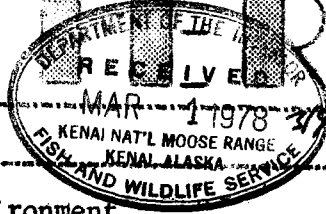


# CENTER NEWS



Vol. VI, No. 1

Alaska Center for the Environment  
913 W. 6th Ave, Anchorage, Ak. 99501

Feb. 17, 1978

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Route	Action
ST RM 11/4 ED	
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## STATE TO SELECT LANDS

On Feb. 20th, the State Dept. of Natural Resources meetings on State Land Selections will begin in Anchorage. These were also mentioned in our last newsletter. It is highly undesirable to have state selections (as presently proposed) create complicated land-ownership patterns and incompatible developments within national parks and wildlife refuges.

The DNR information packet states that two of the purposes of the meetings are to obtain local knowledge and opinions and to refine the tentative selection pool of 45 million acres. The packet lists some of the state criteria for land selection which include: access, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, tourism, oil and gas, coal and minerals, wildlife, settlement and recreation. Large maps showing previous state selections and the new interest areas will be displayed in city halls and community centers around the state.

Unfortunately, there are numerous examples in which HR39 and Andrus park, river and refuge proposals are adversely affected by the state selections. A summary list is on file at the Center. Examples:

- 4 million acre state selection would cancel out proposed Iliamna Wildlife Refuge
- 70+ townships could cancel or change to study area Alaska Peninsula Nat'l Wildlife Range
- Would delete Delta Wild River, part of Birch Creek Wild River, Kuskokwim (middle) Study River, Susitna Study River (upper basin)
- About 20 other areas and a total of 18 million acres would be affected. These include: the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve, Yukon Flats NWR, Arctic NWR, Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve, McKinley Park additions, Katmai additions, and Lake Clark National Park & Preserve.

It is important to become familiar with the state proposals and to present testimony at the meetings. The statewide schedule is given at the end of this newsletter. Detailed information and maps are available from Div. of Lands offices in:

Anchorage---3327 Fairbanks St. 99503

Fairbanks---4420 Airport Way, 99701

Juneau---State Office Bldg., 11th Floor, Pouch M, 99811

and from the DNR Commissioners Office in Anchorage, 323 E. 4th Ave., 99501. Chip Dennerlein is the Community Coordinator for DNR, 279-5577.

## HEARING SCHEDULE

Anchorage - February 20, 7:30, Pioneer School House

Soldotna - February 22, 7:30, Kenai Peninsula Borough Bldg.

Wasilla - February 23, 7:30, Wasilla Senior High School

Glennallen - February 25, 10:00 a.m. Glennallen High School

Dillingham - February 27, 7:30, Council Chambers

New Stuyahok - February 28, 7:30

Naknek - March 1, 7:30, Borough Assembly Chambers

Bethel - March 8, 7:30, City Council Chambers

McGrath - March 9, 7:30, City Hall

Galena - March 10, 7:30, City Hall

Rampart - March 11, 1:00 p.m.

Circle - March 12, 1:00 p.m.

Fairbanks - March 13, 7:30 Woods Center

Delta Junction - March 14, 7:30 Delta School

Juneau - March 20, 7:30, City Borough Assembly Chambers

Nome - March 22, 7:30 City Hall

Kotzebue - March 23, 7:30

Barrow - March 30, North Slope  
Borough Building

WHAT'S NEW WITH D-2

The House Subcommittee on Alaska Lands has finished action on the committee print. An affirmative voice vote by all but Rep. Don Young sent it on to the full Interior Committee for further action. On the last day of discussion, Young submitted an amendment which would authorize the Sec. of Interior to authorize the State to conduct fishery and aquaculture activities in all wilderness areas except national parks. Such activities could include stream modification, construction of permanent installations, etc. and provide that the Secretary shall grant access to these sites, including motorized access.

