



MEDIA RELEASE

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FROM: COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

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SUBJECT: Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas Opens Fairbanks Office

Citizen's Advisory Commission on Federal Areas Selects Executive Director

DNR Commissioner Tom Irwin today announced the appointment of Stan Leaphart as the Executive Director of the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA). The Commission's Executive Committee, headed by Chairman Rick Schikora selected Leaphart to administer the activities of the 12 member Commission.

The Commission was reestablished last year after Rep. Mike Kelly of Fairbanks introduced and won passage of House Bill 87, which Governor Palin signed into law on September 28, 2007. The Commission was originally created in 1981 following passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) and operated successfully until 1999 when its state funding was eliminated. The Commission is charged with researching issues and determining the impact of federal statutes, regulations and management decisions on the citizens of Alaska in order to minimize or resolve potential conflicts.

"I'm excited about this new opportunity to help the Commission meet its mandates and help Alaskans continue their uses of federal lands throughout the state," Leaphart said. "While we all recognize the importance of these federal lands to the nation, we also recognize that they are vital to the lives and livelihoods of the citizens of our state."

The appointment returns Leaphart to the same position he held with the Commission from 1984 to 1999. He began working for the original Citizens Advisory Commission in 1982 following 7 years of military service and graduation from the University of Alaska Fairbanks. Leaphart has also worked as a right of way agent for the Alaska DOT&PF.

Under the terms of the reauthorizing law, the Governor appoints six Alaskans to the Commission, while the Speaker of the House and the Senate President may each appoint one legislator from their bodies, and two other Alaskans. Citizen appointees must represent the diversity of users and uses of federal land in Alaska.

More information on CACFA will be available at: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/commis/cacfa/>

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