



# THE LAND



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## PROPOSED NATIVES CLAIMS REGULATIONS DISCUSSED IN MARCH MEETING

Draft regulations proposed for implementing the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) were discussed in Anchorage March 27-29 by representatives of the 12 Native Regional Corporations, the U. S. Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

The draft ANCSA regulations propose procedures to be followed in the selection of Alaska Native lands for Native village corporations, Native regional corporations and other Native uses. The public may comment on these proposed regulations until April 16, 1973. All comments should be addressed to the Director, Bureau of Land Management, Washington, D. C.

The March 27-29 meeting in Anchorage was called to get the opinions of Native leaders on the proposed ANCSA regulations. Willie Hensley, president of the Alaska Federation of Natives, offered a resolution on the first morning of the three-day meeting. His resolution stated that the philosophy in the language of the draft regulations was contrary to the spirit of ANCSA, that representatives of the Alaska Federation of Natives should meet with Department of the Interior to participate in drafting new language and provisions, and that the proposed regulations were unacceptable in their present form. Hensley said the Natives should have maximum input into the language and provisions of the proposed regulations.

Representatives of the regional corporations endorsed the resolution and asked the Department of the Interior to respond. Curt Berklund, deputy assistant secretary of the interior, responded by saying that the meeting was called to get Native participation in determining where the problems lay in the proposed regulations. He said that if the regulations were unacceptable, this was the time to change them. Berk-

lund said that he would recommend that a delegation of Natives participate in final drafting of the regulations, although the Secretary of the Interior must determine the final content of the ANCSA regulations.

John Borbridge, jr., president of the Sealaska Regional Corporation, summarized for the 12 regional corporations. He accepted Berklund's assurance of working for Native participation and said he recognized that agreement may not be possible in all areas. Since communication cuts down misunderstanding, he said, the group should continue its dialogue for the remainder of the meeting.

For the rest of the meeting, the group talked about various provisions of the proposed regulations. They recognized that deadlines in the ANCSA law required deadlines in regulations, and that the final regulations, when issued, would be binding on both Natives and the Department of Interior. They discussed criteria BIA could use to determine if a village is eligible for benefits under ANCSA, problems with the size and location of village and regional land selections, and qualifications for Native allotments.

On the final day of the meeting, representatives of the Department of the Interior and of individual Native regional corporations met to discuss specific problems with the proposed regulations. Interior's representatives learned exactly where the problem areas were in the proposed regulations. In many cases, individual regions proposed new approaches or alternative wording which might circumvent the problems. Constructive criticism and comments of this type were needed by Interior to write final ANCSA regulations.

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This issue of THE LAND has been kept as brief as possible and has been delayed because we want to include a section of the Fairbanks News-Miner's Progress Edition.

Many people know that the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and the Alaska Statehood Act have a great effect on land ownership in Alaska. As far as we knew, though, no one had attempted to explain the jigsaw pattern of land ownership and set-asides in Alaska. The newspaper section "Our Many Lands" tells much of this story.

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## RESOURCE LIBRARY MOVES, EXPANDS

The Alaska Resources Library has been moved to Room 107 on the first floor of BLM's Alaska State Office at 555 Cordova Street in Anchorage. The new location provides better public access and more floor space than was available on the former second floor location.

The library was created one year ago. It provides resource data about Alaska for use by Alaska Natives and other interested persons, so they can make better judgements in their land selections. Using maps and reference materials available in the library, the general location of known minerals and other resources near almost every village can be determined.

Recently 70 linear feet of reference information about Alaska's subsurface resources was received from the Bureau of Mines. U. S. Geological Survey maps available cover most of Alaska. Other Department of the Interior agencies including BLM have or will contribute resource materials about Alaska. The Alaska Resources Library will also become the data bank which will receive resource data developed by the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska.

Presently the library receives 216 magazines and periodicals, and approximately 200 linear feet of reference materials are indexed and on the shelves. Other materials are available, and the library is fast expanding its coverage and depth of resource information. The second full-time library staff member was added in February.

While the Alaska Resources Library is not a lending library, it is open to the public. Any of the materials in the library are available for reference use within the Cordova Building. The library is open from 7:45 a. m. to 4:30 p. m., and its telephone number is 277-1561, extension 217.

## HIRING "FREEZE" OVER, JOB OPPORTUNITIES POOR

The temporary "freeze" on hiring of federal employees is now over, but few jobs are available. The "freeze" was imposed by President Nixon as a means of keeping federal spending under control, and it has been relaxed only to the extent permitted by the President's Budget.

BLM is now acting on applications for temporary and seasonal jobs. There will be fewer seasonal employees in the fire suppression program this year because the need to shift some to the Native Claims program. Sufficient applications have been received to fill essentially all seasonal positions for both the fire program and the cadastral survey program.

The Civil Service Commission has told BLM to cease the use of continuing temporary positions. Due to limitations on the number of permanent positions BLM has had to fill some positions year after year through temporary appointments.

Instead of hiring temporary employees to work 12 months out of the year, BLM will now have to hire them to work fewer months each year. While this fulfills the intent of the Commission's ruling, it also creates other problems. Many months less work will be done, greater employee turnover is expected, and the need for training of employees is increased.

The temporary positions affected are mainly support or clerical. Due to the restrictions on the number of permanent positions, it is expected that very few temporary employees can be converted to permanent status.

In summary, while the "freeze" on hiring is no longer in effect, temporary or seasonal employment opportunities with BLM this year look poor.

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Public Affairs Office  
BLM Alaska State Office  
555 Cordova Street  
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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