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TANANA BASIN AREA PLAN



VOLUME I SUMMARY OF RESULTS

PUBLIC MEETINGS HELD ON THE ALTERNATIVES

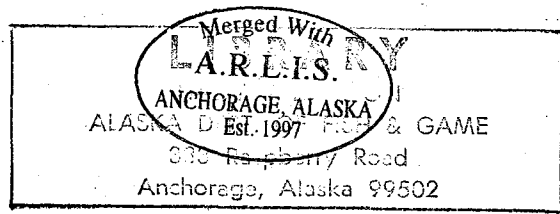
PHASE II DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES 1983



STATE OF ALASKA
Department of Natural Resources
4420 Airport Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Soil Conservation Service

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document summarizes the results of the public meetings held in mid-1983 to discuss the Alaska State Department of Natural Resource's Tanana Basin Area Plan. The purpose of the meetings was to let people in the Basin review the various uses that the state is considering for specific parcels of state land. Approximately 170 people commented on the plan during the 18 public meetings that were held throughout the study area in May and June, 1983.

These meetings were designed to obtain comments on proposals for the use of specific areas of state land. In contrast, more general goals and policies were documented during the public meetings which were held in the Spring of 1982. (See ADNR, DRD, Tanana Basin Area Plan: Comments from Public Meetings Held During the Spring of 1982). The meetings and this report were designed to be used during planning team deliberations when specific parcels of land are being discussed. This report will be used as a reference document.

Although the information in this report focuses on 250 different parcels of state land in the Basin it is possible to draw several very general conclusions from the meetings. These include:

- When offered the choice between selling or retaining a piece of land, residents of the Basin who attended the public meetings chose to retain it 70% of the time. Those who supported selling land, when asked to choose between settlement or agriculture did not show a strong preference for one type of program over another. They chose agriculture 47% of the time and settlement 53% of the time.
- Among those who chose to retain land in public ownership, fish and wildlife/recreation was the most popular use. Participants chose fish and wildlife/recreation 86% of the time.
- Minerals and forestry was a less popular choice. Of the times an area was identified as having value for minerals, participants chose it 47% of the time. On areas identified as valuable for forestry, forestry was chosen 45% of the time.

These general conclusions are not necessarily representative of public attitudes on the whole, but indicate the range of opinion of those who attended the meetings.

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Part I

Introduction

INTRODUCTION

This report summarizes the comments expressed at a series of public workshops held in communities of the Tanana River Basin during May and June, 1983. The purpose of this summary is to identify how residents in the Basin want to see specific parcels of state land managed near their community.

The Tanana Basin Area Plan is being coordinated by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources. The principal purpose of the plan is to develop guidelines for the management of state land in the Tanana River Basin. The plan is being prepared by a team of eight representatives from the State Departments of Natural Resources, Environmental Conservation, Transportation and Public Facilities, and Fish and Game.

The Tanana River watershed delineates the boundaries of the Tanana River Basin Area Plan. The watershed is an area of 21 million acres which extends from the Canadian border near Northway to the Yukon River near the village of Tanana. It includes the communities of Northway, Tok, Tetlin, Mentasta Lake, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Delta, Fairbanks, Minto, Manley Hot Springs, Tanana, Lake Minchumina, Cantwell, Healy, Anderson and Nenana. Approximately 12.5 million acres of the land under consideration has been patented, tentatively approved, or selected for ownership by the State of Alaska.

This report completes the second phase of the planning process. Phase I of the process was the Resource Inventory which was completed in January 1983. Phase II is the development, evaluation and public review of the alternatives, completed in July of 1983. The development of the Draft Plan begins Phase II and this should be complete by January, 1984. The Final Plan (Phase IV) is due for completion in March, 1984.

The public meeting process on the alternatives was designed to give residents the opportunity to show the planning team and the Department of Natural Resources how they would implement their goals. Residents were presented with background information about the resources on specific areas of land and were asked to tell how they would make trade-off decisions between land uses.

The participants at the workshops were given maps and workbooks to record their comments. The workbooks listed the possible uses that the state is considering for each parcel of state land in the region. The workbook correlated with the map so people could identify the actual land being discussed in the workbook. Participants were asked to circle the uses that they liked best. If they felt the area should be used for something other than those uses listed, we encouraged them to tell us. Also, participants were encouraged to include background information and comments about each area.

After participants completed the workbooks, they answered a questionnaire that dealt with several Basinwide policies. The policies address land disposals in hazardous areas, public use of trails, rivers and lakes, mineral entry, and timber salvage on agricultural land.

The results included here are not necessarily representative of an entire community's opinions. In some cases, the representation at the meetings was probably quite good, while in others the opinions expressed may represent only one segment of the whole community.

Information gathered at these meetings will be made available to the public, the planning staff, the commissioner's office, and the Borough. The meeting results will be used as a reference to provide direction for decisions about specific areas of land. It is also hoped that the information will be useful to other individuals and agencies who are involved in land management in the region.

This document is organized in two volumes. Volume I includes a Basinwide summary of the results, an overview of the opinions on several land management policies, and a discussion of the opinions on several land management policies.

Volume II presents the comments received on specific parcels of state land. For each of the 250 units of state land in the Basin, there is a map identifying the area and a list of the comments from the public regarding management of the particular area.

