

Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy Copper River Region, Alaska 2012 Update

**Prepared by Copper Valley Development Association
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Introduction



PREFACE

MISSION AND METHODOLOGY

ORGANIZATIONS

I Preface

The Copper Valley Development Association (CVDA) has undertaken revision of the existing Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDs), first drafted in 2003 and last updated in 2009, with assistance from State and Federal agencies, non-profit organizations, local businesses, and input from the residents of the Copper River Region. CVDA is the designated Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) and will use CEDs as its regional development strategy which will guide future annual work plans of the Association and its staff.

CEDs will make organizations in the region eligible for funding under the US Economic Development Administration (EDA) such as EDA public works, economic adjustment and planning programs. Funding and support for the preparation of the CEDs has come from the United States of America, Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration (EDA).

II Mission and Methodology

This CEDs is the result of a community-based planning process designed to guide the economic growth of the Copper River Region. It aims to assist the coordination of individual efforts, as well as those of organizations and private industry concerned with economic and community development. It is a continuing process with diverse community participation which should promote sustainable economic development and job opportunities, foster effective transportation systems, enhance and protect the environment, and balance resource use through sound management of development. Every strategy in this plan aims to create employment in the region, raise wage levels in the region and bring private investment to the Copper River Region. This document will be readily accessible to the economic development stakeholders in the community and should be useful as a tool for local decision making.

Communities in the Copper River Region were afforded the opportunity to receive assistance from CVDA in creating community level planning documents prior to participating in the Regional planning effort. In the research compilation phase of this undertaking, CVDA found that only 6 of the 22 communities in the region had a current community plan on file. Most communities welcomed the opportunity to carry out planning sessions facilitated by CVDA staff while others opted to hold planning meetings without assistance. A few communities opted out of the planning process

altogether. Those sessions that were held with CVDA assistance were simplified efforts at the request of the community organizations hosting them, from 2-3 hours in length, therefore not allowing for a complete planning process to occur or strategies to be fully developed.

III Organizations

The Copper River Region is an unorganized borough area of the state with no incorporated municipalities, other than eight tribal village councils that govern their villages. Regional organizations are essentially businesses, federal and state agencies, as well as non-profit organizations. Some of the partners who supplied information for this report include but are not limited to: Prince William Sound Community College, Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative, State of Alaska Workforce Development, Copper River School District, Copper Valley Electric Association, and Copper River EMS Council. Large landowners, Ahntna, Inc., Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve and the Bureau of Land Management have also provided information.

Copper Valley Development Association, Inc is governed by a board of seven directors that are elected by the general membership in a democratic process at an annual meeting. The board seeks representation from local private and public organizations including; Native organizations, , oil and gas industry, education, health, forestry, transportation, mining, communications, tourism, utilities, professions, natural resource and conservation, small businesses and communities. There are no designated seats.

Copper Valley Development Association, Inc. is funded primarily through the Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR) program. Funds are also leveraged through various donations and fundraising projects. The CVDA mission is to perform as a public and private partnership to address natural resources and economic development opportunities throughout the Copper River Region. This is accomplished through information gathering and disseminating; acting as liaison between organizations, and creating self-sufficiency throughout the region through development and wise use of sustainable resources.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS :

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Todd Stoeberl	NPS Chief of Interpretation	James Horrell	Tazlina Trading Post
Pete Peschang	Future Focus Consulting	Richard Dennis	Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce
Theresa Absher	Director Glennallen Dept Labor Job Center	Bruce Cain	Ahtna Operations Advisor

Area Organizations, Private, Governmental, and Non-Profit:

Ahtna Inc. <http://www.ahtna-inc.com/>
Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development <http://labor.state.ak.us/>
Alaska Department of Natural Resources <http://dnr.alaska.gov/>
Alaska Department of Public Safety <http://www.dps.state.ak.us/>
Alaska Division of Forestry <http://forestry.alaska.gov/divdir.htm>
Bureau of Land Management <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/fo/gdo.html>
Copper River EMS Council crems@cvinternet.net
Copper River Schools <http://www.crsd.k12.ak.us/>
Copper River Regional Health Network crrhn@yahoo.com
Cross Road Medical Center <http://www.crossroadmc.org/>
Copper Valley Development Association <http://www.coppervalley.org/>
Copper Valley Electric Association <http://www.cvea.org/>
Copper Valley Telephone Cooperative <http://www.cvtc.org/>
Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce <http://www.coppervalleychamber.com>
Native Village of Chitina <http://www.chitinanative.com>
Native Village of Gakona <http://www.nvgakona.com>
Native Village of Gulkana <http://www.gulkanacouncil.org>
Mount Sanford Tribal Consortium <http://www.mstc.org>
Wrangell-St Elias National Park <http://www.nps.gov/wrst/index.htm>
Copper River Native Association <http://www.crnative.org>

- Overview
- Business Climate
- Housing
- Employment
- Tourism
- Transportation
- Resource use and Conservation
 - Oil and Mining
 - Fisheries
 - Forestry and Timber
- Health Services

State Economic Overview



I Overview

Alaska has shown relative resistance to the national economic crisis with slow and steady growth of its Gross Domestic Product (above the national average) over the last decade. Exports from Alaska totaled \$4.2 billion in 2010, an increase of 26.95 percent from 2009. The unemployment rate remains below the national average as do the number of foreclosures and bankruptcies. Recent studies however show the general consensus among Alaskans to be that, while Alaska maintains its economic stability, growth through development is compromised since statewide measures are generally uncoordinated and ineffectiveⁱ.

Among the many issues identified as hindrances to economic development in the state are: high level of dependency on the price of oil, high energy costs, harsh geographic and climate conditions, under developed infrastructure, undiversified exports and weak linkages to rapidly expanding global markets. Alaska's workforce lacks both higher level technical training and entry level "soft skills" such as work ethic, basic reading and math skills.

Three strategic development thrusts suggested by experts for economic growth in Alaska are the promotion of natural resources as the state's primary economic engine, the growth of federal government presence generating all the public and private sector jobs associated and, a stronger entrepreneurial climate through the promotion and support of small businesses. Among the key capabilities identified for economic development in the state are cold climate housing and technology, distance delivery (education, medical, and management), alternative energies and naturally grown/grazed food products.

II Business Climate

While the number of filed bankruptcies in the state has been reduced by half in the last 5 years, Alaska does not present a particularly good climate for business risk taking and innovation. In 2009 there were 1.42 patents in Alaska –vs.- 6.95 nationally per every 10,000 employees.ⁱⁱ Resources available to entrepreneurs and businesses in the state are considerably less than the national average (28.3 to 100).ⁱⁱⁱ A slight increase in the number of new business licenses issued was noted from 2010 to 2011.

The 2009 APED funded *Alaska Forward: Phase I Situational Analysis* Report indicates that business owners are generally uncertain as to the current overall business climate in the state and equally uncertain as to the climate expected in the coming years. 52.1% of those polled rate the effectiveness of economic development efforts in Alaska as simply “not effective”^{iv}

III Housing

While property values were not able to accompany inflation rates (single family residences appreciated roughly 1.3% annually since 2006), it is encouraging to see that foreclosure and delinquency rates are significantly lower than in the rest of the country.^v According to the Mortgage Bankers' Association, the 4th quarter 2011 foreclosure rate is half of the national average (0.5%). This is due greatly to Alaska's lack of speculative real estate investment and solid lending practices. Construction of new homes has stabilized after the 2005 peak (approx. 2000 new units a year 2008-2011).

The rental market in Alaska shows median adjusted rental values anywhere from \$847 in the Kenai Borough to \$1231 in the Kodiak Borough for a 2 bedroom apartment. A single family home median adjusted rental value will range from \$959 in the Wrangell Borough to \$1938 in the Fairbanks Borough. Vacancy rates are lowest in the Valdez Census area (1.2%) and highest in the Ketchikan Borough (11.5%).^{vi}

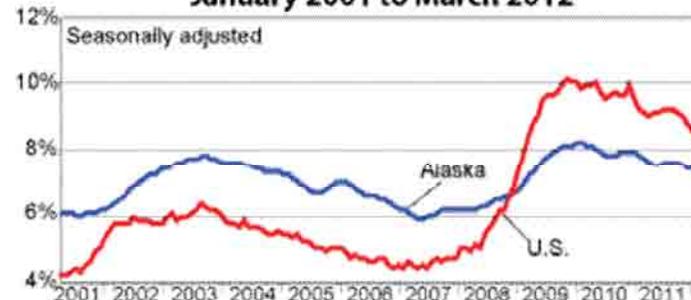


IV Employment

Alaska's workforce is employed primarily in service providing industries such as transportation, trade and utilities, education, health, and leisure/hospitality. While this is reflected in number of jobs by industry, not surprisingly so in transportation given the size of the state and the logistics of bringing goods to Alaskans, it is in natural resources where the

bulk of the state's GDP can be found- \$40 billion of the \$49 billion GDP derives from mining. Coincidentally, it is also in mining that Alaska sees significant growth in jobs- 23.4% from 2006 to 2010. Among the hardest hit sectors of employment by industry was

Unemployment Rates, Alaska and U.S.
January 2001 to March 2012



construction where the number of jobs decreased by 10.6%. Although employment fell slightly in 2009 (0.4% or 1200 jobs), 2010 shows a net gain of 3500 jobs.

The state seasonally adjusted unemployment rate has remained lower than the national average staying between 6 and 8% from 2006-2010 vs national highs of 9%.

This occurs despite the influx of workers from the lower 48 –a typical occurrence when the nation is in a recession. State unemployment has however risen from its low averages of 6% in 2008. Between 2006 and 2010 the largest portion of Alaska’s workforce (18%) presented experience in the trade industry followed by 13% in accommodation and food service. ^{vii}

V Tourism

Tourism in Alaska shows slow signs of recovery in 2011 with a 1.6% increase from 2010. 1,556,800 visitors came to the state between May and September, 77% of which for vacation/pleasure. 57% of all visitors came by means of cruise ship, 39% by air, and only 4% by highway. 4 out of 5 visitors originated in the United States, primarily from the western coast. 7% of Alaska's visitors originated from Canada and another 10% from other countries. International visitors have shown to spend more per person while in the state than national visitors. A slight increase in collections from bed tax was noted in Anchorage. ^{viii}

While in the state, visitors showed a preference for one stop shop vacations. In 2011 66% of all visitors purchased a tourism package. Fishing continues to be the center of interest for non cruise type visitors of which 44% purchased a fishing lodge package for their stay. Wilderness lodge packages followed at 16% and Adventure packages with 13% (activity focused packages such as hiking, biking, rafting, and glacier climbing). There were slight increases in the purchase of both wilderness and adventure packages. The number of nights spent increased slightly for those travelling by air and cruise ship (from 9.1% to 9.2%) and decreased for those travelling by highway (18.8% to 13.2%)^{ix}

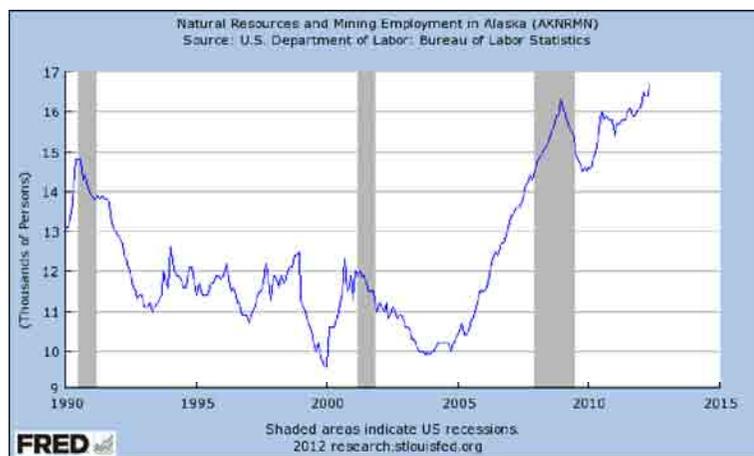
The Southeast region of Alaska, as the entryway for the cruise ship industry, continues to receive the bulk of Alaska's visitors- 68% of all visitors in 2011. The South Central region followed with 56%, and the Interior of Alaska with 33%. 63% of all visitors to Alaska related that their experience exceeded their expectations. Another 34% stated the experience was within the expected.

V Transportation

Of the nine categories of transportation in the state (air, water, trucking, transit, pipeline, courier, scenic and sightseeing, warehouse, support/other) air transportation is of unquestionable significance since many communities are unreachable by any other means. In 2010, the number of employees in the sector averaged 5,626/month with total earnings of over \$280M. International air cargo carriers from the Far East and the US continue to rely on Alaska's well established support network.

Alaska Industrial Development Export Authority (AIDEA) continues to support the development of intermodal transportation systems (roads, rail and ports) needed to bring natural resources as well as refined products and goods to the market. Although the largest state in the US (586,400 square miles- twice the size of Texas) Alaska boasts less than 0.004% of the country's paved road system (in linear feet). The need for ports along the Arctic or Western Coasts are identified as essential in taking advantage of Alaska's unique position on the globe where the future of transportation through the Northwest Passage is concerned.

VII Resource Use and Conservation



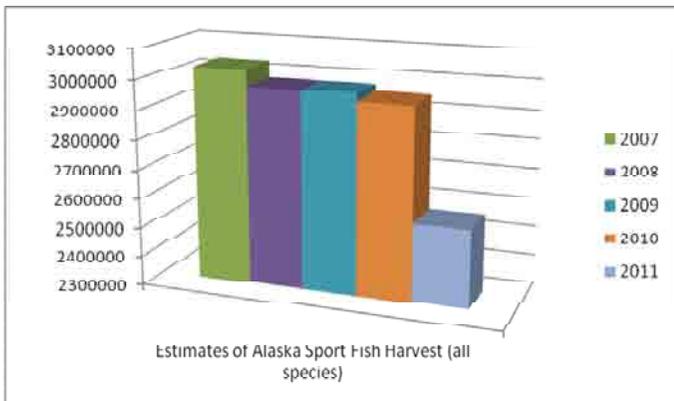
Oil and Mining

Oil production decline continues as in previous years. Per Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, throughput actual average per day in 2011 was 582,895 bbl, showing a 23% decrease from 2006. Representing 90% of the states' unrestricted funds (half of the overall state revenue), continued decline in production could leave Alaska financially vulnerable. At the present rate of decline, production could be as low as 1/3 of the current numbers by 2030.

Of the documented 39 discoveries not yet developed, 6 are potentially adequate in size for development. This sector of employment continues to pay higher wages than others and generally calls for higher skilled labor, 1/3 of which comes from out of state.

Mining continues to play an important role in Alaska's economic prosperity. According to the Alaska Miners Association, in 2010 \$58.9 million were paid in royalties to the state- a 40% increase from 2009. 5500 direct and indirect jobs with a payroll total of \$350 million come from this sector. The largest producers in the state continue to be Usibelli Coal and Greens Creek. Mining exports represented 28% of Alaska's exports.

Fisheries



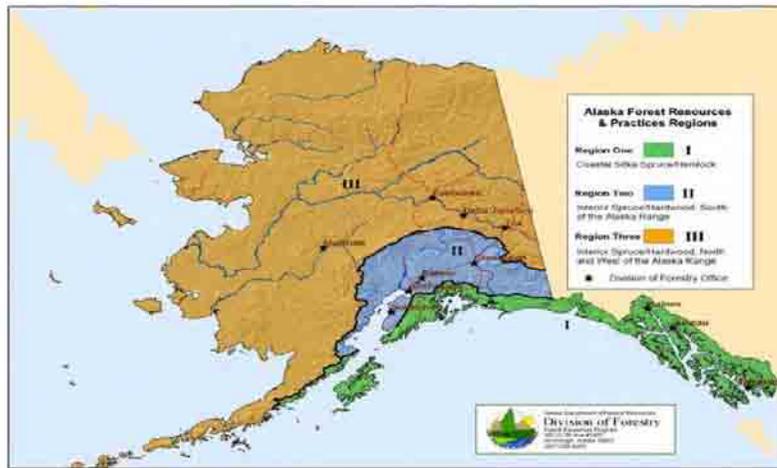
Alaska has one of the most bountiful fisheries in the world with coastlines on three different seas. The King Salmon, Alaska's state fish, can weigh up to 100 lbs. A highly regarded industry in terms of its management, nearly 53% of the fish harvested in the United States comes from Alaska's fisheries, though its contribution to the state economy has declined. Recent studies put the combined economic impact of commercial and sport fishing at \$7.4 billion and 89,915 full-time-equivalent jobs.

In 2010 there were 9965 permit holders of which 9674 were fished representing \$667,670,525.00 in revenue. 604,209 fishing licenses were sold in 2011, 55% of which to Alaska residents.

The state's salmon fishery is the largest in the world. 177,074 salmon were harvested in 2011. Harvesting projections for 2012 are considerably lower at 132,053. Sonar counts in June and July of 2012 do indicate numbers significantly higher than original projections.

Forestry and Timber

Alaska has 17 percent of the nation's forestland, 26 percent of the federal forestland, and 43 percent of state owned forestland. There are more than 200 Alaska Native Corporations, which own 35 million acres of non-industrial private forestland. Most of the timber in Alaska continues to be processed in state.



Increasing costs of energy in interior and rural Alaska combined with energy policy initiatives at the state and federal levels to increase the use of renewable energy and decrease carbon emissions will increase demand on Alaska forest resources for energy production. Broader use of forest resources creates economic opportunity, beyond traditional saw mill uses, through a wood-based bio energy industry.^{xi}

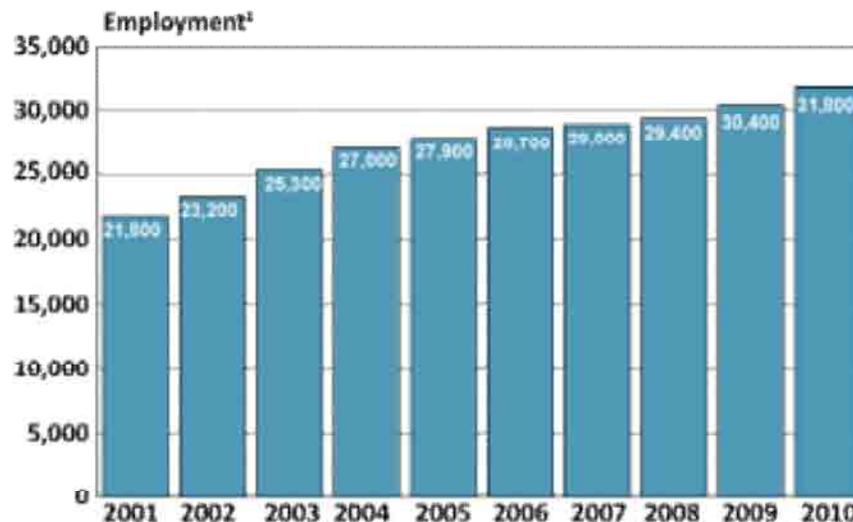
VIII Health Services

The industry added 10,000 jobs between 2001 and 2010 and another 700 jobs are expected in 2012, making it Alaska's fastest-growing industry. In 2010, 32,000 health care jobs yielded a \$1.5 billion payroll.

The actual job number is higher when self-employed health care professionals, health care workers in non-health related government agencies, or military health care workers are included.

The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that 81% of Alaskans have health insurance, not including about 21,000 Alaskan Natives who are covered through the Alaska Tribal Health System. Alaska had the fifth-highest per capita health care costs in the nation in 2004, which is the latest available government data.

Nine Years of Growth in Health Care
Alaska, 2001 to 2010



¹ Employment for public and private sectors, NAICS 621, 622, and 623.

Copper River Region Background and Economic Overview



Background

Economic Overview

Business Climate

Housing

Education and Workforce Development

Employment

Health Services

Tourism

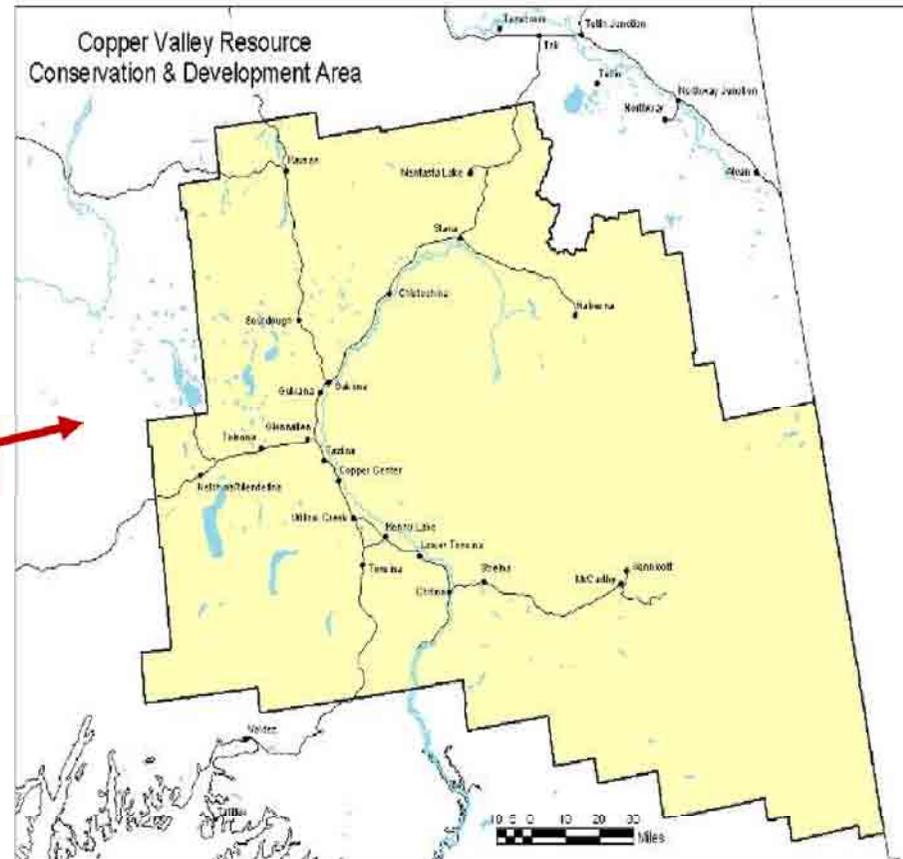
Transportation and Infrastructure

Energy

Resource use and Conservation
Fisheries
Forestry and Timber

I Background

Copper River Region Area Maps



Preface

The Copper River Region encompasses approximately 20,649 square miles and is bounded by the Alaska and Talkeetna Mountain Ranges to the north, Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge and Canada to the east, Thompson Pass in the Chugach Range to the south and the Matanuska-Susitna borough to the west. This vast region includes the Wrangell and St. Elias Mountain Range, which has nine of the 16 highest mountain peaks in North America. The Copper River, one of the major rivers on the continent, has its headwaters at the base of the Wrangell Mountains.

Climate

The Copper River Region has a sub arctic continental climate, with long cold winters and relatively warm summers. Winter temperatures range from 40 to -65 degrees F, and in the summer between 60 and 90 degrees F. The area has one of the drier climates in the state, with mean annual precipitation ranging from 8-17 inches across the basin. The annual snowfall is 47-49 inches, and snow is on the ground an average of 180 days per year. There is almost 24 hours of daylight from May until July. On the shortest day of the year, December 22, there are just less than 5 hours of direct sun, with dusk and dawn adding up to an hour of additional light.

Geology and Topography

The Alaska Range and Talkeetna, Chugach, and Wrangell Mountains rim the Copper River Region. Rocks bordering the basin consist of sedimentary and volcanic terraces with over 12 volcanoes recognized in the Wrangell Mountains. Mt. Wrangell is considered to be an active volcano and still has steam venting from near its summit. The Denali Fault and several other minor faults dissect the region. November 3, 2002, a 7.9 magnitude earthquake shook the region, severely damaging some 28 miles of highway, and local airstrips and houses. During one or more early Pleistocene glaciations (35,000 to 9,000 years ago), glaciers from the surrounding mountains covered the entire basin floor. However, the last glacial advance left large areas of the basin ice-free. During periods of each major glaciation, ice dammed the channel of the Copper River through the Chugach Mountains forming a large proglacial lake in the central basin. Lacustrine or lake-derived sediments partially buried older glacial features. Over time, the lake level fluctuated widely, and eventually drained completely about 9,000 years ago. There are broad, nearly level terraces that extend for several miles on either side of the Copper River and its tributaries consisting of these clay and lacustrine sediments. Following retreat of the glaciers and drainage of the lake, permafrost began to form in these fine textured lacustrine and glacial deposits. Rivers began to incise canyons in these sediments, and loess began to accumulate in proximity to major drainages. Away from the river canyons and above the terraces the landscape is dominated by low relief morainal hills and extensive till plains formed from glacially deposited materials. ^{xii}

Permafrost

Permafrost underlies the entire valley at varying depths except on flood plains and under lakes; the depth at which it occurs and its ice content, varies widely. Permafrost characteristically occurs as ice crystals disseminated throughout the soil. Although not extensive near the soil surface, massive ice wedges and lenses do occur in the subsoil in some areas. A perched water table and saturated conditions are common above the permafrost during the summer due to restricted drainage.

The fire history of the site and the thickness of the insulating organic layer on the soil surface control depth to permafrost and water table, in part. Disturbance of the organic layer usually results in increased soil temperatures and a lowering of the permafrost level. As permafrost thaws, a large volume of water is released. Variation in the ice content of the permafrost and the rate of thawing, results in differential subsidence of the soil surface and slumping on steeper slopes. The occurrence of permafrost requires special consideration when selecting lands for clearing and agriculture and during construction of roads and buildings. ^{xiii}

Hydrology and Water

The major tributaries of the Copper River within the area are the Gakona, Gulkana, Tazlina, Klutina, Tonsina, and Chitina Rivers. Except for the Gulkana, all major rivers are glacial in origin. These rivers are characterized by steep gradients, braided floodplains, and high volumes of suspended sediments. Several mineralized springs, locally referred to as mud volcanoes, occur within 15 miles of Glennallen. Mud volcanoes are cone-shaped mounds of silt and clay from which mud, gas and mineralized water have been discharged.

There continues to be little documentation of the surface and groundwater sources in the area and their quantity and quality for drinking water and other uses; well log data are limited.

Subsurface water throughout much of the area is under artesian pressure beneath fine-grained material and/or permafrost. Water availability and quality varies dramatically throughout the region. Some of the Kenny Lake area has water at extremely deep levels; Glennallen water is highly mineralized sometimes iron-rich. Wells drilled in Glennallen, Gulkana, and Gakona have produced water that is somewhat saline.

There are multiple lakes with potable water in the region, but their accessibility, ownership and use concerns, organizational capacities to develop their use, and capital/operation/maintenance cost concerns need to be considered for long term viability. ^{xiv}

Forest Ecosystems and Native Vegetation

The Copper River Region is an extensively forested area. Forest types on productive well-drained sites include aspen, white spruce, mixed white spruce-aspen, and mixed white spruce-balsam poplar. In the southern end of the region, mixed stands of white spruce-paper birch can be found. Stunted black spruce and white spruce forests of low productivity occur on north facing slopes and other cold, wet sites with shallow permafrost. Seasonally flooded river wash on the floodplains of major rivers supports dense alder shrub. Willow and heath shrub occupy bogs, fens, and narrow drainages. Wet sedge meadows are common on the margins of lakes and ponds. Steppe vegetation, characteristic of semi-arid areas elsewhere in northeastern Asia and northwestern North America is found on steep south-facing terrace escarpments.

The Copper River Region has a long history of frequent wild fires. Between 1900 and 1950, an average of 10,000 acres burned annually, although this average has been reduced with improved fire protection measures. Extensive fires in the 1940's, burned through much of the region. High intensity

crown fires that typically kill entire stands characterize the natural fire regime. Following forest fires, willow shrub dominates most sites until eventually replaced by forest vegetation. Stands are then replaced through natural regeneration. Common berries found in the Copper River Region are low bush cranberry, trailing raspberry, rosehips, low bush blueberry, crowberries and currants.

Wildlife

The diversity of the landforms, vegetation types and abundance of streams and wetlands of the Copper River Area provide habitat for a wide variety of Alaska's game and non-game mammals and birds. It is home to moose, caribou, fox, coyote, wolf, wolverine, lynx, hare, porcupine, bison and black and brown bears. There are over 140 species of birds including eagles and trumpeter swans.

Moose, the most important big game animal in the survey area, are found throughout the Copper River Region. They are common at higher elevations outside the area in the summer and fall and concentrate along the rivers at lower elevations in winter.

The winter range and calving grounds of the Nelchina caribou herd are at higher elevations north and east of the area. Occasional caribou wander into the lower elevation forests.

The Chitina bison herd inhabits the area between the Cheshnina and Nadina rivers on the east side of the Copper River. Many of the terraces and escarpments in this area are heavily grazed in summer and fall. Dall sheep and mountain goats are found in the Wrangell and Chugach Mountains adjacent to the area. They are an important sport game in the Wrangell St. Elias National Preserve.

Both black bears and grizzly bears are in the area. Black bears intensively utilize the floodplains and stream terraces along the Copper, Klutina, Tonsina other major rivers. Grizzly bears occur throughout the uplands, and concentrate along the Tonsina and other rivers and streams when spawning salmon are present.

Among the more important furbearers in the area are coyote, red fox, martin, mink, lynx, muskrat, and beaver. Porcupines are common and snowshoe hare and lynx populations are cyclical.

Population levels are determined by the stage of vegetative succession, interspersed of vegetation types and other habitat features, seasonal animal migrations, hunting and trapping pressure, and other factors. Human uses of area wildlife include subsistence harvesting, trapping, and sport hunting as well as wildlife viewing.

Approximately 135 species of birds are summer residents of Interior Alaska; another 3 dozen or so are spring-fall migrants or occasional visitors to the region. (*Armstrong 1980*) Many of these birds can be found in suitable habitats in the Copper River Region. A variety of waterfowl, including Trumpeter Swans, nests in the area and utilize local lakes and ponds for rearing young. Bald Eagles nest and fish along the major rivers. Spruce Grouse are common in spruce forests throughout the area. Small populations of Sharptail and Ruffed Grouse also reside here. ^{xv}

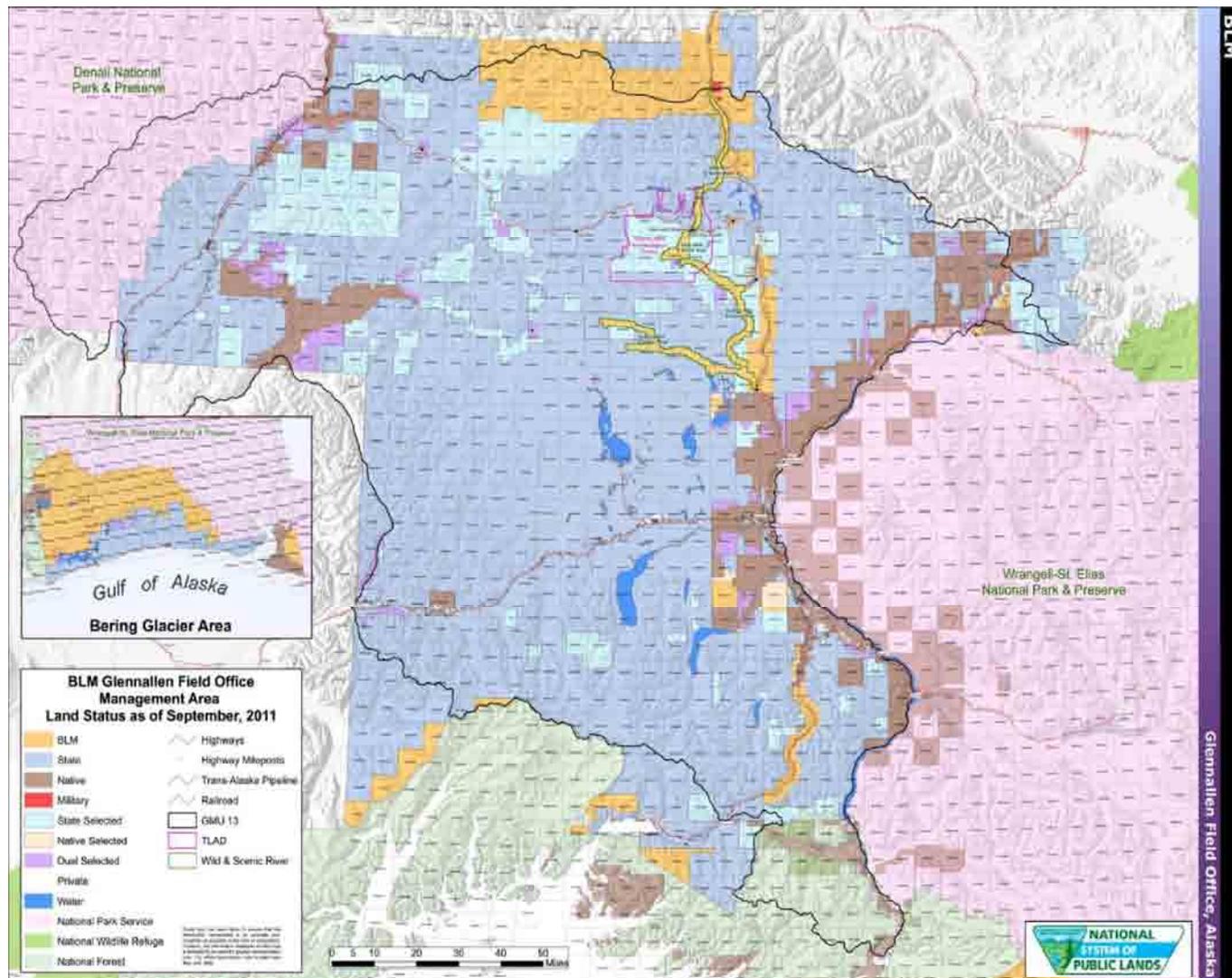


Land and Land Ownership

1,528,000 acres are conveyed to Ahtna Inc. through ANSCA as of 1998, with an entitlement of 1.77 million acres. Very little of the land within the borders of the Copper River Area is owned by private individuals. Conservative estimates put the land which is privately owned at 1% or less. The largest landowners are, in descending order, the National Park Service, the State of Alaska, and private native entities.

The unavailability of land for private ownership is considered by many in the Copper River Region to be a significant hindrance in economic development. Recent state land sales

Land management responsibilities within the Copper River Region (apart from those of NPS) lie primarily with the State as seen below.



Agriculture

There are approximately 2000 acres in agricultural production at this time, mostly in the Kenny Lake area. Earnings from farming and agriculture in the region are not sufficient for production to serve as a full time occupation. Current crops in production are brome grass hay, and small acreages of potatoes and vegetables. Quantities produced are not sufficient to meet local needs. Many families maintain home gardens for personal use. SAPA greenhouses produce bedding plants and flowers for both the Glennallen and Valdez markets.



There is limited livestock production at this time, with local production of beef and hogs. The lack of a slaughterhouse in the region elevates the price of livestock making it in many cases uncompetitive for sale in and out of the region.

An access road to State agricultural lands has been developed on the west side of the pipeline, with some 2,000 acres identified for an agricultural land disposal, with several more thousand acres showing agricultural potential. Agricultural development opportunities exist currently on approximately 75,000 acres.

Utilities and Infrastructure

Copper Valley Telecom continues to broaden their services in the region now with expanded wireless service in the Chitina-McCarthy area (one of the primary tourism locations in the Copper River Region). Expansion of the fiber optic capability in the region has also continued to be a priority. As of May 2012 there are 2023 lines in service in the Copper River Region (a decrease from the 2508 lines in 2003).

Many year-round homes are fully plumbed. Although most residents have private wells in the Glennallen area, the water is often of poor quality. Glennallen Heights utilizes two wells to serve a piped system, and Water Works, a local private business, delivers water by truck to fill home water tanks. Of particular concern is the lack of access to water in the Kenny Lake area where the bulk of agricultural development for the Copper River Region takes place.

The majority of downtown is connected to a piped sewage system operated by the Glennallen Improvement Corporation. Most residences throughout the Copper River Region have identified septic tank systems but permafrost and high water tables cause drainage failures. Copper Basin Sanitation continues to service the community with trash pickup service, operation of a local landfill and septic tank servicing.

II Economic Overview

Copper River Region Demographics and Income Data (US Census 2010 and 2005-2009 ACS data)

COMMUNITY	2000 POPULATION	2010 POPULATION	2010 UNEMPLOYED	2010 YEARLY INCOME	2010 PER CAPITA	2010 OWN HSG	2010 RENT	2010 POVERTY %
Chistochina	93	93	14%	\$ 1,359,132.00	\$ 25,371.00	27	9	5.3
Chitina	123	126	19%	\$ 777,450.00	\$ 16,803.00	27	25	24.1
Copper Center	362	328	16%	\$ 3,269,799.00	\$ 21,010.00	77	46	25.4
Copperville	179	140	10%	\$ -				not avail
Gakona	215	218	15%	\$ 2,845,759.00	\$ 28,206.00	65	21	2.8
Glennallen	554	483	0%	\$ 6,374,980.00	\$ 22,799.00	104	99	0.5
Gulkana	88	119	0%	\$ 1,364,736.00	\$ 11,298.00	20	16	22
Kenny Lake	410	355	17%	\$ 4,267,772.00	\$ 29,413.00	105	40	not avail
McCarthy	42	28	0%	\$ 624,369.00	\$ 22,298.89	19	1	not avail
Mendeltna	63	39	Not Avail	\$ 1,053,659.00	\$ 27,016.90	15	4	not avail
Mentasta Lake	142	112	34%	\$ 921,490.00	\$ 9,457.00	24	22	38.2
Nelchina	71	59	0%	\$ 748,964.00	\$ 12,694.31	25	5	not avail
Paxson	43	40	Not avail	\$ -	not avail	11	11	not avail
Silver Springs	130	114	6%	\$ 4,017,600.00	\$ 44,043.00	36	8	not avail
Slana	124	147	26%	\$ 851,537.00	\$ 18,106.00	66	11	48.4
Tazlina	149	297	%	\$ 6,076,303.00	\$ 29,050.00	79	32	10.4
Tolsona	27	30	Not avail	\$ 379,190.00	\$ 12,639.67	10	8	not avail
Tonsina	92	78	0%	\$ 884,155.00	\$ 25,199.00	33	6	19.2
Willow Creek	201	191	69%	\$ 1,667,994.00	\$ 8,962.00	80	12	37.2
	3108	2997				823	376	

With the spike in the cost of living in rural Alaska driven by high energy costs, there continues to be a sense of migration to the urban centers where energy costs and food costs are lower and social services are more readily available. Population data obtained from the US Census Bureau 2010

shows a slight decrease of 4% from 2000 to 2010. The major population centers are focused in the Glennallen, Copper Center and Kenny Lake communities which are situated near the junctions of major highways. These are also the major shopping and service centers for the area. As an integral part of this CEDS, CVDA conducted a survey which was mailed to every business operating in the Copper River Region. The intent of the survey was to ascertain the nature of businesses in terms of annual income, size of employee pool, and desire/ability to expand. When asked their expectations for the regional economy this year and in coming years, the majority answered they expected no change. Although responses to queries on projections for sales were not negative in nature, most businesses indicated they were not planning to expand their product lines or services, were not planning to increase number of employees, and were not planning to invest in new construction or upgrade of their infrastructure. The majority indicated energy prices and energy supply to be the most significant barriers to business success and tourism as the business area with the greatest potential for growth

III Business Climate

The majority of businesses operating in the Copper River Region are small in nature with gross yearly sales in the \$60,000-\$100,000 range. They have been in operation more than 3 years and employ a balance of part time and full time staff with no immediate plans to change number of employees. Most businesses did not benefit from state or federal government assistance programs on start up. The overwhelming majority express a high dependency on the internet for their business success. Most partner with other businesses in the area on a frequent basis. Some of the capital improvement projects planned by local businesses for the immediate future range from energy conservation repairs/replacements, to alternative energy system installations and heating system repairs. It is important to note that very few businesses found state and federally funded Capital Improvement Projects for the Copper River Region in 2011-2013 to be of significant relevance. When asked what projects not referenced they would like to see funded, the vast majority indicated they would like to see a gas pipeline through the Copper River Region to Valdez, and various utility related projects such as hydro electricity, power on the Richardson Hwy, and piped water in areas of greater population concentration. When queried on expectations for the coming year, most Copper River Region businesses responded they anticipate an increase in sales or no change. The same results apply to expectations for the state economy as a whole.^{xvi}

IV Housing

Much of the available housing inventory in the Copper River Region presents a challenge for potential buyers as it will not meet the basic requirements for traditional residential financing by lending institutions. Because the region is an unorganized borough, there are no imposed building codes or required building inspections. Prices range from \$300 to \$20,000 an acre, varying from city lots to large agricultural parcels. Sales from 2007 to 2011 showed slow, steady market growth while property values decrease (slowly aligning with state average market values). 2012 sales have decreased from previous years. The unavailability of skilled labor in the area is a discouraging factor in “fixer upper” purchases as well as new

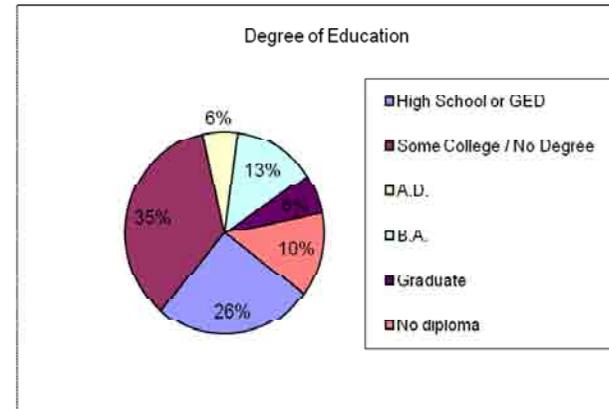
construction. The lack of basic water and sewer increases residential development costs. Wells run almost \$60 per foot and a DEC approved septic system is \$3,000-\$10,000 (for a 3 bedroom home) depending on soil conditions. There are no property taxes in the Copper River Region.^{xvii} 68.6% of occupied housing in the Copper River Region is owned and not rented.^{xviii} Housing cost in the Glennallen region (shelter cost and heat/utilities cost) averages \$1,136/month. Per square foot housing cost averages \$0.79. These averages are below the state averages of \$1,301/month and \$1.04/sf.^{xix} Housing is generally not built to energy efficiency standards and the high cost of heating fuel (on average \$4.64/gallon) has a crippling effect on family budgets.

V Education and Workforce Development

To date there continues to be a lack of workforce development measures in the Copper River Region. The region's three primary education institutions, Copper River School District, Prince William Sound Community College and Alaska Bible College provide quality academic education but are not geared for vocational training and workforce development. Residents and businesses alike express the need for vocational programs with hands on training in the areas of heavy equipment, construction, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, mechanics, automotive and welding as a means of meeting local trade needs and providing employment opportunities for Copper River Region residents.

A \$5 million, federally funded, study for a vocational training program in the Copper River Region was accomplished by the University of Alaska with local partners such as CRNA, Prince William Sound Community College and Copper River School District in 2008.

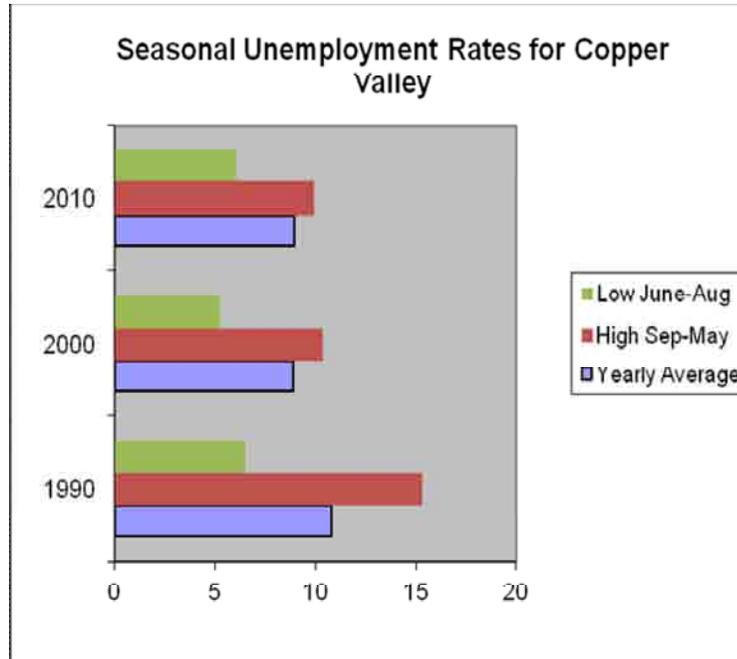
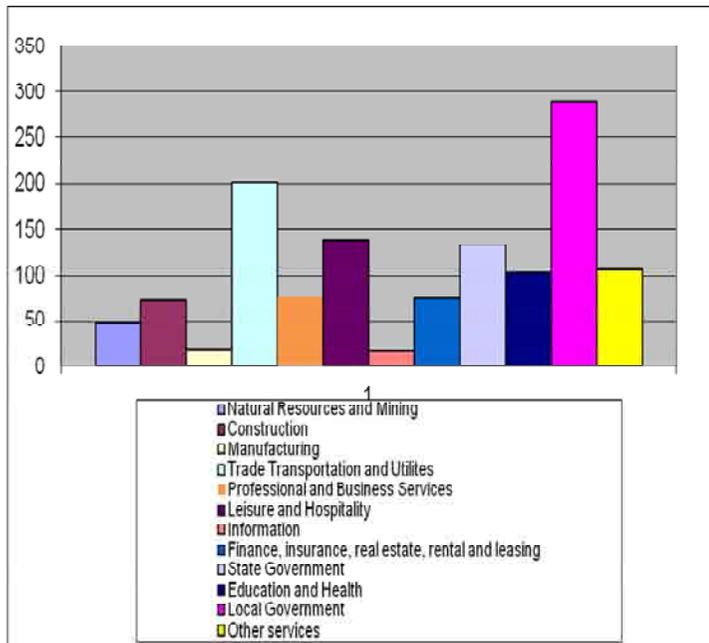
While a small pilot program for 128 students was carried out during the study period, overall recommendations from this study have not been implemented.



VI Employment

The highest employment industry in the Copper River Region is Local Government (tribal) at 22.7%, followed by Trade Transportation and Utility with 15.8%, and Leisure and Hospitality employing 10.9% of the region's work force. There are little to no workforce development initiatives in the region and the majority of business owners indicate the low skill set and work ethic of employees in the region as an area of concern. The educational attainment of the regional population is lower than that of the state- 25% of Copper River Region residents vs 34% of the overall state population have completed higher education. Employment is seasonal in nature revolving around tourism with limited opportunities for year round

employment available in the state and federal government sector, as well as with the regional school district. A few essential retail and service businesses remain open year round. Unemployment rates in some communities of the Copper River Region are as high as 69% and per capita income as low as \$8,962.00. xx



*Numbers shown for seasonal unemployment pertain to the whole of the Valdez-Cordova Census area under which Copper River Region is counted.

VI Health Services

Cross Road Medical Center (CRMC) is a not-for-profit Christian Community Health Center serving the residents of South Central Alaska. Since 1956, CRMC has been the only MD level provider of health care offering a family practice, limited urgent care services, a mobile health program, school nurse, maternal child health program, laboratory services, radiology services and, bodywork therapy structural integration services . Due to financial constraints services offered are currently being scaled down. Cross Road will no longer hold regularly scheduled off-site clinics in Kenny Lake or McCarthy. Occasional special clinics will still be planned for these communities. Although off-site clinics are being scaled back, the Mobile Health Program continues to provide medical services to patients requiring home care.

The Copper River Native Association (CNRA) recently received from the state match funding to erect a 33,000 square foot health facility to serve behavioral health needs of all residents of the Copper River Valley. Construction began in May of 2012. The site is provided to CRNA by the Ahtna Corporation on a 99 year lease. CRNA has been successful to date in acquiring a \$1,000,000 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Economic Development Initiative grant for construction related purposes. CRNA has also undertaken a \$10,000,000 loan, the largest loan in the history of CRNA, through the Department of Agriculture (USDA) for the construction of this facility. The Indian Health Service (IHS) will fund, for a twenty year period, operations, maintenance and the cost associated with 38 full-time employees (FTE) positions. This IHS funding will provide a minimum of \$80,000,000 over the next twenty years. The construction and subsequent opening of this clinic will eliminate the need for Native beneficiaries to travel four hundred miles to Anchorage to see a doctor. Currently in order for beneficiaries to receive services, costly and risky travel must precede primary and follow-up medical care. This need is so great IHS has deemed the Copper River Regional Health Clinic the highest priority of any applicant in the United States. The facility, as designed, will be approximately 33,000 square feet and will cost approximately \$19,000,000. The existing center currently provides dental, audiology, community health aide/practitioner (CHA/P), community health representatives, and nursing services, environmental health maintenance, and an array of behavioral health and administrative support services to approximately 3,000 native residents of the catchment area. The clinic could expand, should it be funded, to provide primary care services, vision care, pharmacy, diagnostic imaging, public health nursing and public health nutrition services. The clinic will also provide open access to its state funded programs, including mental health, substance abuse, tobacco cessation and diabetes services.



Governor Parnell tours CRNA clinic site, July 2012

VIII/Tourism

Tourism to the Copper River Region continues to see a significant decrease. Visitor count, as recorded by the Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce, Visitors' Information Center in Glennallen, shows a 31% decrease from 2010 to 2011. An estimated 49,000 visitors were received in the Glennallen area. ^{xxi}Tourism related businesses are typically sole proprietor or partnership in type, small in nature and dedicated to lodging and/or guiding. Most show gross yearly sales of under \$60,000.00.

Recent studies characterize visitors to the Copper River Region as "just passing through". While the average Rural Alaskan visitor spent \$1,767 per person on an average 12.5 night stay elsewhere in the state (\$141.36/night), the Copper Basin visitor spent only \$152 per person in the area during

their 2.6 day stay in the region (\$58.46/night). Visitors who are just passing through only spend \$71 per person compared to the \$152 of those that stayed longer and enjoyed the regions attractions.^{xxii}

75% of Copper River Region visitors used the Internet to research their trip. 50% used guidebooks like the Milepost. There is no local government in the region (non native) so traditional marketing programs funded by transient room taxes or sales taxes are not possible. The Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce currently operates on a gross yearly budget of under \$50,000.00 and is dedicated primarily to the promotion of the region by internet and local tradeshows but is unable to promote on a national and international level.

The Wrangell St Elias National Park, a UNESCO World Heritage site, generates over \$2 million in gross revenue for those businesses which operate within its boundary. These are primarily owned by Alaskans residing outside of the Copper River Region. There are currently 16 concession contracts (mostly sport hunting operations) and roughly 50 commercial use authorizations for services in the park. These are issued by the park superintendant and there are currently no limitations on issuance. The Wrangell St Elias National park is the largest in North America and operates on a budget of roughly \$5 million a year. In 2011 nearly 35,000 visitors were recorded by the park visitor center, 4000 by the Slana ranger station and 10,000 by the Chitina ranger station. These numbers represent a 10% decrease from the previous year. Park management highly encourages business ventures of a non consumptive nature to apply for a commercial use authorization^{xxiii}.

Various attempts have been made in recent years by local entities such as The Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce, Prince Williams Sound Community College, and Copper Valley Development Association in conjunction with state and federal entities such as DCCED and EDA to develop a cohesive marketing strategy for Copper River Region Tourism. A marketing plan was developed in 2006 by contract with Agnew Beck Consulting for this purpose but to date, implementation of those recommendations has not occurred. The Copper River Region remains without a well established geographic identity (as is the case with the Kenai, Kodiak or Mat-Su Borough), or a clear identity in terms of traveler attractions.

IX Transportation and Infrastructure

The center of the Copper River Region is located at the crossing of the Glenn and Richardson Highways thus serving all ground transportation traffic from Anchorage to the lower 48 by means of the Alaska Highway. The occurrence of heavy traffic coupled with the permafrost conditions typical to the area are taxing on road conditions. Visitors to the area continue to reiterate their displeasure with travel conditions and lack of amenities on these roads.

Important State DOT projects such as the \$1.1M ITS deployment for dynamic message signs, real-time traffic counters, low power FM or highway advisory radio, automated anti-icing/de-icing system, environmental sensors, CCTV, and adjoining signal system and inter-connect upgrades to help improve traveler safety and efficiency along the Glenn Highway Corridor remain in the planning phase^{xxiv}.

XEnergy

The high cost of energy is identified by the majority of businesses and residents alike as the single greatest constraint to economic development in the region. Current Electric Utility Costs range from 0.24c/Kwhr to 0.32c/kwhr depending on the price of fuel. Current Heating Fuel Costs average \$4.64/gal. The price of gasoline in the Copper River Region can be found anywhere from \$4.40 to \$4.89 a gallon. The Slana/Nabesna community receives power from Alaska Power Company at 59.7 cents per KwH for commercial use and 18.81 cents KwH for residential use. Slana/Nabesna residents and business owners continue to strongly advocate for redistricting to the Copper Valley Electric Association supply grid.

Copper Valley Electric Association continues to pursue strategies which would significantly reduce cost of power to its members by means of mechanical and operational improvements as well as renewable energy projects in the areas of wind and hydro. Currently in the final design stages is the Allison Creek Run of River Hydropower Project which once completed, by the use of a single 42 inch diameter 7600 feet penstock, 3.8 miles of transmission line and, 2 Pelton units each with a 3.25 MW capacity, could produce 16 million KWhrs (23.3 million KWhrs once fully subscribed).



Solomon Gulch Hydroelectric Plant, CVEA

XResource Use and Conservation

Fisheries

The Copper River is world renowned for its red and king salmon. For a number of years, there has been guided fishing on the Klutina River in jet boats and along the Gulkana River in rafts. Certain fisheries continue to experience sustained growth – most notably fishing for king salmon along the Gulkana and Klutina Rivers. In 2011 the sockeye salmon harvest was almost double what it had been all through the previous decade (2.1 million pounds vs 1.14 million pound average from 2000-2010). The river and lake systems in the area support numerous species of fish. Other well known fish include rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, whitefish, burbot, grayling, steelhead and northern



pike.

Many residents rely on the fish resources of the area for subsistence / personal use. The Chitina dip net personal use fishery is one of the most popular in the state. A total of 9,308 Chitina Subdistrict permits were issued in 2010 and the harvest estimates were 140,548 sockeye, 717 king, and 2,044 coho salmon. The 2010 sockeye harvest was the highest since 1999. ^{xxv}

Forestry and Timber

With over 1,000,000 acres of harvestable beetle-kill timber estimated to provide approximately 40-120 tons of fuel per acre, our region has vast amounts of harvestable resources available to replace expensive fossil fuels currently used to provide heat and hot water for organizations, schools, homes and businesses. The harvest of this beetle-kill has many advantages for the Copper River Region including; reducing local energy costs, creating green energy jobs, reducing the danger of wild fires and improving the environment by accelerating re-growth of our forests. In addition, harvesting biomass fuels can provide a boost for our fledgling timber industry as many of the trees harvested can be selected as quality board wood. The value added manufacturing of pellets and bricks in our region could boost local consumption and provide valuable exports for markets outside of our region. Copper Valley Development Association is actively pursuing the development of a biomass industry in the region.

- Chitina**
- Chistochina**
- Copper Center**
- Gakona**
- Glennallen**
- Gulkana**
- Kenny Lake**
- McCarthy/Kennicott**
- Mendeltna/Nelchina**
- Mentasta**
- Paxson**
- Slana/Nabesna**
- Silver Springs**
- Tazlina**
- Tonsina**
- Tolsona**

Community Profiles



Chitina



Location and Climate

Area Maps

History, Culture, Economy

Facilities, Utilities, Transportation

Capital Projects and Grants

Potential Projects List

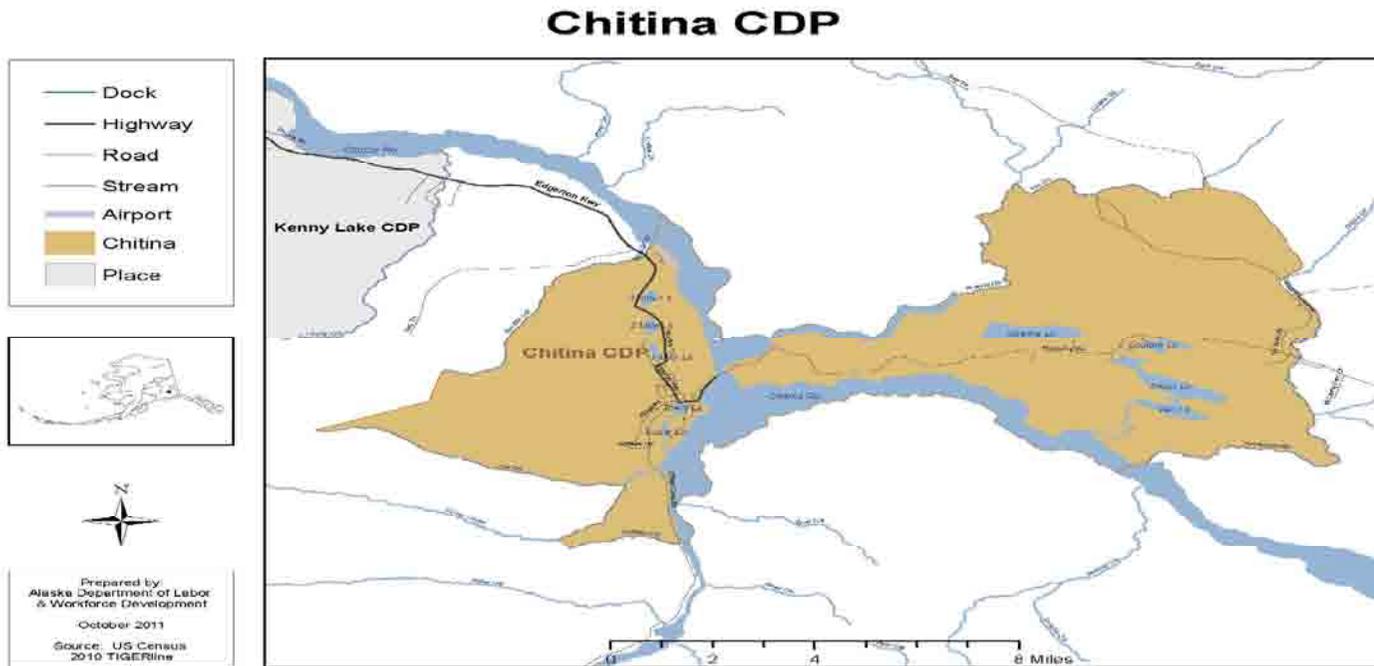
Organizations with Local Offices

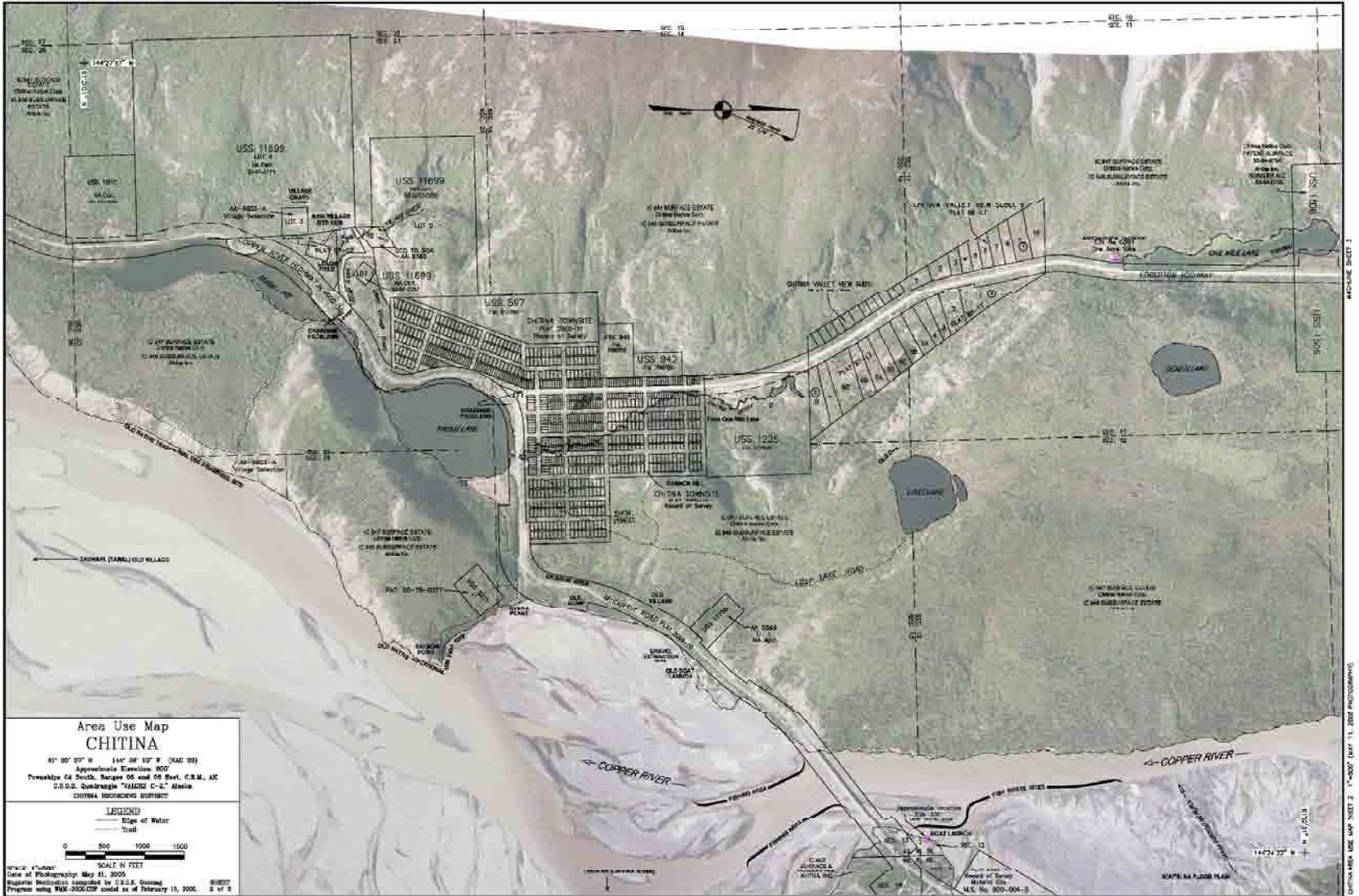
Location and Climate

Chitina is located on the west bank of the Copper River at its confluence with the Chitina River, at mile 34 of the Edgerton Highway, 53 miles southeast of Copper Center. It lies outside the western boundary of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve, 66 miles southeast of Glennallen. It lies at approximately 61.515830 North Latitude and -144.436940 West Longitude. (Sec. 14, T004S, R005E, Copper River Meridian.)Chitina is located in the Chitina Recording District.

The climate in Chitina is continental, characterized by long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. Total annual precipitation averages 12 inches, with an average annual snowfall of 52 inches. Temperature extremes from a low of -58 to a high of 91 °F have been recorded. Chitina is usually 10° warmer than its neighbor, Kenny Lake.

Area Map





Land ownership map of the Chitina area.

History

Athabascan Indians have reportedly occupied this region for the last 5,000 to 7,000 years. Archaeological sites are located to the south and east of Chitina. Chitina was historically a large Native village whose population was slowly decimated by the influx of people, disease, and conflicts. Rich copper deposits were discovered at the turn of the century along the northern flanks of the Chitina River Valley, bringing a rush of prospectors and homesteaders to the area. The Copper River & Northwestern Railway enabled Chitina to develop into a thriving community by 1914. It had a general store, clothing store, meat market, stables, tinsmith, five hotels, rooming houses, pool hall, bars, restaurants, dance halls, and movie theater. Almost all of Chitina was owned by Otto Adrian Nelson, a surveying engineer for the Kennecott Mines. He supplied electric power to all structures with a unique hydroelectric system. After the mines closed in 1938, support activities moved to the Glennallen area, and Chitina became a virtual ghost town with only the Natives and a few non-Natives staying on. In 1963, the Nelson estate was purchased by "Mudhole" Smith, a pioneer bush pilot, who sold off the townsite and buildings.

Culture

Students are home-schooled or attend school at Kenny Lake, 28 miles away. Most Athabascan residents are involved in subsistence activities year-round. During the summer, subsistence dipnetting for salmon on the Copper River brings a large number of Alaskans from Anchorage and other areas of the state. Gardening, berry picking, herb gathering, and other "wildcrafting" are popular pursuits, as are various arts and crafts. Winter activities include trapping, snow machining, dog mushing, skiing and skjoring, and ice fishing.

Economy

Employment is primarily with the village council, village corporation, or the National Park Service. Many residents are self-employed or work in retail establishments. The summer influx of fishermen, tourists, and campers provides some cash income in fish guiding and other services. Many villagers participate in subsistence activities year-round. In 2010, one resident held a commercial fishing permit.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated 51¹ residents as employed. The public sector employed 39.2%¹ of all workers. The local unemployment rate was 15.0%¹. The percentage of workers not in labor force was 45.9%¹. The ACS surveys established that average median household income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$13,802 (MOE +/- \$3,123)¹. The per capita income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$16,058 (MOE +/- \$6,549)¹. About 25.8%¹ of all residents had incomes below the poverty level.

¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Facilities

Residents haul water from a well at the fire hall or have individual wells. Some residents use stream water during the summer. Outhouses and

individual septic systems provide sewage disposal. Less than 20% of homes are completely plumbed. Refuse collection services are available from Copper Basin Sanitation.

There are no public dumpsters in Chitina but in summer trash receptacles are located near the river and at the campground by the bridge for the travelling public. All residents have access to private garbage service. Some take their own waste to the landfill or recycling centers. The Village Council has a program that takes aluminum cans for recycling and provides a drop off place in the Village.^{xxvi}

Utilities

Residents are either served by private wells or haul water to their homes from a public well located at the old fire station. The apartments located in the village as well as public buildings nearby are served by a common well. Most apartment residents do not drink the water from this well due to safety concerns. There is a nominal cost for water at the fire station well. In summer, residents without wells often divert water from a creek, lake or stream using a gravity fed line or pump system. Water is filtered by household water filters.

There is no public sewer system but the village apartments and some private residences have private septic systems. These systems can require pumping and can sometimes freeze in winter making them inoperable. Work is currently underway to repair the 100 year old spring box that was used to supply the town with drinking water year round.

