



Alaska Outdoor Council

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Senator Josh Revak and Senate Resource Committee members,

The BLM Central Yukon Resource Management Plan (RMP) that is open for public comment at this time is the latest and one of the best reason why the Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA) is sorely needed.

CACFA was the only conduit for Alaska's public to provide substantive comments on federal land/water management plans to federal agencies who were adopting management plans lasting for 15-20 years in many cases on ten's of millions of acres.

CACFA members are appointed by Alaska's Governor and Alaska Legislators to represent Alaskans who work, gather public resources, and recreate on 60% of Alaska lands under federal management. CACFA staff and Commissioners had access to state Departments (DNR, DOT&PF, ADF&G, DEC) responsible for gathering data of resources health and abundance, plus access to the Alaska Department of Law staff familiar with both federal and state law regarding resource management in Alaska. Armed with sound scientific data and knowledge of federal and state law CACFA commissioners were better able to serve Alaskan who were being treated unfairly by federal land managers. CACFA's record of helping Alaskans with problems working, gathering public resources, and recreating on federal lands/waters is well document on record.

CACFA has been shackled for years do to lack of state funding. Now with management of millions of acres within the Central Yukon RMS planning area up for major changes in what uses will be allowed for years to come Alaska's public can only count on state agencies to comment on their behalf.

Often in AOC's history of advocating for the Alaska public to access federal lands under current laws counting solely on the state agencies has not been in outdoor folks best interest. Without the latest scientific data on public resources and expert knowledge of the law that CACFA had access to NGOs like the Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) can only provide support for our membership to participate on federal lands. AOC comments on proposed federal management plans are heavily out weight by National Preservation NGOs time and time again, conservation groups alone can not do enough.

Alaska's outdoors folks who access federal public lands/waters need CACFA help. AOC asks that SB101 pass out of the (S)Res Committee as written and on to passage into law this session.

Thank you for your consideration,
Sincerely,

Rod Arno

Public Policy Director
Alaska Outdoor Council

Caleb Martin

Executive Director
Alaska Outdoor Council

"Protecting your Hunting, Trapping, Fishing and Access Rights"
The Official State Association of the National Rifle Association.