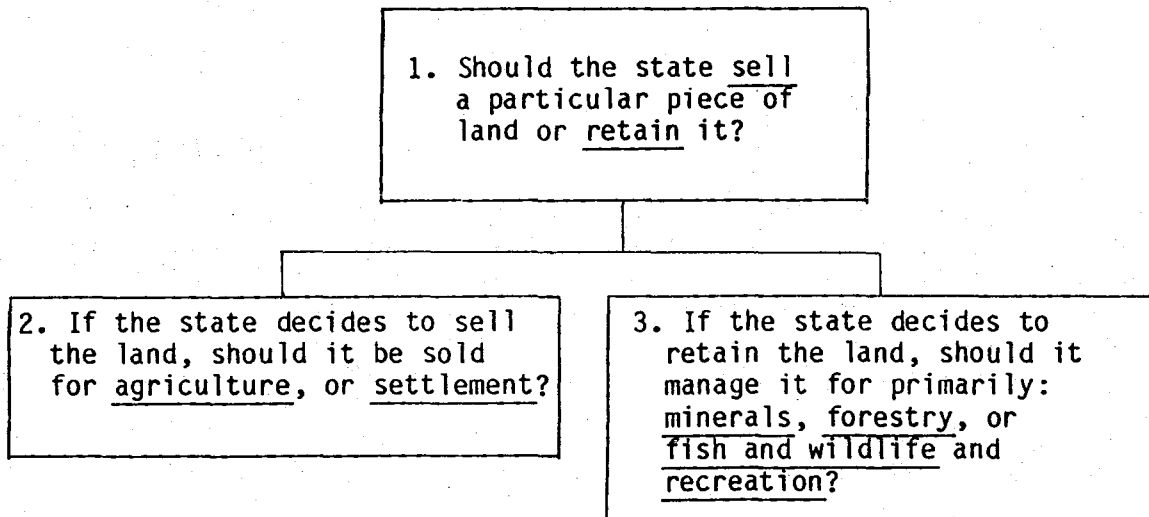
Part II

Overview of Results

INTRODUCTION

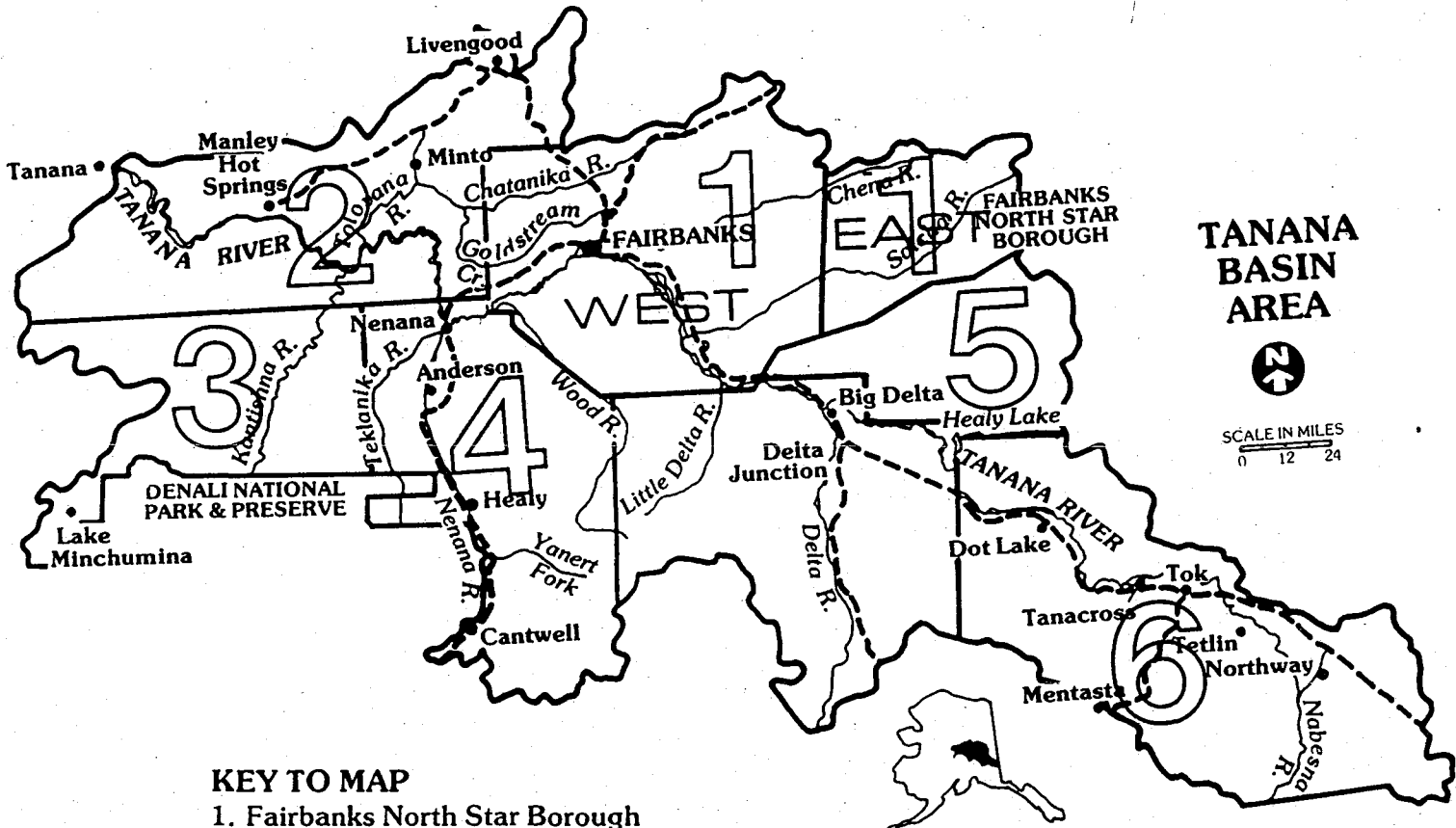
This section is a statistical summary of the public meetings. It shows how those who attended the public meetings made trade off decisions between different land use options. The results represent the opinions of 170 people who either attended the public meetings or sent in their comments. It is not possible to determine how representative these results are of the opinions of all of the residents of the Basin.

This section of the report is structured around several key questions that must be answered by the planning team as they develop the Draft Plan. The questions are as follows:



The answers to the third question fell into two groups: those preferring one primary use and those preferring a combination of uses on a given area of land.

The public meeting results were summarized by region. The area covered by each region is shown on the map below.



