

# 79 Million Acres...

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streams. They include the critical remainder of the ranges of the primary out-ranging park wildlife species: wolf, grizzly bear, Dall sheep, moose, and caribou (a portion of the summer caribou range lies south of the park).

Lands south of the park include granitic cathedral spires and their glaciers, and part of the Mt. McKinley massif with spectacular peaks and glacial systems.

3. Iliamna — This unit, on the upper Alaskan Peninsula between Bristol Bay and Cook Inlet borders Lake Iliamna, the seventh largest lake in the world. The varied habitat supports a diversity of wildlife including the Alaska Peninsula caribou herd of about 15,000 animals. The peninsula and related estuaries produce a fall flight of over half a million ducks and 10,000 whistling swans and in October serves as a staging area for the entire world populations of American emperor geese and black brant. The area is of prime importance for sport, subsistence and commercial fisheries. The Kvichak River system is the largest red salmon producer in the world.

4. Lake Clark Pass — This area, less than 100 air miles from Anchorage, is characterized by its resource diversity and high recreation potential. Landforms include glacier-clad mountains, two active volcanoes, extensive lowlands, and a deeply incised seacoast with glacier-formed bays. Wildlife abounds and the fisheries are significant.

5. Yukon Flats — On the Arctic Circle, about 100 air miles north of Fairbanks, the Flats include the Yukon River and its tributaries in Eastern Alaska. Topography ranges from flood plain to alpine highlands. The area contributes over two million waterfowl to the fall flight annually, is a major spawning grounds for fish, and supports a variety of big game animals. The Steese-Forty Mile caribou herd of 50,000 animals ranges the upper Yukon and the Porcupine caribou herd of 150,000 ranges the upper Porcupine River.

6. Gates of the Arctic — In the central Brooks Range, this is a wilderness of gaunt peaks and deep glacial valleys. It includes some of the basins of the Alatna, John and North Fork of the Koyukuk, the upper reaches of the Noatak and Kobuk, and the entire Killik River Watershed on the Arctic slope. Walker Lake, one of the region's most beautiful, has been declared eligible for natural landmark status. The study areas embraces several complete ecologic units like the entire Killik basin, and it constitutes extremely important habitat for caribou, Dall Sheep, grizzly bear, wolves, and the golden eagle.

7. Noatak — This area in the Brooks Range presents a unique opportunity to preserve an entire large river basin virtually untouched by human uses. Its scientific importance could be enormous. Wilderness and scenic values are outstanding and the area supports a diversity of wildlife: two-thirds of the Arctic caribou herd of 300,000 animals pass through it annually. The three major streams, the Noatak, Kobuk and Ambler, have been recommended for study for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic River system. Cape Krusenstern to the west contains the remains of seven prehistoric cultures dating from 3000 B.C. and is considered one of the most important archeological sites in North America.

8. Imuruk — This area is 90 miles north of Nome in the

north central part of the Seward Peninsula. Its significance lies in the continuing story of evolution in Arctic terms over an extremely long period as told by its marine, terrestrial, and aquatic habitats and their interactions; by the effects of two types of volcanism in at least six separate eruptions; and by the fact that the area has never been glaciated. Superimposed over this mosaic of natural diversity is an archeological record of over 5,000 years of continuous human use beginning with the Bering Land Bridge theory. The area is an important waterfowl habitat and is a staging area for spring and fall migrations.

9. Yukon Delta — The vast Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta ranks among the richest faunal regions in Alaska and is justly famous as an outstanding waterfowl and other migratory bird producing habitat; for example, it supports estimated breeding fowl populations of 1.3 million ducks and an average fall flight of 2.7 million. Even without its vast populations of waterfowl, the Delta would still be unique for its awe-inspiring number of shore and waterbirds. Its coastal habitats provide staging areas for shorebirds whose wintering areas extend from Australia and New Zealand to the Antarctic and many countries in South America.

10. Aniakchak Crater — This 4,450 foot high volcano on the Alaska Peninsula is a registered National Natural History Landmark. Its crater is 30 square miles and its rim is dotted with ice fields. The floor of the vast caldera contains Surprise Lake (2 square miles), several subsidiary cones

## Museum Hours

FAIRBANKS — The University of Alaska museum began its winter schedule on Sept. 5 when it opened from 1-5 p.m. It will be open seven days a week during the winter.

(one of them 2,200 feet high), boiling sulphur pools and hot springs. The Aniakchak River, which issues from a spectacular gash in the crater's east wall, will be under study for inclusion in the Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

## AFN Convention—

**At Wildwood Complex Dec. 15-18**

The Alaska Federation of Natives seventh annual convention will be held at the Wildwood complex in Kenai, Alaska on December 15, 16, 17 & 18, 1972.

This will mark the first anniversary of the Alaska Native Land Claims Settlement Act.

The enrollment of Native people will be completed in December of 1973; this leaves a little over one year left before

each individual Native will begin to receive a share of the settlement.

The main item of the convention will be the exchange of information on the regional, village and individual levels.

For further information on the convention, contact AFN offices in Anchorage, Alaska, 1675 C Street, Telephone, 279-4578.

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