

# Native Allotments for Veterans

November 2020 update

## PUBLIC LAW 116-9

THE JOHN D. DINGELL, JR. CONSERVATION,  
MANAGEMENT, AND RECREATION ACT

The 1906 Native Allotment program ended in 1971 with the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). However, some Alaska Natives were serving in the Armed Forces at the time and missed the deadline to apply for a Native Allotment. A new law passed in March 2019 extends the opportunity for an estimated 2,800 Native veterans who served between August 5, 1964 and December 31, 1971.

The Bureau of Land Management finalized rules related to this law on November 5, and anticipates they will be published in the Federal Register in the coming weeks. The application period will begin 30 days afterward. Eligible veterans (or their heirs) will have five years to submit an application for an allotment.

To assist in determining what land is available, the Bureau of Land Management worked with the State of Alaska and Alaska Native corporations to produce a map of land that is available for selection. You can view this map online at: <https://tinyurl.com/AKNativeVeteranMap>. **We recommend reviewing the map of available land now and, if you are interested in selecting land in the Bristol Bay region, contact the BBNC Land Department to discuss ANCSA or State overselected land that could be made available. There is limited acreage currently available in the Bristol Bay region. Call (907) 278-3602 or (800) 426-3602.**

## Are you an heir of an eligible Vietnam-era Veteran?

Call the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and ask to be added to the Alaska Native Veteran Land Allotment contact list. This will ensure that you receive updates and an announcement when the allotment application is available. **(907) 271-4506**

If you are an heir of an Alaska Native veteran eligible for the Land Allotment program, you must be represented by a **Personal Representative**, who may apply for an allotment on behalf of all heirs. (A Personal Representative could be an heir, or a bank or trust acting on behalf of heirs, but must be appointed by a court or registrar to handle probate activities.) In Alaska, you can find out more about this process at the Alaska Court System Self-Help Services Probate web page: **[www.courts.alaska.gov/shc/probate/probate-personal-rep.htm](http://www.courts.alaska.gov/shc/probate/probate-personal-rep.htm)**

If you reside in another state, you may wish to consult your own state court system about this process.



## WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Vietnam-era Alaska Native Veterans are eligible if they meet the following criteria:

- ✓ **Alaska Native**
- ✓ **Served in Armed Forces between August 5, 1964 and December 31, 1971**
- ✓ **Has not already received an allotment of land**

The Department of Defense (DoD), the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will determine eligibility.

**You do not have to apply at this time.**

**Just be sure that BIA and VA have your current mailing address.**

- ▶ **BIA**  
Enrollment Verification:  
(907) 271-4506
- ▶ **VA**  
[www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits](http://www.ebenefits.va.gov/ebenefits)

**For more information and updates, visit the BLM Vietnam Vet Land Allotment website:**

**[www.blm.gov/ak-native-vietnam-vet-land-allotment-2019](http://www.blm.gov/ak-native-vietnam-vet-land-allotment-2019)**

# The Process

## Eligibility

- 1 The Department of Defense (DoD), in coordination with the Department of Veterans Affairs, will prepare a list of potential applicants based on their service dates in the Armed Forces from August 5, 1964 to December 31, 1971.
- 2 The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) will use the list to identify the potential applicants based on their Native heritage as defined in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. § 1602).
- 3 The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will review the list for those who have already received allotments. Only those qualified individuals who have **not** previously received an allotment are eligible under the newly passed law.

### Make sure you have a copy of your DD-214

Eligible veterans or their heirs will need a copy of DD-214 to verify military service dates. If you do not have a copy, call the Alaska Veterans Affairs Office at (907) 334-0874. They are the first stop for any vet whose home of record was Alaska and will help you navigate the process. You'll have to fill out and sign an SF-180 form to request your DD-214.

Or, if you are currently receiving VA benefits, your records should be accessible online through a VA milConnect account. [www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records](http://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records)

### 2020 Direct Mail

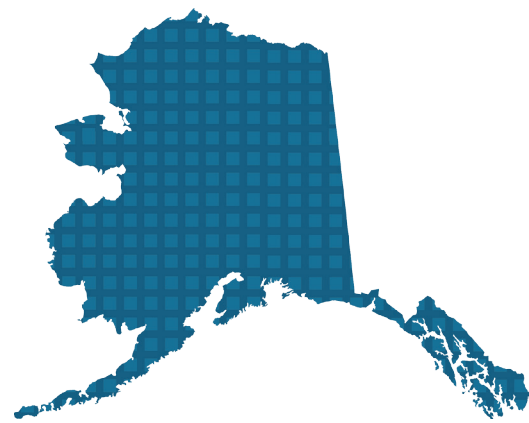


If you are deemed eligible, you should have received a letter in 2020. **Be sure BIA has your current mailing address. (907) 271-4506**

If you do not receive notification, it means that either that the contact information the government has for you is incorrect or you were not found to be eligible. If you were erroneously determined to not qualify, a process is being developed for establishing that you have met the eligibility requirements. That process will be described in the final rules.

## Application

- Rules for applying for an allotment of land are expected to be published in the Federal Register in the near future, and the application window can begin as soon as 30 days later.
- If you are eligible, you will have five years to submit an application.
- If another individual requests the same land, preference goes to the earliest-filed complete application.
- Review the map of available land now and contact the BBNC Land Department at (907) 278-3602 or (800) 426-3602 for assistance identifying potentially available lands in the Bristol Bay region.



You can look at an interactive map of available lands at <https://tinyurl.com/AKNativeVeteranMap>. It will be updated as more lands become available.

### WHAT LANDS ARE AVAILABLE?

- ▶ All vacant, unappropriated, and unreserved BLM-managed public lands are available.
- ▶ Lands selected by the state under the Alaska Statehood Act or a regional or village corporation under ANCSA, but not yet conveyed, can be made available by the state or the corporations for selection.

You may request one allotment parcel from any eligible lands in Alaska, as identified by the BLM. The parcel must be 2.5 acres minimum and 160 acres maximum.

### LANDS NOT AVAILABLE

*Appropriated lands*, such as those selected by the State or by Native corporations for conveyance.

*Reserved lands*, such as those designated for a specific use like military bases, National Parks, or National Wildlife Refuge, or specific purposes like the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska.

Note: The Department of the Interior is working on a study of lands within National Wildlife Refuges that can be made available for selection. The report will be sent to Congress, which can pass a law to open up the recommended lands for selection.