A long, heated argument ensued. Seiberling pointed out that the Subcommittee Print already authorizes such activities in the case of need. The amendment was defeated by 9-5. Both Young and State Sen. Poland have made strong statements that the passage of HR 39 as it now reads will ruin the future of fisheries in Alaska. Aquaculture will not be precluded by H.R. 39. In fact, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) has been very actively working with fishermen to insure that aquaculture can take place. The bill not allow large large permanent complexes but doesn't prohibit discreet low impact operations. Only streams that are not productive are generally considered for hatcheries. How many uprproductive streams are included in the S.E. wilderness proposals? It seems very difficult to justify the level of response with the limited area involved. This appears to be yet another attempt to frighten away fisherman support from HR 39.

Seiberling submitted an amendment on subsistence which was accepted. The substitute would authorize the State of Alaska to regulate subsistence taking of fish and game on federal lands in Ak. The Sec. of Interior would retain final responsibility and could, if necessary, suspend the state program after hearings, etc. A second Seiberling amendment was submitted to allay Alaskan fears regarding access to in-holdings. The change would assure an absolute right of access in all conservation areas to those who held lands prior to enactment of the bill. Also included was the clarification that only one Environmental Impact Statement would be required even if the proposed corridor would cross several catagories of federal lands managed by different agencies.

Access to minerals in National Interest Lands has provided and will continue to be the most intense and crucial argument. Meeds (Va.) offered a substitute mineral section which would have facilitated mineral exploration and extraction in national refuges, preserves and forests, cutting wilderness back to about 32 million acres and omitting Southeast Alaska entirely. Seiberling countered with his own proposal which encourages the Secretary to conduct mineral surveys but provides a tighter approval system for advanced exploration and extration. During debate, Udall said if a "tight" mineral process were approved, he would not insist on so much wilderness. He pointed out that State, native, national forest and BLM land in Ak. would leave 77% of the State open to mineral extraction, and only 23% under the safeguards of HR 39. The Bureau of Mines has classified 142 million acres of mineralized land outside HR 39 systems and only 32 million acres with in, of which 14 million is in existing withdrawals. Although a few changes were made, the Seiberling position was upheld by a 9-8 vote. There is no question that this issue will surface again when the bill goes before the full Interior Committee.

IN SUMMARY.....MARKUP OF HR 39

- Drop in acreage from 102 to 97.5 million acres
- Loss of some park proposals to preserves
- A weakening of the mineral process
- Temporary defeat of the 5th system approach
- Addition of critical lands in Lake Clark and Katmai N. Park proposals
- Attack on wilderness proposals overcome

#### DALPHINS GAINING PROTECTION AT LAST

In December 1977 the government ruled that the incidence of accidental killing of dolphin by the tuna industry must be reduced by 50% in the next three years. This was due to the legal pressure brought by the Environmental Defense Fund and ten other groups during the past four years. In the 1970's 300,000 dolphin were dying every year in the nets of fishing boats pursuing the yellowfin tuna. By 1980 the quota will be 31,000. Only 26,000 were killed last year, but the season was shortened due to a fishermen's strike protesting the new regulations. Because of the new fishing equipment required in the wake of earlier rulings, it may be possible to reduce the quota even further. We enjoy passing on news like this.

#### ACTIVITIES OF THE LEGISLATURE'S D-2 STEERING COUNCIL

The Steering Council, chaired by Steve Cowper, continues its media Blitz (see Jan. 23rd Center News). They ran daily ads in the Washington Post from Jan. 30th to Feb. 3 saying that "land and wildlife can be protected while rational economic development of Alaska's resources is permitted." They claim to be conservationists and that they have discovered a delicate balance and a "synthetic compromise" which will permit access and mineral exploration and wilderness boundaries will be "based upon known migratory behavior patterns." They also claim that conservationists agree that "the oil pipelining (sic) ....[shows] that high technology can be applied to fragile environments without permanent damage." A number of people gathered at the Center to see a special showing of the 12-minute film prepared for the Council and shown to members of Congress. An Alaska Coalition press release on the film said, "...it oversimplifies complex issues, in some cases gives false or out of date information and depicts rural Alaskans as opposing legislation that would set land aside for protection. Grant Fairbanks, a homesteader who appears in the movie, stated at the press conference that the movie does not represent him accurately. The movie implies that he and other Alaskans used in the film live on lands slated for withdrawal when in fact they do not."

