

Nunam Kitlutsisti Argues BLM's Statewide Corridor Plan

By JEFF RICHARDSON
"You can't rest nowadays," according to David Friday of Nunam Kitlutsisti. Translated from Yupik Eskimo to English, Nunam Kitlutsisti means "protector of the land."

As Congress considers the classification of millions of acres of public interest land and BLM tries to sell the idea of transportation corridors, Nunam Kitlutsisti considers its own public interest land proposal and argues the shortcomings of BLM's statewide corridor plan.

Nunam Kitlutsisti is labelled the "environmental program of the Association of Village Council Presidents." Formed by AVCP in 1970, it is a program dedicated to protecting the resources and subsistence values in the Calista Region. According to Friday, the group is in no way connected to the Calista Corp.

Although formed in 1970, the group did not really get started until 1973 when it received an \$8,000 grant from the Humanities Forum. Even now the group is not financially secure, but has managed to operate on a shoestring.

In 1973, Nunam Kitlutsisti compiled an extensive inventory of subsistence resources in the Calista area. This study, and ongoing surveys are part of an effort to document the dependence of the people in the area on plant and wildlife resources. The group recently met with national environmental leaders to discuss the significance of subsistence values to resource protection.

Nunam Kitlutsisti has received funding from some environmental groups. When Friday was asked if he felt this connection would hamper his group's efforts he said it would not restrict them in any

way. Nunam Kitlutsisti helped mobilize village response to BLM's corridor plan when hearings were held in Bethel. They have also monitored the activities of oil and gas survey crews operating in the Calista area. The crews are operating in the Calista Region under an agreement with the regional corporation.

The environmental group hopes to have its public interest lands proposal ready by spring. The proposal will deal with the way in which public lands should be classified and managed. Nunam Kitlutsisti has already entered into an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Calista Corp. which allows greater Native participation in the management of wildlife resources in the area.

Friday said he does not work on the Nunam Kitlutsisti project full-time. Sometimes, he said, "I stay out in Chevak and subsist."

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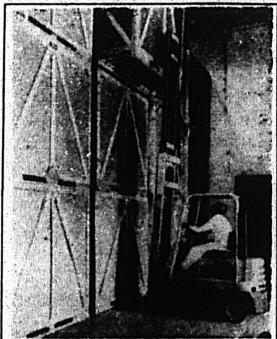
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Long distance telephone traffic at the Fairbanks Toll Center has increased 54% in 1974 as compared to 1973. As chief operator, Polly is responsible for training the operators to handle the automated toll service desks which have helped increase the call handling capacity.

Polly is vitally involved in her community. She spends time helping the Alaska Dog Mushers Association, as secretary,



timekeeper and race announcer. Polly's civic participation extends to Little League activities, and to the Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce. She welcomes high school students from Alaska bush into her home.

To Polly Shallock, and to 1,100 other RCA Alascom employees, a better community is as important as improved communications.

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