

In Central Brooks Range—

Classification of 24 Million Acres Announced

A proposed classification of 24 million acres of public land in the Central Brooks Range was announced by Robert Krumm, Fairbanks District Manager for the Bureau of Land Management.

Krumm explained that the proposal will allow concentrated planning for management of the many multiple uses available to the public in the area.

Several years of study has preceeded announcement of the proposal which was authorized by the Multiple Use and Classification Act passed by Congress in 1964.

Krumm explained that he and his staff will discuss the proposal and management of the area with as many groups and individuals as possible during the next few months.

Meetings are planned in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Juneau, and various Alaskan villages. Formal public hearings before finalizing the classification will be held next spring.

The area involved extends from the northern edge of the Brooks Range to the divide between the Koyukuk and Yukon Rivers.

The eastern portion of the area includes the headwaters of the Chandalar River and the western portion includes the headwaters of the Kobuk and Noatak Rivers.

The proposed routes for the trans-Alaska oil pipeline and the Arctic Slope Railroad are within the area's boundaries.

Krumm stated that the area contains very important mineral

resources and obviously has outstanding natural values for wilderness and other types of recreation. A dozen, large, clear-water rivers flow from the area and hundreds of jagged peaks and jewel-like lakes, 16 or more large ones, provide outstanding habitat for fish and wildlife.

Uncontrolled or unplanned use and development of the area could have serious detrimental effects on the various public values contained on and within these public lands.

"As the responsible land management agency, it is BLM's intention to involve the public in developing meaningful effective management plans which will allow a broad range of resource uses. The area has national significance and the public de-

serves BLM's concerted effort to see that the coming development occurs properly," Krumm stated.

Under the proposal the Central Brooks Range area is divided into three types of management areas.

The southern area, containing 6 million acres of public land, will remain available to all land disposal laws and resource uses except the Homestead Act of 1862, Trade and Manufacturing Sites, and Headquarter Sites.

The major area, which is about 18,500,000 acres, will remain open to all of the land disposal laws and resource uses except those which allow individuals unrestricted occupancy of the land.

These are the Homestead Act

of 1862, Trade and Manufacturing Sites, Headquarter Sites, Homesites, Native Allotments, and unplanned Townsites.

The third area, approximately 3,200,000 acres, surrounds the Arrigetch Peaks and the upper Alatna River and smaller areas around 16 large lakes scattered through the Brooks Range.

This area is closed to the unrestricted occupancy laws as well as the Mining Law.

The times and places of informal meetings and formal hearings will be announced later. Maps and descriptive documents showing the proposal are posted in and available from the Fairbanks Land Office, 516 Second Avenue, Fairbanks and the Anchorage Land Office, 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage.