

CINA-CIRI Project on Bi-Centennial

Cook Inlet Native Association and Cook Inlet Region, Inc. are jointly involved in a Bi-Centennial Project identifying significant historical and cemetery sites around Cook Inlet.

The Regional Corporation is required by Section 14(h)(i) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, to identify existing historical and cemetery sites for the region's ownership, by Dec. 18 of this year.

Historic sites and cemeteries located on village lands, and village/regional deficiency lands cannot be selected for ownership by the Regional Corporation, but will be included in the region inventory.

Cook Inlet Native Association, the Regional Corporation's non-profit subsidiary, initiated the funding and administers the project.

As a Bi-Centennial non-profit program, CINA feels this to be an excellent opportunity to employ Alaskan Native youths and initiate interest in their cultural backgrounds.

Major funding for the project has come from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, State of Alaska and the Alaska State Bi-Centennial Commission. The National Park Service will provide technical assistance and the Rescue Coordination Center will be available for assistance.

The U.S. Army is providing major equipment for the field trips and orientation in survival training. Some 20 agencies are involved in the project.

Project Director is Gregg Brelsford, a senior student in cultural anthropology, at the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

Assisted by seven supervisors, Brelsford will coordinate field teams of one supervisor and three youths to visit each of the seven study areas in the region.

During their visits, the field teams will map and mark known historical and cemetery sites to be considered by the Regional Corporation for withdrawal under Section 14(h)(i) of the Act.

The entire project is geared to preserve these sites that are important to the history and traditions of the Alaskan Native people in Cook Inlet Region with the Native Corporation ownership.

Preference is being given to Alaskan Native youths to be employed on the field teams, for their knowledge of persons familiar with the local areas.