

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

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ADMINISTRATION ASKS THAT U.S. PROTECT 92 MILLION ALASKA ACRES FOR THE FUTURE

The Carter Administration's proposal to protect 92 million of Alaska's 375 million acres was presented to Congress today by Interior Department Secretary Cecil D. Andrus. The land recommended is already in Federal ownership. The Administration's proposal is in response to H.R. 39.

Recommendations were made under provisions of Section 17 (d-2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. These d-2 lands would constitute approximately 45.1 million acres in National Wildlife Refuges and 41.7 million acres in the National Park System, more than doubling the size of each system.

Andrus also recommended 33 rivers and river segments for inclusion in the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System totalling some 2.45 million acres, and nine rivers for study, plus additions of some 2.5 million acres to existing National Forests.

The "Four Systems" management plan proposed by Andrus would establish 10 new units of the National Park System while expanding three existing parks. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would acquire nine new refuges and expand five others.

By including entire ecosystems and watersheds in parks and refuges at the onset, the Interior Department proposals would attempt to avoid costly mistakes made for more than a century in setting aside lands and waters for preservation in the "Lower 48" states.

As Secretary Andrus told the House Subcommittee on Alaska lands and General Oversight today:

"Through enactment of our proposals, we can be certain that the crown jewels of Alaska -- its most spectacular natural environments, recreation areas, and wildlife habitats -- will remain in trust for the benefit of our Nation's citizens.

"When we talk of conserving resources for our Nation and for the future, we must put this in perspective. It is not our intention to 'lock up' the State of Alaska, and our plan provides sufficient latitude for needed development.

"Some people seem to fear that we are trying to hoard resources needed by Americans today and in the immediate future. I would suggest that there is plenty of Alaska which will be outside the Four Systems which can produce needed minerals, fuels, and other raw material for a great many years to come. Our proposal shows that we are extremely sensitive to the resource needs of Alaska and America now and for the coming years.

"There are roughly 375 million acres in Alaska. Our proposal involves 92 million acres. The State of Alaska will be receiving 103 million acres, much of which will be open to development. The Natives are receiving more than 44 million acres, much of which will be developed.

"So there will be many millions of acres remaining outside the Four Systems which will be largely available for mining, grazing, timber, hunting, fishing, and various uses."

Secretary Andrus emphasized that "if we err by conserving too much, this can always be changed in the future."

Largest of the national park proposals is that of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, a wild area of 18,000 square miles in Southeast Alaska adjoining Canada's Kluane National Park. It contains the Nation's greatest collection of peaks surmounting 16,000 feet, including Mount St. Elias, at 18,008 feet the second highest in North America. An enormous array of wildlife, including the rare glacier bear, inhabits an area large enough to contain three proposed wild and scenic rivers. Most of the park is proposed as wilderness.

In the far north is the proposed Gates of the Arctic National Park, 8.2 million acres with an abundance of rare species of wildlife and seven wild rivers.

Another is existing Mount McKinley National Park, established in 1917 and enclosing America's highest peak, Mount McKinley at 20,320 feet. The park would be enlarged to 5.7 million acres and renamed Denali, the Alaska Native Indian name for the great peak.

Other pertinent issues addressed in the proposal:

An advisory Statewide cooperative commission to foster cooperation among Federal, State and Native land managers and to study issues such as transportation planning of Statewide concern. Federal, State, Native and public representation would be involved.

"Areas of environmental concern" adjacent to d-2 lands where resource use and development are critical to protection also would be designated by the legislation sought.

Generally, subsistence hunting would be permitted in specified zones on all d-2 lands with sport hunting also permitted on wildlife refuges and national park preserves. Snowmobiles would be allowed for subsistence purposes in wilderness areas.

Wilderness is recommended in three existing and four newly-proposed national park areas totalling 30.2 million acres. Wilderness designation is proposed in four existing and two newly-proposed national wildlife refuges for a total of 13.1 million acres. In addition, the Administration is recommending designation of most of Admiralty Island in southeast Alaska as wilderness under management of the Forest Service.

Mineral Study and Extraction: All units of the U.S. National Park System are closed to mining, except in those areas where valid mining claims existed prior to park establishment. Within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve (an area of 2.49 million acres proposed in addition to the National Parks' 9.56 million acres) Interior recognizes two zones containing potentially significant mineral resources and suggests that further study and "controlled mineral extraction" should be considered.

Andrus asked that Interior be authorized to make mineral exploration studies in these two zones through its U.S. Geological Survey, or to issue exploration permits to private firms. National Wildlife Refuges could be opened to oil and gas leasing at the Secretary's discretion.

Interior proposes the designation of 33 rivers or river segments as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, with nine others to be studied. Twenty-three rivers would be within the boundaries of other protected areas. Approximately 2.45 million acres of land would be involved in the 10 rivers outside of the other proposed d-2 areas. Wild and Scenic Rivers would not be designated wilderness areas so as to avoid future conflicts concerning pipeline crossings.

Alaska's remaining land selection entitlement will come from lands remaining after Native selections and d-2 areas are completed, Andrus said.

"The President and I are totally committed to the early passage of a strong d-2 legislative package," Andrus told the Subcommittee.

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(EDITORS: Descriptions of d-2 selections contained in the Interior Department proposal follow.)

NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

1. Gates of the Arctic Wilderness National Park. Covering 8.1 million acres of Federal land north of the Arctic Circle, this proposal would authorize a national park largely designated as wilderness, together with seven national wild rivers. The area includes the most varied scenic and biological resources in Arctic Alaska. The plan is intended to protect the vast wilderness expanse of the Central Brooks Range for public benefit. The area is about 200 air miles northwest of Fairbanks and the same distance southeast of Barrow.