KEY TO MAP

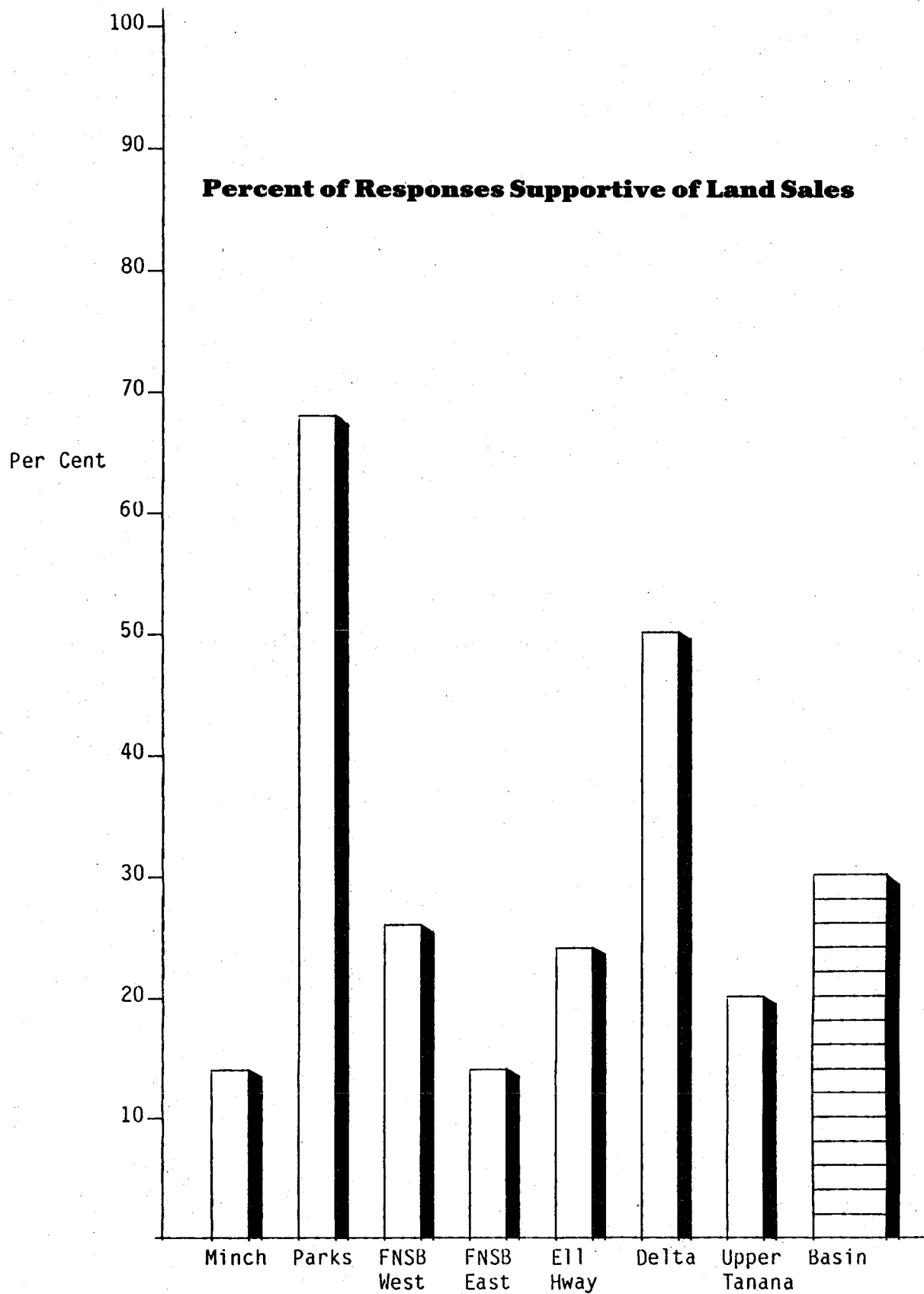
1. Fairbanks North Star Borough
2. Elliot Highway Region
3. Minchumina Region
4. Parks Highway Region
5. Delta Region
6. Upper Tanana Region

1. Sell or Retain

In the majority of regions, land sales were significantly less popular than public retention of state land. Of the total responses on the specific areas identified by the Division of Land and Water and the Division of Agriculture for possible disposal, land sales were selected 30% of the time while public retention was chosen 70% of the time. The areas where land sales were well supported was in the Delta and Parks Highway Regions.

% of Total Responses on Areas Identified for Possible Sale

	Minchum.	Parks	FNSBW	FNSBE	Elliott Hy	Delta	Tok	Basin
Sell	14	67	26	14	26	49	21	30
Don't Sell	86	33	74	86	76	51	79	70



2. Agriculture or Settlement

Among those who chose to sell particular areas of land, a clear preference for either agriculture or settlement was not shown. Basinwide, where the choice was between agriculture and settlement, agriculture was chosen 47% of the time while settlement was selected 53% of the time. The only area where there was a preference for agriculture over settlement was in the Fairbanks North Star Borough West. In all other areas, settlement was selected slightly more often than agriculture.

% of Total Responses on Areas Identified for Possible Settlement or Agriculture

Settl. %	Minchum.	Parks	FNSBW	FNSBE	Elliott Hy	Delta	Tok	Basin
	NA*	65	23	NA*	61	NA*	59	53
Agric. %	NA*	35	77	NA*	39	NA*	41	47

*These regions had no areas identified as having both settlement and agricultural value.

