In writing Paper 4, please refer to the general guidelines for papers on the first page of the assignment for Paper 1. All of those guidelines apply for Paper 4.

Prompt for Paper 4:

At this point in the quarter (after seven weeks of class), we have covered most of the key events in the development of modern Alaska during the 20\textsuperscript{th} century: World War II, Project Chariot and the birth of the Alaska Conservation Society, nuclear weapons testing on Amchitka Island, the discovery of oil and the creation of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline, the settlement of Alaska Native land claims (in ANCSA), and the resolution of section d(2) of ANCSA in ANILCA. In addition, we’ve begun to explore the case of the Tongass National Forest, a long-running controversy in Alaska that continued through the entire postwar period we have studied.

Paper 4 will challenge you to take a more integrative approach than in your first three papers by considering topics we’ve covered throughout the course (to integrate means “To make into a whole by bringing all parts together; unify.”). To best answer the question I pose below, you’ll choose from among the many topics we’ve covered to construct a persuasive and convincing argument.

It is not an exaggeration to state that at every major crossroads in the development of modern Alaska, the federal government, in some form or another, has played a major role in determining the outcome. Whether it be in acts of Congress, orders from the executive branch, or decisions made by major agencies such as the US Forest Service or the Atomic Energy Commission, it has been hard for the state of Alaska to escape the influence of the federal government.

Your task in Paper 4 is to explore the role of the federal government in shaping the environment of modern Alaska. To do this, please address the following:

- Since the mid-20\textsuperscript{th} century (from WWII to today), have the aggregate actions of the federal government in Alaska largely resulted in environmental preservation or environmental degradation? Your thesis must contain a clear answer to this question.

- To support your argument, describe multiple instances in Alaska’s history when the actions taken by an entity within the federal government resulted in either environmental degradation or environmental preservation that is still visible today. This entity can be a large group (e.g., Congress as a whole) or as small as a single individual (e.g., the president or the Alaska Regional Forester).

- You may provide as many examples as you like, but you must provide at least one example of each outcome: preservation or degradation. This means that you must provide at least one example that contradicts your thesis. A convincing argument will explain why your thesis still applies even when such counterexamples are considered.
In choosing the argument you will make in this paper, I suggest that you study carefully the course readings for sources of evidence to support your argument. A requirement for this paper is that you cite (either by paraphrasing or by direct quotation) at least two different sources. That is, you cannot base your paper entirely on evidence from a single source.

I’m well aware of the fact that the question I pose for this paper does not have a simple answer. In fact, there is no “correct” or “incorrect” answer to the question. Instead, your task is to use your two pages to argue for one side or the other, while acknowledging the evidence that supports the opposite interpretation. Where does the weight of evidence lie? You will present a collection of factual statements organized in a manner that should convince your reader that your interpretation is compelling.

Remember, as you write and review your paper, continually ask yourself: What is my argument? What evidence do I provide to support my argument? and Is this clear to the reader?

As always, I’m available for assistance as you write your paper – in evaluating your thesis, your writing, your sources of evidence, or just in making suggestions about the topic of your paper. You can email me at miner@u.washington.edu or come by my office, Kincaid Hall 442. I’m generally quite happy to be interrupted without warning.