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Community leaders discuss economic diversification

Mayors, city managers, planners and private-sector officials from 20 Alaska communities met August 9 in Soldotna to discuss economic needs, opportunities and strategies for dealing with declining oil revenues. Sponsored by the Resource Development Council, in cooperation with the state Office of Enterprise, the economic development workshop was the third in a series of meetings this year wherein local communities addressed income and future growth potential.

Through its economic development workshops, the Resource Development Council is bringing together Alaska community leaders to delineate their current economic positions and potentials for achieving economic diversity.

Workshop moderator Susy Collins, former mayor of Valdez, stressed that local communities must see themselves as part of the overall state picture, working together to solve common problems and supporting economic development projects at both the local and state level. Collins said "communities must establish common ground, direction and consensus on major issues." She added, "each community leader must become familiar with local problems and issues, recognizing the vital part the local community plays in strengthening Alaska's economic posture."

RDC Executive Director Paula Easley pointed out that Alaska's economic future depends almost solely upon the development of its natural resources. She said most future development will occur on state and native lands, and much of the development will be affected by Alaska's huge parks and refugees.

The RDC executive director stressed that the most important step Alaska can take to assure a sound economy is to retain the absolute maximum amount of local, state and federal land in multiple-use classifications. She said that is not happening, and unless Alaskans elevate this issue on the public policy agenda, there will be less land available for development.

Following a number of presentations by local communities and state and federal government officials, the forum featured regional workshop sessions with provocative discussion gener-



Mayor Dorothy Jones, Matanuska-Susitna Borough, John Stein, Community Development Coordinator for Wasilla, Mayor Tony Knowles of Anchorage and Nick Gangl and Kathy Herrold of Homer discuss a survey on economic development from a Southcentral Alaska regional view. In the background, Cordova city manager Ric Leland and St. Paul Mayor Mike Zaharoff ponder coastal areas point of view.

ated by a questionnaire focusing on the economic elements and development "climates" of local communities.

Preliminary analysis of the survey revealed that most community delegates envision more people moving into their areas within the next five years. Some communities such as Valdez and Seward expect population increases ranging from 50 to 100 percent by 1990.

Nearly everyone attending the workshop reported that their fellow citizens are generally supportive of economic development. Most residents appear aware of the impact of declining oil revenues at the state level, but seem unaware as to how their own economic well-being could be affected by a combination of reduced revenues and losses in population.

Regarding reductions in state spending, mayors and city planners said more emphasis should be put on budget cuts at the

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Alaskans...Working with Alaskans to improve the quality of life through sound resource development.



Message From The Executive Director

By Paula P. Easley

State Strategies For Economic Development Implications for Alaska

Part III

Few subjects generate as much spirited discussion in our state as what we ought to be doing to encourage economic development. Some, such as the University of Alaska's Institute for Social and Economic Research, generally conclude there is little we can or should do to stimulate economic progress — "when the time is right, development will occur."

A small but vocal segment of the population says, "hey, I came here to get away from development." (Opinion surveys identify members of this segment as government/university personnel, professionals, the younger age bracket and people who have lived here the shortest time.)

Another segment, older folks who have lived here the longest, is most supportive of development, with one little quirk. They don't want more people; Alaskans and only Alaskans should get the jobs associated with new development.

So we can conclude right off the bat that no two Alaskans are likely to agree upon the best economic development strategy for our state. Most people do agree, however, that unless there is a "climate" for progress and entrepreneurialism, local economies will stagnate and deteriorate, and few people want to see their investments and jobs jeopardized.

Should the strategies of other states, designed to lure high technology companies to their borders, be implemented in Alaska? High tech companies so far have situated near major research areas and universities that create the ideas and innovations that the companies then develop and market. These companies locate in areas with mature, developed infrastructure, highly-trained, technologically capable workers (who are willing to accept low wages) and near other technically oriented industries. "Quality of life" considerations are of major concern in the site location equation. Cold weather, isolation from other states, high living costs and the lack of many community services and opportunities available elsewhere lower Alaska's "quality of life" rating.

Rather than seek the glamorous high tech industries to locate in Alaska, a better course is to invest in the highest technology for application to existing industry. Mining, oil and gas, agriculture, communications, education, transportation, waste handling, and state-of-the-art technology for timber and fish processing all have huge potential for improvements in productivity, product quality, or delivered services.

