

# Land Reclassification Plan Draws Opposition

A Bureau of Land Management plan to reclassify 18.5 million acres of land in east central Alaska has come under fire from some who oppose the restrictions that would be placed on homesteading.

Within the area about 469,000 acres would be open for homesteads with the remaining 18 million classified as multiple use.

As explained Oct. 27 by BLM manager Bob Krumm at a public hearing in Fairbanks, the proposal involves 6,105,442 acres known as the White Mountains Planning Unit and 12,450,000 acres known as the Forty Mile Planning Unit.

The BLM is proposing a classification of these lands so as to prevent improper use of the area. It is authorized to identify the lands for disposal or for retention and multiple use management under the Classification and Multiple Use Act of 1964.

BLM officials have repeatedly stated that they want the public to express its opinion so that proposals, which result in final classification, recognize the needs of the people sharing an interest in the land.

The hearing in Fairbanks was the first of two formal hearings following many informal meetings. The second formal hearing will be held in Tok on Nov. 24 after which the BLM will make a formal recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior. Written opinions and suggestions can be submitted to the District Manager, Fairbanks District and Land Office, P.O. Box 1150, Fairbanks on the White Mountain Unit until Nov. 15 and the Forty Mile unit until Dec. 7.

## White Mountains Planning Unit

Located north and east of Fairbanks, the area contains about 6,105,442 acres. It includes the White Mountains and the towns of Central and Circle.

According to the BLM, the major portion of this area is undeveloped. Fifty per cent of the unit lies within 60 miles of the population center of Fairbanks and receives heavy recreation pressure. Under the reclassification, all of the unit would remain open to State selection.

Specifically the unit would be classified as follows:

- three areas totaling 1,234 acres along the Steese Highway for future development as recreation areas.
- five areas totaling 10,000

acres along the Steese Highway for homesteads and headquarters sites to allow for residential or business settlement in areas where there is a demand for possible community development.

- the remaining 6,094,208 acres for Multiple Use Management including mining, timber, wildlife, mineral leasing and land sale and excluding homesteads, homesteads, and Native allotments.

## Forty Mile Planning Unit

Located in east central Alaska next to the Canadian border, the tract covers 12,450,000 acres. Within or near the unit are the towns of Northway, Tetlin, Tanacross, Eagle, Tok and Delta Junction.

According to the BLM, the area has long been recognized as a highly mineralized region. Sand, gravel and stone are found there now and coal, nickel, and lead and other minerals are believed to be in the area.

Under the proposal, all of the unit would remain open to State selection.

Specifically, it would be classified as follows:

- 420,000 acres around Eagle and near Northway for Native allotments and homesteads.
- five areas totaling 39,000

# Yuk Eskimo Dialect in 3 Schools...

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of using the mother tongue as a language of instruction, and in so doing preserve the native language which has been in serious jeopardy of dying out.

Until now, children were forced to speak English from the time they first went to school and were punished for doing otherwise.

Many of the materials used for the instruction of reading, writing, and social studies and math can be and have been adapted from English texts. Further materials are being developed by Irene Reed, of the department of linguistics and her assistant, Pascal Afcan, with a large grant from the BIA.

Mr. Afcan has written and illustrated several original children's stories, and along with Miss Reed, translated several others from the English. These little books are being used in the three schools at the present time.

The three villages all speak the Yuk dialect and this will be

The people, culture, history and value systems of native Alaskans, who stand to be affected by land claims action and the development of oil resources in the state, will be examined on a three-part CBS-TV series on "Look Up and Live" on successive Sundays, starting November 8 (5:00-6:00 pm AST) in color on KTVF, Channel 11.

Filed last July in several major cities and small villages in Alaska, the series is titled "The Native Alaskan" and focuses solely on people indigenous to the area.

Part I on Sunday, November 8 is subtitled "Reflections" and looks at the land and its culture. Part II on Sunday, November 15, "Realities," deals with present life styles.

The final broadcast on Sun-

day, November 22, "Prospects," studies possible effects of current land claims and oil development problems in Alaska.

Sites visited on the series include Anchorage, Bethel, Fairbanks, Fort Yukon, Hoonah, Juneau, Kipnuk, Klukwan, Rampart, Sitka and Stevens Village.

Among those appearing on all three broadcasts are Robert Willard, executive director of the Alaska State Commission for Human Rights; Byron Mallott, executive director, Rural Community Program; State Senator Ray Christiansen of Bethel; Margaret Nick, secretary, Alaska Federation of Natives, and John Borbridge, first vice president, Alaska Federation of Natives, and president, Central Council of Tlingit and Haida

acres along the Taylor and Alaska

Highways for homesteads, headquarters, sites, and the township laws to furnish both residential and business needs.

- six areas totaling 5,016 acres along the Taylor Highway for future development as recreation areas. These areas would be closed to all forms of appropriation including mining laws.
- the remaining acres for Multiple Use Management including mining, timber, wildlife, mineral leasing, and land sale. This area would be closed to homesteading.

the primary language used in the first grade this year. English will be taught at the same time as a secondary language.

Next year Eskimo will be used also in the second grade, and so on, until the fifth grade when the children are supposed to be fluent in reading, writing and speaking both languages.

These villages were chosen because they are still primarily native speaking, so the children will come into the school already using the native tongue in speech. Another important part of the bi-lingual program is that which is presently going on at the university.

Ten native students, who were recruited from the villages by Miss Reed are now undergoing an intensive year of Eskimo language study, preparing them as teachers of this system, so that they will be able to institute it in their home villages when they return.

Each student, who must be fluent in the native tongue to start with, will become literate and master the system of spelling and grammar rules.

They also take instruction in the subtleties involved in the art of teaching.

Last summer, the University hosted a special eight week training course to prepare the teachers now instructing in the villages. Most of the students were already assistant teachers and fluent in their native language.

At that time Irma Jean Benton was in charge of the "teaching teachers to teach." She was particularly well-equipped to handle this as she is quite familiar with the Kuskokwim area and sensitive to the needs of the people there.

Mr. Walter Featherly, who was the principal of the school in Akiachuk, is acting as supervisor for the program in the participating villages.

So far the reports from the field indicate an enthusiastic reception on the part of the parents in the villages. A more accurate appraisal will be forthcoming after Miss Reed returns from an inspection tour she hopes to take in the near future.

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The state provided some \$5,

000 for teachers and counselors'

salaries for several weeklong cur-

riculum writing and orientation

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The new students were brought

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iliarize them with the city. It

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Next year, the orientation

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over a longer period, Lintott

said.

When September came, Lin-

tott said 30 of the newly arrived

youngsters in his own Core class;

there were supposed to be only

25.

Not all of the boarding-home

children are in the Core program,

it should be noted.

"We're concentrating on the

new-to-Anchorage kids rather

than those returning boarding

home students," Lintott said.

Those youngsters especially

in need of help with communica-

tions skills get first priority. Of

the 331 kids in the Anchorage

boarding-home program, 180 to

190 are in the special Core

program.

Dimond High has two Core

classes. One is taught by Lintott

and the other by Mrs. Phyllis

Sullivan. East's groups are di-

rected by Mrs. Laura Bernhard

and Clude Carrington and West's by

Bob Marlin.

Mrs. Pat Wendt teaches the

class at Wendler Junior High.

The teachers were chosen on

the basis of interest and ability,

Lintott said.

Counselors who participated

in the special orientation were

Jean Portlock, East; Mrs. H.L.

Burkheimer, West; Mrs. Maurina

Bowles, Dimond; and Mrs. Betty

Ramsey, Wendler. Mrs. Mimi

Martin, boarding home consul-

tant, and Mrs. James Cox, repre-

senting the boarding home par-

ents, also contributed.

Mrs. Pat Darby, state home-

school coordinator, believes it is

a little early to evaluate the dif-

ference between the boarding

home youngsters in last year's

program without Core and this

year's kids with Core.

But according to talks she's

had with several of the teachers,

it seems to be working out ex-

remely well, she said.

"Core provides a stepping

stone for jumping into urban

living," she explained.

