

NANA protests Brooks subdivision

NANA Regional Corp. has written a letter opposing a proposal to subdivide and develop land 15 miles east of Kobuk.

The regional corporation, which represents the Native people of Northwest Alaska, and hence, most of the people in the area, wrote to John Katz, commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), protesting a DNR staff plan to subdivide a 400-acre parcel of land about 15 miles east of Kobuk.

The site on the Mauneluk River is one of three remote parcels being suggested for development in the Brooks Range. The other parcels are on the Chandalar Lake and the

John River. Both of these parcels are in the Doyon Region.

According to NANA Region board member Willie Hensley, NANA opposes the development because "there is really no need for development there."

Kobuk is a village of about 60 people but Shungnak and Ambler, both with populations of more than 300, are within 50 miles.

There is no resource development of any kind and the main activity in the area is subsistence.

According to John Shively, a vice-president for NANA Development Corp., the main

reason anyone would want to be in the region would be for hunting "and that would place more of a strain on the resource."

The area can be reached by plane, boat or foot.

According to the proposal only 10 entries would be allowed in the 400-acre area.

The state Department of Fish and Game supports the proposal.

The two other Brooks Range parcels are a 300-acre subdivision on Chandalar Lake and a 400-remote parcel on the John River north of Chandalar.

Before any land is sold to the public, Katz must approve the sales.