

Conference to address subsistence

A two-day conference addressing rural subsistence issues and challenges facing Alaska Natives is scheduled for Oct. 16-17, preceding the Alaska Federation of Natives convention in Anchorage.

The convention, co-sponsored by AFN and the Rural Alaska Community Action Program Inc., will include a four-member panel of village leaders to give a rural perspective on subsistence issues.

The panel discussion, entitled "ANILCA and Subsistence 10 Years Later," will meet Oct. 16 at 9:45 a.m. and will be chaired by attorney Chris McNeil.

The panel members include Pete Schaeffer, chairman of the Kotzebue Fish and Game Advisory Committee;

Clarence Alexander, chief of the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments; Paul Gregory of Nunam Kitlutsisti; and Clare Swan of the Kenaitze Indian Tribe.

Also on Oct. 16, representatives for U.S. Reps. Morris Udall, D-Ariz., and George Miller, D-Calif., will discuss the congressional perspective and understanding of subsistence in Alaska.

Alaska Sens. Al Adams, D-Kotzebue, Jack Coghill, R-North Pole, and John Binkley, R-Bethel, and Rep. Richard Foster, D-Nome, are also scheduled to speak on the first day of the conference.

On Oct. 17, Gov. Steve Cowper will give a keynote address at 10 a.m. Afterwards, there will be a panel discussion about the role of Alaska

Native Claims Settlement Act corporations in protecting subsistence lifestyles and conflicts between corporate goals and rural values.

Roy Ewan, president of Ahtna Inc., will chair the ANCSA discussion.

Also scheduled are three more subsistence workshops, including a marine mammal workshop and a discussion of the animal rights movement which is threatening traditional lifestyles.

The conference will wrap up Oct. 17 with reports from the discussions and closing statements by Ben Nageak of the North Slope Borough and Julie Kitka, vice president of AFN.

For more information about the subsistence conference, call Bob Polasky, subsistence director for Rural CAP, at 279-2511.