

LUPC Reaches Agreement on D-2

By MARGIE BAUMAN

ANCHORAGE — The Federal State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska has reached general agreement on where and how to conduct the so-called "D-2" hearings this spring.

These are the lands included in the 80 million acre withdrawal made by Interior Secretary Rogers C. B. Morton last March for possible inclusion into national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges or wild and scenic river systems.

The land use planning commission has already agreed to go to about 30 villages this spring, beginning in April, to hear from village residents themselves what they think should be done with the lands they have traditionally used, but now may not have title to under the law.

Jack Horton, the federal co-chairman of the land use planning commission (who was recently appointed an assistant interior secretary) said the plan was to submit written reports to village residents in advance of the arrival of land use planning Commission members.

These reports or documents

would list specific questions the commission thought needed to be answered, such as whether certain lands should be open to hunting and if so, whom should be allowed to hunt on them.

Horton said the questions would "of course not restrict their commentary; it will just

(Continued on page 8)

Land Use Planning Commission...

(Continued from page 1)

assist them in responding in an orderly way to the commission."

Such a plan, presumably, leaves open to all village residents the right to demand answers to a number of questions from the land use planning commission too.

Horton was sworn in last Monday as the new assistant secretary of the Interior, but nobody has been named as yet to replace him. Burton Silcock, national director of the Bureau of Land Management, has been mentioned as Horton's successor on the commission, but President Nixon has not yet made an appointment.

If no appointment is made by the next meeting of the commission in late March, Horton said

he would probably remain on in the dual role for a while.

Horton said he felt the commission was moving slightly ahead or at least on schedule with its plans, and that the commission appeared to be on excellent, very friendly terms with the 12 regional native corporations.

The commission has been consulting with a large advisory board, which includes many bush residents, a move the commission apparently feels has been quite successful.
