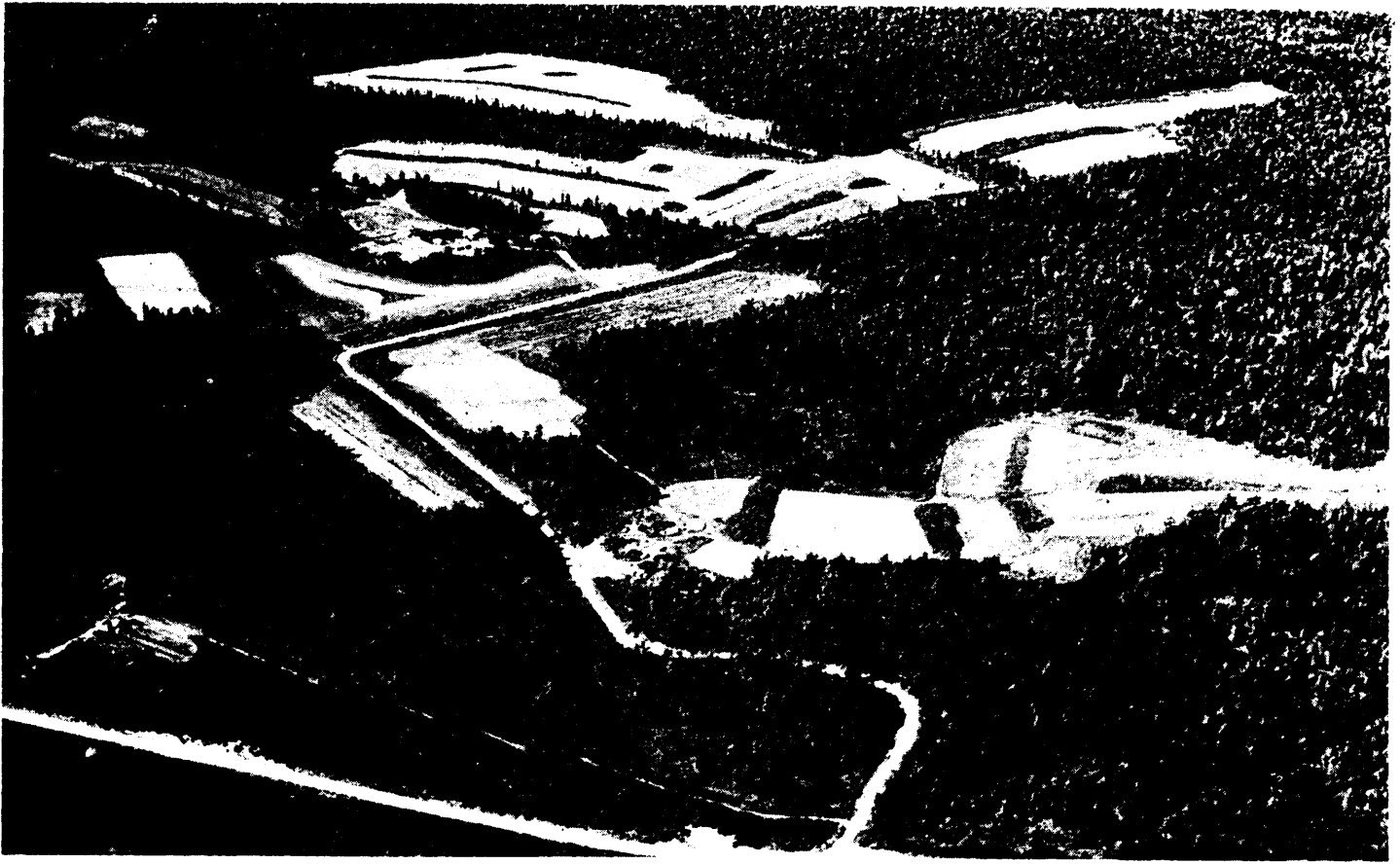


LDIR#062

LANDS ALASKA

1954-1966

2 OF 2



Homesteaders' clearings in the forested area of the Matanuska Valley.

Mac's Foto Service

Alaska Land-Want Some? Here's How

By **MARTHA J. CHASTAIN,**

Information Officer, Alaska Division of Lands, Department of Natural Resources

The Myth of Free Land

INTEREST in Alaska land is high. Inquiries on how to acquire land in Alaska pour in, not only from the people of Alaska and the South 48, but also from foreign countries. Many think land is free for the taking in Alaska. Free Land! That phrase has rolled across the plains, resounded over the deserts, and boomed from the mountain peaks for a hundred years. Now the echo is "Free Land in Alaska!" Was there ever "Free Land?" There was land, yes! But it has always been earned by the sweat of the pioneer's brow, by the sacrifice of a standard of living, by hardship and heartache. Look at the tumbled-down cabins in the West and listen to the stories of those whose dreams died there. From the early days of homesteading to the present day, pioneers have endured untold hardships to earn "Free Land."

