

RurAl CAP gets funds for ANWR

The Rural Alaska Community Action Program Inc. has received funding to provide information about current land exchange negotiations involving the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, according to RurAl CAP spokesmen.

Native inholdings in several national wildlife refuges may be offered for trade to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for oil and gas lease tracts in ANWR.

Funding will enable RurAl CAP staff to travel to a limited number of villages, upon request, to explain the land-exchange process and answer questions.

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RurAL CAP has no position for or against the proposed land exchanges, but officials said they believe providing objective information will assist rural shareholders.

RurAL CAP has obtained information about the exchange process from the Fish and Wildlife Service through the Freedom of Information Act and conversations with federal officials.

RurAL CAP has sent a "fact" sheet to affected villages which briefly explains the land exchange process.

Native corporations currently involved in land exchange negotiations are Koniag, Doyon, Akhiok-Kaguyak, Old Harbor and the Native Lands

Group, a Cook Inlet Region Inc.-led partnership of 15 village corporations in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Kenai areas.

Indications are that the corporations and the Fish and Wildlife Service may reach general agreement by late July or early August.

Those who want more information may contact RurAL CAP's Subsistence and Natural Resources Department, P.O. Box 200908, Anchorage 99520; or call 279-2511.
