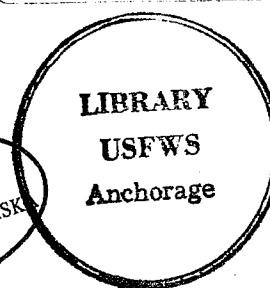


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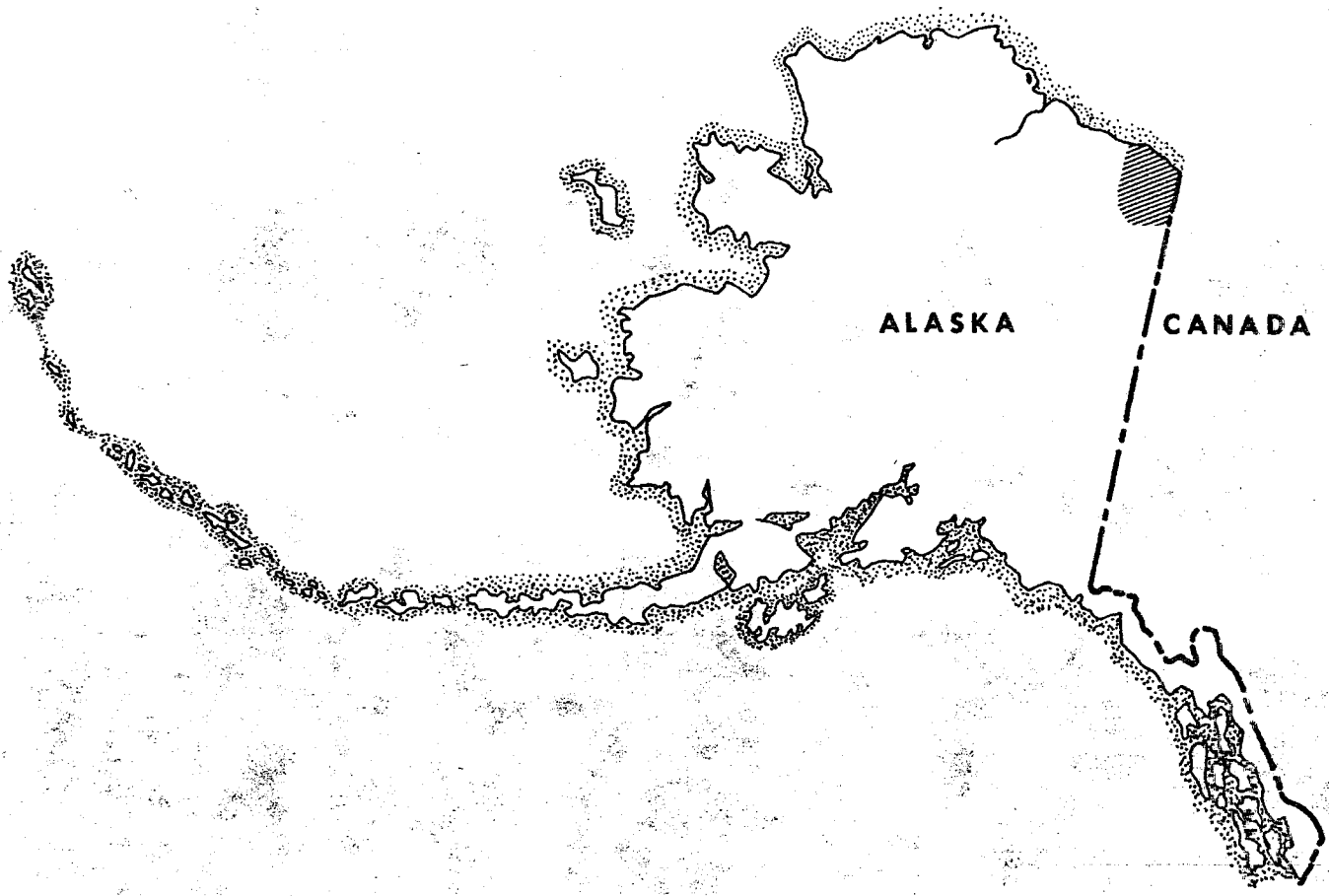


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**ARLIS**  
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Anchorage, Alaska

# ARCTIC

## NATIONAL WILDLIFE RANGE

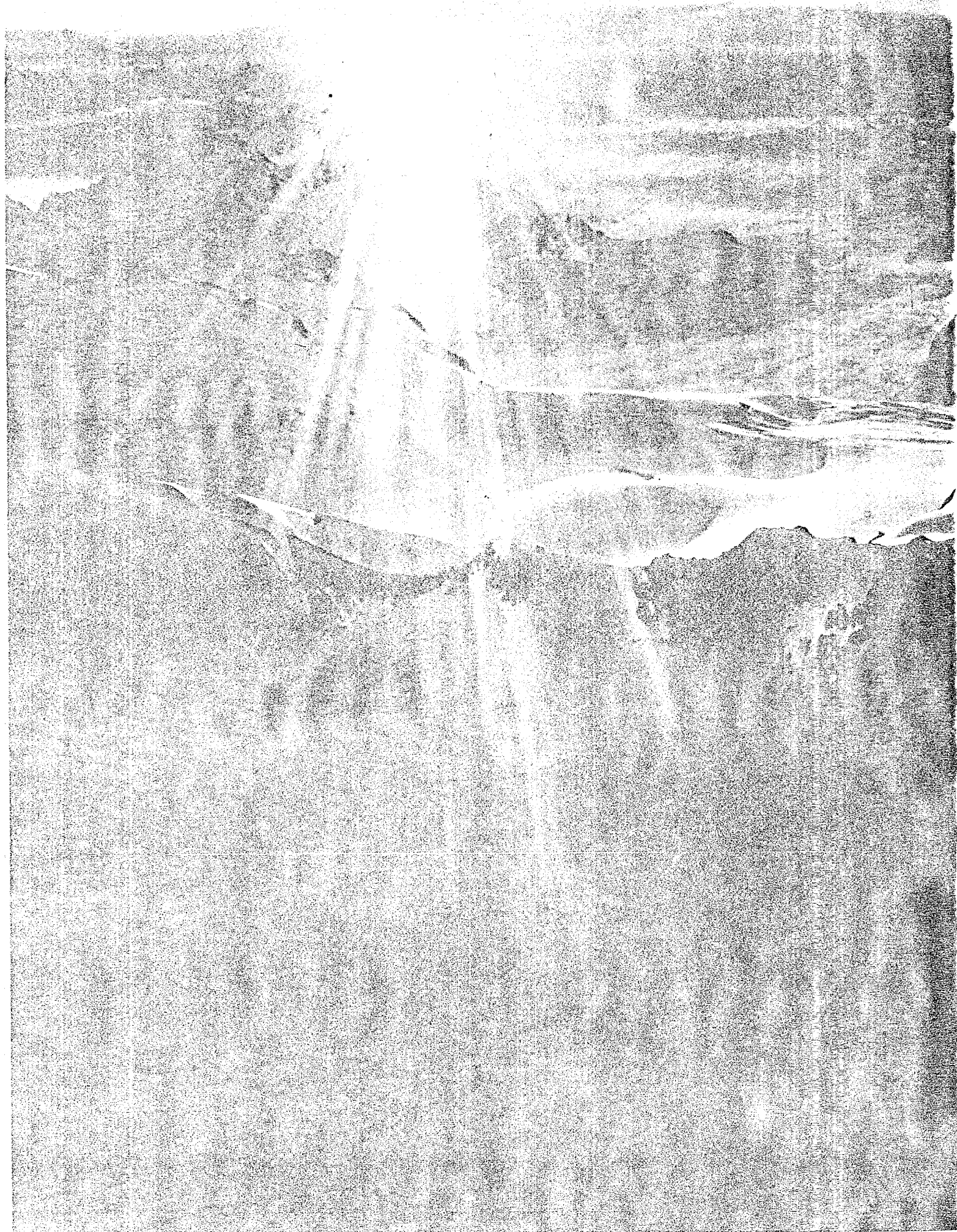


MASTER PLAN

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appreciation of the  
recreation that can be enjoyed  
among native creatures.  
utes to this nation-wide communit

...the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
...development of the National Wildlife  
...programs and flexible  
...to be used as a guide for  
...the visitor's enjoyment of the





# Foreword

The Arctic National Wildlife Range was established in December, 1960, by Public Land Order—the result of officials, conservationists, people from all walks of life joining in the commitment that this wild area shall be preserved.

The Range typifies Arctic wilderness. Remote from massive human influence, this 8.9 million-acre area has been subjected only to forces which, through the ages, have left a land physically beautiful and steeped in tranquility.

The principal geographic feature is the Brooks Range, its towering snow-clad peaks and many-hued slopes cut with numerous drainages flowing north to the Arctic Ocean and south to the Yukon. Terrain varies from rugged crags to flats patterned with frost polygons and thaw lakes. The climate is arctic, marked by low temperatures, low precipitation and strong winds. Vegetation of the north slope consists of low grasses, sedges, forbs, and shrubs typical of Arctic tundra. Southern exposures, reflecting warmer summer temperatures, are dressed in varied greens of trees and shrubs.

