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SUSITNA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

LODGE OPERATOR SURVEY REPORT

Report by

Harza-Ebasco Susitna Joint Venture

Prepared for

Alaska Power Authority

Final Report

June 1985

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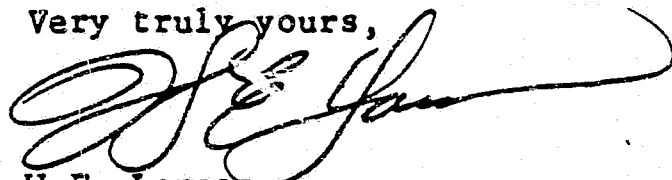
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Subject: Susitna Hydroelectric Project
Lodge Operator Survey Report

Dear Mr. Dischinger:

We have enclosed a draft final version of the subject report for your review and approval. In FY86 this report will become a chapter in the Special Populations Report. If you have any questions, please contact Dr. James Thrall of our staff.

Very truly yours,



W.E. Larson
Project Director

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Lodge operators comprise a special population/occupation group potentially affected by the Susitna Hydroelectric Project. This study, aimed at gathering information about lodge operators and lodge operations that rely on the area in the vicinity of the proposed dams and access routes, has three objectives. The first objective is to develop an inventory and profile of lodge operators and lodge operations that rely in some way on the natural resources of the study's resource use area. The second objective is to determine the economic importance of the lodge operations to the lodge owners. This provides a baseline for the numbers and character of the operations that might be affected by the Susitna Project. The final objective is to obtain information from the lodge operators about hunting, fishing, and other recreation activities in the resource use area to supplement and corroborate terrestrial, aquatic, and recreation data for the area. To accomplish these objectives, appropriate lodge operators were contacted and interviewed face-to-face during a ten-day period from August 23 to September 1, 1984.

The definition of a lodge for the purposes of the study was as follows: any lodging that offered indoor overnight accommodations where the owner/operator had some knowledge of whether and where overnight customers hunted, fished, or recreated in the resource use area. This definition allowed the greatest number of lodgings to be included in the study where the information obtained from the lodge operator most adequately addressed all three study objectives.

Since there is an overlap among people who stay at lodges and who hunt and fish with guides, this study focused on overnight guests who were not guided. Information about guests who are guided in their recreational activities is covered by the Guide Survey Report (1985). Additionally, people who use air taxis to access the resource use area are accounted for in the Air Taxi Survey Report (1985).

2.0 APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

The study approach to survey lodge operators included a number of steps. These steps, outlined here and described in detail below, are:

1. Delineation of the Survey Area
2. Identification of All Lodges in the Survey Area
3. Determination of a Sample Size and Survey Type
4. Development of the Questionnaire
5. Interviews with Lodge Operators
6. Analysis of Results and Report Preparation

2.1 DELINEATION OF THE SURVEY AREA

The most important criteria for establishing the limits of the survey area was the proximity of lodges to the proposed dam and access road locations (project sites). Relatively direct access to the area surrounding these sites via roadways or waterways by potential resource users from the lodges defined the limits for including lodges in the survey.

The lodges along the Denali Highway (from Cantwell to Paxson north of the project sites) were included because the Denali Highway provides important roadway access to the resource use area as outlined in Figure 2-1. Lodges in Paxson and around Lake Louise (off the Glenn Highway) were also included because of the relatively easy roadway access via the Denali Highway (for Paxson) and direct waterway access to the Susitna River via Lake Louise and Susitna and Tyone Lakes (for Lake Louise). To the west of the project sites, lodges from Healy south to the Talkeetna Spur Road on the Parks Highway were included; again, because of direct roadway access to the Denali Highway and direct waterway access to the Susitna River where the river passes under the Parks Highway at Milepost 104 and at boat launches in Talkeetna. Also, remote, fly-in lodges found within the boundaries of the

