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Senate approves Southeast resource study

WASHINGTON—The U. S. Senate has approved a million-dollar study of Southeast Alaska intended to help balance the need for economic growth with environmental and other concerns.

Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, who authored the legislation, said it cleared the Senate floor Friday afternoon as part of a supplemental appropriations bill. The bill contains \$1.1 million for the study.

The appropriations bill now heads for House-Senate conference. The House version of the bill, already passed, does not contain the study money.

Under Gravel's plan, the study would be coordinated by

Alaska's Land Use Planning Commission. The purpose, he said, would be to examine future land use and resource allocation in Southeast Alaska in the light of the needs of Southeast industries, Natives, environmentalists

and recreation interests.

"The important concept of the study is balance," Gravel said earlier. He said "impressive economic growth" is possible in Southeast Alaska, "but the

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consequences of such growth should be studied and conflicts should, as far as possible, be resolved before that growth takes place. Balancing growth and the consequences of growth in Southeast Alaska is what we hope we will help achieve with this study."

Gravel has talked extensively during the past year with conflicting user-groups in the Southeast area. He said the study concept has wide support.