



# THE LAND

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## SECRETARY'S VISIT

### ENDS SUMMER SEASON

The summer season's roster of visitors was topped off last month with a 10-day tour by Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton, who met with Native leaders to discuss aspects of the land claims settlement act and visited various public lands withdrawn under the act.

July's guest list included no less than 12 official visitors, half of which were congressmen touring the trans-Alaska pipeline route. They were Reps. John Delenback, R., Oregon, Keith Sebelius, R., Kansas, Alan Steelman, R., Texas, David R. Towell, R., Nevada, Wayne Owens, D., Utah, and Guam Delegate Tony Won Pat.

Dr. John Latz, newly-appointed technical advisor on Alaskan oil development, arrived here for a firsthand look at the pipeline route and briefings with the pipeline division. Latz, an engineer with more than 20 years experience in steel construction, is also something of an expert in the thermodynamics of frozen soil. He learned that aspect of engineering while working in the potash mining industry in Canada.

#### Met With Natives

New BLM Director Curt Berklund, who formerly served as a deputy assistant secretary for land and water in Interior, and Assistant Secretary Lawrence Lynn also spent time in Anchorage meeting with Native leaders. Berklund addressed BLM employees in the State Office about his approach to the directorship.

Later in the month Assistant Secretary Jack O. Horton spent time working on land claims problems and land-use proposals

withdrawn public lands.

Other visitors included Dr. Beatrice E. Willard, a member of the Council on Environmental Quality, and U.S. Representative Victor Veysey of California and his colleague Rep. Lloyd Meeds of Oregon.

## LIBRARY ADDS PLANNING

### MAPS TO COLLECTION

The Alaska Resources Library in BLM's State Office has added to its collection a series of 800 black-line map overlays which provide data on 21 types of natural resources and ownership status for lands within the State of Alaska.

Designed by the Resource Planning Team of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission, the overlays are available for use by Native Regional Corporations and the general public as well as the commission and its staff.

The overlays have been prepared for 41 geographic areas covering the state as designated in the U.S. Geological Survey base map. When placed over the base map, they provide supplementary data on transportation, recreation, water resources, wildlife, oil and gas, land status, urban planning, fisheries, antiquities, waterfowl habitats, ecosystems, coastal zone resources, soils, geology, subsistence usage, leasable and locatable minerals, and science research activities.

Copies of the overlays may be purchased through BLM for the cost of reproduction and handling, says Carl Ehelebe, natural resource specialist.

Ehelebe points out that to make use of the overlays, the public must have some knowledge of the area in which they are interested.

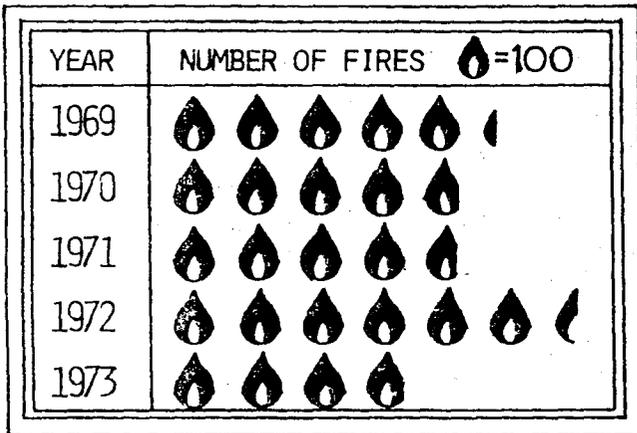
"The user should be aware that the maps, as drawn on a scale of one-quarter inch to one mile, provide only basic data which in many cases may have to be augmented by more detailed maps or written data from other agencies," he says.

## FIRE TAKES LOW TOLL ON ALASKA'S FORESTS

There are many different ways to measure time. BLM employees frequently think in terms of "fire years", and by that standard 1973 is shaping up to be a pretty good year.

George Kitson, plans and support officer for the Division of Fire Control, says, "In comparison with the last several years, this summer has been good because of the reduced acreage burned."

Kitson says the unusually cool temperatures and early fall rains helped to keep forest fires to a minimum.



The Fairbanks District with its hot, dry summer climate has had 35,000 acres burned to date in 175 reported fire actions. In the Anchorage District, there were 210 fire actions accounting for a total of 6,652 acres burned.

Each year a significant portion of the fires occur due to lightning. This season more than 130 fires were started by lightning storms. To help combat this type of fire, BLM has been using a cloud abatement program that prevents clouds from developing into the cumulus type which produce lightning. The program has been successful in decreasing the percentage of lightning-caused fires to less than half.



YEAR	ACRES BURNED
1969	4,231,820
1970	113,486
1971	1,069,108
1972	963,686
1973	41,652



The slower pace allowed the Alaska State Office to send all of its smokejumper crews outside to assist in firefighting efforts across the Northwest where as many as 13 fires raged uncontrolled at one time. The State Office also committed radio equipment and aerial retardant aircraft to BLM offices in the lower 48.

## HORTON SUSPENDS GUIDELINES

Assistant Secretary for Land and Water Jack Horton has suspended for 30 days a set of guidelines he authored with regard to the processing of Native allotment applications.

The suspension was made after leaders of the various regional corporations complained to Horton that the new guidelines were considered too restrictive.

Horton's memorandum listed six guidelines for BLM field examiners to use in assessing allotment applications. These included provisos for public testimony, acreage limitation, and lands with mineral character.

The under secretary set a Sept. 7 deadline for submitting comments on proposed guidelines.