SUSITNA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT RESOURCE USE AND SURVEY AREAS LODGE OPERATOR SURVEY

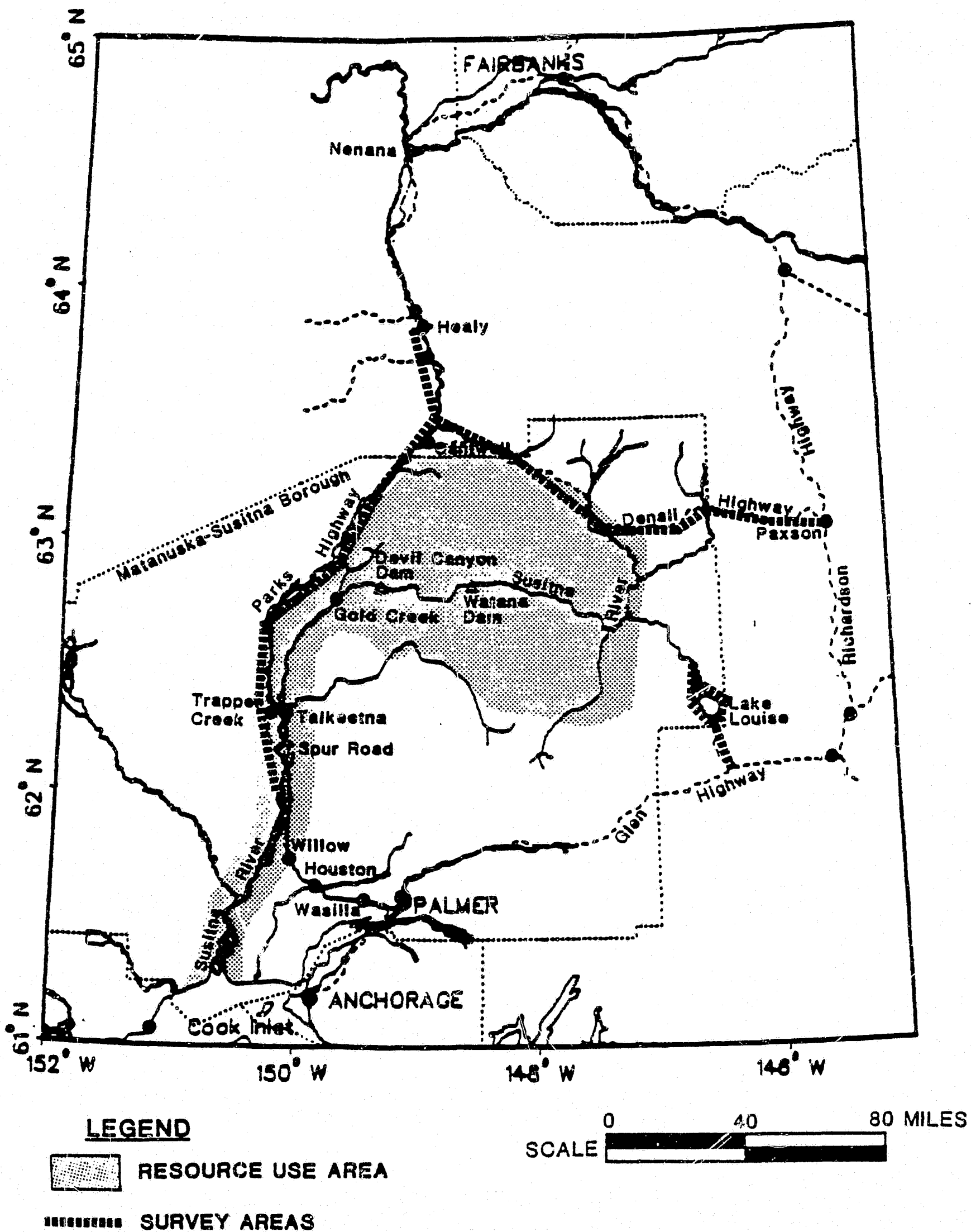


FIGURE 2-1

Susitna Hydroelectric Project study area were included. Lodges along the Glenn Highway to the south of the resource use area were excluded from the study because it is unlikely that customers would use these lodges to stage trips into the resource use area.

From these lodges it requires travel of great distances along the roadways or across wilderness areas to access the resource use area. Figure 2-1 shows the geographical relationships of the roads and waterways to the resource use area.

2.2 IDENTIFICATION OF ALL LODGES IN THE SURVEY AREA

The Milepost (1984) travel guide for Alaska and Western Canada was the main source of information used to compile the directory of lodges in the survey area. This list was cross-referenced with and expanded using information from the Anchorage and Mat-Su Valley visitors' guides (1984) and from telephone directories (1984). The final list of lodges, drawn from secondary sources, included what facilities were available and what services (i.e., guiding) were offered in conjunction with the lodges, the names of the owners or operators, the highway mile where the lodge was located, and the telephone number or address of the lodge. In all, there were 38 lodges (including four identified during the fieldwork) included in the survey area (see Appendix A).

2.3 DETERMINATION OF SAMPLE SIZE AND SURVEY TYPE

All lodge operators associated with the 38 lodges identified in Step 2 were contacted. However, screening questions were used to determine whether a full interview was warranted since the focus of the study was on 1) lodges that derive economic benefits from customers or services that make use of the resource use area, and 2) lodge operators who are aware of and can describe the resource use area activities pursued by their customers. If the lodge operator had some knowledge of where overnight customers

recreated and whether that recreation took place in the resource use area (as outlined in Figure 2-1), then a full interview was conducted. Otherwise, a notation was made that no significant economic benefits from customers using the resource use area could be identified and the interview was stopped.