# Looking Back

History tells us little of early man in northeastern Alaska. Circles of stones or slight variations in vegetation indicate locations of ancient dwelling sites. The land was both a home and route of travel for a people who lived for centuries in harmony with their environment—living entirely from it but leaving it intact. Man was nomadic, dependent on the migrations of birds, caribou, seals, fish and whales for food and shelter. During winter, dog teams enabled him to travel great distances. In summer he traveled on foot and in boats made of bone and driftwood frames covered with animal skins.

Explorers intruded briefly a century and a half ago, then departed, leaving only their names on prominent features—Camden Bay, Mt. Michelson—gentle reminders of their passage.

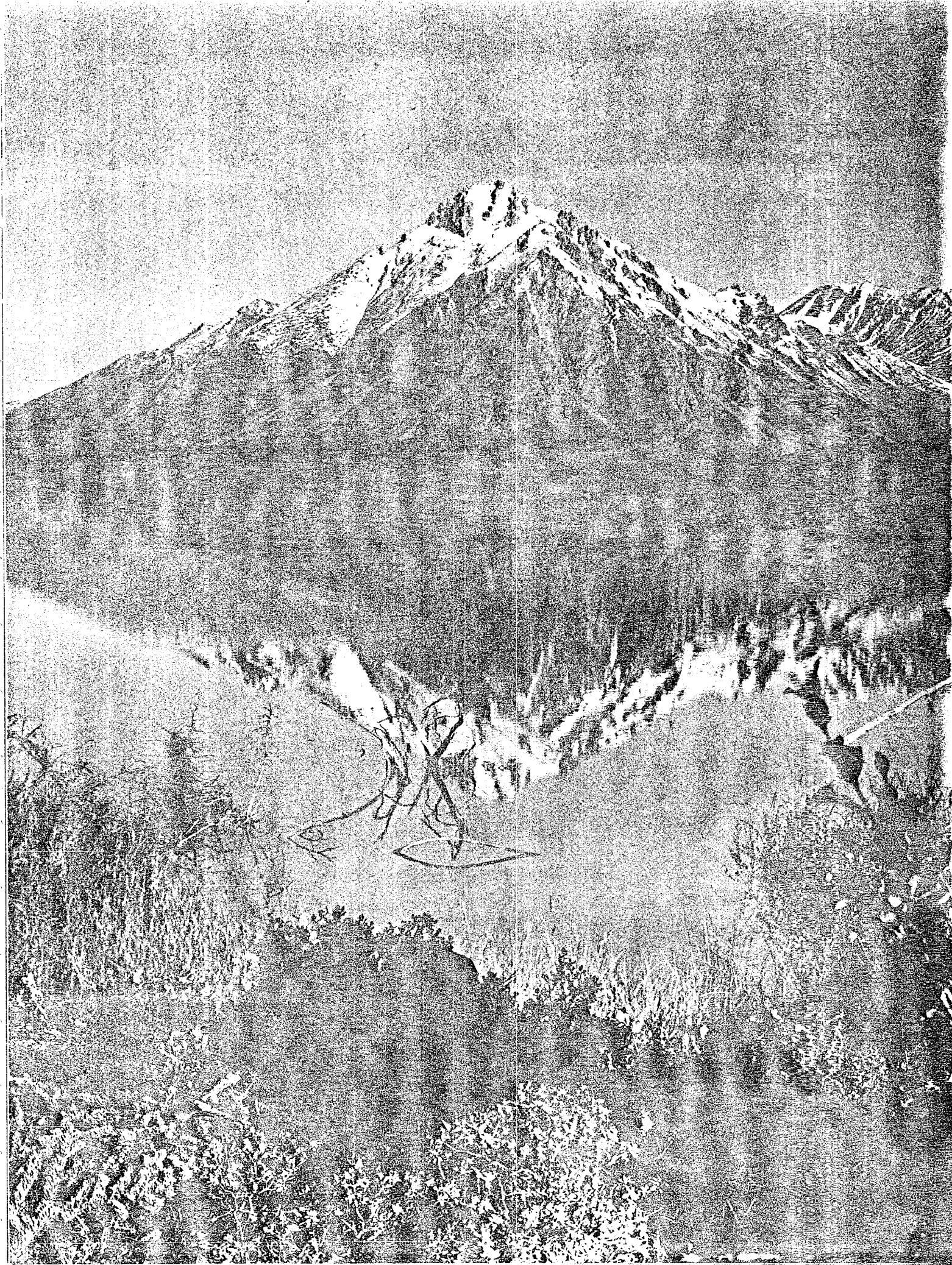




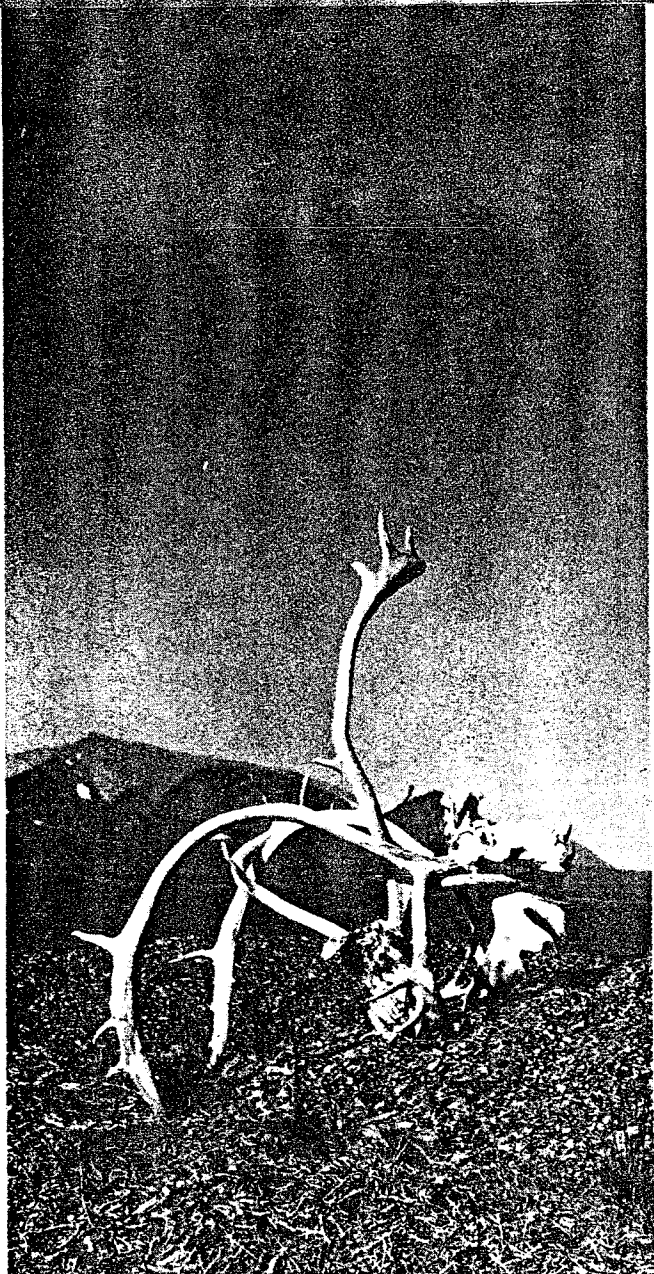
CARIBOU

They described the Brooks Range, its glowering precipices and deep, silent valleys which suddenly fill with the sound of migrating caribou and just as abruptly fall mute again as the animals hurry on to some distant destination. Accounts of the Arctic shore where one could stand at land's end and watch long strings of waterfowl migrating along the coast—for hours and days—generated world-wide attention.

Explorers were followed by naturalists drawn by the challenge of a wild new land little affected by the ravages of civilization. Surveys were made, trails were tried, game populations were studied, and the fund of information grew. As far as was known, economic importance was limited, and the vast area remained a wilderness—our last frontier. Its life forms and topographic majesty were still free of man's exploitation. Visitors behaved as respectful guests.







As activity in the region increased, people became concerned that natural greatness of the Arctic would be neglected. Some recommended preserving all of the Brooks Range; others proposed less. This interest and a series of public hearings in Alaska led to establishment of the Arctic National Wildlife Range.

# The Present

One of the most impressive wildlife features of the Range is the annual international migration of the massive Porcupine Caribou Herd. In the spring, some one hundred forty thousand caribou leave their wintering grounds in Alaska and Yukon Territory and migrate northwesterly to Alaska's Arctic slope.

Black bears are most common in the southern forested zone; grizzlies inhabit the entire Range, while polar bears wander in from the polar ice. Mountain crags and meadows are the home of Dall sheep. Smaller animals too are important in the total ecology.

