



Sierra Club

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"...TO EXPLORE, ENJOY AND PRESERVE THE NATION'S
FORESTS, WATERS, WILDLIFE AND WILDERNESS..."

COVER: Arctic Divide south of Chandler Lake. Photograph by Wilbur Mills.
For story, see page 4.

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THE SIERRA CLUB,* founded in 1892, has devoted itself to the study and protection of national scenic resources, particularly those of mountain regions. Participation is invited in the program to enjoy and preserve wilderness, wildlife, forests, and streams.

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ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS

The House and Senate have approved the conference committee's report on the Alaska Native Claims bill, including provisions that would allow 80 million acres of land to be set aside for park and wildlife protection. The bill also gives Alaska's 55,000 Eskimos, Aleuts and Indians nearly a billion dollars and 40 million acres for settlement of aboriginal claims.

In recognition of the national interest in Alaska's unique scenic and wilderness resources, the conferees authorized the Secretary of Interior to withdraw up to 80 million acres from disposal for possible inclusion in the National Park, Forest, Wildlife Refuge and Wild and Scenic Rivers systems. For ninety days after enactment, the 80 million acres are statutorily withdrawn from selection by the State of Alaska under the Statehood Act and from selection by natives outside of village entitlements, as well as from most types of private entry. The Secretary is expected to make withdrawals under this new authority by the end of the ninety days, though he can continue the process for nine months. Once withdrawn, he has two years to make precise recommendations to Congress. The areas will remain withdrawn for an additional five years while Congress acts on the recommendations.

Conservationists are urging Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton to act quickly in designating study areas.

TRANS-ALASKA PIPELINE

Alaska governor William Egan has reported that the state is pursuing plans to buy the proposed trans-Alaska oil pipeline from private interests. Until now, the pipeline has been the private business enterprise of Alyeska, a consortium of eight major oil companies, who seem to have been taken by surprise by the proposal. A spokesman for Humble Oil & Refining Company, one of the largest owners of the project, expressed shock and asserted that "the governor's proposal will undoubtedly delay completion of the line, as it is unreasonable to expect private industry to continue its heavy commitments to the project with the eventual ownership in doubt."

Additional News Notes will be found on page 17.