This screening process was selected for two reasons. First, general information suggested that wilderness-oriented lodges along the Denali Highway and in remote locations (accessible only by air) in the project area were the most likely to have customers who pursued recreational activities in the resource use area. Therefore, it was assumed that the lodge operators associated with those lodges could provide the most detailed information necessary to meet the objectives of the study and that it was desirable to seek their input. Second, it was expected that many lodge operations (particularly those located along major tourist routes where most customers would likely be tourists simply passing through the area) did not derive economic benefits from customer use of the resource use area and therefore, those lodge operators would be unable to meaningfully contribute to the survey.

A face-to-face interview approach was chosen because of the detailed nature of the information required to meet the objectives of the study. This technique was feasible because the estimated number of lodges with customers using the resource use area was small.

2.4 DEVELOPMENT OF THE QUESTIONNAIRE

A questionnaire (see Appendix B) was prepared to serve as a guide in the face-to-face interviews. The following topics were discussed by representatives of the Susitna Project's terrestrial, aquatic, recreation, and socioeconomic subtasks before specific questions were formulated:

1. Demographic characteristics of lodge operators
2. Description of lodge facilities and activities

3. Numbers and characteristics of customers/guests
4. Overnight guests' activities in the resource use area
5. Expectations of lodge owners about future plans for their lodges (e.g., sell, expand)

Internal review of the questions insured that the collected data would be appropriate for future analyses. In the questionnaire, questions were grouped into three categories: 1) history of lodge ownership and information about the owner/operator, 2) facilities and operations of the lodge, and 3) customers and their use of the resource use area.

To aid lodge operators in identifying resource use by customers, an acetate overlay was developed for a USGS topographic map of the Susitna River Basin. The overlay outlined the resource use area and divided it into 15 subunits along topographic features (see Figure 2-2). The number and location of the areal units were based on knowledge of big game movements, present use patterns, and the location of proposed project facilities. The units were numbered so that answers to recreational activity/resource use questions could be linked to a numbered area rather than to an exact place. This allowed lodge operators (who might also be guides) to protect the exact location of their hunting or fishing activity while still providing useful information for the study.

2.5 INTERVIEWS WITH LODGE OPERATORS

Interviews were conducted by a single interviewer over a 10-day period from August 23 to September 1, 1984. During that time, an attempt was made to contact the owner/operator of each of the 38 lodges in the survey area. The following is a summary of contacts with owners/operators of the lodges.

- o Eleven full interviews were completed where the lodge operator had knowledge of customers' activities in the resource use area.

SUSITNA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT SUBUNITS OF RESOURCE USE AREA

