

SITE SELECTION PROCESS

PHASE I

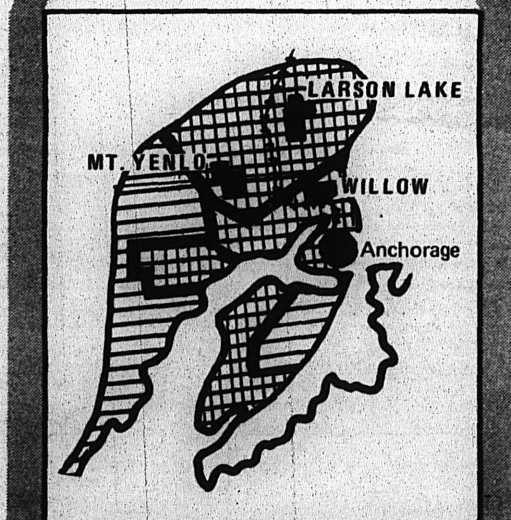
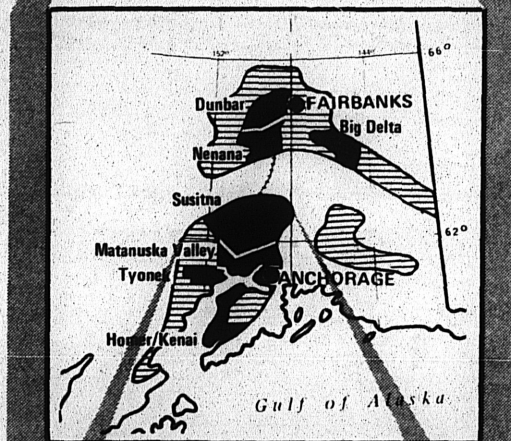
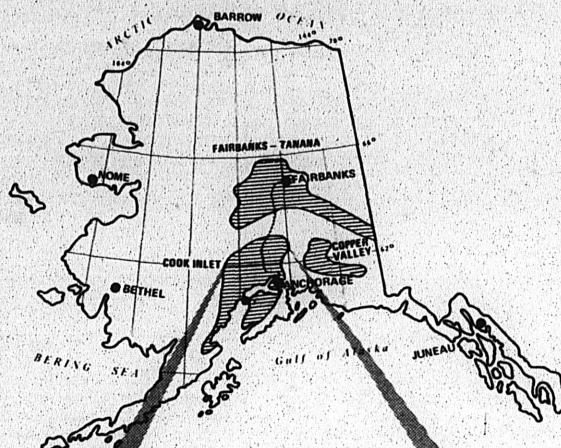
In Phase 1, more than 540,000 square miles of western Alaska were screened to select three development regions for future consideration. This selection was based entirely on an evaluation of natural factors. With the aid of a Scientific Resources Team composed of Alaska's finest scientists, the Committee identified six basic natural factors or limitations to capital development. These screening criteria were: water supply; wildlife; soils; permafrost; climate; and topography.

Using these factors, more than 90% of Western Alaska was eliminated as possible land for the future capital. Three regions emerged from the Phase I screening to be studied in more detail during the Phase II process. They were the Fairbanks-Tanana Region, the Cook Inlet Region, and the Copper Valley Region.

PHASE II

In Phase II, each of the potential development regions selected in Phase I were studied in more detail. To the original screening criteria were added land availability, natural environment, transportation access and utilities services...in all, 18 factors were compiled for investigation.

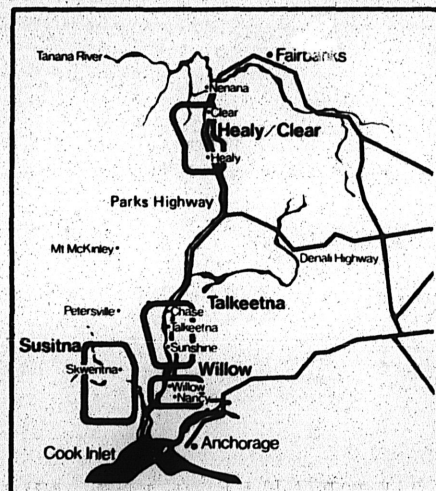
From the three large regions, seven smaller zones were selected for further evaluation in Phase III: Dunbar, Nenana, Big Delta in the Fairbanks-Tanana Region; Susitna, Matanuska Valley, Homer/Kenai, and Tyonek in the Cook Inlet Region; the Copper River region was entirely eliminated at this stage because of over-riding natural and technical limitations.



PHASE III

The scale of analysis used in the phase III screening was four times more detailed than that used in the Phase II process. The Committee looked at basically four categories of information: land status, accessibility, natural factors and technical factors. A total of 13 natural and technical screening factors were developed as well as 4 ownership categories and 5 "no-build" factors. At the end of this phase the Committee had narrowed the area under consideration down to approximately 1500 square miles.

The sub-zones which remained for further investigation were Healy/Clear, Susitna, Talkeetna and Willow. They were considered by the Committee to have the highest potential for the development of a new capital city.



PHASE IV

Whereas the first three phases were focused on screening lands from further consideration on the basis of their *limitations*, Phase IV consisted of an analysis of development *opportunities*. Phase IV began by identifying 18 development areas -- or capital city "footprints", 10 to 50 square miles in size -- within the remaining four zones.

More and more information was obtained about these areas as a detailed analysis began with air and ground reconnaissance. Maps at 1" = 1 mile scale detailed such factors as soil types, slope gradients, wildlife habitats and salmon spawning streams, as well as vegetation including alpine tundra and muskeg areas.

From this highly detailed screening emerged the areas discussed in this news supplement. The sites of Larson Lake, Willow and Mt. Yenlo are considered by the Capital Site Selection Committee to be the best choices for a capital site under the terms of the Initiative.

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