

CMAL formed to unify lands proposal

A newly formed organization, Citizens for Management of Alaska Lands (CMAL), has named Cameron Edmondson, of Anchorage, as its executive director and opened a temporary office at 3201 Spenard Road, according to President Carl Marrs.

Edmondson is a former State Commissioner of Economic Development and long-time Alaska journalist. He will coordinate CMAL's program of preparing a moderate and broadly acceptable position on legislation for Congressional classification of Alaska's (D2) lands, Marrs said.

CMAL was created as a non-profit corporation by individuals and representatives of the State's various business interests concerned about proposals to classify upward of 80 million acres of public domain land in Alaska for wilderness and recreation preserves under Section 17 (D2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Marrs, Land Manager of Cook Inlet Region Inc., said, "Our goal is to bring together all the diverse points of view on the (D2) land issue and develop a single "Alaskan proposal" to

present to Congress."

Proposals for consideration by Congress this year would place millions acres in single use classification and prevent any future economic development in those areas, according to Richard Pittenger, of the Associated General Contractors who is serving as CMAL Vice President.

"Congress must be made aware of the vast potential for resource utilization and multiple land use which would be foreclosed if too much land is placed in classification of single purpose use," Pittenger said.

CMAL seeks balance in its use proposal, however, said C. C. Hawley, Anchorage Mineral Consultant and a member of the organization's interim Executive Committee. "We are equally concerned about the need to place certain lands in single purpose categories where their unique character demands preservation," he added.

To develop its "Alaskan proposal" CMAL plans to work with the Congressional delegation; the State Administration, legislators, the Federal/State Land Use Planning Commission and all interested citizen's

groups, Marrs said.

"We are starting a major effort to increase membership in the group, both state and nationwide, in order to develop the support needed," he added.

Persons interested in joining CMAL and contributing either monies or services may contact the temporary office at 276-5354, or any of the Executive Committee members. Inter-

ested persons may also write CMAL at their permanent mailing address, P. O. Box 325DT, Anchorage, Alaska 99501.

An Advisory Committee is also being formed.