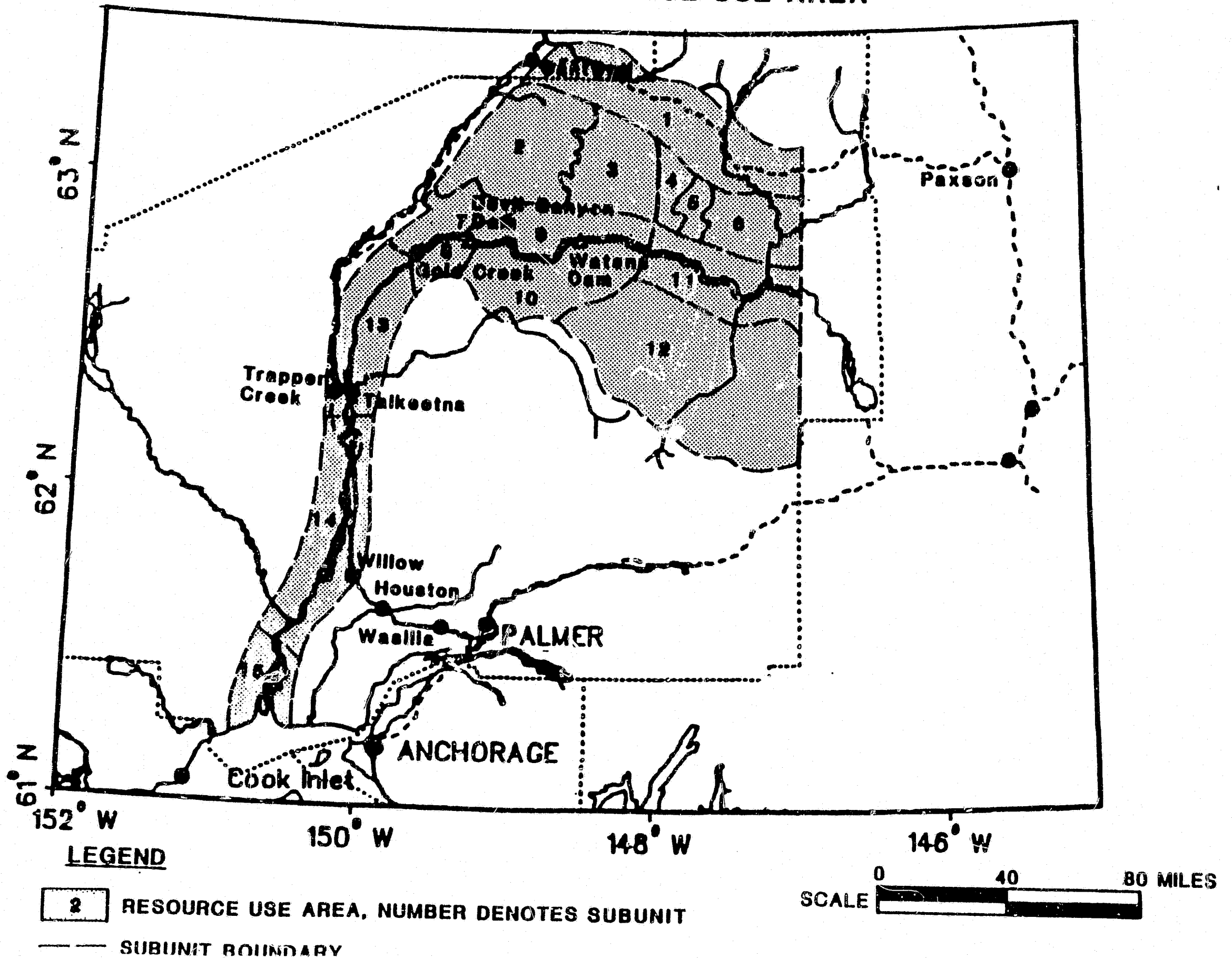


FIGURE 2-2.

- o Eleven lodge operators had no knowledge of customers going into the resource use area while staying at the lodge and felt that if any customers did, the number was extremely small.
- o One lodge was no longer operating and six lodges were not renting cabins/rooms at the time of the survey.
- o Four remote lodges were strictly associated with guiding businesses and therefore were included in the study of guides and guide businesses.
- o Three lodges identified through secondary sources either no longer existed or could not be found by the name or location listed in the reference materials.
- o One remote lodge had been leased out for Susitna project-related studies for the last five years, and therefore, the owner could not contribute information which would help meet the study's objectives.
- o One lodge owner along the Denali Highway refused to participate in the survey.

The 11 full interviews took from one to four hours to complete depending on the extent of the knowledge lodge operators had about customers' activities.

2.6 ANALYSIS OF RESULTS AND REPORT PREPARATION

The results of the 11 full interviews were compiled and compared. The analysis focused on the identification of qualitative similarities and differences among responses. The description of results found in this report presents ranges of responses where there were extensive variations among responses and tallies where similar responses could be grouped

together. Unusual or isolated responses highlight the differences in the character of the lodges included in the study. The results provide baseline information about lodges that could potentially be affected by the Susitna Hydroelectric Project. Conclusions about the extent to which these lodges could be affected are not included here. Such information will be contained in a forthcoming report on special populations.

3.0 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

This section presents baseline information for the 11 full interviews where the operator had information about customer use of the resource use area. Those lodges were located throughout the survey area. Four were along the Denali Highway, three were in and around Cantwell; two were in Talkeetna; and two were located at Lake Louise.

3.1 HISTORY OF LODGE OWNERSHIP AND OWNER/OPERATOR CHARACTERISTICS

The oldest of the 11 lodges in the survey was built in 1917 as a residence and remodeled in 1930 as a roadhouse. Four were built in the late 1940's and 1950's; five others were constructed after 1960. The construction date of one lodge was unknown.

Three lodges were owned by the original builders; the oldest of these was constructed in 1957. The remaining lodges had changed hands an average of four times; one, as many as eight times. Despite the frequency of turnover, the average and median number of years present owners owned their lodges were 12 and 8 years, respectively. Present owners operated 9 of the 11 lodges while 1 was run by a son leasing his father's interest and another, by a hired manager.

Only two lodge owners/operators declared places of residence different from the locations of their lodges. One of these, an operator, came from Petersburg, Alaska; the second, an owner, considered himself in transit without an official residence because he worked seasonally on the North Slope and elsewhere.

To assess a family's involvement with the lodge, owners/operators were asked what other household members were involved with lodge activities. Five had no other family members involved while five had spouses as co-owners and/or co-managers. At the oldest family-owned and operated lodge, the husband and

wife were assisted by three children who did kitchen, domestic, and outside chores.

3.2 FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

These questions focused on lodge capacity and operating period, facilities and services associated with the lodge, number of employees, and how dependent the owner/operator was on lodge business as a source of income.

The characters and offerings of the lodges were extremely varied. At one extreme, a lodge consisted of one cabin and rental rooms with a capacity for seven persons in addition to RV hook-ups, a laundromat, and hardware supplies. At the other extreme, one lodge had seven cabins and a bunkhouse with a total capacity of 58 persons and included a lounge, bar, restaurant, liquor store and polling place while also selling boat and aviation gasoline. The average capacity for all 11 lodges was 30 persons and typical facilities and services were lounges, bars, and restaurants. Additional facilities and services included airstrips (at four lodges), boat docks (at three lodges), gas stations (at three lodges), and a bakery. The three lodges with docks and two others that did not provide dock, had an average of three boats each, available to customers. The boats were mainly riverboats and airboats of aluminum and fiberglass construction. At least two boats did not have motors and were used for lake fishing.