Mountains, including bladelike Arrigetch Peaks and turreted Mount Igikpuk, contrast with the immense open valleys to offer spectacular scenery. Wildlife in the gaunt tundra environment includes migrant arctic caribou, grizzly bear, Dall sheep, moose, wolves, raptors, arctic char, lake trout, northern pike, and greyling. Walker Lake, an exceptional geologic and ecologic area, is among the variety of large lakes and untamed streams found in the proposed park. Wilderness explorer Bob Marshall named the eastern part of the proposed parkland Gates of the Arctic because of the remarkable terrain found there.

2. Kobuk Valley National Park. Situated in northwestern Alaska between the Baird Mountains on the north and the Waring Mountains on the south, the proposed Kobuk Valley National Park would contain 1.67 million Federal acres. It embraces the central valley of the Kobuk River which flows west to the coast and the proposed Salmon National Wild River, a northern tributary. The placid and easily navigable Kobuk has been a major transportation route for centuries. The Salmon is a fine canoeing river. The park would protect the northwestern limits of the boreal forest and the Arctic tundra which contains several important caribou migration routes and the northern portion of the Arctic herd's winter range. Moose, black and grizzly bear, and wolves are indigenous. The park would continue subsistence lifestyle, which has existed for thousands of years, provided subsistence activities do not materially damage the long-term natural systems. The protection of archeological resources, including Onion Portage, would be a major objective of the park. An Arctic rarity, the Great Kobuk Sand Dunes, lies within the proposed boundaries. Technical assistance, research, and management of fish and wildlife resources would be provided by the Fish and Wildlife Service. A wilderness study would start within three years.

3. Cape Krusenstern National Monument. This proposed area of 360,000 acres borders the Chukchi Sea, 600 miles northwest of Anchorage. Its succession of 114 lateral-beach ridges, extending three miles inland, tells of Eskimo communities of every known cultural period in Arctic Alaska, going back some 4,000 years. The area also may yield archeological discoveries on the Bering Land Bridge. It would bring into the National Park System not only internationally significant archeological sites but also a type of ecosystem not now represented--a segment of the Arctic coastal tundra. Subsistence uses will be allowed, provided they do not materially damage the long-term health of the natural systems. The marine subsistence life style taking place within the area is an important value of this proposal. Walrus and occasional polar bears are among the coastal wildlife. A wilderness study would start within three years.

4. Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve. The proposed monument and preserve would contain 495,000 Federal acres--338,000 acres in the national monument and another 157,000 acres in the national preserve. It would also provide for the Aniakchak National Wild River.

The monument would contain the Aniakchak Crater, one of the world's largest dry calderas, covering a 30-square mile area. The proposed Wild River forms in the crater and rushes 27 miles to the Pacific Ocean. The caldera contains a 2,000-foot mini-volcano, and its ash-covered floor is considered a prime example of an emerging ecosystem that is slowly transforming terrain blackened by a 1931 eruption.

Wildlife in this area include brown bear, caribou, foxes, wolves, moose, wolverine, otter, sea otter, and 80 species of birds, including the bald eagle.

Entry to the area would be at nearby Port Heiden, 350 miles southwest of Anchorage. Scheduled airline flights operate between the two points.

5. Katmai National Park. The existing Katmai National Monument was created in 1918 to preserve the site of the 1912 volcanic eruption that formed the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes and subsequently enlarged to include prime scenic, recreation and wildlife values. It would be enlarged by 1.1 million acres and established as a national park of 3.9 million Federal acres. It would also establish and include the Alagnak National Wild River.

The additions would round out Katmai by adding critical habitat necessary to protect populations of brown bear and preserve pristine watersheds necessary for red salmon fisheries. The proposal includes a minor portion (5,000 acres) of the Lower Cook Inlet petroleum province, considered worthy of protection because of its high brown bear habitat values.

Subsistence use would be allowed in the additions. All lands not designated as wilderness would be studied for wilderness designation within three years of establishment.

Once isolated 300 miles southwest of Anchorage, Katmai now has 9,000 to 12,000 visits a year. More than 2,500 overnight stays are recorded annually.

6. Kenai Fjords National Park. This proposal would preserve 412,000 acres of the interrelated Harding Icefield and coastal rain forest and fjord system on the Kenai Peninsula in Federal ownership. Only 20 miles from Seward, the proposed park would be largely designated wilderness as would the associated offshore islands groups. The islands are recommended as a national wildlife refuge under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Wildlife Service. About 60 percent of the icefield would lie within the park boundaries.

Glaciers spin off from the icefield in four directions, many flowing into the proposed park's Gulf of Alaska waters. The colorful bays and fjords of the gulf are generally ice-free all year. Large populations of marine life, including sea lions, sea otter, northern fur seals, and whales frequent the coastal waters and islands. Black and brown bears, wolverines, moose, red foxes, and many bird species are found here as well. Wilderness recreation and coastal boating are already popular here.

Fish and Wildlife Service would facilitate research and management of the varied fish and wildlife resources within the park.

7. Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. This recommendation includes 3.14 million Federal acres at the head of the Alaska Peninsula, bordering on Cook Inlet. The proposal would place 2.43 million acres in a Lake Clark National Park, 710,000 acres in a Lake Clark National Preserve, and establish three national wild rivers--Tlikakila, Chilikadrotna, and Mulchatna. These would serve to protect and interpret for public benefit an exceptionally diverse, scenic array of natural features. The area is about one hour, flying time, southwest of Anchorage. This plan would also preserve the headwaters of the Kivichak River as a free-flowing stream system, thereby protecting the Bristol Bay red salmon fishery. The preserve would offer diversified recreational opportunities while the park would focus on recreation which is compatible with the preservation of wilderness values.

