



## BLM ASKS PUBLIC HELP IN IDENTIFYING PRESENT RECREATIONAL USE OF ALASKAN WATERS AS PART OF EASEMENT IDENTIFICATION PROCESS

### COMING: 40 MILLION ACRES OF PRIVATE LAND

Under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971, Alaska Natives are entitled to 40 million acres. Almost all of this land has been applied for, and the Bureau of Land Management is processing the applications. The land will be privately-owned by Alaska Native Corporations as soon as BLM issues an "interim conveyance," which gives Natives all rights and privileges of ownership.

Much of the private land will be in and around Alaska Native villages. These villages are often the gateway to prime recreation lands around them, which will remain in public ownership. Identifying easements across Alaska Native lands will help to preserve public access to public lands beyond.

### WHAT EASEMENTS WILL DO

On February 5, 1976, Secretary of the Interior, Thomas S. Kleppe, signed Secretarial Order No. 2982. It provides guidelines for reserving local public easements across Alaska Native lands. Any easement across Alaska Native lands must be identified before BLM issues an "interim conveyance" document so it can be part of that document.

The easement guidelines provide for: (1) streamside easements if there is present highly significant recreational use of a river or stream, and (2) site easements on lakes for uses such as campsites and boat and float plane tie-ups.

### PUBLIC HELP IS NEEDED

The Bureau of Land Management is tied to a tight time schedule on reserving easements. While everyone knows of some rivers, streams, and lakes that have highly significant recreational use now, the BLM does not have complete statewide information.

Future access to many streams, rivers, and lakes in Alaska will depend on the quality of information BLM has to work with. BLM needs additional data to determine which streams, rivers, and lakes presently have highly significant recreational use.

### WHAT IS PRESENT "HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT" RECREATIONAL USE?

There isn't a cut-and-dried definition, but it takes into account:

- the volume of use
- the variety of recreational experiences available
- the uniqueness of the experience
- the over-all quality of the experience

The map shows waters BLM has tentatively identified as "highly significant." After new information is in, there are likely to be some changes to this map. Public use of all "highly significant" areas must be recorded if easements are to be reserved.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

The Bureau of Land Management would like any information you may have on public recreation use along rivers, streams, or lakes in Alaska. Record of use must be compiled for each proposed easement along a stream, river or lake.

Any information will be helpful, but BLM suggests the following format as having the most value in easement identification:

- the name of the stream, river, or lake
- the location of the water body (a sketch map showing the water body and the area is necessary)
- how you got there (for example: drive, fly, hike, boat, all terrain vehicle, horseback, etc.)
- major reasons for the trip (for example: hunting, fishing, scenery, swimming, wildlife, photography, float trip, etc.)
- time of year trip was made (for example: dates or season)
- if you used water transportation on the water body, the kind used (for example: power boat, inflatable raft, canoe, kayak, etc.)
- if you fished, the kinds of fish caught (for example: trout, grayling, salmon, etc.)
- if you hunted, the game species harvested or hunted (for example: type of big game or waterfowl, or other species)
- number of times per year you visit this area
- number of years you have visited this area
- average number of persons in your party
- plans to revisit this area
- number of other persons observed in this area
- other people you know that use this water body
- unique or special features of this area
- how you would rate the area for each of the uses you indicated (for example: high, medium, or low quality)
- your name and address (so BLM could contact you if additional information were needed)

Please provide separate information for each water body. You may want to get copies of this advertisement to your friends. This will be the only time the ad will be published in this newspaper. This advertisement may be reproduced in whole or in part if you desire.

### A June 1 Deadline . . .

Please send your information on present recreational use of Alaskan waters to BLM by June 1, 1976. Information should be sent to the Anchorage or Fairbanks BLM District Office. See the map for your District and address.

### . . . and a Thank You!

The Bureau of Land Management appreciates the time you have taken in reading this advertisement, and any other information you may give. Future access to your favorite stream, river, or lake may depend on your help today.

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