To assess the full range of the services that the lodges provided, owners were asked if guide, air taxi or boating services were affiliated with their lodges. One lodge offered all three services plus horseback riding stables; another offered air taxiing and fishing. Finally, each of three lodges had one of the following; guiding, boating or rafting services.

The permanence of the lodge businesses and ownership was addressed by questions on plans for expansion and plans to sell. Five lodge owners had plans for facility expansion. The types of expansion planned ranged from

lodge (cafe, lounge, bar) enlargement and cabin additions, to the installation of a new marina, sauna, and hot tub. According to persons interviewed, the timing of this expansion depended on many factors. One lodge was continually expanding; another planned to expand in 1985. Two owners expected to build as demand increased and one owner stated that expansion was dependent on the outcome of Susitna Project plans. Four lodge owners had plans to sell and get out of the lodge business. These owners cited retirement and problems with attracting new business as reasons for selling their lodges.

Questions about the amount of time the owners/operators spend on lodge business, opening and closing dates for the lodges, numbers of employees, and the percent of an owner's total income derived from the business addressed the issue of economic dependence on and benefits from lodge operations. The eight lodges located on the Parks and Richardson/Denali Highways, in Talkeetna, and at Lake Louise were open year-round. The three lodges that closed during the winter were located along the Denali Highway which is not maintained during winter. Here, two owners arrived as much as two weeks before opening (the end of May and beginning of June) to make preparations. Another owner had no set opening dates, but generally opened the lodge the day he arrived. In 1984, the lodge opened in April. All three Denali Highway lodge owners stayed for approximately two weeks in late September-early October to shut down operations.

The number of persons employed by the lodges varied greatly. For example, one Denali Highway lodge had no employees while another had 10 full-time summer and 1 full-time year-round employees. Together, the 11 lodges employed 24 persons full-time year-round, 28 persons full-time seasonal, and 4 persons part-time seasonal. Most had some combination of full- and part-time workers. Owners/operators and their family members were not included in the employee count.

Owners/operators were asked what percentage of their time was spent on lodge business in one year. Six owners of the lodges which were open all year

answered 100 percent year-round; two others answered 10 and 80 percent. The responses from the owners of the three seasonal lodges were 100 percent for five months, 100 percent for four months (of combined lodge and hunting operations), and 70 percent averaged for the year.

With regard to the percent of the owner's total income that came solely from lodge operations (not including guiding, air taxiing or boating services), five owners responded 100 percent. Others estimated 8, 10, 60, and 90 percents; one did not know; and one refused to answer. Jobs such as postmaster/utilities manager, heavy equipment operator, guide, and general contractor provided additional sources of income as did retirement pensions.

3.3 CUSTOMERS AND THEIR USE OF THE RESOURCE USE AREA

Questions regarding customers and their use of the resource use area pertained only to customers who were overnight guests at the lodges. Overnight guests who used the resource use area provided the link between the resource use area and the business success of the area lodges (as opposed to customers who only stopped for food and/or gas.) Furthermore, it was assumed that lodge owners would be more likely to know if the overnight guests (especially those who returned year after year) recreated in the resource use area, what activities they pursued, and where, since owners/operators often socialized with the overnight guests in community dining rooms and lounges.

Lodge owners/operators were asked to estimate the number of overnight customers they had in 1984 and their average length of stay. Three owners did not know and could not provide estimates. A fourth owner said the lodge was 100 percent full during that summer with workers constructing the Intertie transmission line. A fifth owner/operator indicated the lodge was open to drop-in guests, but at the same time, the lodge was near to or at capacity with Intertie workers. Year-round estimates were set at 100, 350, 630, 1,200, and 3,725 guests by the remaining five owners. The 11th owner

had not owned the lodge for a full year, so estimated 1,600 guests for the 10 months they had been in operation.

Those owners that provided number estimates differed as to whether the number was typical for all years. One owner of a Denali Highway lodge said the number was "way down." Three felt the numbers were typical, although one owner qualified his response by saying it was only typical since 1971 when the Parks Highway was built and his business dropped by 40 percent as tourists and others began using that highway instead of the Denali Highway. Two other owners said the numbers were increasing. For all lodges, the average length of a guest's stay was one to two nights.

When asked to categorize overnight guests according to the activities they pursued, lodge owners provided a wide range of percentages for numerous categories. The percentages assigned to discrete categories are presented in Table 3-1.

Table 3-1 shows that 50 to 90 percent of the overnight guests (who were not guided) at 8 of the 11 lodges were touring, sightseeing, photographing and/or bird watching. Government workers comprised the greatest percentage of guests (50%) at another lodge in Talkeetna. The majority (60%) of the guests at a lodge on the Denali Highway were fishing. A lodge on the Parks Highway had guests fairly evenly distributed among construction workers (20%), rafters/canoeists (25%), tourists (30%), and hunters/fishermen (25%).