Electricity is available for most residents from Chitina Electric Company but the cost is high. Chitina Electric provides approx. 70 homeowners and businesses with electric power. A project was recently completed for a new power plant at the airport. The project includes the extension of the line from town to the airport. Business owners and residents alike expressed their concern with the frequent number of power spikes which has caused extensive privately owned equipment damage throughout the community. A feasibility study is being done to determine hydro power possibilities at 5 mile creek. Others use generators for power. There is no electric service for residents living on the McCarthy road.

There is one gas station that is open from April to November located in Chitina, which also provides gas and propane for those living all along the McCarthy road and the communities of McCarthy and Kennecott. Commercial distributors make retail and commercial deliveries of heating oil, propane and gasoline. Many homes heat or supplement heat with wood fuel. Several small businesses sell firewood, while many cut their own wood from private or public lands.^{xxvii}

Transportation

The Edgerton Highway and Richardson Highway link Chitina with the rest of the state road system. The state owns the Chitina Airport, located 5 miles north of town along the Edgerton Highway.

The Edgerton Highway and the McCarthy road are maintained by Alaska DOT, Chitina Station. Limited maintenance is done on the McCarthy road, (which is a gravel surface) during the winter, although the road is passable, while rough, most of the time. Work to the McCarthy Rd is currently ongoing to improve the sections most damaged.

A paved community bike trail was completed in fall of 2008. The trail extends from the Chitina Wayside to One Mile Lake, crossing the road near the post office. There are numerous trails in the area for hiking, four wheeling and snow machining. For those on private land there is often a permit fee for use. The Park has many public use trails. Identifying trails for public use that do not infringe on private property owners and marking them as such, as well as distributing clear, concise information on land ownership is needed to promote use of public trails.

There is a public airstrip at mile 28 of the Edgerton Highway, five miles from Chitina, 2,850' long by 75' wide gravel airstrip . The airstrip is maintained and there are public tie downs, a parking area, pay phone and transfers to shuttle vans. Private airstrips are scattered in the area and many pilots use the multitude of lakes both in the summer and winter months.

There is a state constructed boat launch area on the east bank on the down river side of the Copper River Bridge.

Senior bus for residents 60 and over is on Thursdays from Chitina to Glennallen, managed by the Upper Tanana Development Corporation. Several companies offer shuttle bus service into the Park from Chitina. At least one will offer transportation to Anchorage this summer. Several air taxi services operate out of the airport in the summer and flights are available to McCarthy, Glennallen and Anchorage as well as other destinations.^{xxviii}

Capital Projects and Grants

Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
AEA-AEEE	2010	Funded	Fivemile Creek Hydro Feasibility/Conceptual Design - Comments: OTHER FUNDING: Federal	Preliminary	\$303,001		Chitna Electric Inc.
HUD	2009	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Contract	\$49,715		Copper River Housing Authority

Potential Projects List

While the Chitina Community did not participate in a CVDA guided planning session leading to the creation of a vision statement, goals, objectives and, strategies, a list of desired projects was available through the 2009 Chitina Community Plan and is attached below (these are not prioritized). This list was reviewed in a CVDA hosted community meeting in May of 2012.

Emergency Response

Increase training for first responders.
Recruit volunteers for trainings.
Equipment and an ambulance are required.*

Village Garden

Encourage community members to make use of the garden.
Provide information on gardening and storing food. Involve children in process.

Fish wheel

Maintain and operate a fish wheel for community members

Cultural Activities

Music, Arts/Crafts, Dance, Language, Spirit Camp and Storytelling
Interpretive signs for bike path

Arts and Crafts Guild

More locally made craft items for sale in local shops

Nutrition Education

Provide information to community members on subsistence and healthy food choices.

Search and Rescue Squad

Recruit and train volunteers to assist other agencies in search and rescue

Historic District

Complete mapping of historic buildings and items.
Preserve historic artifacts and promote Historic District designation

Mid-level Provider

Recruit a mid-level provider for Health Center for prescription and diagnosis capabilities

Library

Local access to a wider variety of reading material year round.

Trails

Identify and mark public trails without trespass issues.
Make land status information more readily available and clearer.
Map out trail system.

Cemeteries/Graves

Identify boundaries and Interred.
Maintain

Boat Launch

Accessible, maintained and clearly marked launch for use by public

Affordable Housing/Land Ownership

Increase amount of low income housing, implement a land lease deal and identify landowners to facilitate sales of land

Community Hall

Build new Community Hall with public and office areas.
Find uses for new Hall that makes it financially viable.

Fire Department

Improve facility and maintenance of equipment. Implement structural fire training.
Update communications system.

Solid Waste Collection/Disposal

Transfer site for solid waste.
Upgrade and maintain recycling facility

Sewage Collection/Disposal

Education for safe sewage disposal.
Increase awareness of health risks of improper disposal.
Alternatives to outhouses.
Repair sewage issue in village

Community Environmental Plan

Impact statement

Safe Drinking Water

Identify, protect and test water sources.
Repair spring box.

Educate community on safe water practices.
Analyze water from village housing well and correct deficiencies.

EMS Response Vehicle

Working, insured, out-fitted, properly kept and maintained vehicle for emergency response

Laundry mat/Shower Facility

Expand facility hours and capabilities

Visitor Information Kiosk

Economic Development Needs and Opportunities

Need or Opportunity Potential Partners

Support general increased aviation activity
Increase signage and awareness of business locations.
More Community Events
More projects and employment for local youth
Workforce Bulletin Board/Community
Resource List

Land Use Needs and Opportunities-General

More public land available for local firewood with access State and federal lands, Native Corporation lands
More State land for sale DNR

Land Use Needs and Opportunities-Community Lots

Cemetery Upgrades/Improvements Volunteers,
Historical Organizations
Interpretive Trail
Winter recreation trails
*project added based on CVDA hosted community meeting held May 21st, 2012 at the Chitina Hotel

Organizations with Local Offices

Chitina Electric, Incorporated (Electric Utility)

P.O. Box 88 Chitina, AK 99566-0088

Phone: 907-823-2220 Fax: 907-823-2202

Chitina Native Corporation (Village Corporation)

P.O. Box 3 Chitina, AK 99566-0031

Phone: 907-823-2223 Fax: 907-823-2202

E-Mail: chitina_native@cvinternet.net Web: <http://www.chitinanative.com>

Community Improvement Association of Chitina (Community Non Profit)

P.O. Box 2 Chitina, AK 99566

Phone: 907-823-2270

E-Mail: pamlaberry@cvinternet.net

Native Village of Chitina (Tribe - federally recognized; BIA-Recognized Traditional Council; also mjoe@ahtna-inc.com)

P.O. Box 31 Chitina, AK 99566-0031 Phone: 907-823-2215 Fax: 907-823-2233 E-Mail: aceak2000@yahoo.com

Chistochina



Location and Climate

Area Maps

History, Culture, Economy

Facilities, Utilities, Transportation

Capital Projects and Grants

Organizations with Local Offices

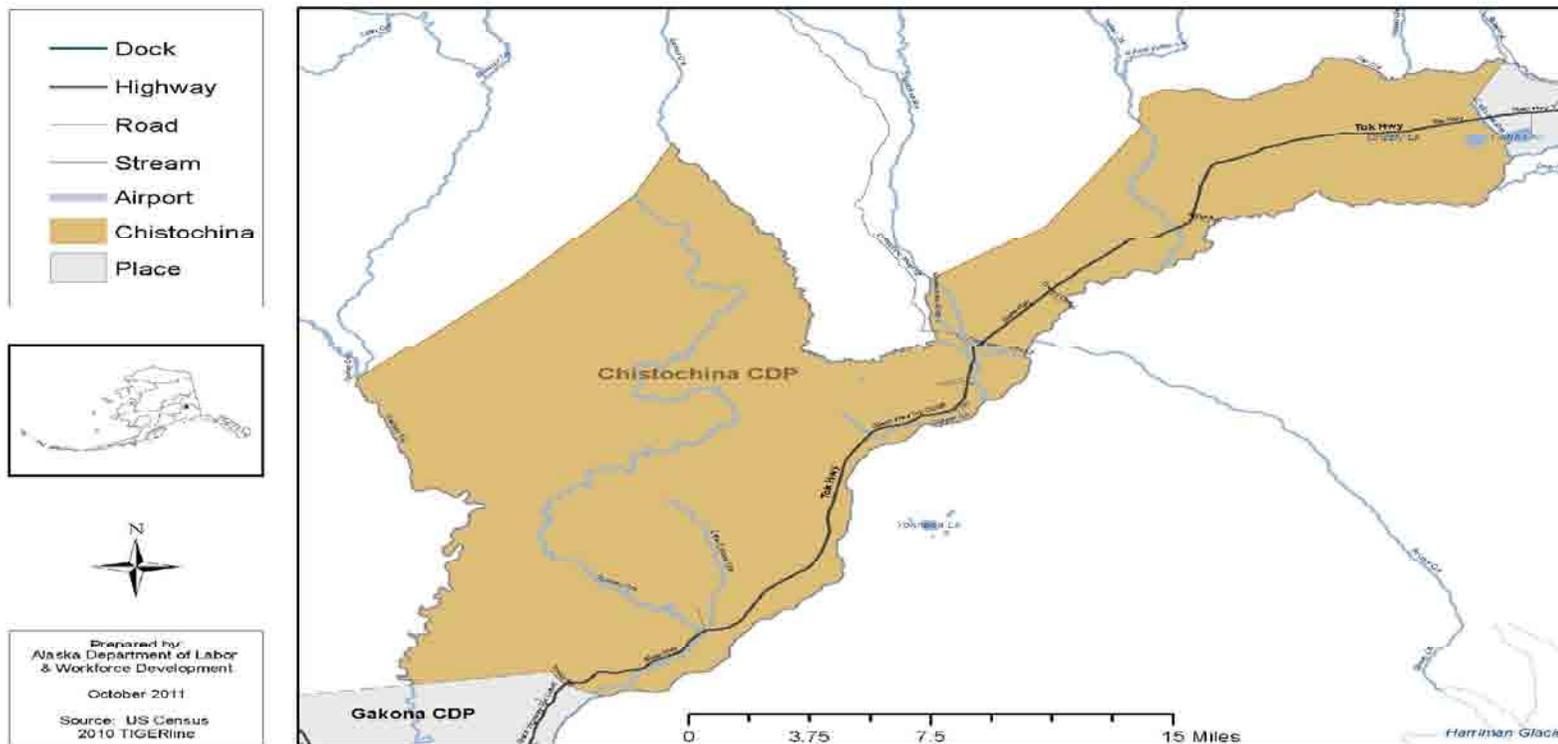
Location and Climate

Chistochina is located at mile 32.7 on the Tok Cutoff to the Glenn Highway, 42 miles northeast of Glennallen. Sinona Creek, Bolder Creek, Chistochina River, and Copper River surround the village. It lies at approximately 62.565000 North Latitude and -144.664720 West Longitude. (Sec. 16, T009N, R004E, Copper River Meridian.) Chistochina is located in the Chitina Recording District.

The climate in Chistochina is continental, characterized by long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. Total annual precipitation averages 13 inches, with annual snowfall averaging 61 inches. Temperature extremes from a low of -62 to a high of 91 °F have been recorded.

Area Map

Chistochina CDP



History

Chistochina began as an Ahtna fish camp and stopover place for traders and trappers. The village access road later became part of the Valdez-Eagle Trail, constructed by miners during the gold rush to the Eagle area in 1897. Chistochina Lodge was built as a roadhouse for prospectors. The trail was used for construction of U.S. Army Signal Corps telegraph lines from Valdez to Eagle between 1901 and 1904. Gold was mined along the upper Chistochina River and its runoff creeks. The area was settled by homesteaders, although it has remained a traditional Native village.

Culture

Chistochina is the most traditional of all Copper River Athabascan Indian villages. Subsistence activities are a crucial component of lifestyle in the village. Since the 2004 language classes have been initiated and a Tribal Youth Program was established to provide culturally appropriate character education for youth. The TYP program teaches cultural values and provides after school and summer activities that reinforce values in the community and at home. During the first year of the program parents and community members revised a character education curriculum to ensure it reflected cultural values. The program was implemented at the Chistochina School during year 2 but was severely disrupted during the third year when the Chistochina School was closed. Youth are currently being bussed to schools in Slana and Glennallen. The program has attempted to continue lessons and activities but is now regrouping to find alternative ways of providing values based character education. Discussions included topics such as how the term culture is often used in the community without understanding its purpose, the need to teach knowledge of clan system and protocols for pot laches, and the need to protect cultural and intellectual property rights and protocols.^{xxix}

Economy

The Cheesh'na Tribal Council (CTC) has recently determined through an internal planning process to pursue organizing and operating a for profit subsidiary in the interest of local economic development. Planning meetings with members generated innovative ideas for business development but CTC does not have the staffing, training, and other resources necessary to operate a business. The desired for-profit subsidiary (Chistochina Enterprises) is to conduct business on behalf of the tribe. The constitution is being amended and paperwork has been filed with BIA (currently awaiting approval). The new business is part of the overall strategy of achieving tribal self-sufficiency. It is anticipated that profits from subsidiary will fund tribal needs and priorities.^{xxx}

Subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering are the basis of the village's economy. Most cash employment is seasonal.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated 54¹ residents as employed. The public sector employed 40.7%¹ of all workers. The percentage of workers not in labor force was 48.6%¹. The ACS surveys established that average median household income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$24,722 (MOE +/- \$36,135)¹. The per capita income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$17,833 (MOE +/- \$5,564)¹. About 10.6%¹ of all residents had incomes below the poverty level. ¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Facilities

Almost half of residences have individual wells; the remaining residences haul treated water from the community center. Some residents use individual septic tanks, but the majority have outhouses or pit privies. About 40% of homes are completely plumbed. The local landfill is closed pending clean-up and relocation to a new site. Electricity is provided out of Tok.

Transportation

Chistochina is accessible year-round by the Glenn and Richardson Highways via the Tok Cutoff. Small aircraft may land at a state-owned 2,060' long by 90' wide turf/gravel airstrip.

CTC has initiated a BIA Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) program. The program received base funding in 2012 that is expected to increase in the years to come. A new Transportation and Natural Resources Department has been formed with this funding and a Director has been employed. Plans submitted this year are to initiate work on roads and trails by Tribal staff. It is anticipated that this program will assist other staff and the council with many of the 2012 action plans throughout the year.^{xxx}

Local Contacts and Regional/State Organizations with Local Offices

Alaska Power Company (Electric Utility)

P.O. Box 3222 Port Townsend, WA 98368

Phone: 800-982-0136 Fax: 360-385-5177 E-Mail: apt@aptalaska.com Web: <http://www.apalaska.com/>

Cheesh-Na Tribe (Tribe - federally recognized; BIA-Recognized Traditional Council)

P.O. Box 241 Chistochina, AK 99586

Phone: 907-822-3503 Fax: 907-822-5179 E-Mail: wjustin@cheeshna.com

Capital Projects and Grants

Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
DCRA	2011	Funded	Chistochina Clinic and Multi-Use Facility - Comments: Legislative Grant - Construct a medium sized health clinic; previous funding \$498,870	Preliminary	\$4,563,502	4/19/2010-6/30/2015	Mount Sanford Tribal Consortium
AEA-AEEE	2010	Funded	Chistochina Central Wood Heating Constr - BIOMASS - Comments: OTHER FUNDING: Federal	Preliminary	\$512,000	Grant Term Date 2/28/10	Cheesh'na Tribal Council
DEC/VSW	2010	Funded	Washeteria and Community Water System - Comments: Design and construction of a washeteria and a core community piped water and sewer system, including development of a new groundwater source.	Preliminary	\$471,778	Beg Date: 7/1/09, End Date: 6/30/14	Cheesh'na Tribal Council
ANTHC	2009	Funded	Clinic design in Chistochina, Alaska.	Preliminary	\$419,720		ANTHC Full
DEC/VSW	2009	Funded	Design and Construction of Water and Sewer Facilities	Preliminary	\$924,334	Appropriation Date 7/1/08, Lapse Date 6/30/13	

CVDA did not hold a community level planning session as the Cheesh'na Tribal Council had very recently completed a planning effort carried out with the assistance of a contractor. Instead, results from that effort are referenced above and tribal council members as well as non native community members participated in the Regional Roundtable discussions.

Copper Center



Location and Climate

Area Map

History, Culture

Economy

Facilities, Utilities, Transportation

Capital Projects and Grants

Potential Projects

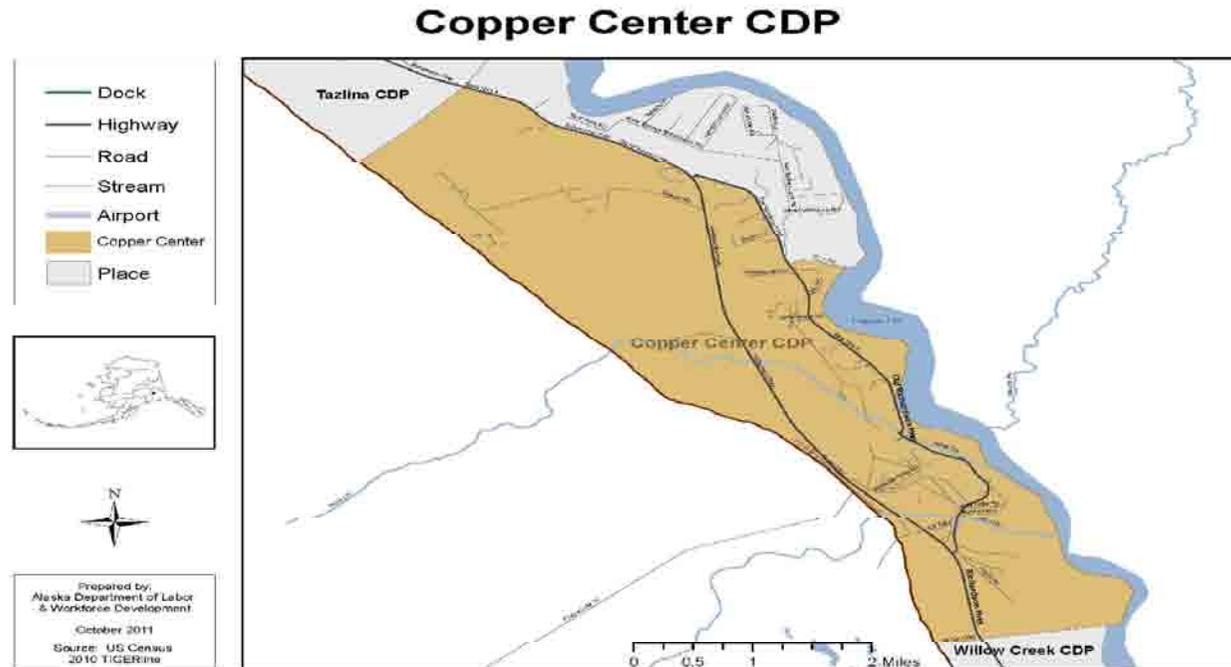
Organizations with Local Offices

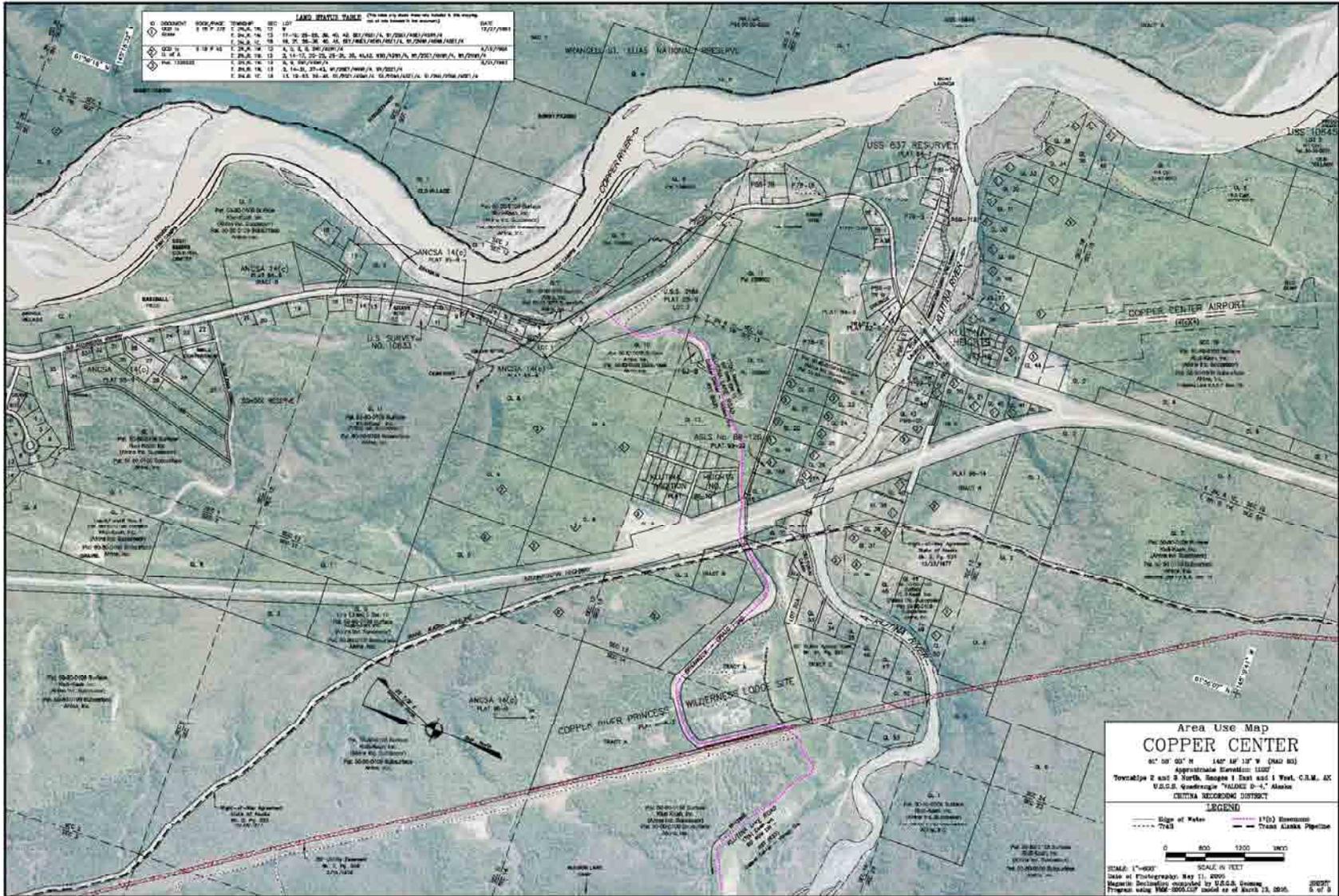
Location and Climate

Copper Center is located between miles 101 and 105 of the Richardson Highway. It is on the west bank of the Copper River at the confluence of the Klutina River. It lies just west of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. It lies at approximately 61.955000 North Latitude and -145.305280 West Longitude. (Sec. 18, T002N, R001E, Copper River Meridian.) Copper Center is located in the Chitina Recording District.

Copper Center is located in the continental climate zone. Winters are long and cold, and summers are relatively warm. Temperature extremes have been recorded from a low of -74 to a high of 96 °F. Annual snowfall averages 39 inches, and total precipitation averages 9 inches per year.

Area Maps





History

The Ahtna people have occupied the Copper River basin for the past 5,000 to 7,000 years. They had summer fish camps at every bend in the river and winter villages throughout the region. Copper Center was a large Ahtna Athabascan village at one time. In 1896 Ringwald Blix built Blix Roadhouse, which was very highly regarded for its outstanding services. The Trail of '98 from Valdez joined with the Eagle Trail to Forty Mile and Dawson. 300 destitute miners spent the winter here, and many died of scurvy. Copper Center became the principal supply center for miners in the Nelchina-Susitna region. A telegraph station and post office were established in 1901. A school was constructed in 1905, which brought a number of Native families to Copper Center. In 1909 it was designated a government agricultural experiment station. In 1932 the original roadhouse was destroyed in order to build the Copper Center Lodge. This lodge was on the National Register of Historic Roadhouses and was destroyed by fire in the summer of 2012. It was considered the jewel of Alaskan roadhouses. In the late 1930s and early 40s, construction of the Richardson and Glenn Highways made the region more accessible. The first church in the Copper River region, the Chapel on the Hill, was built here in 1942 by Vince Joy and U.S. Army volunteers stationed in the area. Mr. Joy built other churches and a Bible college in the area over the years.

Culture

Athabascan Indians represent the primary Alaska Native group. There are two distinct settlements, a Native area and a non-Native area.

Economy

The economy is based on local services and businesses and highway-related tourism. The National Park Service's Wrangell-St. Elias Visitor Center was completed in 2002. The Copper River Princess Wilderness Lodge was also completed in 2002. Two RV Parks and three river boat charter services operate from Copper Center. Many Native residents depend on subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering. In 2010, 11 residents held commercial fishing permits.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated 153¹ residents as employed. The public sector employed 29.4%¹ of all workers. The local unemployment rate was 9.5%¹. The percentage of workers not in labor force was 29.9%¹. The ACS surveys established that average median household income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$57,679 (MOE +/- \$15,477)¹. The per capita income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$21,704 (MOE +/- \$6,487)¹. About 12.9%¹ of all residents had incomes below the poverty level. ¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Facilities

The majority of homes use individual water wells and septic tanks. Others haul treated well water from a site operated by Copper Center Safe Water. A private Glennallen firm delivers water to home storage tanks for a fee. The school operates its own well-water system. 75% of homes are fully plumbed. Refuse collection services are available from Copper Basin Sanitation. There is a local landfill and an incinerator at mile 102 Richardson Highway. Copper Valley Electric generates power at the Solomon Gulch Hydro Facility, a cogeneration plant in Valdez and, diesel plants in Glennallen and Valdez. There are 3 established campgrounds. There are 3 established Lodges, Bar, Gas station and market. Numerous local charter and tour companies operate from Copper Center.

Transportation

Copper Center lies on the Richardson Highway. A state-owned 2,200' long by 55' wide gravel airstrip provides for chartered flights and general aviation.

Capital Projects and Grants							
Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
HUD	2009	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Kluti Kaah - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Contract	\$128,069		Copper River Housing Authority
HUD	2008	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Kluti Kaah - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Design	\$113,155		Copper River Housing Authority

Potential Projects List

While the Copper Center Community chose not participate in a CVDA guided planning session leading to the creation of a vision statement, goals, objectives and, strategies, a list of potential community level projects is attached below collected by means of a survey. The list of projects is derived from a small number of surveys returned by community members (these are not prioritized).

**Public Drinking Water Source
Community Center**

**Emergency Response Equipment
Urban Planning (house numbers)**

Community Waste Site

Local Contacts and Regional/State Organizations with Local Offices

Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority

P.O. Box 89(Housing Authority)

Glennallen, AK 99588

Teri Nutter, Executive Director

Phone: 907-822-3633 Fax: 907-822-3662

E-Mail: tnutter@crbrha.org Web: <http://www.crbrha.org/>

Copper River Native Association

Mile 104 Old Richardson Highway, P.O. Box H

Copper Center, AK 99573

Phone: 907-822-5241 Fax: 907-822-8803

E-Mail: pbxoperator@crnative.org Web: <http://www.crnative.org>

(Regional Native Non-Profit Corporation; Non-Profit for Ahtna Corp.. Also Public Law 93-638 tribal gov't contractor.)

Copper Valley Electric Association, Incorporated

P.O. Box 45(Electric Utility)

Glennallen, AK 99588-0045

Phone: 907-822-3211 Web: <http://www.cvea.org/>

Native Village of Kluti Kaah (Tribe - federally recognized; BIA-Recognized Traditional Council)

P.O. Box 68 Copper Center, AK 99573-0068

Phone: 907-822-5541 Fax: 907-822-5130 E-Mail: nvkktops@cvinternet.net

Gakona



Location and Climate

Area Maps

History, Culture

Facilities, Utilities, Schools and Health Care

HAARP

Economy

Transportation

Organizations with Local Offices

Capital Projects and Grants

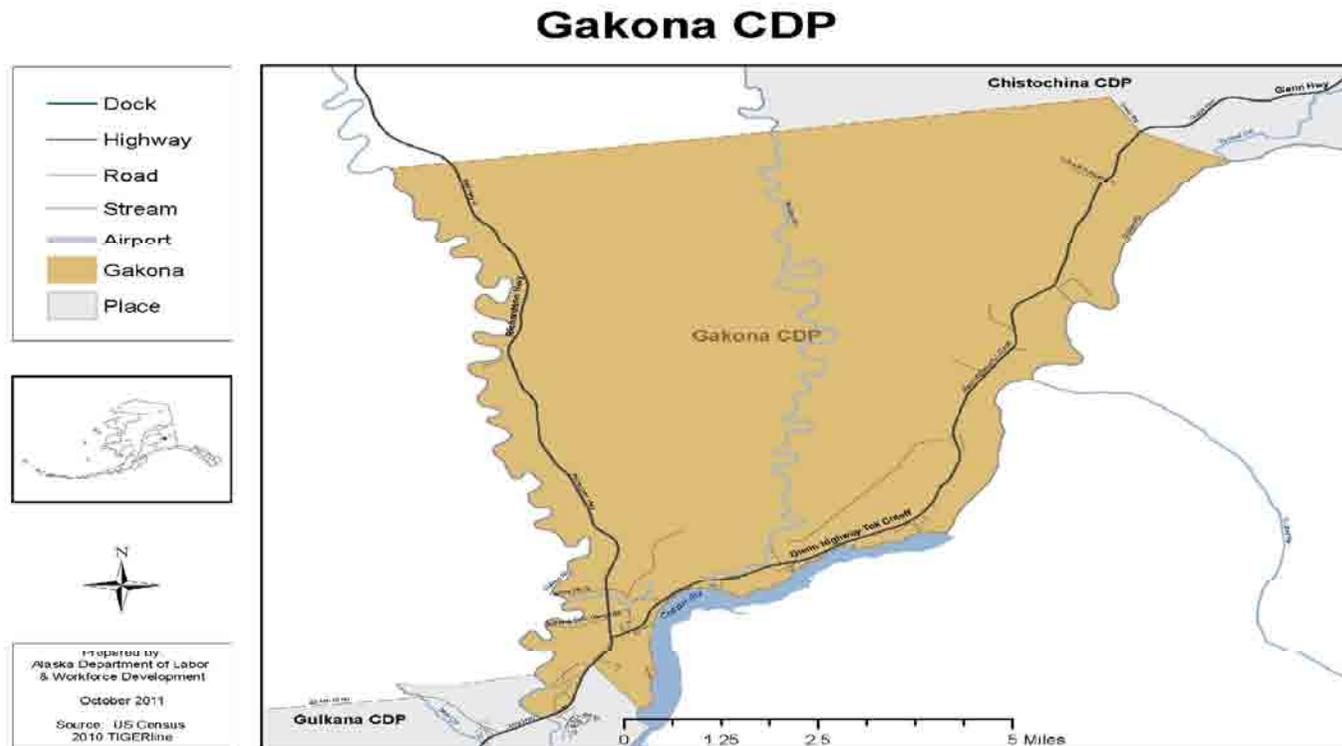
Vision Statement, Goals, Objectives, Strategies

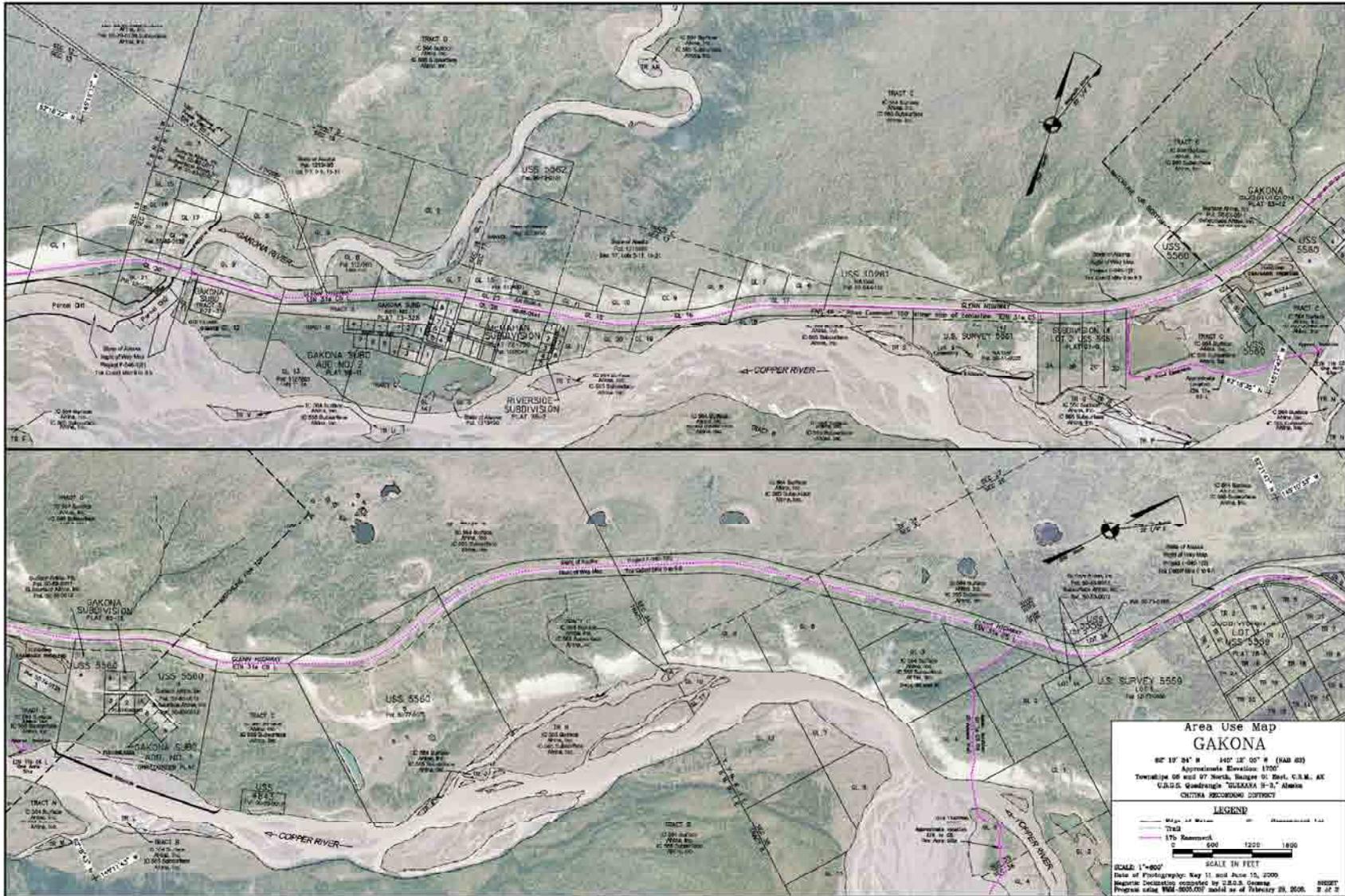
Location and Climate

Gakona is at the confluence of the Copper and Gakona Rivers, 15 miles northeast of Glennallen. It lies at mile 2 on the Tok cutoff to the Glenn Highway, just east of the Richardson Highway. It lies at approximately 62.301940 North Latitude and -145.301940 West Longitude. (Sec. 18, T006N, R001E, Copper River Meridian.) Gakona is located in the Chitina Recording District.

