

Study to Review Land Claims

An academic and hopefully objective look at federal public land laws and policies in Alaska will begin later this summer.

The U.S. Public Land Law Review Commission last week awarded a contract for a land study to the University of Wisconsin, Rep. Wayne N. Aspinall, D-Colo., chairman, announced.

The Anchorage law firm of Ely, Guess, Rudd and Havelock will be consultants to the university.

Purpose of the study, according to Milton A. Pearl, commission director, is:

1. To understand the laws, regulations policies and practices relating to public lands in Alaska.

2. To review native land claims.

3. To compare federal public land laws with those of the State of Alaska, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory.

4. To determine the present and future role of public lands and resources in the state's economic development, including an inventory of lands and resources and a projection of future demands.

5. To analyze the relationship between the selection of grant lands by the state and administration of federal lands and resources.

6. To compare existing alternative approaches to public land policy from the standpoint of Alaska development and effectiveness of federal public land management.

The commission report is scheduled for presentation to Congress by Dec. 21, 1968. It will include at least 27 studies.

A research team from the University of Wisconsin, and a member of the Public Land Law Review Commission staff

will meet with authorities and groups in Alaska later this summer.

The study is sponsored jointly by the commission and the Federal Field Committee for Development Planning in Alaska.

Alaska's public land problems are unique, Aspinall pointed out.

"At present, the federal public lands comprise 95 per cent of Alaska's total land area, a fact that in itself places the state in a unique position among the other 49 states," he said.

State Housing Committee to Have 3 Natives

A shift to give natives a more equal voice—in the federally financed native housing project was worked out last week at a meeting of state, federal and native representatives in Fairbanks.

They revised a housing plan that was to be administered by three members of the native housing task force and four state officials, after native representatives protested.

Under a compromise arrangement, three natives and three state officials will serve on an executive committee. The chairman, a state official, will vote in case of tie.

Six possible native members were nominated for Governor Walter J. Hickel's consideration. He is to choose three. Named were Eban Hopson, Ray Christiansen, Emil Notti, Laura Bergt, John Sackett and Flore Lekanoff.

The revised housing plan, if approved by Governor Hickel, is to be submitted next week to the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee in an attempt to retrieve \$1 million slashed from the House version of the bill when the State failed to submit a native housing plan.

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Writing in the current issue of *Scientist and Citizen*, Dr. Frederick Sargent II warns that even such an apparently beneficial step as diverting hurricanes, if it could be achieved, could cause a drastic decrease in needed moisture on the east coast.

Dr. Sargent, Director of the University of Illinois Center for Human Ecology, points out that "environment is really a vital resource with finite

dimensions. If it is wisely managed, it is renewable and bountiful. If it is unwisely manipulated—consciously or inadvertently—the consequences can be serious."

The most unfortunate situation, Dr. Sargent states, is that "our present knowledge does not permit detailed prediction of the consequences immediate and direct or remote and indirect—of weather modification for the ecosystem."

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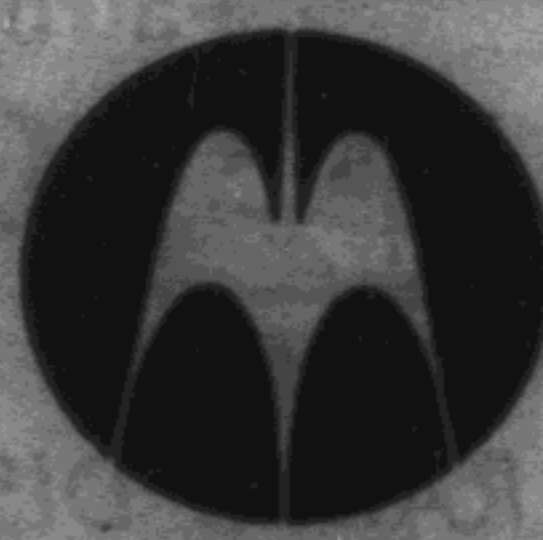
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