

BLM

Land Issues

No. 27 — Who has the responsibility for identifying grave sites and other historic places to be turned over to the Alaska Natives under the terms of the Land Claims Act?

Answer: The 12 regional corporations are responsible for identifying places of historic and cultural importance to the Natives of their regions. Each region must submit an application for "selection" on each historic site to the Bureau of Indian Affairs which will certify the site and recommend the amount of land to be included in the transfer of title after consultation with the National Park Service.

No. 28 — Did Secretary Morton ever respond to Native complaints about the way in which allotment applications are being rejected?

Answer: Yes, on July 30, Under Secretary Roy Hughes wrote a letter to Roger Lang, AFN president, answering each of the 23 points brought up in discussions with Secretary Morton earlier in the summer.

The letter states that every person applying for an allotment will be told ahead of time the date on which BLM will examine his or her allotment and will be asked to go with the field examiner to the allotment. If the applicant cannot go, he may appoint someone to go in his place. If he does not send someone to go with the examiner, the village council will be asked to appoint someone.

The letter also states that if an application is going to be rejected on the basis on the evidence reported in the field report, the applicant will be notified that he has 60 days to provide additional evidence. This can be in the form of an affidavit about his use of the land.

No. 29 — What is an affidavit?

Answer: An affidavit is a signed statement by a person that tells some fact or facts he knows through his own experience. The person making the statement takes an oath that what he says is true and he signs the paper with his name. Under law, a person who lies on an affidavit can go to jail if the court finds that he did not tell the truth on purpose.