Gakona is located in the continental climate zone, with long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. Temperature extremes have been recorded from -62 to 91 °F. Annual snowfall averages 61 inches, with total precipitation of 13 inches.

Area Maps





History

Ahtna Athabascans have lived in the Copper River basin for 5,000 to 7,000 years. Gakona served as a wood and fish camp and later became a permanent village. In 1904 Doyle's Roadhouse was constructed at the junction of the Valdez-Eagle and Valdez-Fairbanks Trails and became an essential stopping point for travelers. There was also a post office, stagecoach station, and blacksmith shop here. Some buildings are still standing. Gakona Lodge was built in 1929 and is on the National Register of Historical Places. The lodge contains many old relics of the gold rush era.

Culture

A federally-recognized tribe is located in the community -- the Native Village of Gakona. The community has a commercial district, a non-Native residential area, and an Athabascan village. Gakona is the Athabascan name meaning "Rabbit River".

According to Census 2010, there were 131 housing units in the community and 86 were occupied. Its population was 19.7 percent American Indian or Alaska Native; 79.4 percent white; 0.9 percent of the local residents had multi-racial backgrounds. Additionally, 0.9 percent of the population was of Hispanic decent.

Economy

The community has a commercial district, a non-Native residential area, and an Athabascan village. Gakona depends upon local businesses and seasonal tourist travel. There is a motel, restaurant, bar, newspaper print shop, sawmill, and dog sled maker in Gakona. Summers provide income for local fishing and hunting guides, rafting operations, and outfitters. In 2010, 5 residents held commercial fishing permits. Some residents rely on subsistence activities and trapping. Recording equipment for the High Frequency Active Auroral Research Program (HAARP) is located near Gakona.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated 107¹ residents as employed. The public sector employed 67.3%¹ of all workers. The local unemployment rate was 11.6%¹. The percentage of workers not in labor force was 22.4%¹. The ACS surveys established that average median household income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$104,375 (MOE +/- \$90,598)¹. The per capita income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$32,829 (MOE +/- \$8,013)¹. About 5.7%¹ of all residents had incomes below the poverty level.

¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Facilities, Utilities, Schools and Health Care

Most residences have individual wells and septic systems and complete plumbing. The school uses its own well-water system. Refuse collection services are available from Copper Basin Sanitation, which hauls waste to the Glennallen landfill. Residences outside of the native village function primarily on individual wells and septic systems with complete plumbing. The elementary school which once functioned in Gakona was closed due to low enrollment. Students now travel to Glennallen for elementary and secondary schooling. Refuse collection services are available from Copper Basin Sanitation, which hauls waste to the Glennallen landfill. Electricity is provided by Copper Valley Electric Association to most homes although some operate on private generators. Many homes have bulk fuel delivered by private carrier for cars, home heating oil and propane. Other homes heat with wood and more recently pellet stoves or biomass wood bricks in conventional wood stoves. Local health clinics include Gakona Clinic, Cross Road Medical Clinic in Glennallen and CRNA Clinic in Copper Center. Emergency Services have highway and air access and are within 30 minutes of a higher-level satellite health care facility. Emergency service is provided by 911 Telephone Service and volunteers. Auxiliary health care is provided by Copper River EMS Council (907-822-3671) Gakona.

HAARP

High Frequency Active Aurora Research Program (HAARP), is operated by the US Department of Defense near Gakona. It is used for upper atmospheric and solar-terrestrial research. It was designed and built by Advance Power Technologies, Inc., a subsidiary of Raytheon corporation, with involvement of staff from several universities, including the University of Alaska's Geophysical Institute. Some local construction companies, including Ahtna Construction were employed for initial construction and now provide nightly security coverage. Local surveyors were also employed. Although the high energy demands of the testing are fulfilled with on-site generators, local utilities provide housekeeping power and telephone, and local utilities and service providers supply water, trash and sewer removal.

Transportation

The Glenn/Tok cutoff and Richardson Highway provide access to the Anchorage, Fairbanks, and the Lower 48. A 5,000' paved runway is available at nearby Gulkana.

Organizations with Local Offices

Community Non Profit - Gakona Volunteer Fire Department
P.O. Box 337 Gakona, AK 99586
Phone 907-822-3935 or 907-259-3935

Electric Utility - Copper Valley Electric Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 45 Glennallen, AK 99588-0045
Phone 907-822-3211
Web <http://www.cvea.org/>

Regional Health Corporation - Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium
P.O. Box 357vGakona, AK 99586
Phone 907-822-5399 Fax 907-822-5810
E-mail ebeeter@tribalnet.org
Web <http://www.mstc.org/>

Tribe - federally recognized - Native Village of Gakona
P.O. Box 102 Gakona, AK 99586
Phone 907-822-5777 Fax 907-822-5997
E-mail gakonavc@cvinternet.net Web www.nvgakona.com

Capital Projects and Grants							
Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
DCRA	2011	Funded	Viable 911 Dispatch - Comments: Legislative Grant - emergency equipment	Preliminary	\$14,400	4/19/2010-6/30/2015	Gakona Volunteer Fire Department
DCRA	2011	Funded	Construction and Equipment and Facility Upgrades - Comments: Legislative Grant - purchase and construct 928 sq. ft. building for community functions	Preliminary	\$250,000	4/19/2010-6/30/2015	Gakona Volunteer Fire Department of Gakona Alaska

VISION STATEMENT

The Gakona community will be a place where cultural and ethnic diversity shall be embraced, and where a subsistence and rural lifestyle will be respected and strong healthy family lifestyles cultivated. Economic growth will be balanced with our desire to protect the environment and cultural style. The Gakona community will become an attractive and inviting place to live, work and play.

Utilities /Potable Water

Goal: All residents will have access to utilities that are affordable and reliable. All residents who so desire will have access to potable water.

Objective:

1. Have good stable water available in the community
2. Lower the cost of utility rates

Strategies:

1. Drill a community well
2. Pursue renewable energy sources
3. Pursue use of wood bricks when available in the Copper River Region

Education

Goal: Have available to the Gakona community every educational opportunity for all ages

Objectives:

1. Promote vocational training programs available to residents
2. Initiate a Head Start program

Strategies:

1. Gather information on available vocational training programs and communicate to community members at regular meetings.
2. Approach RuRALCAP POC Debi Baldwin, Child Development Division Director
3. Lobby for funding

Emergency Preparation and Response

Goal: Residents will have reliable, quality, readily available emergency response services 24/7 throughout the community.

Objectives: 1. Receive service through collaboration with LEPC

Strategy: 1. Begin to attend meetings

Small Business / Agriculture Development

Goal: Increase number of small business ventures in the community.

Objectives: 1. Increase number of small businesses including but not limited to those geared toward tourism.

Strategies:

1. Have a community fish camp open to tourists and run by a community guide
2. Have a community gift shop and visitor center
3. Have a Laundromat in the community
4. Have a touch less carwash

Employment

Goal: Gakona will strive to be a self sustaining community where its members are gainfully employed.

Objectives:

1. Reduce village unemployment in the next five years from its current 80% to 25%
2. Have in the community trained/skilled laborers in the fields of plumbing, electrical, fuel related industry, welding, gardening and tourism.

Strategies: 1. Provide/promote job skills and work ethic training

GLENNALLEN



Location and Climate

Area Maps

History, Culture, Economy

Facilities, Utilities, Transportation

Capital Projects and Grants

Organizations with Local Offices

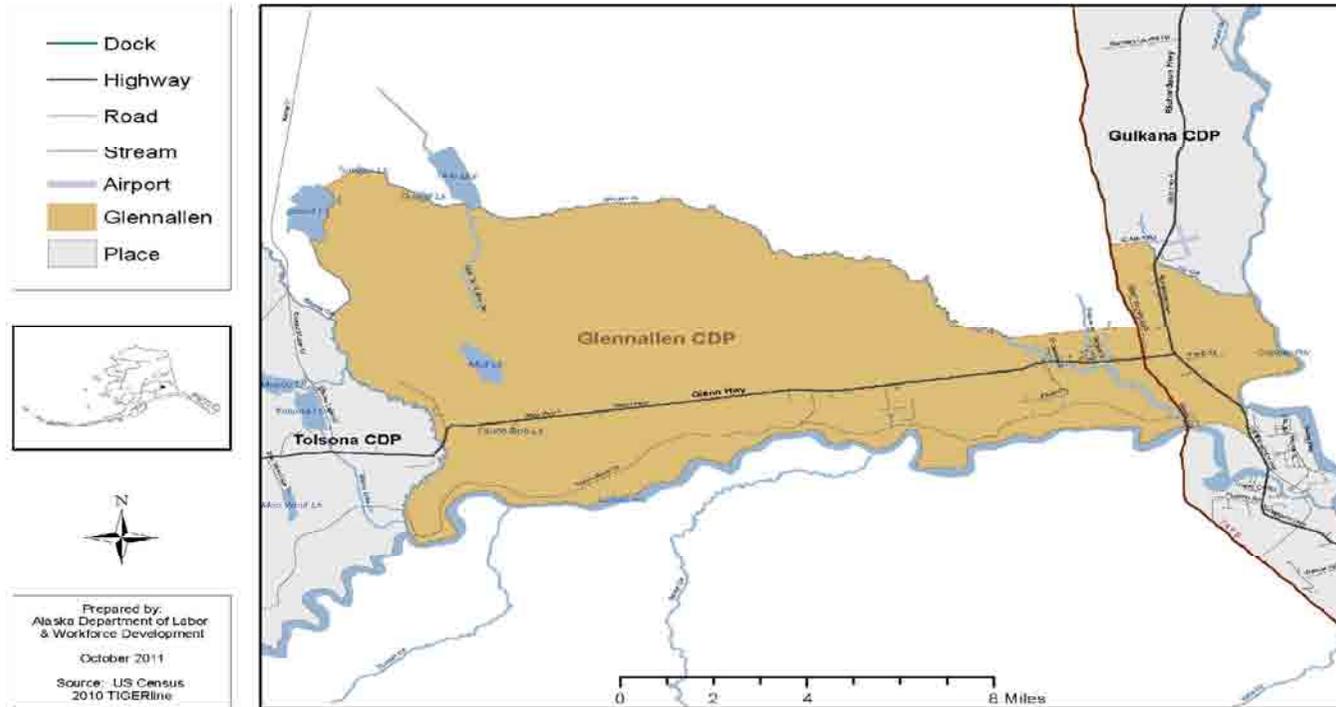
Location and Climate

The community of Glennallen lies along the Glenn Highway at its junction with the Richardson Highway, 189 road miles east of Anchorage. It is located just outside the western boundary of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. It lies at approximately 62.109170 North Latitude and -145.546390 West Longitude. (Sec. 23, T004N, R002W, Copper River Meridian.) Glennallen is located in the Chitina Recording District.

Glennallen is located in the continental climate zone, with long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. The mean temperature in January is -10 °F; in July, it is 56 °F. Annual snowfall averages 39 inches, with total precipitation of 9 inches per year.

Area Maps

Glennallen CDP





History

The name was derived from Maj. Edwin Glenn and Lt. Henry Allen, both leaders in the early American explorations of the Copper River region. It is one of the few communities in the region that was not built on the site of a Native village.

Culture

The area has historically been occupied by the Ahtna, although Glennallen is currently a non-Native community.

Economy

Glennallen is the supply hub of the Copper River region. Local businesses serve area residents and Glenn Highway traffic with supplies, services, schools, and medical care. RV parks, lodging, fuel, and other services cater to independent travelers. Offices for the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska State Troopers, and the Department of Fish and Game are located here. In 2010, 3 residents held commercial fishing permits.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated 283¹ residents as employed. The public sector employed 23.3%¹ of all workers. The percentage of workers not in labor force was 28.4%¹. The ACS surveys established that average median household income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$49,000 (MOE +/- \$43,949)¹. The per capita income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$26,858 (MOE +/- \$8,444)¹.

¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Facilities and Utilities

Many year-round homes are fully plumbed. Although most residents have private wells in the Glennallen area, the water is often of very poor quality. Glennallen Heights utilizes two wells to serve a piped system, and a local private business delivers water by truck to fill home water tanks. The majority of downtown is connected to a piped sewage system operated by The Glennallen Improvement Corporation. The sewage system serves 52 homes and businesses. Most residences have individual septic tank systems, but permafrost and high water tables cause drainage failures. Refuse collection services and the Class 2 permitted landfill are operated by Copper Basin Sanitation in Glennallen. Copper Valley Electric generates power from the Solomon Gulch Hydro Facility, a cogeneration plant and, diesel plants in Glennallen and Valdez.

Transportation

The Glenn/Tok Cutoff and Richardson Highway provide year-round road access to other areas of the state. Brenwick's Airport provides public air access, and scheduled services are available. The 2,070' turf airstrip is owned and operated by Copper Basin District, Inc. The Gulkana Airport is located 4.3 miles northeast.



Permafrost conditions of the road are often a source of complaints from visitors and regular business travelers through the town. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) is proposing to Rehabilitate and Resurface the Glenn Highway between Mileposts 172-189. The proposed improvements include resurfacing, rehabilitating and restoring the roadway to extend the service life; addition of a bicycle/pedestrian facility from the Richardson Highway to Moose Creek; and the replacement of the Tolsona Creek bridge at Milepost 172. The purpose of the bicycle/pedestrian path portion of this project is to provide for the safe travel of pedestrians in and around the community of Glennallen and to accommodate the needs of the traveling public both living in and visiting the community. ^{xxxii}

Capital Projects and Grants

Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
DOT&PF	2010	Funded	Glenn Highway: Milepost 172 to 189 Rehabilitation - Comments: Rehabilitate the existing roadway from Glenn Highway MP 172 to the Richardson Highway junction (MP 189), replace Tolsona Creek Bridge (#552), and construct a bicycle/pedestrian path from Moose Creek east, with an extension to the school.	Preliminary	\$7,500,000	Beg Date: 7/1/09, End Date: 6/30/14	
DEC/VSW	2010	Funded	Hub Sewer Extension Final Phase - Comments: Design and construction of the final phase of the hub sewer extension.	Preliminary	\$17,813	Beg Date: 7/1/09, End Date: 6/30/14	Glennallen Improvement Corporation
DEC/VSW	2009	Funded	Design and Construction of Water and Sewer Facilities	Preliminary	\$578,093	Appropriation Date 7/1/08, Lapse Date 6/30/13	
ANTHC	2009	Funded	Dental air in vacuum unit replacement at the Wrangell Mountain Dental Clinic in Glennallen, Alaska.	Preliminary	\$21,719		ANTHC Full
DEED	2009	Funded	Copper River School District - Glennallen High School Vocational Equipment Purchase - Comments: Legislative Grant	Preliminary	\$50,000	Appropriation Date 4/13/08, Lapse Date 6/30/13	

Projects List

As the central hub of the Copper River Region, vision, goals, objectives and strategies are addressed from a regional standpoint and spelt out in the latter part of this document (Section V).

Organizations with Local Offices

Ahtna, Incorporated

P.O. Box 649

Glennallen, AK 99588

Phone: 907-822-3476 Fax: 907-822-3495

Web: <http://www.ahtna-inc.com>

Copper River School District

P.O. Box 108

Glennallen, AK 99588

Michael Johnson, Superintendent

Phone: 907-822-3234 Fax: 907-822-3949

E-Mail: mjohnson@crsd.k12.ak.us Web: <http://www.crsd.k12.ak.us>

Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 469 Glennallen, AK 99588

Richard Dennis, President

Phone: 907-822-5555 Fax: 907-822-5558 E-Mail: info@traveltoalaska.com Web: <http://www.traveltoalaska.com/>

Copper Valley Community Library Association

P.O. Box 173

Glennallen, AK 99588

Phone: 907-822-5427 E-Mail: cvcla@alaska.net

Copper Valley Development Association

P.O. Box 9

Glennallen, AK 99588

Phone: 907-822-5001 Fax: 907-822-5009 E-Mail: jhoke@coppervalley.org Web: <http://www.coppervalley.org>

Copper Valley Electric Association, Incorporated

P.O. Box 45

Glennallen, AK 99588-0045

Phone: 907-822-3211 Web: <http://www.cvea.org/>

Glennallen Improvement Corporation(Community Non Profit)

P.O. Box 343

Glennallen, AK 99588

Wire Communication

P.O. Box 649

Glennallen, AK 99588

Phone: 907-822-3476 Fax: 907-822-3495

GULKANA



Location and Climate

Area Maps

History, Culture, Economy

Facilities

Transportation

Education

Capital Projects and Grants

Organizations with Local Offices

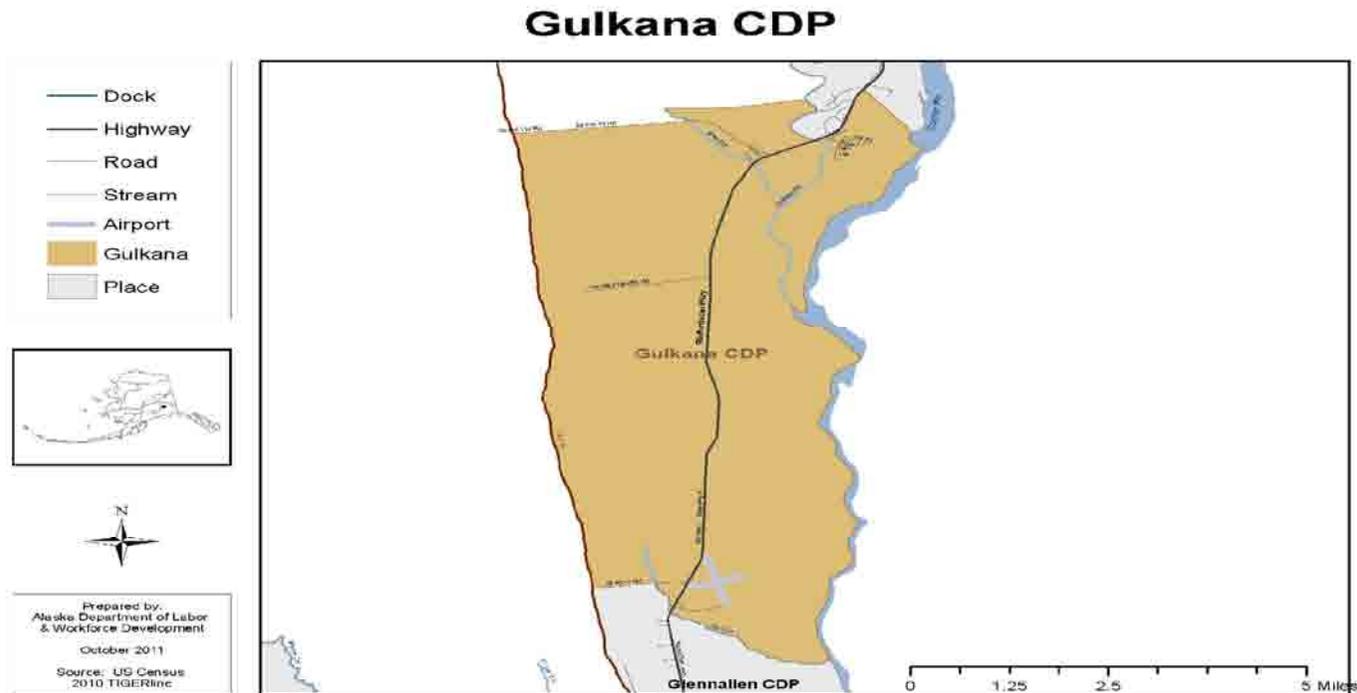
Vision Statement, Goals, Objectives, Strategies

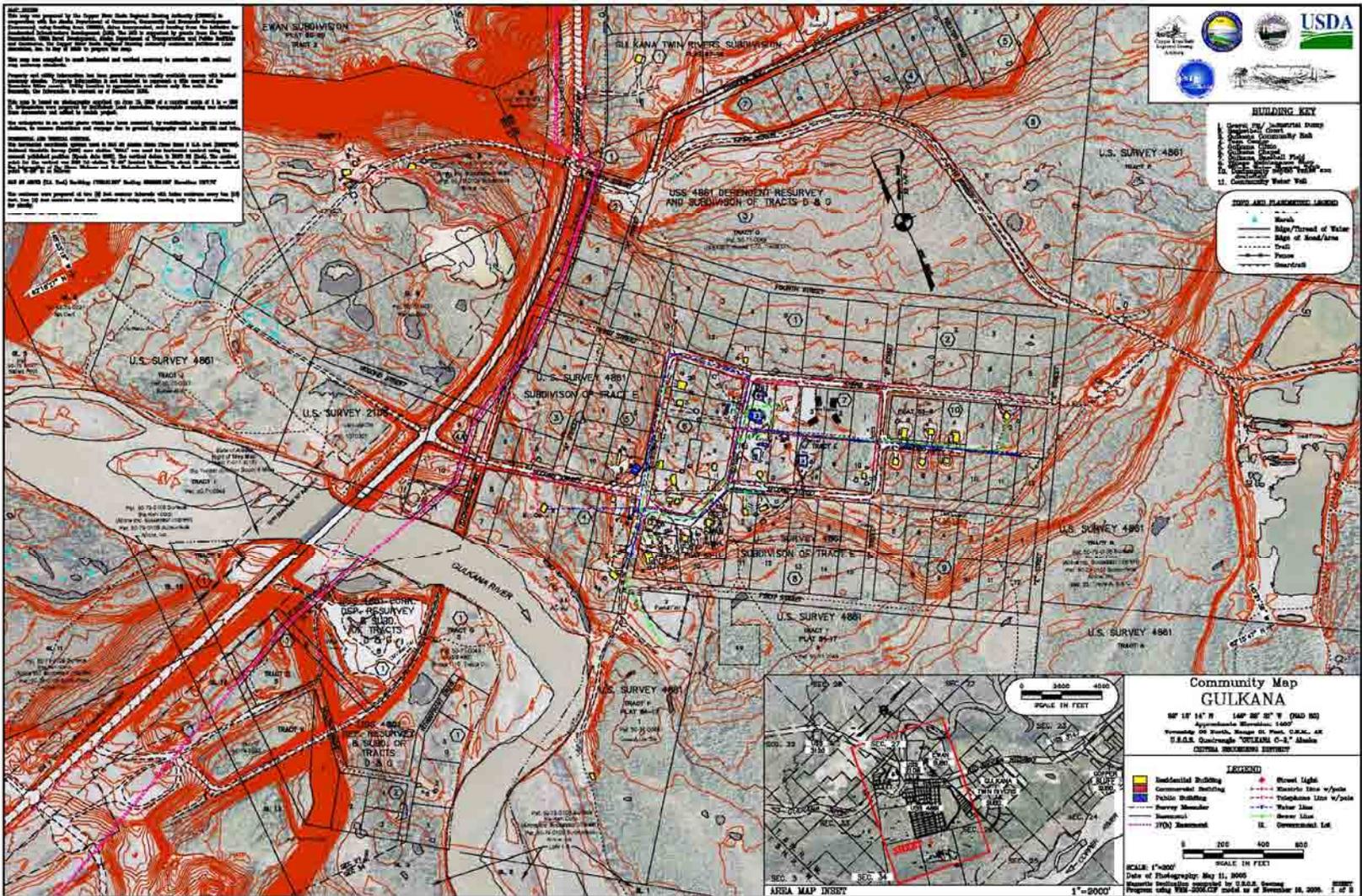
Location and Climate

Gulkana is located on the east bank of the Gulkana (Kulkana) River at its confluence with the Copper River. It lies at mile 127 of the Richardson Highway, 14 miles north of Glennallen. It lies at approximately 62.271390 North Latitude and -145.382220 West Longitude. (Sec. 27, T006N, R001W, Copper River Meridian.) Gulkana is located in the Chitina Recording District.

Gulkana is located in the continental climate zone, with long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. Temperature extremes range from -65 to 91 °F. Annual snowfall averages 47 inches, with 11 inches of precipitation

Area Maps





History

The Ahtna people have occupied this area for 5,000 to 7,000 years. Gulkana was originally established in 1903 as a telegraph station and was named "Kulkana" after the nearby river. The Gulkana Roadhouse was built in the early 1900s by C.L. Hoyt, a fur dealer who ran the roadhouse until 1916. A store, post office, and stage station were located nearby. Gulkana was originally located across the river from its present site; it was cut in half by construction of the Richardson Highway during World War II. In the early 1950s, the first house was built at the new site. Chief Ewan and his family were the first Native residents, and eventually all of the villagers relocated.

Culture

Gulkana is an Athabascan village. Subsistence activities supplement incomes. The sale, importation, and possession of alcohol is prohibited.

Economy

Residents of Gulkana depend somewhat on subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering. Employment opportunities are limited. Construction of a biomass wood pellet production plant is currently underway and is expected to generate employment as well as lower the cost of heating for local residents. Gulkana Village operates Soaring Eagle Transit system which is of vital importance to the region and an important source of employment and revenue for the Village. A number of seasonal tour operators work from the Gulkana River.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated 361 residents as employed. The public sector employed 16.7%¹ of all workers. The percentage of workers not in labor force was 18.2%¹. The ACS surveys established that average median household income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$69,167 (MOE +/- \$63,988)¹. The per capita income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$15,809 (MOE +/- \$7,992)¹.

¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Facilities

Water is currently derived from a well, treated, and stored in a 100,000-gallon tank. A piped water and sewer system serves most homes. A community septic tank treats wastewater. Individual septic tanks are also used by a few residences. Permafrost and high water tables are problematic in this region. Copper Basin Sanitation provides refuse collection, using the Glennallen landfill.

Transportation

The Richardson Highway passes close by the village and is maintained year-round. A state-owned 5,001' long by 100' wide asphalt runway is available at the Gulkana Airport.

Education

In 2010, 38.7 percent of people 25 years and over had not graduated from high school, 29 percent had a graduated from high school 16.1 percent had some college and 16.2 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Educational attainment was of great concern in the discussion leading to this plan. The Gulkana Village Council felt strongly about encouraging their youth to stay in school and discussed at length the need for a mentorship/tutoring program.

CAPITAL PROJECTS AND GRANTS LIST

Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Funding Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Agency Cost	Grant Schedule	Project Owner
AEA-AEEE	2010	Funded	Gulkana Central Wood Heating Construction-BIOMASS OTHER FUNDING: Federal	Preliminary	\$500,000	Grant Term Date 2/28/10	Subrecipient Grant: Gulkana Village Council
ANTHC	2010	Funded	New water treatment plant in Gulkana, Alaska.	Construction	\$2,100,000	Start 10/15/2010 End 10/15/2011	ANTHC Full
ANTHC	2009	Funded	Wastewater disposal system and treatment repairs in Gulkana, Alaska.	Complete	\$867,329	Start 08/01/2009 End 11/06/2009	ANTHC Full
HUD	2009	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Contract	\$56,715	N/A	Direct Grant: Copper River Housing Authority
USDA/RD	2009	Funded	Design and PER/ER of New Water Supply Other Funding: State of Alaska VSW (\$42,250 and Jan 09 increase \$37,763)	Design	\$240,038	N/A	N/A

Organizations with local offices

Copper Valley Electric Association, Incorporated

P.O. Box 45

Glennallen, AK 99588-0045

Phone: 907-822-3211 Web: <http://www.cvea.org/>

Gulkana Village(Tribe - federally recognized; BIA -Recognized Traditional Council)

P.O. Box 254

Gakona, AK 99586

, President

Phone: 907-822-3746 Fax: 907-822-3976

E-Mail: lclaw@gulkanacouncil.org Web: <http://gulkanacouncil.org/>

VISION STATEMENT

Gulkana will be a place where we strive to preserve, magnify and justly exercise our Tribal Sovereignty, the Ahtna language and traditional lifestyle and values; where we maintain a healthy and safe environment that encourages Moral values based on Biblical teachings; where we promote that which encourages self identity and self esteem.

Utilities /Potable Water

Goal: All residents will have access to utilities that are affordable and reliable. All residents who so desire will have access to potable water.

Objective:

1. Have available to residents a good quality, affordable water source.
2. Pursue affordable renewable energy sources.

Strategies: 1. Complete the biomass wood pellet production plant.

Education

Goal: Encourage our young children to continue their education while pushing for higher education.

Objectives: 1. Increase by 10% the number of our students who go on to higher education.

Strategies:

1. Establish a mentorship program targeted to 4th and 5th grade students
2. Establish a parent Support Group to help young people with homework
3. Establish a tutoring program where older students assist younger students
4. Discuss with CRSD, CRNA and Indian Education Committee available support for the measures above

Community and Culture

Goal: To preserve our culture for the younger generation.

Objectives:

1. Have the Ahtna history and language taught in the school system as a second language
2. Have a cultural camp

Strategies:

1. Develop a curriculum based on existing models
2. Storytelling, camping/hunting with young people

Emergency Preparation and Response

Goal: Residents in Gulkana will have reliable, quality, readily available emergency response services 24/7 throughout the community.

Objectives: 1. Have a response plan in place

Strategies:

1. Revise the existing plan
2. Establish a village phone tree to ensure every resident is accounted for/informed.

3. Reconnect with LEPC

Transportation

Goal: Gulkana will have a safe, well maintained transportation system.

Objective:

1. Maintain quality of existing road system
2. Increase Soaring Eagle Transit services
3. Establish road system for the subdivision of land on the north side of the village

Strategies:

1. Acquire equipment for road maintenance

Small Business / Agriculture Development

Goal: Strengthen existing businesses and develop new ones.

Objective:

1. Increase number of small businesses including but not limited to those geared toward tourism

Strategies:

1. Explore sale of water from the existing community well
2. Continue to develop plan for production of wood pellets and compressed log manufacturing
3. Develop an RV park at Sailor's Pit

Health and Social Services

Goal: Everyone in Gulkana will have access to quality health and social services that are affordable.

Objective:

1. Construct a user friendly, energy efficient ADA accessible clinic meeting all privacy requirements
2. Guarantee quality senior care assistance for Gulkana seniors

Strategies:

1. Determine the appropriate location within the village and secure funding
2. Work with regional partners such as CRNA and Connecting Ties

Employment

Goal: Gulkana will have a self sustaining community that is equipped to take employment.

Objectives: 1. Increase work ethics and skill level of workforce

- Strategies:**
1. Carry out workshops for residents 14 years and older
 2. Locate opportunities for vocational education (discuss with CRNA)
 3. Contact potential partners such as the Job Center, Alaska Works
 4. Partner with CRNA/Ahtna under the workforce development plan underway

Resource Use and Conservation

Goal: Preserve the environmental integrity of the Gulkana River.