Yes, high tech is for Alaska, but we'll never see Route 128 or Silicon Valley in Anchorage or Fairbanks.

Besides, as John Van Houten reports, in the next decade, the proportion of high tech jobs will only increase from the present 3% to a projected 4% of the workforce. He reminds us that of all the jobs generated by high technology industries, less than a third are technological in nature. The remainder is the usual mix of managerial, clerical, service, and production jobs.

What about smokestack chasing? Is Alaska likely to lure manufacturing firms from other states? With a few exceptions, such as cement manufacturing, the need for which is based on expanded instate demand, non-Alaskan firms do not consider it logical to pick up the stakes and head for the Far North.

The greatest potential for expansion of the metals industry is production of primary aluminum, and both Alcoa and Kaiser have expressed interest in setting up shop in Alaska. With bauxite imported from Australia, the key factor in determining an Alaska location would be accessibility to low-cost, stable supplies of electricity. This energy-intensive industry would virtually assure feasibility of the Susitna hydroelectric project, and it could be sited where few people even knew it existed. Aggressive approaches to this industry could pay off.

What strategies should Alaska use to strengthen its economic base? We need to recognize that Alaska's economic future depends almost solely upon the development of its natural resources and that its major markets are foreign, not domestic. In recognition of this, public and private organizations in Alaska are developing relationships with Pacific Rim nations through trade missions, hosting visiting delegations, and by expanding our Asian trade offices. Both universities have created new programs to support Pacific Rim cultural exchange and economic development.

The foremost reason firms operate in Alaska is because this is where the resources are, not because they chose Alaska over Alabama as the place to be.

While other states are involved, for the most part, in shifting from an industrial society to a service, information, high-tech society, Alaska can be on the cutting edge of high technology industrial development. While other states are trading dollars, Alaska can be developing its vast natural resources, the source of all new wealth. And, while other states are grappling with shutting down or retrofitting polluting industries and cleaning up polluted land and water, Alaska can demand that it's done right the first time.

Lest it appear that the state's prospects for economic expansion are rosy and our children can step out of school and into productive jobs in the resource development arena, we should consider some of the constraints (not prioritized) to doing business in Alaska.

- (1) Lack of transportation and other infrastructure
- (2) High labor costs, lack of skilled labor
- (3) High transportation costs
- (4) Remoteness
- (5) Limited local markets
- (6) Lack of significant utility development
- (7) Institutional and regulatory problems:
 - Uncertain land status
 - Environmental constraints
 - Uncertain tax policies
 - Lack of coordinated state development plan

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State Strategies for Economic Development Implications for Alaska

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Federal government influence

(8) Weather

While there has been general agreement with this list of inhibitors to Alaska development reported by Arthur D. Little, Inc. in 1978, those of us close to the development scene would modify it, giving a higher level of importance to those items listed under institutional and regulatory problems. These problems identified in Item (7) are also the easiest to solve, with dedicated leadership.

We may not be able to change the weather, but we can make land and resources available for use and development.

We can obliterate, once and for all, Alaska's image as a place where industry tax policies change as often as the seasons.

We can put on the books a law that says no regulations will be adopted without full public hearings or without a complete analysis of their cost to industry. If the costs outweigh the benefits, out they go.

Once the governor and the legislature agree on a positive approach to the state's development (it can happen!), state agencies would be brought into line to implement those policies.

Key to the success of state economic policy is the role of the governor. In state after state, we're seeing dynamic direction from governors, concerned about their states' economic vitality, as they act as powerful catalysts to solve contemporary problems.

Inholders air complaints

(continued from page 5)

sidents claim they were told that the repeaters would be used to enhance public safety by linking the park with nearby communities by radio. However, inholders claim that isn't the case since they have been denied access to the radio frequency.

Residents from as far away as Fairbanks and Anchorage emphasized that the Park Service through its management is discouraging local residents and others from visiting the park.

The Park Service cites increased tourism counts in the park system as proof that it is doing a good job promoting visitor use. However, an examination of the figures indicates that most visitors see only Denali National Park and Preserve while a dozen other parks comprising over 40 million acres of land receive little or no visitor use. RDC contends Denali's road access and visitor accommodations are the pluses it has over the other conservation system units.

The following are some other points the inholders mentioned:

• Terry Overly expects the Park Service to conduct an environmental assessment on the impact his horses have on the Chisana River valley. Depending on the outcome of the report, he may lose his horses or have to reduce their numbers.

The managerial role of governors was recently described by Lynn Muchmore in "State Government News":

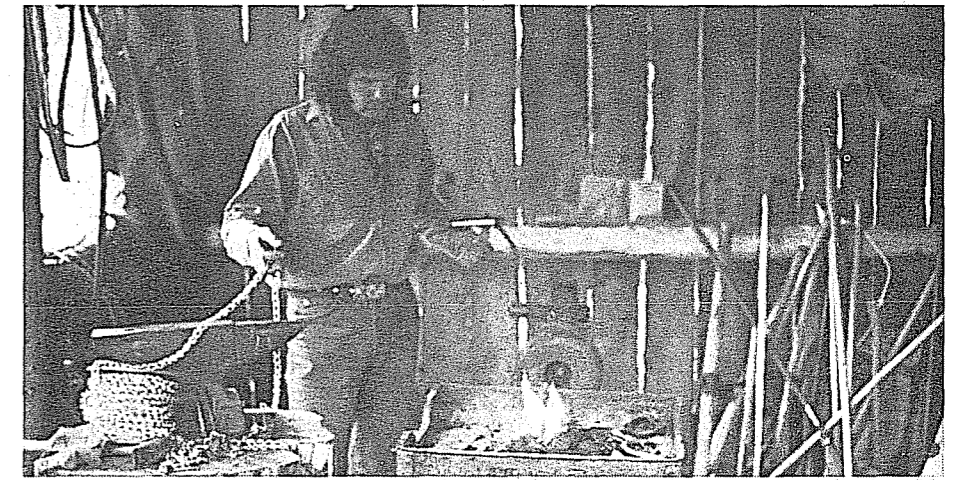
Here the governor is looked to as an active and superior force who imposes upon the far-flung bureaucracy a coherent fabric of goals and objectives and then guides the executive machinery toward these. He is more than a problem solver concerned that government functions smoothly and without corruption; he is a policymaker who sets the agenda for executive actions and shapes priorities that affect decisionmaking at every level.

These are the governors Larry Sabato in his study *Goodbye to Goodtime Charlie*, called the "emerging new breed" of capable, creative, forward-looking, experienced governors.

The role of the private sector is crucial as well, both in helping define and set the public policy agenda and in electing representatives at all government levels to give public policy the force of law.

With these forces working in tandem, a goal-oriented public-private partnership, Alaska can begin shaping an aggressive strategy of its own that will assure economic stability and environmental quality for future generations.

It is exciting and challenging to be part of the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., an organization that works so diligently to advance these goals.



Terry Overly is a multi-talented blacksmith, hunting guide, trapper and pilot. He notes that there might still be a few old grizzlies around the Chisana River valley that were youngsters when he first arrived in 1961.

• Mining within national parks will end October 15 as a result of a recent court decision. Miners say they doubt the Park Service will conduct the necessary environmental assessments for mining to resume in the parks next summer.

• Park boundaries should be changed to exclude areas that have been heavily used by local residents for many years. Inholders believe the Park Service was wrong to take ground that was being heavily utilized and make a park out of it.

As the press prepared to leave Chisana, Terry and Deb Overly pointed out that when a plane used to fly over their homestead, it

was thought of as the "guardian angel" delivering a good friend or the mail.

"It's different now," Overly said. "They're destroying an Alaska heritage, the freedom to live and work in the wilderness. When you hear a plane today you think, 'Oh, what do they want now?'"

The Gates of the Arctic plan says the Park Service's ultimate goal is to "erase the influence of modern man." The Resource Development Council is determined to obstruct this effort. Concerns of native allottees and other inholders were re-emphasized in the Council's latest series of comments on nine park management plans.

RS 2477 gets RDC's attention

The Resource Development Council has requested the Department of the Interior to publish notice in the Federal Register requesting comments and draft procedures for the receipt and processing of all RS2477 right-of-way assertions on federal lands under the jurisdiction of the department.

Revised Statute 2477 allows for the establishment of transportation corridors through national parks and preserve units and fish and wildlife refuges.

In a letter advanced to Secretary Donald Hodel, the Council's Lands and Renewable Resources Division pointed out its concern that the National Park Service in its planning process is proceeding on the rights-of-way issue without clear policy and process guidelines.

BLM guidelines, previously assumed to be the Department of the Interior's guidelines, appear to have been forsaken regarding right-of-way assertions on 50 million acres of federal land, the letter said. RDC indicated it hasn't been pleased with the BLM procedures, but is even more concerned about the development of two separate agency procedures, and possible new ones within the Department of the Interior.

