



Philip S. Smith **1877–1949**

Philip Smith joined the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) in 1906 and conducted nine remarkable field seasons, mostly exploring the mineral potential of western Alaska. In 1915 he assumed a leadership position at the USGS and, following Alfred Brooks' passing, was appointed Chief of the Alaska Branch in 1925, a position he held for the next 21 years. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, Philip led two more epic expeditions to Arctic Alaska in 1924 and 1926. These arduous surveys were among the last to rely on dog teams and produced valuable knowledge of the newly created NPR-A¹. Smith's impressive publication record was capped in 1939 by his extraordinary synthesis *The Areal Geology of Alaska*.

¹National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska