

# CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FEDERAL AREAS



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# BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

- Original Commission created by the Alaska Legislature in July 1981.
  - Created primarily in response to ANILCA.
  - Established as a temporary advisory agency of the executive branch of the state.
  - Authorized until June 30 1988.
  - Reauthorized in 1988 for 10 years and in 1998 for 5 years.
  - Ceased operations June 30, 1999.
  - Reauthorized by the Legislature in 2007.
  - HB 87 established CACFA within the ADNR.
  - Resumed operations in 2008.
  - Commission sunsets June 30, 2014
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# Membership

- Composed of 12 members.
- Membership to represent each region of the state to give a geographical balance.
- Governor appoints 6 members.
- Speaker of the House appoints 1 member from the House and 2 public members.
- President of the Senate appoints 1 member from the Senate and 2 public members.
- Public members “shall be representative of the diversity of users and uses of federal land in the state.”

## Current Membership

Rod Arno  
Willow (S)

Warren Olson  
Anchorage (S)

Sen. John Coghill  
North Pole (S)

Susan Smith  
Chokosna (G)

Mark Fish  
Anchorage (G)

Ron Somerville  
Juneau (H)

Rep. Wes Keller  
Wasilla (H)

Alex Tarnai  
Tanana (G)

Charlie Lean  
Nome (G)

Frank Woods  
Dillingham (G)

Mike Meekin  
Palmer (H)

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# Duties of the Commission

## Alaska Statute Section 41.37.220

- (a) The commission shall consider, research and hold hearings on the consistency with federal law and congressional intent on management, operation, planning, development, and additions to federal management areas in the state.
  - (b) The commission shall consider, research and hold hearings on the effect of federal regulations and federal management decisions on the people of the state.
  - c) The commission may, after consideration of the public policy concerns under (a) and (b) of this section, make a recommendation on the concerns identified under (a) and (b) of this section to an agency of the state or to the agency of the United States that manages federal land in the state.
  - (d) The Commission shall consider the views, research, and reports of advisory groups established by it ...as well as the views, research, and reports of individuals and other groups in the state.
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# Suit

- AS 41.37.240 The commission may request the attorney general to file suit against a federal official or agency if the commission determines that the federal official or agency is acting in violation of an Act of Congress, congressional intent, or the best interests of the state.

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# Agency Cooperation

- AS 41.37.250. Each state department, agency, board, and commission shall cooperate with the commission in the fulfillment of the duties of the commission under AS 41.37.220

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# Administrative

- Commission within the Department of Natural Resources
  - Two staff members
  - Staff is responsible to the Commission
  - Office is located in DNR Northern Region in Fairbanks
  - Minimum of 3 regular Commission meetings per year.  
(Anchorage, Juneau and Fairbanks)
  - Website: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/>
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# Working Relationships & Consultation

- Submits comments & recommendations to Federal land management agencies.
  - Provides Input to Governor and Legislature on Federal Land Management Issues.
  - Commission operates independently from State ANILCA Program.
  - Consults with ANILCA Coordinator and State agencies.
  - Works with Congressional delegation on proposed legislation and other issues affecting federal public lands in Alaska.
  - Consults with the public and interest groups to identify issues/problems.
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# ALASKA NATIONAL INTEREST LANDS CONSERVATION ACT

