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CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FEDERAL AREAS

Annual Report

January, 1983



Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas

515 Seventh Avenue
Suite 310
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-2012

January 24, 1983

Peggy Mulligan
Secretary of the Senate
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Mrs. Mulligan:

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas was created by the Alaska State Legislature in July, 1981. Appointments to the Commission were made by Governor Hammond and the Legislature in February, 1982 and the Commission held its first meeting the following month.

The Commission was established to fill the void existing between the citizens of the State and the federal land management agencies responsible for managing 60% of Alaska's land. There was a critical need for a state-sanctioned advisory watchdog to protect Alaskans' land rights which have been granted through federal statute and congressional intent. The need was created, for the most part, through passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The Act placed 124 million acres into federal conservation units and outlined specific use requirements for those areas. The requirements are at the same time restrictive and lenient to Alaskan users. The Commission facilitates the establishment and maintenance of a good working relationship between Alaskans and federal agencies. This letter represents the Commission's annual report as required by AS 41.37.080(f).

COMPOSITION

The Commission is composed of sixteen members, eight appointed by the Governor and eight by the Legislature. The current Chairman is Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp (Fairbanks). James A. Williams (Anchorage), is Vice-Chairman. The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, and Representative Ramona Barnes, Art Kennedy, (Anchorage) and Dorothy Jones (Talkeetna), comprise the Executive Board.

STAFF

The current staff level is four: an executive director, an administrative assistant and two researchers. The office is located in Fairbanks.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

During this first year of operation, considerable time was spent organizing Commission activities, including setting up the offices.

1. Contact was made with the various state and federal agency heads to introduce them to the Commission and to make them aware of the role the Commission could play. Many of the agencies met the Commission with a willing acceptance and desire to help. However, some agency managers still continue to hold the opinion that the Commission is unnecessary or is treading into areas where it should not go.

2. Commission staff identified all federal agency activities mandated by ANILCA and prepared a chart which combined the deadlines and timetables of all the various agencies. The Commission has used that information to begin to identify and involve citizens in those areas where input is needed.

3. The Commission began operating as an entity. Officers were elected, by-laws were enacted and a fact sheet describing the Commission and its purposes was prepared.

4. The workload has been divided into the following categories: casework, research, and response to proposed regulations and management plans. The Commission has determined its direction primarily in two ways.

First, when a citizen or group of citizens is concerned about an area, the Commission becomes involved. Involvement will likely include contacting the public through local interest groups or holding a community meeting. This is done to determine whether the community is aware of what's taking place and whether it is satisfied with the participation process provided by the federal agencies.

Second, the Commission can become involved when a Commission member is aware of a problem that may occur. The same involvement process is followed. Staff primarily determines whether the public is involved as it should be, and investigates the concerns of the public that need to be addressed more thoroughly.

5. To begin to acquaint Alaskans with the Commission, time has been spent contacting as many people as possible. Letters were written to every mayor in Alaska, and many communities were contacted by phone. Staff and Commission members have attended meetings and distributed brochures to groups of people who may need to avail themselves of Commission assistance. Several of these include the Alaska Miners Association convention, Alaska Municipal League convention, Alaska Loggers Association convention, Alaska Environmental Assembly steering committee, Alaska Sportman's Council meeting, in addition to making presentations on a local level. Community meetings were held in Kenny Lake, Glennallen, Seward, Soldotna and Fairbanks.

6. In formal action, the Commission has been active. It has passed a resolution opposing the proposed Marine Sanctuary Site Selection List, and a resolution asking the National Park Service to stop eliminating use by the public of any existing public use cabin in Alaska and reestablish year-round public use of the East Alsek River Cabin. The Commission reviewed and endorsed the Memorandum of Agreement made between the National Park Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. It has reviewed and formally commented on the draft Management Plans for Lake Clark National Park and Chugach National Forest, and the draft Statements for Management for Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, Kenai Fjords National Park and Gates of the Arctic National Park. Formal comments have also been made on the proposed regulations for Marine Sanctuaries, oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the Situk River Wild and Scenic River designation. The Commission has contacted the congressional offices regarding appropriations for the Iditarod Trail and mineral assessment in the Kantishna Hills/Dunkle Mine area.

7. Office space, furniture and equipment needs and availability were determined, selections made and orders received. Telephones were installed. Supplies and stationery were ordered. These simple duties took more than the expected amount of time and effort due to the fact that State government offers little help in establishing new offices for a temporary commission such as ours. In addition, Commission requirements were largely unknown due to its short existence.

