

# **Act outlines land management policies**

By **DENNIS JOHNSON**

The federal Organic Land Act outlines general policies for development and management of federally-owned land by the Secretary of the Interior, Cecil Andrus. The Act calls for periodic land use inventories and for establishing goals and objectives to manage these lands through concepts of multiple use and sustained yield. These policies are outlined in Title I of the Act.

Title II explains land use planning, land acquisition and disposal procedures. Periodic land inventories and identifying major uses are required by the

Secretary including public input through hearings and meetings.

Under this section of the Act, land sales, withdrawals, acquiring land and land transfers, as well as conveying or reserving mineral rights and transferring land to state agencies for recreation and public uses requirements are outlined.

Although the Secretary is accountable for the Act, the Bureau of Land Management will be the federal agency implementing the law. Title III defines the responsibilities of the BLM, and its related duties. The BLM will be required to maintain the federal land by

ways of multiple uses—developing land through a variety of uses from recreational purposes to subsistence hunting to economic development.

Under Title III a working capital fund is established with an initial appropriation of \$3 million. Recording mining found on or after October 21, 1976 are also required under this section.

The BLM is given some flexibility through the Act in transferring lands and granting or withholding mineral rights. In other areas the Act is more restrictive and provides a method of checks and balances. For example, Congress can veto through a House and Senate joint resolution land withdrawals of 5,000 acres or more.

Title IV details range from

management policy include grazing fees, leases, and permits.

Title V describes right-of-ways for pipelines, reservoirs transmission cables, public transportation right of ways and other similar uses. According to this section the Secretary can build public access roads on a cost sharing basis with state or private agencies, groups and individuals.

Title VI designates management areas and requires the

BLM to conduct wilderness studies of roadless areas of 5,000 acres or more within 15 years. Areas under study would be reported to the President for their suitability as potential wilderness areas.

The Act's effect on existing land rights is described under Title VIII. Also, several outdated homesteading laws affecting land in Alaska are repealed under this section.