

# D-2 Lands withdrawals

WASHINGTON—Assistant Interior Secretary Nat Reed today proposed to the Senate Interior Committee that the Interior Department and Congress "develop a process in 1976" for dealing with Alaska D-2 land withdrawals.

Reed responded to questioning by Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, on Gravel's proposal to establish a permanent Federal and State Planning and Land-Use Commission to deal with lands in Alaska on a continuing basis.

Reed said that a year's experience in dealing with some of the lands where conflicting values are minimal would help to develop a process for arriving at some decisions.

The Assistant Secretary for Fish, Wildlife and Parks said he would "have an open mind" in working with Congress and would be "willing to look at different ways" of effecting decisions on this final withdrawal of federal lands in the nation.

Gravel said his commission proposal was based on the record of experience with the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission which was created by his amendment to the Native Claims Settlement Act.

The Alaskan lawmaker agreed there are lands in the withdrawals on which there is now agreement for inclusion in the federal system. But, he said, this is not true of all the lands under consideration.

There should be an on-going body to adjudicate the use of such lands when more knowledge is available, Gravel said.

Gravel noted that the state administration has also proposed a commission approach to dealing with the land issue, with immediate action on some areas of the withdrawals.

The Alaskan democrat said his proposal differs in that he suggests all the lands in the state "go into the pot" and be subject to statewide planning. He said that such a planning commission could be a prototype for the nation.

Gravel said he thinks it would be "arrogant to dispose of land with a minority of what the population will be 25 years hence."

He pointed out that when federal withdrawals were made for national refuges and similar areas 20 years ago, "he didn't have the environmental maturity we have today." "There have been extremes," he said, "but with a mechanism for dealing with land use planning we can avoid those extremes."