

Wainwright and Barrow receive land selections

The Bureau of Land Management has just transferred from Federal ownership nearly a quarter of a million acres to two Native villages on the North Slope, BLM Alaska State Director Curt McVee announced today.

McVee said the BLM was conveying a total of 201,232 acres to the village of Barrow and 44,626 acres to the village of Wainwright. It was the second transfer of title to Wainwright since passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), bringing the total to that northern outpost to 105,312 acres.

Today's announcement of the land transfer to Barrow and Wainwright brought the amount

of Federal land conveyed to the Natives in Alaska under ANCSA to 664,132 acres since the first conveyance to Kenai Native Association Inc. in the spring of 1974. Alaska Natives will receive 40 million acres under ANCSA.

McVee said the conveyance to the two Arctic Slope villages was a result of an agreement signed this summer between Arctic Slope Regional Corporation officials and Secretary of the Interior Thomas S. Kleppe. That agreement permitted the transfer of Federal Lands to the Arctic Slope villages and to the regional corporation despite a delay on conveyances stemming from a suit against the Interior Department by some of the Native corporations.