Listen to what two homesteaders, still

close enough to the hardships and the expense of proving up on their Federal land to give a realistic picture of the problems of Alaskan farming, have to say about Free Land: "The cost of filing for 160 acres under the Federal Homestead Law is only \$10, but the expense of building a house, clearing 20 acres, planting a crop, and the time used in meeting homestead requirements can easily exceed a thousand times the filing fee." They pointed out their major problems in the booklet, "Establishing a Farm in Alaska." This publication, by the Bureau of Land Management, may be obtained without cost from the Division of Lands, 344 Sixth Avenue, Anchorage, or the Bureau of Land Management, Cordova Building, Anchorage.

Land in Alaska

There is land in Alaska: good land in this huge State with its breath-taking beauty, its striking contrasts of nature,

its long golden days of summer, its long winter nights with the play of the northern lights, its unexplored wilderness, its numerous glaciers, its modern cities, its airplanes, and its limited road and railroad mileage. Alaska is an enchanting land, a challenging land, but not an "easy" land, not a "soft" land. It is "The Last Frontier!" Yes, there is land in Alaska, an abundance of land, but it is not FREE now, nor was it ever. Even the acquisition of Alaska's Statehood Grant Land is not free, but must be acquired through an expensive selection procedure.

Now that the State of Alaska has received patent on more than a million acres of land of the fifteen and one-half million selected from the public domain during the past five years, the Division of Lands has geared up its operations to sell or lease land for many purposes which hit a new high during the past year. Nineteen hundred and

