

Townsite Extension Proposed at Bethel

A plan to extend the townsite of Bethel into new, higher ground has been proposed by the City to the Bureau of Land Management and the State Division of Lands.

The proposal would offer about 900 acres of high ground behind Bethel for sale and homesites over the next five or more years.

The State would claim the land, now held for public purposes by the city, and the BLM would grant it to the State. The State would then sell the land to the City at a negotiated price.

The City would have the land surveyed and zoned. The cost of the surveying would be paid for through the sale of land to private owners.

Roscoe Bell, Director of the State Division of lands, said he saw no reason why the State could not do this, and added that negotiations would get underway with the BLM and the City Council of Bethel.

Bethel thinks the Tach-Ann road could be extended into the area to help open it to settlement. The city says the arrangement would speed land selection by at least five years, the present backlog of work for BLM surveying of the land.