

What is CACFA?

The Federal Overreach Summit held August 12 and 13th in Anchorage was sponsored by CACFA.

Have you heard of CACFA? Their full name is the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas.

The Alaska State Legislature created CACFA in July 1981. Appointments to the Commission were made by Governor Hammond and the Legislature in February 1982 and the Commission held its first meeting the following month.

The Commission's 1983 Annual Report states the Commission "...was established to fill the void existing between the citizens of the State and the federal land management agencies responsible for managing 60% of Alaska's land. There was a critical need for a state-sanctioned advisory watchdog to protect Alaskans' land rights that have been granted through federal statute and congressional intent. The need was created, for the most part, through passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). The act placed 124 million acres into federal conservation units and outlined specific use requirements for those areas. The requirements are at the same time restrictive and lenient to Alaska users."

The commission was originally intended to be a temporary advisory agency to the executive branch of the State. The original Commission operated from 1982 until funding was eliminated in 1999.

The Commission was reestablished in 2007 by the Alaska State Legislature and resumed full operations in July 2008. Today, the Commission is responsible for identifying and reducing potential negative impacts on Alaska and its citizens from federal action on any of the 239 million acres of federal land in the state, and shall consider, research and hold hearings on the consistency with federal law and congressional intent on management, operation, planning, development, and additions to federal management areas in the state.

The Commission is currently composed of 12 members, six appointed by the Governor and six appointed by the Legislature. Meetings are held three times per year with meetings held in Juneau, Fairbanks and Anchorage.

The Commission publishes a monthly newsletter, The Alaska Lands Update, which is available at the Commissions website or you can sign up to receive the newsletter by email.

Examples of some of the issues that the Commission has recently dealt with include:

- Senate Bill 340 - Sealaska Lands Bill
- National Park Service – Alaska Region management issues
- BLM's upcoming planning projects
- Legacy Wells Strategic Plan in NPR-A
- Tongass National Forest issues
- Chugach National Forest Plan Revision
- Wood Bison and the Proposed ESA Section 10j regulations
- BLM Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan
- RS2477
- BLM Alaska Hunting Guide Capacity Study
- And many more issues.

More information about CACFA is available on their website at dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/ (end)