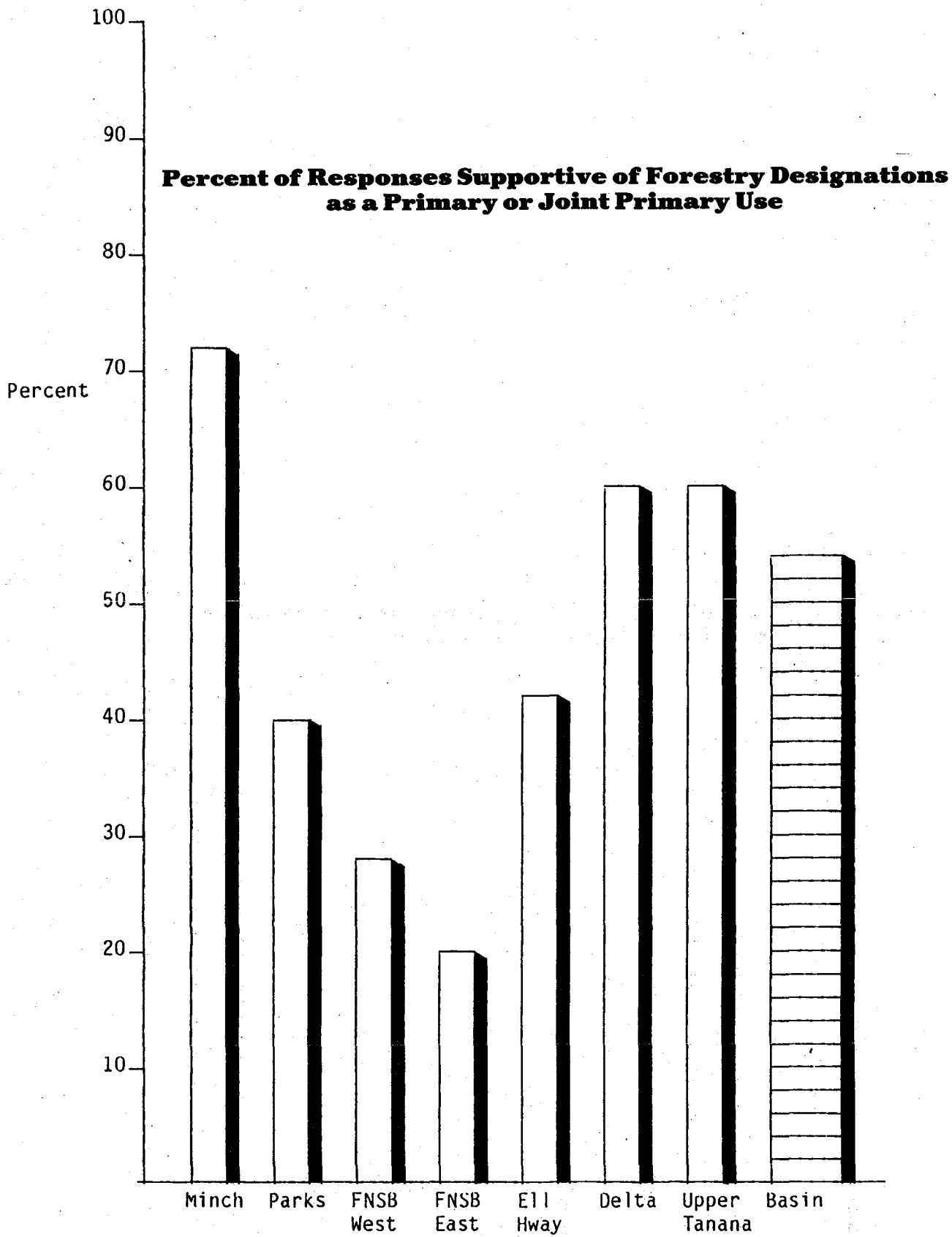
3. Retention Lands

A. PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS FORESTRY

Residents who attended the public meetings and chose to retain land in public ownership showed a moderate interest in forestry. Basinwide, participants selected forestry 45% of the time. Of all the areas, the strongest interest in forestry was expressed in the Tok, Delta and Lake Minchumina Regions. (The State Forest had been approved by the Legislature at the time of the meetings and this may have affected the responses in that many people felt enough land had been designated for forestry.)

% of Total Responses Which Chose Forestry as a Primary of Joint Primary Use on Areas Identified as Having Value for Forestry

	Minchum.	Parks	FNSBW	FNSBE	Elliot	Delta	Tok	Basin
Forestry as a Primary Use	36	12	22	14	19	10	44	22
Forestry as a Joint Primary Use	37	27	6	5	22	49	14	23
Total	73	39	28	19	41	59	58	45
Areas Should Not Be Designated Forestry	27	61	82	81	59	41	42	55

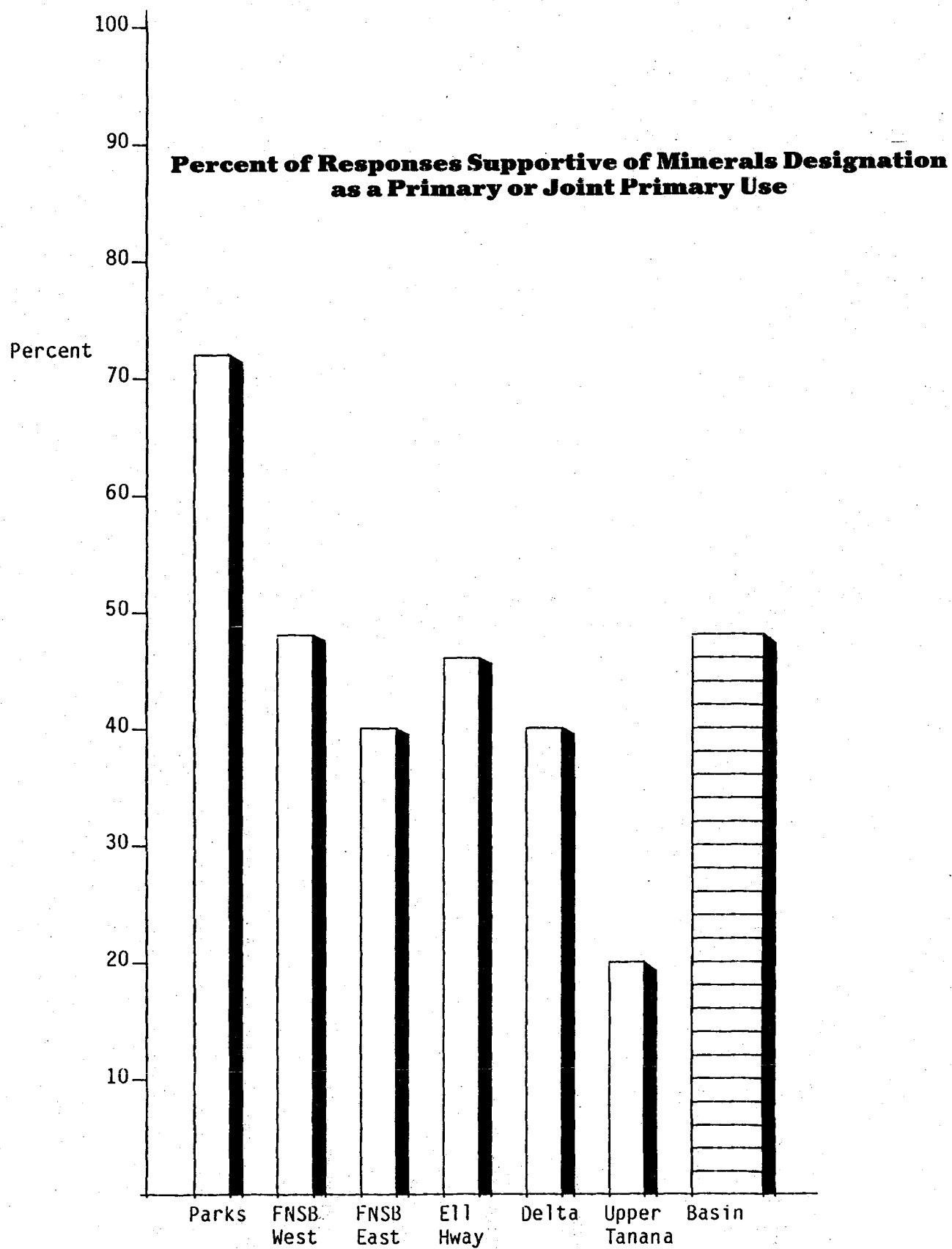


B. PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS MINERALS CLASSIFICATION

Residents in the Basin who attended the public meetings and chose to retain land in public ownership showed a moderate interest in minerals as a primary or joint primary use. Basinwide, participants selected minerals 47% of the time.

% of Total Responses Which Chose Minerals as a Primary or Joint Primary Use on Areas Identified as Having Value for Minerals

	Minchum.	Parks	FNSBW	FNSBE	Elliot	Delta	Tok	Basin
Minerals as a Primary Use	-	34	29	16	26	14	6	21
Minerals as a Joint Primary Use	-	37	18	23	18	47	12	26
Total	-	71	47	39	44	61	18	47
Areas Should Not Be Designated Minerals	-	29	53	61	56	39	82	53



