

Cabin Permits for Northern Region

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) announced last week the opening of a sixty-day, one-time only application period for personal use cabin permits within the Northern Region.

Richard Thompson, Northcentral Regional Manager for DNR's Land and Water Division, said that this is part of the state's program to phase out unauthorized use of state land and resources by eventually converting existing unauthorized structures to public use. Applications will be accepted only for structures built on state land before August 1, 1984.

Public hearings on the subject were held by DNR this fall. Many who attended were Alaskans who used structures built on state land for recreation or commercial use.

Changes were incorporated into the regulations based on public

input. Final regulations were adopted by the department and became effective on December 16. Under the regulations, a permit may be issued for personal -- not commercial -- use of a structure for up to six years. A permit may be renewed consecutively over the lifetime of the original applicant.

Thompson said that those who apply for a permit to use a structure must be able to document their prior use and occupancy as well as their investment in the structure. He further emphasized that a permit granted under this program does not give the permit holder an interest in the land or establish a preference right for subsequent lease or purchase.

Under the program, permits will not be transferrable nor will they allow commercial activity or a permanent residence. If the applicants are determined ineligible

under the terms of the personal use cabin permit program, the application fee may be transferred to an application for another DNR land use authorization such as a lease, remote cabin permit, trapping cabin construction permit, etc.

The application period opens February 1 and will run through April 1, 1985 for permits to use existing cabins in the Northern Region.

Originally, DNR had planned to open the application period for personal use cabins simultaneously statewide, but for efficiency, said Thompson, different areas will be opened in stages throughout the state.

"We are making a major effort to get the word out on the application periods," said Thompson, "because this is the only time people will be able to file for existing cabins." Thompson listed

other rules that apply: * Absolutely no permit applications will be accepted after 4:30 p.m., April 1, 1985 for the Northern Region. * Cabins on state land for which a permit application has not been received by 4:30 p.m., April 1, 1985, will be handled following normal procedures for unauthorized structures: they will be either converted to public use cabins or removed by the state. * Eligible applicants must be one-year Alaska residents at least 18 years old. * Applications must be from individuals or an individual representing a group of individuals; applications will not be accepted from organizations, corporations or associations. *

Cabins applied for must have been constructed before August 1, 1984. * Applications must be filed on the proper state form, accompanied by a \$25.00 fee (nonrefundable).

Applications must be delivered or sent to the Department of Natural Resources; Northern Region Information office located at 4420 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska 99701. Applications are also available at the above location. For more information, please write to the above address or call the Department of Natural Resources, Northern Regional Information Office, 479-2243, ext. 228.