

# Jimmy Carter's D-2 Plan Revealed by Andrus

By DON MITCHELL  
For the Tundra Times

WASHINGTON—Finally, a Carter Administration position on federal land in Alaska.

On Sept. 15, 1977, Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus appeared before the d-2 subcommittee of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs to present the administration position on legislation pending in Congress to protect federal land in Alaska in units of the National Park, National Wildlife Refuge, National Forest, and Wild and Scenic River systems.

The subcommittee hearing room, cloaked in dark wood and decorated with oil paintings depicting the daily activities of Indian people in the Lower 48, overflowed with Alaskans of every political persuasion. Representatives of the Alaska Federation of Natives, the village of Angoon, the RurALCAP Subsistence Resource Council, the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission, the Alaska Coalition and the Citizens for Management of Alaska Land were among those present as Secretary Andrus recommended the enactment of H.R. 39 with certain modifications.

H.R. 39, a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) and supported by all of Alaska's environmental organizations, would include 115 million acres of Alaska land in one of the four federal management systems. The Carter administration proposal would reduce the total acreage protected by H.R. 39 to 92 million acres. 41.7 million acres would be included in the National Park system, 45.1 million acres in the National Refuge System and 2.5 million acres in the National Forest system. Land adjacent to 33 rivers and river segments would also add 2.5 million acres to the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System. Admiralty Island in Southeast Alaska, which provides the subsistence resource base for the people of Angoon, would be designated a wilderness area under the jurisdiction of the Forest Service. The technical legal language of the administration's proposed amendments to H.R. 39 is still being cleared through the Office of Management and Budget and will not be delivered to the subcommittee or made available to the public until Sept. 21.

Of particular interest to village people throughout the state is the administration's position on the management of game resources on d-2 lands to provide for the subsistence needs of Alaska Natives. In his opening remarks on the subject of subsistence, Secretary Andrus stated that in rural Alaska "change from the subsistence to the cash economy has not only been rapid, it's been relentless." In his written statement submitted for the record as the official position of the Department of the Interior on the subsistence

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question, the secretary noted that:

"Although hunting activities have traditionally been allowed on certain Federal lands, they have generally been prohibited in areas of the National Park System. However, there is a need to recognize legitimate subsistence uses in Alaska which occur in some of the proposed park system areas.

"In areas added to the National Wildlife Refuge System, a similar provision recognizing subsistence uses would apply as in the park system. Additionally the refuges would be open to sport hunting within the framework of Federal and State law.

"Refuge areas could also be closed in whole or part to hunting, both sport and subsistence, if necessary to protect the resources of the area.

"This legislative proposal would authorize the Secretary within areas authorized or added to the Four Systems to designate certain subsistence use zones, which recognize the traditional subsistence uses at the 1971 level. The land manager would be authorized to close all or part of these subsistence zones for various reasons associated with management, administration and fish and wildlife protection. This closure authority is necessary to assure that the areas are managed for the purposes for which they are established and to preserve the total ecology of the area. To the extent that consumptive uses of the fish, wildlife and plant resources are authorized on a given area, however, a preference would be given to subsistence uses.

"This proposal is based upon the concept that subsistence hunting, as with resident wildlife management generally, should be a State responsibility and managed under State authority consistent with existing Federal law."

In response to questions from members of the subcommittee, the secretary stated unequivocally that the Carter administration supports the continuation of the subsistence lifestyle, and that subsistence should be priority use on all lands included in the proposed legislation. However, he indicated that the administration does not favor regulating subsistence on a racial basis. The secretary concluded his remarks on subsistence by noting that in areas of traditional subsistence use which are designated wilderness areas by H.R. 39, snow machines may continue to be used in furtherance of subsistence activities, but may be restricted for nonsubsistence purposes.

H.R. 39 as introduced by Representative Udall contemplates a major federal role in the management of game for subsistence purposes on federal lands. Secretary Andrus' endorsement of continued state management of subsistence resources on d-2 lands is in conflict with the official position of the Alaska Federation of Natives which favors federal management of subsistence resources.

During August members of the d-2 subcommittee conducted a number of hearings and town meetings in the bush and heard many complaints from rural residents about the failure of the state Department of Fish and Game to manage game resources for the benefit of subsistence users. At the subcommittee hearing in Fairbanks on Aug. 20 Rep. John Seiberling (D-Ohio), chairman of the subcommittee, acknowledged the universal displeasure of rural people with state management of subsistence resources, and indicated that strong federal management authority might be included in H.R. 39 to make sure that subsistence resources and the welfare of rural people are adequately protected.

The management of game resources for the benefit of rural subsistence users is one of the most important parts of the d-2 question and every rural Native person and every village council should make their thoughts and feelings on game management known to the Congress and to President Carter. The addresses of President Carter and the d-2 subcommittee which is considering subsistence are:

President Jimmy Carter  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Subcommittee on General Oversight and Alaska Lands  
Longworth Building, Room 1324  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Sen. Mike Gravel, D-Alaska, reacted as follows to the administration's proposal for Alaska's d-2 lands:

"It is difficult to react to the administration's d-2 proposal as presented by Secretary Andrus yesterday because the proposal remains imprecise and unclear.

"Some of the important points that the proposal so far fails to clarify include:

--The issue of transportation and utility corridors across proposed areas.

--Future exploration and possible development of oil and gas as well as hard-rock minerals.

--Subsistence uses.

--Traditional motorized access into proposed areas.

--Inclusion of state selected lands in proposal areas.

--The issue of rapid conveyance of state and Native lands.

--Sports hunting in proposal areas.

"When the specific language of the proposal is made public, perhaps there will be more definite information on these points.

"On the other hand, if there is not clarification of these points, then I think there will have been a very unfortunate abdication of leadership on the part of the administration."