



Glossary of Terms

Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN)

- AFN is the largest and oldest statewide Native organization in Alaska. Its membership includes 176 federally recognized tribes, 143 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 11 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums.

Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971

- ANCSA was a new approach by Congress to federal Indian policy. ANCSA extinguished aboriginal land title in Alaska. It divided the state into twelve distinct regions and mandated the creation of 12 private, for-profit Alaska Native regional corporations and over 200 private, for-profit Alaska Native village corporations.

Alaska Native corporation (ANC)

- This term refers to both Alaska Native regional and village corporations.

ANCSA Regional Association (ARA)

- The ARA Board of Directors is made up of the presidents and chief executive officers of the twelve land-based Alaska Native regional corporations that were created pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971.

Alaska Native Regional Corporations

- Private, for-profit corporations established by ANCSA to serve Alaska Native shareholders. There are 12 regional corporations.

Alaska Native Village Corporations

- Private, for-profit corporations established by ANCSA to serve Alaska Native shareholders. ANCSA originally established more than 200 village corporations. Today, there are 176 village corporations in operation, largely due to mergers.

Alaska Native Village Corporation Association (ANVCA)

- Trade association promoting the Alaska Native village corporations, similar to ARA.

ANCSA Section 7(i)

- Revenue sharing provisions in ANCSA that direct 70% of the net proceeds of natural resource revenue from one Alaska Native regional corporation to all other eleven.

ANCSA Section 7(j)

- Revenue sharing provisions in ANCSA that direct 50% of 7(i) revenue to Alaska Native village corporations and at-large shareholders.

Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980

- ANILCA is a landmark 1980 federal law that designated over 100 million acres of federal land in Alaska as conservation units, including national parks, refuges, and

wilderness areas. The act aimed to preserve Alaska's natural beauty and cultural heritage while ensuring subsistence priority for rural residents on federal lands.

Federally Recognized Tribes

- There are 574 federally recognized tribes in the United States, 229 of which are in Alaska. Tribes are sovereign entities with an established government-to-government relationship with the federal government.

Fee-Simple Title

- ANCs own land in “fee simple title,” in contrast to tribes in the Lower 48, where reservations often have their land put into trust. Fee simple title is comparable to private land ownership.

Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDEAA) of 1975

- ISDEAA is a U.S. federal law enacted in 1975 (Public Law 93-638) that provides tribal governments greater authority and control over federal programs and services previously administered by the federal government.

Reservation (Land in Trust System)

- A reservation is an area of land that was set aside by the federal government and held as “land into trust.” These lands are held by the federal government for the tribe and promotes self-governance and government-to-government relationships. Land held “in trust” by the federal government creates a permission structure for activities on Tribal land.

Self-Determination

- Self-determination refers to the idea that tribes and Native people have the inherent right to govern themselves, control their economic future, and have input into the federal services their communities receive.

Split Estate

- Split estate refers to a situation in which the owner of the surface and the owner of subsurface estate are different.

Subsurface Estate

- Alaska Native regional corporations typically own subsurface estate, or the minerals beneath the ground.

Surface Estate

- Alaska Native village corporations typically own surface estate, or the surface site upon which their village sits.

8(a) Program

- The 8(a) Business Development Program is a U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) program designed to help small businesses owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals gain access to federal contracting opportunities and grow their businesses.