

# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

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## FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON PROPOSED ALASKA REFUGES AND RIVER CORRIDORS

Final environmental impact statements and supplements on proposals to establish a national wildlife refuge and a national resource range, and to protect 11 river corridors in Alaska are now available for public review, Secretary of the Interior Cecil D. Andrus announced today.

The areas are the proposed Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge, the Iliamna National Resource Range, and the following rivers: Alagnak, Birch Creek, Delta, Fortymile, Gulkana, Kisaralik, Koyuk, Melozitna, Nuyakuk, Susitna, and Unalakleet. The refuge and range would be administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as part of the National Wildlife Refuge System, while the rivers would continue under the management of the Bureau of Land Management.

The lands, totaling approximately 11 million acres, are among the remainder of those included in the 3-year emergency withdrawals of 110 million acres made by the Department in November 1978 under section 204(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA). Since that time, nearly 56 million acres have been given permanent protection as national monuments and another 40 million acres as national wildlife refuges and natural resources areas.

The documents, prepared by the Fish and Wildlife Service and the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service, analyze the significant environmental impacts of actions currently undergoing Congressional consideration, Executive

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Branch alternatives that approximate the legislative proposals for natural resource protection, and a no-action alternative. The environmental documents include final supplements on the Iliamna Peninsula proposal and four of the rivers that had been addressed previously in a 1974 EIS.

Notice of the availability of the environmental documents appeared in the June 5, 1980, Federal Register. Copies of the documents are available for review in major libraries across the country and at the following locations:

Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS): ANCSA Staff Office  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Heritage Conservation and  
Recreation Service (HCRS): Public Affairs Office  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D.C. 20240

All FWS and HCRS Regional and  
Area Offices

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