

to let each village choose what it needs within the withdrawn area subject, of course, to the acreage and contiguity requirements which Congress deems appropriate.

The Alaskan Natives believe that under any fair settlement they should be permitted to retain a minimum of 40 million acres for use and development. This is a request for 10% of the land by 20% of the people who have valid claims to nearly 100% of the land.

In some areas of Alaska it may require 1,000 acres to support a single Native. In all areas of Alaska, villages cannot possibly survive unless they have unimpaired use of the surrounding lands and waters for hunting, fishing, and gathering. If a stream is polluted by oil or anything else, if a spawning bed is destroyed, or if a grazing path is disrupted, a village (or several villages) will die. For, despite the best intentions of Federal, state and private conservationists, two facts are indisputably true:

First, when it comes to protecting the ecology of the land needed by a particular village for subsistence, no one will have a greater incentive than the village whose subsistence is involved.

And, second, a village will be at a serious disadvantage in protecting that ecology if it does not have title to the land in question