

ANCSA land applications

A major shift in personnel and workload by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will increase its capacity to process land applications filed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

"A recent look at our workload and staffing in the Native Claims program suggested some changes would be advantageous," said BLM State Director Curtis V. McVee, "and the adjustments were made to speed up the conveyance of land to Alaska Natives."

McVee went on to say that most of the positions will be filled by staffing reductions in other programs to allow more concentration on processing Native Claims applications.

The Branch of Lands and Minerals Operations in the BLM State Office has increased its professional staff working on Native Claims from 16 to 18 persons, an increase of some 40%. This includes a five-person team working exclusively on the Cook Inlet Region Selections.

The clerical staff supporting the Native Claims work has increased 16%. Three persons have also been added to the staff working on easements across Native lands including two persons in the Division of Resources and one in the Branch of Photogrammetry.

In addition to the Staff Office personnel shifts, the Anchorage District Office is gearing up for a team to work only on the Calista Region selections.