Objectives:

1. Address unregulated activity on the Gulkana River (tourism and guides)
2. Address the potential dangers associated with the pipeline from maintenance and potential disaster

- Strategies:**
1. Discuss with DOT and State of Alaska Fish and Game offices potential for increasing restrictions for access/use of the Gulkana River
 2. Discuss with Alyeska Co the implementation of the emergency response plan

KENNY LAKE



Location and Climate

Area Maps

History, Culture, Economy

Facilities

Transportation

Organizations with Local Offices

Capital Projects and Grants

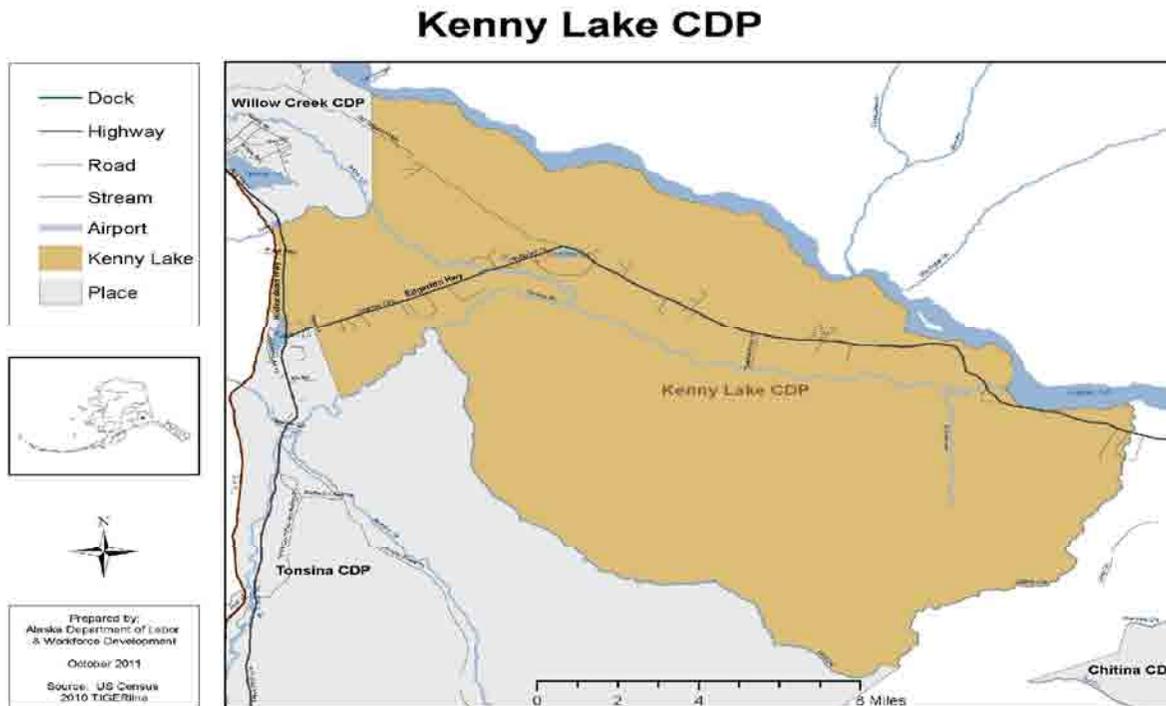
Potential Projects List

Location and Climate

Kenny Lake lies off of the Richardson Highway, between miles 1 and 22 on the Edgerton Highway and between miles 1 and 11 of the Old Edgerton Highway. It is along the preferred route into the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. It lies at approximately 61.683610 North Latitude and -144.852340 West Longitude. (Sec. 31, T001S, R003E, Copper River Meridian.) Kenny Lake is located in the Chitina Recording District.

Kenny Lake lies in the continental climate zone, with long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. Temperature extremes range from -58 to 91 °F. Annual snowfall averages 52 inches, with total precipitation of 12 inches per year.

Area Map



History

The Ahtna people occupied the region historically. The area was settled in the 1960s by a number of homesteaders due to the rich fertile soil and agricultural potential. However, a number of homesteaders cleared 20 acres of land, built a cabin, and lived there for 6 months of every year for five

years, as required to obtain ownership, then subdivided and sold the property. There are still four original homesteaders farming their land. Until the 1970s, the Old Edgerton Highway was the only road into Kenny Lake.

Kenny Lake was called Muskrat Lake by the early Ahtna residents of the area. During the mining of Kennicott, beginning in 1910, 2 roadhouses existed in Kenny Lake. Travel numbers declined after the completion of the Alaska Railroad connecting the port of Seward to Fairbanks in 1923. Road use almost ceased after 1938 when the Kennicott mine shut down. Kenny Lake remained fairly isolated in the 50's and 60's with no electricity or phone. Mail service for residents was the General Delivery at Copper Center. *xxxiii*

Culture

There is a strong spirit of individualism combined with a sense of commitment to family and community in Kenny Lake. The school, library, community hall and local church buildings host most of the social activity in the area. The Kenny Lake fair held yearly in mid August since 1973 is an important cultural event bringing together local gardeners, cooks, handcrafters and producers of livestock and produce.

Economy

The Kenny Lake community values a small scale rural lifestyle and does not support any economic development planning effort. Concerns where an increase in population or in business activity is concerned derive primarily from the fact that there is a limited water supply in the area. Quality of the source is also poor.

Agricultural crops such as hay and vegetables are grown locally, and livestock is locally raised as well. Lack of a slaughter facility in the Copper River Region significantly raises the sale price of locally grown livestock reducing its competitiveness in the market

A small number of businesses operate from Kenny Lake, both year round and seasonally. Tourism plays a significant role in the community as an on route stop for those visitors headed to McCarthy and Kennicott. There are a number of bed and breakfast providers, a gas station, RV park, grocery store, Laundromat and eateries. There is an established eco tourism operator in Kenny Lake. Residents expressed a need for access to firewood from State sources that is currently not being met.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated 99¹ residents as employed. The public sector employed 50.5%¹ of all workers. The local unemployment rate was 16.1%¹. The percentage of workers not in labor force was 36.2%¹. The ACS surveys established that average median household income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$60,655 (MOE +/- \$27,673)¹. The per capita income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$36,190 (MOE +/- \$15,281)¹. ¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Facilities

Most residents and businesses haul water from one of two community wells, located at mile 5 of the Edgerton Highway, or have water delivered by truck from Glennallen. There are a few successful private wells. The schools use their own well-water systems. The majority of occupied households have individual septic tank systems and are fully plumbed. Refuse dumpsters are available from Copper Basin Sanitation, which provides disposal at the Glennallen landfill. The lack of 3 phase power along the Edgerton Hwy has been referenced as a hindrance to the operation of existing businesses.

Transportation

The Edgerton Highway connects Kenny Lake to the entire state road system. Several landing strips are available nearby for small aircraft landings. The need for shoulders and a bike path along the road has been referenced by the community.

Local Contacts and Regional/State Organizations with Local Offices

Copper Valley Electric Association, Incorporated (Electric Utility)

P.O. Box 45

Glennallen, AK 99588-0045

Phone: 907-822-3211 Web: <http://www.cvea.org/>

The Kenny Lake Community League (Community Non Profit; Also 907-822-5315)

P.O. Box 231

Copper Center, AK 99573

Phone: 907-822-3313 E-Mail: cs5k@hotmail.com

Capital Projects and Grants

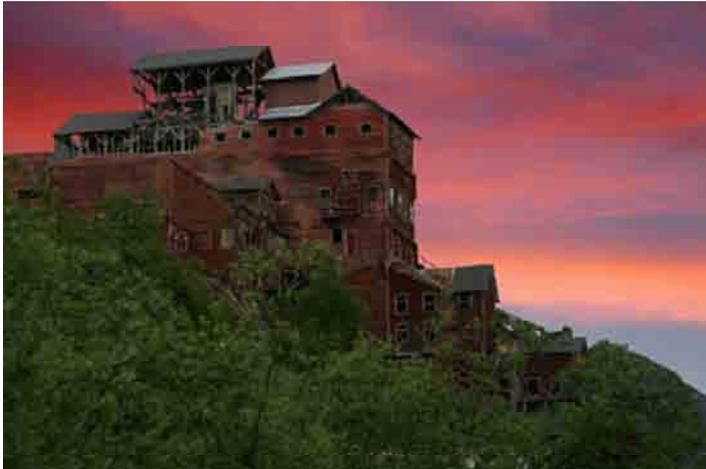
Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
AEA-AEEE	2009	Funded	Kenny Lake Wood Boiler Assessment - BIOMASS - Comments: OTHER FUNDING: Federal	Contract	\$189,688	Grant Term Date 6/30/10	Copper River School District
USDA/RD	2007	Funded	Community Center Repairs	Preliminary	\$35,107		
DCRA	2009	Funded	Potable Water Resource Project - Comments: Legislative Grant - SLA 2009, Chap. 29, Page 62, Line 31-32	Construction	\$40,000	Appropriation Date 4/13/08, Lapse Date 6/30/13	Kenny Lake Volunteer Fire Department
DEED	2006	Funded	Kenny Lake High School Upgrade	Construction	\$1,347,673		Copper River School District
DCRA	2008	Funded	Fire Hall Upgrade - Comments: Legislative Grant - Grants to Unincorporated Communities	Completed	\$10,000		Kenny Lake

Potential Projects List

While the Kenny Lake Community chose not participate in a CVDA guided planning session leading to the creation of a vision statement, goals, objectives and, strategies, a list of potential community level projects is attached below collected by means of a survey. The list of projects is derived from a small number of surveys returned by community members (these are not prioritized).

- Hydrologic study**
- Sanitary Landfill**
- Senior Center/Retirement Home**
- Meat Processing Center**
- 3 Phase Power**

McCarthy/Kennicott



Location and Climate

Area Maps

History, Culture, Economy

Transportation, Facilities, Utilities, Services

Capital Projects and Grants

Local Organizations

Vision Statement

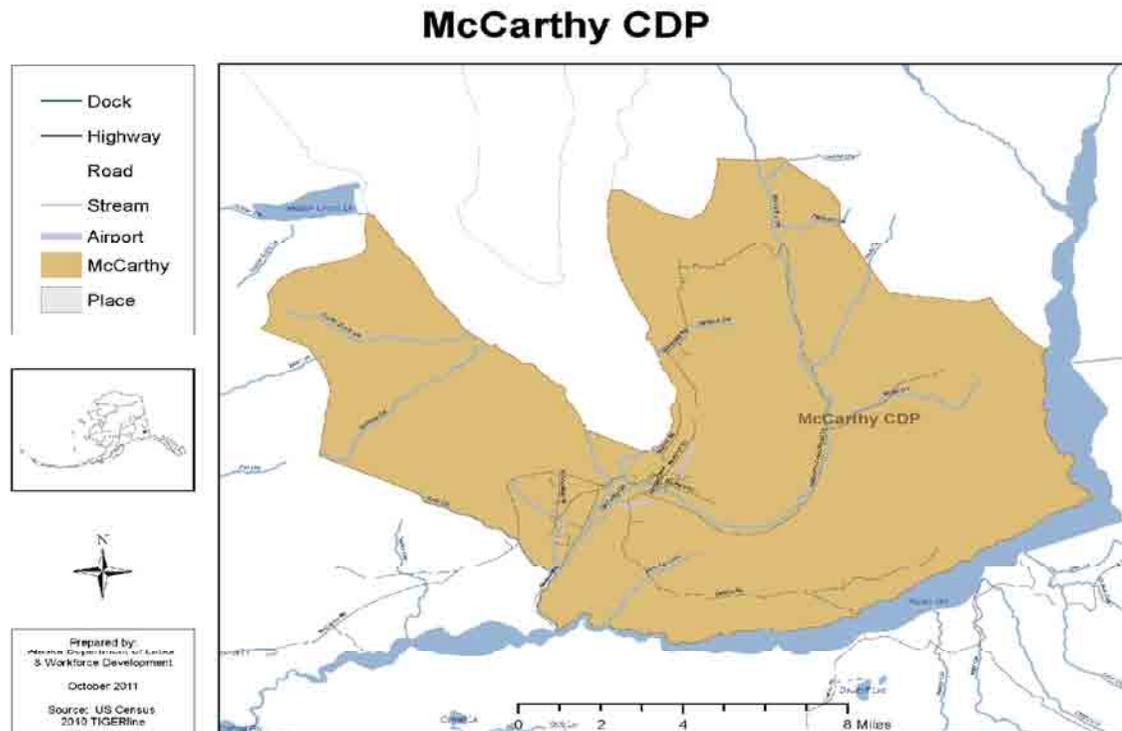
Goals, Objectives, Strategies

Location and Climate

McCarthy lies 61 miles east of Chitina off the Edgerton Highway. It is on the Kennicott River at the mouth of McCarthy Creek, 12 miles northeast of the junction of the Nizina and Chitina Rivers, in the heart of the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve. It lies at approximately 61.433330 North Latitude and -142.921670 West Longitude. (Sec. 16, T005S, R014E, Copper River Meridian.) McCarthy is located in the Chitina Recording District.

Kenny Lake lies in the continental climate zone, with long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. Temperature extremes range from -58 to 91 °F. Annual snowfall averages 52 inches, with total precipitation of 12 inches per year.

Area Map



History

The Kennecott copper mines and camp were established about 1908 across from the Kennicott Glacier, 4.5 miles up the mountain from McCarthy. An early misspelling named the mine and mining company Kennecott, while the town, river, and glacier are spelled Kennicott. In 1911, the Copper River & Northwestern Railway carried its first car load of ore from Kennecott to Cordova. Since no gambling or drinking were allowed at the town of Kennicott, nearby McCarthy developed as a colorful diversion for the miners. Housing over 800 residents, it provided a newspaper, stores, hotels, restaurants, saloons, and a red light district. Kennicott became a company town with homes, a school, hospital, gym, tennis court and silent movie theater. Over its 30-year operation, \$200 million in ore was extracted from Kennecott, the richest concentration of copper ore known in the world. In 1938, the mines closed and both towns were virtually abandoned. Today, McCarthy retains much of its original flavor and has become a tourist destination as well as a home to many people who love the wilderness and the wilderness spirit.

Culture

The old mine buildings, artifacts, and colorful history attract visitors during the summer months. The area ranks as one of the nation's most endangered landmarks by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. Emergency stabilization of the old buildings has been required, and future work will be necessary.

Economy

Employment is limited and generally seasonal. Local businesses include lodges, food services, B&Bs, a museum, a small store, gift shops, flight seeing services, a shuttle service, and guide services. There are also businesses which provide home and road building and maintenance services, and that provide fuels to local residents. The National Park Service employs several residents seasonally.

Transportation

McCarthy is accessible from the Richardson via Edgerton Highways. The 58-mile McCarthy Road starts in Chitina and continues into the Wrangell-St. Elias Park. A footbridge is used to cross the Kennicott River. There are many gravel airstrips in the vicinity. The state-owned gravel airstrip is 3,500' long by 60' wide. DOT performs irregular winter maintenance of the McCarthy airport.

Facilities, Utilities and Services

Water is drawn by hand from a clear water spring. This is an area of great concern to community members since this spring is in fact the communities only water source and vulnerable to contamination from natural and manmade sources. Outhouses are prevalent, although a few septic systems are in use. Incinerating, composting, and recycling of solid wastes is encouraged. There is no central electric system and many homes have turned, quite successfully, to renewable energy sources such as solar. The community has been actively searching for a solution to the lack of a trash pickup/removal location whereby arrangements could be made with Copper Basin Sanitation for service.

Although the year round community only totals 28, summer tourism will bring as many as 10,000 visitors through the town of McCarthy. There is little or no support from State or Federal sources in dealing with the logistics of accommodating this traffic.

Capital Projects and Grants							
Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
DOT&PF	2010	Funded	McCarthy Road/Edgerton Highway: Permanent Flooding Repairs - Comments: Repair the October 2006 flood damage to McCarthy Road from approximately MP 1.6 to 2.8, Kotsina Bluff.	Preliminary	\$10,000,000	Beg Date: 7/1/09, End Date: 6/30/14	
DCRA	2003	Funded	Community Projects & Improvements/Facilities Improvements and Equipment Purchases - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$28,977	Closed 12/23/08	McCarthy Area Council

On May 31st 2012, Copper Valley Development Association was received by the McCarthy Area Council during their annual community meeting to discuss CEDS and a McCarthy community level planning session. The McCarthy Area Council, with the indirect assistance of CVDA, held a number of planning meetings and submitted the following goals, objectives and strategies for inclusion in the Regional CEDS document.

McCarthy/Kennecott GOALS, OBJECTIVES, STRATEGIES

2012

Contact Organizations referenced below:

- MAC: McCarthy Area Council
Mark Vail, President
Tamara Harper, Secretary
mccarthyareacouncil.secretary@gmail.com
- KMVFD: Kennecott-MXY Volunteer Fire Department
Leath Kramer, Fire Chief. Chris Chester, Assistant Fire Chief
leathkramer@yahoo.com
- WMC: Wrangell Mountains Center
Jeremy Pataky, Executive Director
info@wrangells.org
- EMS: Community Emergency Medical Services
Jacob Schultz, Director
mxvems@gmail.com
- NPS: National Park Service
Stephens Harper, Kennecott District Ranger
Elizabeth Schafer, NPS Planning Coordinator
stephens_harper@nps.gov
elizabeth_schafer@nps.gov
- MKHM: McCarthy Kennecott Historical Museum
John Rice, Treasurer
crnw2011@gmail.com
- BHT: Blackburn Heritage Foundation
Dan Talcott
dta1544@frontier.com

Utilities/Potable Water

Goal: To have potable water and some needed utilities/infrastructure available to the community.

Objectives:

Have a reliable, quality potable water source for community use

Have some needed utility infrastructure for community use and benefit

Provide additional outhouses for visiting public and community

Strategies/Contact:

Pursue planning and funding for a community well (MAC)

Pursue planning and funding for a washeteria facility (MAC)
Install a renewable energy system (solar) for the community center (MAC/BHF)
Pursue a location, planning and funding for a trash transfer site and/or incinerator (MAC)

Pursue location and construction of compostable or vault public outhouses on Wrangell Mountains Center property in downtown McCarthy (WMC)

Emergency Preparation and Response/Public Safety

Goal: To provide and support locally staffed and trained fire and emergency medical response services

Objectives:

Upgrade/improve the ambulance

Have a well-trained staff of local fire and EMS responders able to manage most EMS/fire incidents

Upgrade/improve fire response equipment

Expand infrastructure for Kennicott-MXY Volunteer Fire Department

Strategies:

Pursue funding to purchase medical supplies and equipment to make the community ambulance fully functional and licensed (KMVFD/EMS)

Provide ongoing, regular EMS and fire education, trainings and certification courses to locals (KMVFD/NPS/EMS)

Buy new fire engine apparatus and provide routine maintenance (KMVFD)

Pursue funding/planning/construction

of new fire hall, training facility and ambulance garage (KMVFD)

Health and Social Services

Goal: To have basic healthcare services available to the community.

Objectives:

Have a medical clinic and patient care facility

Have a medical professional available in the community

Strategies:

Pursue funding/planning for the construction of a community medical clinic (MAC/EMS/Dr. Jason Brooks- akbrooks@mtaonline.net)

Pursue public funding to hire a medical professional to staff the community clinic on a regular, periodic basis(EMS/Dr. Jason Brooks)

Small Business and Employment

Goal: Develop policies that encourage quality employment opportunities for residents in the McCarthy-Kennecott area with the NPS, State, and local private businesses and organizations. The community will buy, use and promote local products and services when possible to benefit the local economy.

Objectives:

Residents will have preference for local jobs with the NPS and the State

Develop Agro-tourism and encourage local craftspeople

Strategies:

Continue discussion with WRST Superintendant/staff about the benefit of local hire to both NPS and the community; encourage same idea with Dept of Forestry, State of AK (MAC/NPS)

Hold a regular, weekly farmer/local artisans' market during the summer (MAC)

Provide local employment by creating a position to clean, maintain and remove trash from public facilities roadways and general areas in the community

Pursue funding for McCarthy Area Council to hire a local resident for this “public areas maintenance” job (MAC) .

Provide local employment by creating a community planner position who would cross organization boundaries, have institutional memory, and be informed about plans related to MXY-Kenn and would relay information to/from/between all concerned stakeholders/organizations.

Pursue funding for MAC to hire a local resident for this community planner position (MAC)

Community and Culture

Goal: Encourage and support local cultural organizations and activities; provide visitors the opportunity to experience cultural aspects of our community.

Objectives:

Support the McCarthy-Kennicott Historical Museum

Encourage the use and enjoyment of our community center.

Increase visitors’ opportunity to access information on local organizations, cultural events and activities, NPS.

Encourage local craftspeople/artists

Strategies:

Pursue funding for maintenance, upgrades and expansion of the museum (MKHM)

Pursue funding for both continual maintenance and renovation of the Tony Zak House/Community Ctr. (MAC/BHF)

Create a public portal location where visitors can learn about local cultural events, organizations, activities, NPS programs (KMHM/NPS/WMC)

Hold a regular, weekly farmer/local artisans' market during the summer (MAC/WMC)

Housing

Goal: McCarthy-Kennicott will encourage energy-efficient housing.

Objectives:

Improve energy efficiency of existing housing.

Strategies:

Research, publicize and pursue funding from programs dedicated to weatherization and energy efficiency in housing (MAC)

Resource Use and Conservation

Goal: Our community will have a system to manage broken, dead and abandoned vehicles.

Objectives:

Eliminate the problem of abandoned vehicles left in our community.

Strategies:

Secure a location for keeping broken vehicles as long as they are useful for parts. Pursue planning/funding for transport/disposal of vehicles no longer useful for parts. Establish community guidelines for this “abandoned vehicles” program (MAC)

Mendeltna/Nelchina



Location and Climate

Area Map

History, Culture, Economy

Facilities, Utilities,

Transportation

Capital Projects and Grants

Organizations with Local Offices

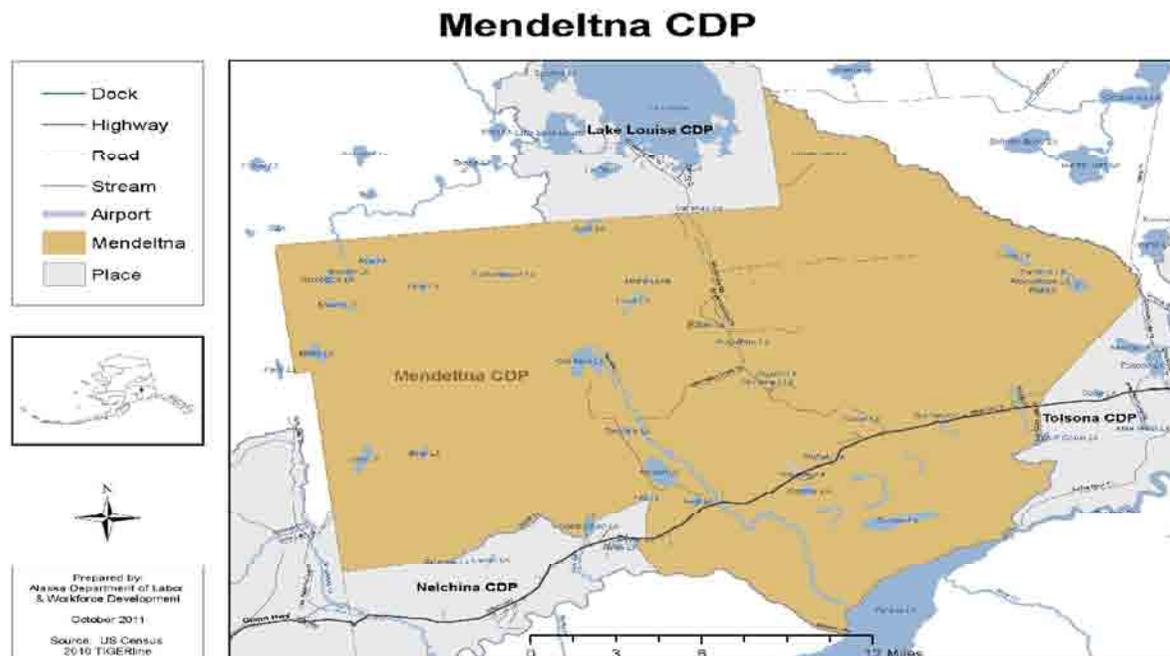
MENDELTONA

Location and Climate

The community is at milepost 154 of the Glenn Highway near Mendeltna River, 30 miles southwest of Glennallen. It lies at approximately 62.049440 North Latitude and -146.538330 West Longitude. (Sec. 17, T003N, R007W, Copper River Meridian.) Mendeltna is located in the Chitina Recording District.

It is located in the continental climate zone. Temperature extremes range from -74 to 96 °F. Annual snowfall averages 39 inches, with total precipitation of 9 inches per year.

Area Map



History

Mendeltna is an Indian name first reported by the U.S. Geological Survey in 1915. Mendeltna was originally a stop on the trail used by Natives from Lake Tyone to Tazlina Lake. Gold in the creeks draining from the Chugach Mountains brought prospectors to this area in the late 1800s. The Eureka Lodge was built to serve miners, and the Nelchina area offered several trails into the mountains.

Culture

The Nelchina-Mendeltna Community Association was organized to advocate for local issues and planning, however, revenue sharing funds are essentially applied to waste management in the area.

Economy

The area offers a lodge and air taxi services for fly-in fishing and mountaineering. The largest RV campground in Alaska is located here, complete with showers, cabins, restaurant, and bar. Summer employment, coupled with a subsistence lifestyle, sustains local residents.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated zero¹ residents as employed. The percentage of workers not in labor force was 100.0%¹.

¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Facilities

Water and sewer facilities are privately owned. The majority haul water or have water delivered by truck from Glennallen, but some have individual wells. Outhouses and septic tanks are used for sewage disposal. Approximately 40% of homes are fully plumbed. A community-operated, nonprofit transfer site is available at Nelchina.

Transportation

The community lies on the Glenn Highway and accesses the statewide road system. There are several air strips in the area that provide air taxi services.

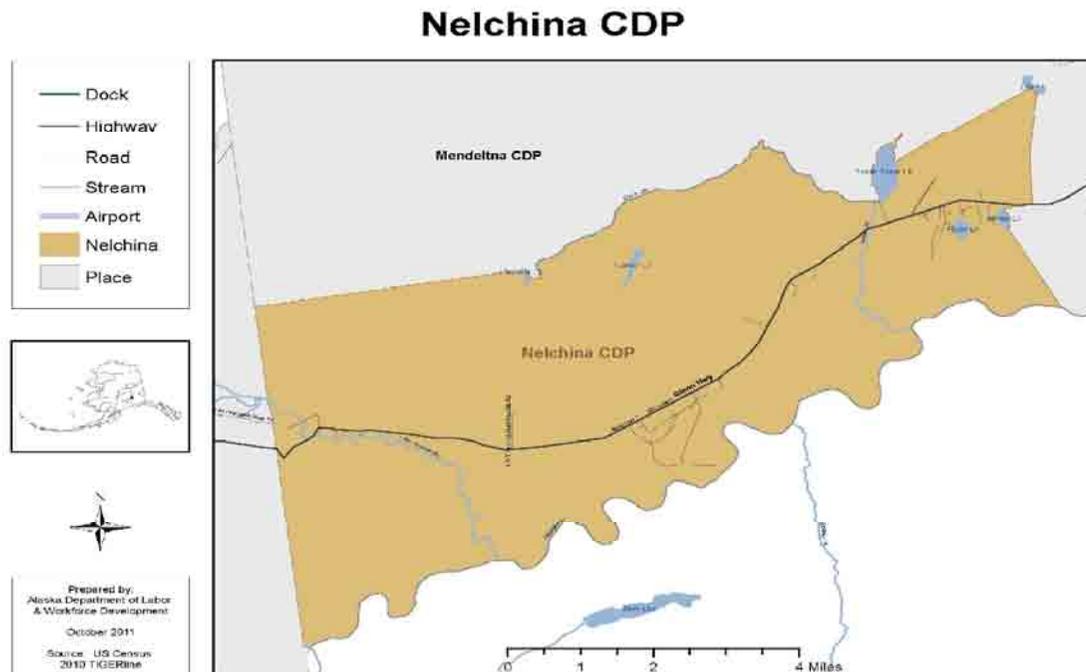
NELCHINA

Location and Climate

Nelchina is located between mileposts 137.5 and 150.5 of the Glenn Highway, at the junction of the Little Nelchina River and Crooked Creek. It is about 30 miles west of Glennallen and Mendeltna, just east of the Mat-Su Borough boundary. It lies at approximately 61.990520 North Latitude and -146.770400 West Longitude. (Sec. 6, T002N, R008W, Copper River Meridian.) Nelchina is located in the Chitina Recording District.

It is located in the continental climate zone. Temperature extremes range from -74 to 96 °F. Annual snowfall averages 39 inches, with total precipitation of 9 inches.

Area Map



History

Nelchina is an Athabascan Indian name. Gold in the creeks draining from the Chugach Mountains brought prospectors to this area in the late 1800s. Nelchina area offered several trails into the mountains. Nelchina was a mining settlement established around 1913. It was first reported by Theodore Chapin in a 1915 USGS publication.

Economy

Slide Mountain Cabins (milepost 135) on the Glenn Highway provides cabins and RV sites (no convenience items). Additional lodging is available at the Nelchina Motel (milepost 143). There is a grocery store, gift shop, repair shop, parts store, and towing company, in addition to offering cabin rentals.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated zero¹ residents as employed.

¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Facilities

Water and sewer facilities are privately owned. The majority haul water or have water delivered by truck from Glennallen, but some have individual wells. Outhouses and septic tanks are used for sewage disposal. An Alaska Department of Transportation maintenance station (milepost 141) and a nonprofit refuse transfer facility (milepost 149.3) are located in the area. There is a state-stocked public access lake at milepost 149.2. All Revenue Sharing funds received by the Mendeltna/Nelchina Corporation are used in support of Waste Management.^{xxxiv}

Transportation

The community lies on the Glenn Highway and accesses the statewide road system. There are several air strips in the area. Snowmachining is a prevalent local means of transportation.

Capital Projects and Grants

Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
DCRA	1999	Funded	Nelchina/Mendeltna Solid Waste Transfer Station Ph IV - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$10,527		
DCRA	1999	Funded	Nelchina/Mendeltna Community Recreation Site Construction - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$14,825		
DCRA	1998	Funded	Nelchina/Mendeltna Solid Waste Transfer Station - Phase III - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$27,888		
DCRA	1997	Funded	Nelchina/Mendeltna Solid Waste Transfer Station - Phase II - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$29,170		
DCRA	1997	Funded	Nelchina/Mendeltna School Recreation - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$26,316		
DCRA	1996	Funded	Nelchina/Mendeltna Distance Learning/Medical Link Equipment Purchase - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$26,316		
DCRA	1995	Funded	Nelchina/Mendeltna Solid Waste Transfer Station - Phase I - Comments: Capital Match	Completed	\$26,316		

Local Contacts and Regional/State Organizations with Local Offices

Nelchina/Mendeltna Corporation(Community Non Profit)

HC 01 Box 2430 Glennallen, AK 99588 Phone: 907-822-3670 or 907-822-3727

The Nelchina/Mendeltna Corporation was contacted by CVDA and chose not to participate in the planning process.

