

# Seldovia, DNR may exchange lands

by **Steve Kakaruk**

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The Seldovia Native Association and the Department of Natural Resources recently reached a preliminary agreement allowing for another land exchange in process since 1975.

Appraisals will be completed permitting trade for the private lands from the Kachemak Bay State Park. In return, Seldovia Natives will select lands of equal value outside the state park.

The exchange was set in motion with the signing of an intent memorandum in 1979. Only about ten percent of the affected land has been traded out since then.

Seldovia Native Association President, Fred Elvssas said, "We have been in this since 1975; the big problem is attaining land that will generate revenue and we're cautious about which lands we will select."

State of Alaska, Dept. of Natural Resources, Dennis Daigger, said he is optimistic that the exchange of all lands will occur at once.

An exchange in excess of 24,000 acres would be a landmark, the largest exchange between the State of Alaska and the Seldovia Native Association. Three other similar exchanges have occurred totaling 9560 acres.

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Elvssas, however, is not as optimistic as others about exchanging lands in one fold. "Once appraisals are made, lands are to be considered. Equal value exchange is the outcome we're seeking," Elvssas added. "Selections after scheduled hearings on the table will take place, then when all is accomplished, this may take as many as two exchanges."

Together, Seldovia and DNR have indentified a pool from which land selections will occur.

The first of four scheduled hearings begins December 12, at the Seldovia Community Center, Public Library; the next on December 17, at the Homer High School, Team Teaching Room. The remaining two meetings have not yet been scheduled.

Dennis Daiger of the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Land and Water Management, at 276-5859 or Fred Elvssas, Seldovia Native Association, at 234-7625 may be reached for details.