

New law allows cabins

The use of camps and cabins located on Federal lands within the new parks and refuges is important to Alaska Natives and other rural Alaskans. The Alaska Lands Act places some restrictions on the use of cabins on these public lands.

A person who held a valid permit or lease on December 2, 1980, for a cabin, homestead or other structure will be issued a renewable five-year permit, unless the cabin is a direct threat to the park or refuge.

For those existing cabins or structures without a permit or lease, a renewable, nontransferable five-year permit also may be issued, except in units of the National Park System where the cabin was built after December 18, 1973. Cabins built in parks after 1973 are subject to different permits. No permits

will be issued for cabins within the three old major national parks units, (McKinley, Katmai, Glacier Bay) or Klondike Gold Rush or Sitka National Historical Parks.

Permits for new cabins, including trapline cabins, may be issued by the individual land managers on Federal lands within national parks, monuments, preserves, refuges, wild and scenic rivers, trails, forest monuments, or BLM conservation and recreation areas.

In all cases, if a cabin site is located on private lands within or near a national park or refuge, or other conservation system unit, then these restrictions would not apply. Also, the Federal government may construct new cabins on the public lands for public safety purposes.



Two whalers peer out of the ever-present wall tent.

Rob Stapleton/RurAL CAP photo