GOALS

During its first months of existence, the Commission has spent time getting organized and informing others about how it could help them. With those objectives achieved, the Commission will now concentrate on accomplishing Commission goals, namely, to "assure that Alaskans' rights are protected from federal encroachment, and that the stated congressional intent of refraining from interrupting traditional Alaskan activities (fishing, hunting, mining, camping) be continued to the best extent practicable." Next year's planned activities include:

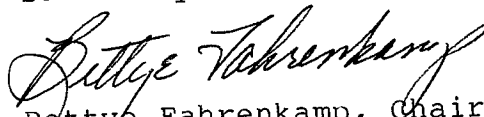
1. The Commission will continue to monitor federal agency planning and management activities, as well as, monitoring implementation efforts. One on-going project is the proposed McCarthy Land Exchange.
2. Commission research on special projects mandated by ANILCA will continue. This includes the Kantishna Hills/Dunkle Mine Study, Denali Scenic Highway Study, and Bristol Bay Cooperative Study.
3. The Commission will continue its involvement with current planning activities associated with the Alaska Peninsula, Becharof, Izembek, Togiak, Tetlin, Yukon Flats and Kodiak Wildlife Refuges; Denali, Yukon-Charley, Glacier Bay, Kenai Fjords, Lake Clark, Wrangell-St. Elias and Katmai National Parks and Preserves; Steese National Conservation Area and White Mountain National Recreation Area; Wild and Scenic Rivers; and, the Tongass and Chugach National Forests.
4. The Commission will continue to work with the congressional offices and monitor federal legislation which may further impact Alaska National Interest Lands.

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The Commission has achieved credibility by providing timely response to inquiries, studying issues in a thorough manner and considering every side of an issue. In the future, the Commission will attempt to conform to its growing image of ombudsman, assuring that Alaskan views continue to be well represented. While the Commission's primary role is advisory, it has the authority to recommend suit by the State's Attorney General against a federal agency which does not act within the bounds of congressional intent or within the limits of the law.

Legislative support has helped the Commission attain the level of respect it enjoys today. It is one of the few organizations created by the Legislature which retains legislative membership and active staff. It has the capacity to assure that Alaskans' rights are recognized in the implementation of ANILCA. There is no single agency which represents the public view in the many projects associated with implementing ANILCA. The State staff of the Land Use Council (mandated by ANILCA) is the only other State-supported agency assigned the responsibility of comprehensive monitoring of the implementation of ANILCA, but its efforts are aimed at protecting agency programs, not the private citizen. With continued legislative support, this Commission can become even more effective in protecting Alaskan citizens' rights against unfair or illegal federal encroachment.

Sincerely,



Bettye Fahrenkamp, Chairman
Alaska State Senator



Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas

515 Seventh Avenue
Suite 310
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-2012.

December 31, 1984

Dear Reader:

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas was established in 1981 by the Alaska State Legislature to protect the rights of Alaskans to continue the traditional uses of federal lands throughout the State. The need for an official State agency to oversee the management of federal lands in Alaska was created primarily by the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980. ANILCA placed 124 million acres of land in Alaska into federal conservation units, and outlined specific use requirements and restrictions for those areas.

The changes in land status and the statutory requirements for the use and management of federal lands at times come into conflict with the traditional activities to which the people of Alaska are accustomed. The Commission is charged with the responsibility of researching issues and determining the impact of federal statutes, regulations and management decisions on the citizens of Alaska in order to minimize or resolve those conflicts. Through the development and maintenance of a good working relationship with the various federal agencies, the Commission has been effective in assuring that land management decisions are consistent with both statutory language and Congressional intent and in protecting the rights of Alaska's citizens. This letter represents the Commission's annual report as required by AS 41.37.080(f).

COMPOSITION

The Commission is composed of sixteen members, eight appointed by the Governor and eight by the Legislature. The Commission officers for 1984 were: Chairman- Phil Holdsworth (Juneau), Vice-Chairman- Representative Ramona Barnes (Anchorage). The Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp (Fairbanks), Dorothy Jones (Talkeetna), and Lew Williams (Ketchikan), comprise the Executive Board.

STAFF

There are currently four staff members: an executive director, an administrative assistant and two researchers. The office is located in Fairbanks.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1984 was the second full calendar year of operation for the Commission. The year's objectives were divided between extending public awareness of the Commission, reviewing and commenting on agency planning documents and investigating citizen complaints.

Federal agency planning document drafts which were reviewed and commented on by the Commission include:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

General Management Plans:

Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve

Statements for Management:

Kobuk Valley National Park

Noatak National Preserve

Alternatives Workbooks:

Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve

Wild and Scenic Rivers Studies:

Study Recommendations for Koyuk, Kanektok, Yukon
(Ramparts Section), Sheenjek and Squirrel Rivers

Proposed Regulations:

36 CFR, Part 13

Cabins and other structures

36 CFR, Part 9

Minerals Management: Mining and Mining Claims

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Resource Management Plans:

Steese National Conservation Areas

White Mountain National Recreation Area

U. S. FOREST SERVICE

Admiralty Island National Monument Boundary Adjustment

Quartz Hill/ U.S. Borax EIS

Coronation, Warren and Maurelle Islands Wilderness Plan
1985-Resource Planning Act Program

Misty Fiords National Monument EA & Management Direction

West Chichagof-Yakobi EA

Russell Fiord Wilderness Area EA

South Prince of Wales Wilderness EA

Tebenkof Wilderness EA

U. S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Comprehensive Conservation Plans

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

Becharof National Wildlife Refuge

Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge

Izembek National Wildlife Refuge

OTHER

Proposed Bristol Bay Cooperative Management Plan and Revised
Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Plan responsibility: Alaska Land Use Council and
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

One of the major projects undertaken by the Commission during 1984 centered around the proposed National Park Service regulations for the use and construction of cabins and other structures on National Park lands in Alaska. The regulations were released in April with a 60 day review and comment period. The National Park Service held public comment meetings in Juneau, Fairbanks and Anchorage.

Public concern arose late in May when it was discovered that many rural residents throughout the State were unaware of the regulations and would not have an adequate amount of time to comment on them. The Commission immediately requested an extension of the comment period. The U.S. Department of the Interior then set August 3 as the close of the review period. However, no additional public meetings were scheduled by the National Park Service. At this point the determination was made to hold a series of Commission sponsored meetings in those areas of the State which would be directly affected by the proposed regulations.

Through existing contact lists, Commission staff distributed approximately 200 copies of the proposed regulations. During the month of July, the Commission sponsored meetings in Eagle, Coldfoot, Kotzebue and Glennallen. A total of 72 people attended the four meetings. Many valuable comments and insights on how the proposed regulations would impact cabin users and occupants were received at the meetings. Another dozen letters and written comments were also received, many from remote areas in the bush. This information was used during the Commission's review of the regulations and incorporated into the formal written comments submitted to the National Park Service.

During 1984 the Commission began to be involved at an earlier point than ever before in the planning process for various conservation system units. Commission members and staff became actively involved in a Consultation Committee for the development of the General Management Plan for the Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Commission staff has also participated in workshops with other State and Federal agencies to develop management alternatives for the Yukon Flats and Tetlin National Wildlife Refuges. Staff also attended several meetings of the subsistence resource commissions established for the National Parks in Alaska and was invited to make a presentation at a meeting of the commission for Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve.

The Commission was invited to participate in an agency general scoping meeting for the National Park Service conservation system units of Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Kobuk Valley National Park, Noatak National Preserve and Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve. Commission staff was also invited to participate in a meeting of the interagency Quartz Hill Resource Advisory Group.

In order to gain a better understanding of the management problems in the Tongass National Forest, a trip was made to Prince of Wales Island where examples of timber harvest methods, silviculture techniques and salmon habitat protection programs were studied. An inspection of the Quartz Hill bulk sampling road and the mine site was also made.

During June, the Subcommittee on Public Lands and National Parks of the U.S. House of Representatives held oversight hearings in Washington, D.C. on the implementation of the ANILCA. The Commission presented testimony to the subcommittee which outlined some of the problems it had identified with the implementation process. The testimony was well received and the Commission again extended its earlier offer to work with the Committee during the continuing implementation process of the provisions in ANILCA and to assist in resolving associated conflicts.

The General Accounting Office (GAO) also initiated an internal assessment and review of the implementation of ANILCA and its affects on the mineral industry in Alaska. Commission staff assisted the Alaska Miners Association in preparing their report to the GAO by providing copies of regulations, existing reports and studies relevant to mineral development and ANILCA.

