



Graphic by Tom Ettel

Alaska wilderness bills to compete Tuesday

The U.S. House of Representatives will vote Tuesday on three proposals for preserving 110 million acres of Alaska as national park land, wildlife refuges, wilderness areas and national forests.

The selection of one of the three diverse bills will determine the future of one-fourth of the area of the nation's largest state.

The House last year passed a compromise bill designating much of Alaska as wilderness, but Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, who is opposed to "locking up" the state's mineral resources, added amendments that opened up more land to development. However, Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, disagreed with Stevens and made sure that when the bill came out of committee late in the session, there was no time for a vote.

The fate of the 110 million acres was unclear for several weeks last December because the deadline for proclaiming national interest lands was at hand, and only the president and the Interior Secretary may remove large amounts of federal land from development on short notice.

To the delight of environmentalists, Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus stepped

into the breach on December 1 and proclaimed the entire acreage national monuments and wilderness areas. Pres. Carter seconded the proclamation with an executive order.

Sentiment in Alaska has grown recently in opposition to any federal control of the land. This feeling had been mollified somewhat in 1971 when the federal government passed the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, turning 104 million acres over to the state of Alaska and another 44 million acres to Alaskan natives.

The House Interior Committee early last March passed a version of the Alaska Lands Bill, which Andrus labeled "totally unacceptable." Adopted by a one-vote margin, the legislation cut 20 million acres from the total and left much of the land open to mining, timber harvesting and oil drilling. This proposal is known as the Huckaby Bill, for Rep. Jerry Huckaby, D-La.

The plan would leave the Arctic National Wildlife Range open for oil exploration, an area in which 120,000 porcupine caribou enjoy a protected habitat. Andrus wrote in a memo that the range provides a "highly sensitive habitat year-round for caribou, polar bear and migratory waterfowl. Since

its establishment, all Secretaries of Interior have kept this area closed to exploration and development."

A March 4 Los Angeles Times editorial reported that Huckaby argued for his proposal on the basis that the U. S. is on the brink of World War III and must have full access to Alaska's natural resources to insure its survival.

Another proposal, known as the Breaux-Dingell Substitute, passed out of the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee April 9. Sponsored by Rep. John Breaux, a Democrat from Louisiana, and Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., this plan reduces the proposed Admiralty Island Wilderness Area by 50 percent and places the Misty Fjord of southeast Alaska in a "special management" category which would allow development.

Andrus called the Breaux-Dingell Substitute a "slightly revised version of the Huckaby

Bill." He wrote in a letter to Merchant Marine Committee members that it was a "major step backward," and that he would recommend Pres. Carter veto the plan if it passes both the House and Senate.

Andrus is supporting a bill sponsored by Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz., and Rep. John Anderson, R-Ill., that he says "makes a series of compromises to developmental interests," but is more balanced and "far preferable to others before the House."

The Alaska Coalition and the Sierra Club support this plan, called the Udall-Anderson Substitute. The Coalition says this bill would leave more than 90 percent of Alaska's oil and has resources and 80 percent of its high quality timber land open to development, yet protect the Arctic Range, Admiralty Island and Misty Fjords as wilderness areas.

Bruce Farling of the University Survival Center says the

House "will probably support" the Udall-Anderson Substitute, but the Huckaby, Breaux and Dingell will not support it without some "weakening amendments."

"They're development-minded folks," he says. "I've got a feeling there's some horse trading going on."

Farling says even though most of Alaska's oil and gas deposits are outside the designated areas of the Udall-Anderson Substitute, "They (developers) want it all. There may be a lot of minerals in these areas, but it's only 15 or 20 percent of Alaska's wealth."

Environmentalists have spent more money on this particular campaign than on any other, Farling says, and yet nobody is sure what bill will be chosen.

For the latest information on House action, the Alaska Coalition has a hotline in Washington. The number is 1-202-547-5550.

University seeks interns

University minority and women faculty members have five opportunities to participate in an administrative internship program during the 1979-80 year.

Sponsored by the Status of Women Committee and the Office of the Provost, the program offers ten internship programs, five of which have been funded for next year.

Applications for the internships are now being accepted by Joanne Carlson, assistant to the provost, in Room 106, Johnson Hall until May 25.

Johnson says the program came out of discussion among Status of Women Committee members and University administrators, and was finalized by Pres. William Boyd and Provost Paul Olum.

She says a survey of University women holding various positions completed by the Status of Women Committee concluded those women would like the opportunity to learn

about university administration.

Applications for the internships will be reviewed by the Status of Women Committee and selected applicants will be interviewed by the offices offering internships after May 30.

Intern positions are available in: the College of Business Administration, the College of Education, the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Architecture and Allied Arts, the summer session office, the president's office, the vice president for academic affairs and provost's office, the vice president for public services office, the vice president for administration and finance office and the office of Academic Advising and Student Services.

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