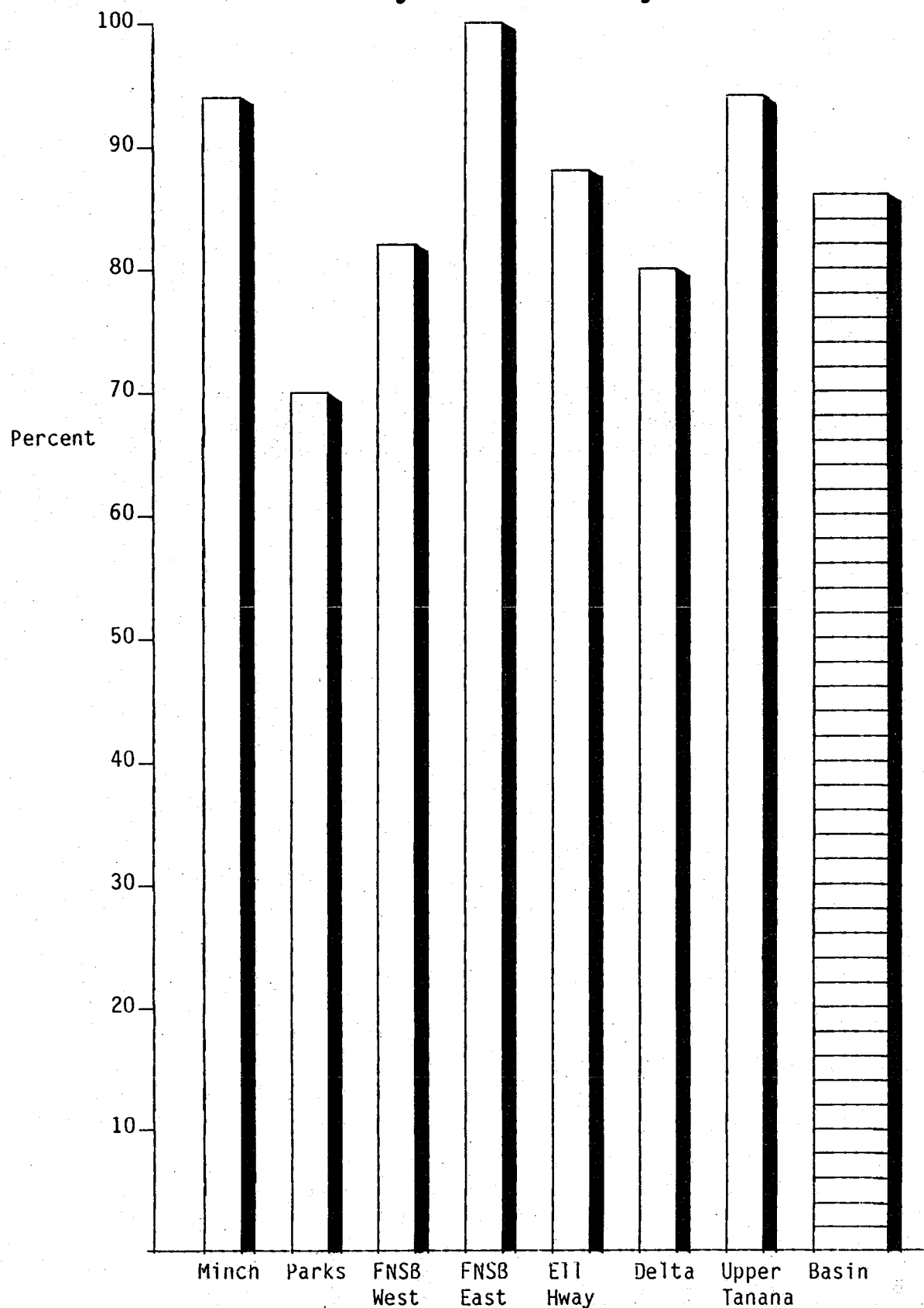
C. PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARDS FISH AND WILDLIFE/RECREATION

Overall, fish and wildlife/recreation received the strongest support of any of the possible uses for state land. Basinwide, participants selected fish and wildlife/recreation 86% of the time.

% of Total Responses Which Chose Fish and Wildlife/Recreation as a Primary or Joint Primary Use on Areas Identified as Having Value for Fish and Wildlife/Recreation.

	Minchum.	Parks	FNSBW	FNSBE	Elliot	Delta	Tok	Basin
FW/Rec as Primary Use	70	62	75	86	74	17	91	67
FW/Rec as Joint Primary Uses With Other Resources	24	4	7	12	14	60	4	18
Total	94	68	82	98	88	77	95	86
Areas Should Not Be Designated FW/Recreation	6	32	18	2	12	23	5	14

**Percent of Responses Supportive of Fish
and Wildlife/Recreation Designations
as a Primary or Joint Primary Use.**



Part III

Summary of Each Community Meeting

III. SUMMARY OF EACH COMMUNITY MEETING.

This section provides a very general overview of each meeting. For detailed comments on specific areas in each of the regions, see Volume II of this report.

Tanana Basin Area Plan Community Meetings

Region Number	Location	Meeting Date	Attendance
1. <u>Fairbanks North Star Borough</u>	Fairbanks	June 30	32
2. <u>Parks Highway Region</u>	Anderson	June 27	4
	Cantwell	May 18	6
	Healy	June 29	8
	Nenana	June 28	24
3. <u>Elliott Highway Region</u>	Livengood	June 20	8
	Manley Hot Springs	June 22	8
	Minto	June 21	22
	Tanana	June 20	2
4. <u>Lake Minchumina Region</u>	Lake Minchumina	June 23	13
5. <u>Upper Tanana Region</u>	Dot Lake	June 15	6
	Mentasta Lake	June 17	0
	Northway	June 29	0
	Tanacross	June 16	4
	Tetlin	June 29	4
	Tok	June 15	13
6. <u>Delta Region</u>	Delta	June 14	11
	Healy Lake	June 28	4

A. FAIRBANKS NORTH STAR BOROUGH

Fairbanks

Two maps and accompanying workbooks were used for the Fairbanks North Star Borough area. One map covered the west part of the Borough, including Fairbanks. This map had 84 areas for comment. The other map covered the east part of the borough, primarily the Steese Highway and Chena Hot Springs Road areas. This map had 29 areas for comment.

Thirty-two people attended the public meeting; we have received a total of 30 workbooks.

Due to the diversity of opinions, it is very difficult to summarize the Fairbanks meeting. However, there are two perspectives which seem to stand out.

First, many people seem concerned about retaining the existing opportunities for high quality recreational experiences in the Borough. These people were particularly concerned about protecting trails. Most were not against disposals, mining, or forestry, but felt that all uses could be accommodated, as long as care is taken about where they are placed and how they are developed. For example they did not want all areas closed to mineral entry, but felt that environmental quality and recreational opportunities must not be compromised because of mineral activity.

Second, we received numerous comments that all lands should remain open to mineral entry and that land disposals should not be placed in areas with high mineral values.

All comments received from Fairbanks residents are listed in Volume 2 of this report.

B. PARKS HIGHWAY REGION

Anderson

Four persons attended the Anderson meeting, including the mayor and city manager. Several workbooks were left for distribution and eleven workbooks were subsequently returned.