LAND STATUS-ALASKA REGION-U.S. FOREST SERVICE

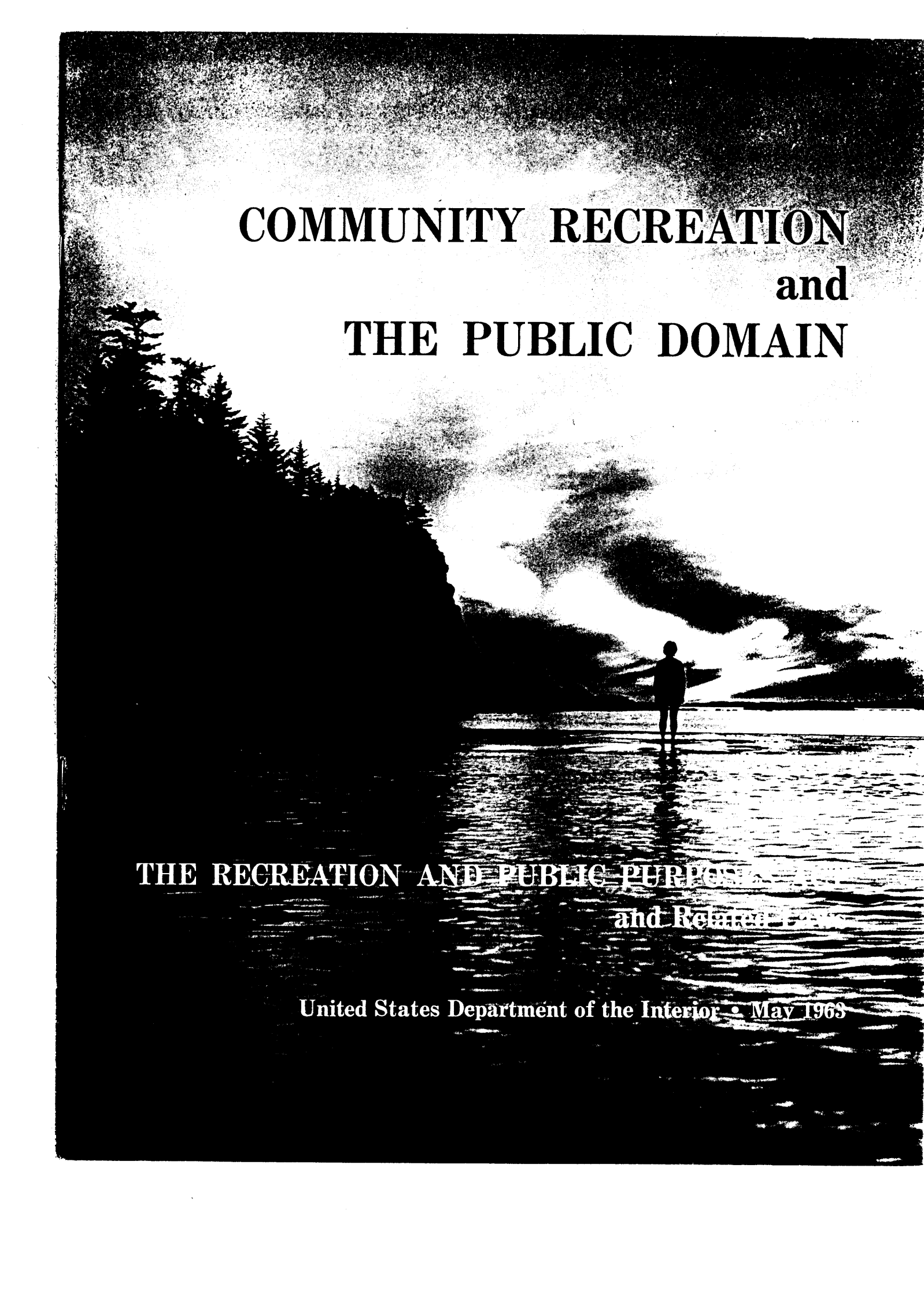
5490-Status
June 23, 1966

ACREAGE
Cities-Towns in Alaska Adjacent to National Forest

Pop. 1960	Community	Mt. of Shore	Area Acres	Additions	Additions
10,500	Ketchikan, Mtn. Pt.	50	25,252	Selection (6/66) 3,987	
275	Craig	3.0	190		
251	Hydaburg	2.5	184		
32	Hyder	1.0	310		
36	Kasaan	1.0	45		
251	Klawock	3.0	388		
27	Loring	.5	74		
38	Meyers Chuck	2.0	303		
	Point Baker	4.0	284		
	TOTAL ALIENATED LAND		27,030		

NORTH TONGASS: 10,200,970 Acres-Net National Forest

12,500	Juneau-Douglas-Auke Bay	60	45,780		
1,502	Petersburg	44	15,739		
8,500	Sitka	35	5,324		
1,500	Wrangell	15	3,848		
395	Angoon	1.0	54		
13	Baranof	1.0	10		
46	Elfin Cove	1.0	81		
29	Hood Bay	2.5	610		
686	Hoonah	1.5	187		
455	Kake	2.0	227		
135	Pellcan	1.0	50		
18	Port Alexander	1.0	87		
659	Skagway	2.0	3,400		
109	Tenakee	1.5	91		
230	Yakutat	2.0	466	Airport (6/66) 3,608	Selection (5/66) 4,020
	TOTAL ALIENATED LAND		75,954		



**COMMUNITY RECREATION
and
THE PUBLIC DOMAIN**

**THE RECREATION AND PUBLIC PURPOSES ACT
and Related Laws**

United States Department of the Interior • May 1963

BLM PROGRAM

IN

ALASKA

November 1964

Facts About...

ALASKA LANDS

By **MARTHA J. CHASTAIN**

Information Section

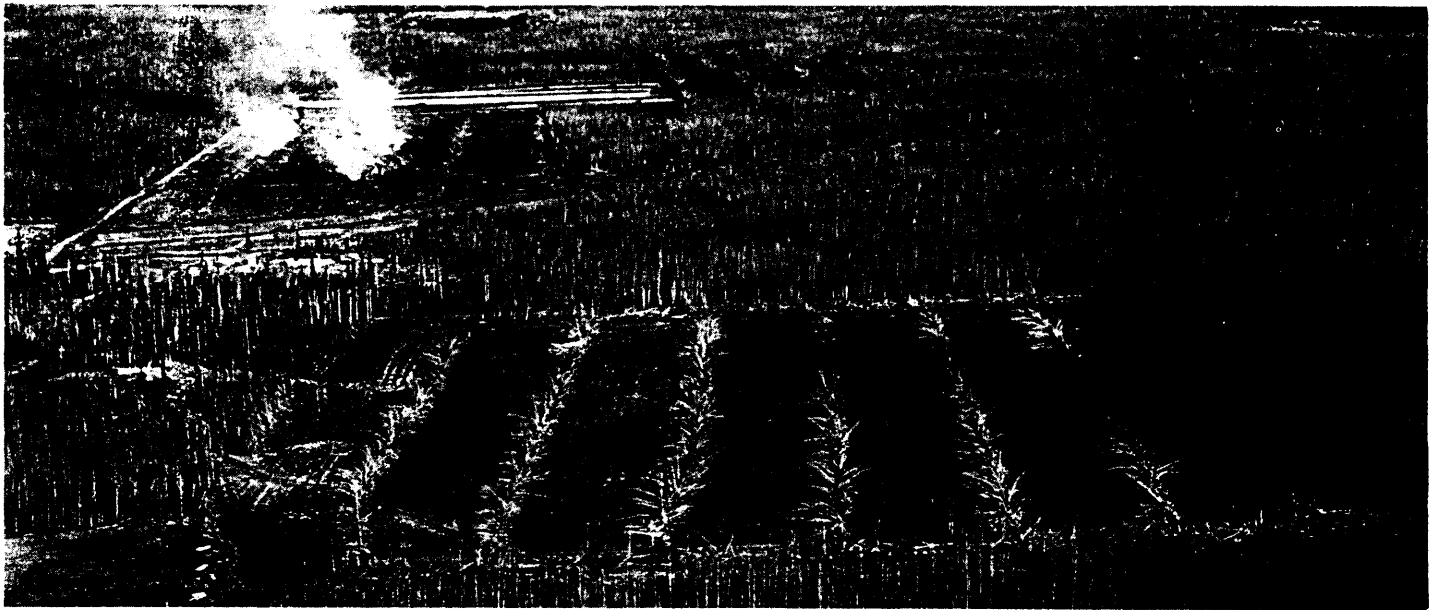
Alaska Division of Lands,
Department of Natural Resources

Alaska—the last frontier land! What fascinating words! The stuff of which dreams are made! And you, before your television, nod as your dream begins. Over and over the words come: at first faintly, then like a drum beat—Alaska, the last frontier land; Alaska, Alaska, Alaska. Your head drops lower as you drop deeper into a dream world of Alaska, the last frontier land. Enjoy your dream. Let it fill you with its golden glow, but do

flowers which bloom so abundantly in summer! The ever changing seasonal beauty of the mountains, lakes, rivers, glaciers, and the often rainbow hued sky will keep you and your cameras busy all year!

Perhaps you are dreaming of living and working in one of the cities, with weekends of camping, fishing

a general land use plan for an area, then in cooperation with local planning authorities classifies the lands to the highest apparent potential use; and decides on the proper size tracts to fit the various classification purposes. These tracts are appraised at current market value and are sold or leased at public outcry auctions to the highest bidders. The units unsold at the auctions are sold “over the coun-



LAND CLEARING—Aerial photograph shows land clearing under way in the Palmer area.

not let its fantasy blind you to the stern reality of life and living as you rouse yourself from an Alaska dream world.

Tell me about your Alaska dream! Is it a cabin hideaway on a lake or river where you can fish day after day? Or use your speedboat and water skis? Or fish through the ice in winter as so many Alaskans do? Or will your hideaway be nestled in the trees where you can escape the cares and rush of modern life? Perhaps photography is your hobby! Then you may want to spend your days capturing wildlife on film, or preserving in color prints the deep hues of the wild

and hunting to fill your home freezer with salmon, trout, moose, caribou, sheep, bear, and even bison.

Could you be dreaming of a business, industrial or farm site for one of the new industries which Alaska needs for future development? You wonder if a site could be leased or purchased from the state or federal government.

If this is your dream, let me tell you about the state land program which serves residents and nonresidents alike.

Lands Classified

To promote orderly development, the Alaska Division of Lands makes

ter” at the appraised prices on a first come, first served basis.

A purchaser, whether at the auction or over the counter, may pay 10 per cent of the purchase price on a contract carried by the state at 5 per cent interest on the unpaid balance. (There are two exceptions. Lands selling for \$250 or less must be paid in full within 30 days of purchase. Also, the minimum annual payment must be \$50 plus the 5 per cent interest on the unpaid balance). The buyer may pay off his contract at any time without penalty and receive patent or deed to his land. Another advantage in the state land program is that an assign-

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ABOUT:

LAND AND LIVING IN ALASKA



COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE
Division of Statewide Services
University of Alaska

PUBLICATION NO. 54



NEW FRONTIERS IN MULTIPLE-USE LAND MANAGEMENT

by Martha J. Chastain, Alaska Division of Lands

Reproduced from ALASKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY NEWS BULLETIN, April 1963.

State of Alaska
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Lands

FORESTRY, PARKS AND RECREATION

JAPANESE MARKET POTENTIAL
FOR
ALASKAN FOREST PRODUCTS

A. Earl Plourde
State Forester
February 1, 1963

1965 in Perspective

REGIONAL FORESTER'S REPORT



ALASKA REGION

PUBLIC LAND LAW REVIEW COMMISSION
1730 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006

Information Memo No. 2

For further information
call Kerr - 343-4080

CITIZEN VIEWS HEARD IN SALT LAKE CITY,
ALASKA, BOSTON, AND ALBUQUERQUE

A total of 250 persons expressed their views on public land matters at public meetings held in Salt Lake City, Utah; four cities in Alaska; Boston, Massachusetts; and Albuquerque, New Mexico, this year. These were the first in a series of public meetings scheduled by the Commission for various regions of the country.

Complete transcripts will be available for review at the Commission's office.

A wide array of public land use was represented among the witnesses at each of the several meetings: ranching, recreation, mining, timber harvesting and other industries, state and local government, fish and wildlife and other aspects of conservation, and many others.

The largest public meeting in terms of witnesses and spectators was the one held at Albuquerque where more than 300 persons were in attendance.