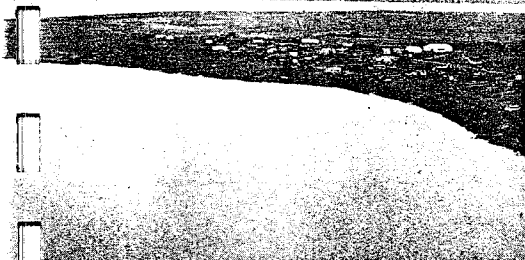
Present in impressive variety, birdlife of the Range is typical of the Arctic wilderness. For a brief period in summer, vast numbers of small, ground-nesting birds give life to the tundra. Barrier islands along the north coast protect shallow lagoons, offering foraging and nesting areas for waterfowl. Thousands of snow geese rest briefly on the Arctic plain during fall migrations, feeding on tundra berries before their long flights south.

Although wildlife of the Range is diverse and locally or seasonally abundant, this fragile land does not teem with game. Animals and birds living here year-round require vast areas for sustenance, and each habitat is essential at some time of the year. Unique quality of the Range depends on preservation of all its parts.

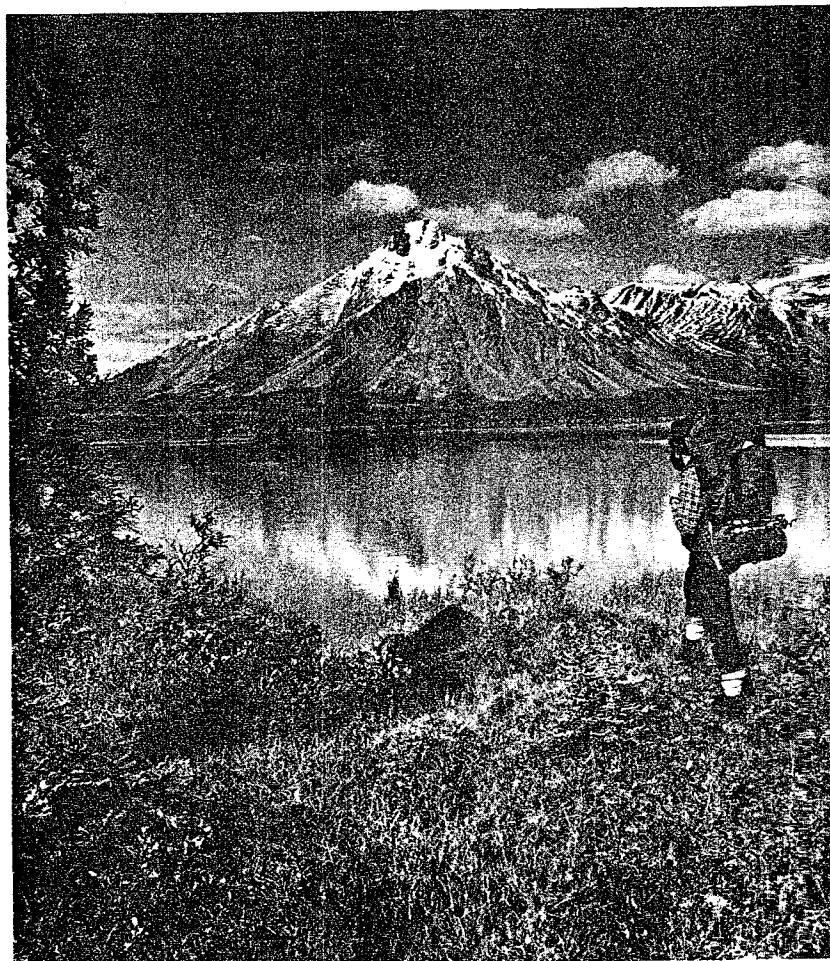
Coastal lagoons provide a route of travel by water in summer and ice in winter. Flying over, or hiking an animal trail, visitors are awed by the immensity and solitude which typify the Arctic. The Range is at the crossroads of events and time when fulfillment of its role as one last great remaining Arctic wilderness depends on plans made and actions taken now.



ESKIMO FISH CAMP



KAKTOVIK





TUNDRA BLOOM





Some south slope streams are placid, meandering through meadows and past many small lakes in the northern limit of the spruce-deciduous forest. They are tributaries of the Yukon River.

# The Look Ahead

The principal purpose of the Arctic National Wildlife Range is to preserve unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values. The following specific objectives are presented as being compatible with that goal:

*Protect and maintain the natural environment of the Range and preserve unique habitat in relatively undisturbed condition.*

*Maintain northern wildlife species which are rare, unusual, or require special protection and attention for their perpetuation.*

Civilization has been slow to invade the Arctic, but new mobility makes it vital that natural areas be protected. The Range qualifies for study to determine which part should be recommended for designation as a National Wilderness Preservation Area, in accord with the Wilderness Act of 1964. Development and management will reflect intent to maintain essentially natural conditions.

Control of use will help protect natural values. Special attention will be given to coastal lagoons where wildlife and habitat are especially vulnerable.

Scattered debris is being removed. But elimination of the long-time accumulation of oil drums littering hundreds of miles of the Arctic coastline will be a major project.

More must be known of the Arctic wildlife species to determine their status and needs. Populations and habitat have been in comparative balance for centuries, and substantial change in either could be disastrous. Several species are of particular interest, and efforts are being made to re-establish the muskox by transplants.

*Encourage study of natural plant and animal communities and their interrelationships.*

Opportunities and need for wildlife and habitat studies are unlimited. Information on hunting and fishing pressures, population dynamics, management and interpretation are essential to proper administration. Responsibility for unique wildlife wilderness, and recreational values of the Range can be exercised only through clear understanding of ecological relationships between all plants, animals, and their physical environments. The Range is a vast field laboratory.

GRIZZLY BEAR



*Offer opportunity for quality wildlife-oriented public enjoyment based on a beautiful environment and compatibility with other objectives.*

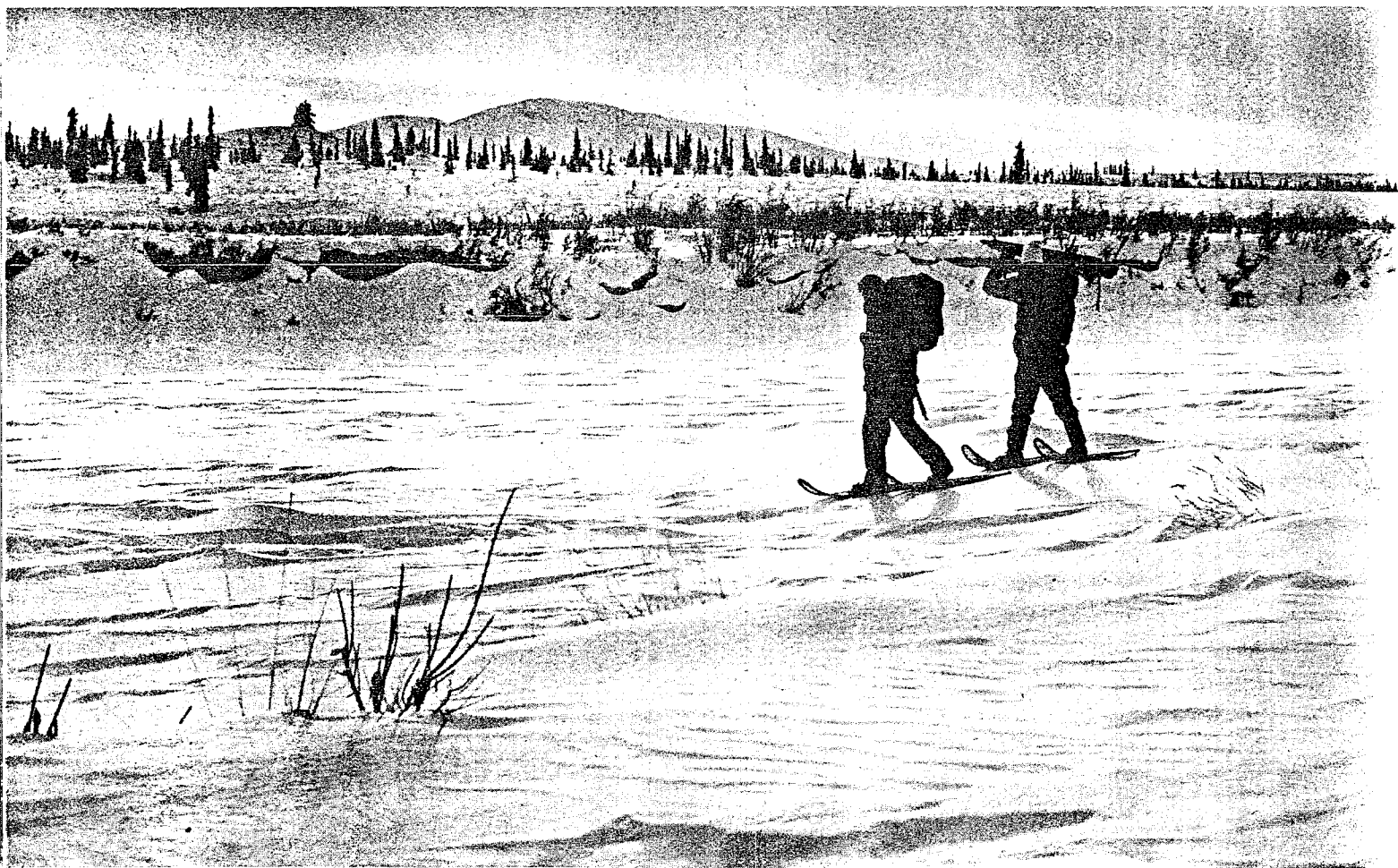
*Protect migratory bird habitat for its contribution to the flyways and recreation.*

Growing public interest, improving accessibility, lower transportation costs, and allure of the north will draw more people to the Range. Construction of comfortable visitor accommodations will be avoided to preserve opportunities for primitive outdoor experiences in comparative solitude.