Anderson residents expressed a clear desire for settlement land for community expansion and identified a number of specific areas for sale. The main concern was that many of the areas did not have adequate access. General opinion was that settlement areas could support a number of other activities and should be considered for multiple use as well as settlement. Some areas, including areas 24, 25 and 26, were identified as having mineral potential.

Cantwell

Because Cantwell lies on the edge of the planning areas of both the Susitna and Tanana Area Plans, one meeting was held to discuss both plans. To fit into the Susitna Plan's schedule, the meeting was held before the Tanana materials were in final form. Copies of the workbooks were later sent to participants of the meeting. None of the workbooks have been returned at this time. As a result, we have only general comments from the earlier joint meeting rather than specifics about particular areas near the community.

In general, opinions at the joint meeting were split on the issue of whether to sell more land or retain it in public ownership. However, those who felt that more land sales would be a good idea realized that there was very little public land available for sale in the area.

Residents felt that agriculture and forestry were not appropriate land uses in the Cantwell area because the soils and timber resources do not exist in the area. They emphasized recreation as a means for achieving their economic development goals.

Healy

Eight persons attended the Healy meeting and five workbooks were returned.

For those who completed workbooks, areas 20, 24, 27 and 28 were generally the most acceptable areas for settlement. Residents indicated a desire to preserve wildlife and recreation values in these areas and in others if disposals do occur. Generally the workbooks reflected a dislike of disposals in those areas without access or areas currently used for hunting.

Nenana

24 people attended the Nenana meeting; however, we have received only one workbook. Each of the people who attended the meeting received a written reminder, but no additional workbooks have been received.

C. ELLIOTT HIGHWAY REGION

Livengood

Eight people attended the Livengood meeting. Although we have received only 2 workbooks from Livengood, each unit was discussed as a group and comments were recorded on what the state should do with the units closest to Livengood.

People in Livengood focused on Units 27 through 30. They felt that minerals should be the primary use in these areas and that all of the areas proposed for settlement and agriculture are inappropriate.

There was only one area identified for settlement by the people at the meeting. It was between Livengood and mile 80 on the Elliott Highway on the West Fork of the Tolovana. Most in attendance agreed that this would make an acceptable disposal.

People expressed an interest in lands for residential use close to Livengood, but were concerned that the parcels would be sold to people who did not live in Livengood. They were also concerned that the Department would not fit the land disposals into the area in a way that would not conflict with the mineral values in the area. They felt that there were pockets of land around that would be suitable for settlement, but the parcels are quite small, and would not be appropriate for the land disposal program. People that the remot cabin permit program might meet both the needs of local residents for settlement land and allow both these parcels to be used by the public.

Manley Hot Springs

Eight people came to the Manley meeting. We also left numerous packets in the Community Hall and one resident took several copies to people in the Tofty - Eureka area. We have received a total of 12 workbooks.

Manley residents seemed most concerned about their lifestyle and the impact that land sales or other developments might have on that lifestyle. They identified most areas for fish and wildlife and some areas for minerals.

Residents felt that the land needs of the community for expansion could be met without the state selling any land. Evidently several people are subdividing and Bean Ridge Native Corporation may sell some land. Residents are interested in disposals much smaller than those proposed. About five parcels per year was thought to be sufficient.

The only area residents identified for settlement near their community was around Eureka. This area lies along the Elliott Highway and the Eureka Road. They felt that some limited disposals in this area would provide for the needs of people living in the Eureka area. If the state does have to sell land in any of the units surrounding Manley, people seemed to feel that the number of parcels should be held to a minimum and concentrated near existing roads.

Residents supported land sales in the Livengood area and along the Elliott Highway between Fairbanks and Livengood.

Minto

A total of 22 people attended the meeting in Minto. The Minto meeting was run slightly differently than the other meetings. Those in attendance preferred not to work individually on workbooks, but each parcel was discussed as a group and comments were recorded. A consensus was obtained from those at the meeting concerning what to do with specific areas.

Residents expressed a deep concern over the impact of state decisions on the fish and wildlife of the region. Minto Flats was mentioned many times as having high fish and game values. This unit, as well as most other units around Minto, were recommended for Fish and Game classification.

Minto identified one area for land sales. The area was in the same region as the land Livengood residents recommended. Minto residents recommended the area between Livengood and mile 80 on the Elliott for land sales. They also felt that further land sales in the Livengood area would be acceptable.

Tanana

In Tanana, only two people came to the meeting. Numerous brochures and workbooks were left with people to circulate, but only one response was received.

This response was from Tozitna, Inc. The corporation expressed a concern over the use of state land in the northwest corner of the Tanana Basin. The Corporation recommended fish and wildlife classification for these areas with no disposals.

D. LAKE MINCHUMINA REGION

Minchumina

Thirteen people attended the Minchumina meeting and six workbooks were returned.

Minchumina residents were most concerned about their lifestyle and the impact that land sales have had on that lifestyle. They identified most areas for fish and wildlife and woodlots.

Residents stated there is no economic base at the lake and most of them depend on a subsistence lifestyle which includes hunting, fishing and trapping. Firewood is cut in the area and this resource is becoming scarce. Some residents use the lake for drinking water and are therefore concerned about possible pollution. People in Minchumina also expressed an appreciation of the natural habitat. Several areas were cited as waterfowl or eagle nesting grounds which residents would prefer not to be disturbed.

Although no areas were specified as good for disposals, residents did identify some areas with fewer conflicts which, if greatly scaled down and done over a period of years, might be acceptable for disposals.

E. UPPER TANANA REGION

Dot Lake

A total of six people attended the Dot Lake meeting. In general, residents are concerned about any land use that would adversely affect the fish and game resources in the area. Residents

perceive that of all the uses, land sales have the greatest negative impact on fish and game.

However, the concerns about disposals go beyond the impact on fish and wildlife habitat. Residents also feel that land disposals increase competition for fish and game resources, disrupt community and traditional land use patterns, increase competition for limited jobs, and stress local services. All disposal proposals were unacceptable to residents of Dot Lake. Of all the disposals Sam Creek disposal was the most controversial. Residents still adamantly oppose any land sales in that area because of its importance for game movement.

Another area that residents felt very strongly about was the McComb Plateau. People felt that this area's best use was fish and wildlife. They were concerned about any disposals or development occurring on the flanks of the plateau. They also mentioned that the area should be closed to grazing.

Residents feel that the Upper Tanana has taken an unfair share of the burden of the disposal program and that the state should start looking at the cumulative impact of the program in the area. They felt that because the disposals are not popular and the areas are of such importance to fish and game that Dot Lake, Fireweed, Cathedral Bluffs and Robertson Remotes should be closed to further staking.