RDC's intent is to place draft policy and procedure guidelines before the public for review and comment.

"We hope to see meaningful guidelines developed soon which can facilitate rather than interfere with the resolution of the issue," the Council said. It noted that the State is moving with speed and determination on the issue.

Meanwhile, Senator Jack Coghill of Nenana told a recent RDC breakfast forum gathering that he wants to identify every historic trail and road in Alaska. He stressed that maps of these roads and trails should be included in the management plans to protect rights-of-way and access should those lands deserve development in the future.

RS2477 was passed in 1866, primarily to make it possible to construct transcontinental railroads. It was repealed in 1977 when the Federal Land Policy & Management Act (FLPMA) was passed. The repeal, however, didn't affect roads and trails that had been identified prior to FLPMA's enactment.

Coghill has put together a task force to make sure surface transportation routes are included in management plans. The task force has so far identified 87 trails and roads to be asserted into the plans.

The task force work has been directed at the Park Service plans due to be finalized in December. Coghill will then turn his attention to U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service management plans.

Coghill said "it is not the state's intent to anticipate immediate use or development of the roads or trails." However, he said "we do need them in the land plans as means of saving them for the future."

Notable Quotes

"When we see actions of successive Congresses and Administrations that absolutely violate the clear intents and purposes of the Mining and Minerals Policy Act of 1970 and subsequent acts, we are compelled to ask not only if they have decided to write off the minerals base of this country, but also if they have decided to ignore the keystone in the arch of our national defense." — J. Allen Overton, Jr.

"The need to reach a reasoned, appropriate balance between environmental and energy issues doesn't have the same priority it had a few years ago. One of the outcomes is the growth of restrictions on energy companies' access to federally-owned land to explore for new energy resources... Many of these tracts are just now becoming attractive because of new technological developments that let explorers better define the geology of an area. Yet large tracts of federal land already have been put off limits. And more are at risk."

John R. Miller, President and CEO of Sohio, in Sohio's Summer 1985 issue.

"Conservationists have always felt that an uncertain future can best be provided for by taking as few actions as possible today that preempt the opportunity to take other actions tomorrow. Providing for future accessibility in resource decisions is a key ingredient in meeting an uncertain future. To keep the range of options open is not only prudent but necessary to the welfare of generations ahead." — Soil Conservation Society

NPLAC seeks OCS reversal

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move the Council found counter to stated national goals.

Easley said there was strong feeling by other western state representatives that all energy-producing states should share propor-

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Mayors discuss diversification

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state level rather than the local level. They complained of a bloated state bureaucracy.

Communities also expressed deep concern with the number of regulations that have come onto the books in recent years. Both rural and urban officials said they didn't want to see their local communities bear the brunt of revenue cuts, but would rather see a reduction in the size of state government and the many regulations they view as a needless hindrance to renewed economic growth.

A majority of mayors and city planners completing the survey voiced serious reservations with coastal zone management and wetlands permitting. Redesigning of local projects in wetland areas was singled out by a number of communities as a waste of valuable resources.

Communities such as Valdez believe its local coastal zone management program provides more flexibility in pursuing economic development goals than would have been possible under the state coastal zone management program.

The mayors recommended a number of steps to raise funds in light of declining oil revenues. They spoke of special tax assessments, hotel bed taxes, paramutual gambling, user fees, mill rate increases, bond financing and a resumption of the personal income tax to raise funds for sustaining or building new community services and programs.

tionately in the responsibility for contributing to domestic energy supply.

"From all indications, the objections of California coastal residents were to the possibility of viewing oil rigs in the distant waters. We did not feel this objection should be a factor in national energy policy," Easley said.

Court ruling favors miners

In a major victory for miners and other public land users who wish to operate in an environmentally sound manner without excessive and prohibitory local regulation, the Ninth Circuit court of Appeals has ruled that a California mining company need not seek a state permit in order to continue mining on federally-owned forest land.

The case arose when the California Coastal Commission ordered the Granite Rock company to cease operations on its federal mining claims despite the fact that the operation had been approved by the Forest Service pursuant to a plan of operations. The Coastal Commission argued that it could require the Granite Rock Company to obtain a state permit and even deny that permit under certain circumstances.