To get an idea of the permanent residences of the different categories of guests (as defined by their activities), owners were asked to identify the residences of their guests. For example, if an owner responded that 20 percent of the lodge's guests were hunters, the owner was asked to estimate what percentages of these hunters were from Alaska, the Lower 48 or from foreign countries. Estimating residence was difficult for all owners. Two owners could not estimate residences for any categories of guests. Of the nine owners who estimated the residences of hunters who stayed at the lodges,

Table 3-1

OVERNIGHT GUESTS AT LODGES BY ACTIVITIES
(Percent)

ACTIVITY	LODGES										
	Lake Louise		Talkeetna		Parks Highway			Denali Highway			
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Hunting	20	1	8	5	5	5	25 ^{d/}	-	-	30	2
Fishing	30	5	20	15	35	5		10	-	60	25
Touring	40	-	50 ^{b/}	20	50 ^{b/}	40	30	-	33	10 ^{b/}	50
Sightseeing	10					50	-	60			-
Rafting/Canoeing	-	-	1	10 ^{c/}	5	-	25	-	-	-	-
		70 ^{a/}									
Picture Taking	-		1		3	-	-	10	33 ^{e/}	-	
Bird Watching	-		-		2	-	-	20		-	23 ^{f/}
Cross-country Skiing	-	24	20	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Snowmobiling	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Dog Mushing	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
Working											
Miners	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	33	-	
Construction Workers	-	-	-	-	-	-	20	-	-	-	
Government Workers	-	-	-	50	-	-	-	-	-	-	
TOTALS	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	99	100	100

Source: Harza-Ebasco 1985. Lodge Operator Survey Data.

NOTE: Percentage does not total 100 due to rounding.

- a/ Percentage represents a combination of sightseeing, picture taking, and bird watching.
- b/ Percentage represents a combination of touring and sightseeing.
- c/ Percentage represents a combination of touring, rafting/canoeing, picture taking, and bird watching.
- d/ Percentage represents a combination of hunting and fishing.
- e/ Percentage represents a combination of sightseeing, picture taking, and bird watching.
- d/ Percentage represents a combination of picture taking, bird watching, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and dog mushing.

only three had non-Alaskan unguided hunters as guests and nearly all of these were from the Lower 48. Germans were noted as the few hunters who came from abroad. (See the Guide Survey Report, Harza-Ebasco 1985 for details on hunters who were guided).

With regard to fishermen, three owners did not know the residences of fishermen or had only Alaskans as guests. Six owners said non-Alaskan fishermen stayed at their lodges. Again, most of these were from the Lower 48; only one lodge had international fishermen.

Where the remaining categories of guests were concerned, one lodge in the survey had rafters/canoeists from the Lower 48 and another had cross-country skiers from the Lower 48. The majority of rafters/canoeists and cross-country skiers were from Alaska. Non-Alaskan photographers, bird watchers, sightseers and tourists also stayed at eight different lodges. Four owners specified that they had a few international guests pursuing these activities. For example, Germans and English came to bird watch. French, German and Japanese people came to climb and a variety of international peoples including Australians and Germans came as tourists.

When asked what percent of the lodges' overnight guests used the Susitna River, owners responded as follows: two did not know; three said none; one estimated 3 percent; one estimated 5 percent; two estimated 10 percent; one estimated 27 percent; and one estimated 60 percent. The two lodges with the greatest percentages were located in Talkeetna and at Lake Louise. Owners responded that the activities most frequently pursued at the Susitna River were hunting and fishing, although, other activities like hiking along the riverbank and sightseeing were mentioned.

Most of those who used the Susitna River obtained access by boat, but a few used planes, snowmobiles, ATVs or came in by foot. These sportsmen were reported to get to the river along four access routes. These were, by the Mat-Su Borough boat landing in Talkeetna, by the Denali Highway Bridge across the Susitna River at Milepost 79, by walking down the railroad tracks

through Chulitna Pass, and by boating up the Tyone River. Hunters were reported most often to hunt for moose, but black bear, brown bear, and caribou were also mentioned. Fishermen were reported to fish in the tributaries of the Susitna for grayling, salmon, rainbow trout, and whitefish.

Lodge owners were asked two other specific questions about the Susitna River. The first was whether they knew of navigational problems that guests encountered and, the second was whether they knew of winter river use. One owner cited occasional sandbars as a problem on the Susitna. Two other owners cited the density of weeds in Tyone Lake and unspecified obstructions in the channel between Lake Louise and Lake Susitna enroute to the Susitna River as problems. Seven lodge owners mentioned winter river uses. These uses, which all received equal attention, were snowmobiling, trapping, cross-country skiing, dog mushing, and ice fishing.

