

Special Task Force to Make Study of Alaska's Forests

The formation of a special task force to extend the economic development of the State's commercial grade timber forests beyond South-

eastern Alaska has been announced by Gov. Walter J. Hickel.

The group, comprised of Alaskans from State and Federal government and private industry, is to report on the results of its efforts in 90 days.

The Timber Task Force will concentrate on four major areas: Seward, the Susitna Valley and Railbelt, Kodiak-Afognak, and the Yukon-Kuskokwim River. Other areas will be studied as rapidly as time and personnel permit.

"This task force will stimulate interest in capital investment in Alaska's commercial forests," Hickel said. The investment would include stumpage fees, logging equipment, and manufacturing plants made adaptable to non-coastal and other timber.