A Washington, D.C. attorney has been hired to lobby for the Steering Council. Rep. Cowper is concerned about the millions of dollars that environmentalists have available to spend on the D-2 issue. Is he serious??? The myth of the well-financed environmental organizations is a reality only in the minds of [Young, Stevens] Cowper, et al. It is apparently impossible to comprehend that enough people really care about what happens to spend time and effort, without pay or very low pay, to attend meetings & hearings, write letters, develop information packets, etc. If you would like to express your thoughts about the Steering Council, write to Steve Cowper Steering Council for Alaska Lands, Pouch V, Juneau, Ak. 99811

#### OTHER HAPPENINGS ON THE D-2 FRONT

In order to show wide spread support for Alaska National Interest Lands, a group of prominent individuals throughout the United States has formed "Americans for Alaska." They ran a full page ad in the Washington Post on Jan. 20th. For information on who is involved, how to help or how to have your name added, write, George S. Wills, Exec. Dir., Americans for Alaska, Box 50, Riderwood, Md. 21139

The Reader's Digest ran two very good articles in the December and January issues. Reprints may be available from the Digest.....John Denver has completed a movie on his experiences while he was in the state last summer. He is hoping to have it shown on television sometime this spring.....The Center still has time available on KBYR to respond to the Jack Frost anti-D-2 editorials. If you can write one-minute or three minutes spots, please send them to the Center in care of Tom Rivell or Don Carter.

#### BUREAU OF OUTDOOR RECREATION CHANGES ITS NAME AND FOCUS

The BOR is now officially the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service. In announcing this change, Sec. Andrus said the focus of the agency would be on efforts to preserve historic and natural places, make financial and technical assistance available to the States, local communities and interested groups. The river and trails studies will be done by the Park Service, archeological studies by HPCR.

#### WIND-POWERED GENERATOR AT WORK IN AMBLER

Dan Denslow of Ambler reports that he recently installed a wind generator to provide electricity for his home and shop. "The system consists of a 120 volt DC Jacobs wind generator (made about 1947) on top of a 3-leg self supporting 70 foot steel tower. The generator starts to put out electricity in an 8mph wind and can put out full power (2500 watts) in about a 20 mph wind. It charges a bank of 19 6-volt batteries of the deep-cycle type, 70 size. These can store 2400 kilowatt hours of energy which is enough to light a 100 watt bulb continuously for 10 days without wind."

The system was purchased through Bill Barnes, Jr. of Wind-lite-Alaska. Mr. Denslow reports that he was very pleased with Bill's assistance in getting set up and the system is working well. Dan Denslow feels it is hard to justify the cost at this time, but if fuel prices continue to climb, it will become a good economic investment.

#### BOTTLE BILL PETITIONS SENT TO JUNEAU

Over 9,000 signatures were sent to Juneau on February 13 to be added to the Bottle Bill Petition. The 30-day second effort should put the initiative on the November ballot. Many thanks to all those who spent time and energy making sure that the job got done!

#### NATIONAL DEPOSIT LEGISLATION ON BOTTLE & CANS RECEIVES BOOST

The campaign against throwaway bottles and cans received a significant boost recently from a top-level White House advisory group. Environmental Action reports that the advisory group concluded that mandatory deposits on beverage containers are an "effective means" of reducing litter and produce a marked energy savings. The study was commissioned by the President last March. It was written by the staff of the Resource Conservation Committee, a cabinet level advisory group made up of representatives of nine federal agencies.

#### HIGHWAY ACTION COALITION GEARS UP FOR '78

A recent news release from Environmental Action, states that the Highway Action Coalition (HAC) is preparing for battles on the major transportation issues of 1978. HAC, which is a project for volunteers nationwide to provide input and assistance in making major changes in the way transportation projects are planned and funded. It is anticipated that highway and mass transit programs enacted by Congress and the Administration in 1978 will set national transportation policies for years to come.

Among the issues HAC will be working on are mass transit funding and environmental protections for highway construction.

Their address can be obtained by contacting the Center, and if you are interested in transportation problems, joining HAC is an excellent way of keeping yourself and others informed.