Most outdoorsmen dream of a trip to Alaska. Neither big game animals nor fish are abundant, but hunters and fishermen find satisfaction in not seeing another person or evidence of his presence during their entire stay. Regulations will be kept current to meet changing conditions.

The Range is noted for its wildlife variety, including several species of nesting waterfowl. The summer season is short and disturbance will be held to a minimum. This is the northern terminus of flights for most species.

An increasing human population and disappearance of wild land are daily lessening opportunity for uncrowded visits to the nation's woods and streams.







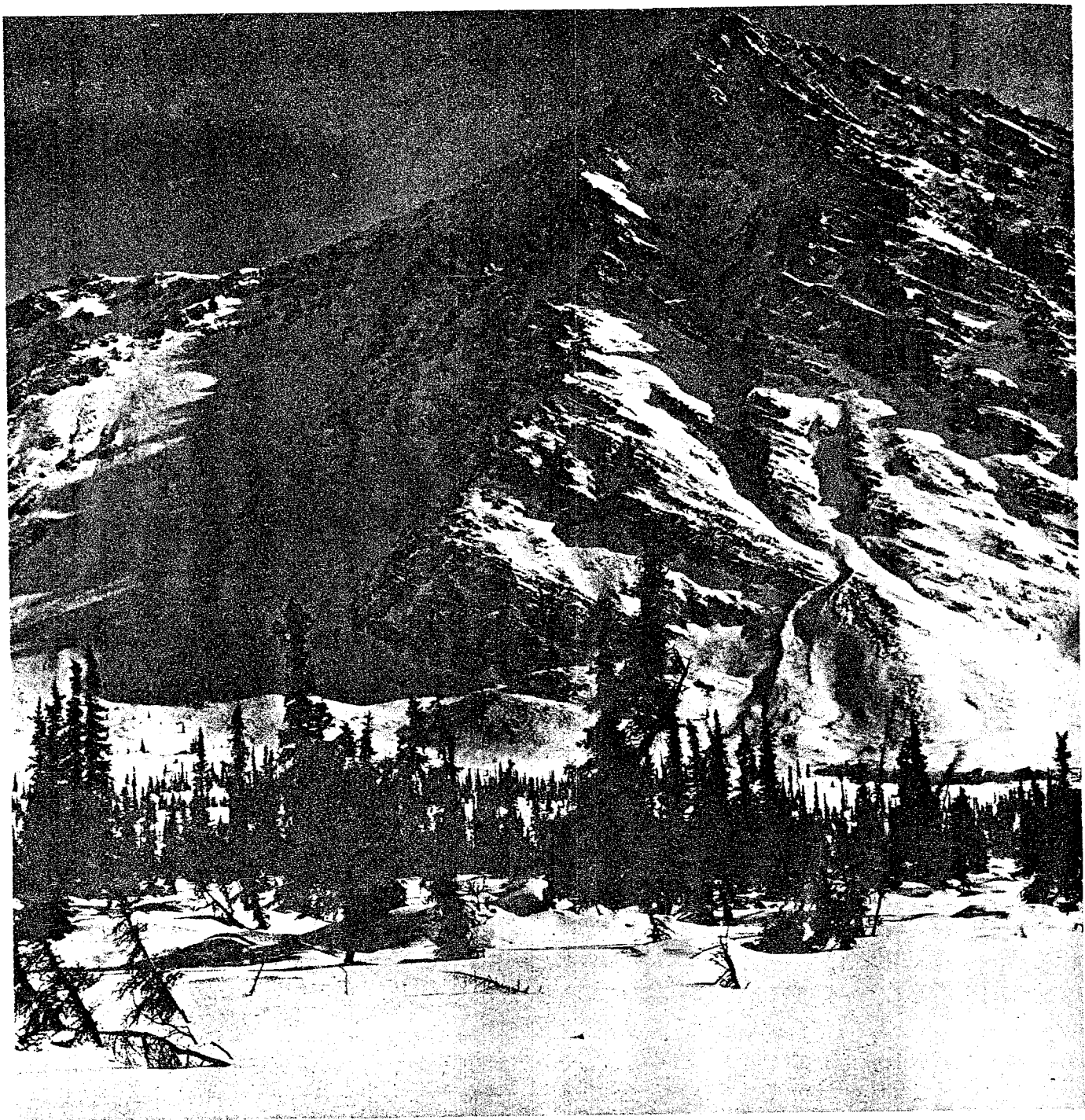
GREEN-WINGED TEAL



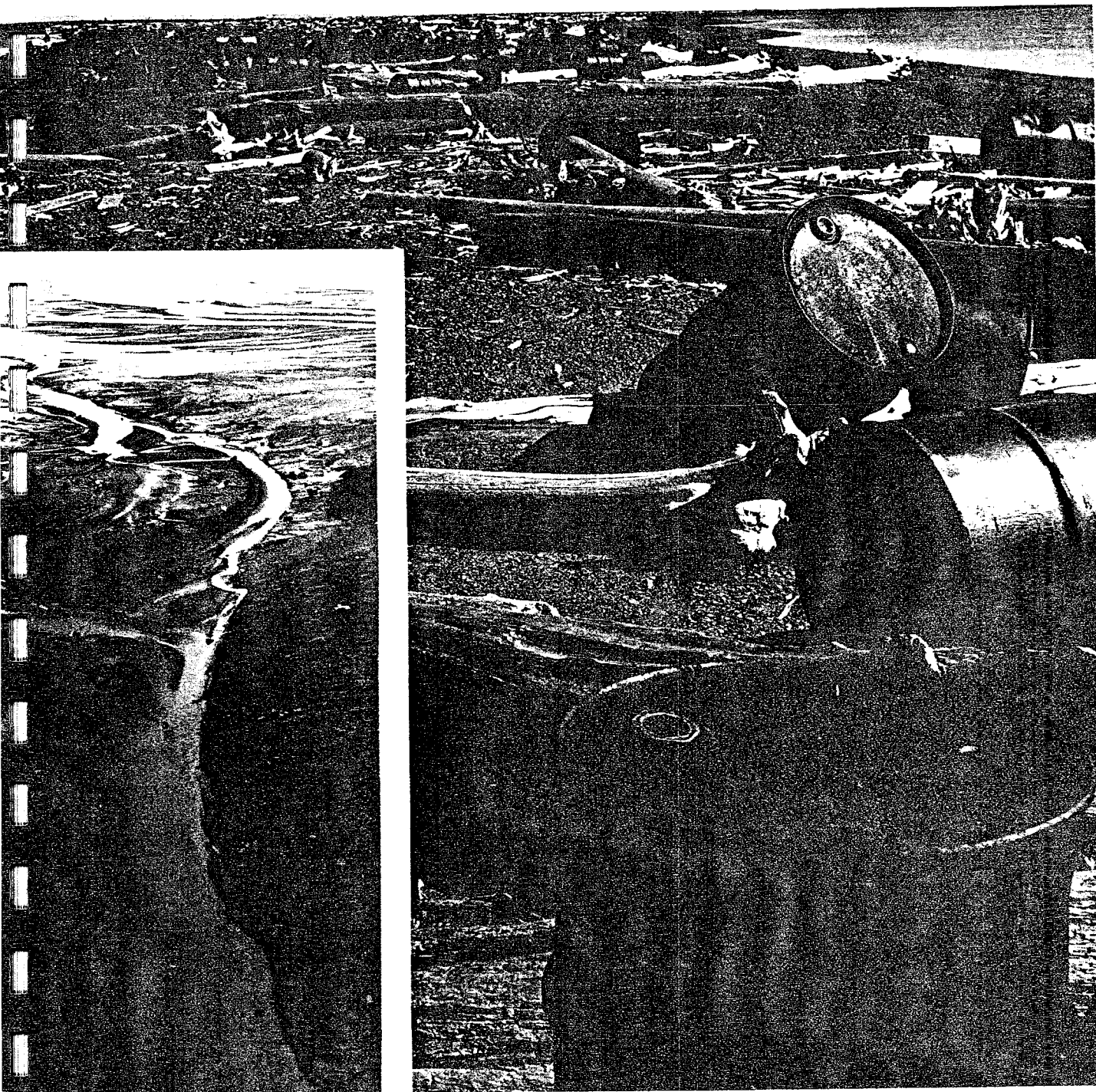
SNOWY OWL

*Preserve, protect, and exhibit geological and historical features.*

Complete historical and geological significance of each part of the Refuge cannot be known for some time, and studies are continuing. Rich in geological formations, topographic and vegetative variation, this land remains a source of enjoyment for people and a guardian of those features born in the past and persisting for the future. Structures having historical interest will be interpreted and described in various media. Some may be considered for National Historical Landmark classification.



