

WA Watches Development Of Bush Areas

Western Airlines officials said recently that the increasing mobility of Native Alaskans and development of Native communities are being watched by the airline as important factors in future service expansion.

The impact of the trans-Alaska pipeline has already influenced the airline's expansion in Alaska, said Ray M. Waters, assistant vice president of Alaska projects for Western.

Waters, Los Angeles-based, visited with various Native leaders and other Alaskans to gather information on service needs. He said 1,029 seats will be available daily on incoming flights to Anchorage by June 1, compared to approximately 400 now available.

"Tourism traffic has been up so far in 1974 and will substantially increase this summer," said Waters. By June, new DC-10 service begins from California to Anchorage. Plans are also ready for flights out of Anchorage to Hawaii.

Western will also seek the interchange equipment with Continental Airlines out of Texas to service the pipeline, said Waters.