



BLM analysis of NANA herd complete

An environmental analysis of a 1975 reindeer grazing application in northwest Alaska, now available from the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), points out environmental conflicts associated with expansion of reindeer grazing is expanded or introduced into new areas of Alaska.

"There is renewed interest for expansion of reindeer grazing, with potential social and economic benefits. Reindeer grazing impacts on caribou and predator species and on wildlife habitat also need to be addressed," McVee said.

He indicated that although the environmental analysis deals with a reindeer grazing application filed with BLM by NANA Reindeer Enterprises

in 1975, the report is being circulated to gather comments leading to a workable reindeer grazing management policy for Alaska.

"Before any broad policy is adopted, BLM will coordinate with landowners, land managers and other interested parties, and have public review of the proposed policy," McVee said. He said comments on the report should be sent to him by Feb. 15 at BLM's Alaska State Office, 555 Cordova St., in Anchorage.

Copies of the report are available from BLM's Alaska State Office; the BLM Anchorage District Office, 4700 E. 72nd Ave.; and the BLM Fairbanks District Office, 1028 Aurora Drive.

The Porcupine caribou herd is the largest wild animal herd in the United States numbering over 120,000 caribou. This herd winters in Canada, and calves on the coastal plain and foothills of the Arctic National Wildlife Range in northeast Alaska. To survive caribou need undisturbed summer and winter ranges. Caribou migrate over their range which prevents large scale overgrazing. Wolves, man, grizzly bears, eagles and wolverines prey on the herd. Man uses caribou for food, clothing, utensils and art objects.