The other main point brought up at the meeting was a question about how the state analyzes and incorporates into the disposal program the fact that only a small percentage of the net acreage offered in rural areas is staked. Residents feel that the percent of land that is staked is a clear indication that there is not demand for the type of land the state keeps offering in their area. They point out that the demand is for land near communities and suggested the state sell land around Tok.

Dry Creek

No formal meeting was held at Dry Creek. Several workbooks were left with one of the leaders of the community, but none have been returned thus far.

Mentasta Lake

No one attended the meeting in Menatsta Lake. A packet of seven workbooks was sent to the Mentasta Lake Village Council with a

letter to explain how to use the workbooks. None have been returned thus far.

If last years meeting was any indication of what residents of Mentasta desire, they will want all areas near their community classified for fish and wildlife (see ADNR, Public Comments, March 1982).

Northway

After two unsuccessful attempts to meet with Northway residents, 20 workbooks and maps were left with the village president for distribution. Several copies were also sent to people in Northway who expressed an interest in the Tanana Plan over the last year. We have received 10 workbooks from Northway.

Residents primarily supported fish and wildlife classification for all state lands in the area. However, there was also an interest expressed that a limited amount of land be offered for sale.

Tanacross

Four people attended the Tanacross meeting. The concerns voiced at this meeting were very similar to those expressed in Dot Lake.

Residents feel that fish and game is the most important use of the Upper Tanana Region. They recommend no further disposals in the outlying areas, and that Tok Hills, Fireweed and Cathedral Bluffs Remote Disposals should be closed to further staking. They felt the cumulative impact of those disposals was significant. They pointed out that those disposals, when viewed together, cover most of the lowland areas that are important for fish and wildlife near their community. Because of the overall pattern created by those disposals, residents felt that unit #28 is all the more important to retain in fish and wildlife habitat. They said that this area is "radioactive" and that they would "go the distance" to keep disposals out of this area.

Residents recommended the triangle of land south of the Eagle Trail and between the highways near Tok for land sales. They said this is not good fish and wildlife land, but it is accessed and close to existing communities.

Tanacross residents had the same concern that was expressed in Dot Lake about the way the state addresses and incorporates into their disposal planning the figures on the percentage of land staked in past remote offerings. They wondered why the state offers new land for sale when "there is plenty that is still unstaked in past disposal areas, and the demand does not seem to be there" for the type of parcels the state is offering.

Tetlin

Tetlin residents, like the people in Dot Lake and Tanacross, felt that fish and wildlife was the most important use for the Upper Tanana Region. They felt strongly that no disposals should be allowed in any area that would conflict with fish and game. They explained that the moose migrate from Tuck Creek in the Tetlin Reservation, down onto the flats along the Tok River. From there they follow the Tok River past Seven Mile Hill and onto the Tanana River Flats. They felt that disposals in any of this area would be unacceptable (#13, 14, 15, 16).

Tetlin residents also pointed out that most of the units along the western side of the reservation are currently in court under a boundary dispute. Even if the state gets claim to those lands, residents felt the area should be left alone. They felt that their interest could be protected if the state included a one mile buffer of wilderness around the Reservation boundary.

Tok

Thirteen people attended the Tok meeting. There were two main groups represented at the meeting: those interested in fish and wildlife and those interested in agriculture.

The people interested in fish and wildlife voiced the same concerns that were expressed in Tanacross, Tetlin, and Dot Lake. They felt that fish and wildlife should be the main use for most lands in the Upper Tanana Region. They were aware that the state will continue to sell land, and on that basis identified the lands in the immediate vicinity of Tok for land sales.

The people interested in fish and wildlife seemed strongly opposed to large scale agriculture, but seemed to think that small scale agriculture could be acceptable as long as it was in areas that did not conflict with fish and wildlife and the lands were sold at a slow pace, so that people could see how agriculture does in the region.

The people interested in agriculture were not opposed to these ideas. They too acknowledged the importance of fish and game and did not seem interested in large scale agriculture, but in small parcels where they could grow their own food and supply local markets. The people interested in agriculture are committed to living in Tok and would like the state to make some land available for farming. They did not feel that agriculture was incompatible with the goals expressed by those interested in fish and game.

F. DELTA REGION

Delta

A total of 11 people attended the meeting in Delta. We received a total of twelve workbooks from Delta, one of which represented the consensus of seven people. Meeting participants did not believe that agriculture soils exist where they were identified. However, people felt that if the soils are there, then they should either be sold for agriculture, or placed in a resource management category where the option of developing those areas in the future is not foreclosed.

Settlement and agriculture seemed to be popular choices for people attending the Delta meeting. However, the questionnaire which represents the views of seven people emphasized public retention and multiple use (forestry, minerals, and fish and wildlife).

Healy Lake

Four people attended the Healy Lake meeting. Discussion centered around the units immediately adjacent to the lake and the Native Village Corporation's selections.

Healy Lake residents feel that the highest priority use of state land is subsistence and forestry. Residents felt that these two uses were compatible with each other, but that any further agriculture sales or land disposals would be unacceptable.

Part IV

Summary of Comments On Basinwide Policies

I. INTRODUCTION

In addition to the comments on specific areas, participants were asked to answer questions concerning: 1) land disposals in hazardous areas; 2) access to public lands; 3) public use of lakes and rivers; 4) timber salvage on agricultural lands; and 5) mineral entry. Two alternative answers were offered for each question, and space was allowed for other responses. (See Appendix B for a copy of the policy questionnaire)

Over 40 responses to this section were received. Not all participants at the meeting answered all the questions.

RESULTS

A. Land Disposals in Hazardous Areas

Question: Should the state sell land in the 100 year floodplain?	
Answers:	# Responses
A) "Only land for recreational cabins should be sold in the flood plain."	16
B) "No. Land should not be sold in the 100 year flood plain for either recreational cabins or residential use."	15
C) Other.	7

Specific recommendations and other comments are presented below.

- Land should be sold. Let people decide what to do with it. Don't close to mineral entry.
- I do not know what the 100 year flood plain is.
- Irrelevant to whether land disposals should go or not.
- Let the Alaskans worry about the hazards of living anywhere they want.
- If people want to live on a flood plain they should have that right.
- It's none of your business where people want to live.
- Answer A, only if its proven to be in the least hazardous areas.

- Let the buyer beware - so long as he is duly notified the land is subject to flooding and seller is held harmless.
- I am not sure where the 100 year floodplain lies. I believe that there is no option for residences in the flood plain. That makes sense in light of the recent floods along the Mississippi River.
- Where there is immediate hazard to numbers of people, measure of flood control should be assured such as residential use or commercial use.
- Answer A, with the clear understanding that there will be no service provided.
- I feel that people should be allowed to buy land and utilize it as they desire, but should be aware of the dangers and bear sole responsible for their actions.

