

Land Dept. wraps up year's work

Even though winter is just beginning, Ahtna is coming to the close of another fiscal year. With that, your Land Department is trying to "wrap-up" this past year's work and get ready for 1987. Much of the information we gathered in the field this summer is now being organized and more properly recorded so we can use it. Some of the "office" chores that we didn't do this summer, because we didn't want to waste the sunlight and warm weather, are now being tackled.

Our 1987, 1988, and 1989 budgets have been prepared and submitted. Although we do not expect that these budgets will be as large as they have been the last couple of years, we do not expect that the level of service by the Land Department will drop. This is because we have not spent all of the money budgeted for the last three years. Hopefully, we're getting more knowledgeable and efficient so we can accomplish better quality work faster.

Mary Tony, a Chitina shareholder, will be added to your Land Department staff next month. She has a college degree in Forestry.

Village Planning, Staff Training,

and collecting information for our trapping program will be our main areas of emphasis this winter — before our summer field season comes again.

Let us give you a more specific update as to what each of us has been doing, and will be doing in the near future.

Sue Sherman, Land Technician, has been preparing various maps for various projects (Richardson Hwy. Realignment MP 129-148; Air Force Backscatter Radar; North/South Slana negotiations with BLM; updated regional and village land status maps for distribution to village and the Anchorage office in 1987, and responding to various highway road project right-of-way and gravel issues. She will be continuing map work in January, and assisting Mary Tony on our Gravel Inventory System until February, when Sue will leave for several weeks following the birth of her baby.

Carmel Tansy, Land Technical Assistant, has been helping Sue Sherman with preparing updated village and region-wide land status maps for

village and Anchorage office distribution in 1987. This will continue on a part-time temporary basis early into next year.

John Alfonsi, Historical Preservationist, has been completing the 1986 Field Report on our 14 (h)(1) field studies of old village sites and gravel sites that were done this summer, and planning our 1987 fieldwork. He will be finished at the end of December until May of next year.

Ken Bayless, Historical Preservationist Assistant, has been assisting John Alfonsi with our 14 (h)(1) program.

Lori Bogdansky, Assistant Resource Manager, has been compiling, organizing and processing her findings from her summer 14 (c)(1) field investigations. She continues to manage the permit system and works with Ray Craig and John Alfonsi in developing a trapping program. She will be continuing all of these activities into 1987, as well as heading up a village land planning effort.

Ray Craig, Lands Protection Officer, has been on an extended family emergency leave. In the next several

months he will be monitoring trapping activity and collecting information for development of our trapping program. He will also be monitoring various activities on Ahtna lands, and assisting in the initial development of a comprehensive plan for the long-term management of your lands and resources.

Tana Spence, Land Secretary, has been filling in on a temporary part-time basis until this position is filled permanently. In addition to "regular" duties for the Land Department, she is also doing all of the typing for the 1986 14 (h)(1) Field Report (a large volume of work). The length of her stay is uncertain at this time.

Mary Tony, Deputy Resource Manager, will be starting work on January 12, 1987. Her initial efforts will be to become familiar with all of the various aspects, programs and operations of the Department. She will also assume Forest Management responsibilities for all forested Ahtna Lands.

Larry Lau, Resource Manager, is trying to catch up to everybody else.