Even in areas separated as widely as Salt Lake City, Alaska, Boston, and Albuquerque, common problems and opinions were shared in many instances. In all four regions, for example, the need was cited for more coordination among Federal, state, and local levels of government in the interest of proper land-use planning--and it was urged that state jurisdiction over the

ALASKA



focus

by the AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY • Branches in 156th Street, New York 19, and Washington 25, D.C.

ALICE TAYLOR, EDITOR

VOL. XIII, NO. 3, November, 1962

Alaska

Most eighteenth and nineteenth century travelers and writers about Alaska, being primarily interested in the sea otters and fur seals of the Aleutians and Pribilofs, whaling in the Bering and Arctic Seas, and, in later years, the fisheries of the southeast coast, thought of interior Alaska largely in terms of the snow and ice mountains they saw from the decks of their ships, prominent parts of which resemble the Greenland coast with great glaciers calving directly into salt water. Thus did the picture of Alaska as a desolate waste of snow, glaciers, subzero temperatures, and other unattractive features for human habitation take shape. Today, of course, we know that only about three per cent of the surface is glacier covered, and that few other states in the Union possess a greater variety of terrain, climate, and natural resources.

This remarkable diversity is due partly to Alaska's huge size—586,400 square miles, more than double the area of Texas—and partly to its far-flung layout. Superimposed on a map of the conterminous United States to scale (see map), Alaska would reach all the way from the Atlantic in South Carolina north to the Canadian border and west to the Pacific in California. Mineral, forest, and fishery resources, and spectacular scenery have been provided by nature on a scale commensurate with

its size. Even its agricultural resources, though limited by the high latitude, are generous in the sense that only a small part of the potential has as yet been fully developed.

Human resources to work the economy, as measured by population statistics, to date have been the one major asset lacking. Only 234,000 persons out of a total United States population of 185 million resided in Alaska in 1961. This imbalance is probably more a result than a primary cause of the state's economic problems, the severest of which apparently is the great distance from the world's mass markets, with resulting high transportation charges added onto the price of everything not both produced and consumed locally. The cost of living runs from about 22 per cent to more than 50 per cent above that of the rest of the nation, depending upon the distance of the particular Alaskan community from Seattle.

THE PANHANDLE. Closest to the other states is Alaska's southeast Panhandle, a thin 400-mile strip of heavily wooded fjord-cut coast, plus thousands of islands. Here the very heavy annual rainfall, amounting to as much as 180 inches in places, has developed a characteristic vegetation known as the "northern jungle" rain forest, and some of the



ALO-Inf-55
March 62

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Anchorage District Office
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

HEADQUARTERS SITES IN ALASKA

1. GENERAL

The Act of March 3, 1927 (44 Stat. 1864; U.S.C. 461; 43 CFR 64.1, et seq.) provides that any qualified citizen of the United States 21 years of age or over who is engaged in commercial fishing, trapping, trading, manufacturing or other productive industry in Alaska is authorized to purchase one tract not exceeding five acres for use as a headquarters site. The claim is initiated by settlement or occupancy of the lands, followed within 90 days by the filing of a notice of settlement or location in the Land Office for the district in which the lands are situated.

2. THE MEANING OF SETTLEMENT

Settlement is initiated through the personal acts of the settler placing improvements upon the land and/or establishing residence thereon (as under the Homestead and Homesite regulations). A person making settlement is required by law, in order to protect his rights, to do two things within 90 days after date of settlement. They are: (1) file a notice of location of the settlement in the Land Office, and (2) post a copy of the notice on the land. Unless a notice of claim is filed within 90 days after the date of settlement, no credit can be given for occupancy prior to the filing of the notice. When filing of the notice of location it is extremely important to give the date on which settlement or occupancy was made. The mere filing of a location notice without actual appropriation of the land is not sufficient to hold the land against the valid appropriation by another settler. Settlement or occupancy generally requires the staking of the land, beginning of improvements and/or use of the land. These initial acts of settlement must be followed within a reasonable time by further acts of appropriation leading toward patent.

3. LANDS AVAILABLE

Only vacant, unappropriated and unreserved lands are subject to settlement under the act. The purchase price is at the rate of \$2.50 per acre, with, however, a \$10.00 minimum payment for any one tract. Under Public Law 85-725 (72 Stat. 730) approved August 23, 1958, lands valuable or prospectively valuable for coal, oil, or gas are now open

(over)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Land Management

Grazing in Alaska
(Act of March 4, 1927)

(For more detailed explanation of the Regulations, Circular 1744 is available)

General: All unreserved public lands in Alaska are subject to lease for grazing. Reserved lands may be leased with the consent of the responsible agency. Leases may be issued for 20 years for the area deemed adequate for the applicant's needs as shown by his submitted plan of operations. The land thought to have the best grazing possibilities are practically all leased at the present time. Leases, therefore, are generally obtainable only through assignments or successful protests, as explained below.