The District Court agreed with the Commission and ruled that mining claims were not truly federal property and miners could be prevented from operating by a state permitting requirement.

According to James S. Burling, an attorney with the Pacific Legal Foundation, the higher court flatly rejected the Coastal commission's arguments and ruled that "an independent state permit system to enforce state environmental standards would undermine the Forest Service's own permit authority and thus is preempted."

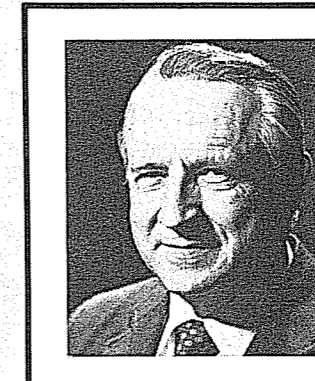
The court added that "even the Forest Service is limited in the amount of regulation it may impose as a condition of mining in national forests because of the federal policy to encourage mining on federal lands."

"We believe this decision represents an important recognition by the federal courts that Congress has acted to promote mining and that there must be a balance drawn between the need for environmental regulation and the need for encouraging continued mineral development," Burling said.

He said this case should set precedent for preserving the rights of all private users of federal lands to continue their operations without fear of excessive and unreasonable state regulations whether those operations are timber harvesting, mining or grazing.

The Resource Development Council last year urged Alaska Attorney General Norm Gorsuch not to join the Coastal Commission in its lawsuit against Granite Rock. Despite a substantial number of letters and telegrams in opposition to the state joining the lawsuit, Gorsuch decided to proceed.

RDC believes that Alaska's intervention sent yet another strong signal of opposition to timber, oil and mining development on federal lands.



Thoughts from the President

By
Charles R. Webber

Alaska and South Africa have abundant resources of gold, strategic minerals and coal. With the potential destabilization of South Africa, Alaska may be seen increasingly as a potential long-term source for needed resources.

Now is the time for the public and private sectors to work together to provide the infrastructure that will allow Alaska's resources to supplement those provided from production areas impacted by serious political and labor problems.

The situation in South Africa and other countries experiencing severe political problems could underscore Alaska's role as a major resource supplier. We must prepare today for the demands of tomorrow.

NPLAC urges Hodel to reverse OCS decision

The National Public Lands Advisory Council has asked the Secretary of the Interior to reverse his preliminary decision prohibiting energy exploration on federal acreage off the coast of California.

Paula P. Easley, representing Alaska on the 21-member Council, reported on the action she advanced through the Energy and Minerals Subcommittee. The Council's meeting concluded Saturday in Boise, Idaho.

Easley said while the Council's charge of advising the Interior Secretary and Bureau of Land Management Director on public land-related issues excluded advising on OCS issues, members believed the California lease sale merited their attention and action.

The action referred to a July agreement between Interior Secretary Don Hodel and some California congressmen to extend a moratorium on the most prospective oil and gas leases in federal waters outside the three-mile limit. Of over 10,000 tracts, the agreement would permit leasing of only 150 tracts. Only 2% of the federal tracts off California have been leased in the past. Most of the 150 tracts identified by Interior for leasing hold little interest to the petroleum industry, given geology, technology and economics.

California congressmen not included in the lease negotiations expressed their dismay

over the decision in a July 31 letter to President Ronald Reagan. The eleven congressmen said "We will not sit on the sidelines while any Secretary of the Interior of any Administration negotiates away our interests and areas of our state without our input, and then have it described as being with 'representative' members of the delegation."

The Advisory Council's request to the Secretary for the reversal of his decision cited the balance of trade deficit which could be offset by billions of dollars of revenues from lease sale bids and production royalties. It expressed concern that, under the agreement, potential offshore resources could not be evaluated, thereby exacerbating the consequences of any energy emergency. It stressed the need for a secure domestic energy supply and employment for Californians and other Americans. The request emphasized that shortages of energy remained a potential threat to the nation's economic survival and that proven oil and gas reserves had shrunk by nearly a third since the early 1970s, and that to maintain present production and reserve levels, the nation must produce 180% more oil and gas by the year 2000.

The compromise decision would ban most offshore activity until after the year 2000, a

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Some call it one of the most beautiful wilderness parks in the United States, and say it should be managed to protect the special characteristics of the land.

Others point out that America's largest park was added to the national park system by Congress to not only protect the land, but also to facilitate human appreciation and experience of the area by providing opportunities for a variety of backcountry recreational activities.

