Gana-a' Yoo and USFWS mapping interior lands

by Robert Wholecheese
Eye of the Eagle - Galena, AK

Gana-a'Yoo, Ltd. and U.S. Fish & Wildlife are in their third year of an intense mapping project to sort out the complex web of lands surrounding Galena.

This project deals with computerized mapping and data storing systems. The reason for such a project is that the land around the Galena area was so intertwined that wildlife management didn't know whether it was federal or corporation land.

Gana-a'Yoo Land Resource Manager Bruce Kling said, "We can see through this idea as one of the ways of getting high technology, in this case a Geographic Information System (GIS)." The GIS is a computerized mapping and data storage system.

About the project, Kling added, "It's a fifty-fifty grant. The Fish & Wildlife Service puts up $60,000 and Gana-a'Yoo puts up $60,000."

The Fish & Wildlife Service and Gana-a'Yoo have used the money to buy a plotter and digitizer, and a computer network. They have also hired computer technicians. Kling added, "We've used the money to collect data, to map it, and to store it in the computer." He continued, "The Fish & Wildlife biologists and the Gana-a'Yoo Resource Department can pull up this information on their computers whenever they need it."

In this, the third year of the project, it has been recognized on the national level. Previously, it has been funded at the regional level. Kling said, "So if we get this money, it means that we are one of the best projects in the country."

When asked about the project's outcome, Kling said, "Well, our best example of our results were that we put together seven different loose surveys onto one big map from the Nowitna Refuge through the northern unit of the Innoko and the Koyukuk Refuge. It w as the first time since we started collecting this data in 1980 that they actually saw all the adjacent loose habitats all in one place on one map."