

Morton Signs Regulations

Secretary of the Interior Rogers C. B. Morton announced approval of regulations that will implement the land selection provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

The Act, which was signed into law by President Nixon in December 1971, calls for the transfer of 40 million acres of public land to satisfy the claims of Alaska's Native People.

Secretary Morton said, "The Department has consulted with Native leaders during the preparation of these regulations so that we could be certain that their viewpoint was fully represented. The present regulations reflect this cooperative effort."

The regulations set up the machinery whereby land selections can be made and titles transferred to Alaska Natives, and Village and Regional Corporations.

They also set forth the qualifications that will be required of Native villages and for those Natives living outside of villages before they can receive land benefits under the law.

Under the regulations the Secretary of the Interior will have interim authority to administer all land prior to its transfer to Village or Regional Corporations.

The regulations were published in the Federal Register on May 30. They become final July 2.