In addition, to get a broader picture of the use of the entire resource use area, lodge owners were asked to point out the numbered subunits on the map where guests were known to recreate. Subunit 1, which is a corridor along the Denali Highway, was mentioned more than twice as often as the other individual subunits 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, and 13. Then, they were asked what they knew about hunting, fishing, and other recreation activities in the resource use area by anyone from their regions. The following summarizes the responses:

1. There is considerable hunting along the MacLaren River drainage.
2. There is considerable activity at Deadman, Snodgrass, Butte, and Big Lakes; some fly-in activity from Anchorage at Deadman Lake; ATV use (in summer) in subunits 1, 3, 4, and a little in subunit 5.
3. Photography is growing as an activity in the project area and more locals are using the area.

4. Ptarmigan hunting occurs in subunits 7 and 13.
5. Amateur movie-making has been introduced to the area.
6. Chumilna Creek (up the Talkeetna River in subunit 13) is a very popular fishing spot.

3.4 SUMMARY

It is difficult to generalize information about the 11 lodges in the survey area because they are located in different regions, they offered varied facilities and services, and they attracted or catered to people with a wide variety of interests or needs.

About half of the lodges were built in the 1950's or before; the other half were not built until after 1960. Three lodges were owned by the original builders; the remaining ones changed hands as many as eight times. All but one were operated by the present owners or their family members and all owners but two declared their lodges as their place of residence.

With regard to facilities and services, one lodge with a capacity of seven persons provided RV hookups, a laundramat, and a hardware store. Another lodge with cabins for 58 persons had a liquor store, restaurant, polling place, and boats for rent. In addition, five lodges offered or were associated with air taxis, or hunting, fishing and/or boating guide services.

Eight lodges were open year-round. The three that closed during the winter are located along the Denali Highway. At the Denali Highway lodges, only two owners arrived early to prepare for the summer while three stayed for about two weeks after the season to secure the lodges for the winter.

Given the wide range in facilities and services offered by the 11 lodges, it was not surprising that there was also a great range in the number of

employees each lodge hired. One lodge had no employees, another had 10 full-time summer people and 1 full-time year-round employee. All eleven lodges together employ 24 full-time year-round, 28 full-time seasonal, and four part-time seasonal employees. At the same time, six owners themselves spent 100 percent of their time year-round on their businesses, two others spent 10 to 80 percent of their time year-round on the businesses. The owners of the three seasonal lodges spent 33 to 70 percent of their time for a year on their lodge businesses. The percent of the owners' incomes that came from their businesses also varied. Five owners indicated 100 percent of their incomes came from the lodges; other owners indicated a range from 8 to 90 percent.

Two lodges were full or nearly full in 1984 with workers constructing the Intertie transmission line. The number of guests that three other lodges had in 1984 could not be estimated by the owners. Of the owners who could estimate numbers of guests, estimates ranged from 100 persons to 3,725 persons for 1984, and the average length of stay was one to two nights.

The majority of the people who stayed at the lodges were tourists, sightseers, photographers, bird watchers, fishermen, or government workers and they came from other parts of Alaska, the Lower 48 and from abroad. The activities that drew people to area lodges from abroad were hunting, fishing, bird watching, mountain climbing, and touring. These and other activities like cross-country skiing and rafting/canoeing also drew people from the Lower 48.

The region of the resource use area most often used by guests at the lodges was the corridor along both sides of the Denali Highway. The areas that attracted other, but lower, use were subunits 2, 3, 7, 8, 10, and 13.

As for use of the Susitna River, lodge owners estimated that between 3 and 60 percent of their guests used the river corridor for hunting (mainly moose), fishing the tributaries (for grayling, salmon, trout, and whitefish), and for hiking and sightseeing. The lodges with the greatest

percent of guests who used the area were in Talkeetna and Lake Louise. These guests accessed the Susitna River by the boat landing in Talkeetna, the Denali Highway across the river, by hiking the railroad tracks over Chulitna Pass, or by boating up the Tyone River.

Unguided lodge guests from some lodges use the resource use area more than the guests from other lodges and, on the whole, this use was most concentrated along the Denali Highway. Also, owners estimated that the majority of the visitors to the area were pursuing nonconsumptive activities like sightseeing and photography.

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APPENDIX A

Lodges^{1/} Identified In The Survey Area

Stephan Lake Lodge
Tsusena Lake Lodge
Watana Lodge
Alaska Wilderness Enterprises Lodge
High Lake Lodge
Lake Louise Lodge
Tyone Lake Lodge
Evergreen Lodge
Wolverine Lodge
Summit Lake Lodge
Paxson Lodge
Tangle River Inn
Tangle Lakes Lodge
Maclaren River Lodge
Susitna Lodge
Gracious House
Adventures Unlimited
Moore's Camp
Healy Roadhouse
McKinley Chalet
McKinley Village
Grizzly Bear Camper Park
Denali Cabins
McKinley Wilderness Lodge
Trapper Creek Trading Post
Big Su Lodge
Forks Roadhouse
H and H Cafe

Cache Creek Lodge
Backwoods Enterprises
Reindeer Mt. Lodge
Chulitna River Lodge
Carlo Creek Lodge
Fairview Inn
Latitude 62°
Talkeetna Motel
Swiss Alaska Inn
Talkeetna Roadhouse

1/ All lodges included in the survey area provided indoor accommodations.

APPENDIX B

LODGE OPERATOR SURVEY
QUESTIONNAIRE

I. DESCRIPTION AND HISTORY OF OWNERSHIP

1. When was the lodge built? _____

By whom? _____

How many different owners have there been? _____

2. What is the operator's relationship to the lodge?

_____ Employee

_____ Ownership interest

_____ Other (specify) _____

If not owner, who is? _____

How long has the owner owned the lodge? _____

How long has the operator been affiliated with the lodge? _____

How many years of previous experience has the operator had with lodges?

_____ In what capacities?

a. What is the operator's place of residence? _____

_____ Its relationship to the lodge? _____

b. What other household members are involved with lodge activities?

_____ In what capacity? _____

_____ " " _____

_____ " " _____

_____ " " _____

II. FACILITIES AND OPERATIONS

1. When did the lodge open this year? _____

When will it close? _____

Are these times the same for other years? ____ Yes ____ No If no, why? _____

2. What facilities are there?

_____ Lounge _____ Bar _____ Cafe _____ Restaurant

_____ R.V. Hook-ups _____ Other

Number of cabins and their capacities _____ capacities _____

_____ capacities _____

_____ capacities _____

Number of rooms and their capacities _____ capacities _____

_____ capacities _____

_____ capacities _____

Is there a dock? _____

Boat(s) _____ How many? _____ Types _____

Is the lodge associated with any of the following:

_____ Air taxi service; type of association _____

_____ Guide service; type of association _____

_____ Boat service; type of association _____

Are there plans for lodge/facilities expansion? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, when? _____

What kind of expansion? _____

How many new rooms? _____ Other? _____

Are there plans to sell? Yes _____ No _____

If yes, does the owner plan to open elsewhere? _____

Where? _____

3. What percentage of the owner's/operator's time is spent on lodge business in a year? _____

Does the operator arrive before opening date? _____

How long before? _____

Does the operator stay after closing? _____

How long after? _____

What percent of total work is this business? _____

What percent of the operator's total income comes from this business? _____

Is it the operator's total source of income? _____

What other jobs does the operator have? _____

4. How many employees are there? (by season)

No. _____ Season _____ Full-time _____ Part-time _____

Are they full-time seasonal or part-time? *Full-time = over 34 hrs per week
Part-time = 34 hrs or less per wk.

III. CLIENTS (Emphasize only those staying overnight/using facilities and not being guided)

1. How could the clients be categorized according to the activity they pursue?
(Circle below)

What percentage of clients fall into the categories in one year?

	% of total in this category	Resident of AK	Non-res. From where	What Months
Hunters	_____	_____	_____	_____
Fishermen	_____	_____	_____	_____
Floaters	_____	_____	_____	_____
Photographers	_____	_____	_____	_____
Bird Watchers	_____	_____	_____	_____
Sightseers	_____	_____	_____	_____

Lodge Operator Survey
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<u>% of total in</u>	<u>Res. of</u>	<u>Non-Res.</u>	<u>What</u>
<u>this category</u>	<u>Alaska</u>	<u>Where from</u>	<u>Months</u>

Tourists _____

Other _____

3. By category, where do they come from? (Alaska, Lower 48, International)

4. By category, during what months do they pursue each activity?

5. How many clients did the lodge have last year? _____

6. Is this a typical number? _____

7. What is the average length of stay? _____

8. What areas on this map do the guests use? _____

9. What percent of clients use the Susitna River? _____

10. How do they get to the river? Plane _____ Horses _____

Boat _____ Foot _____

ATV _____ Other _____

Of those who use the Susitna River, what activities do they pursue?

<u>What Species</u>	<u>Access Points</u>	<u>Routes</u>
---------------------	----------------------	---------------

Hunting

Fishing

Floating/boating

Other

What access points do the different groups use? Show on map.

What routes do they take?

Are these usual routes?

If boats are used, what types are they? _____

Do they encounter navigational problems? _____

Where? (be specific) _____

When? _____

What kinds of river uses occur in winter by clients or others in the area?

During any particular months? _____

-----times? _____

-----locations? _____

Is there airplane use? _____

11. What other hunting, fishing and recreational activities is the operator aware of in the resource use area? Area No. _____

Activity _____

Does the operator keep an activity log? _____ With records of fish and animal harvests? _____ Results? _____

12. How many other lodges (including those not operating) are located in the study area (especially remote lodges using the resource use area)?
Designate on map.