

Native Allotments OK On Unoccupied Lands

Land owned by the federal government and not claimed or used by other persons may be claimed as a Native Land Allotment by any Alaskan native who is at least 21 years old or the head of a family.

This land must have been used or occupied by the native applicant or land which will be used and occupied. The allotment may cover from one to four tracts of land for a total of as much as 160 acres.

Native allotments, after they have been granted, cannot be taxed. Neither can it be sold, given away, or used as security for a loan without the consent of the Area Director of the Bureau

of Indian Affairs.

Although each native may have claim to land used and occupied, he does not own it until the allotment is applied for, occupied for five years, surveyed by the Bureau of Land Management, and a Certificate of Allotment issued.

Even then, if valuable minerals are discovered on the land, the federal government reserves the right to ownership of these minerals.

Before filing for a Native Allotment, the land must be measured and posted on each of the corners. Applicants must know the location of these markers and be able to mark them on a map.

Allotments may total 160 acres, which can be received in one to four parcels. Each parcel must be square or rectangular, with the sides running true North, South, East and West.

The length of the sides of these parcels may be measured by pacing. With each step measuring one yard, the number of steps can be counted from corner to corner. The corners can then be posted.

A tree, a post, or a pile of rocks can be used to post a corner. The post should be identified with a marker. Markers can be obtained from your nearest BIA Realty Office.

To aid BLM surveyors in finding the allotment, orange paint should be used to mark each post. This should not be painted on the marker itself.

Applications and further information can be obtained from either the village councils or the BIA Realty Office in Fairbanks.