

Group to lobby on d-2

ANCHORAGE DAILY NEWS

A new business-based interest group has been formed with the goal of developing a single "Alaskan proposal" for d-2 lands, an issue that will be receiving more attention in Washington as the year unfolds.

Carl Marrs, land manager for the Cook Inlet Region Inc., Native corporation, is president

of the new organization, called Citizens for Management of Alaska Lands, Inc. (CMAL).

The group is apparently patterned after the Organization for Management of Alaska's Resources (OMAR), a citizen lobby organized to promote the route proposed by El Paso Natural Gas Co. for a natural gas pipeline from the North Slope.

Marrs, in a written statement, said the first priority of the d-2 group will be to develop a "broadly based voice, in behalf of all the people of Alaska, on the d-2 land topic."

The same statement says, however, that CMAL is composed of representatives of various business interests. There are no environmental organizations on the list.

Nationally, conservation groups have declared Alaska's d-2, or national interest, lands to be a top priority in their lobbying efforts.

While some congressmen have shown an interest in d-2 legislation, U. S. Sen. Mike Gravel noted recently that Alaskans and national environmental groups are the only people seriously considering the issue at this time.

The organizers of CMAL said in a policy statement that they are opposed to some proposals which would "place millions of acres of Alaska land into single purpose use classification under the Federal Government's four land systems."

Vast potentials for use of resources and other "multiple land use" would be foreclosed if

too much d-2 land were placed in single - purpose classifications, the statement said.

The group acknowledged, however, that some lands should be placed in single use categories to preserve them for particular uses.