

# NANA Outraged by Withdrawals

KOTZEBUE — Northwest Alaska Eskimos outraged by proposals for five federal reserves within their traditional lands have charged the Interior Department with misconstruing the land claims settlement and its effect on people.

In a biting letter addressed to Theodore R. Swem, chairman of the Alaska Planning Group within the Interior Department, executive director John W. Schaeffer of NANA Regional Corp. Inc. demanded that the present proposals be altered to terms the people of Northwest Alaska can live with.

NANA's attack was aimed at the proposed Cape Krusenstern National Monument, Noatak

Ecological Range, Selawik Wildlife Refuge, Kobuk Valley National Monument and Chukchi-Imuruk National Reserve.

"We do not charge that we, the people of the region affected by the proposals, the most important resource of the region, were ignored or forgotten by those who prepared the proposals," Schaeffer said.

"But we do charge that those who prepared the proposals misconstrued the settlement act and effect on us. So we must set the record straight."

Schaeffer charged that the land claims act is not going to make individual Native people rich; that the actual monetary

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returns of the land claims settlement were small and did not compensate for past uses of the lands surrounding native villages.

He spoke on behalf of the people of Ambler, Buckland, Deering, Kiana, Kivalina, Kobuk, Kotzebue, Noatak, Noorvik, Selawik and Shungnak, all of whom are stockholders in NANA Regional Corp.

"It is essential for all who are involved and who hold the destinies of our people in their sometimes capricious, if not fumbling hands to understand that our people always have and always will have to live by subsistence, not annuities, and that without our caribou and our fish, we are vegetarians without vegetables," Schaeffer said.

"Without our trails and our shelter cabins, without our streams and our camps, we are isolated from our relatives and our friends, frozen and stranded in our villages; in effect landless, the promise of our future broken, because we will be isolated from one another, cut off from our resources, left to decay slowly, to slide into poverty," Schaffer said.

"If you and others ask how

can this be so, then you and others have not analyzed the effects of the Native Claims Settlement Act and its long-term implications," Schaeffer told the head of the planning group, some 5,000 miles away from Northwest Alaska.

NANA Regional Corp. outlined for Swen 11 provisions which the corporation feels are basic to the survival of the people of Northwest Alaska in respect to federal reserves within their lands.

1. Each park, refuge, monument or area of ecological concern must always be open to all subsistence uses by the Natives of the region, with no projected or proposed cut-off date for such uses; subsistence uses must be complete, extending to hunting, fishing and trapping, berry and green gathering, the use of wood for fuel and shelter and the necessary trade with other Natives.

2. All sport hunting and fishing must be prohibited.

3. Management of all parks, refuges and monuments must be by Natives from within the region.

4. All trails and navigable waters must be open for Native use. Shelter cabins must be allowed on the trails, camps by the waters and the use of the waters extended back for at least a mile from any bank.

5. All allotments must be allowed to pass to the heirs.

6. There must be no controlled burning and all necessary action must be taken immediately to extinguish any fire.

7. All artifacts found must be maintained in the NANA region, in suitable display, either by the regional corporation or a responsible federal agency.

8. The proposed areas must be reduced in size. They are far too large.

9. Boundaries of the proposed areas must be reconsidered and redrawn. They bear no relation to the management of wildlife. For example, caribou migrating from the north will cross Petroleum Reserve No. 4, then through an ecological range, then a national monument, then a wildlife refuge, and throughout this process they also will cross Native and state-owned lands, and each of the lands crossed will be under different management. This administrative checkerboard will not foster good management and will only confuse the people of our area, interfering with their subsistence activities.

10. Development of natural resources must not be closed from these areas before careful evaluation, taking into consideration national and local needs.

11. Designated areas of ecological concern must not be closed to development and any arrangement entered into by the Secretary of the Interior for management or control of such areas must reflect the general positions stated (in this letter), Schaeffer said.