Katmai Additions

Question: Mr. Horn, why did Congress expand Katmai?

Answer:

Resources within the proposed additions include the headwaters of the Alagnak River and Nonvianuk Lake. Land between McNeil River State Bear Refuge and the present park boundary, also a part of the unit, will give the park a protected ecosystem sufficiently large to include a largely unhunted population of the giant Alaskan brown bear. The northern part of the park and the preserve will also offer many backcountry recreation opportunities amidst highly scenic and varied types of terrain from rolling tundra, wooded valleys, and alpine lakes to rugged snow and glacier-clad peaks. Pristine watersheds necessary for support of the red salmon fishery and water quality protection within the existing monument are included within the addition.

Question: What would be the effect of S. 49 on park addition, and the Congress's goal of establishing a larger, more complete sanctuary for the brown bears?

Answer: S. 49 could cancel out the park addition entirely, and thus reduce the sanctuary back to pre-ANILCA levels.

Question: One of your reasons for opposing S. 49's Katmai recommendation is that "...there is a real resource value in maintaining an unhunted population of bear that move back and forth between the McNeil (State Sanctuary) area and the Book River area on Naknek Lake".

Question: What is the "real resource value" in maintaining an unhunted population of bears?

Answer: The existing park addition closes the pre-ANILCA 15 mile gap or "firing line," and thus protects park bears while they are travelling to and from the McNeil State Bear Sanctuary.

Question: Why does the Administration ignore this protected ecosystem approach in dealing with the other park areas it wants to change to preserve?

Answer: If Mr. Horn replies that there is no subsistence hunting in the Katmai park addition, and thus no "equity problem," it can be pointed out that there is no subsistence hunting in Katmai fjords and Glacier Bay addition, either and little in the other parks, but the Administration wants to open these parks to sport hunters nonetheless.