

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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## TEMPORARY REGULATIONS FOR NEW ALASKA MONUMENTS ISSUED

The Department of the Interior today issued temporary regulations for 15 new national monuments in Alaska aimed at giving short term guidance on issues such as subsistence and access on the new monuments.

"These regulations have the dual function of protecting the great natural treasures of Alaska and the lifestyle of the rural people who often depend on local plants, animals, birds and fish for their livelihood," said Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus.

Secretary Andrus added that public comment would be sought and hearings would be held before permanent regulations are issued in early spring.

The temporary regulations were issued, Secretary Andrus said, in order to modify existing National Park Service regulations which may have barred, among other things, subsistence activities by local rural residents and in-holders, and routes and methods of access to areas within and across the new national monuments.

Existing regulations covering general use of park service areas remain in force wherever they are not altered by the new temporary regulations. Existing regulations, for example, cover such specific activities as mining and access for mining purposes within and across the new national monuments.

Temporary regulations are also necessary for the management of monuments under the jurisdiction of the Fish and Wildlife Service because of the absence of any existing applicable regulations.

President Carter established these monuments, along with two others to be managed by the U.S. Forest Service, on December 1 under provisions of the Antiquities Act of 1906.

All but two of the 15 monuments managed by the Interior Department will be managed as units of the National Park system by the National Park Service. The remaining two will be managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service.

In his proclamation establishing the areas, President Carter said, "the opportunity for local residents to engage in subsistence hunting is a value to be protected and will continue under the administration of the monument."

All units, except Kenai Fjords, where there is no record of subsistence activity, will be open to subsistence hunting, fishing and trapping.

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Under the temporary regulations, the use of off-road vehicles and airplanes will continue to be allowed where such uses are traditional and established, or reasonable and appropriate in the exercise of a valid property right. Airplanes may not be used, however, for subsistence purposes.

Use of nets, except landing nets, and certain kinds of bait, is banned for sport fishing in the national park monuments in Alaska as is generally the case in park areas. Such restrictions do not apply in the two wildlife monuments.

The temporary regulations bar commercial trapping in the national park monuments. Because the 1978-79 trapping season is already underway, though, and in order to prevent undue economic hardship, the acting National Park Service area director for Alaska, Robert Petersen, has determined that existing commercial trapping under state permits will be permitted to continue for this season.

"Although the number of commercial trappers is small, the hardship that such late notice would work on them would be unfortunate," the acting director said.

In addition state permitted trapping at the current level will be permitted to continue in the wildlife monuments for this season.

The 15 new Alaska national monuments managed by the Interior Department are: Aniakchak NM (350,000 acres); Bering Land Bridge NM (2.6 million acres); Cape Krusenstern NM (560,000 acres); Denali NM (enlargement of Mount McKinley National Park 3.9 million acres); Gates of the Arctic NM (8.2 million acres); Glacier Bay NM (enlargement 550,000 acres); Katmai NM (enlargement 1.4 million acres); Kenai Fjords NM (570,000 acres); Kobuk Valley NM (1.7 million acres); Lake Clark NM (2.5 million acres); Noatak NM (5.8 million acres); Wrangell-St. Elias NM (11 million acres); Yukon-Charley NM (1.7 million acres); Yukon Flats NM (10.6 million acres); Becharof NM (1.2 million acres).

Yukon Flats and Becharof will be managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. All the others will be managed by the National Park Service.

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