

More than 9 million acres of land have passed to villages

87 Native village and city corporations have received portions of their entitlement under the Native Claims Act to date, according to the Bureau of Land Management.

Arctic Village and Venetie received 1.8 million acres in December, in the largest conveyance of land to a single village. The villages, located in the former Venetie Reserve, chose to take full title to the former reserve and relinquish other benefits of the Claims Act.

Brevig Mission, the first village in the Bering Straits region to receive land, received 88,354.31 acres in December.

Other villages receiving land were: Eklutna, 22.5 acres; Hydaberg, 20,770 acres; Kasaan, 23,051 acres; and Pilot Point, 87,670 acres.

The tally thus far is 9,008,092 acres conveyed to villages, of which 2,094,146.81 acres have been patented.

Regional corporations received 4,610,360 acres under Section 12(c) of the Claims Act. They were conveyed an additional 514,396 acres of subsurface estate under another provision of the law.

Decisions to Issue Conveyance involving nearly 900,000 acres were also published in December for the villages of Igiugig, Newhalen, Kokhanok, White

Mountain, New Stuyahok, Alakanuk and Dot Lake. A decision to issue conveyance was also published for the Doyon, Limited regional corporation.

Draft conveyance decisions involving about 125,000 acres sent out for review in December. 19 conveyance decisions affecting more than 2 million acres are currently in final processing by the BLM.