

Yupiktak and Linguist

Under an agreement with the Bureau of Sports Fisheries and Wildlife, Yupiktak Bista will furnish a linguist, conduct informational and education programs in behalf of the Bureau, and present reliable data pertinent to Native subsistence hunting and fishing practices on the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and the Clarence Rhode National Wildlife Range.

The Bureau signed a "Cooperative Agreement with the Bethel office of Rural CAP for \$3,500 for the services which will include a linguist who will be needed at information sessions, hearings, and workshops.

At least 12 meetings will be conducted during the remainder of fiscal year '74.

Additionally, the linguist would translate rules and regulations governing public use activities on the Clarence Rhode National Wildlife Range and other material related to the Marine Mammal Act, the Wilderness Act, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, and Executive Order 11644 which pertains to use of off-road vehicles on public lands.

Problems are arising with conflicting policies and provisions of various Acts, Executive Orders, or Public Land Orders, and how they interrelate with Natives and other interested citizens.

Many of the problems result from misunderstandings and poor communications as well as the lack of programs in most rural areas. The most obvious result is the lack of any relationships between the Bureau and people affected by Bureau policies and programs proposed for the future.

The requirement for public participation in Bureau programs or decision-making has been

clearly defined by various congressional actions and policy statements of the Bureau. Problems related to enforcement of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and of the Marine Mammal Protection Act are equally urgent and require fully operative lines of communication.

In making the announcement, Harold Napoleon, Regional Director for Yupiktak Bista, stated that the immediate and obvious need is for a direct and continuing channel of communication between the Bureau and Native groups. Because of social and cultural differences and language barriers, the existing Bureau movies, leaflets and other information are not suited for rural Alaska, and at times may have a negative impact. For these same reasons, it is difficult to obtain meaningful data and a response from the Native population.

A representative of Yupiktak Bista will be detailed to the Bureau for two weeks of orientation concerning their policies and programs, and the use of visual aide material.

Yupiktak Bista will cooperate with the Bureau in the compilation of species and numbers of fish and wildlife taken for subsistence purposes from Clarence Rhode NWR and other data related to subsistence resource utilization by the Native populations on all other data related to subsistence resource utilization by the Native populations on all other public domain lands of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta.

These data will assist in determining public use patterns and aid in land use planning provided by Section 17 (d-2) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.