Specific public concerns or complaints were received and investigated by the Commission regarding problems with:

- cabin use permits in Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge;
- public airstrip use in Wrangell-St. Elias NP&P;
- commercial lease applications in Denali National Park and Preserve and Tongass National Forest;
- log transfer facilities in the Tongass National Forest;
- mining claims in Denali NP&P and Wrangell-St. Elias;
- commercial use permits in Kobuk Valley National Park and Noatak National Preserve;
- wilderness boundary adjustment and access in Wrangell-St. Elias NP&P;
- other private inholder complaints in Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and Wrangell-St. Elias NP&P;
- and subsistence resource commission appointments and traditional subsistence use area maps for Gates of the Arctic NP&P.

During the public review period for the Kenai NWR Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan the Commission was contacted by a group of refuge inholders. Their concern centered around language in the draft plan which stated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would move to acquire all inholdings within the boundaries of the refuge. The Commission determined that such action was contrary to the provisions of ANILCA, its legislative history and previously stated Fish and Wildlife Service policy. Working with the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Inholders Association and the National Inholders Association, the Commission succeeded in having the Fish and Wildlife Service agree to adhere to the statutory provisions in ANILCA as well as their own policies in the final version of the plan. These policies state that acquisition of private property is to be used as a final resort, not a primary management tool.

The Commission was also involved in working on other topics of interest to the public. These involved the issue of RS-2477 rights-of-way across federal lands, the administration of the local hire program authorized by section 1308 of ANILCA and the question of ownership of "trespass" cabins on National Park lands in Alaska.

GOALS

The Commission objective of working to "assure that Alaskans' rights are protected from federal encroachment, and that the stated congressional intent of refraining from interrupting

traditional Alaskan activities (fishing, hunting, mining, camping) be continued to the best extent practicable" has been carried out by meeting the past year's goals as stated in the 1983 annual report. These same goals are projected for 1985. The Commission will function as a vehicle for citizen input to the Executive, legislative, and local/municipal decision-making processes concerning federal management areas in Alaska.

Specifically:

The Commission will continue to monitor federal agency planning, management activities and implementation efforts. Review of any federal/public lands proposed for exchange will also be continued.

Commission research on special projects mandated by ANILCA will continue.

The Commission will seek to increase its involvement at the earliest stages of planning activities for the conservation system units established or expanded by ANILCA.

Commission efforts to resolve conflicts between land managers and land users will be emphasized.

The Commission will help to assure that the best interests of the State of Alaska are brought into the decision making process.

The Commission will continue to work with the congressional offices and monitor federal legislation and regulations which have an impact on the administration and management of federal lands in Alaska.

The Commission has maintained its credibility with federal and State agencies, and with individual and organizational contacts, by thoroughly analyzing issues before submitting comments and recommendations in a timely manner. Although the Commission's primary role is advisory, it has the authority to recommend suit by the State's Attorney General against any federal agency which fails to act within the bounds of congressional intent or within the limits of the law.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act is a far reaching law which has had and will continue to have an enormous impact on the citizens of this State. Implementation of this complex piece of legislation is continuing at an ever-increasing pace as the 1987 planning deadline approaches. Only a relatively small number of management plans have been approved to date. With so much planning left to be done, it is essential that citizen involvement remain at the highest possible levels and that participation in that process be encouraged by all levels of government. The Commission was created to assure that maximum opportunity for public involvement exists and will continue to place this issue at the top of its priorities for 1985.

Sincerely,



Phil R. Holdsworth
Chairman



Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas

515 Seventh Avenue
Suite 310
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-2012

December 31, 1985

Dear Reader:

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The changes in land status and the statutory requirements for the use and management of federal lands at times come into conflict with the traditional activities to which Alaska's peoples have become accustomed. The Commission is charged with the responsibility of researching issues and determining the impact of federal statutes, regulations and management decisions on the citizens of Alaska in order to minimize or resolve potential conflicts. Through the development and maintenance of a good working relationship with the various federal agencies, the Commission has been effective in assuring that land management decisions are consistent with both statutory language and Congressional intent and in protecting the rights of Alaska's citizens. This letter represents the Commission's annual report as required by AS 41.37.080(f).

COMPOSITION

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STAFF

Due to significant budget reductions in State FY86, three research analyst positions on the Commission staff were lost. There are currently two staff members: an executive director and an administrative assistant. The office is located in Fairbanks.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1985 was the third full calendar year of operation for the Commission. The year's objectives were divided between reviewing and commenting on federal agency planning documents, investigating citizen complaints and working to ensure maximum levels of public participation in all stages of planning for the management of federal lands in Alaska.