The rugged mountain and valley systems encompassed in the proposal provide habitat for grizzly bear, black bear, wolves, wolverine, mink, marten, lynxes, red foxes, otter, and muskrat. Caribou graze on the western slopes and Dall sheep reach the southern limits of their range here. A 50-mile segment along the Cook Inlet has some 100 bird species, including bald eagles, the endangered peregrine falcon, concentrations of swans, and 11 varieties of game ducks. The coastal Chigmit Mountains contain two active volcanoes over 10,000 feet high within the park proposal. The area already attracts several thousand visitors annually for fishing and wilderness recreation and has very high potential for greatly increased visitation in the near future.

8. Denali National Park. Mount McKinley National Park, established in 1917, would be enlarged to 5.7 million acres and renamed in recognition of the ancient Alaska Native name for North America's highest peak (20,320 feet). The addition would protect the entire Mount McKinley geological formation, including forelands, glacial features, and scenic resources. It would also ensure the preservation of important ecological values, among them habitat of large mammal species. Most of the park would be designated wilderness.

Critical caribou wintering grounds and wolf dens are found in the proposed additions. Moose, black bear, grizzly bear, foxes, lynxes, beavers, wolverines, and a multiplicity of bird life, including long-tailed jaegers, whimbrels, surfbirds, and wandering tattlers are all resident species.

The existing 1.9-million-acre park is on the AnchorageFairbanks highway, 240 miles north of Anchorage. In 1976, the park drew more than half-a-mile visits.

9. Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. This proposal would preserve a wilderness area of more than 18,000 square miles--an area so vast and wild that non-natives have not yet visited many of its remote mountains and valleys. The proposal calls for a Wrangell-St. Elias National Park of 9.56 million Federal acres and a Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve of 2.49 million Federal acres. The park would contain three proposed national rivers--the Bremner National Wild River, the Chitina National Wild and Scenic River, and the Copper National Wild, Scenic and Recreation River. Wilderness designation is proposed for most of the park, and studies on the remainder would be started within three years of establishment. The Wrangell Mountains in the north and the Chugach Range in the south contain the country's greatest collection of peaks over 16,000 feet and the continent's largest assemblage of glaciers. Among the peaks are Mount St. Elias, 18,008 feet, second highest in North America.

Wildlife includes the grizzly and black bear, the rare glacier bear along the Gulf of Alaska coast, wolverines, wolves, moose, Dall sheep, mountain goats, mink, foxes, otter, other fur-bearers, and trumpeter swans and their habitat in the Bremner River area. Some subsistence use would be continued under special permits.

The area is a day's drive east of Anchorage.

10. Yukon-Charley National Rivers. Encompassing 1.7 million Federal acres along the Yukon and Charley Rivers in east-central Alaska along the Canadian border, this proposal would also designate the Charley as a national wild river. This plan would preserve the Charley River basin and its wildlife and protect and interpret the area's internationally significant geological and paleontological resources. The area also includes a large concentration of nesting peregrine falcons and historic resources from the gold rush era.

The proposal encompasses a 115-mile stretch of the 1,800-mile Yukon River as well as the 88-mile Charley. Sport hunting would be permitted except along a designated corridor on the Charley. Subsistence uses compatible with parkland protection would be permitted and the entire proposal area would be studied for possible designation as wilderness within three years of establishment.

11. Bering Land Bridge National Preserve. This recommended 2.34-million acre Federal property takes in the remains of the land bridge which once linked Asia and North America. On the north side of the Seward Peninsula, it lies only 50 miles from Siberia, about 30 minutes by air north from Nome, Alaska. The archeological and paleontological resources of the area are its most important attribute, but it also contains valued natural resources.

The proposed preserve has polar bear, grizzly bear, wolves, wolverines, arctic foxes, and 21 other land mammal species co-existing in a relatively undisturbed ecosystem. Adjoining waters contain four threatened species of whales. Bird life includes 112 known species, some varieties of which migrate to one or more of seven continents. A prehistoric ecosystem has been preserved here under a blanket of ashes from volcanic eruptions, and 28 known archeological sites also lie within the proposed boundaries.

Sport hunting and subsistence uses would be permitted to continue if the preserve is established. The Fish and Wildlife Service will provide technical assistance in fish and wildlife management under the proposal. Reindeer, native to the area, are an important food source and cultural element of native communities on the Seward Peninsula, and carefully managed herding could continue.

12. Glacier Bay National Park. This proposal would rename Glacier Bay National Monument, established in 1925, as Glacier Bay National Park and would expand its 2.8 million acres to 3.38 million acres.

The monument contains great tidewater glaciers, a dramatic range of plant communities from rocky terrain recently covered by ice to lush temperate rain forest, and a surprising variety of wild animals, including brown and black bears, mountain goats, whales, seals, and eagles. The additional 588,000 acres would protect and interpret the the northwest slope of Mount Fairweather, the U.S. portion of the Alsek River, mountain-flanked sand beaches, and associated animal habitat and migration routes.

Wilderness is proposed for the existing monument and for some of the additional acreage. A wilderness study of other lands would begin within three years of the park's establishment. If subsistence use is found, special-use permits would be granted.

Glacier Bay, about 100 miles west of Juneau, can be reached by boat or by plane from Juneau.

13. Noatak National Ecological Preserve. This proposal would establish an Arctic preserve of 5.96 million acres in northwest Alaska and the Noatak National Wild River. Protection of the area's unaltered ecological values and the proposed wild river, through low-cost and low-useage management, would be a paramount objective.