The school district is also

apparently pleased with the pro-

gram. It is one of several pro-

grams the district is attempting

to establish for the native stu-

dent.

A Rural Transitional Center is

now underway and a social

studies course on "Alaska Native

History and Culture" is available

on the secondary level, accord-

ing to Curriculum Director Wells.

Wells also noted that the In-

structional Television Center is

developing a 15-film series on

native culture for use in the

seventh grade classroom.

Lintott is especially pleased

with his students' progress.

"In four days, the kids were

giving oral presentations from

their seats on life in their individ-

ual villages," he said.

Now they can talk before the

class with little problem.

But the shyness and uncer-

tainty is slow to dissolve out-

side the classroom.

"I took them to the library

this morning and showed them

where everything was and how

to use it. I had hopes they'd

each find a book or newspaper

or whatever, but they all wanted

very definitely to go back to

their classroom after the tour

was finished," Lintott comment-

ed. "They felt uncomfortable.

They weren't ready to venture

out into the world at large. They

have a long way to go in social

ease," he noted.

The youngsters may transfer

out of the Core program any-

time they and their counselor

feel they can function adequately

in a regular English or social

studies class. In the meantime,

of course, they are attending

regular classes for the major

portion of the day.

Some have already progressed

to the point where they are

ready to leave the class. Others

have found it necessary to drop

out of the boarding program

itself.

One boy realized after a few

weeks that the hectic pressured

life in the city and large school

was becoming detrimental to his

health. The young man returned

to his village.

"This speaks something about

our life style. We who are wrap-

ped up in this urban context

have a whole lot to learn from

this other culture," Lintott said.

The kids think so too. During

a dictionary drill, one of the

village boys told Lintott that he

would send home for his Eskimo

hymnal so that Lintott could

study the syllables in the Eskimo

tongue.

# 'Look Up and Live' TV Series

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# Boarding Students...

Continued from page 2

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Apparently others had been concerned with the problem, too. Les Wells, director of secondary education for the Anchorage schools, approached Lintott to help draw up a proposal to submit to the state Department of Education for monies to develop a program to help accclimate the youngsters coming in from the bush.

The state provided some \$5,000 for teachers and counselors' salaries for several weeklong curriculum writing and orientation programs.

The new students were brought in early for a three-day intensive get-acquainted program with the teachers, counselors and fellow students. An extensive tour program was drawn up to familiarize them with the city. It was useful, the kids said, but terribly hectic.

Next year, the orientation program will be stretched out over a longer period, Lintott said.

When September came, Lintott said 30 of the newly arrived youngsters in his own Core class; there were supposed to be only 25.

Not all of the boarding-home children are in the Core program, it should be noted.

"We're concentrating on the new-to-Anchorage kids rather than those returning boarding home students," Lintott said.

Those youngsters especially in need of help with communications skills get first priority. Of the 331 kids in the Anchorage boarding-home program, 180 to 190 are in the special Core program.

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Mrs. Pat Wendt teaches the class at Wendler Junior High. The teachers were chosen on the basis of interest and ability, Lintott said.

Counselors who participated in the special orientation were Jean Portlock, East; Mrs. H.L. Burkheimer, West; Mrs. Maurina Bowles, Dimond; and Mrs. Betty Ramsey, Wendler. Mrs. Mimi Martin, boarding home consultant, and Mrs. James Cox, representing the boarding home parents, also contributed.

Mrs. Pat Darby, state home-school coordinator, believes it is a little early to evaluate the difference between the boarding home youngsters in last year's program without Core and this

Indians. "Look Up and Live" is a presentation of CBS News, with Pamela Hott executive producer. "The Native Alaskan" was produced by Chalmers Dale and written by Alva I. Cox, Jr.

## KUAC Program

The standardization of the Eskimo language and the first recorded music by a contemporary Eskimo will be discussed on KUAC's People Talk, Saturday, Nov. 7 at 11 p.m.

Among the guests will be John Angaiak, an Eskimo who recently recorded popular music in Eskimo; Irene Reed, who teaches Eskimo language classes at the University and Steve Halbern, who produced Angaiak's album.

# Work Experience...

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