

THIS WEEK FROM AROUND THE ARCTIC

[Pioneering Nobel Prize winner influenced Alaska, resources](#)

Anchorage Daily News, 10/13/09

Elinor Ostrom, the first woman to win a Nobel Prize in economics, studies the management of common resources, like fish, grazing lands and forests. Her work has shed light on examples around the world - including Alaska's fisheries - in which people have worked cooperatively to sustain their resources rather than destroying them.

“Elinor Ostrom has challenged the conventional wisdom that common property is poorly managed and should be either regulated by central authorities or privatized,” the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said in announcing the prize.

Ostrom's studies of commonly owned resources were drawn upon by Institute of the North founder Gov. Walter J. Hickel as he elaborated on his concept of Alaska, the Owner State, in [Crisis in the Commons: The Alaska Solution](#) (ICS Press, 2002). According to Institute of the North Senior Fellow Mead Treadwell, Ostrom's work over the decades as a political scientist at [Indiana University](#) shows that “with proper environmental controls, economic stability and equitable shares among the users, people working together can sustain for centuries the resources they depend on.”

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The New York Times, 10/13/09