And the people who have lived and conducted a livelihood on these lands long before the park was created insist that the new kid on the block, the National Park Service, should not override their property rights and other pre-park uses.

The Wrangell-St. Elias Park and Preserve, spreading over 13 million acres of rugged terrain stretching from Glennallen to the Canadian border and south to the Gulf of Alaska, is the target of Park Service regulations that many local residents fear will severely reduce their freedom and individual rights.

This summer the federal agency has issued a draft management plan for the park and preserve as well as plans for eight other parks in Alaska comprising tens of millions of acres. The final plans must be presented to Congress by December.

Initial reaction to Park Service management of the lands from people who live, hunt and play in the parks has ranged from suspicion of government motives to outrage. They all agree on one common point: the plans reveal a serious trend of restricting recreational opportunities and access, despite provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) protecting visitor and inholder use of the park system.

The Resource Development Council sponsored a press tour of the Wrangell-St. Elias Park and Preserve in mid-August to give Alaska newspaper, radio and television reporters an opportunity to visit inholders and learn of the difficulties residents face in dealing with their new neighbor.

The Council opposes the Park Service's management plan for the Wrangell-St. Elias Park and others because it believes the plans severely limit public use and do little to sustain or improve recreational opportunities. The Council is also opposed to Park Service moves to acquire inholdings within the Wrangell-St. Elias and other parks.

The press tour opened a RDC campaign to inform the public about the relationship of the people to their parks. RDC is initiating a long-term evaluation of the Park Service's role in dealing with privately-owned land within the borders of parks and with public access to the park system.

Despite the potential for visitor use of the Wrangell-St. Elias Park, the management

Park Service Regulations: Inholders fight to maintain freedom and individual rights



Over a foot of silt covers the floors of Doug Vaden's cabins on North Fork Island after three years of flooding. Toni Hankins, Vaden's granddaughter, said the damage could have been avoided with a few hours of work upstream on a gravel bar of the White River. The National Park Service would not permit the work which Hankins said would have returned the river into its original channel while saving the island from destruction.

plan for the area appears to provide very little opportunity for visitors to enjoy the land. Many backcountry recreational activities that exist today are those provided by wilderness lodge operations.

The survival of these facilities, which provide a variety of activities ranging from horseback riding to backpacking and hunting excursions, is directly threatened by Park Service regulatory pressure. Without such services, few opportunities exist for the public to enjoy the parks.



Glennallen residents meeting at the local high school complain that the Park Service management plan for the Wrangell-St. Elias does little to sustain or improve visitor use of the park. They contend the regulations restrict their freedom and individual rights as users of the park.

Wrangell guide Terry Overly pointed out to reporters that operations such as his simply do not in any significant way detract from the wilderness experience and in fact enhance that experience by facilitating access for many individuals who would not otherwise be able to take advantage of the park's resources.

Overly, owner of Pioneer Outfitters, operates a wilderness outpost at Chisana, an historical mining town in the northeastern section of the park. Overly has lived year-round in Chisana since 1961 and has built numerous small guest cabins, a beautiful rustic lodge, other small buildings and a corral for over 20 horses. From his heavily wooded 80-acre site, visitors ride horses off the property into a wilderness of glaciers, steep mountain slopes and wide gravel flood plains.

Overly's functional, neat and orderly homestead site stands as proof of his respect for the land and its resources. The wilderness lodge and surroundings blend naturally into the countryside. No degradation of the environment is apparent. Overly said those who live in the area have no interest in harming the environment since their lives and livelihood depend on the land and its resources.

Over the decades, Overly and his wife Deb have shared their home with visitors from across the globe while guiding them through the wilderness to hunt and photograph sheep, bear and caribou. The Overlys provide a pub-

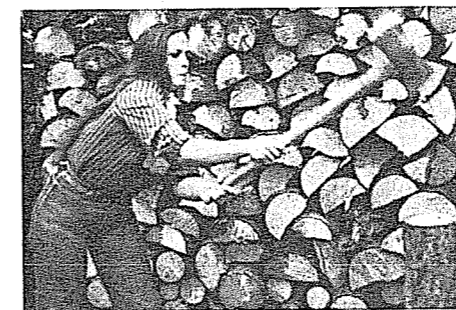
lic service that is consistent with traditional uses of the land.

However, Overly and guides throughout Alaska's national parks believe stringent Park Service regulations may eventually force them to abandon their homes and livelihoods.

People in Chisana take each new regulation or permit personally. With so few people in the area, each new permit seems to be an accusation that those individual people have been destroying the wilderness. They claim that each additional regulation and permit requirement gradually erodes their freedom.

Overly warned that the Park Service is always pushing for more regulation. He fears that he'll soon need a permit to cut firewood. He already has been forced at great expense to build new structures on his homestead with lumber flown in from Anchorage because a Park Service permit to cut tree logs for building construction prohibits dragging logs along the surface. Overly pointed out that the typical log weights in excess of 900 pounds and cannot be carried for long distances through the forest.

The log permit has jeopardized Overly's plans to expand and has resulted in the construction of new buildings that do not blend into the wilderness as well as the older log structures.



"I love it here," says Wrangell-St. Elias inholder Toni Hankins. "I just want to live here and raise my children on this land." Hankins' home on North Fork Island has been virtually destroyed by floodwaters. She says the Park Service is more to blame than the White River.

Park residents face a number of other regulations and permit requirements.

Recently Chisana residents were told they cannot fly to private inholdings or a preserve and then walk into the park to hunt. Hunting in national parks by local residents is permitted by the Alaska Lands Act in order to protect subsistence lifestyles, but the Park Service decided that airplane was not within the definition of "subsistence" even if aircraft provided the only means of access into the region.

Perhaps the greatest threat inholders face is the acquisition of their personal property by Park Service Officials.



Terry and Deb Overly operate a functional and extremely neat wilderness outpost in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. The Overlys fear that the Park Service may find that their horses impair the wilderness qualities of the park.

The cabin Terry Overly first lived in with his family when he came to Chisana at age 16 in 1961 has since become a disputed issue of ownership since the creation of the park in 1980. The paperwork for the original homestead had never been filed, leaving no record of private land under the cabin.

The Park Service declared the cabin public and wants to claim it as an historical site.

Elizabeth Hickethier, Terry's mother and the first woman registered as a guide in Alaska said the family is forbidden from using the cabins. She said the most annoying aspect of the incident was that the Park Service never contacted her about the cabins. Her personal belongings were claimed by the Park Service, she said.

The acquisition of homes, cabins and camps built on public lands prior to the Alaska Lands Act have created heated disputes in parks throughout Alaska.

Ivan Thoral, a 20-year miner in the Chisana area, has been told that when operating his mine, he must avoid using cabins he built 20 years ago on his mining claims.

Inholder Ray McNutt, chairman of the state guide board, is fighting to save his cabins, even though he obtained BLM permits to build them. He and Overly have refused to sign concession permits that would officially recognize their hunting cabins and spike camps as public use facilities.

Butch King, Jr., co-owner of Wrangell Mountain Lodge, has invested several hundred thousand dollars operating his guide service in the Upper Copper River Valley. It was first owned by Lee Holen, who built the airstrip and lodge facility in the mid-1950s.

The lodge was operated each season through 1981, but one year later, 13 days before opening of the hunting season, the owners received a letter from the Park Service denying them use of the facilities and instructing them to remove personal possessions.

The Park boundary placed Wrangell Mountain Lodge in a "hard park" area where hunting is prohibited. If the Park Service had followed natural hydrographical features to mark its boundaries, the property would have fallen within preserve designation where guide services would be permitted.

The Park Service denies it is anxious to acquire the King property. However, King believes the federal agency has had its sights set on the property in drawing park boundaries. He envisions the Park Service utilizing the lodge as a ranger station.

King's complaints were echoed by a large gathering of Glennallen residents who met with the press August 23 to air their frustrations about Park Service management of the Wrangell-St. Elias Park and Preserve.

A state Department of Transportation employee who wished to remain anonymous said the federal agency has been a major obstacle to improving surface access into the park. He explained that the Nabesna and McCarthy access routes are in poor condition, and stringent Park Service regulations make it very difficult to maintain the roads. He charged that the federal agency has failed to assist the state in funding maintenance of the two routes.

"The best way to keep people out of the region is to let your surface access fall to pieces," he said.

Another complaint was directed toward construction of radio repeaters on mountains within the park. Locals feel the repeaters detract from the scenery more than many of the actions the Park Service otherwise prohibits. No environmental impact statement was done on the project.

The Park Service spent approximately \$700,000 on the towers, and some residents believe the money should have been spent on improving visitor access into the park.

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