

Alaska Native Allotment Affidavits

In the very near future, visits will be made to Natives that have formerly applied for allotments so that witnesses may fill-out affidavits supporting use and occupancy of that particular allotment.

Mike Harper, of Rural CAP, explained that, "Several of the agencies and Native Associations are concerned that a great majority of the Native allotment applications are being rejected because of what the federal government terms as lack of evidence of use and occupancy requirements.

"By taking this action, we hope to eliminate the key problems that have arisen here and

further speed along the process of having the BLM accept the Native allotment applications."

A handbook explaining the drive for the affidavits has been prepared and Rural CAP as well as Native Associations and AFN, and BIA Realty people will soon be making visits to the Native applicants in their home communities.

Secretary of the Interior, Rogers C. Morton recently sent a letter to the Alaska Federation of Natives replying to a request from AFN for further explanation on procedure to handle

Native allotments.

Harper further reported that, "Although there are many aspects of Morton's letters that we do not agree with, at least he is sympathetic to some of our viewpoints and I certainly hope that by furnishing the statements from these various witnesses to validate use and occupancy clauses of the Native applications."

This will take care of any other obstacles that the BLM or any other federal agency might have with the application being reviewed and processed.