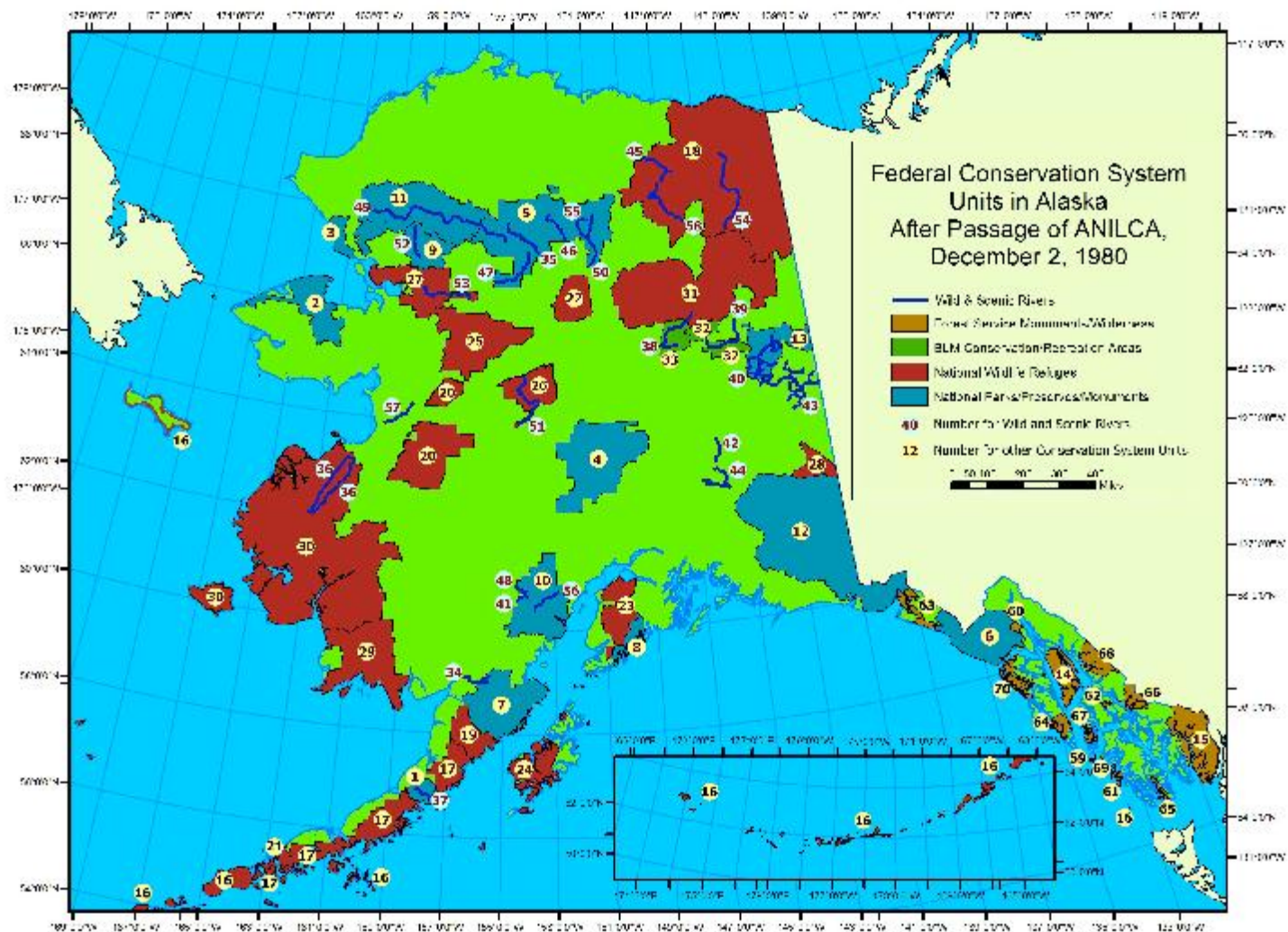
Section 17(d)(2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act directed the Secretary of the Interior to withdraw up to “...eighty million acres of unreserved public lands in the State of Alaska, including previously classified lands, which the Secretary deems are suitable for addition to or creation as units of the National Park, Forest, Wildlife Refuge, and Wild and Scenic Rivers Systems...”

Following the withdrawals, and 8+ years of studies, environmental impact statements, reports and recommendations by the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission, public hearings, Congressional debate, and Monument designations, ANILCA was signed into law December 2, 1980.

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# Conservation System Units And Federally Designated Areas In Alaska

- National Park Service – 17 Areas - 51,104,225 Acres
  - 32,979,406 Acres Designated Wilderness
- National Wildlife Refuges – 16 Refuges – 76,807,314 Acres
  - 18,691,294 Acres Designated Wilderness
- National Forests – 2 Units – 22,265,384 Acres
  - National Forest Wilderness Areas and Wilderness Study Areas – 19 Areas – 7,165,778 Acres
- Bureau of Land Management – 3 Designated Areas – 2,686,026 Acres
- National Wild & Scenic Rivers – 26 Designated Rivers – 3194 River Miles
- National Trails System – 1 Unit – 418 Miles
- Approximately 154,000,000 Acres



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# 32 YEARS OF ANILCA

## CHANGES & CHALLENGES

- National Park System – 15 General Management Plans + Amendments and Revisions
  - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – 16 Comprehensive Conservation Plans + Revisions
  - Section 1317 Wilderness Reviews and Environmental Impact Statements (31)
  - BLM – 6 Wild & Scenic River Management Plans – Resource Management Plans – Steese National Conservation Area and White Mountains National Recreation Area
  - U.S. Forest Service – National Forest Plans – Chugach and Tongass National Forests
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# KEY PAST LITIGATION

