

# Nike-Cajuns to Be Launched At Barrow

In April, the Natioanl Aero-nautics and Space Administra-tion will begin a series of rocket-launched post-stratospheric war-ming experiments at Point Bar-row, Alaska, to obtain upper atmospheric meteorological data within the Arctic Circle.

The four research rockets (Nike-Cajuns) are scheduled to be launched as early as April 6. They will be launched in an easterly direction from Point Barrow.

Tentatively scheduled for launch during a one-week period, the four experiments may be delayed by weather conditions. If delayed, they will be resched-uled from day to day through mid-May.

# Umatilla Tribe Wins Court Suit

Judge Robert Belloni of the federal district court in Oregon on March 30 issued a court in-junction halting any further con-struction on three dams situated on the Columbia River dividing Oregon and neighboring Washing-ton.

The Dalles Dam, Bonneville Dam and John Day Dam are all affected by the injunction.

The ruling emerged from a suit filed by the Umatilla Tribe of Oregon and an intertribal alliance called Treaty Indians of the Columbia (TIC) on grounds of irreversible damage to fish and spawning runs.

Said TIC's Leo Alexander: "This is one of the very few victories of this kind for In-dians."

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# Morton to Move Swiftly to Adjudicate State Lands

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Secretary of the Interior Rogers C.B. Morton announced today that the Department is taking im-mediate steps to expedite the transfer of lands selected by the State of Alaska under the provisions of its Statehood Act.

"We intend to move as rapidly as possible," the Secretary said, "in order to speed up the adjudication of lands previously selected by the State of Alaska."

"I have instructed the Bureau of Land Management to complete the necessary reviews and recordation of land status so that we can determine which of those areas selected by the State can be processed under the require-ments of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act."

"I am asking the Secretary of Defense to expedite his Depart-ment's evaluation of State-selected lands that lie north and west of the Porcupine, Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers. This is required by the Statehood Act."

"Under my instructions, the Bureau of Land Management will give top priority to the process-ing of State-selected lands, pend-ing homestead entries, applica-tions, for trade manufacturing sites, Native allotment applica-tions, and requests for public land uses such as highway rights-of-way. I have also asked BLM to review the total survey needs for both State and Native selec-tions and to program the survey work over the shortest practical time."

The Secretary noted that at the time of the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act the State had selected 25 million acres and that in January the State nominated another 77 million acres for selection.

"On March 15," he said, "we indicated that 35 million acres of the 77 million could be pro-cessed to State selection im-mediately. The State may now make a confirming application for this 35 million acres if it desires."

Secretary Morton pointed out that the State of Alaska's 103 million acre allotment under its Statehood Act exceeds the total amount of land granted to 17 of the states west of the Mississippi River.

The 60 million acres specifi-cally earmarked for, or already transferred to, the State of Alaska exceeds the total land

grants to the States of North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma; Montana, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexi-co, Arizona, Utah, Idaho, Nevad-a, and California.

"The Department recognizes," Secretary Morton said, "that there are many interests compet-ing for ownership of land in Alaska. These include the State, Alaska Natives, private individu-als, and Federal agencies acting in the public interest."

"I have great confidence, however, that the Joint State-Federal Land Planning Commis-sion established by the Settle-ment Act will help resolve these matters in a manner most accept-able to all parties."

Co-Chairmen of the Commis-sion are Alaska's Governor Wil-liam Egan for the State and Jack Horton, Former Deputy Under Secretary of the Interior, for the Federal Government.



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