



On The Wings of Eagles

Fire Destroys Potential Research Station



Photos courtesy of Hart of Alaska

Old Reeves cabin before fire

Remains of old Reeves cabin after fire

On May 15, 2001 a few strokes of the pen created the site of the American Bald Eagle Foundation's first ever permanent field research station. Just a few days later fire destroyed the old Reeves cabin on the parcel of land adjoining the ABEF research site. This old cabin had been in the valley for decades without incident and actually added a bit of nostalgia of days gone by to the surrounding area. The cause of the fire remains a mystery. The American Bald Eagle Foundation was negotiating with the cabin's owner to utilize this facility as a field research station when the fire took place. The sad part of this story is that with the destruction of the old cabin the ABEF will now be forced to construct a new structure that may not be nearly as pleasing to the eye or as beautifully integrated into the natural environment as the old cabin.

Our upper Chilkoot research project began on schedule in June, 2001 in spite of the incident involving the cabin. Although it may take a year or two to construct a permanent field station, temporary facilities will be erected at the beginning of the 2002 research season. This will permit our research team to remain in the field for several days at a time rather than having to make the trek in and out on a daily basis. Many of us will miss the old Reeves cabin, over the years it had become an integral part of the natural landscape in this part of the upper Chilkoot valley.

