

Dating the quest for a land claims settlement

1867 — The U.S. buys Alaska from Russia. Treaty of Cession provides that "uncivilized native tribes" are subject to such laws as the United States may adopt.

1884 — The Organic Act provides the first civil government for Alaska and promises protection for lands used and occupied by natives.

1906 — Native Allotment Act provides first opportunity for natives to obtain land — 160 acres of public domain — under restricted title.

1912 — Alaska becomes a territory with a two-house Legislature.

1912 — Alaska Native Brotherhood is founded in Sitka.

1924 — Citizenship Act extends citizenship to most Alaska natives — those who had not become citizens earlier.

1924 — First Alaska native, William L. Paul, elected to Legislature.

1926 — Native Townsite Act provides opportunity for natives to obtain restricted deeds to village lots.

1934 — Provisions of Indian Reorganization Act extended to Alaska, permitting establishment of reservations for native groups.

1946 — Indian Claims Act provides for Court of Claims jurisdiction in land disputes.

1958 — Congress approves Alaska Statehood Act; right to native lands disclaimed; state to choose 103 million acres.

1959 — Court of Claims rules that Tlingit and Haida Indians entitled to compensation (later set at \$7.5 million) for Southeast Alaska lands taken from them by federal government.

1961 — State land selections threaten continued use of lands in Minto area.

1961 — Inupiat Eskimos in Point Hope area protest federal plans to explode a nuclear device at Cape Thompson in a subsistence hunting and fishing area.

1961 — Inupiat Paitot meets to discuss protection of aboriginal rights.

1962 — Tundra Times established in Anchorage.

1963 — Proposed Rampart Dam protested by Stevens Village and other Yukon River villages.

1963 — Alaska Task Force calls upon Congress to define native land rights.

1966 — Statewide meeting of native leaders in Anchorage leads to organization of Alaska Federation of Natives.

1966 — Interior Secretary Stewart Udall imposes a land "freeze" to protect native use and occupancy.

1967 — First bills introduced in Congress to settle native land claims.

1967 — Udall says Congress should be liberal with the Alaska native.

1967 — Gov. Walter Hickel says native land claims "create the most serious problem facing the state of Alaska."

1968 — Alaska Land Claims Task Force, established by Hickel, recommends 40-million-acre settlement.

1968 — Governmental study effort ("Alaska Natives and The Land") asserts native land claims to be valid.

1969 — North Slope oil lease auction produces \$900 million for the state of Alaska.

1970 — A land claims bill is passed by the Senate, but natives are disappointed in its land provisions.

1971 — Bills pass both houses of Congress, but differences in them require conference committee; its compromise version passes both houses.

1971 — President Richard Nixon signs the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (Public Law 92-203) on Dec. 18.