

Natives will market logs

JUNEAU--Deputy Regional Forester Robert H. Tracy has signed an administrative use permit that will allow the Konkor Forest Resource Management Company, a Native-owned logging venture, to export about 12 million board feet of Sitka spruce logs from Afognak Island. Primary manufacture of the logs in Alaska normally required under Federal law would not be necessary.

The administrative use permit covers logs previously cut as part of the 1968 Perenosa Timber Sale. These logs are located on land expected to be conveyed by title to the Natives of Kodiak, Inc., through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Konkor is a joint venture of Ouzinkie (village) Native Corp., Leisnoi, Inc. (Woody Island Village) and Natives of Kodiak, Inc., urban Native corporation.

Tracy explained that the Forest Service was told by the Bureau of Land Management in August that the title for the Natives of Kodiak, Inc., lands would be conveyed in the near future. A meeting with representatives of the Natives of Kodiak, Konkor, and Kodiak Lumber Mills, Inc. (contractor for the Perenosa Sale), was then held to discuss a fair and equitable transition before conveyance.

"As a result of these discussions and a public hearing held in Kodiak on September 27, 1977, the Forest Service decided to allow the timber to be removed before conveyance of the land title," Tracy said. "This would avoid loss from the deterioration of the logs. And, it would also permit the Natives to export the logs at a much earlier date."