

Native Land Allotments Now Easier to Get Under New Law

On March 16, 1965, the Interior Department approved some changes in the regulations under the Native Allotment Act covering the granting of land allotments to you individually if you are the head of a family or 21 years of age or over. If you are a married woman, you are entitled to an allotment if your husband is unable to earn a living for you and your family and you earn the living.

The allotment may contain one tract of land or several tracts at different places, but all tracts in the allotment may contain not more than 160 acres of nonmineral land except lands valuable for oil, gas, and coal, as such minerals are reserved by the United States.

The allotment may, for example, contain four tracts of land containing 40 acres each covering your fish campsite, hunting cabinsite, and two trapping cabinsites. Only one application may be made for an allotment and it must describe all tracts of land in the allotment.

You must use and occupy the land for five years in your customary manner such as for hunting, fishing, trapping and other purposes to obtain at least a portion of the livelihood for yourself and your family.

Before you file an application for an allotment, the Area Field Representative of BIA must state on the application that you are a Native resident who may apply for an allotment under the Allotment Act, that you have occupied, marked the corners, and posted a notice of the allotment on the land, and that no one else is claiming or using the land described in the application.

A representative of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, (BIA) will assist you in filing an application for an allotment with the proper Land Office of the Bureau of Land Management, (BLM) in either Anchorage or Fairbanks, Alaska. The representative of BIA must also inspect the allotment to be sure that the corners of the allotment are marked with posts, and that a notice of the allotment has been placed either on one of the corners or on the cabin or other buildings, if there are any on the land.

He must also check to be sure that no one else is claiming or using the same land.

After you have used and occupied the allotment for five years in your customary manner for the purpose of obtaining a portion of the livelihood for yourself and your family, final proof must be filed with the proper Land Office of BLM.

This final proof must be filed either by you, as the applicant, or it may be filed for you by the Area Field Representative of BIA for the area where your allotment is located.

The final proof must be filed with

the Land Office of BLM within six years after the filing of your application, showing that you have used and occupied the land for five years for some of the purposes stated above.

After your application has been approved by the Land Office of BLM and the land has been surveyed, the Interior Department will grant your allotment. As long as the allotment is owned by you or your heirs, it may not be sold or mortgaged without approval of the Area Director of BIA, and it is not taxable.

Land allotted to you under the Allotment Act may be conveyed by you and your heirs to someone else with the approval of the Area Director of BIA. You may convey your allotment in a restricted and nontaxable status if it is decided to a Native who is unable to manage the land without the protection of the United States.

Instructions as to how to apply for Native Land Allotment will soon be sent to all Native villages. If you have a school in your village it is suggested that you ask the teacher. If she doesn't have the instructions now, she will soon be receiving them. If you have already received your allotment, you may not apply for another one even though your present allotment was made under the old regulations.