*To wish wild areas will remain  
for tomorrow's children is not enough.*



ARCTIC COAST DEBRIS

*It is this generation's duty to assure a habitable environment,  
one having a measure of wilderness to balance today's artificialities.*

# Paths To Accomplishment

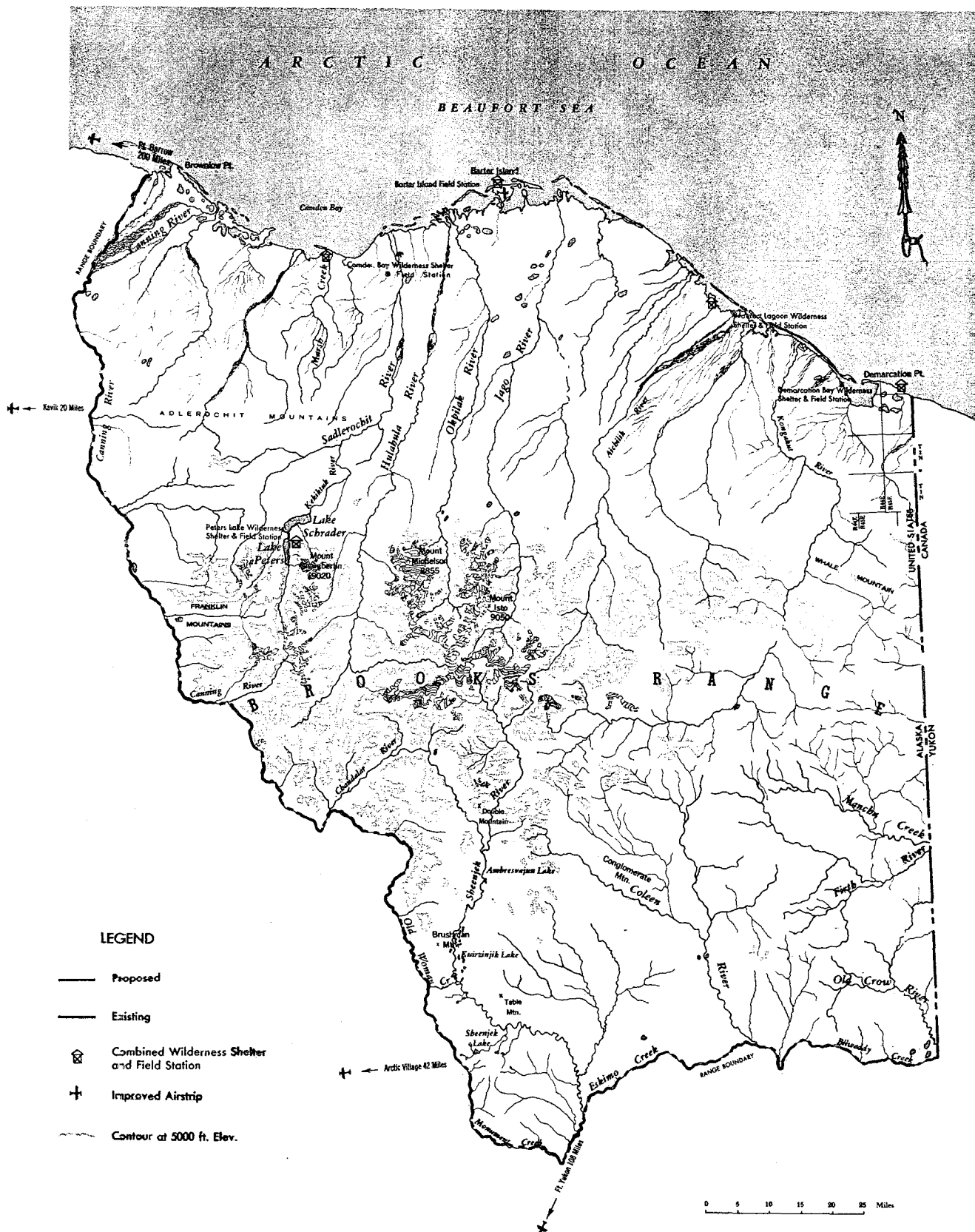
Man's activities have demonstrated the fragile nature of the Arctic ecology. It is apparent types and extent of use by man must be limited if the wilderness character is to be preserved; yet, simple services can improve outdoor experiences without seriously affecting naturalness.

Access is primarily by aircraft and boat. If trails were constructed, they would be a man-made feature tending to concentrate use. Instead, the hiker will find his way by reading an illustrated brochure for direction. This will enable him to travel a tested route and still be in the wilds, on his own, or he may pioneer new courses.

Other visitor aids will be contained in publications on plants, animals, geology, history and camping. Mountaineering in the far north is an unusual experience. In summer when daylight is continuous, a climber can arrive late at night on a mountain peak and observe the midnight sun low over the Arctic Ocean.

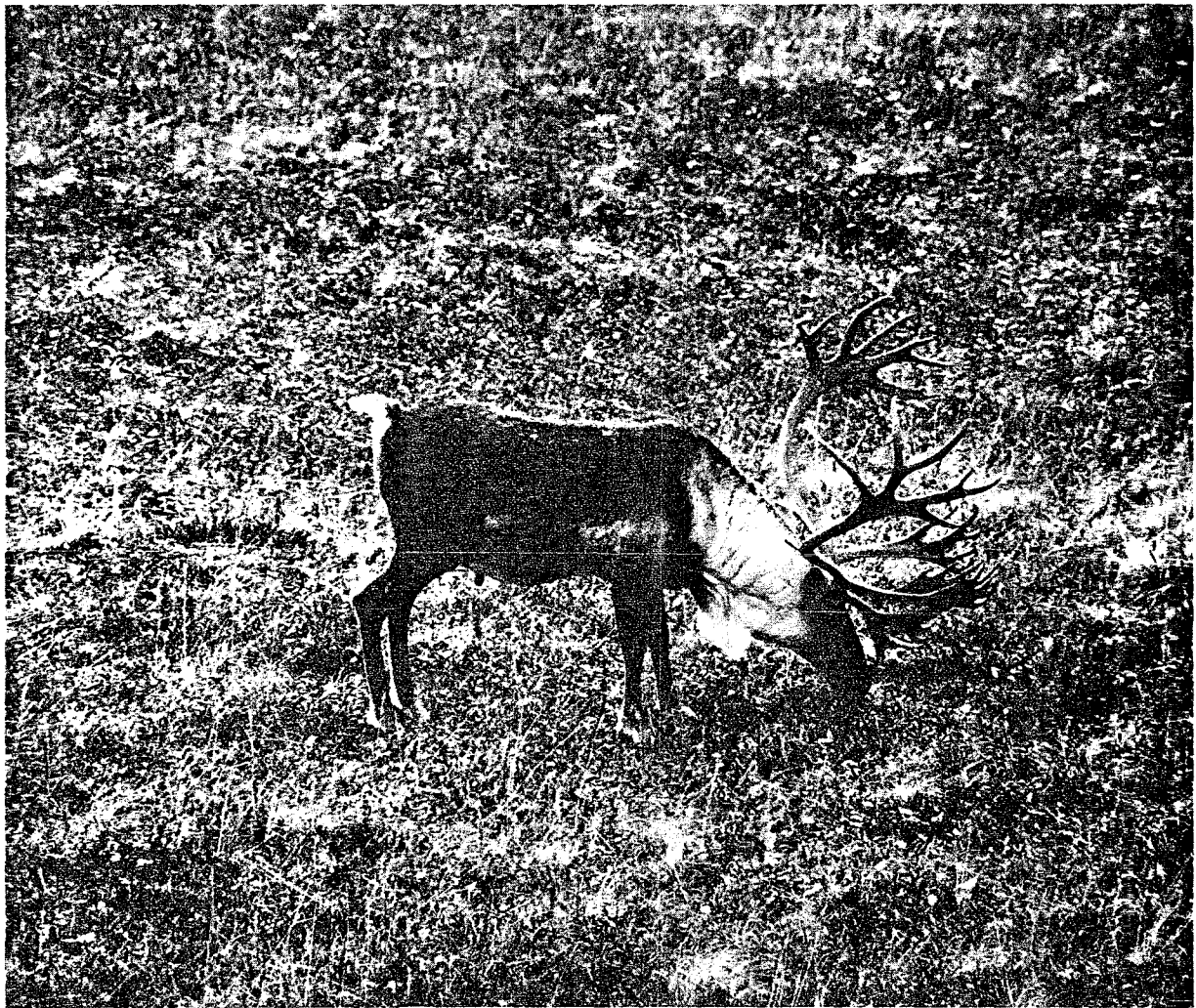
Existing buildings along the coast and at Peters Lake will be converted to field stations and shelters. Rustic storage facilities will be constructed at Demarcation Point, Barter Island and Arctic Village, sites already bearing evidence of construction. As demand increases, private concerns may build visitor accommodations outside the Range. When they do, types and routes of transportation inside will be planned to give as much protection for physical and aesthetic qualities as possible.