The area lies north of the proposed Kobuk Valley National Monument, which is northeast of the Seward Peninsula. The proposed preserve would encourage scientific study and environmental education in the largest, complete river system in the United States still essentially free of intrusion by western man.

Caribou habitat and migration in the Noatak watershed would be protected. Enormous undisturbed vistas of the Noatak River's mountain-ringed valley would be preserved. Low density wilderness recreation and the study of extensive archeological sites are among the preserve's attractions.

Subsistence use and sport hunting would be allowed. The entire area would be studied for wilderness designation within three years of the park's establishment. A scientific advisory board would be established to stimulate research. The Fish and Wildlife Service would provide technical assistance and be responsible for research and management of fish and wildlife resources.

WILDLIFE FOR TOMORROW
ALASKAN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Alaska is huge--twice the size of Texas. Yet, this size is deceptive as Alaska is a surprisingly fragile giant.

While her surrounding seas, in a pristine state, are among the most productive in the world, an average inland acre of Alaskan land/water is about five times less productive than the average acre in Michigan. On a year round basis Alaska's vast acreage supports only a relatively few hardy species of wildlife and even these may be required to migrate up to 1,000 miles to satisfy their basic annual needs.

During brief, highly productive summers Alaska seemingly teems with life. But here again, only selected areas possess that combination of favorable habitat factors that allows them to support large numbers of nesting birds, calving caribou or spawning fish. Between them, these special areas support the nurseries of such nationally and internationally significant Alaskan-born resources as 100-200 million shore and waterbirds; 13 million waterfowl; 100+ million migratory perching birds; 100+ million seabirds; and undetermined numbers of marine mammals, large land mammals, furbearers, salmon and other fish (and one frog).

These special areas for fish and wildlife are the focus of the Department of Interior's proposals for new or additions to existing National Wildlife Refuges in Alaska.

ARCTIC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (8.85 million acres)--Arching its back against the Arctic Ocean this refuge is one of the great wilderness expanses of the Nation. Stretching from the plains of the North Slope through the jumbled majesty of the Brooks Range to the northern reaches of Alaska's forest land, the Arctic Refuge is home to such hardy species as grizzly, black and polar bears, dall sheep, wolves, wolverine, foxes, seals, muskoxen, 16 species of fish and a wide array of birds.

Arctic's wildlife inhabitants do not recognize manmade boundaries. The 120,000 member Porcupine caribou herd spends summer and fall months in the Arctic Refuge raising young, then retires to Canada's Yukon Territory for the winter. Wave after wave of waterfowl moving to and from Canadian nesting grounds and wintering areas along the California Coast or the Aleutian Islands National Wildlife Refuge pass through the refuge to rest and feed. Such movements may number up to 200,000 snow geese, 500,000 oldsquaw or 1,000,000 eiders.

Not all of the Porcupine caribou always winter in Canada; some occasionally move into the proposed Arctic additions or uplands of the adjoining YUKON FLATS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (8.45 million acres). Here the Yukon River floods across a vast basin, recharging some 40,000 lakes, oxbows and potholes. Long Arctic summer days and the insulating effect of surrounding mountains create conditions in these wetlands resulting in the most productive per acre waterfowl habitat in Alaska.

This basin contributes an annual flight of 2,100,000 ducks and 16,500 geese as well as 11,000 sandhill cranes, 15,000 loons and 100,000 grebe to Flyways touching all parts of the Lower 48, Canada and Mexico. Major populations of wolves, black and grizzly bears, moose, furbearers and production of over a quarter of a million salmon also contribute to the fish and wildlife values of the Yukon Flats.

Solar basins -- those river riddled, pond dotted valleys rung by high hills and drenched by long summer sunlight characterize a number of other refuge proposals along the Yukon River, its tributaries, and other major rivers in Interior Alaska. Although superficially similar, each of these basins has different mixtures of plant communities and wetlands attracting birds and mammals of different species, densities -- and winter destinations.

TETLIN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (765,000 acres). Enter Alaska on the Alcan Highway and you are in the Tetlin Refuge - the northernmost terminus of many migratory birds such as redhead and ring-necked ducks and blue-winged teal, seldom seen in other parts of Alaska.

Aside from its regular nesters Tetlin, like the Yukon Flats proposal, becomes increasingly important in years like the present one when waterfowl normally nesting in Canada overfly drought-stricken pothole areas seeking stable water conditions in Alaska. This year, waterfowl nesting densities in Tetlin increased 50 percent with significant increases in nesting canvasbacks (up 82 percent) and redheads (up 700 percent).

Across the Trans-Alaska Pipeline from Yukon Flats is a small basin enclosing the KANUTI NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (1.20 million acres). Contributing at least 75,000 waterfowl to many parts of the continent and Mexico, Kanuti is particularly noted for providing high density nesting habitat for white-fronted geese that spend their winter along the Gulf of Mexico.

The refuge also supports large populations of furbearers and moose and is a traditional wintering area for a second major caribou population, the Arctic caribou herd.

NOWITNA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (1.45 million acres) is another key nesting area for white-fronted geese as well as several other species of waterfowl, that together send nearly a quarter of a million birds down the Central Flyway of Canada and the Lower 48 to coastal Texas and Louisiana.

The southern portion of the proposed refuge is home to caribou and grizzly bear, while moose concentrate in large numbers in northern willow thickets along the Yukon River in winter. The Yukon River also is important to migrating salmon: the Nowitna River (a Wild River proposal) being a valuable spawning ground for the sheefish, an Arctic species often dubbed the "freshwater tarpon."

