

BLM Land Issues

CLAIMS QUESTIONS

By JOETTE STORM

(This column is printed to a forum for all of our readers who are effected by the Native Land Claims Settlement Act. Questions should be addressed to: Claims Questions (912) Bureau of Land Management, 555 Cordova Street, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. This column may be re-printed without written permission.)

Q: I am a Native living on Federal Aviation Administration land. Is there any way I can claim this land under the Claims Act, for instance as a primary place of residence?

A: The primary place of residence provision which you mention, expired Dec. 18 and no longer be used to

claim land. In general, individuals cannot acquire lands withdrawn for use by a federal agency such as the F.A.A. under the Claims Act.

The only exception to this general rule is when a Native has claimed an allotment on lands which were withdrawn after he filed for an allotment. If he made substantial use and occupancy of the land for five years before withdrawal was made, the allotment may be granted. An application for the land must have been filed with the BIA or BLM prior to December 19, 1971.