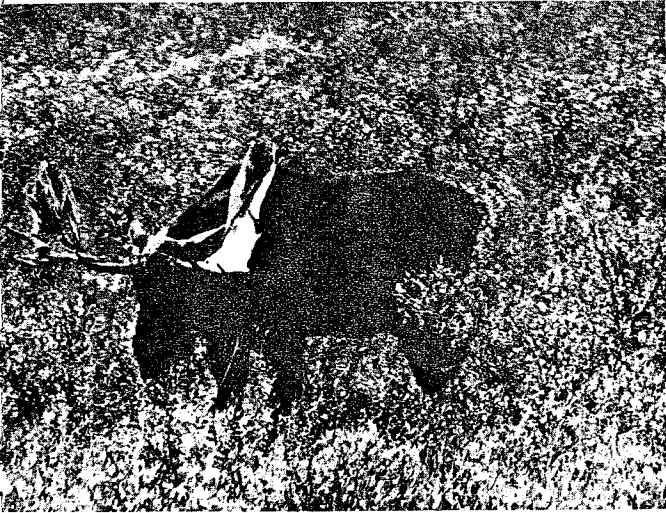


Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife offices in Fairbanks will continue to be used until an administrative-interpretive center is developed there. The wildlife interpretive program would include exhibits in natural settings, demonstrations of native skills, and printed materials. This would provide a fitting introduction to the Range for people not able to go beyond the city.

CARIBOU



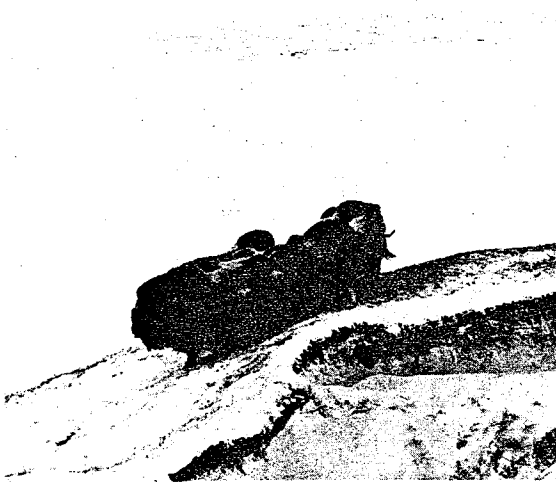
MOOSE



DALL SHEEP



MUSKOXEN



PORCUPINE CARIBOU HERD



MARMOT







*Few of us will see  
many of nature's wild  
creatures in native  
habitat.*

*But there is satisfaction  
for all in knowing they  
exist.*

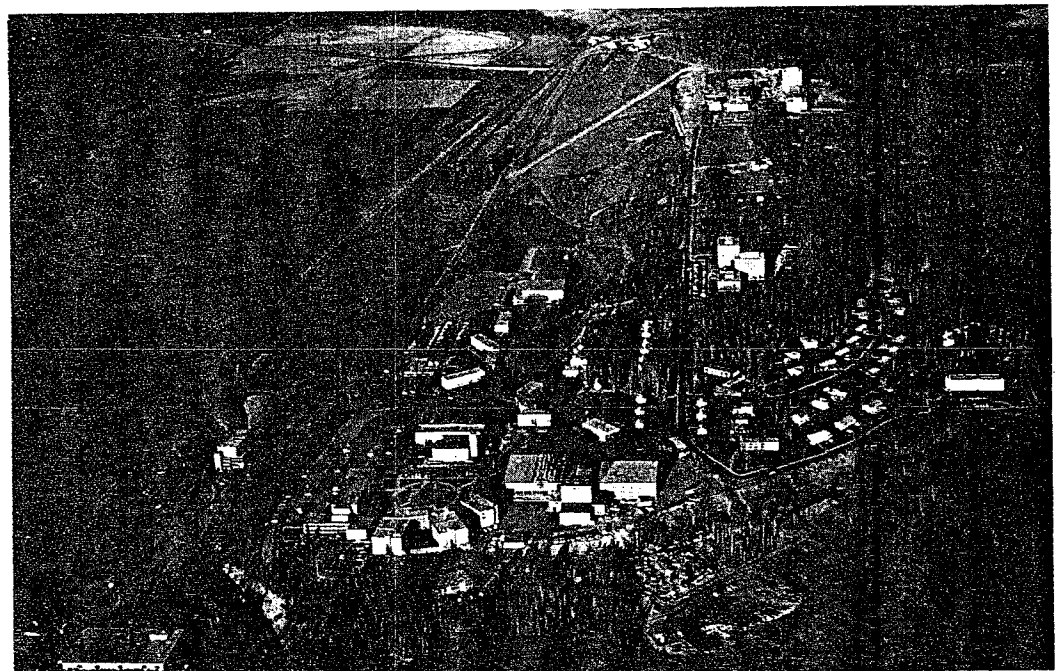


VEGETATION STUDY



DEFENSE EARLY WARNING (DEW LINE) STATION, NOW OBSOLETE, TO BE USED AS FIELD STATION AND SHELTER.

UNIVERSITY OF ALASKA CAMPUS, TYPICAL SITE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE-INTERPRETIVE CENTER



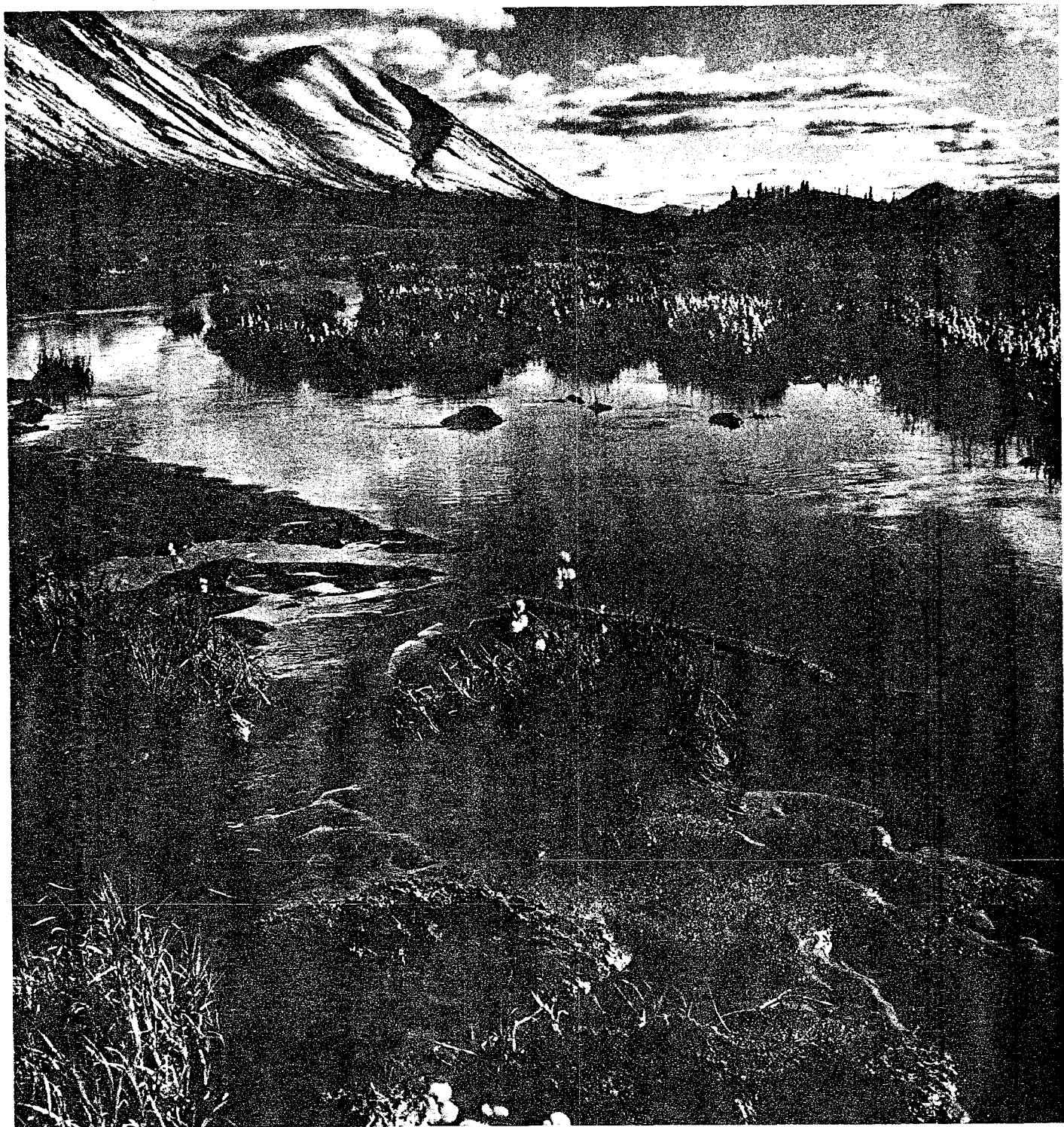
# Cost Or Investment?