MENTASTA



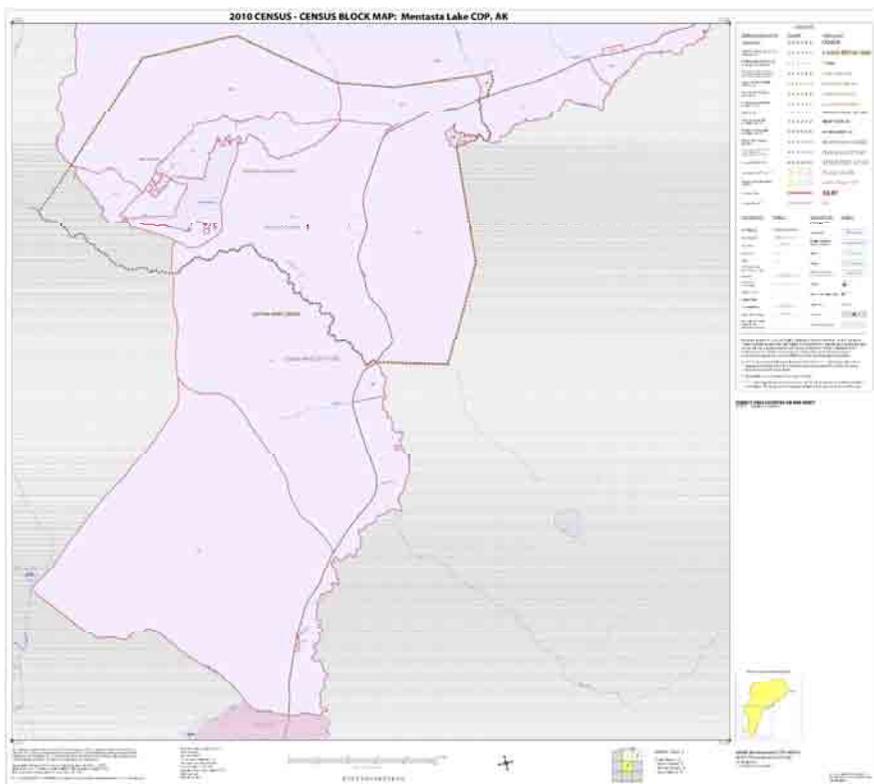
Location and Climate
Area Maps
History, Culture and Demographics
Facilities, Utilities, Schools and Health Care
Economy
Transportation
Organizations with Local Offices
Households and Families
Geographic Mobility
Education
Industries
Occupation and Types of Employers
Workers Experience by Industry
Top Employers
Vision Statement
Goals, Objectives, Strategies

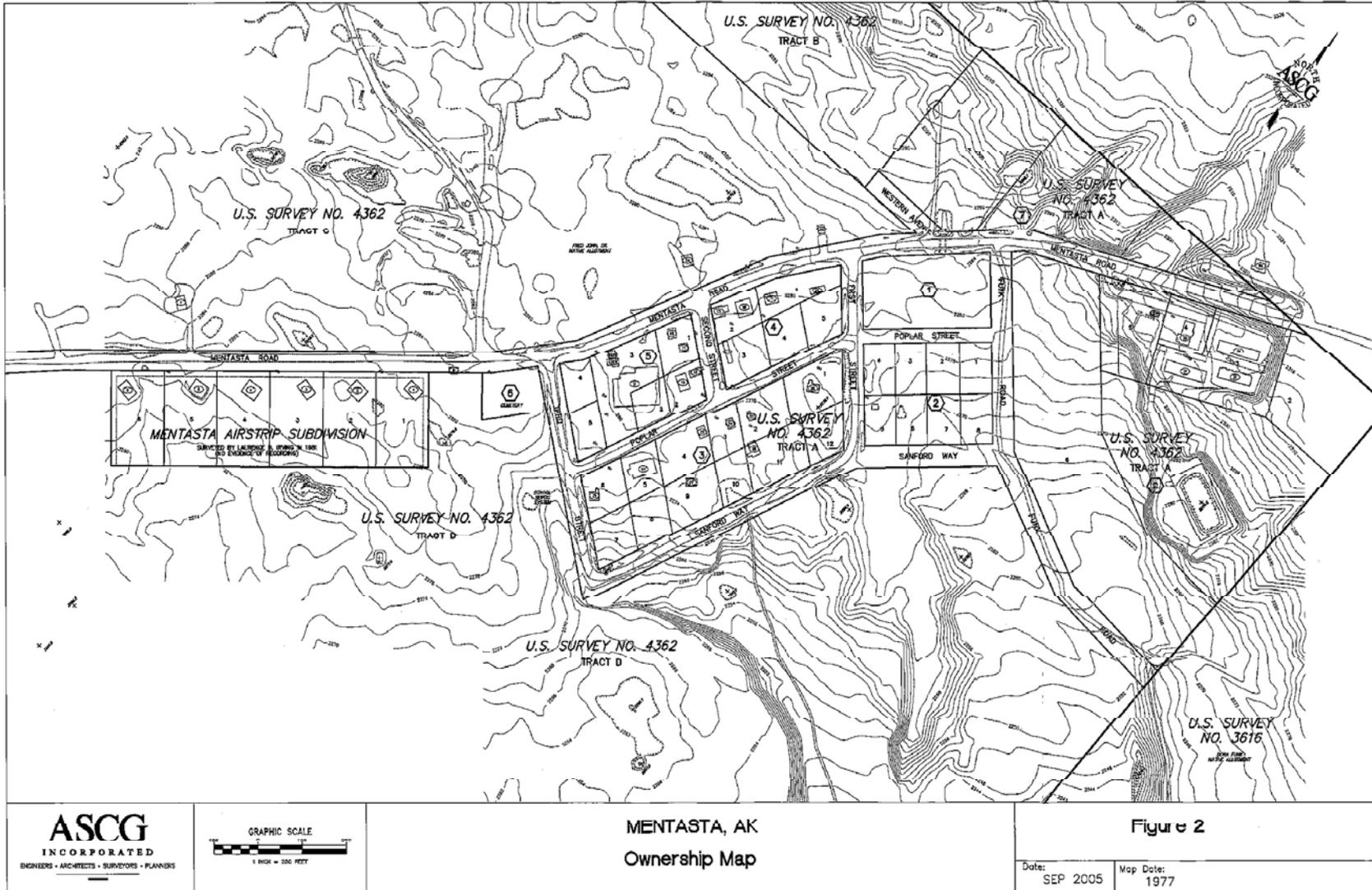
Location and Climate

Mentasta Lake is located 6 miles off the Tok-Slana Cutoff of the Glenn Highway on the west side of Mentasta Pass, 38 miles southwest of Tok Junction. It lies at approximately 62.931550 North Latitude and -143.792730 West Longitude. (Sec. 07, T013N, R009E, Copper River Meridian.) Mentasta Lake is located in the Chitina Recording District.

Mentasta Lake is located in the continental climate zone, with long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. Temperature extremes range from -57 to 93 °F. Average annual snowfall is 69 inches, with a total of 16 inches of precipitation per year.

Area Maps





History

The area is reported to have been the best-known route of Native immigration across the Alaska Range. Early village settlements have been located at various sites around the lake. The families that presently reside in Mentasta Lake come from Nabesna, Suslota, Slana, and other villages within the area. The U.S. Army Signal Corps established a telegraph station at Mentasta Pass in 1902. A post office was established at the village in 1947 but was discontinued in 1951.

Culture

The community is primarily Athabascan, and subsistence activities are an important component of its cultural identity. Katie John is the “Matriarch Athabascan Leader” of the native village of Mentasta Lake Alaska. In 1990 Katie John, Doris Charles, and the Mentasta Village Council, represented by the Native American Rights Fund, sued the U.S. in Federal Court claiming that the federal government had unlawfully excluded navigable waters and subsistence fishing from the protections of ANILCA. The Katie John case challenged the federal agencies' refusal to extend the priority to navigable waters in Alaska, and eventually resulted in the priority being extended to navigable waters that are found within the boundaries of federally owned lands in Alaska.

Economy

Subsistence hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering make up much of Mentasta Lake's economy. Cash employment is limited and seasonal.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated 42¹ residents as employed. The public sector employed 11.9%¹ of all workers. The local unemployment rate was 41.7%¹. The percentage of workers not in labor force was 37.9%¹. The ACS surveys established that average median household income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$27,917 (MOE +/- \$11,942)¹. The per capita income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$10,966 (MOE +/- \$3,869)¹. About 45.3%¹ of all residents had incomes below the poverty level. ¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Facilities and Utilities

Almost half of homes have individual wells and septic tanks and are fully plumbed. Treated well water is available from the washeteria, and privies are used by most residents. Solid waste is hauled to a landfill approximately 10 miles from the community. There is a school within the community offering kindergarten through grade 12. Alaska Power and Telephone Company services the community

Transportation

Mentasta Lake is connected to the Tok Cutoff to the Glenn Highway by a six-mile spur road. There is a small airstrip at Mentasta Lodge. Most roads conform to Bureau of Indian Affairs and/or State of Alaska standards. Roads are maintained by the state but many are not regularly maintained.

Capital Projects and Grants							
Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
DCRA	2011	Funded	Multi-Purpose Community Services Center - Comments: Legislative - multipurpose with clinic	Preliminary	\$2,540,000	4/19/2010 - 6/30/2015	Mentasta Lake
DEED	2007	Funded	Mentasta School Building Upgrades	Preliminary	\$1,785,907		Alaska Gateway School District
HUD	2009	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Contract	\$74,024		Copper River Housing Authority
HUD	2008	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Design	\$65,700		Copper River Housing Authority
DCRA	2009	Funded	Emergency Storage Facility - Comments: Legislative Grant	Construction	\$40,000	Appropriation Date 4/13/08, Lapse Date 6/30/13	Menasta Lake
HUD	2007	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Construction	\$75,743		Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority

The following Vision Statement and Objectives are taken from the most current Mentasta Community Plan. CVDA did not participate in the planning process which occurred prior to this CEDS revision.

VISION STATEMENT

We the TAA' TL' AA DENEAY (Headwater people) of Mentasta tribe hereby declare our mission to serve our people. That our children, their children, grandchildren and their great-grandchildren through all generations shall enjoy the same inherent rights as our grandfathers and grandmothers; also to allow for tribal sovereignty, adaptability and growth through self determination. Our mission is to also allow our people who shared a common custom, concern, language and, land; our customary laws, the traditional uses of our land and our unwritten tribal laws as a tribe.

Objectives

Housing

- Build 20 energy efficient houses (5 homes per year) on individually owned land
- Establish a Mentasta housing authority

Education

- Increase number of school presentations on health, drugs, alcohol, abuse and nutrition
- Larger school facility

Utilities

- Build a 60x100 modern facility for community and social gatherings
- Improve the sewer system

Transportation

- Paved Roads

Health and Social Services

- **New state of the art health clinic**
- Services that provide health education and preventive care

Resource Use and Conservation

- Document resources
- Establish an environmental conservation program
- Self regulated subsistence

Employment

- Open a sawmill
- Develop and support tourism related businesses

Emergency Response

- Mentasta operated EMS service
- Well equipped fire station with holding tank

Business and Agriculture

- Develop tourism-guides, ski lodge, hotel/RV park, museum/gift shop, restaurant, casino, B&B cabins
- Promote small business licenses

Community and Culture

- Build a cultural center
- School curriculum to include culture

PAXSON



Location and Climate

Area Maps

History, Culture, Economy

Facilities

Transportation

Capital Projects and Grants

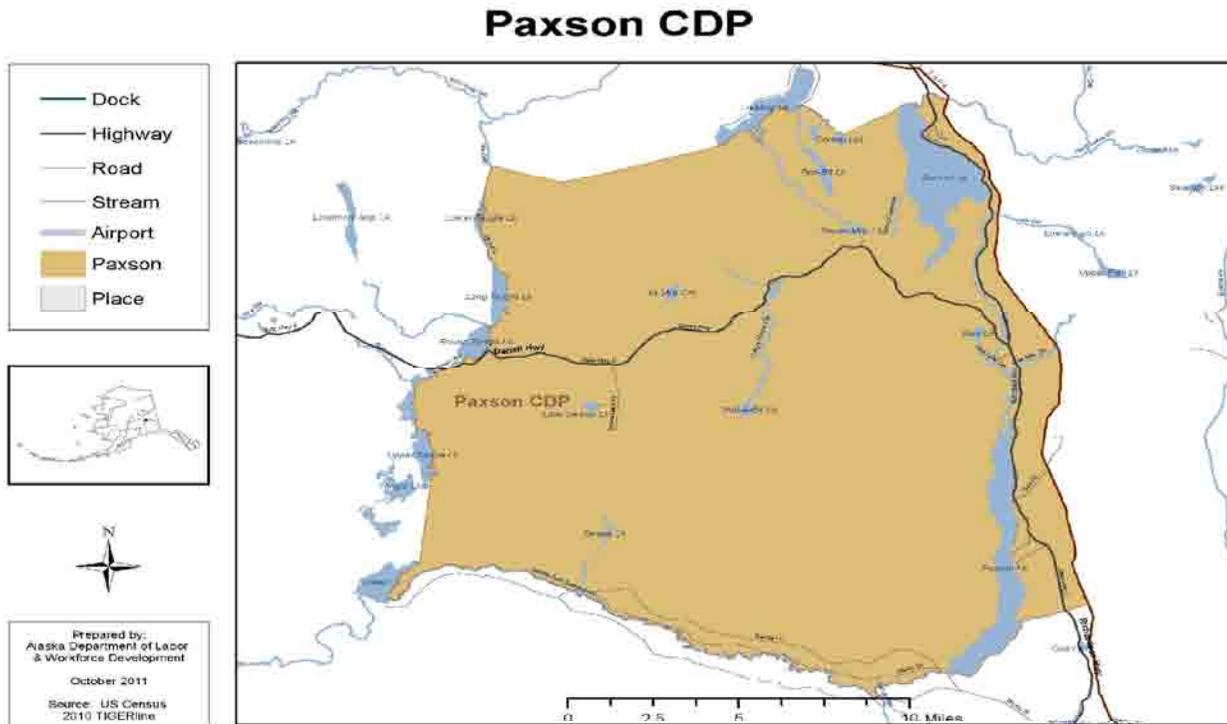
Organizations with Local Offices

Location and Climate

Paxson lies on Paxson Lake, at mile 185 of the Richardson Highway, at its intersection with the Denali Highway. It is south of Delta Junction and 62 miles north of Gulkana. It lies at approximately 63.033330 North Latitude and -145.491670 West Longitude. (Sec. 05, T022S, R012E, Fairbanks Meridian.) Paxson is located in the Chitina Recording District.

Interior Alaska experiences seasonal temperature extremes. January temperatures average from -22 to -2 °F; July temperatures average 50 to 72 °F. Annual precipitation averages 11 inches.

Area Map



History

More than 400 archeological sites indicate that this area has been inhabited for at least 10,000 years. In 1906 Alvin Paxson established the Timberline Roadhouse, which consisted of a small cabin for a kitchen and two tents for bunkhouses, at mile 192. His cook, Charles Meier, later started Meier's Roadhouse at mile 174. Paxson then built a two-story roadhouse at mile 191. He later added a barn with a drying room, a pump, sleeping quarters, two rooms, and a bath. A post office, store, wood house, and small ice room followed. The Denali Highway was built in the 1950s from Paxson to Cantwell and the Denali National Park. The 160-mile gravel road was the only access into the park prior to construction of the George Parks Highway. The Denali Highway also provides access to the Tangle Lakes Recreation Area, Summit Lake, and the largest active gold mine in Alaska.

Culture

The primary residents of Paxson are state highway maintenance personnel and their families. There is no local school. It is a non-Native community.

Economy

There are five lodges with restaurants and bars in the area, several gift shops, a post office, gas station, grocery store, and bunk house. This area has been a testing site for snowmachine companies for past several years. Most income is generated during the summer months. Hunting and other subsistence activities contribute to the local economy.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated zero¹ residents as employed. ¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Facilities

Individual wells and septic tanks are used by residents, and public water sources are available for hauling. Over half of all homes are completely plumbed. Private generators are used for electricity. Garbage collection is provided monthly by Copper Basin Sanitation, then hauled to the Glennallen landfill. A large number of homes in this area are only used seasonally.

Transportation

Paxson Lodge owns and maintains a 1,800' long by 60' wide gravel airstrip, and float planes can land at Summit Lake. The Richardson Highway provides access to Anchorage or Fairbanks. The Denali Highway provides summer access to Cantwell and the Denali Park.

Capital Projects and Grants

Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
DOT&PF	2010	Funded	Denali Highway: Milepost 7 Wayside - Comments: Other Funding: Federal Economic Stimulus Funds. Construct a wayside with enhancements at MP 7 of the Denali Highway.	Preliminary	\$500,000	Beg Date: 3/1/09, End Date: 6/30/14	
DOT&PF	2009	Funded	Richardson Highway, Shaw Creek Bridge - Comments: Legislative Grant	Preliminary	\$4,000,000	Appropriation Date 4/13/08, Lapse Date 9/30/11	
DOT&PF	2003	Funded	Denali Hwy: MP 6 - Information and Orientation Wayside	Design	\$148,100	Bid Adv Oct 2002, Design 2004	

Paxson does not have an organized community corporation or residents association. CVDA did not hold community planning sessions as the vast majority of properties in the area are recreational in nature and only occupied in the summer months.

SLANA/NABESNA



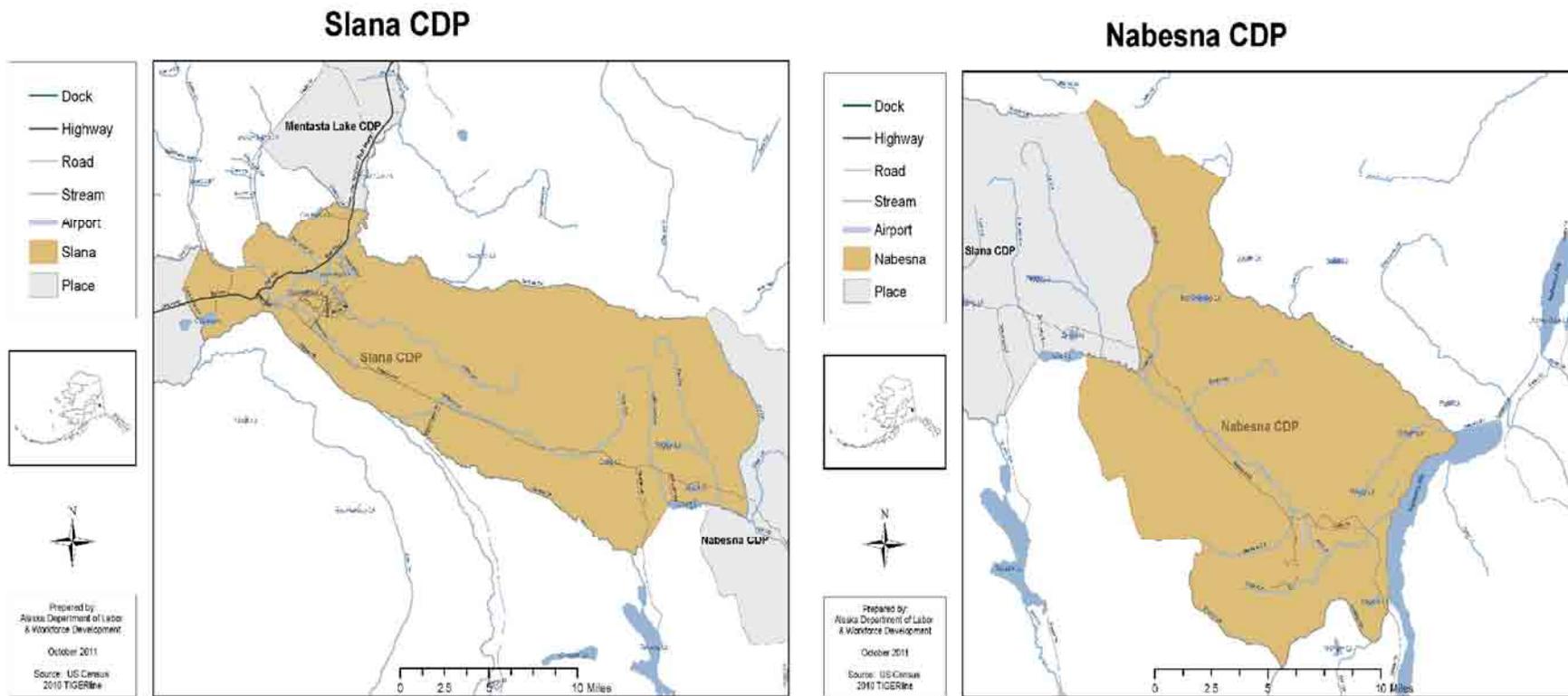
- Location and Climate**
- Area Maps**
- History, Culture**
- Facilities, Utilities, Health and Services**
- Economy**
- Transportation**
- Capital Projects and Grants**
- Organizations with Local Offices**
- Vision Statement**
- Goals, Objectives, Strategies**

Location and Climate

Slana stretches along the Nabesna Road, which runs south of the Tok Cutoff at mile 63. It lies at the junction of the Slana and Copper Rivers, 53 miles southwest of Tok. The community lies at approximately 62.706940° North Latitude and -143.961110° West Longitude. (Sec. 29, T011N, R008E, Copper River Meridian.) Slana is located in the Chitina Recording District.

Slana experiences a continental climate, with long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. Temperature extremes range from -62 to 91 Å°F. Annual snowfall averages 61 inches, with 13 inches of precipitation.

Area Maps



History and Culture

Slana is a Native village name, derived from the river's name. The Nabesna Mine opened in 1923, which employed 60 people at its height. Over 30 different minerals were extracted from this site, although gold was the primary source of profit. It operated sporadically through the late 1940s. Slana developed rapidly in the 1980s when homesteads were offered for settlement by the federal government.

The community is comprised primarily of homesteaders. The last location of BLM's home site program, individuals received five acres of free land in Slana. According to Census 2010, there were 205 housing units in the community and 77 were occupied. Its population was 12.9 percent American Indian or Alaska Native; 83 percent white; 0.7 percent black; 3.4 percent of the local residents had multi-racial backgrounds.

Facilities, Utilities, Health Services

Sources of water in Slana are primarily individual wells and hauling in portable tanks. Others draw water from Rufus Creek. The school operates an individual well. Outhouses, honeybuckets, and septic systems are used for sewage disposal. Approximately one-third of the homes have complete plumbing. The landfill was closed in 1990. The Slana Community Corporation has applied for and received funding from DEC and Village Safe Water Program to assist residents in acquiring individual wells and septic systems. Phase I contemplates 25 homes.

There is no central electric system. Electricity is provided by Alaska Power Company at a commercial rate of 59.7 cents per kWh and residential rate of 18.81 cents per kWh as shown on the Alaska Energy Authority PCE report 2010. Total production generated in 2010 was 914,899 kWhs from diesel. The high cost of commercial rates severely impacts local businesses and negatively affects Slana's attempts to bring in other businesses.

There is one school located in the community, attended by 22 students. There is a post office established in 1977. A carrier delivers year round on Nabesna Rd. Local health clinics include Tok Community Clinic in Tok, Gulkana Clinic and, the Country Clinic at Grizzly Lake which is a satellite medical office of Glennallen's Cross Road Medical Clinic. The latter operates on regular hours and is manned by a nurse practitioner. Emergency Services have highway air and river access. Emergency service is provided by 911 Telephone Service and volunteers. Auxiliary health care is provided by Copper River EMS (907-822-3671) Chistochina/Slana First Responders (907-822-3671) Tok Clinic or Gulkana Clinic.

Economy

A roadside lodge providing, gas, liquor, an auto mechanic, and RV parking closed in recent years leaving the majority of those services unavailable within the community. Other local businesses include a lodging facility with handicap access offering 3 rooms, RV parking for 43 vehicles with water, sewer, electric, showers, DSL internet and pay phone, a general store, art gallery. A Park Ranger Station and state highway maintenance camp are located nearby. The state campground at mile 62 on the Glenn/Tok cutoff has been recently upgraded with newly built handicap access, outhouses, water pump, picnic tables, bear proof trash containers and fire pits. Subsistence activities account for the majority of residents' income. The majority of residents feel that the restrictions placed on use of land by the National Park Service have a negative impact on the ability of existing businesses and potential businesses to develop.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated 54¹ residents as employed. The public sector employed 33.3%¹ of all workers. The local unemployment rate was 48.1%¹. This does not account for the subsistence lifestyle. The percentage of workers not in labor force was 43.2%¹. The ACS surveys established that average median household income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$40,489 (MOE +/- \$29,081)¹. The per capita income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$15,916 (MOE +/- \$9,320)¹. About 50.2%¹ of all residents had incomes below the poverty level.¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Transportation

Slana has road access to the statewide system via Glenn and Richardson Highways. The nearest public airstrip is to the south at Chistochina, but a 1,200' by 100' private gravel airstrip exists. There are 2 companies providing transportation service- one local offering multiple trips to/from Glennallen daily as well as connection to Anchorage twice a week. The other from Anchorage offers connection to Anchorage and Tok twice a week.

Capital Projects and Grants							
Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
DEC/VSW	2010	Funded	Wells and Septic Systems - Comments: Design and construction of Individual on-site wells and septic systems.	Preliminary	\$808,501	Beg Date: 7/1/09, End Date: 6/30/14	Slana Community Corporation
AEA-AEEE	2010	Funded	Carlson Creek Hydro - Comments: OTHER FUNDING: Federal	Preliminary	\$40,001	Grant Term Date 12/31/11	Alaska Power Company
DEC/VSW	2009	Funded	On-Site Wells & Septic Systems - Comments: Renewal and Replacement	Preliminary	\$1,080,000	Appropriation Date 7/1/08, Lapse Date 6/30/13	
DEC/VSW	2009	Funded	Design and Construction of Water and Sewer Facilities	Preliminary	\$1,515,779	Appropriation Date 7/1/08, Lapse Date 6/30/13	

Local Contacts and Regional/State Organizations with Local Offices

Alaska Power Company (Electric Utility)

P.O. Box 3222 Port Townsend, WA 98368

Phone: 800-982-0136 Fax: 360-385-5177

E-Mail: apt@aptalaska.com Web: <http://www.aptalaska.com/>

Slana Community Corporation (Community Non Profit)

P.O. Box 861 Slana, AK 99586

Phone: 907-822-3196/5757 Fax: 907-822-3543

Slana League (Community Non Profit)

S.R. Box 867 Slana, AK 99586 Phone: 907-822-3426 Fax: 907-822-5009

On February 9th 2012, CVDA held a community planning session in Slana. The following Vision, Goals, Objectives and Strategies are the result of that session.

VISION STATEMENT:

Slana/Nabesna will be a place where residents live a subsistence lifestyle with unrestricted use of the land and free from government interference. The Slana/Nabesna community welcomes tourism while embracing a subsistence lifestyle.

Utilities /Potable Water

Goal: To have good potable water and sewer available in the community.

- Objective:**
1. Install individual sewer systems in each home.
 2. Have available to residents good quality, affordable potable water.

- Strategies:**
1. Proceed with phase I funded by DEC/VSW to provide sewer in 20-25 homes.
 2. Pursue funding for a phase II to accommodate an additional 30 homes.
 3. Pursue funding for a community well or washeteria.

Education

Goal: Maintain the current success rate and find new ways to motivate adult residents to complete their education.

- Objectives:**
1. Have an adult GED course offered locally.
 2. Support adult studies toward higher education.
 3. Have a wide range of distance education options for Slana residents.

- Strategies:**
1. Address with PWSCC the possibility of offering GED studies through distance education.
 2. Look at SERRC for adult education programs.
 3. Pursue funding for assistance to adults studying such as daycare, travel expenses, lodging.
 4. Pursue through Alaska Dept Labor and Workforce.

Emergency Preparation and Response

Goal: To service the immediate community and assist surrounding communities where possible.

- Objectives:**
1. Upgrade the ambulance.
 2. Build an ambulance shelter.
 3. Have training provided locally.

- Strategies:**
1. Get the required number of trainees for Tok to train in Slana.

Transportation

Goal: To increase safety in the community by having multiple access points.

Objectives:

1. Open a Mi2 road and others.
2. Have snow plow service available to the whole community.

Strategies:

1. Apply future revenue sharing funds and hire workers locally
2. Information campaign on existing plow service.

Health and Social Services

Goal: To have basic health and social services available in the community.

Objectives:

1. Construct a small clinic/dentist office.
2. Have medical professional available to the community.

Strategies:

1. Discuss with the Tok Clinic and Chistochina Clinic the possibility of having a family practitioner visit Slana regularly to provide pre scheduled service to the community.

Small Business and Employment

Goal: Slana will have quality employment opportunities for its residents through the NPS, State and by the development of tourism on Nabesna Rd. Slana will “buy local” where possible to strengthen the local economy.

Objectives:

1. Residents have preference for local jobs with the NPS and the State.
2. Develop ecotourism.
3. Develop Agro tourism.
4. Open a museum based on Nabesna history.
5. Reopen a roadhouse.

- Strategies:**
1. Open discussion with the new NPS superintendant and DNR.
 2. Provide guided walks on Nabesna Rd trails.
 3. Hold a regular farmer's market during the summer.
 4. Publicize existing agriculture on Nabesna Rd to tourists (invite them to visit these properties and buy produce).
 5. Set land aside for tourism (museum and gift shop).

Community and Culture

Goal: Foster communication with outlying communities and improve/expand communication within the community.

- Objectives:**
1. Provide information to the community about ongoing projects and future plans.
 2. Promote existing businesses in Slana.
 3. Promote local products for sale.
 4. Promote unity in the community.

- Strategies:**
1. Create a local Newspaper.
 2. Create a local Business Directory.
 3. Create a Farmer's Market and community garden during the summer.
 4. Hold an annual Fair.

Housing

Goal: Slana will have quality housing available.

- Objectives:**
1. Improve energy efficiency of existing housing.
 2. Remove or repair abandoned housing in the community.

- Strategies:**
1. Search for assistance from programs dedicated to weatherization such as those from the Alaska Community Development Corporation.
 2. Identify and locate owners.

Resource Use and Conservation

Goal: To have reasonably unrestricted use of the land with no taxation and no borough.

Objectives:

1. Open 10,000 acres of land for private sale/subdivision.
2. Set aside land for ecotourism, agro tourism.

Strategies:

1. Obtain signatures from Slana residents on a petition to BLM.

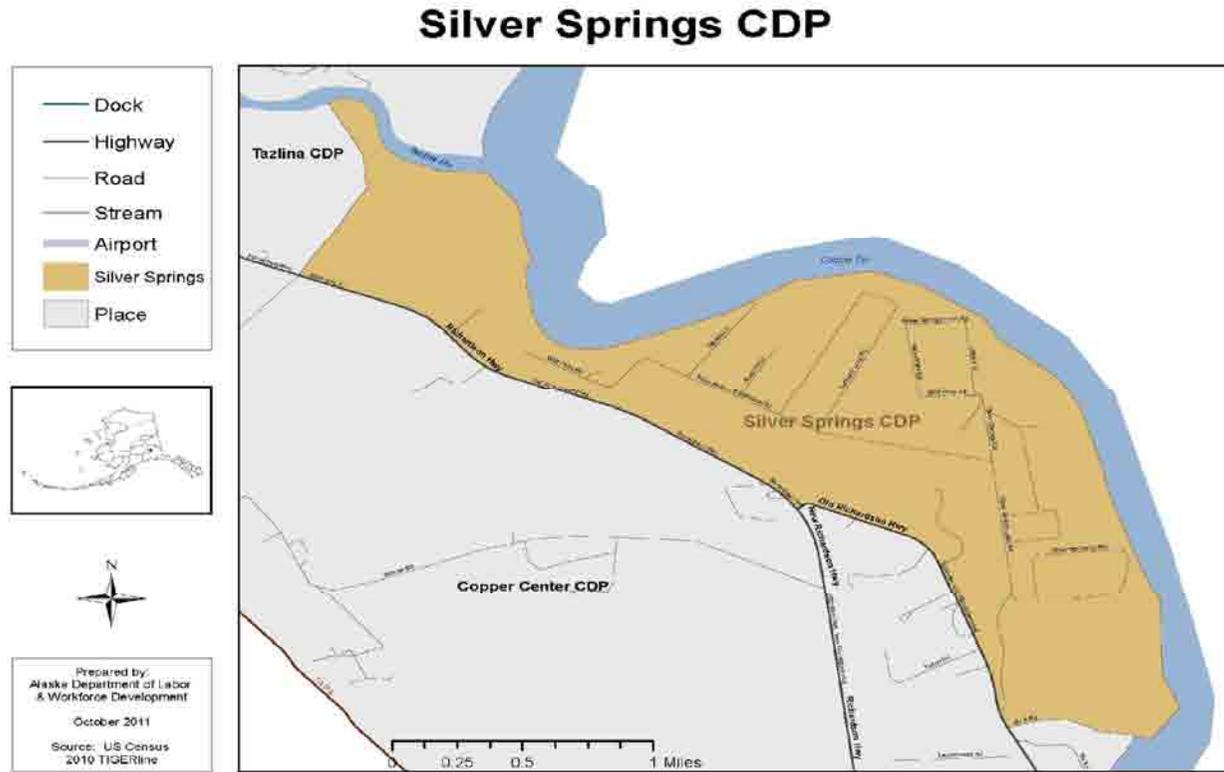
SILVER SPRINGS

- Location and Climate**
- Area Maps**
- History, Culture and Demographics**
- Facilities, Utilities, Schools and Health Care**
- Economy**
- Transportation**
- Capital Projects and Grants**
- Organizations with Local Offices**
- Vision Statement**
- Goals, Objectives, Strategies**

Location and Climate

Silver Springs is located along the Richardson Highway, just south of Glennallen. It is on the west bank of the Copper River, just south of its junction with the Tazlina River. The community lies at approximately 62.017880° North Latitude and -145.344990° West Longitude. (Sec. 26, T003N, R001W, Copper River Meridian.) Silver Springs is located in the Chitina Recording District. The area experiences a continental climate, with long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. Temperature extremes have been recorded from -74 to 96 °F. Annual snowfall averages 39 inches, with total precipitation of 9 inches per year.

Area Map



History, Culture and Demographics

According to Census 2010, there were 66 housing units in the community and 44 were occupied. Its population was 7.9 percent American Indian or Alaska Native; 86.8 percent white; 1.8 percent Asian; 3.5 percent of the local residents had multi-racial backgrounds. Additionally, 0.9 percent of the population was of Hispanic decent.

Facilities, Utilities, Schools and Health Care

The majority of homes use individual water wells and septic tanks. Others haul treated well water from sites in the area. A private Glennallen firm delivers water to home storage tanks for a fee. The Glennallen landfill is also used. Electricity is provided by Copper River Region Electric Assoc. There are schools located in the community, the closest being Copper Center School offering grades 1 through 5. Highschool students must travel to Glennallen Highschool. The Silver Springs Community is served by Cross Road Medical Center in Glennallen with a travel distance of 13 miles. Emergency services available to Silver Springs are primarily available through Glennallen.

Economy

Silver Springs is primarily a residential area. The economy is based on local services and businesses in Copper Center and Glennallen, the National Park and Highway tourism. The elevated cost of fuel for Silver Springs residents and the Copper River Region as a whole is considered to be the most significant hindrance to the local economy and development in general. The seasonal nature of employment in the basin also adversely effects the development of new businesses and economic stability of existing ones.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated 63¹ residents as employed. The public sector employed 41.3%¹ of all workers. The local unemployment rate was 6.0%¹. The percentage of workers not in labor force was 28.0%¹. The ACS surveys established that average median household income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$85,625 (MOE +/- \$48,495)¹. The per capita income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$39,645 (MOE +/- \$10,070)¹. ¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Transportation

The Richardson Highway connects to all major population areas of the state year-round. Residents use the airport at Gulkana. There are 2 companies providing transportation service- one local offering multiple trips to/from Glennallen daily as well as connection to Anchorage twice a week. The other from Anchorage offers connection to Anchorage and Tok twice a week. The need to pave roads in Silver Springs was referenced as an important issue to residents.