Qualifications of Applicants: Any person who is the head of a family, or is 21 years of age, a citizen of the United States or a lawful resident of Alaska, or any group or association of such persons, or any corporation organized under the laws of the United States or of any State or Territory thereof authorized to conduct business in Alaska, may file an application for a lease. Applicants who are not familiar with Alaska should visit the Territory for a personal examination of its range areas prior to submission of an application.

Application: An application should be filed with the Land Office having jurisdiction of the area on which a lease is desired. Application forms may be obtained from the Land Office. If an applicant is co-partnership, association or corporation, whatever written articles agreement, etc., that have been executed should be furnished. A legal description of desired land if it is surveyed or by metes and bounds if unsurveyed is required; also the names and addresses of two references. Other data required will be shown on the application form.

Annual Rentals: At the present time annual rentals average about .60 per annual unit year and are based on the estimated carrying capacity of the applied for area.

Protests: Any grazing lease in default of the lease terms may be protested. If the protestor wants to lease, he should accompany the protest by an application. The protestor is normally given first consideration if a new lease is issued. (Write the Land Office for detailed instructions.)

Assignment and sub-leases: Leases can only be assigned or the leased area sub-leased upon written approval by the Manager of the Land Office.

Rights Reserved: Grazing leases shall be subordinated to and shall be subject to modification or revocation by the Manager to the extent necessary to permit: (a) the development of the mineral resources, (b) the protection, development and utilization of the forests and water resources, (c) the use of such lands for agriculture, (d) the protection, development and utilization of such other resources as may be of greater benefit to the public and (e) the allowance of applications or the granting of rights, permits, leases or uses pursuant to the public land laws where the same will either be in the public interest or will not unduly interfere with the grazing use.

Termination: The Manager may cancel a lease if the lessee shall fail to comply with any of the provisions of the Grazing Act or the terms of the lease. All improvements, fixtures or personal property may not be removed from the lands unless all moneys due the United States under the lease have been paid.

NOTE: This is merely an informational pamphlet and does not have the force of law, regulation or ruling. For the sake of brevity, only the high spots of the regulations are covered.

December 1954



ALO-Inf-54
October 1964

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage District and Land Office
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

HOMESITES IN ALASKA

The Act of May 26, 1934 (48 Stat. 809; 48 U.S.C. 461, 43 CFR 64.7, et seq.) provides that any qualified citizen of the United States may purchase one tract, not exceeding five acres, in Alaska for use as a homesite. The claim is initiated by settlement or occupancy of the land, followed within 90 days by the filing of a notice of settlement or location in the Land Office for the district in which the lands are situated. After construction of a habitable house and occupancy therein for specified period(s), an application to purchase is filed to obtain title to the land.

In general, public lands available for homesite settlement in Alaska must be vacant and unreserved at the time of filing. You or your agent are welcome to use our land records in your search. It is not, however, possible to file for lands by "remote control", as the homesite law requires settlement or occupancy of the lands before filing. The public land records are available to the public between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday except holidays, at the address shown above.

A homesite claim is initiated by filing, in duplicate, with the Land Office a "Notice of Location of Settlement or Occupancy Claim in Alaska" (Form 4-1154), accompanied by a filing fee of \$10.00. This fee will be applied as a service charge for recording the notice and will not be returnable.

The claim must describe the lands, if surveyed, by legal subdivision, section, township and range. If unsurveyed, the lands must be described by metes and bounds, with reference to some natural object or permanent monument, giving, generally, the approximate latitude and longitude. Each of the corners of the lands desired must be marked and lines "run" upon the ground so that the boundaries may be readily and easily traced. Claims should be of reasonably compact form, and except under unusual circumstances, should not be more than twice as long as they are wide.

(over)

LAWS OF ALASKA, 1965

CHAPTER 58

AN ACT

Relating to land preference rights; and providing for an effective date.

(S.B. 131)

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska:

Section 1. AS 38.05.035(b) is repealed and re-enacted to read:

(b) The director may

(1) delegate the administrative duties, functions or powers imposed upon him to a responsible employee in the division;

(2) grant preference rights for the lease or purchase of state land without competitive bid in order to correct the past or future errors or omissions of a state or federal administrative agency when inequitable detriment would otherwise result to a diligent claimant or applicant due to situations over which the claimant or applicant had no control; the exercise of this discretionary power operates only to divest the state of its title to or interests in land and may be exercised only with the express approval of the commissioner;

(3) grant a preference right to a claimant who shows bona fide improve-

ment of state land, or federal land subsequently acquired by the state, and who has in good faith sought to obtain title to the land but who, through error or omission of others, has been denied title to it; upon a showing satisfactory to the commissioner, the claimant may lease or purchase the land at a price determined by the division to fairly represent the value of unimproved land at the time the claim was established, but in no event less than the cost of administration including survey; the error or omission of a predecessor in interest or an agent, administrator, or executor which has clearly prejudiced the claimant may be the basis for granting a preference right;

(4) dispose of lands by competitive bid for less than their appraised value when, in his judgment, past scarcity of land in any particular area has resulted in unrealistic land values.