Wildlife no longer can be accepted as a free inheritance in a society where all things are priced. Protection, studies, public use and administration generate cost. Yet, values to be preserved are priceless. To invest less than enough to fulfill commitments would be a denial of the responsibilities defined when the Range was established.

The following estimated costs are subject to revisions as final design is developed:

|                                      |             |
|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| Wildlife Interpretive Center (Coop.) | \$1,200,000 |
| Field station improvement—Ft. Yukon  | 20,000      |
| Field stations                       | 180,000     |
| Remove debris                        | 800,000     |
|                                      | <hr/>       |
|                                      | \$2,200,000 |

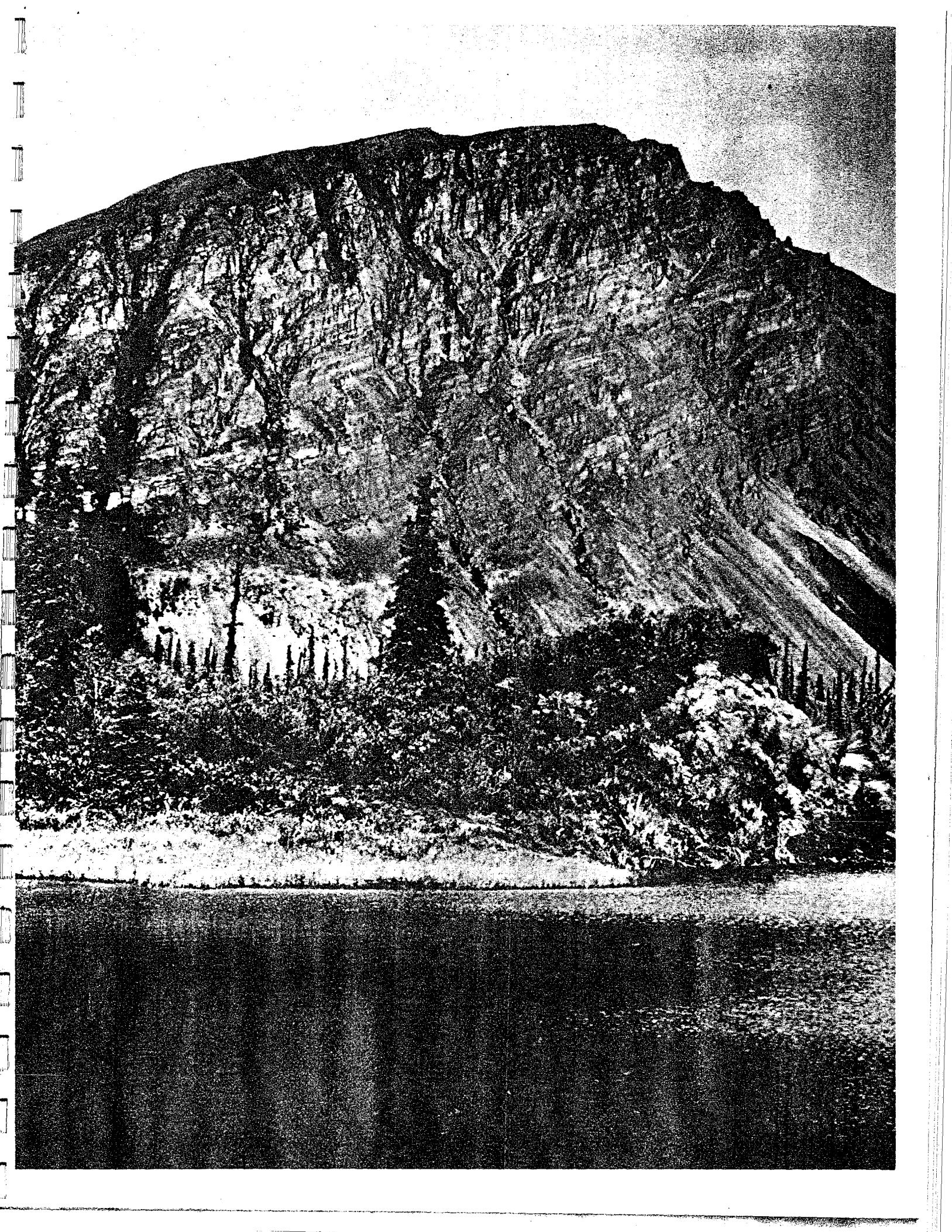
Operational costs will increase from less than \$100,000 to double that amount when all programs are active.



SPRINGTIME







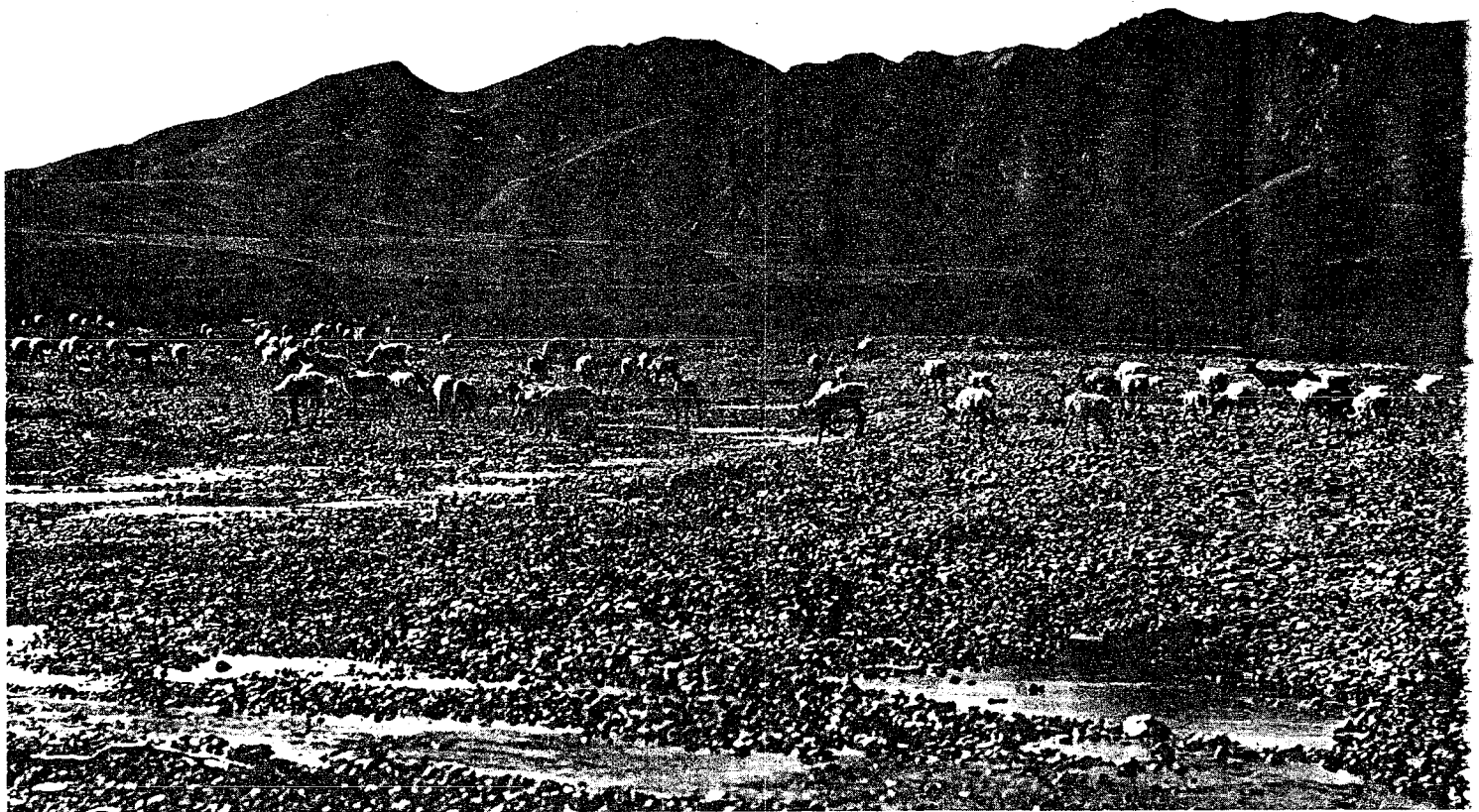
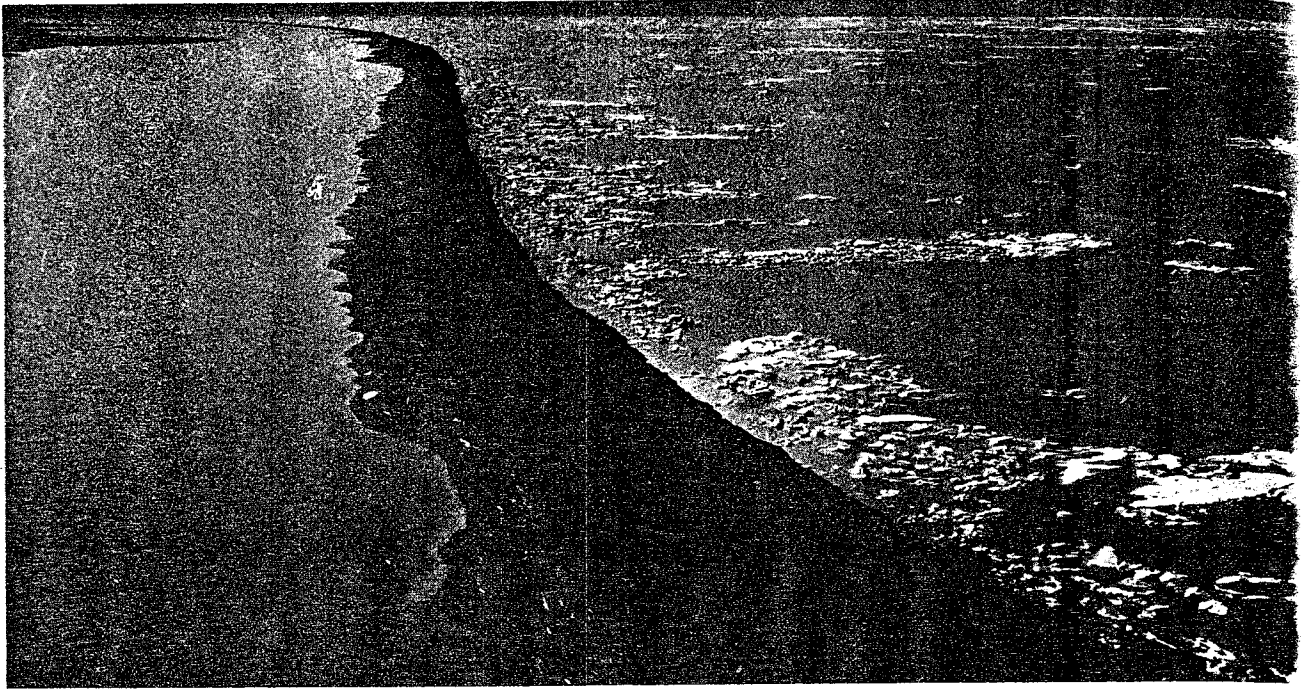
# Benefits

