



RurAL-CAP



ACTION REPORTS

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ALLOTMENT CONFERENCE IS SUCCESSFUL

Meeting Criticizes BLM On Guaranteed Lands

Delegates to a two-day conference on Native Land Allotments held in Anchorage last week adopted a statement which says, in part, "... We find that the policy developed by BLM is illegal, immoral, and is designed to rob Alaskan Natives of land rights guaranteed them by Federal law."

The conference was called by AFN after it became known that nearly 90% of the applications being processed by BLM were rejected for various reasons.

The meeting chaired by AFN President, Roger Lang, was well-attended by representatives of the RurAL CAP Development Corporations from throughout the state.

RurAL CAP, AFN, and Legal Services were instrumental in helping eligible Native people to make out their applications during '68, '69, '70 and '71.

Among the 21 recommendations of the conference were the following:

The Allotment applicant or his designated representative must be present during the field investigation.

BLM revise the job description for field investigators to require knowledge of traditional Native use and occupancy and that BLM replace present field investigators with Alaskan Natives who are familiar with traditional use and occupancy.

BLM revise the job description for adjudicators to require knowledge of traditional Native use and occupancy and that the present BLM adjudicators be required to become familiar with traditional Native use and occupancy or be replaced.

Allotment applicants be given 90 days from the date of receipt to respond to the BLM's notice of intention to reject or reduce an allotment application.

The Department of Interior shall increase the staffing of the Bureau of Indian Affairs really staff or contracting with regional corporations so that the BIA or the regional corporations can assist allotment applicants in collecting affidavits and other evidence which would prove the

individual's claim of use and occupancy.

Mineral potential of allotment lands should be determined during field investigations and not by using United States Geological Survey classification.

BLM shall not use representatives of the federal agencies, such as the forest service who have vested interests in the land claimed for allotments, as field investigators in allotment claims.

Allotment applications which have been filed with a responsible government agency by eligible Alaskan Natives, but which were not filed prior to Dec. 18, 1971 with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, shall be considered as legitimate applications.

Allotment applications which have been rejected or reduced previous to the implementation of any or all of the above recommendations shall be reviewed by BLM and BIA and any allotments which would have been approved if the new guidelines were in effect, shall then be approved.