

ANIACHAK

Question: You say in your statement on S. 49, "frankly, we see no reason to try to delineate a park in this very remote, wild, and generally unvisited area."

Then why did Congress establish the Monument?

Answer: "To solicit and provide for public use and enjoyment of one of the world's great dry volcanic calderas, its environs, and the Aniakchak River." Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee Report on H.R.39, 1979.

In the interior of the caldera are textbook examples of certain volcanic features such as lava flows, cinder cones, and explosion pits. Also lying within the caldera is Surprise Lake which is fed by warm springs and is uniquely charged with chemicals. Surprise Lake is the source of the Aniakchak River, which cascades through a 1,500 foot gash in the caldera wall and downward for 27 miles to the Pacific Ocean.

The flanks of the caldera provide a geological and biological continuum by which to make a comparative study of the formation of the caldera and the significant process of biological succession of both plant and animal species occurring in the vicinity of the caldera, an area that was rendered virtually devoid of life forms by a major eruption of the volcano in 1931.

Question: Where did sport hunting take place prior to ANILCA?

Answer: Rarely, if ever on what are now Monument lands. Sport hunters didn't look for scarce game on the steep sides of the volcano. They used and continue to use what is now preserve. They also sport hunt on the surrounding Alaska Peninsula National Wildlife Refuge and on State lands.

Prior to ANILCA, two hunting guides <sup>now</sup> operating in the Meshik River valley on what is now Aniakchak Preserve and National Wildlife Refuge lands used the very lower slopes on the Monument's south side.

Question: In your hearing statement you say "of course the entire area is is now hunted by local residents."

Are you aware that we in the Senate established the small 138,000 Monument covering just the steep slopes of the Calera in order to avoid including any subsistence hunting areas in the Monument? (ANILCA allows subsistence hunting in the Monument where it traditionally took place in case the monument/preserve boundary did not exclude all of the subsistence use ares from the Monument).

Answer: ?

Question: If there is no subsistence hunting in the Monument, how can you use the phantom subsistence hunters as a justification for allowing sport hunting -- your "equity" argument?

Answer:

Question: Since non-hunters use the Monument, and sport and subsistence hunters favor the preserve and other non-monument areas, why is the department recommending that we build in future conflicts between hunters and non-hunters, where none now exist?

Answer: The Administration is inept as well and anti-national park.