Capital Projects and Grants							
Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
DCRA	2005	Funded	Community Projects & Improvements - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$27,574		Silver Springs Residents Assn.
DCRA	2003	Funded	CP&I/Road Improvement & Drainage - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$26,319		Silver Springs Residents Assn.
DCRA	2001	Funded	CF&E/Training Facilities & Equipment Upgrade - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$27,014		Silver Springs Residents Assn.
DCRA	2000	Funded	Road Improvements - Comments: Capital Matching	Completed	\$40,209		Silver Springs Residents Assn.

Local Contacts and Regional/State Organizations with Local Offices

Association of Silver Springs Area Residents (Community Non Profit)

P.O. Box 214
Copper Center, AK 99573
Phone: 907-822-4050

On January 11th 2012, CVDA held a community planning session. The following vision statement, goals, objectives and strategies are a result of that session.

VISION STATEMENT:

Silver Springs will be a place where cultural and ethnic diversity shall be embraced, where a subsistence and rural lifestyle will be maintained and where strong healthy family values are cultivated. Silver Springs will become an affordable and inviting place to live, work and play. We will strive for economic development which is sustainable and sensitive to the natural environment around us.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES:

Utilities /Potable Water

Goal: All residents will have access to utilities that are affordable and reliable. All residents who so desire will have access to potable water.

- Objective:**
1. Lower the cost of utility rates
 2. Have available to residents of Silver Springs a source of good quality, affordable water
 3. Pursue affordable, renewable energy sources.

Education

Goal: Have available to the Silver Springs community the best education in the state for all ages.

- Objectives:**
1. Have a vocational training program, available to residents
 2. Have state funded preschool education available
 3. Have a lunch program available in the Copper Center School

Emergency Preparation and Response / Public Safety

Goal: Residents in Silver Springs will have reliable, quality, readily available emergency response services 24/7 throughout the community.

- Objectives:**
1. Improve the consistency of funding
 2. Increase funding
 3. Improve the coordination of services

Transportation

Goal: Silver Springs will have a safe, well maintained transportation system.

- Objective:**
1. Pave currently unpaved roads
 2. Create a regular schedule for road maintenance
 3. Reliable and affordable shuttle service to/from Silver Springs
 4. Increase trails available for hiking, biking, skiing and other related activities.

Small Business / Agriculture Development

Goal: Provide for basic needs of year round residents by having the adequate number and type of small businesses within the community.

- Objective:**
1. Increase the number of small businesses including but not limited to those geared toward tourism

Health and Social Services

Goal: Everyone in Silver Springs will have access to quality health and social services that are affordable.

- Objective:**
1. Have available to the community consistent, primary care physicians
 2. Have a detox and treatment facility/program available to the whole community

Employment

Goal: Silver Springs will have quality employment opportunities for its residents.

- Objectives:**
1. Attract quality employers to the valley
 2. Increase worthwhile employment compatible with the cost of living in the Copper River Region
 3. Increase the number of diverse, year round and seasonal jobs available to residents

Housing

Goal: Silver Springs will have a mix of high quality residential housing available for sale rent or lease.

- Objectives:**
1. Increase affordable rental housing that is not substandard
 2. Maintain our rights as property owners to do with our property as we please

Resource Use and Conservation

Goal: Balance resource use and conservation with the protection of our environment and the aesthetics and natural resource values of our rural lifestyle.

- Objectives:**
1. Coordinated land planning where state and federal use could impact private individuals and community
 2. Increase number of access points to the Copper River

TAZLINA



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Location and Climate
Area Maps
History, Culture and Economy
Facilities,
Transportation
Capital Projects and Grants
Organizations with Local Offices

Location and Climate

Tazlina is located 5 miles south of Glennallen on the Richardson Highway, at mile 110.5. It is comprised of several small residential subdivisions and a business district. Copperville, Aspen Valley, Tazlina Terrace, and Copper Valley School Road are all part of this area. It lies at approximately 62.050790 North Latitude and -145.435880 West Longitude. (Sec. 21, T003N, R001W, Copper River Meridian.) Tazlina is located in the Chitina Recording District.

Tazlina is located in the continental climate zone, with long, cold winters, and relatively warm summers. Temperature extremes range from -74 to 96 °F. Annual snowfall averages 39 inches, with total annual precipitation of 9 inches.

Area Maps





History

The village reportedly was a fishing camp of the Ahtna Indian tribes who historically moved up and down the Copper River and its tributaries. Tazlina is Athabascan for "swift water." By 1900, a permanent village had been established on the north and south banks off the Tazlina River near its confluence with the Copper River. During the pipeline era, Tazlina developed around the old Copper Valley School, built to board students from all over the state. It closed in 1971, when local high schools were constructed in the remote areas of the state and boarding schools were discontinued.

Culture

Two organizations represent Tazlina: the Native Village of Tazlina and the Association of Tazlina Residents.

Economy

Some residents depend on subsistence fishing and hunting. Local businesses include a combined grocery, liquor, hardware, gas, and sporting goods store, a wholesale bread distributor, a freight service, and an RV park. Offices with Prince William Sound Community College, the Division of Forestry, state highway maintenance, Division of State Parks, and Division of Communications are located in the area.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated 151¹ residents as employed. The public sector employed 34.4%¹ of all workers. The local unemployment rate was 8.5%¹. The percentage of workers not in labor force was 36.8%¹. The ACS surveys established that average median household income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$60,781 (MOE +/- \$16,900)¹. The per capita income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$31,009 (MOE +/- \$6,611)¹. About 13.1%¹ of all residents had incomes below the poverty level. ¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Facilities

Occupied homes are fully plumbed. The majority of residents have individual wells and septic systems. Others haul well water from the Copper Center Safewater well or have water delivered by truck from Glennallen. Refuse is collected by Copper Basin Sanitation from Glennallen.

Transportation

Tazlina is located on the Richardson Highway. There is a state-owned 900' long by 42' wide gravel airstrip and a seaplane facility at Smokey Lake.

Capital Projects and Grants

Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
ANTHC	2005	Funded	Tazlina Sanitation Facilities Master Plan	Preliminary	\$100,000		Planning Project
HUD	2009	Funded	Indian Housing Block Grant - Comments: NAHASDA administration, operating & construction funds	Contract	\$49,715		Copper River Housing Authority
DOT&PF	2013	Funded	Tazlina Rest Area Improvements (MP 110) - Comments: Improve and stabilize the embankment at the Tazlina Wayside. Project will also include a hardened boat ramp and other improvement if funding allows.	Design	\$100,000	2013	N/A

Local Contacts and Regional/State Organizations with Local Offices

Copper Valley Electric Association, Incorporated(Electric Utility)

P.O. Box 45 Glennallen, AK 99588-0045

Phone: 907-822-3211 Web: <http://www.cvea.org/>

Native Village of Tazlina(Tribe - federally recognized; BIA-Recognized Traditional Council)

P.O. Box 87 Glennallen, AK 99588-0087

Phone: 907-822-4375 Fax: 907-822-5865 E-Mail: tazlinajulie@cvinternet.net

The Association of Tazlina Residents (Community Non Profit)

P.O. Box 532 Glennallen, AK 99588 Phone: 907-259-4112 or 907-822-4113

On June 5th 2012, CVDA met with representatives of the Tazlina Residents Association and held a brief planning session. The following **Goals, Objectives Strategies** are the result of that meeting.

Housing

Goal: To have affordable, energy efficient housing in the Tazlina community.

- Objectives:**
1. Eliminate excess vacant homes in non native areas.
 2. Consolidated housing development effort for native and non native needs.

Education

Goal: Make available to the Tazlina community the highest quality education available.

- Objectives:**
1. Reactivate a regional vocational-technical training program.

Strategies:

1. Approach Alyeska, BP, IBEW, UOA Coop Extension and other potential partners to sponsor small scale training programs.

Utilities

Goal: Secure quality potable water sources for Tazlina Community use.

- Objectives:**
1. Secure a second water well in the community.

Emergency Response

Goal: Have quality and qualified response services in the community.

- Objectives:**
1. Obtain a paid position for Fire Department management.

2. Improve existing well.

- Strategy:**
1. Review existing land lease to determine if drilling of a second well is permissible
 2. Research funding options.

Transportation

Goal: To have safe pathways available to residents and visitors.

- Objectives:**
1. Extend existing bike path to include shoulders.
 2. Create a turn lane on Tazlina Terrace.
 3. Evaluate impact of new CRNA clinic on Tazlina traffic.

- Strategies:**
1. Coordinate with DOT.
 2. Contact landowners affected and negotiate easements.

Community and Culture

Goal: Afford Tazlina residents opportunities to come together as a community.

- Objectives:**
1. Build a sports complex.

- Strategies:**
1. Approach Copper River School District for Support.

TONSINA



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Location and Climate
Area Map
History, Economy
Facilities
Transportation

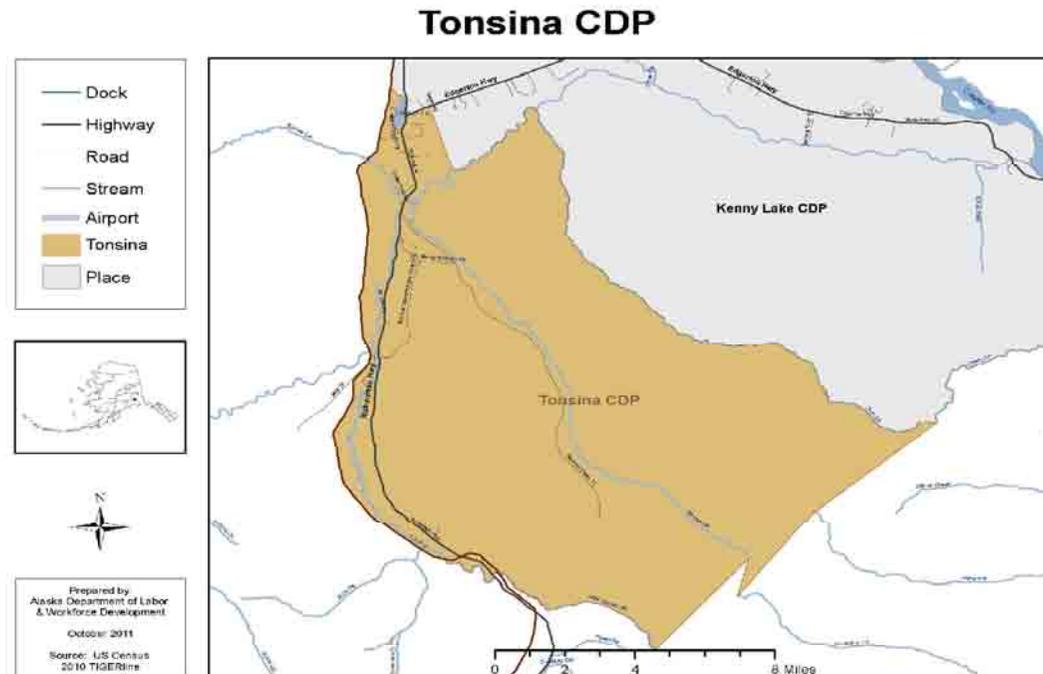
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Location and Climate

Tonsina is located at mile 79 on the Richardson Highway, south of the Tonsina River, next to Kenny Lake, 52 miles northeast of Valdez. It lies at approximately 61.655830 North Latitude and -145.175280 West Longitude. (Sec. 35, T002S, R001E, Copper River Meridian.) Tonsina is located in the Chitina Recording District.

Tonsina lies in the continental climate zone. Temperature extremes range from -58 to 91 °F. Annual snowfall averages 52 inches, with total precipitation of 12 inches.

Area Map



History

A post office, general store, and U.S. Army Signal Corps telegraph station were established here in 1902. The Tonsina Lodge was built in 1903 along the Valdez-Eagle Trail; it burned in 1928. The Tiekel Lodge and Tsaina Lodge were also built in this area. Development began during the oil era. Pump Station 12 was constructed nearby to move oil over Thompsen Pass to the pipeline terminal in Valdez. There is no clearly-defined community in Tonsina; it is best characterized as an occupied geographic area.

Economy

Roadhouses, the Ernestine State Highway Maintenance camp, and Alyeska Pipeline Pump Station 12 are the nearest employers. Subsistence activities supplement income.

The 2006-2010 American Community Survey (ACS) estimated 41¹ residents as employed. The public sector employed 46.3%¹ of all workers. The percentage of workers not in labor force was 21.2%¹. The ACS surveys established that average median household income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$98,125 (MOE +/- \$149,843)¹. The per capita income (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars) was \$28,778 (MOE +/- \$14,012)¹. About 14.3%¹ of all residents had incomes below the poverty level. ¹ All ACS statistics are published with their respective margin of error (MOE). Some of the statistics here are calculated from the original ACS data. The MOE was unable to be carried through the calculations.

Facilities

Households have individual water wells and septic systems and are fully plumbed. Seasonal residents have water delivered by truck or haul water from a public tap. Copper Basin Sanitation provides garbage collection and hauls refuse to the Glennallen landfill.

Transportation

Tonsina is connected to the remainder of the state road system by the Richardson Highway. A state-owned airstrip is available at Upper Tonsina, and other airstrips are in the vicinity.

There are no Capital Projects or Grants listed for the Tonsina Community.

There are no local community corporations or resident associations listed for the Tonsina Community.

TOLSONA



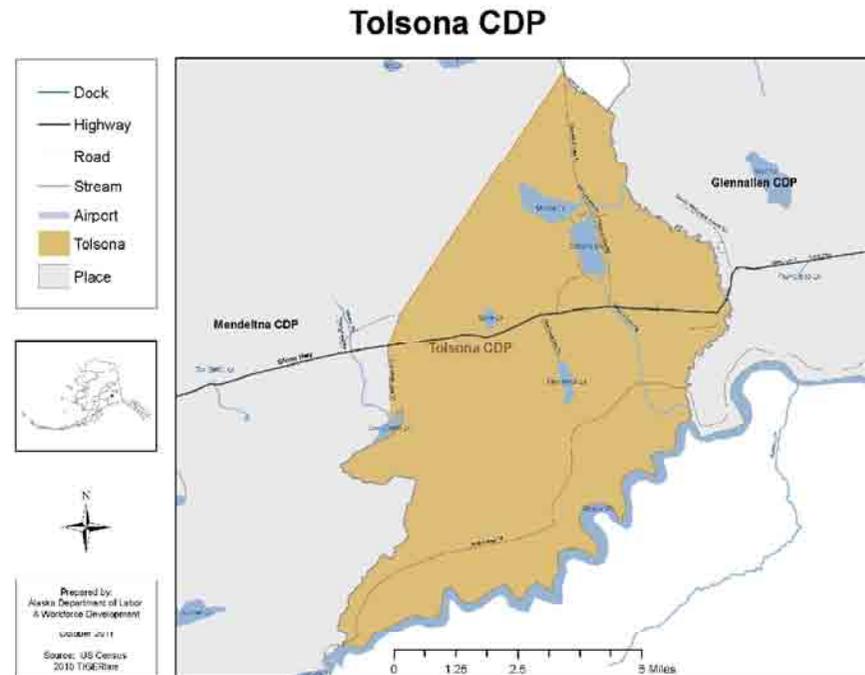
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- Location and Climate**
- Area Map**
- History, Culture and Demographics**
- Facilities, Utilities, Schools and Health Care**
- Economy**
- Transportation**
- Capital Projects and Grants**
- Organizations with Local Offices**
- Vision Statement**
- Goals, Objectives, Strategies**

Location and Climate

The community is located around milepost 170 of the Glenn Highway, about 17 miles west of Glennallen, at the foot of Tolsona Mountain (elevation: 2,974'). Tolsona Lake Road provides access to Tolsona and Moose Lakes. The community lies at approximately 62.088990° North Latitude and -146.099680° West Longitude. (Sec. 28, T004N, R005W, Copper River Meridian.) Tolsona is located in the Chitina Recording District.

It is located in the continental climate zone. The mean temperature in January is -10 °F and 56 °F. Annual snowfall averages 39 inches, with total precipitation of 9 inches.

Area Map



History, Culture and Demographics

Tolsona is an Athabascan Indian name, attributed to Tolsona Lake and River. The name was first published by the SGS in 1915. Many homes in Tolsona are seasonally occupied. According to Census 2010, there were 56 housing units in the community and 18 were occupied. 96.7 percent white; 3.3 percent black;

Facilities, Utilities, Schools and Health Care

Year-round homes use individual wells and septic systems. Some homes have water delivered from Glennallen or haul water in portable tanks from neighboring wells. A landfill is available at mile 168.5 Glenn Highway. Electricity is provided by Copper Valley Electric Assoc. There are no schools located in the community and students are either homeschooled or travel to Glennallen. The nearest medical service provider is Cross Road Medical Center in Glennallen. Emergency Services have highway lake and floatplane access and are provided by volunteers.

Economy

A lodge, wilderness campground, and RV park serve residents and visitors. Area lakes provide good trout fishing and ice fishing for burbot in winter. The main lake, Tolsona lake, has seen water levels drop in the last decade affecting both fishing and safety of the air services operating out of the area. This issue is believed by locals to be the direct result of a dike and culvert system put in by the State. The drop in water quality and volume is identified as the number one factor negatively impacting Tolsona's economy.

Transportation

The community lies on the Glenn Highway and accesses the statewide road system. There are several air strips in the area, and air taxi services are available. A seaplane base is used on Tolsona Lake. There are 2 bus companies providing transportation service- one local offering service to Tolsona on a call in basis as well as connection to Anchorage twice a week. The other from Anchorage offers connection to Anchorage and Tok twice a week.

Capital Projects and Grants

Lead Agency	Fiscal Year	Project Status	Project Description/Comments	Project Stage	Total Cost	Schedule	Contractor
DCRA	2011	Funded	Firefighter's Safety Equipment and Apparatus Repair - Comments: Legislative Grant - modify existing vehicle into rapid response vehicle	Preliminary	\$100,000	4/19/2010-6/30/2015	Tolsona Fire Department

Local Contacts and Regional/State Organizations with Local Offices

Tolsona Community Corporation (Community Non Profit)

P.O. Box 23

Glennallen, AK 99588

Phone: 907-822-3865 Fax: 907-822-3165

E-Mail: twcg@alaska.net

VISION STATEMENT:

Tolsona will be a safe place where we raise our families with minimum interference from government; where ideal becomes reality. Residents of Tolsona do not want large scale development or industry in Tolsona.

GOALS, OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGIES:

Utilities /Potable Water

Goal: All residents in Tolsona will have access to affordable, quality potable water.

Objectives: 1. Drill a community well

Strategies: 1. Determine appropriate location by means of a hydrology survey
2. Acquire funding by private means where possible

Emergency Preparation and Response / Public Safety

Goal: Tolsona will have on and off road services available in a timely manner.

Objectives: 1. Improve communications (new radios are not on the required frequency)
2. Create an emergency response plan
3. Improve the coordination of services

Strategy: 1. Discuss with State Troopers

Small Business / Agriculture Development

Goal: Increase year round tourism to a manageable level

Objectives: 1. Develop year round fishing tourism.
2. Support fly-in tourism
3. Organize activities to support year round tourism
4. Increase marketing of the area in the state and nationally

Strategies: 1. Increase fish population in the lake
2. Raise water level by fixing dike and culverts
3. Improve quality of water by raising volume through corrective drainage

Health and Social Services

Goal: Guarantee the water quality at of Tolsona Lake

- Objectives:**
1. Address existing and future sewer systems put in by residents surrounding Tolsona Lake
 2. Implement a centralized sewer system in the Tolsona community

- Strategies:**
1. Have water tested to determine level of contamination (if any)
 2. Address rules and guidelines with DEC
 3. Publicize rules and guidelines as presented by DEC
 4. Pursue Village Safewater Program

Resource Use and Conservation

Goal: To preserve and recover our natural resources, in particular the lake, from State mismanagement.

- Objectives:**
1. Raise the water level and quality of the water on Tolsona Lake
 2. Increase the fish population
 3. Have adequate infrastructure available to support land development instigated by the State

- Strategies:**
1. Fix the dike and culverts
 2. Discuss with Fish and Game
 3. Request the state develop parking for access at the trail head for Crosswind lake and others

Regional Economic Development Strategy

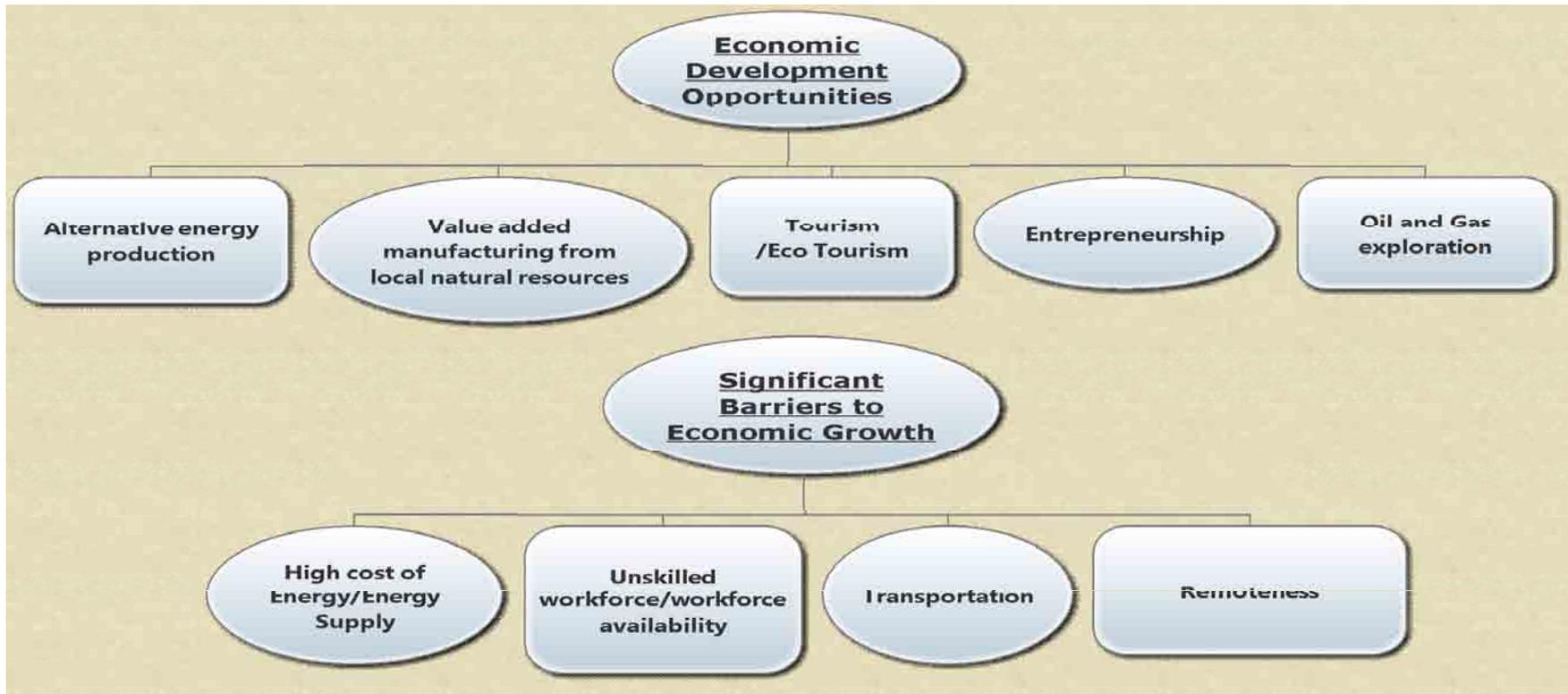


Regional Vision Statement
Economic Development Opportunities
Significant Barriers to Economic Growth
Regional Goals, Objectives, Strategies and,
Performance Measures

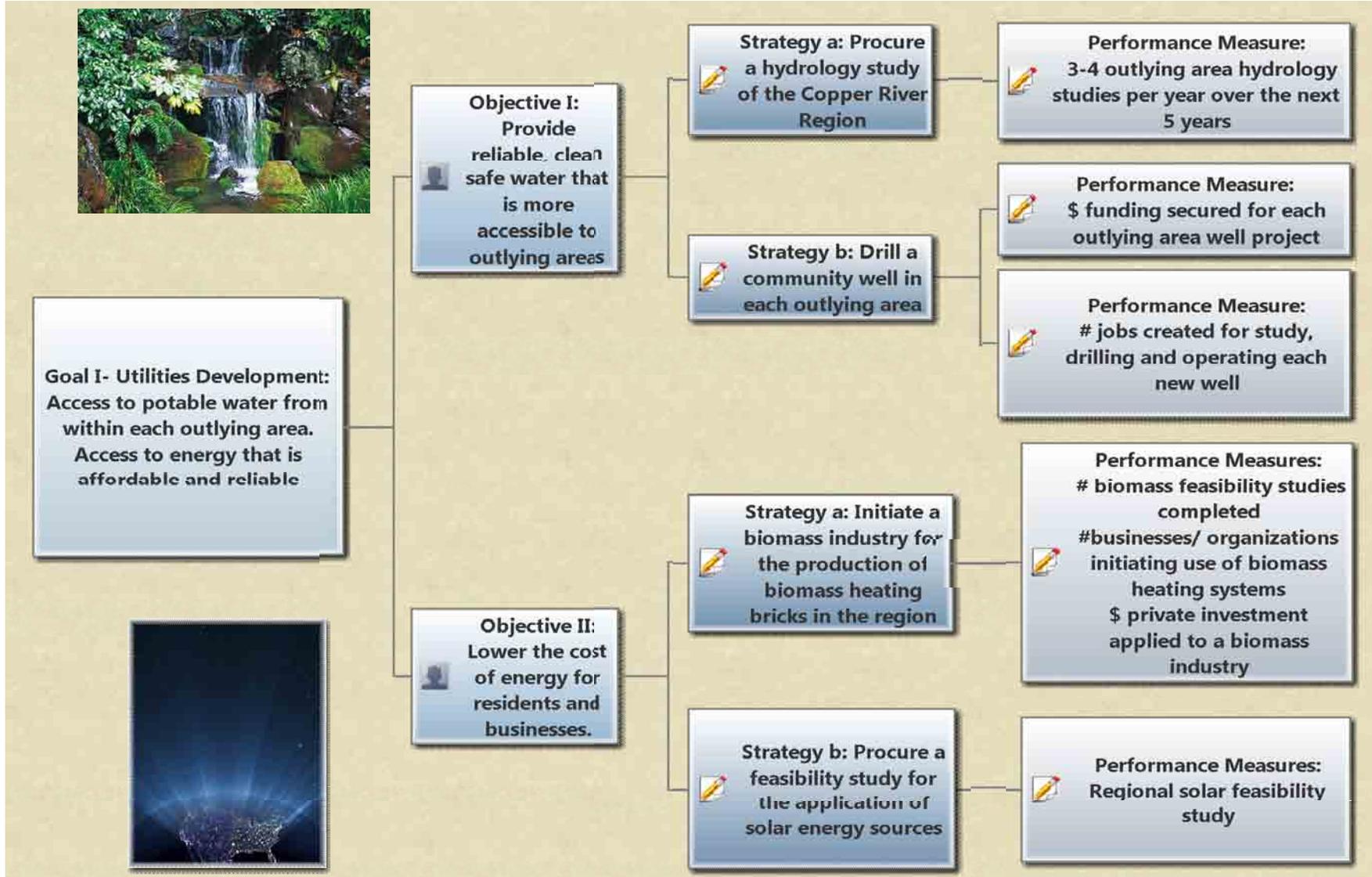
VISION STATEMENT:

The Copper River Region is a vibrant, self sustaining community; an appealing place for residents and visitors to live, work and play.

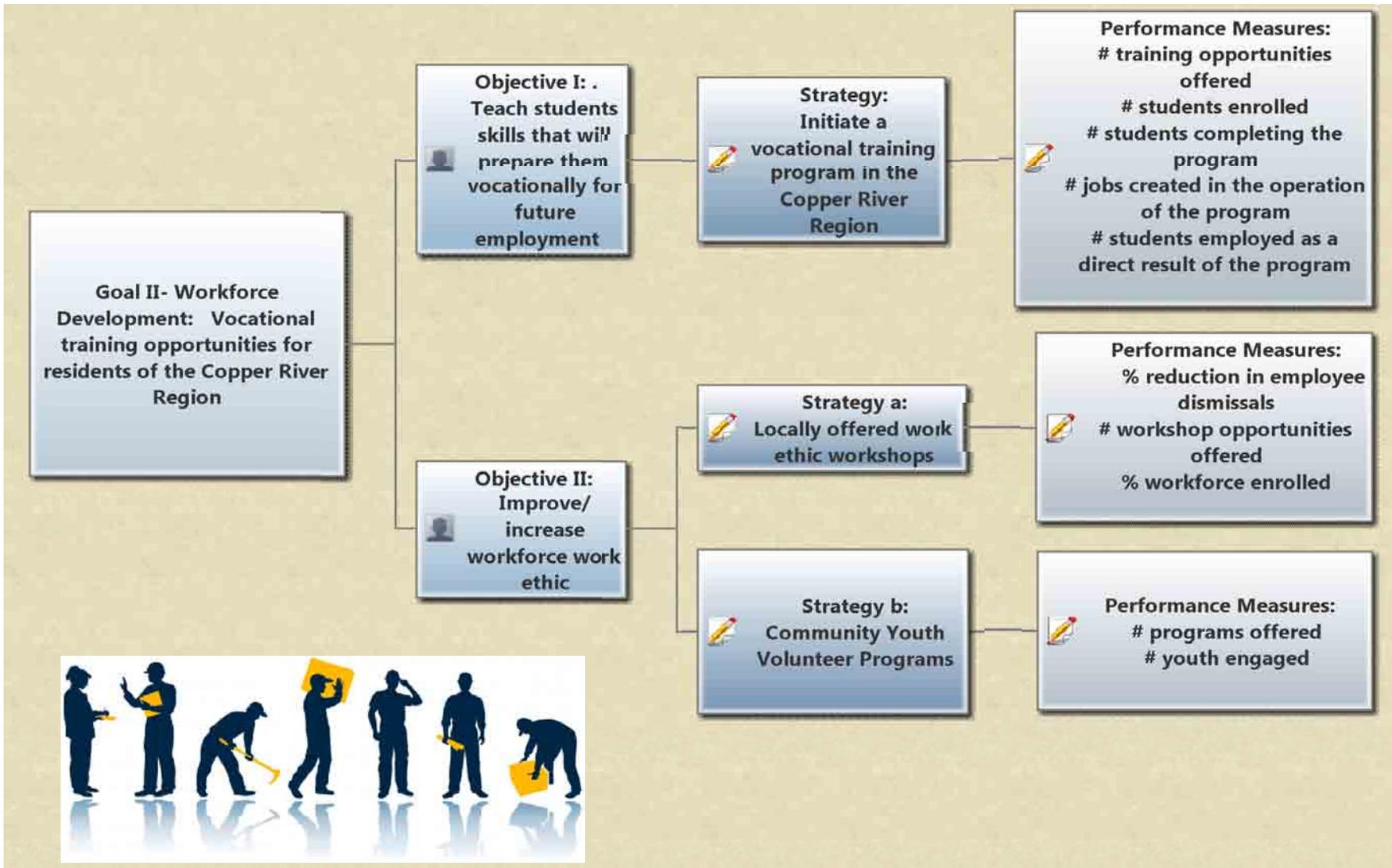
The following were identified as the primary opportunities and barriers to economic development for the Copper River Region by those who participated in the resident and business surveys distributed in the CEDS data compilation process.