North of the Yukon the Koyukuk River floods a forested basin dotted with many lakes. This KOYUKUK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (3.33 million acres) is the producer of that elusive target of midnight forays - the snipe - as well as numerous other shore and water birds. Waterfowl production from the unit contributes 75,000 Canada and white-fronted geese and over 300,000 ducks, largely pintails, wigeon, scaup and scoters. The area also boasts the northwesternmost nesting trumpeter swans (150) on the continent.

Moose, black bear and wolves are abundant; members of the Arctic caribou herd winter over the entire unit; and the area provides excellent habitat for such furbearers as beaver muskrat, mink and martin.

Chinook and chum salmon and whitefish are important fishery resources; northern pike abound in lowland lakes and Arctic grayling in colder headwater streams.

The occurrence of the attractive Nogahabara sand dunes in the northern part of the proposal adds a unique geological dimension to the ecology of the refuge.

The INNOKO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (2.84 million acres) south of Koyukuk has a unique boundary. Step into the refuge and you disappear into a sponge of wetland. This is a land that truly belongs to the beaver, the moose, the goose and the black bear.

In this transition area between the tundra of western Alaska and the boreal forest of the Interior valleys is a major waterfowl nesting area whose ducks (380,000) migrate primarily to Washington and California, although the scaup reach the Atlantic Coast. Geese (totaling 65,000) split, with white-fronts migrating through the central U.S. to Mexico and the Canada geese orienting to the Pacific Coast. Along with more snipe, other notable bird species of the area include sandhill cranes by the thousands, bald eagles, osprey and peregrine falcons.

Moose are of primary importance among large mammals with major wintering concentrations along the Kaiyuh River. Black bears and beaver are abundant as are many other species of furbearers.

As the Yukon joins the Kuskokwim River there is created one of the wettest spots in this Nation. The YUKON DELTA NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (10.59 million acres) is a vast, water dotted tundra. Probably no area of similar size is so critical to so many species. Fish and wildlife resources include at least 100 million shorebirds of several species; 3 million ducks, 50 thousand swans (80 percent of the Pacific Flyway flight) and 720 thousand geese (including 80 percent of the world's emperor geese, all of its cackling Canada geese, and half the continental population of black brant); and a large fishery resource (chinook, chum, coho, sockeye and pink salmon, northern pike, blackfish, sheefish, several species of whitefish, grayling and Arctic char) which is the mainstay of the 42 Native villages encompassed by the refuge.

WILDLIFE FOR TOMORROW--ALASKAN NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES

Add to these a mammal resource including foxes, otters, mink, hares, lemmings, bears, lynx, wolves, beaver, wolverine, moose, harbor seals and walrus; another 100 nesting bird species scattering to six continents and a wood frog and the Yukon Delta becomes a remarkable wildlife wildland.

Also attracting birds from many continents is the SELAWIK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (2.15 million acres), northwesternmost of the great wetland basins. Here, at the crossroads of Asiatic and North American Flyways, can be found blue-throats and yellow wagtails from Asia; bar-tailed godwits from Australia and New Zealand; Arctic terns from Antarctica; upland and pectoral sandpipers from South America and wheatears from Africa.

Waterbirds nesting in Selawik also disperse to all parts of the Lower 48: greater scaup to the Atlantic Coast; lesser scaup to Louisiana; white-fronted geese to coastal Texas national wildlife refuges and numerous species such as pintails, mallards and green-winged teal to refuges in California, Oregon and Washington.

Selawik is also migration and wintering area for such diverse wildlife as the sheefish and caribou and the year around home to many moose, bears and wolves.

South of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta the low wetland tundra gives way to the mountainous peninsula encompassed by the TOGIAK NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE REFUGE (3.84 million acres). Three major river drainages, the Kanektok, Goodnews and Togiak Rivers, provide critical freshwater contributions to the rich Bristol and Kuskokwim Bays. In so doing the area helps support some 10 species of whales, harbor seals, sea lions, salmon during marine life stages and literally millions of migrating shorebirds and waterfowl using near shore waters.

Fish - 1.7 million salmon strong, live in rivers and streams of the proposal during summer and fall months. Numerous other fish can also be found such as steelhead, rainbow and lake trout, Arctic grayling, Dolly Varden and Arctic char.

Other summer residents of Togiak include 1 to 2 million seabirds, waterfowl, eagles, gyrfalcons and peregrine falcons. This refuge would encompass one of the most diverse mammal assemblages in Alaska with over 32 species of land mammals ranging from tiny shrews to brown-grizzly bears. Some of these mammal populations are currently at low levels but would be expected to increase under refuge management and protection.

South across Cook Inlet from Anchorage is the KENAI NATIONAL MOOSE REFUGE to which additions of 234,000 acres are proposed. This area of mountain ranges, glaciers, forests, lowland lakes, wetlands and rivers support a wide diversity of fish and wildlife resources including the Kenai moose for which the area was originally established, one of the greatest loon populations in North America, six percent of the world's nesting trumpeter swans and one third of the salmon caught in Cook Inlet.

The more than 1200 lakes and 160 miles of streams are home to such animals as mink, muskrat, weasels, otter and beaver. Dall sheep, mountain goats and a variety of smaller mammals and birds inhabit mountain areas, with caribou, bears (black and grizzly), lynx, wolves and coyotes in lower transitional zones.

The variety of habitats for fish and wildlife, the scenic beauty of the refuge and its nearness to Anchorage lend ample opportunity for quality environmental awareness and wildlife-oriented recreation programs.

Jutting into the Pacific Ocean from the southwest corner of Alaska is the Alaska Peninsula. Near its northern end the BECHAROF NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (1.03 million acres) is one of the major brown bear habitats in Alaska. The giant peninsula brown bear are free-ranging, feeding in salmon streams and coastal marshes over a wide area and hibernating in mountain dens. Some 232 dens have been located in mountain sides and on islands in the Becharof area.