Environmental Action has also made available a citizens' manual on how to fight unnecessary highway construction. The book, titled "The End of the Road: A Citizen's Guide to Transportation Problemsolving", can be purchased for \$3.50 from Environmental Action Foundation, 1346 Connecticut Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20036. A copy of this book is available at the Center library.

#### NEEDED: PART-TIME SECRETARY FOR SIERRA CLUB

General office skills including bookkeeping and typing are required. Hours can be worked around your schedule. Call 274-2318 for more information.

#### HELP WANTED

The Center always needs volunteers to work flexible hours. Work that needs to be done varies from clerical to research to research to organizing to building maintenance. If you have time to spare, come join us. Your talents will be put to good use.

LETTERS NEEDED...

The Board of Game will be meeting in Fairbanks March 25-April 3 to consider changes in certain hunting and trapping regulations. Public comments are being solicited and should be addressed to the Board of Game, Subport Bldg., Attn: Game Division, Juneau, Alaska 99801, before March 17, 1978. Among the proposals for change to existing regulations are:

PROPOSAL #76 (5AAC 81.250) Eliminate hunting, trapping, and the use of motorized vehicles in Potter Point State Game Refuge. Current regulations allow hunting and trapping in the area between the Old and New Seward Highways December 15-March 31.

Justifications for the proposal to change regulation are:

1. Conflicting use--hunting and trapping--are in contrast to the purpose of the refuge.
2. Danger to traffic on highways--small confined space bordered by two highways.
3. There is lead shot buildup--danger to pre-nesting and nesting birds.
4. Vegetation damage by vehicle and foot traffic plus litter.

PROPOSAL #69 (5AAC 81.290) The entire Eagle River drainage from the headwaters at Eagle Glacier, Raven Glacier, Camp Creek, including South Fork, Meadow Creek, and all other tributaries of Eagle River, northwest to the Glenn Highway be closed to all hunting and trapping. Current regulations allow hunting and trapping.

Justifications for the proposal to change regulation are:

1. Chugach State Park was created to provide areas for the public display of local wildlife. The only specified general wildlife viewing area in Chugach State Park is the west fork of Eklutna Canyon. This area has been selected by the Eklutna Native Corporation and therefore will soon no longer be part of the Park.
2. Wildlife populations in the park are declining because of nearby habitat loss and hunting pressures.
3. Increasing visitor use along with residential development have created safety hazards associated with hunting and trapping. Conflicts between consumptive and nonconsumptive users have developed.

IF YOU SUPPORT THESE PROPOSALS TO CHANGE CURRENT HUNTING AND TRAPPING REGULATIONS, PLEASE WRITE TODAY.....

CALENDAR

DEADLINES

April 1 Written statements on State Land Selections due at Dept. of Natural Resources (see page 1)

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Coastal Management Guidelines and Standards

- Feb. 28 Dillingham, 7:30pm, City Hall
- Mar. 1 Valdez, 7:30pm, Council Chambers
- Mar. 1 Ketchikan, 7:30pm, Council Chambers
- Mar. 2 Bethel, 7:30pm, Council Chambers
- Mar. 3 Kenai, 7:30pm, Kenai Peninsula Borough Bldg.
- Mar. 4 Homer, 1pm, Homer Museum

State Land Selections--see page 1.

Kenai River Resources--Environmental Review

Feb. 28 Kenai, 7:00pm, Kenai Peninsula Borough Bldg.

MEETINGS, WORKSHOPS, SYMPOSIUMS, ETC.

Feb. 28 PARC of Anchorage, Workshop on Lawlessness in the Parks and on Trails in Anchorage. 1pm-3:30pm, at Parks & Rec. Bldg, 607 W. 6th Ave, Room 101.

Mar. 1 Sierra Club Executive Committee Meeting 7:30pm, at Mark Hickock's home, 1589 Sunrise Dr. All members welcome.

Mar. 15 (approximately). Anchorage Area Fish and Game Advisory Committee meeting, on proposed new game regulations (call the Center for exact date, time and location).

Mar. 16 Anchorage Audubon Society meeting. Tony DeGange will present a program on "Natural History of St. Lawrence Island", 7:30 p.m. at Central Jr. H.S.

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