

Wildlife Management and Land Use Decisions

FAIRBANKS — "Wildlife Management and Alaska Land Use Decisions" is the title of the latest "occasional paper" published by the University of Alaska's Institute of Social, Economic and Government Research.

The 51-page booklet, available for \$1 a copy from the institute, was written by Dr. Robert B. Weeden, associate professor in wildlife at the university and consultant to the

Sierra Club, Wilderness Society and Alaska Conservation Society.

Writes Weeden in an introduction:

"The distribution, abundance, and productivity of wild animals depend on the flow and quality of natural waters, the fertility and stability of the soil, and the structure and content of vegetation; all of which are affected by human uses of the land. These uses are in turn determined by the decisions of

private and public institutions.

"In Alaska, where 89 per cent of the land is publicly owned, state and federal land use decisions are particularly important to wildlife. No two land uses are totally compatible, and no priorities among them have been established by statute. Thus, at a time of critical decisions on land use, conflicts which arise must be resolved through technologic or political adjustments.

"This paper focuses on the role of Alaska wildlife agencies require equal or controlling roles in these decisions, and the means currently available to achieve this status.

"Finally, the paper discusses some specific conflicts between wildlife management programs and other programs for land use, especially petroleum and mineral development, highway constructing, logging, and wilderness and park establishment."