B. Access to Public Lands

Question: How should public use of trails be protected?	
Answers	# Responses
A) "Trails should be protected by 60 foot easements. Larger widths can be considered but would seldom exceed 100 feet in width."	8
B) "Trails should be held in public ownership. The width should vary from 100 to 600 feet depending on the importance of the trail."	24
C) Other	7

Specific recommendations and other comments are presented below.

- Trails could be 10 foot easements.
- I have a 100 mile trapline that crosses land proposed for all sorts of sorts of things over the past few years. No one has ever gone to the Trappers Association to view the maps containing trapper's trails, or approached "us trappers" about possible easements for our trails, or our comments or opinions yet the trapper often knows the particular area best of all. I suggest trappers be consulted on plans for their area. A very simple thing to do by contacting the Trappers Association. That's why we organized.
- These easement sizes do not comply with federal easement sizes; and would affect villages.
- Anything over 60' would be excessive.
- Trails should stay as is. All the proposed easements would just be more of a hassle and the money spent on this could be used more wisely i.e. like garbage cans being put along trails and the state emptying them.
- Lands of public concern for beauty should be given away to public owned conservation societies. They will do alot better job of management then this overburdened overtaxed red tape bureaucracy !!!
- Trails are not adequately protected by easements under current regulation. Perhaps too many trails designated. (Tanana Loop Trail is an example of the mess that can be got into.)

- Trails may wander somewhat due to conditions beyond man's control (change in route due to swampy conditions that worsen with time etc.) Wider easements would give more privacy to trail users and locals also.
- Trails should be in public ownership. Width should be no less than 1000 feet and 1 mile or more where possible.
- Answer B. 600 feet is especially useful for long trails taking more than one day to travel - gives camping space and gives space for incompatible uses. There should be some care given that trails don't become upgraded to roads. People could use such wide rural trails for trapping and not have others stepping in their traps.

C. Public Use of Lakes and Rivers

Question: How should public use of rivers and lakes be ensured?	
Answers:	# Responses
A) "There should be a 50 foot easement reserved for public access along rivers (the minimum required by regulations). No buildings should be allowed within 100 feet of the bank." "Maintain the minimum 50 foot easements required by regulation. Reserve at least 10% of the useable land on the lake front for public use."	12
B) "There should be at least 200 feet or more reserved in public ownership along all rivers." "Maintain at least a 100 foot corridor in public ownership. Reserve at least 25% of the useable land on the lakefront for public use."	20
C) Other	8

Specific recommendations and other comments are presented below.

- Easements should not be over 10 feet. Buildings should be within 20 feet.
- The public has a right to travel a river or margin of a lake. I believe 50 feet is enough room even to set up a camp for the night. To ask a landowner to give up 200 feet is to ask him to live off the lake or river. 25% of all lake frontage for public use sounds good however. This allows for wood, lots of camping and vacation use and room for wildlife to get to the lakes.
- If water is not navigable, then it is not an issue.
- If someone has property on a river they should be able to use all land up to the river. If the land is for agriculture, an irrigation system should be close to the river. I feel it would depend on circumstances.
- Give the land away to interested persons on a first come first serve basis. And they'll figure out if they want to farm it or mine on it.
- 10 foot easements adequate - camping can use more land with owner ok!! 10% of usable is plenty.
- Answer B, especially in areas with intense use. Perhaps best decided on a case by case basis.

- All lands within 1 mile of major rivers and lakes should be in public ownership. And at least 1/2 mile of all lesser streams and lakes should be in public ownership.
- Rivers in this country change course - or is this 200 feet or more from the high water mark. In any event, wide easements along rivers have the same utility they have for trails. They allow people camping space and space for incompatible uses.

D. Timber Salvage on Agricultural Lands

Question: What should be done with the timber on lands to be sold for farms?	
Answers	# Responses
A) "Add the value of the timber to the purchase price of the farm. Farmers then can sell the timber or use it themselves."	13
B) "Sell and harvest the timber before selling the farm."	14
C) Other	10

Specific recommendations and other comments are presented below.

- Prices should be reasonable.
- The farmer can not afford a higher purchase price. He may or may not be able or interested in timber. Time will be wasted clearing and trying to sell a business a farmer may not be good at or interested in. Let the farmer farm. Let the timber people deal with timber.
- Do not add to purchase price. It will take years for anyone farming an area to make any profit on it so let timber sales be up to discretion of farmer. He/she can make living clearing and selling timber while he/she develops farm.
- Homesteaders will know best how to use their wood resources. Local residents should be allowed to harvest wood resources along right of ways and easements.
- To the best of my knowledge the farms are being sold in word only. Seriously doubt if any farmers have made payments to the state for their farms.
- Answer A. Don't add price of timber to price of farm. Let the farmer make her/his profit on the timber - this way an income can be maintained while preparing the land for agriculture.
- A has not worked well when tried. B has worked much better. Some consideration should be made to farmer for added difficulty of clearing stumps (unable to chain whole roots).
- Do not sell land with timber as farm lands. Retain as forest management. At least we know trees can grow on it and are marketable.

- If Answer B means that this costs more to the state than the state recoups after sale then it's a ridiculous idea. If not then OK.
- Adding the timber price to the purchase price of the farm would decrease the number of people able to afford the farm. Market for timber may be swamped if too many people are selling timber off their farms.
- Irrelevant - forests and wildlife are destroyed under both alternatives.
- Answer B. I am afraid with answer A the timber may be undervalued and the farmer might purchase it but it would be so cheap he could afford to burn it to the ground.
- Let farmers dispose of timber; - price not inclusive of timber values.

E. Mineral Entry

Question: Should remote land disposals that are not sold be reopened to mineral entry? Should agricultural areas be open to mineral entry?	
Answers	# Responses
A) "Remote disposals which are not sold may be reopened to mineral entry. Agricultural disposals should be closed to mineral entry due to land use conflicts."	8
B) "Remote disposals which are not sold should be reopened to mineral entry. Agricultural disposals should be open to mineral entry to allow the farmer to benefit from both uses"	17
C) Other	5

Specific recommendations and other comments are presented below.

- All land should be open to mineral entry.
- I would rather see agriculture and mining within the same area using the same roads etc., then to separate and spread out and thus involve more forest taking from Alternative #3.
- Remote parcel program should be dropped. Any remotes not sold should be dropped.
- Would depend on each specific parcel and my concerns for fish and game first.
- If farmer is there first "he" should be compensated for damage.
- Mineral deposits should be allowed to be utilized wherever they are found in respect to agricultural lands. At this time I would say that mineral uses are more beneficial than the potential agricultural value of the land.
- Unsold disposals should not be opened to mineral entry. Private lands should be open to mineral entry but only if the lands can be and will be restored to former productivity.
- I don't think remote parcels left unsold should be open to mineral entry.