- Northern Alaska Environmental Center v. Evison – Cumulative Impacts of Mining in Denali NP&P, Wrangell-St. Elias NP&P and Yukon –Charley Rivers NP.
  - Sierra Club v. Penfold – Placer Mining on Birch Creek, Beaver Creek & Fortymile Wild & Scenic Rivers
  - Alaska Wildlife Alliance v. Jensen – Commercial Fishing in Glacier Bay National Park
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# Plans, Policies and Projects Reviewed in 2012

- ❖ National Park Service – Alaska Park Units Compendiums
- ❖ U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – ESA – Significant Portion of Range Draft Policy
- ❖ Alaska Federal Lands Long Range Transportation Plan (4 Federal Agencies)
- ❖ Lake Clark NP&P- General Management Plan Amendment – Alternative Concepts & Management Zones
- ❖ Izembek National Wildlife Refuge Land Exchange Draft EIS
- ❖ National Petroleum Reserve – (NPRA) Draft Integrated Activity Plan/EIS
- ❖ U.S. Air Force Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex (JPARC) Draft EIS
- ❖ Denali National Park Road Final Vehicle Management Plan
- ❖ Katmai National Preserve – Hunting Guide Environmental Assessment
- ❖ Serpentine Hot Springs (Bering Land Bridge NP) – Master Plan
- ❖ Glacier Bay National Park - Huna Tribal House Project
- ❖ Bering Land Bridge National Preserve – Hunting Guide Environmental Assessment
- ❖ U.S. Forest Service – Final Planning Rule
- ❖ Bell Island Geothermal Leases – Supplemental EIS
- ❖ Tongass National Forest - Sustainable Cabin Management Program
- ❖ White Sulphur Springs Bathhouse EA

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# CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW

- BLM – Eastern Interior Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement
  - BLM – Ring of Fire Draft Resource Management Plan Amendment – Haines Planning Block
  - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Surrogate Species Draft Guidance
  - U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service – Wood Bison Proposed Regs – Endangered Species Act Section 10(j)
  - National Park Service – 2013 Revisions to Park & Preserve Compendiums
  - Izembek National Wildlife Refuge – Proposed Land Exchange Final EIS
  - U.S. Forest Service – Proposed Planning Rule Directives
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# ON THE RADAR SCREEN

- ❖ Squirrel River – Special Recreation Management Area Plan
  - ❖ Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve – General Management Plan Amendment – 2013
  - ❖ Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan & Final Environmental Impact Statement – 2013
  - ❖ Lake Clark National Park & Preserve – General Management Plan Amendment - 2013
  - ❖ Chugach National Forest – Plan Assessment/ Revision - Underway
  - ❖ Tongass National Forest – 5 Year Review of 2008 Plan – Underway
  - ❖ Central Yukon (Includes Dalton Highway Corridor) – Resource Management Plan – Scoping Begins 2013
  - ❖ Bering Sea/Western Interior Resource Management Plan – Scoping Begins 2013
  - ❖ Bureau of Land Management – Guide Capacity Study & Environmental Assessment for BLM Lands – Began 2012
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# KEY ISSUES

- ❖ Access – ANILCA Section 1110(a)&(b) - Special Access and Access to Inholdings
- ❖ ANILCA “No More Clause” - Ongoing Wilderness and Wild & Scenic River Suitability Reviews
- ❖ Wilderness Management – ANILCA Provisions/Exceptions vs. National Policies
- ❖ Future Management of Public Use in Conservation System Units
- ❖ Cabins for Public Use, Trapping and Commercial Fishing
- ❖ Regulation of Commercial Visitor Service Providers
- ❖ Protecting Opportunities for Hunting and Fishing on Federal Lands
- ❖ Ensuring Federal Land Management Agencies Honor ANILCA Compromises
- ❖ Full Public Participation in Federal Land Management Decisions & Plan Development

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## SUGGESTED READING

- ❖ “Do Things Right the First Time” by G. Frank Williss - Administrative History – The NPS and ANILCA
  - ❖ “d(2), Part 2 – Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 – Promises Broken” Alaska Miners Association
  - ❖ “A Land Gone Lonesome” – Dan O’Neill
  - ❖ “The Final Frontiersman” – James Campbell
  - ❖ “Navigating Troubled Waters” A History of Commercial Fishing in Glacier Bay, Alaska – James Mackovjak
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## WHAT IS INVOLVED IN IMPLEMENTATION OF ANILCA?

