

Subsistence protection urged at monument hearings

Regulations governing the operation of the national monument created by President Jimmy Carter last December should be written in such a way that they have as little impact as possible on the lives of subsistence users, a federal hearing officer was told in Anchorage last week.

Representatives of the Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN), RuralCap, the NANA Coorporation, and numerous regional and local groups supporting subsistence said generally the proposed regulations were a "good start," particularly a National Park Service proposal that "resident zones" be established around the Park Service Monuments. This would allow persons whose permanent place of residence is in the zone to qualify as subsistence users who could hunt, trap, and fish in those monuments without a special permit.

However, representatives of Native groups opposed those

portions of the proposed Park Service Regulations that would prohibit the use of snow machines in Park Service Monuments except in those areas specifically approved for their use. They said the better approach would be to allow snow machines in the monuments except for areas specifically prohibited.

Rural representatives also said the regulations give too much power to individual monument superintendants. Under the proposed regulations, superintendants could close monuments "temporarily" for a period of up to one year to subsistence use without prior notice, comment, or explanation.