

RurAlCAP endorses Subsistence Council plan

From Our Anchorage Bureau

A proposal to make sure that rural Alaskans will be able to continue hunting and fishing in new National Parks and Refuges is now the official position of the Rural Alaska Community Action Program.

Meeting in Copper Center last week, the RurAL CAP Board of Directors unanimously endorsed the plan developed by the Subsistence Resource Council to give rural Alaskans a permanent voice in making subsistence policy throughout the state.

Formed last fall with RurAL CAP's support, the purpose of the council is to prepare and advocate a way of protecting subsistence when Congress decides what to do with millions of acres of federal land in Alaska not selected by the state and Natives. Under the land claims act, Congress gave itself the job of studying and deciding how to manage these public interest, d2 lands for the future.

The Subsistence Resource Council is composed of village representatives from across the state, under the leadership of

Frank Woods, Jr. of New Stuyahok.

Rather than taking a position on what parks or refuges should be created, or how large the new federal reserves should be, the council has developed

a subsistence policy that could be incorporated in any d-2 bill that Congress produces. The Council has also designed a subsistence organization that could become a part of the land managing process.