Caribou and large members of moose range through the refuge proposal; streams abound with salmon, rainbow trout and Arctic grayling; and rocky seacliffs host tens of thousands of seabirds of several species.

Most of the remainder of the Peninsula from Becharof south to the existing Izembek National Wildlife Range at its southern tip is proposed as an ALASKA PENINSULA SPECIAL STUDY AREA. Currently an area of complex land ownership, the Peninsula is to be studied by the Department of Interior the State of Alaska and several Native Corporation landowners to determine how best to reorder the land ownership and land use patterns to assure orderly use of the Peninsula's resources and the long-range maintenance of today's high quality fish and wildlife habitats.

With an eye toward the nationally significant populations of brown bears, caribou, moose, salmon, trout, marine birds, waterfowl and migratory shorebirds of the area, review of other natural resources and the land management desires of the various landowners, this study will make recommendations to Congress and the Alaska Legislative by June of 1983, or sooner, for a more orderly, resource-oriented balance of Native, State and refuge lands.

The most far flung, remote and colorful wildlife refuge proposal is the ALASKA MARINE RESOURCES NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE (430,000 acres of additions to 11 existing refuges). Rocks, islands, spires, reefs and headland cliffs dot the marine waters of Alaska from the Chukchi Sea to the Aleutian Island chain to the Southeast panhandle.

In sharp contrast to the million acres required for nesting shorebirds and waterfowl inland, many million of seabirds utilize every suitable foot of the proposed refuge. Marine bird resources of Alaskan waters probably amount to over a hundred million birds of at least 55 species. To date, over 135 nesting locations have been described outside the Aleutian Islands, of which 26 contain over a million.

In addition, all units are important to one or more species of mammals-- including sea lions, harbor and hair seals, walrus, sea otters and polar bears. Sixteen species of whales, many endangered, also use waters lying immediately off the shore of these areas.

The value of these marine resources is often underated. Estimates place food consumption by these birds at 0.6 to 1.2 million tons with a return of 120,000 to 240,000 tons of nutrients to these seas each year. Marine bird and mammal numbers are awesome today, yet any factors adversely effecting them would undoubtedly greatly upset local fertility of the seas and subsequently the fisheries so vital to humans.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVERS

Proposal:

To designate 33 rivers or segments of rivers as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System and to designate nine rivers for study as potential components of the National System. Twenty-three of the rivers would be wholly or in part within the boundaries, and would be administered as components, of other areas. The rivers outside of other areas would be proposed for management by the managing agency of adjacent Federal lands, generally, the Bureau of Land Management. Rivers would be classified in accord with the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (P.L. 90-542, as amended). There would be no overriding wilderness designation on rivers outside of other areas unless the managing agency determines that adjacent lands qualify and should be designated as wilderness. Approximately 2.453 million acres of land would be involved in the river areas outside of other areas.

The rivers proposed for study are the: Melozitna, Susitna, Holitna-Hoholitna, Nelchina-Tazlina, Nuyakuk, Situk, Koyuk, Stikine, and Copper (Iliamna).

Objectives:

To preserve and manage some of the best of the unparalleled rivers in Alaska as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. These rivers reflect Alaska's history, magnificent scenery, and fish and game resources as well as a variety of the river resources available in Alaska.

Alaskan Rivers Recommended for National System

River	Recommended Mileage	Location	Acreage	Administration
Alagnak	55	Outside of but adjacent to Katmai National Park for a major portion of segment	120,000	NPS
Alatna	85	Gates of the Arctic Wilderness National Park		NPS
Andreafsky	240	Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge		FWS
Aniakchak	40	Aniakchak National Monument and Preserve		NPS
Beaver Creek	135	Outside of other areas	200,000	*
Birch Creek	135	Outside of other areas	200,000	*
Bremner	93	Wrangell-St. Elias National Park		NPS
Charley	191	Yukon-Charley National Rivers		NPS
Chilkadrotna	60	Lake Clark National Park/Refuge		NPS
Chitina	135	Wrangell-St. Elias National Preserve		NPS
Colville	312	Outside of other areas	500,000	*
Copper	120	Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/ Preserve and Chugach National Forest	50,000	
Delta	51	Outside of other areas	66,000	*
Fortymile	375	Outside of other areas	320,000	*
Gulkana	127	Outside of other areas	165,000	*
Ivishak	65	Arctic National Wildlife Refuge		FWS

*To be administered by adjacent land manager.

River	Recommended Mileage	Location	Acreage	Administration
John	75	Gates of the Arctic Wilderness National Park		NPS
Kanektok	60	Togiak National Fish and Wildlife Refuge		FWS
Killik	171	Gates of the Arctic Wilderness National Park and Killik National Wild River (approximately 60 miles of the river from the Park/ boundary to the con- fluence with the Colville)	152,000 outside of Park/Preserve	NPS
Kisaralik	72	Outside of other areas	92,000	*
Kobuk	96	Gates of the Arctic Wilderness National Park		NPS
Mulchatna	130	Lake Clark National Park/Preserve		NPS
Noatak	330	Gates of the Arctic Wilderness National Park and Noatak National Ecological Preserve		NPS
North Fork Koyukuk	100	Gates of the Arctic Wilderness National Park		NPS
Nowitna	200	Nowitna National Wildlife Refuge and National Wild River (approximately 90 miles of the river from its headwaters to the refuge boundary.)	230,000 outside of refuge	FWS

*To be administered by the adjacent land manager.

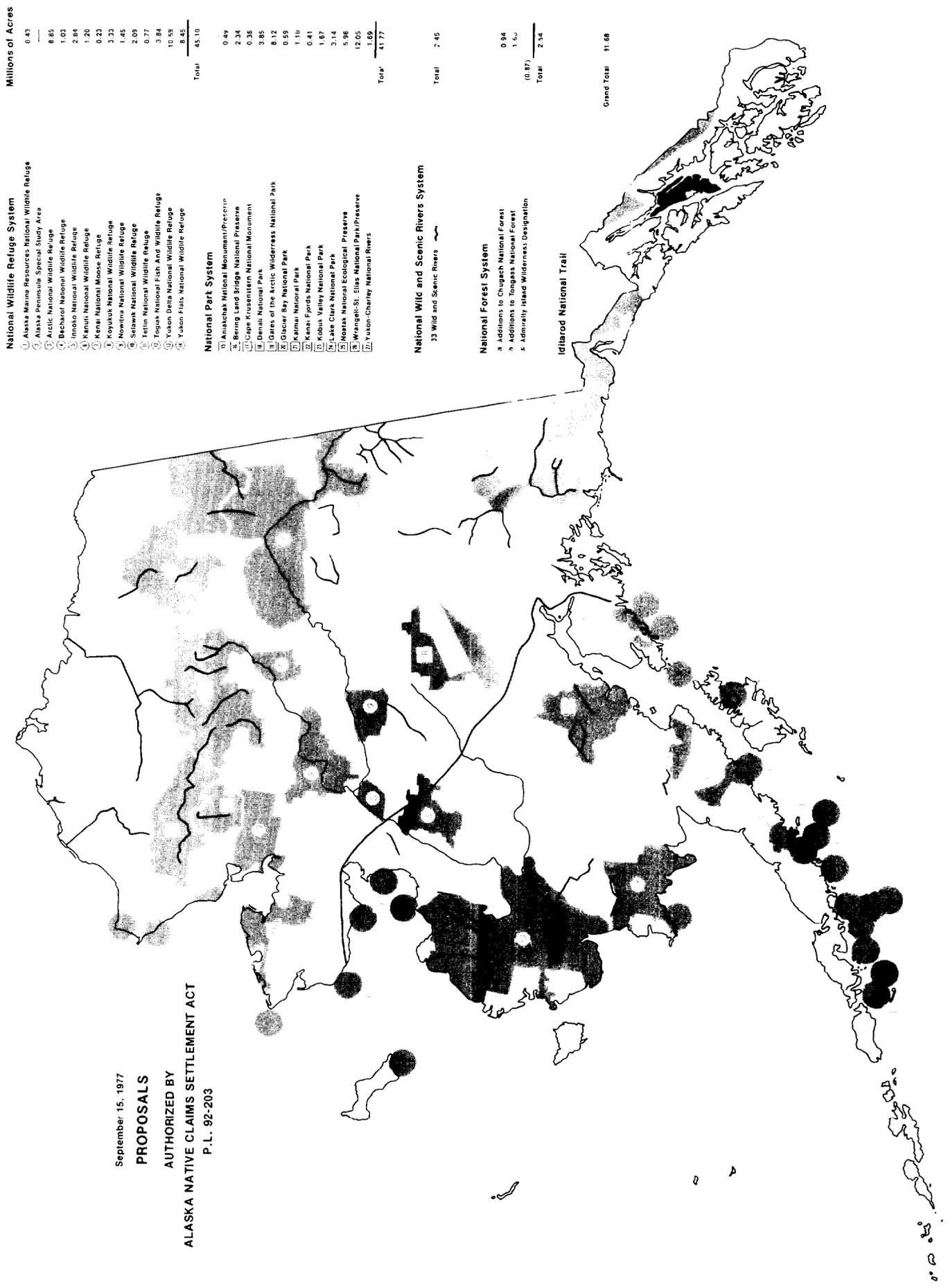
River	Recommended Mileage	Location	Acreage	Administration
Porcupine	114	Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge		FWS
Salmon	60	Kobuk Valley National Park		NPS
Sheenjok	102	Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge		FWS
Tinayguk	60	Gates of the Arctic Wilderness National Park		NPS
Tlikakila	50	Lake Clark National Park		NPS
Unalakleet	60	Outside of other areas	104,000	*
Utukok	198	Outside of other areas	254,000	*
Wind	65	Arctic National Wildlife Refuge		FWS
Total	4,162	(1,670 miles outside of other areas)	2,453,000	

*To be administered by adjacent land manager.

Rivers to be studied (9):

Copper (Iliamna)	Melozitna	Situk
Holitna-Hoholitna	Nelchina-Tazlina	Stikine
Koyuk	Nuyakuk	Susitna

September 15, 1977
PROPOSALS
 AUTHORIZED BY
ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT
 P. L. 92-203



- National Wildlife Refuge System**
- 1 Alaska Marine Resources National Wildlife Refuge
 - 2 Alaska Peninsula Special Study Area
 - 3 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
 - 4 Becharof National Wildlife Refuge
 - 5 Inupiat National Wildlife Refuge
 - 6 Kenai National Wildlife Refuge
 - 7 Ketchikan National Wildlife Refuge
 - 8 Kupuk National Wildlife Refuge
 - 9 Nowina National Wildlife Refuge
 - 10 Selawik National Wildlife Refuge
 - 11 Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge
 - 12 Fognak National Fish And Wildlife Refuge
 - 13 Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge
 - 14 Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge

- National Park System**
- 15 Aniakchak National Monument/Preserve
 - 16 Bering Land Bridge National Preserve
 - 17 Cape Krusenstern National Monument
 - 18 Denali National Park
 - 19 Gates of the Arctic Wilderness National Park
 - 20 Glacier Bay National Park
 - 21 Katmai National Park
 - 22 Kenai Fjords National Park
 - 23 Kobuk Valley National Park
 - 24 Lake Clark National Park
 - 25 Norstad National Ecological Preserve
 - 26 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park/Preserve
 - 27 Yukon-Charley National Rivers

- National Wild and Scenic Rivers System**
- 28 Wild and Scenic Rivers

- National Forest System**
- 29 Additions to Chugach National Forest
 - 30 Additions to Tongass National Forest
 - 31 Admiralty Island Wilderness Designation

Iditarod National Trail

Millions of Acres

0.43
8.85
1.03
2.84
1.20
0.23
3.35
1.45
2.09
0.77
3.84
10.59
8.45
Total 45.10

0.49
2.34
0.36
3.85
8.12
0.59
1.10
0.41
1.67
3.14
5.96
12.05
1.69
Total 41.77

Total 7.45

0.84
1.54
(0.87)
Total 2.34

Grand Total 11.88

September 13, 1977

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WILDERNESS - FEDERAL ACREAGE

AREA	PROPOSED INSTANT WILDERNESS (EXISTING PARK)	PROPOSED INSTANT WILDERNESS D-2 PROPOSAL	TOTAL PROPOSED INSTANT WILDERNESS PER PARK UNIT
Denali	1,848,000	3,651,000	5,499,000
Gates of the Arctic		8,100,000	8,100,000
Glacier Bay	2,225,000	26,000	2,251,000
Katmai	2,603,000	89,000	2,692,000
Kenai Fjords		332,000	332,000
Lake Clark Park Preserve		2,549,000 0	2,549,000 0
Wrangell-St. Elias Park Preserve		8,846,000 0	8,846,000 0
TOTALS	6,676,000	23,593,000	30,269,000

September 13, 1977

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
PROPOSED ADDITIONS TO THE
NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM

AREA	FEDERAL	NATIVE* SELECTIONS	STATE SELECTIONS	TOTAL
Aniakchak Monument	338,000	14,000	12,000	364,000
Preserve	157,000	92,000	-	249,000
Total	<u>495,000</u>	<u>106,000</u>	<u>12,000</u>	<u>613,000</u>
Bering Land Bridge	<u>2,340,000</u>	204,000	44,000	2,588,000
Cape Krusenstern	<u>360,000</u>	-	-	360,000
Denali	<u>3,853,000</u>	11,000	225,000	4,089,000
Gates of the Arctic	<u>8,119,000</u>	855,000	707,000	9,681,000
Glacier Bay	<u>588,000</u>	-	-	588,000
Katmai	<u>1,099,000</u>	6,000	88,000	1,193,000
Kenai Fjords	<u>412,000</u>	260,000	14,000	686,000
Kobuk Valley	<u>1,667,000</u>	26,000	13,000	1,706,000
Lake Clark Park	2,429,000	290,000	139,000	2,858,000
Preserve	711,000	-	932,000	1,643,000
Total	<u>3,140,000</u>	<u>290,000</u>	<u>1,071,000</u>	<u>4,501,000</u>
Noatak	<u>5,958,000</u>	-	-	5,958,000
Wrangell-St. Elias Park	9,560,000	265,000	-	9,825,000
Preserve	2,491,000	632,000	103,000	3,226,000
Total	<u>12,051,000</u>	<u>897,000</u>	<u>103,000</u>	<u>13,051,000</u>
Yukon-Charley	<u>1,686,000</u>	<u>381,000</u>	<u>395,000</u>	<u>2,462,000</u>
GRAND TOTALS	<u>41,768,000</u>	3,036,000	2,672,000	47,476,000

*Estimate of valid Native selections after overselections taken into consideration.

NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES
STATE AND NATIVE SELECTIONS
WITHIN D-2 PROPOSALS

NWR	Current Available Federal Acreage	Native Selection	Estimated Future Refuge Acreage	State Selection	Navigable Waters
Alaska Marine Resources	430,000	Unknown	430,000	Unknown	Unknown
Arctic	8,849,346	16,125	8,849,346	1,150,246	0
Becharof	1,031,480	1,830	1,031,480	0	20,000
Innoko	2,839,765	319,000	2,839,765	0	0
Kanuti	1,052,000	297,000	1,200,000	10,000	0
Kenai	183,556	30,550	234,106	23,809	0
Koyukuk	3,244,275	640,000	3,326,775	43,090	40,000
Nowitna	1,450,000	170,500	1,450,000	66,000	17,700
Selawik	1,727,000	1,120,450	2,091,550	0	682,000
Tetlin	765,096	99,377	765,096	115,702	0
Togiak	3,447,863	793,000	3,844,863	0	0
Yukon Delta	9,419,198	6,319,550	10,592,220	0	932,000
Yukon Flats	7,310,222	3,715,421	8,449,792	6,150	214,400
TOTALS	41,749,801	13,926,803	45,104,993	1,414,357	1,599,000

WILDERNESS PROPOSALS
U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

ACREAGE

Refuge	Existing Wilderness Existing Refuges	Instant Wilderness Existing Refuges	Instant Wilderness Proposed Refuges	TOTAL
Arctic		8,829,000		8,829,000
Kenai		1,204,000	148,100	1,352,100
Alaska Marine Resources				
Aleutian Islands		1,300,000		1,300,000
Unimak		913,975		913,975
Semidi		251,860		251,860
*Remainder of Proposal	<u>39,038</u>		<u>360,000</u>	<u>399,038</u>
TOTALS	<u>39,038</u>	<u>12,498,835</u>	<u>508,100</u>	<u>13,045,973</u>

*Hagemeister Island not included --
to be studied.