Federal agency planning documents reviewed and commented on by the Commission during the year include:

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Draft General Management Plans:

- Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve*
- Bering Land Bridge National Preserve*
- Cape Krusenstern National Monument*
- Denali National Park and Preserve*
- Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve*
- Katmai National Park and Preserve*
- Kobuk Valley National Park*
- Noatak National Preserve*
- Wrangell-St Elias National Park and Preserve*

(* These draft general management plans were released in revised form on December 9, 1985 for additional public comment and were under further review by the Commission at the time of this report.)

Proposed Regulations:

- 36 CFR, Part 13: Proposed Rule,
Cabins and Other Structures.

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plans:

- Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge*
- Togiak National Wildlife Refuge
- Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge*

(*These draft comprehensive conservation plans were still under review at the time of this report)

Final Comprehensive Conservation Plans:

- Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge
- Becharof National Wildlife Refuge
- Izembek National Wildlife Refuge
- Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

ANILCA 706(b) Report: Status of Management
on the Tongass National Forest

Yakutat Management Area Analysis- Tongass National Forest

Proposed Regulations:

- 36 CFR Part 291- Reservation Fee in Forest Service
Recreation Areas
- 36 CFR Part 228.80- Mineral Operations in Admiralty
Island and Misty Fiords National Monuments

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Draft Resource Management Plan- Central Yukon Planning Area

OTHER

Proposed Additions: Coastal Barrier Resources System
National Park Service- USDO

Draft Report: Subsistence Management and Use-Implementation
of Title VIII of ANILCA- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

During 1985 the major project undertaken by the Commission was the review and analysis of the draft General Management Plans (GMP) for nine National Park units in Alaska. These nine draft plans were released for public review in April and presented a substantial logistical problem for the public and the State agencies due to their simultaneous release.

In conjunction with their review of the plans staff contacted more than 400 individuals statewide through the Commission's mail list. The letters were designed to further advise the general public of the planning efforts underway, to encourage participation in the planning process and to solicit comments on the various park plans. In addition, Commission members and staff attended public meetings on the park plans in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Glennallen, Nome, Kotzebue, Bettles, Anaktuvuk Pass, Healy, Talkeetna and Nuiqsut.

Earlier in the year, the Commission had expressed its concern about the process by which the state agencies were reviewing federal planning documents. Past and potential problems associated with the existing review process were discussed at the Commission's February meeting. Commission members felt that the process needed to be improved in order to adequately deal with the large number of plans that were scheduled for release in the coming months. A subcommittee was formed to prepare and present to the Governor a number of recommendations for improving the State's review process for the federal conservation system units.

In March the members of the Commission subcommittee and the executive director met with the Governor, the commissioners of the Departments of Natural Resources, Fish and Game, Transportation and Public Facilities, Environmental Conservation, the director of the Division of Governmental Coordination and the Conservation System Unit coordinator. The subcommittee made several recommendations designed to improve both the State's review process for federal planning documents and the means for developing a comprehensive State position with respect to federal land management proposals.

Subsequently, the Governor responded by directing the State agencies involved in the federal planning review process to implement all but one of the Commission's recommendations. That recommendation, involving the extension of the deadline for classifying State lands, was taken under consideration by the Legislature. The adoption of the recommendations proved to be particularly

important during the massive effort necessary in reviewing the 9 draft general management plans released shortly thereafter. The Governor's decision to implement the Commission's recommendations resulted in a significant improvement in State participation in federal land management planning and helped ensure that the various State agencies operate within the guidelines of a consolidated State position.

In April, the Land Use Advisor's Committee to the Alaska Land Use Council sponsored a forum to assist in developing a Council work program and to assist in developing long range goals and objectives for the Council. The Commission chairman, Phil Holdsworth, presented testimony at that forum and recommended that the Land Use Council establish a coordinated transportation work program. This cooperative program would allow State and federal agencies and Native organizations to identify and plan for current and future transportation needs for tourism and recreation, economic development of Alaska's natural resources and better management of public lands.

Also in April, the Resources Committee of the Alaska State Senate held hearings on the issue of land and resource planning. Testimony outlining the Commission's role in the planning process, its efforts to maximize public participation in that process and its role as an ombudsman to investigate citizens' complaints or problems with federal agencies was presented at the hearings.

The Commission met with Mr. Bill Horn, Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, in August. Topics discussed included: mining in National Parks and mining regulations, water quality, air access for subsistence hunting, planning efforts for parks and refuges, cabin regulations and subsistence.

