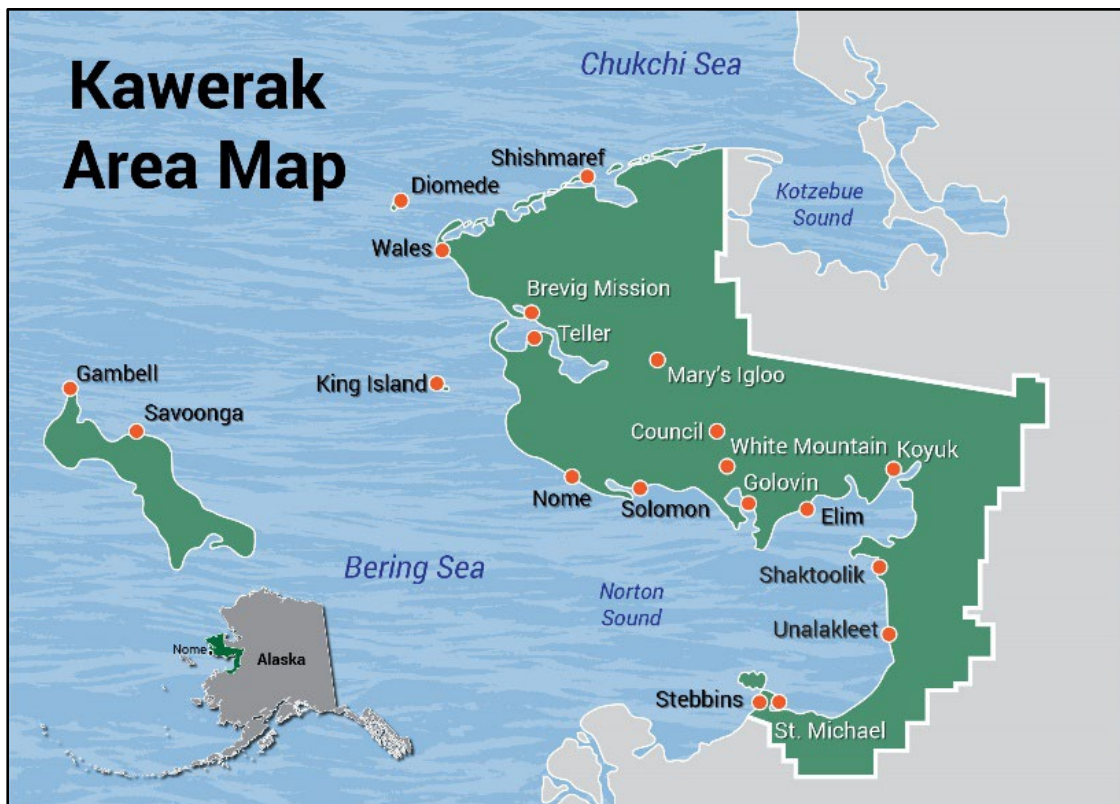
Facts and Background Information

- Can any tribe or tribal consortium negotiate an annual funding agreement?
 - Any Tribe or consortium that the Interior Secretary recognizes as a self-governance tribe can negotiate a self-governance funding agreement. Tribes (or consortiums) apply to the Interior Secretary through the Office of Self-Governance to gain acceptance into the program. For more information on applying, contact: Dr. Kenneth D. Reinfeld, Office of Self-Governance, telephone: (202) 821-7107; or Vickie Hanvey, Office of Self Governance, telephone (918) 931-0745.
- What Programs, functions, Services, and Activities (PFSA's) can Tribes apply to assume?:
 - An annual Federal Register Notice provides a summary of self-governance tribes, as well as a list of those Non-BIA Dept. of the Interior programs that tribes can assume under self-governance. The following link provides the 2022 Federal Register Notice, which contains this information for fiscal year 2022: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/02/08/2022-02584/list-of-programs-eligible-for-inclusion-in-funding-agreements-negotiated-with-self-governance-tribes>

- Each Non-BIA bureau has a separate list of those functions available to Tribes, but there may be others. Each funding agreement is negotiated separately with the Tribe or Consortium.
- For the BLM, many program activities are assumable by a self-governance tribe.
- What is the process for establishing a funding agreement: The process is laid out in full at 25 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1000, most specifically in Subpart F [eCFR :: 25 CFR Part 1000 Subpart F -- Non-BIA Annual Self-Governance Compacts and Funding Agreements](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-25/chapter-VI/part-1000/subpart-F/subject-group-ECFRdbb43c87d9860e6/section-1000.169)
- How does the Tribe initiate a request? For non-BIA bureaus, program applicability, workloads, and available budget information is obtained from the Non-BIA bureau. See 25 CFR 1000, Subpart G, Negotiation of Initial Funding Agreements: <https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-25/chapter-VI/part-1000/subpart-G/subject-group-ECFRdbb43c87d9860e6/section-1000.169>



BLM Alaska State Director Steve Cohn (left) looks on as Kawerak, Inc. President Melanie Bahnke (right) signs a new agreement. Photo by Melinda Bolton, BLM.



Map of the Region served by Kawerak, Inc.