

BLM, ASRC OK exchange

The Bureau of Land Management exchanged about 38,000 acres with Arctic Slope Regional Corp. recently, according to the January issue of BLM-Alaska Frontiers.

Tom Dean, BLM Arctic District manager, said the exchange will make it easier for both BLM-Alaska and the

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BLM and ASRC officials signed a land exchange agreement recently. They include, front, from left, Jacob Adams, ASRC president; and Michael Penfold, BLM state director. Shown back row, from left, are Jim Wickwire, ASRC attorney; Bill Thomas, ASRC Land Department; and Carolyn Bailey, BLM land law examiner.

BLM photo

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regional corporation to manage their land units in the future.

Both ASRC and the BLM managed parts of a large, irregularly shaped block of land in the so-called "Pinga area" of the North Slope, and both wanted to create units that could be managed more easily.

The land is in the Central Arctic Management Area, about 100 miles northwest of Anaktuvuk Pass.

ASRC deeded 37,634 acres to the federal government and received 37,972 acres in the value-for-value exchange.

According to the BLM, this was the first such exchange made under new authority delegated to the Alaska state director of the agency. Previously, such exchanges had to be negotiated in Washington, D.C.

The pact also was the first two-party exchange between BLM and a Native corporation to simplify land ownership patterns.

"This should be the first of many exchanges," Dean said.

BLM officials said they are encouraging others interested in exploring the possibility of a land exchange to contact Mike Penfold, BLM state director, in Anchorage.