

Glacier Bay should be excluded

The Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska has unanimously adopted a recommendation to the U.S. House of Representatives that a part of Glacier Bay National Monument be excluded from a bill that will ban all future mining activities within six National Parks and Monuments.

The area in question lies on the Pacific Coast side of the Fairweather Mountain range, approximately 35 miles west of Glacier Bay and is known to contain valuable deposits of nickel.

The commission made clear that their action is not a final position on this issue but felt that the resources of the area merit a complete study prior to any final action.

The inclusion of this area in a bill before the U.S. House of Representatives would foreclose all options on this matter.

Action is pending before the Public Lands Subcommittee, U.S. House of Representatives, chaired by Representative Melcher of Montana. The Senate has passed on the question and their action would close the entire monument to mining.

The commission is scheduled to discuss the issue at its next meeting in April.