

June 30, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

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NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The President has signed S. 98 - Klondike Gold Rush National Historical Park, Alaska and Washington. This bill authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park comprising up to 13,300 acres in the States of Alaska and Washington.

S. 98 will authorize the Secretary of the Interior to establish the Klondike Gold Rush National Historic Park for the preservation and interpretation of historic structures, trails and events associated with the gold rush. The Park will consist of separate units in the States of Washington and Alaska: (1) Seattle -- starting point in lower 48 States for gold rush participants; (2) Skagway -- gateway and major departure point for the Klondike gold fields; (3) Chilkoot Trail -- epitomizes the hardships and high prices paid for reaching the Yukon; and, (4) White Pass -- an alternative route to the Yukon that contains a ghost town typifying the era.

The Secretary could acquire lands and waters by donation, purchase or exchange, although State or other public lands could be acquired only by donation.

Within the park, the bill will preserve existing utility and transportation rights-of-way and the Secretary could grant certain other rights-of-way, easements or permits under specified conditions provided that significant adverse impacts to the park did not result.

The Secretary, in cooperation with the Secretary of State, can cooperate with Canadian officials in the development of the area as an international park.

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