Specific public concerns or complaints were received and investigated by the Commission in 1985 regarding problems with:

- o cabin ownership or use permits in Chugach National Forest, Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, Bering Land Bridge National Preserve, and Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge;
- o aircraft access in Wrangell-St. Elias NP&P and Gates of the Arctic NP&P;
- o special use permits in Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, Katmai NP&P, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and Gates of the Arctic NP&P;
Alaska Peninsula NWR and Izembek NWR;
- o competitive events in Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve and Gates of the Arctic NP&P;
- o subsistence uses in Wrangell-St. Elias NP&P, Gates of the Arctic NP&P and Kodiak NWR;
- o private inholdings in Wrangell-St. Elias NP&P, Gates of the Arctic NP&P and Kenai NWR;
- o feral cattle in Alaska Maritime NWR; and
- o Native allotments in all National Park Units.

One of the major components of each of the National Park Service GMP's is a Land Protection Plan. This plan is designed to identify means and methods to protect the purposes for which a park unit was established and the park resources from "incompatible" uses of private lands or inholdings within or adjacent to park boundaries. In the course of reviewing the GMP's for the 9 park units, the Commission identified a number of significant problems with the proposed Land Protection Plans.

Many of the inholders who spoke with the Commission about the Land Protection Plans voiced concern regarding proposals by the National Park Service to either acquire their land in fee title or place restrictions on its use. In addition, many people indicated that they were unaware that a land protection plan was being written and of the particular proposals for their property.

The Commission contacted the superintendent of each of the 9 parks and requested that they make a special effort to contact individual landowners within their respective parks. The Commission felt that if park management and private property owners could discuss topics of mutual concern such as what constitutes incompatible use and the alternatives available to the Park Service other than fee acquisition of private property, both the private property owner and the park would be better served.

Throughout 1985, the Commission closely monitored and cooperated with the 7 Subsistence Resource Commissions (SRC) established by Section 808 of ANILCA. The Commission has provided input to the SRC's through testimony at public meetings and in response to proposed recommendations developed by several of the SRC's. The subsistence hunting programs which will eventually be developed by the SRC's will play an important role in the future management of subsistence uses within the National Parks in Alaska where subsistence activities are allowed by ANILCA. This Commission hopes to continue to work with each of the Subsistence Resource Commissions and the National Park Service during the development of these very important programs.

GOALS

The Commission objective of working to "assure that Alaskans' rights are protected from federal encroachment, and that the stated congressional intent of refraining from interrupting traditional Alaskan activities (fishing, hunting, mining, camping) be continued to the best extent practicable" has been carried out by meeting the past year's goals as stated in the 1984 annual report. These same goals are projected for 1986. The Commission will function as a vehicle for citizen input to the executive, legislative, and local/municipal decision-making processes with respect to federal management areas in Alaska.

Specifically:

The Commission will continue to monitor federal agency planning, management activities and implementation efforts. Review of any federal/public lands proposed for exchange will also be continued.

Commission research on special projects mandated by ANILCA will continue.

The Commission will seek to increase its involvement at the earliest stages of planning activities for the conservation system units established or expanded by ANILCA.

Commission efforts to resolve conflicts between land managers and land users will be emphasized.

The Commission will help to assure that the best interests of the State of Alaska are brought into the decision making process.

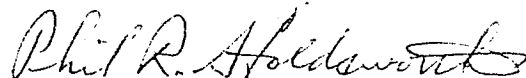
The Commission will continue to work with the congressional offices and monitor federal legislation and regulations which have an impact on the administration and management of federal lands in Alaska.

The Commission has maintained its credibility with federal and State agencies and with individual and organizational contacts by thoroughly analyzing issues before submitting comments and recommendations on land management issues. Although the Commission's primary role is advisory, it has the authority to recommend suit by the State's Attorney General against any federal agency which fails to act within the bounds of congressional intent or within the limits of the law.

The Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act was implemented just over five years ago. In that time it has had and will continue to have an enormous impact on the citizens of Alaska. Implementation of the provisions and mandates of this very complex piece of legislation continues as the 1987 planning deadline approaches. The difficulties involved in this effort are emphasized by the relatively small number of plans actually completed to date. With so much planning left to be done, it is essential that the scope of citizen involvement remain at the highest possible levels and that participation in that process be encouraged by all levels of government. The Commission was created to assure that maximum opportunity for public involvement exists and will continue to place this issue at the top of its priorities for 1986.

Sincerely,

CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION
on FEDERAL AREAS



Phil R. Holdsworth
Chairman