

NANA Corp. files for injunction to halt trespass

In a lawsuit filed in Kotzebue Superior Court, NANA Regional Corp. has asked for a permanent injunction prohibiting Northwest Aviation and its owner Jim Rood from trespassing upon NANA lands.

In addition to the injunction, NANA has asked the court for an award of \$35,000 as damages and reimbursement of costs in defending itself against trespass actions committed by Rood and his aviation firm.

The actions stem from Northwest's continued use of the Central Airstrip located on NANA land northeast of Kiana. The airstrip and the lands on which it is situated were conveyed to NANA in 1983 under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Rood, along with other Kotzebue based flying services and local hunting guides were notified by NANA earlier this year that the Central airstrip among other unmaintained airstrips on NANA lands, were closed. Notices advising the public of this action were sent to each Kotzebue air taxi operator and published.

The local and area offices of the FAA were also notified. Despite these notices Northwest Aviation during the week of Aug. 17, established a hunting camp near the Central airstrip to accommodate a group of out-of-state hunters Rood had transported to the site, according to NANA officials.

Although repeated advisories were communicated to Rood by NANA that the airstrip was closed and that the hunters were on privately owned lands, the trespass continued and was reported again the week of Sept. 21, NANA spokesmen said.