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UM FOUNDATION RECEIVES
\$10,200 FOR ALASKA STUDY

MISSOULA--

Dr. Stephen F. MacLean (pronounced MacLain), an acting assistant professor of zoology at the University of Montana, will direct a research project in Alaska this summer under a \$10,200 grant from the National Science Foundation.

The program will involve research on disruptions in the tundra or frozen ground north of the tree line in northern Alaska.

The grant, received by the UM Foundation, is effective for about a year beginning May 1, 1970.

Dr. MacLean will study insects as they relate to the soil, vegetation and animals of the tundra region. His research is entitled "Effects of Perturbations (disruptions) on Cold-Dominated Ecosystems in Alaska."

He said the perturbations are caused by man's activities.

Dr. MacLean cited the installation of an oil pipeline in the tundra and the movement of track vehicles over the terrain as examples of man's disturbance of the tundra environment.

"In both cases the tundra's matted vegetation is broken, allowing sunlight to penetrate the soil," said Dr. MacLean. "This thaws and upsets the ecosystem or the interrelationships among animals, vegetation and the soil."

Representatives from six other universities will study plant production, small rodents and the permafrost at the same location as Dr. MacLean during the tundra's biological season, which lasts from early June through August.

more

UM FOUNDATION RECEIVES \$10,200--2

"We will produce information to enable man to develop tundra resources in a 'sane' way with a minimum of disruption," said Dr. MacLean.

Working with Dr. MacLean in the Alaska study will be Donald Smith of Richmond, Va., who will attend UM next fall, and James M. Bumbarger of Henrietta, N.Y., a UM graduate student majoring in wildlife biology.

Dr. MacLean, who is a native of Los Angeles, Calif., will become an assistant professor of zoology at the University of Illinois, Urbana, next fall.

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