

Land Use Council approves trespass recommendations

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In October of 1985 the Alaska Land Use Council unanimously endorsed thorough recommendations aimed at resolving trespass problems on state, federal, and Native land.

The recommendations were developed by a subcommittee of the ALUC with AFN serving as the lead organization.

The recommendations are intended to minimize trespass problems, both now and in the future. They are directed toward fostering a good neighbor policy by encouraging adjacent landowners to coordinate and cooperate in preventing trespass.

Underlying the recommended efforts is the idea that the more the public knows about landownership and trespass law the less likely people are to commit trespass.

Many of the trespass problems facing state, federal, and Native land managers today is generated from a lack of public knowledge as to who owns what land and where access is allowed to public land interests.

Among other things, the recommendations call for state, federal, and Native land managers to coordinate their efforts in developing informational maps and other materials that clearly show land ownership patterns and identify public easements.

At present the State of Alaska

Department of Natural Resources and Bristol Bay Native Corporation are completing a joint effort which has produced an Easement Atlas for the Bristol Bay Region. It is anticipated that joint efforts of this type will take place for other regions.

The AFN Land Committee has begun an effort which is directed toward clarifying and strengthening Alaska trespass laws. Current Alaska statutes are inadequate to address today's trespass problems, particularly in rural areas.

The Land Committee effort includes a review of current Alaska statutes on trespass and research of trespass laws in other states. Court cases as they apply to trespass law are also being reviewed. The final product will be proposed legislation in the form of a draft bill for consideration by the Alaska Legislature.

It is anticipated that in 1986 the AFN Land Committee will continue to implement the trespass recommendations by coordinating with state and federal agencies on the development of informational publications, public service announcements, joint land use policies, educational programs and various land management agreements. These activities will all focus on trespass prevention.

Copies of the Trespass Recommendation may be obtained by contacting AFN.