

Alaska Region

Al Lovaas, Alaska Regional Chief Scientist, reports that he and two other new employees, Gary Ahlstrand, fire ecologist, and Francis Singer, wildlife biologist, have made it through their first winter in Alaska and are no longer "Cheechakos." Their first field season was spent assessing fire management research needs, particularly with regard to fire behavior, effects and history establishing plots in 1981 burns in Gates of the Arctic, Kobuk Valley, Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias, and Yukon-Charley Rivers; aerial Dall sheep and mountain goat classification and census in Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias, Lake Clark, and Kenai Fjords, and studies of caribou calving on the Dunkle Hills mining area of Denali NP. Contract researchers with COR Ross Kavanagh, completed the first year of intensified work on the effects of motorized watercraft on endangered humpback whales in Glacier Bay.

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On December 31, 1981, Will Troyer retired after seven years' work with the National Park Service in Alaska and 28 years of Federal Service there. Will is a flying wildlife biologist, who devoted most of his National Park Service time to aerial moose surveys in Katmai and Denali, brown bear dennings and movement studies in Katmai, bald eagle nesting surveys, and caribou movements and productivity studies in Denali. Troyer's experience and familiarity with much of the state, his easy going personality and ability to get along with people, his pilot abilities, and his love of field work will make him (according to NPS personnel in Alaska) "very difficult to replace."