

BLM map shows changing patterns of Native, government land ownership

The emerging face of Alaska's new land ownership pattern is shown in detail on the 1986 Alaska Land Status Map from the Bureau of Land Management.

The map updates the major changes in land ownership for millions of acres in Alaska since the last map was issued in 1974.

The new edition shows Native lands, state lands, military reservations, national parks, wildlife refuges and other federal lands defined by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1981. Also included are wild and scenic rivers located outside federal conservation unit boundaries, major rivers and various cities and Native villages.

"Up until now, ownership was changing so rapidly that any map produced would have been out of date before it could have been printed," said Garth Olson, BLM photolithographer.

"But now that land ownership patterns are stabilizing and we can computerize the information, it is possible to produce a product that will retain its value for some time," he

added.

Users are cautioned the scale of the map — 1:2,500,000 — allows for data to be presented to the township level and that the map is intended for graphic purposes only.

Nevertheless, the color-coded information presented for the more than 18,000 Alaska townships reflects the results of BLM's 12-year-old conveyance program.

In that program the state has received 81 percent of its entitlement and Alaska Natives, 78 percent. Ownership information is current as of February 1986.

Those who need detailed land ownership information for a specific location are strongly encouraged to visit one of the BLM's public rooms so they can review the appropriate master title plats.

Copies of the map are available for \$5 each from the BLM public information room at the Anchorage Federal Building and the BLM Fairbanks District Office at Fort Wainwright. They may be ordered by mail from the BLM, 701 C Street, Box 13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513.