

King Cove Land Exchange Fact Sheet

- The Aleut community of [King Cove](#) (Pop. 750) has been asking for the past 20 years for a one-lane gravel road for transporting patients in emergency medical situations to an all-weather airport in Cold Bay. The road would be for non-commercial use only.
- King Cove's airport is frequently closed by high wind and foul weather. Nearby Cold Bay has a 10,000-foot, all weather runway including operational instrument approach system for bad weather. <http://1.usa.gov/WymBRQ>
- Over the past 30 years, King Cove residents attempting to reach the Cold Bay Airport have resulted in numerous small plane crashes, accounting for at least 12 deaths, including **four people who died** in a 1981 crash. Neither King Cove nor Cold Bay has the sort of hospital facilities found in Anchorage. When King Cove people have a serious medical condition, they need to be flown 600 miles to Anchorage. <http://bit.ly/VEjyFC>
- In 1998, Congress appropriated funds for a \$9 million hovercraft for King Cove. It was operated by the Aleutians East Borough until 2011, when the borough said it could no longer afford the more than \$1 million a year in operating costs. The hovercraft was also not able to operate in extreme weather conditions.
- Sen. Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) passed a provision in the Omnibus Public Lands Act of 2009 ordering a land exchange with the conditions that U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service conduct an environmental impact statement and that the Secretary of the Interior determine it was in the public interest.
- The full length of the road would be about 20 miles, but only about 11 miles of new road would cross the refuge. The land that's required for the **road (206 acres) is less than 1 percent of the total refuge** and the federal government will receive in return nearly 300 times the number of acres used for the road. The road would be restricted to non-commercial use only.
- The land exchange would remove 206 acres from the refuge for the road and 1,600 acres from the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge on Sitkinak Island south of Kodiak. The refuge would receive 43,093 acres of state land and 13,300 acres of land owned by King Cove Corp. **(56,393 acres vs 1,806 acres.)**
- The Izembek Refuge – including those parts that are federally designated wilderness – **already has more than 40 miles of roads** built by the military during World War II and the Korean Conflict.
- The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's field office is in Cold Bay, not King Cove, because of access issues.
- Secretary **Salazar has never been to King Cove** to meet with local residents.