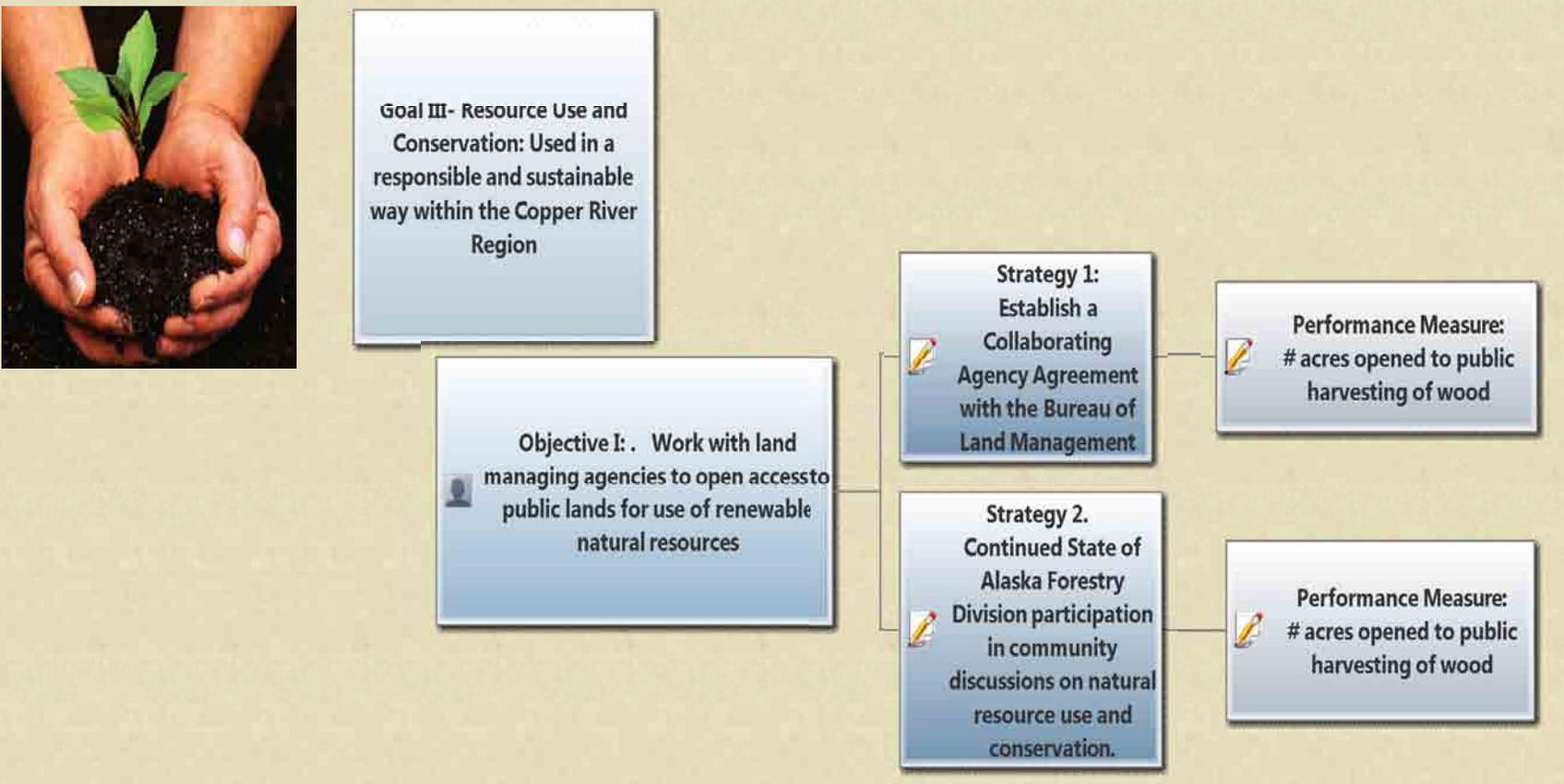
ECONOMIC Development-- Utilities



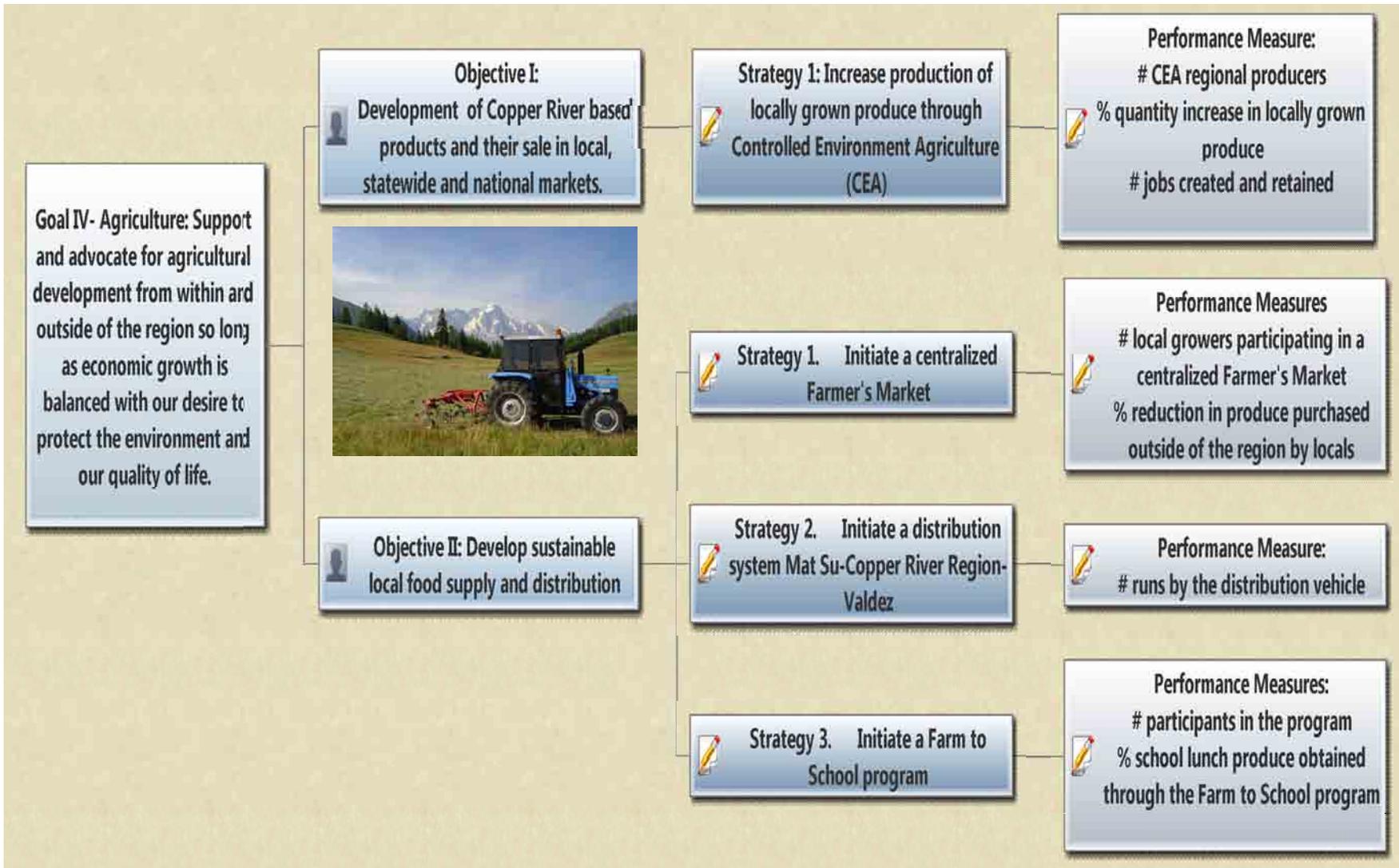
ECONOMIC Development- Workforce Development



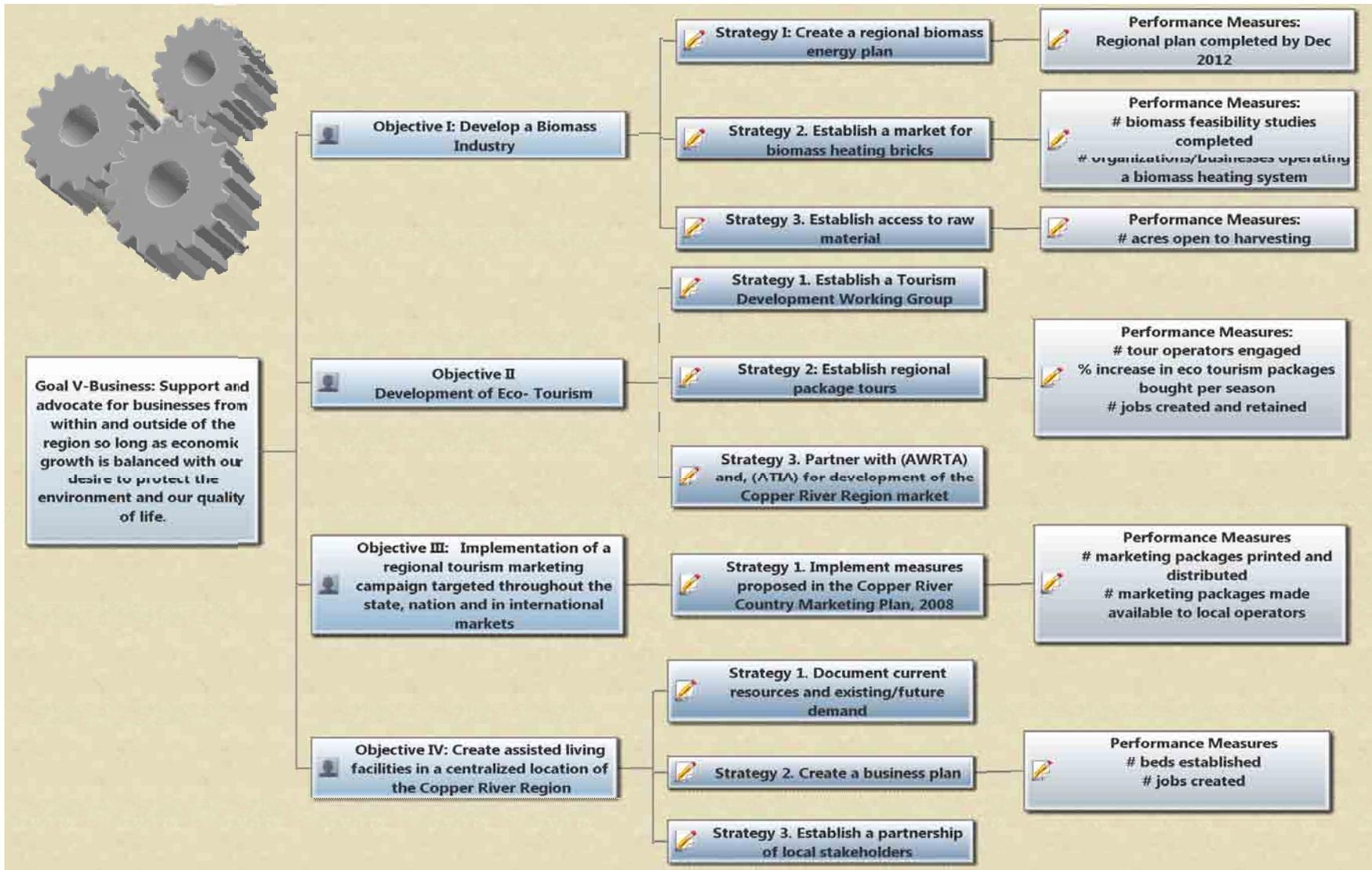
ECONOMIC Development-Resource Use and Conservation



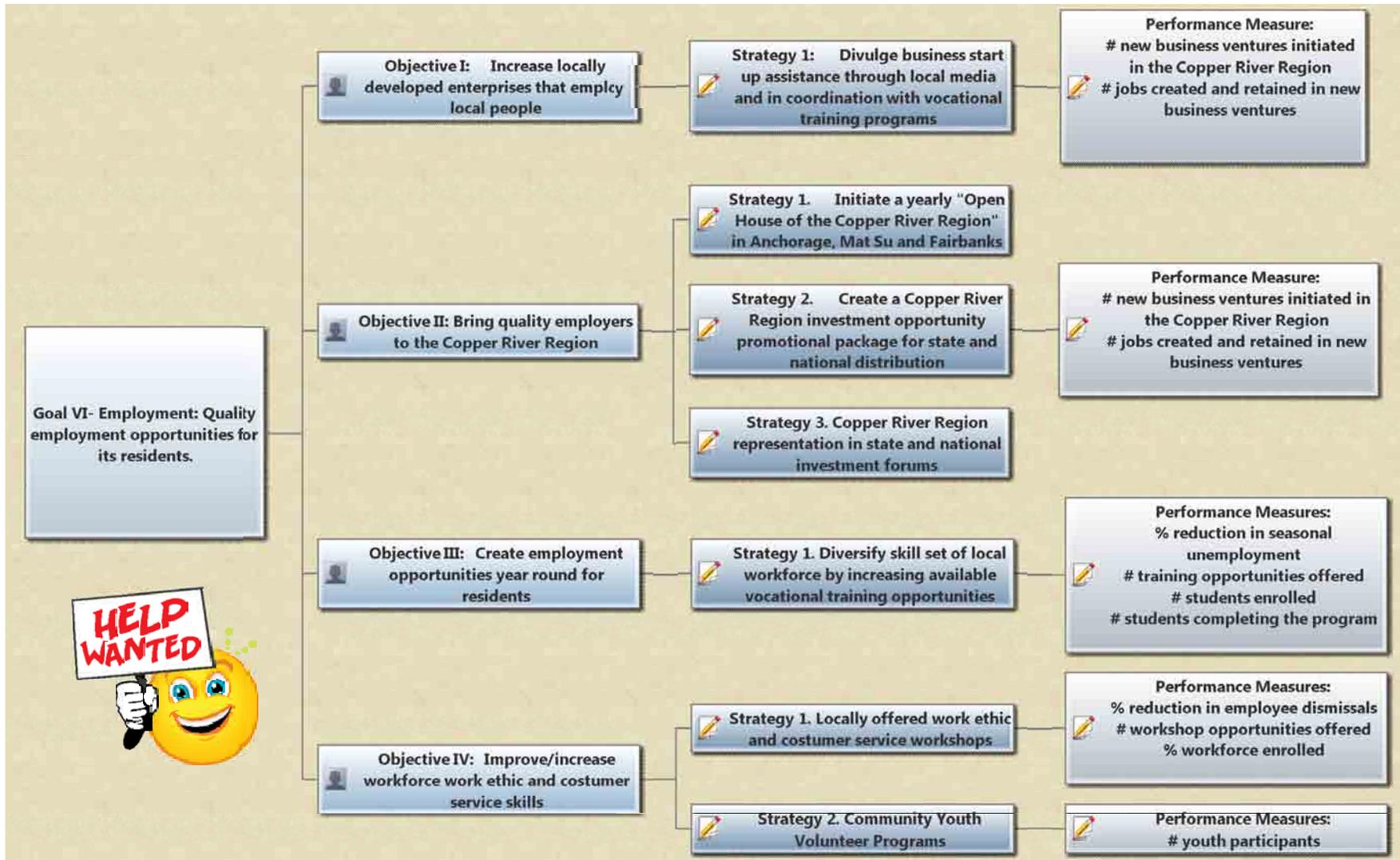
ECONOMIC Development Agriculture



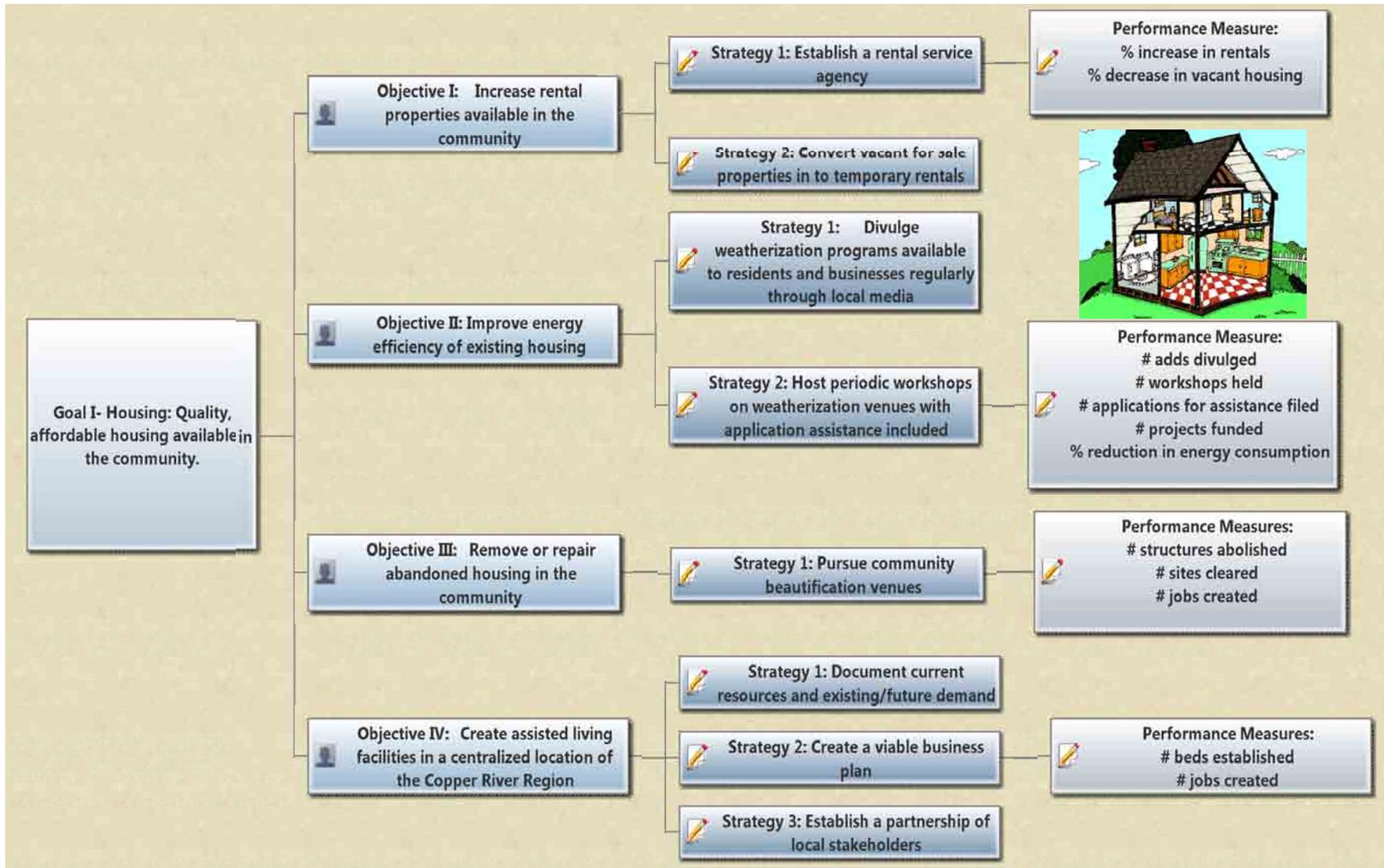
Economic Development Business



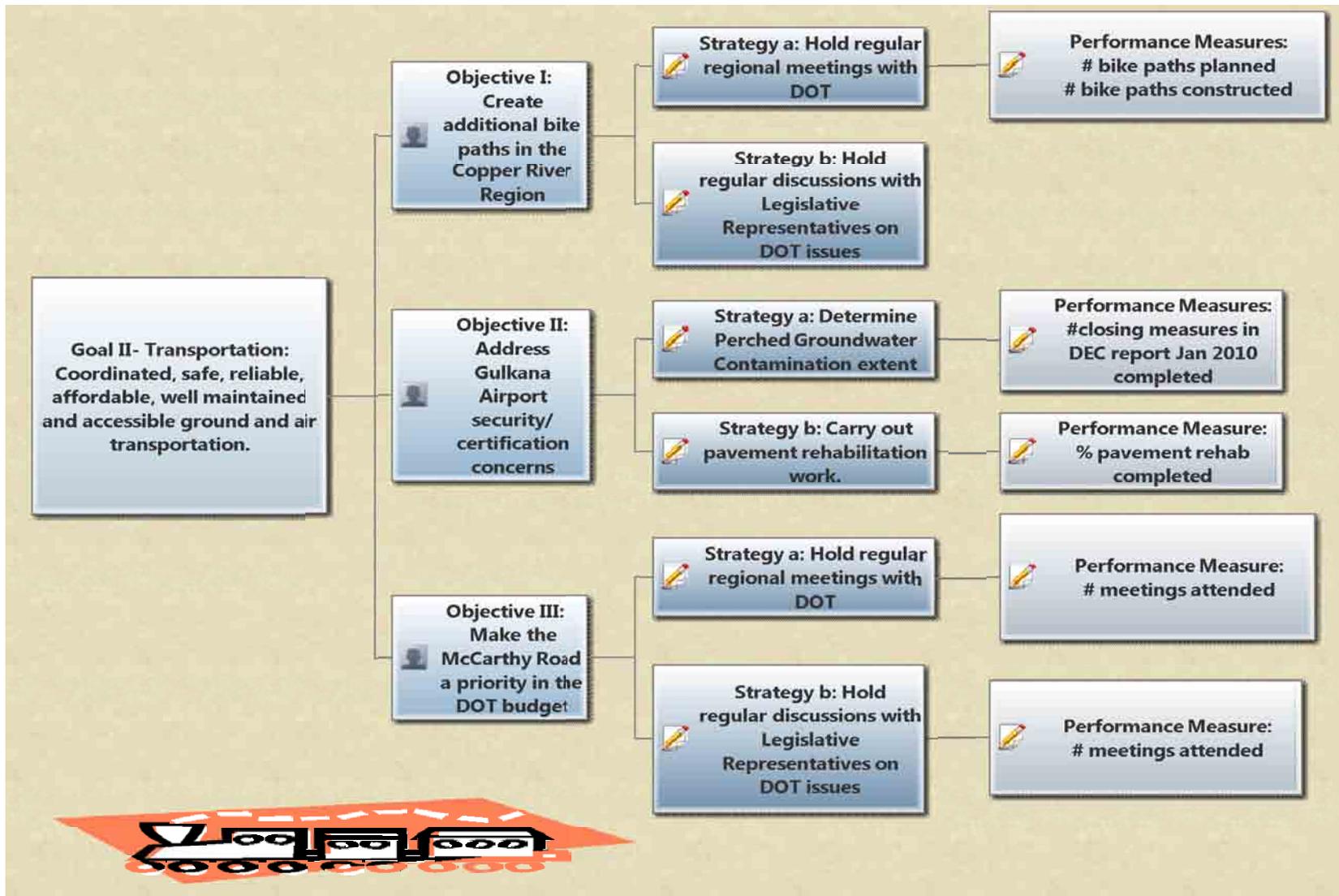
ECONOMIC Development Employment



COMMUNITY Development Housing



COMMUNITY Development -Transportation



Capital Improvements List



Vital Projects
Suggested Projects

VITAL PROJECTS

The following projects are deemed vital to economic development of the Copper River Region. Projected investment amounts (where referenced) are rough order of magnitude (ROM) estimates based on existing related data and similar projects elsewhere in the state. Projects below are prioritized.

1. GAS PIPELINE AND EXPLORATION

Description: Building of the Trans Alaska Gas Pipeline running through the Copper River Region from Prudhoe Bay to Valdez. This would lead to a temporary boom in employment which, followed by local exploration in the form of a refinery, would result in sustained employment opportunities for the region. Tapping in to existing local deposits of natural gas would significantly alleviate the high cost of living for residents.

Potential Partners: State of Alaska, Ahtna Inc, Private investment.

2. DEVELOP HYDROELECTRIC RESOURCES

A. Construct the Allison Creek Hydroelectric Project

Description: Allison Creek is a run of river hydroelectric project located near Valdez on Prince William Sound. CVEA filed an original application for license to develop this hydroelectric project with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in August 2011. When constructed the project will reduce fossil fuel generation by 16 million kWhrs annually and reduce CVEA electric rates.

Potential Partners: CVEA and the State of Alaska

Projected investment: \$40 million (2010 dollars); \$14 million of which has already been secured through state grants.

B. Assess the hydropower potential of the Tiekel River system

Description: The Tiekel River watershed contains substantial potential for power generation. The resource potential should be evaluated through reconnaissance and feasibility studies. In 2012, the Alaska Legislature appropriated \$500,000 to begin this evaluation.

Potential Partners: CVEA, the City of Valdez, the State of Alaska and other regional stakeholders.

Projected investment: The projected investment will be evaluated as part of the reconnaissance study being conducted in 2012.

3. LARGE SCALE BIOMASS BRICK/PELLET PRODUCTION INDUSTRY

Description: Building a brick/pellet production plant in the Copper River Region would significantly lower the cost of utilities for residents and businesses while creating year round, multi disciplinary employment. The potential to export is of considerable importance to the region. Completion of the Gulkana Pellet Mill project currently underway would initiate, on a small scale, the endeavor to create this industry in the Copper River Region.

Potential Partners: DNR, BLM, Ahtna Inc, Private investment.

Projected investment: \$1,000,000.00

4. VOCATIONAL TRAINING SCHOOL

Description: Operation of a small facility offering vocational training in key technical areas such as renewable energy system maintenance, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, heavy equipment operation, automotive mechanics, welding and, construction. Each program should be linked to local apprenticeship placement. Scholarship opportunities binding graduates to working in the Copper River Region for a set period of time would ensure quality services available locally. Use of the existing Copper River School District shop (no longer in use by the schools) represents a significant savings in start up costs. The school would also sponsor workforce development workshops in "soft skills".

Potential Partners: Copper River School District, Prince William Sound Community College, Copper River Native Association, Ahtna Inc., Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce, State of Alaska Dept of Labor and Workforce, Alaska Works Partnership Inc, Private investment.

Projected investment: \$750,000.00

5. HYDROLOGY STUDY

Description: Develop an aquifer report for each Copper River Region community to determine feasibility of drilling community wells.

Potential Partners: Community Corporations, Resident Associations, Native Village Councils, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Village Safewater.

Projected investment: \$200,000.00

6. COMMUNITY WELLS

Description: Drilling a community well in each outlying area of the Copper River Region (where hydrology analysis deems it feasible) would significantly improve the quality of life of many residents currently hauling water from distances in the 20-60 mile range. Operation of each well would result in employment and pose an investment opportunity.

Potential Partners: Community Corporations, Resident Associations, Native Village Councils, Private investment.

Projected investment: \$500,000.00

7. CONTROLLED ENVIRONMENT AGRICULTURE (CEA) PILOT

Description: Construct a 60x72 CEA greenhouse for maximum productivity of local produce in an efficient and environmentally friendly way. This would enable local producers to meet regional needs year round and significantly reduce the cost of produce to residents and businesses. This CEA pilot should be tied to the Kenny Lake School biomass heating project, if possible.

Potential Partners: Copper River School District, Copper River Region Farmer's Association

Projected investment: \$100,000.00

8. MEAT PROCESSING FACILITY

Description: A portable meat processing facility within the Copper River Region's agricultural center for butchering and processing of local livestock would greatly lower the cost of meat to residents making regional livestock more competitive.

Potential Partners: USDA, Copper River Region Farmer's Association, Private investment.

Projected Investment: \$200,000.00

9. PUBLIC FACILITIES

Description: Dump stations, dumpsters and rest areas with toilet facilities are needed to serve the traveling public. This will lead to a cleaner, safer environment, enhance the visitor's experience, and reduce conflict with area residents. This represents an immediate need; so while the challenges of funding are addressed, portable outhouses should be installed at the areas of greatest need; in particular, the Edgerton Highway.

Potential Partners: The Department of Transportation, Division of Tourism, Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce, Private investment.

Projected investment: \$75,000.00

10. WASTE MANAGEMENT

Description: Sanitary landfill and transfer sites to accommodate Chitina and McCarthy communities. High tourism traffic dictates the urgent need for a transfer site at both locations and a sanitary landfill within a 60 mile radius of Chitina. Landfill should be fenced and manned by generated revenue.

Potential Partners: State of Alaska DNR, WRST National Park, Chitina Chamber of Commerce, McCarthy Area Council, Private investment.

Projected investment: \$250,000.00

11. TOURISM MARKETING PACKAGE

Description: Create by contract a Copper River Region marketing package for state, national and international distribution.

Potential Partners: DCCED, Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce, Copper Valley Development Association, Private investment.

Projected investment: \$1,000,000.00

12. THREE PHASE POWER SYSTEM

Description: Provide three phase power along the Edgerton Highway where the regional logging and agricultural activity occurs.

Potential Partners: Copper Valley Electric Association, Chitina Electric Inc., Alaska Energy Authority.

SUGGESTED PROJECTS

The following projects are deemed important to economic development of the Copper River Region. Projected investment amounts (where referenced) are rough order of magnitude (ROM) estimates based on existing related data and similar projects elsewhere in the state. Projects below are prioritized.

1. ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY

Description: Purchase/Lease a facility in a centralized location of the Copper River Region for assisted living services.

Potential Partners: CRNA, Cross Road Medical Center, Connecting Ties.

Projected investment: \$750,000.00

2. HOSTEL

Description: Develop low-cost seasonal lodging in a centralized location of the Copper River Region. Currently low budget travelers to the region do not have indoor lodging options lower than \$60/night. The availability of a shared room/bath, bunk bed type accommodation would enable the extension of the travel season in the Copper River Region for such travelers.

Potential Partners: Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce, Private investment.

Projected investment: \$500,000.00

3. COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION

Description: Removal of abandoned/dilapidated structures in a multi phase project beginning with the commercial center of the Copper River Region on the Glenn Highway (miles 175 to 189). Property values would increase as a result. Local hire would be used in the removal of these structures and, the general appearance of the community would benefit in support of local tourism.

Potential Partners: Copper Valley Development Association, Private investment, EPA

Projected investment: \$150,000.00

4. SPORTS COMPLEX

Description: Construct a sports complex in a centralized location of the Copper River Region to serve the Copper River School District and private membership. Facility would offer a small indoor swim labs, weight room, cardio room and running track. As a privately run enterprise, the complex would create employment and provide year round activities to residents and visitors alike.

Potential Partners: Copper River School District, CRNA, Private investment.

Projected investment: \$800,000.00

5. SALMON VIEWING PLATFORM

Description: Construct a salmon viewing platform strategically placed for visitor viewing of salmon migration during the spawning season. A small support facility, offering information in the form of panels and video, would assist in educating visitors. The structures could be co-located with a travel rest area.

Potential Partners: Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce, Copper River Watershed, State of Alaska Fish and Game, Fishing Guides Association, Private investment

Projected investment: \$75,000.00

6. MUSEUM/EATERY ON NABESNA RD

Description: Construct a small facility on private land at the entrance to the Nabesna Rd which would enhance the WRST National Park visitor's experience. The history of the park and homesteading on Nabesna would be the central themes to the museum. A simple eatery would service visitors passing through and those staying in B&Bs nearby.

Potential Partners: Slana Residents Association, WRST National Park, Private investment.

Projected investment: \$75,000.00

Documentation of Process



Community Participation
Endnotes

Community Participation and Methodology

This report contains a summary of the results of public meetings, surveys, and feedback administered between January and June of 2012. Numerous community planning sessions were held in each of the outlying areas and two (2) Regional Roundtable sessions were held at Prince William Sound Community College in Glennallen. All meetings were advertised in the Copper River Region Bi-Weekly Newspaper, KCAM Radio Station, Copper Valley Development Association website and by means of a mailing campaign to every box holder in various communities of the Copper River Region.

Participation in each of these community meetings ranged from 12 to 30 people. Participants were asked to voice values and concerns around specific aspects of community life such as housing, education, business, resources and, others, that were then written on flip charts. From these and guided discussion, goals, objectives and potential strategies were created. The results of the highest priority items are contained within this document. Every attempt to include all opinions shared has been made. Resident and business surveys were made available by U.S.P.S and on the Copper Valley Development Website.

The Copper River Region is an unorganized borough and limited data is available from which to formulate analysis. Various reports were compiled and are referenced in the endnotes of this CEDS. Community profile data was compiled from the 2006-2010 American Community Survey, US Census 2010 data and existing community planning documents.

The vast majority of residents feel strongly about little to no government interference and were hesitant to participate in this planning effort. Some expressed their concern that this effort could result in the establishment of a borough. Many voiced their desire to remain a small, rural region, connected yet self sustaining.

ENDNOTES

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- ⁱⁱ Institute for Strategy and Competitiveness of Harvard Business School, US Cluster Mapping Economic Performance Indicators, 2012
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- ^{iv} I H S G L O B A L I N S I G H T , Alaska Forward: Phase I Situational Analysis Report, 2010, 31
- ^v FORECLOSURES IN ALASKA AND US, www.economicinfo.org, 12/28/2011
- ^{vi} Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section; and Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, 2011 Rental Market Survey, 2011
- ^{vii} State of Alaska, Workforce Development, Research and Analysis, April 2012
- ^{viii} DCCED, Alaska Visitor Statistics Program VI: Summer 2011, 2012
- ^{ix} DCCED, Alaska Visitor Statistics Program VI: Summer 2011, 2012, vi-14
- ^x Alaska Fish and Game Special Publication 12-01, 2012
- ^{xi} State of Alaska Div Forestry, Statewide Assessment of Forest Resources, 2010
- ^{xii} USDA, Soil Survey of the Copper River Area, Alaska, 1980, 3
- ^{xiii} USDA, 3
- ^{xiv} USDA, 4
- ^{xv} USDA, 4
- ^{xvi} CVDA, CEDS Business Survey, 2012
- ^{xvii} Keller Williams Realty, Copper River Region Realtor interview, 2012
- ^{xviii} US CENSUS, Population and Housing Characteristics, 2010
- ^{xix} Alaska Department of Administration Personnel and Labor Relations, Alaska Geographic Differential Study, 2008, IV
- ^{xx} American Community Survey, 2005-2009 data set, 2012
- ^{xxi} DCCED, Alaska Visitor Statistics Program VI: Summer 2011, 2012, 111-15
- ^{xxii} McDowell Group, A Profile of Visitors to Rural Alaska and the Copper Basin Region, 2006
- ^{xxiii} WRST National Park, Interview with Superintendent Rick Obernesser, Concessions Management Specialist Mark Keogh and Chief of Interpretation Todd Stoeberl, April 2012
- ^{xxiv} State of Alaska Department of Transportation, dot.alaska.gov/projects-status, July 2012
- ^{xxv} Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Pub 12-01 Run Forecasts and Harvest Projections for 2012, February 2012
- ^{xxvi} Community Planning Committee, Community Plan, 2009
- ^{xxvii} Community Planning Committee, Community Plan, 2009
- ^{xxviii} Community Planning Committee, Community Plan, 2009
- ^{xxix} Cheesh'na Tribal Council, Community Plan, 2012
- ^{xxx} Cheesh'na Tribal Council, Community Plan, 2012
- ^{xxxi} Cheesh'na Tribal Council, Community Plan, 2012
- ^{xxxii} State of Alaska Department of Transportation, dot.alaska.gov, Project Homepage, July 2012
- ^{xxxiii} Kenny Lake League, Kenny Lake Community Plan, March 2007
- ^{xxxiv} Mendeltna/Nelchina Corporation, Telephone Interview, July 2012