

Group Stresses Education in Conservation

The Alaska Sportsmen's Council, as state sponsor, will stress the urgent need for conservation education during National Wildlife Week 1968, March 17-23.

Conservation organizations across the state will join with citizen and youth groups to launch the theme, "Learn to Live with Nature," which will continue to be promoted throughout the remainder of the year.

Ed Bellringer, president of Alaska Sportsmen's Council and Alaskan Command wildlife conservation officer, has said that the great outdoor recreation boom is "just one more reason for developing conservation education programs now."

A recent survey showed that in one year \$69,000,000 was spent on camping tents alone, while another \$576,000,000 was paid for camping vehicles.

"More people are getting out-of-doors to appreciate and enjoy nature; and, at the same time, there are more people polluting and wasting our limited resources."

He continued, "People are sold on the idea of enjoying nature, and we must now sell them on the idea of learning to care for natural resources. Conservation education should be a part of each school program, as well as a community project for adults. People young and old should learn that they can help fight water and air pollution, litter, and waste."

The Wildlife Week observance was first proclaimed by President Roosevelt in 1938. It is sponsored statewide by Alaska Sportsmen's Council in cooperation with the National Wildlife Federation.

The National Chairman for 1968 is motion picture and television star Dick Van Dyke.

Persons and organizations interested in cooperating with Alaska Sportsmen's Council in the National Wildlife Week effort are invited to contact Ed Bellringer, Box 90, Chugiak, Alaska 99567.