Sec. 2. This Act takes effect on the day after its passage and approval or on the day it becomes law without such approval.

Approved April 10, 1965

Form DL-14
February 1965

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
DIVISION OF LANDS
344 6th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska

ADL _____

Lease Purchase

APPLICATION TO PURCHASE OR LEASE ALASKA LANDS

Filing Fee \$10.00

Date of Application _____

Name of Applicant _____

Address of Applicant _____

Age of Applicant _____ If Lease, term applied for _____

Description of land applied for _____

Section _____ Township _____ Range _____ Meridian _____

Borough _____ Number of acres _____

(1) State the proposed use of the lands herein described: _____

(2) What improvements, if any, are now on the land? _____

(3) Who owns the improvements? _____

(4) How many acres have you leased or purchased from the State of Alaska? _____

(Applicant) (Seal)

(Applicant) (Seal)

(Over)

HOMESTEAD MINERAL RIGHTS

This subject is of great interest in Alaska today, but very few people have a complete understanding of it. Even most of the U.S. Bureau of Land Management authorities who work with it regularly must, of necessity, go to their law books and instruction manuals when asked questions on it. We will try to present here a general working idea of the subject.

We are concerned in this discussion with two main classifications of minerals: the Leasing Act minerals and the mining law minerals. The Leasing Act minerals are oil, gas, coal, phosphate, sulfur, and others which by the Leasing Act may only be acquired by leasing ground from the government where they occur, and not by staking under the mining laws. The mining law minerals are mostly the metals, but also include limestone and other types of nonmetallics and building materials, all of which may be acquired by staking and recording under the mining laws.

Also involved in the subject is the classification of lands as to their mineral character. The U.S. Geological Survey is charged with the job of classifying lands mineralwise, and must tell the BLM which lands are prospectively valuable for the Leasing Act and/or mining law minerals and which are not. The 1898 homestead law established the basic fact that homesteads may not be taken up on land prospectively valuable for minerals. A second law passed in 1922 partly changed the situation and made it permissible to take up homesteads on lands prospectively valuable for Leasing Act minerals, but not on the mining law mineral land.

Whether or not the mineral rights to the Leasing Act minerals are acquired by the homesteader depends upon the classification of the land at the time he files his properly executed final proof, which is his last bit of paper work prior to patent issue. If the land on which a homestead is acquired has been classified as prospectively valuable for oil, gas, coal, etc., then the homesteader does not receive the mineral rights to any Leasing Act minerals located therein. If the land has been classified as not prospectively valuable, then the homesteader does receive mineral rights, and will enjoy the benefit of any and all minerals found there from then on. Rights to the mining law minerals always go with the patent, regardless of the land classification. Of course, if the land were classed as prospectively valuable for mining law minerals at the time of entry, the entry would not have been allowed in the first place.

When a potential homesteader first applies for a homestead on land that has not yet been classified, the BLM requests a classification from the G.S. so that the character of the land may be known before the entry is allowed. If the classification is reported not prospectively valuable, the entry is promptly allowed. If it is prospectively valuable only for Leasing Act minerals, the applying homesteader must file a signed waiver of his Leasing Act mineral rights before he is allowed entry, or he may submit evidence to the BLM that the land is not mineral in character. If this evidence successfully proves his point, he may then proceed with his entry, retaining his mineral rights.

After the homesteader has fulfilled all requirements on his land and is ready to proceed with his final proof, there may have been another classification of the land as a

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Land Office
Box 2511
Juneau, Alaska

Form Misc-113
Sept. '57

HOW TO MARK AND DESCRIBE UNSURVEYED LAND

The boundaries of a tract of unsurveyed land must be described by courses and distances (metes and bounds*) from a point of beginning. This point of beginning must be described in relation to a survey monument where possible, or to a natural monument such as the mouth of a stream or a bridge or a prominent outcropping or rock or similar object. The natural monument should be further described in relation to highway mileposts or similar man-made objects where possible.

In addition, the person marking the land should place artificial markings at the point of beginning and other corners, such as a pile of stones topped by a can or other container in which a copy of the description is placed, or a tree blazed on four sides. Where it is not possible to tie the point of beginning to a survey monument, the latitude and longitude must be given with as great accuracy as possible.

The settler should trace his claim on a topographic map, which can be procured for a small charge from the United States Geological Survey Office, and submit it with his description. If this is not possible, a free-hand sketch should be submitted which shows the point of beginning and traces the outlines of the tract.

Example of a Metes and Bounds Description

"Located on the west shore of Lake Louise beginning at Corner No. 1, a 4 x 4 spruce post located on the shore at the mouth of a small creek at Latitude 62°20'30" N. and Longitude 146°38'30" W., thence 660 feet west to Corner No. 2 marked by a blazed tree, thence 330 feet south to Corner No. 3, a white painted stake 3 feet high marked "03", thence to Corner No. 4, a pile of stones (with a tin can set therein containing the description of the land in this claim) located on the shore of the Lake, thence approximately 330 feet north along the shoreline of the lake back to Corner No. 1, the point of beginning."

*NOTE: A metes and bounds description consists of a definite starting point, known as Corner No. 1, and continuing a definite distance in the proper direction to Corner No. 2, thence so many feet to Corner No. 3, thence to Corner No. 4, and back to Corner No. 1, the point of beginning. The description must bound the land on all sides.



ALO-Inf-56
December 62

IN REPLY REFER TO:

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Land Office
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska

SMALL TRACTS IN ALASKA
(Act of June 1, 1938)

GENERAL: The Act of June 1, 1938 (as amended) authorized the lease or lease and sale of tracts, not exceeding five acres, for residence, recreation, business or community site purposes. Lands are classified, that is, approved for such purposes, by the Bureau of Land Management, after which a lease is offered. This lease generally contains an option to purchase, although provision can be made for lease only. Tracts may also be classified for direct sale at public auction. For additional information see 43 CFR Part 257.

WHO MAY APPLY: An application for a small tract may be made by an individual who is a citizen of the United States or who has filed declaration of intention to become a citizen; a partnership or an association, each of the members of which is a citizen of the United States or has filed declaration of intention to become a citizen; a corporation, including non-profit corporations; and a state, municipality or other governmental subdivision. Department of the Interior employees stationed in Alaska may purchase or lease one tract of land in Alaska for residence or recreation purposes.

Generally no person will be permitted to obtain by lease or purchase more than one tract under the act. Where more than one tract is needed, however, each tract must be the subject of a separate application, complete in itself, and must be accompanied by a satisfactory showing that the allowance of more than one application is warranted by the circumstances. In each application the applicant must identify all other applications under the act, if any, filed by him or any member of his family residing with him.

HOW TO APPLY: Application for a small tract must be filed in duplicate using Form 4-776, in the appropriate Land Office. It may be filed personally or by mail, and must be accompanied by a filing fee of \$10.00 which is a non-returnable service charge and an advance rental (see COSTS below).

If the land is surveyed, it must be described by legal subdivisions or survey and lot numbers. Unsurveyed land must be described by metes and bounds sufficient to permit ready and accurate identification. Information on marking and describing unsurveyed land can be obtained from the Land Office on request.

COSTS: In addition to filing fees, every application for a small tract, except applications for community sites, must be accompanied by an advance payment which will be applied against the rental or purchase price of the land. If the land has not been classified for lease or lease and sale under the Small Tract Act, the advance payment is \$25.00 for a non-business and \$100.00 for a business
(over)



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Anchorage District and Land Office
555 Cordova Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

AS06-1120-1

ABOUT LAND IN ALASKA

This is in reply to your letter of inquiry concerning lands in Alaska. We hope that some of the following information will be helpful.

A main function of the Bureau of Land Management is to make records and application forms available to the public and to explain the various resource laws and regulations. We regret that we cannot furnish lists of available land. The status of public lands changes so rapidly from day to day that the compiling of lists or maps for distribution is impractical. To a limited degree we can advise on the general availability of lands in specified areas, but it is up to the individual who makes application under any of the public land laws to determine what he wants and where he wants it.

Many articles in newspapers and magazines have led to the belief that land is available in Alaska free for the taking from the government. Actually, virtually all the resource disposal laws administered by our agency require some sort of compliance on the part of individuals. Homesteads, for instance, require cultivation of the land, construction of a habitable house, and a certain period of residence.

Unfortunately, an individual with little in the way of assets rarely can come to Alaska and make a living at farming. Obtaining access, clearing virgin land, and cultivating usually require several thousands of dollars. Even when lands are put into crops, farming can be a hazardous way of making a living because of the very short growing season in most areas, the difficulties of marketing products, and strong competition from highly industrialized farming operations in the Pacific Northwest.

It has been our finding that people in states to the south generally have not accurately anticipated the high cost of living in Alaska. The cost of labor, materials, and foodstuffs is high. The adjustment period to this higher cost of living is sometimes quite prolonged meaning that the new settler may be forced to accept a lowered standard of living.

Many people apparently feel that with so much land in the new State of Alaska, adequate quantities of good land are available and accessible near the larger towns. Actually there is very little public land in Alaska which is accessible by road. Since the road system in Alaska is still very sparse, land located adjacent to or near roads and within a reasonable distance from settlements is usually appropriated even before actual road construction is completed. Thus, the new settler must expect to build his own access roads, which may amount to several miles, at a cost of several hundreds or even thousands of dollars.