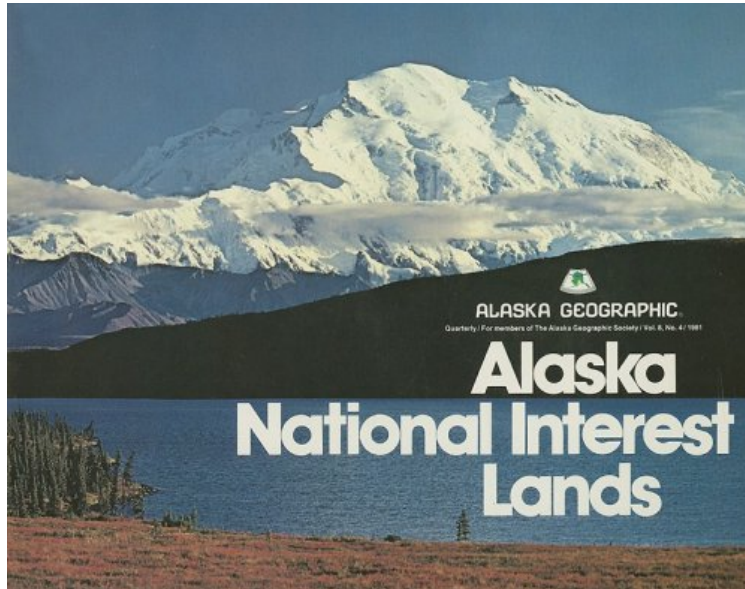


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From Brand: Graphic Arts Books : Alaska National Interest Lands: The D-2 Lands (Alaska Geographic) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Alaska National Interest Lands: The D-2 Lands (Alaska Geographic):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Still The Last Frontier By John P. Jones III as has been, and probably still is, the motto on Alaskas license plates. I was last in Alaska more than three decades ago, in 1983, which is when, and where I purchased this book. Finally, in the better late than never category, I just got around to reading it, and truly looking at all the pictures. Certainly Tim Robinsons comment came to mind, in terms of his excellent books on the Aran Islands, just off the coast of western Ireland: Too often, when writing of Aran, I am writing elegies unawares. In the Alaska book, I could not help but wonder how many of the Alaskan original natives are still engaged, three decades later, in the subsistence lifestyle that is pictured in a few of the photographs. And I also could not help but chuckle when I looked at the picture of Alaskan native Carrie Uhl preparing beluga muktuk and meat to store in seal oil, along with a picture of a prominent brand of insect repellent featured on the wooden cutting board. Overwhelming though, the pictures three decades later reflect a natural world that is largely unchanged. The books title must have been a carefully chosen compromise to encompass the hodge-podge of governmental protected areas. There are national parks, preserves and monuments, as well as wildlife refuges, national forests, wild and scenic rivers and even the Bureau of Land Management has staked a claim to some of central portion of the state. There are thirteen national park units throughout Alaska, covering a vast range of topography and terrain. Each is described in terms of its location, size, access, area description, fauna, flora, accommodations and recreational opportunities. All too often, the accommodations are minimal, and sometimes only the tent that you carry on your back. Overall, the pictures which accompany each unit are outstanding and inspirational and the ones of the bears serve as a useful reminder that one

must be prudent and cautious. Ever since I read John McPhees *Coming into the Country*, the national park that has been of most interest is the Gates of the Arctic, which includes the Brooks Range, and is about 20% of the distance from the northern coast to the southern coast of the state. Therefore it was heartwarming (and yes, inspirational) to read that people in their 50s and 60s were backpacking in the Brooks Range. There are 16 national wildlife refuges, and they are even more widely dispersed than the national parks, and include most of the Aleutian island chain, the extreme northeastern corner of the state that border the Beaufort Sea, and much of the western coast area. Attu Island, at the very end of the Aleutians, is famous among birders who notch their logs with sightings of birds seen nowhere else in North America. As the name, wildlife refuge implies, these areas are designated primarily to protect the animals therein. Humans are welcome, but must demonstrate restraint in their activities and self-sufficiency. Southeastern Alaska is another world apart, with islands and rainforests that are difficult to access. Due to the terrain, some are even virtually impossible to camp in. There are 14 such separate wilderness and national monument units. Separately, the book covers the 26 wild and scenic rivers, many of them quite suitable for rafting and kayaking. Finally, there are the two areas covered by the Bureau of Land Management, and a few pages on the ins-and-outs of wilderness travel in Alaska, as well as some small maps of the salient features in the national parks. If you are going to Alaska (or merely want to), this book is an essential purchase, particularly at the current prices listed on 1 cent! But I do think more up-to-date information should be sought, and primarily for that reason, and that reason alone, I will give this only 4-stars.

Alaska Geographic is an award-winning series that presents the people, places, and wonders of Alaska to the world. Over the past 30 years, Alaska Geographic has earned its reputation as the publication for those who love Alaska. The series boasts more than 100 books to date, featuring communities from Barrow to Ketchikan, animals from bears to dinosaurs, history from the Russian explorers to today, and natural phenomena from the aurora to glaciers. Written by leading experts in their fields, these books are illustrated throughout with world-class photography and include colorful maps for reference.

.com s each of Alaska's national interest land selections (D-2 lands), outlining their location, size and access and briefly describing special attractions. Contemporary color photographs depict as no other medium can the grandeur of Alaska's national interest lands. 242 pages. ... A valuable book on the subject, detailing the history of the "D-2" debate and explaining the results. Here is a chance to get acquainted with national parks from Aniakchak to the Yukon and wildlife refuges from the Arctic to the Aleutians. Whether you agree or not with the outcome of the national-interest-lands legislation, you will be better informed. -- Seattle Times