

BLM

Land Issues

By JOETTE STORM

Q: How many different kinds of land grants did the State of Alaska receive and how much land is it entitled to?

A: Prior to Statehood, Alaska was to receive two sections per township for the purposes of education. Under this old law, two sections in every township would be reserved for the State at the time the township was surveyed. At Statehood, Congress made three grants which wiped out the education grant. The first of these allows the State to select 400,000 acres of National Forest lands for community purposes. Another allows the State to select 400,000 acres of public domain for community purposes. In addition, a general grant of 102,550,000 acres was made. The State has 25 years in which to select these lands.

Under the Mental Health Act of 1956, the State was entitled to select 1 million acres within a 10 year period. To date more than 990,000 acres of mental health lands have been tentatively approved—for patent or patented. The State also received a university grant of 100,000 acres.

The State's total entitlement is 104,450,000.