

State of Alaska
CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMISSION ON FEDERAL AREAS
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TO: Commission Members

FROM: Stan Leaphart, Executive Director

DATE: February 23, 2013

RE: Commission Goals and Objectives

There has been some discussion in recent meetings about the effectiveness of the Commission. As an advisory Commission, the responsibility and function of CACFA is "...identifying and reducing potential negative impacts on Alaska and its citizens from federal actions 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." These are broad mandates.

The Lt. Governor said it best at our last meeting in Anchorage when he said, "We are under assault by well meaning people who think that ANILCA was a starting place instead of a finishing place when it came to the No-More Clause...with every federal plan we keep losing ground. Every single planning effort that is going on is taking away more rather than empowering Alaskan's to do what was given at Statehood." This has never been more true with the increasing demand to police 1,000 page comprehensive plan coming at us in abundance and the burgeoning number of documents out for review. It seems time to get collaborate as a group about how best to use our limited resources.

Do we continue what we are doing, focusing our resources on reviewing and responding plans on issues related to process, access, subsistence, recreation, wilderness (more here Stan) and publish our monthly newsletter or would the group like to take on other topics?

Our Charter, and Bylaws are attached for reference.