

## **Fred Seaton and Arctic Wildlife Range**

There is considerable, but widely scattered information in the Fred Seaton Papers on the Arctic Wildlife Range and related public land, oil leasing and mineral rights issues. Detailed research is needed to sort this out. Seaton may very well have done behind the scenes deal making with Rasmussen and others in Alaska since he pushed Alaskan statehood so hard and received pressure from developers and conservationists alike. In December, 1960, Seaton administratively established a 9,000,000 acre Arctic Wildlife Range, apparently after Congress failed to enact proposed legislation on this land with provisions dealing with mining and oil leasing. The Alaskan Congressional delegation apparently opposed this proposed legislation.

It appears that the Interior Department's policy on this Arctic Wildlife Range and the remainder of the land covered by PLO 82 was set by November 1957 and probably before that. Seaton went to Alaska in January 1957. A check of his papers covering this trip found no references to Rasmussen. We found only three items of correspondence between Elmer Rasmussen, President, National Bank of Alaska, Anchorage and Secretary Seaton. This correspondence, listed below, does not mention the Arctic Wildlife Refuge. Files identified as containing information pertinent to this general topic are listed below: (All from Papers of Fred Seaton)

### APPOINTMENT BOOKS SERIES,

Box 4, Folder: Appointment Notes Oct. 15-Dec 30, 1957

Memorandum from George Abbott, in Secretary of Interior's office to the Secretary of Interior re agenda for Natural Resources Council meeting, December 3, 1957 including wildlife areas and oil development in Alaska with reference to proposed Arctic range "temporarily withdrawn" until questions of final boundaries and resource development conditions were established. Indicated that if Congress were unable to enact legislation then Secretary Seaton might have to reconsider decision to have mining entry permitted in Arctic Wildlife Range.

### PERSONAL CORRESPONDENCE SERIES

Box 23, Folder: RA-RD (3)

Three pages of correspondence between Elmer Rasmussen, President, National Bank of Alaska, Anchorage and Secretary Seaton. The correspondence contains no mentions of the Arctic Wildlife Range.

### SPEECH SERIES

Box 11, Alaska Jan 24- Feb 3, 1957 including folder on Anchorage and miscellaneous trip related correspondence

Box 19, Alaskan Trip May 22-29, 1958

Box 21, Alaska August 20-28, 1958

Box 24-25, Alaska Trip November 1958

Boxes 40-41 Alaskan Trip March 1960

Although these files contain interesting correspondence re Alaskan politics and occasional reference to Arctic Wildlife Range and land issues, we found no references to meeting with Rasmussen

### SUBJECT SERIES,

Boxes 3-4 Alaskan Statehood

Boxes 11-12 Fish and Wildlife Service

Box 18, Ross Leffler (Assistant Secretary of Fish and Wildlife 1957-60)

Box 18, Kenai National Moose Range- Alaska

These contain references to the Arctic Wildlife Range and should be consulted by anyone researching this topic. Other files in this series were also checked but found nothing regarding meeting with Rasmussen.

### EWALD Series

Box 2 Alaska

Boxes 9-10 Fish and Wildlife Service

### DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR SERIES

Box 1- State Briefing Books – Alaska

### PAPERS OF ROBERT ANDERSON

Box 92-93- Alaska, North Slope, North Slope Maps

Box 202- Alaska- North Slope property

### WHITE HOUSE CENTRAL FILES

OF- 147-D – Alaska Box 752

OF 157- Wildlife and Game Conservation, Box 852

GF 140-F- Wildlife and Game Conservation Box 1097