

# Native allotment review

The National Park Service has wrapped up the second phase of its review of Native allotment applications, according to Park Service Regional Director Roger Contor. The National Park Service is working with the Bureau of Land Management on the review of applications for Native allotments inside the boundaries of Alaska's national parks.

Of 653 pending applications for park land, the National Park Service is continuing to review 104 about which some questions still exist. All others appear to be valid applications, eligible for completion, and the Park Service has returned them to the Bureau of Land Management for further processing.

Under the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906, Alaska Natives could apply for title up to 160 acres of land they used and occupied. The law was on the books

for 65 years before it was repealed by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

Over 9,000 applications were filed under the Allotment Act, and 92 percent of those came in the 19 months before repeal. Because of the unexpected late flood of applications, the Bureau of Land Management was not geared up to handle the workload. They have been processing a backlog since 1971.

Processing was accelerated in 1980 when the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act granted legislative approval of allotment applications for certain unreserved lands and lands in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. However, applications for lands in the national parks continue to require Interior Department approval on a case-by-case basis.