

Last Meeting On D-2

On July 16-20, the Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska will meet in Anchorage to make final recommendations on 80 million acres of D-2 lands withdrawn by the Secretary of the Interior for possible inclusion or addition to the National Park, Wildlife, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and National Forest Systems.

The four day meetings will culminate nearly a year's work by the Commission who conducted numerous public hearings throughout the state to gather information and to provide a platform on which the people of the state could speak out on their views regarding these lands.

The Commission has made several early recommendations in the course of the year on specific, immediate problem areas such as Native deficiency withdrawals, interim management policies, public easements, immediate conveyance of core

townships, Chugach Region deficiency withdrawals, off-road vehicle regulations, and many other issues.

The final recommendations will be arrived at this week and submitted to the Secretary of the Interior in August. After studying the Commission's recommendations, the testimony obtained through the public hearings, and the proposals submitted by the four federal agencies, the Secretary will then make his recommendations to Congress.

By the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Congress has five years from the date of the Secretary's recommendations in which to legislate new or additional units to the four federal systems out of the 80 million acres.

Decisions on the D-2 lands affect many areas of land

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decisions which relate to Native Land Claims selections. July 20 will be the last opportunity for concerned native people to communicate to the Commission their viewpoints on the use of these lands.

Private parties or organizations are urged to send telegrams or letters to the Commission to further document the position of the Native people on these important 80 million acres.

The Commission's address is:

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Commission
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