

Study Engaged— **Land Management**

FAIRBANKS—A cooperative study of possible land management patterns for more than 23 million acres in the Copper River-Wrangell Mountains region is currently under way by several agencies and Native corporations.

The purpose of this study is to determine the various ways the land in the region could be managed to satisfy the social and economic needs and desires of the different publics that have an interest in the region.

The final report of this study will provide several different sets of regional land management alternatives. Each set will reflect a different approach to management of the region's lands. The final report will also detail the anticipated social and economic impacts of each management approach.

The land management study, which should be completed by September 1976, will not recommend any one land management approach. The public will decide which land management approach or combination of approaches will finally be applied to the land.

The Copper River-Wrangell Mountains study is a cooperative effort. Most of the federal and state land management agencies are involved, including the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska.

The Ahtna, Chugach and Doyon Native corporations are participating, and the University of Alaska will also be actively involved in the effort. The U.S. Forest Service is providing most of the funding for the study.

A brochure describing the study and asking for preliminary comments from the public will be released in December. Public meetings have been held within the region to find out what the residents of the region desire from the land. Meetings will be held in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Valdez and Cordova in January 1976, to determine the concerns of those people who reside outside the region.

Once the desires and needs of the public are known, the study will determine the extent to which these needs and desires can be met by various management activities applied to the

lands of the region. Different needs and desires will require different management activities; therefore a range of different sets of management alternatives will be developed.

Before these alternatives are finalized, the public will be asked for comments. After these comments are taken into account, the different alternatives will be published.

Further information concerning the study can be obtained from the U.S. Forest Service in Anchorage, Cooperative Extension Service at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, and the Joint Federal State Land Use Planning Commission in Anchorage.