

“The Alaska Miner”  
By Deantha Crockett  
Editorial – August 2013

Did you attend the Federal Overreach Summit sponsored by the Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA)? It was held in Anchorage on August 12 and 13. I was able to watch most of it on *AlaskaLegislature.tv*

There was an interesting array of talks. AMA members Chuck Hawley, Steve Borell, Jim Clark and J. P. Tangen all were invited speakers. Part 1 of Chuck Hawley's talk is included in this issue of *the Alaska Miner*.

Many of the talks dealt with the legal promises made to Alaska at Statehood by the Federal Government for accessing and developing our lands and resources. Speakers gave specific examples of how the Federal Government has failed to honor those promises.

Senator Lisa Murkowski helped to explain the big picture by bringing the problem down to the level of an individual. This overreach can easily be understood by anyone...

This description, taken from Senator Murkowski's website, stuck with me when I heard it.

"During her speech, Sen. Murkowski talked about a small daycare in Wrangell that was hit hard by federal overreach for simply using a picnic table located just outside of town in the Tongass National Forest."

"Auntie's Day Care Service was given a citation from the Forest Service for using the picnic table without a permit. She was fined \$350 plus a \$25 processing fee and given a court date. I had breakfast with the chief of the Forest Service on Friday and I gave him a copy of the citation with his coffee. Fortunately for us, he was shocked. He was horrified. He said, 'this is horrible.' I said 'sir, this is the problem that we have got. You've got folks that have a regulation back in Washington, DC that says if you have a commercial operation, you must have a permit. For gosh sakes, can we use some common sense around here?' The chief of the Forest Service is going to take care of this, but it ought not to take an act of Congress. It ought not to take a United States Senator meeting with the Chief of the Forest Service to inject some rational thinking into this process."

"Senator Murkowski went on to say that federal overreach in Alaska can be as big picture as ANWR, but more and more, it is the little intrusions into Alaskan everyday lives."

CACFA will meet again in October to continue the discussion and to develop state and congressional policy initiatives to reverse federal actions that infringe on Alaska's right to manage and access its land, water and wildlife resources.

Many of the materials are available online for viewing. I encourage each of you to view and study the materials to become knowledgeable about the issues.

Here are the links: The streamed talks are available at *Alaskalegislature.tv* (look under the Archives tab). The remainder of the materials can be accessed by following the links at [dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/FOS.html](http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/FOS.html).

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