The prime benefit of the Arctic National Wildlife Range is that it perpetuates for people a land isolated from aggression but open for enjoyment of its unique natural features. It responds to a people awakening to important relationships between man and his surroundings.

As a natural reserve, the Range offers comparison with regions out of balance. It preserves in public ownership an uncrowded sample of the Nation's Arctic, with a full range of habitats and northern wildlife.

For the traveler, the reward is a feeling of exploring in a true wilderness environment. For people of the nation and the world who will never visit here, there is the pleasure of reading about it; of seeing photographs of animals and their habitats; and the satisfaction of knowing that in this corner of Alaska a beautiful and complete Arctic environment and all its creatures will endure.

WINDSWEPT ARCTIC COAST, LAGOONS PROTECTED BY GRAVEL BAR





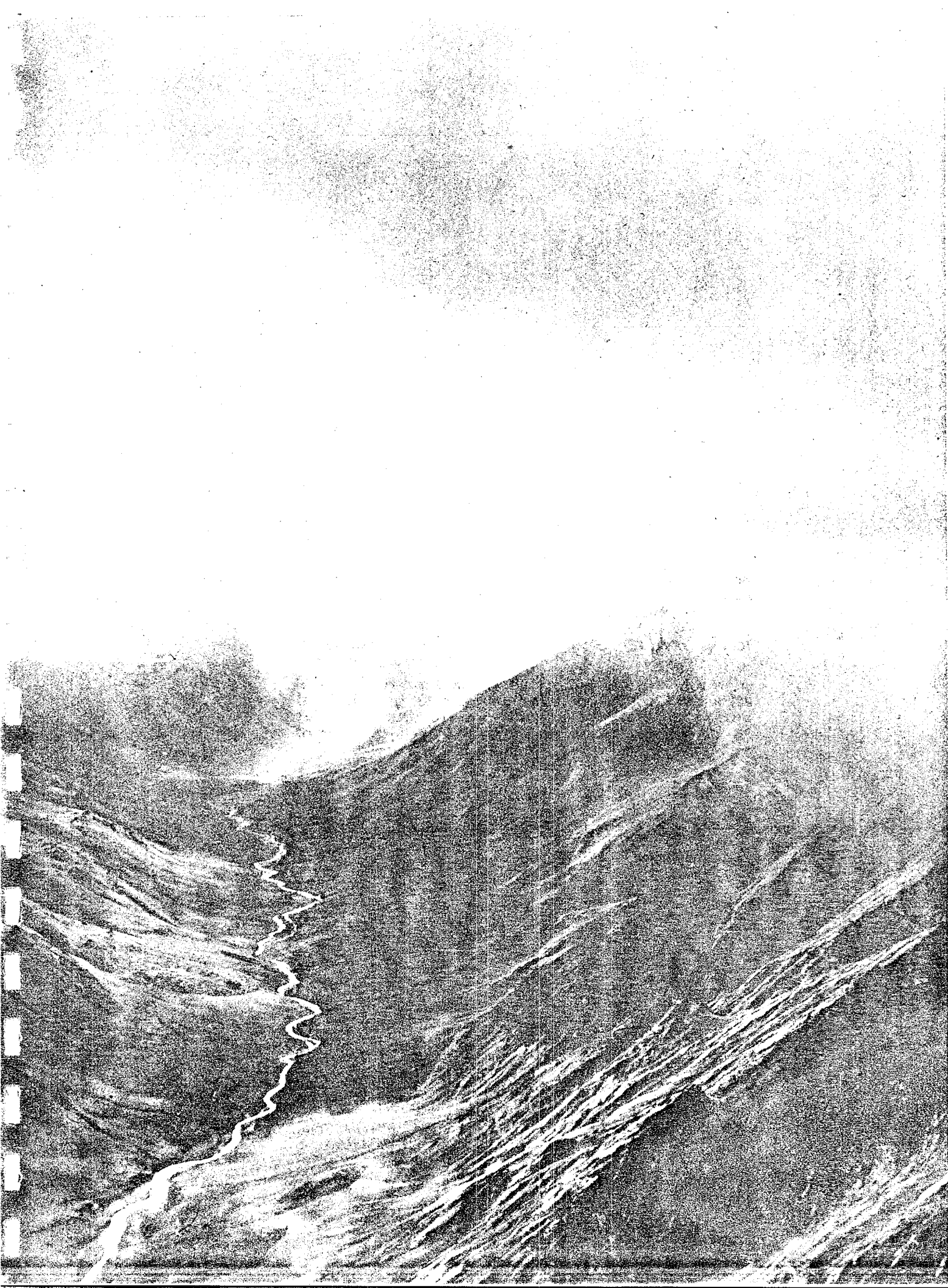


# A Restatement

**T**he Arctic National Wildlife Range was established to preserve and restore nationally and internationally significant wildlife populations in representative environments. It may be the last remaining large wilderness so little altered by mechanical change. Few areas have been set apart in so much deliberation, with even opponents agreeing with the basic need for its preservation.

This plan presents guidelines to meet needs of wildlife resources, while offering opportunities for public enjoyment. Maintenance of ecological balance requires careful attention to objectives laid down when the Range was established.

The Arctic National Wildlife Range is a tribute to people who discounted immediate return for long-term values. Here is assurance a part of our natural world will remain an undefiled legacy of lasting benefit for mankind.





As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities for water, fish, wildlife, mineral, land, park, and recreational resources. Indian and Territorial affairs are other major concerns of America's "Department of Natural Resources."

The Department works to assure the wisest choice in managing all our resources so each will make its full contribution to a better United States—now and in the future.

This administrative plan proposed and prepared by the Bureau of Sport Fisheries and Wildlife's Western Region, Portland, Oregon, supports and furthers the high objectives of the Department of the Interior for the wise development, management, and use of the lands, waters, and other resources of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

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May 1971

PHOTO CREDITS: PAGE 2, WESTOURS; PAGE 4, R. L. RAUSCH; PAGE 4, 13, W. MILLS; PAGE 6, 9, 11, 13, 20, 21, 22, R. BELOUS; PAGE 27, ALASKA DEPT. OF F. G.; PAGE 27, U. S. COAST GUARD.