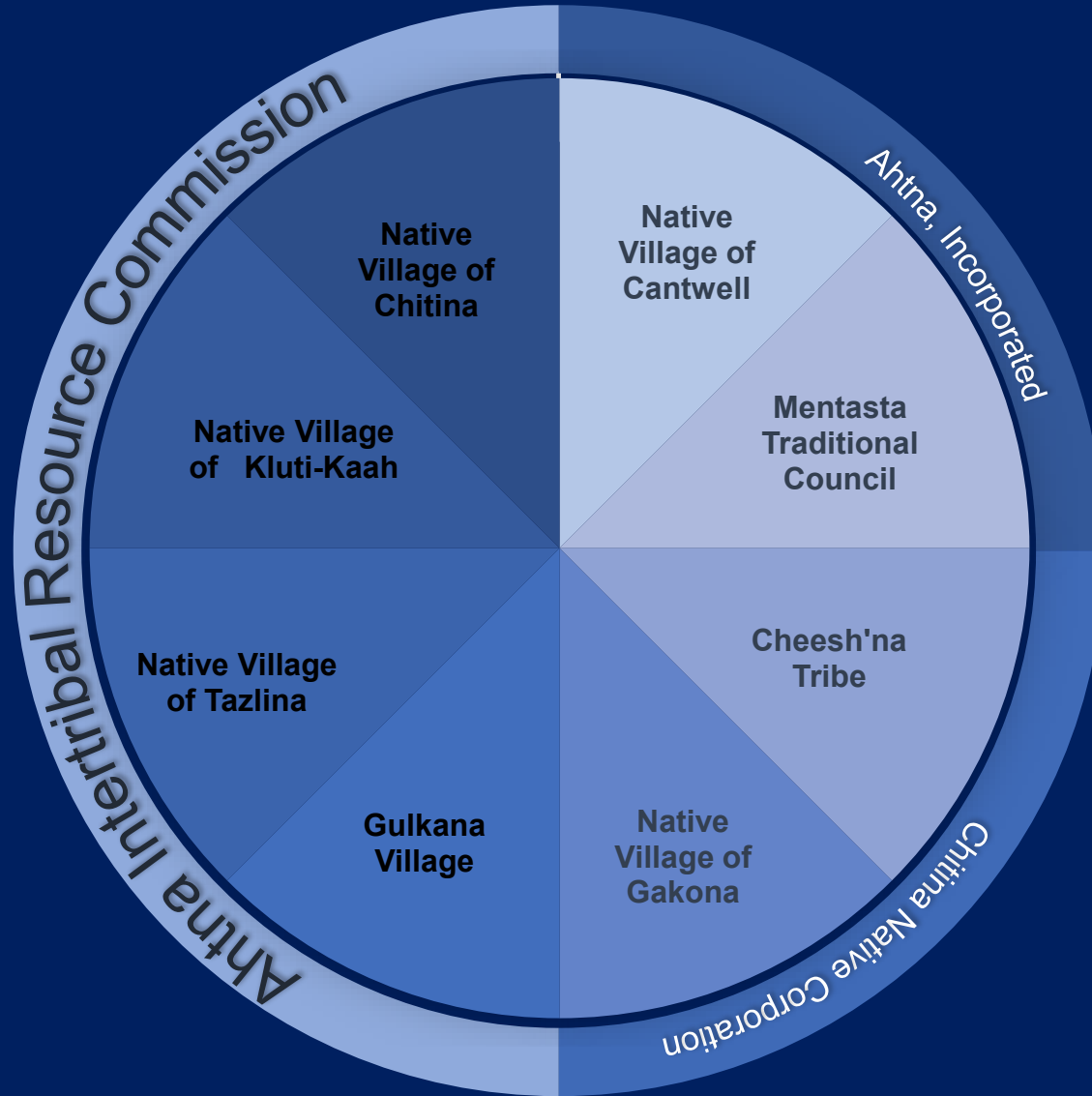


Ahtna Tribal Energy Plan and Technical Assistance Project

Department of Energy – Office of Indian Energy
2019 Peer Review **May 21, 2019**

Karen Linnell, Executive Director
Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission

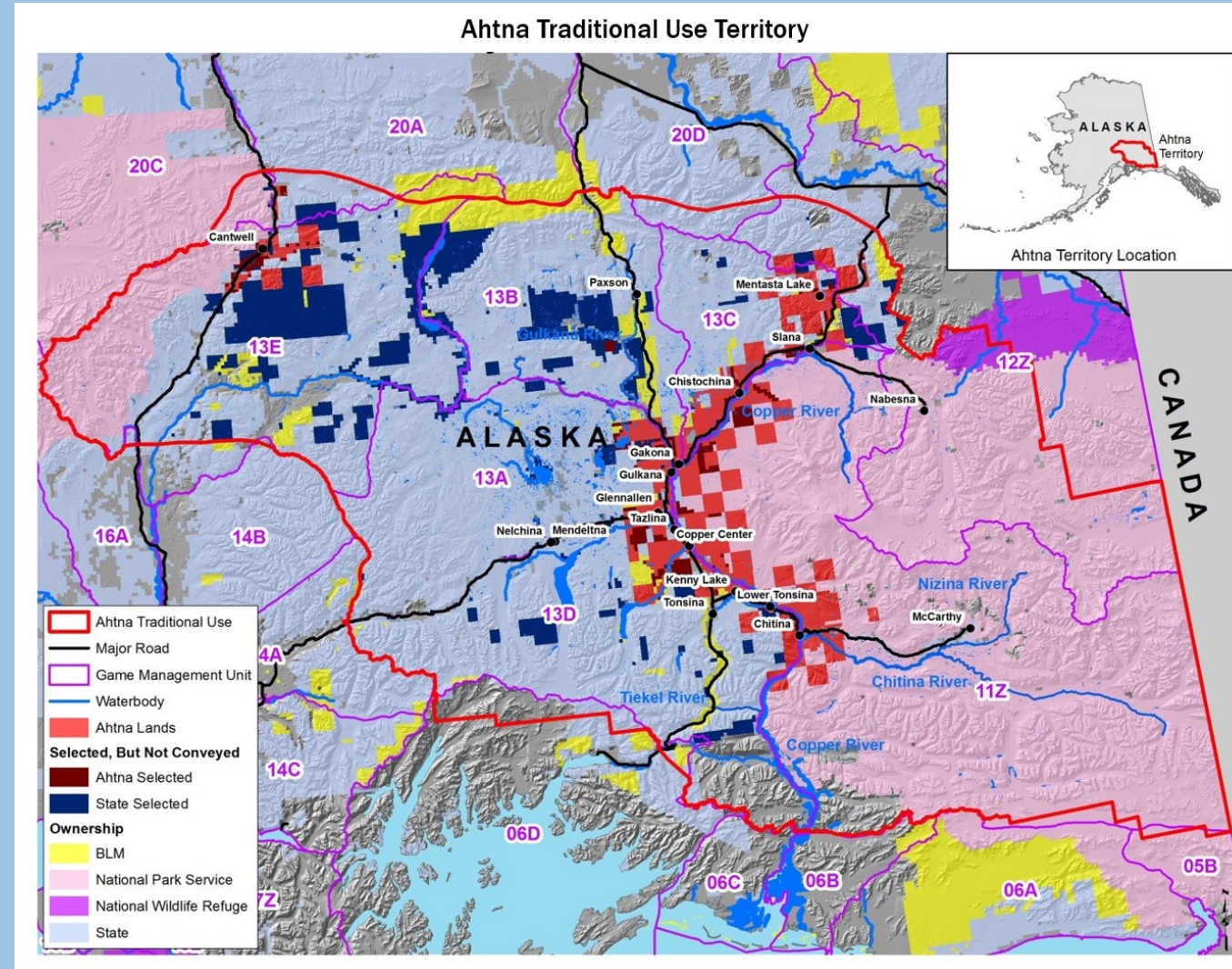
Our Organization



The Ahtna Region

The Ahtna Region is approximately 45,000 square miles of land (28,700,000 acres)
–Ahtna's total ANCSA land entitlement is 1.77 million acres – 1.53 million conveyed

- South-central Alaska
 - The Copper River Basin
 - 5 mountain ranges
 - 2 National Parks: Denali & Wrangell-St. Elias National Parks
- The Copper River watershed is the 4th largest in Alaska
 - Every species of Alaska fish represented
 - 11 salmon runs
- Five major highways (500+ miles state road)



Our Economy

- Population for the Ahtna Territory is 3,682 (2010 Census Data)
 - 890 Tribal Members in the 8 villages
 - 1,512 The total population (all ethnicity) for these Villages
- Median household income for these villages ranges from: \$13,802 Chitina to \$104,375 in Gakona.
- The cost for diesel fuel in the Ahtna Region is 3.27 per gallon on November, 2018
- Recently published unsubsidized residential cost for electricity is
 - \$0.604/KWH on the AP&T system (Mentasta, Cheesh'na),
 - \$0.655 on the Chitina Electric system (Chitina),
 - \$0.2415/KWH on Copper Valley Electric (Gakona, Gulkana, Tazlina, & Kluti-Kaah)
 - \$0.17/KWH on Golden Valley (Cantwell).





ATEPTAP Project Objectives

- Develop an Integrated Biomass-Moose Browse-Fire Protection Plan for Each Village – 3 are done
- Update the regional energy plan by integrating each tribe's high priority energy opportunities. – 4 are done
- Develop a Regional Tribal Energy Technical Assistance and Outreach Program. - Ongoing
- Provide on-site training, outreach and planning assistance to each Village Council - as requested.
- Sponsor quarterly regional training sessions in community energy and resource stewardship planning. - Ongoing



Technical Assistance

Provide information to tribes on funding opportunities and energy programs

- Assist Tazlina with grant submittal for district heating wood boiler
- Assist Cheesh'na and AEA in completing their district heating system
- Assisted Mentasta in submitting/obtaining a Wood Innovations Grant
- Assist Gulkana with Biomass production implementation – ProForma for Business Planning
- Assist Gulkana with Solar project to reduce water facility energy costs and net metering
- Assist Chitina Electric in finding additional funding for the 5-Mile Hydro project
- Consult with Cantwell on the Jack River Hydro Project



Engagement of Tribal Energy Planning

Methodology

1. Meet with Tribal Administrator and Council for intro, ideas, and plan.
2. Identify resources available and prior studies applicable.
3. Complete surveys with Tribal Council and Tribal Residents
4. Hold Tribal Community Meeting to discuss plan, results, data and direction.
5. Compile information and codify into plan.
6. Meet with Tribal Council and Community to review/ revise Tribal Energy Plan.

Energy is the tie that binds!

Challenges

- Small population with vast distances between...economies of scale.
- Diverse range of socioeconomics for regional collaboration.
- Lack of building codes and standards
- Lack of skilled workforce for some renewable energy possibilities.
- High costs of energy

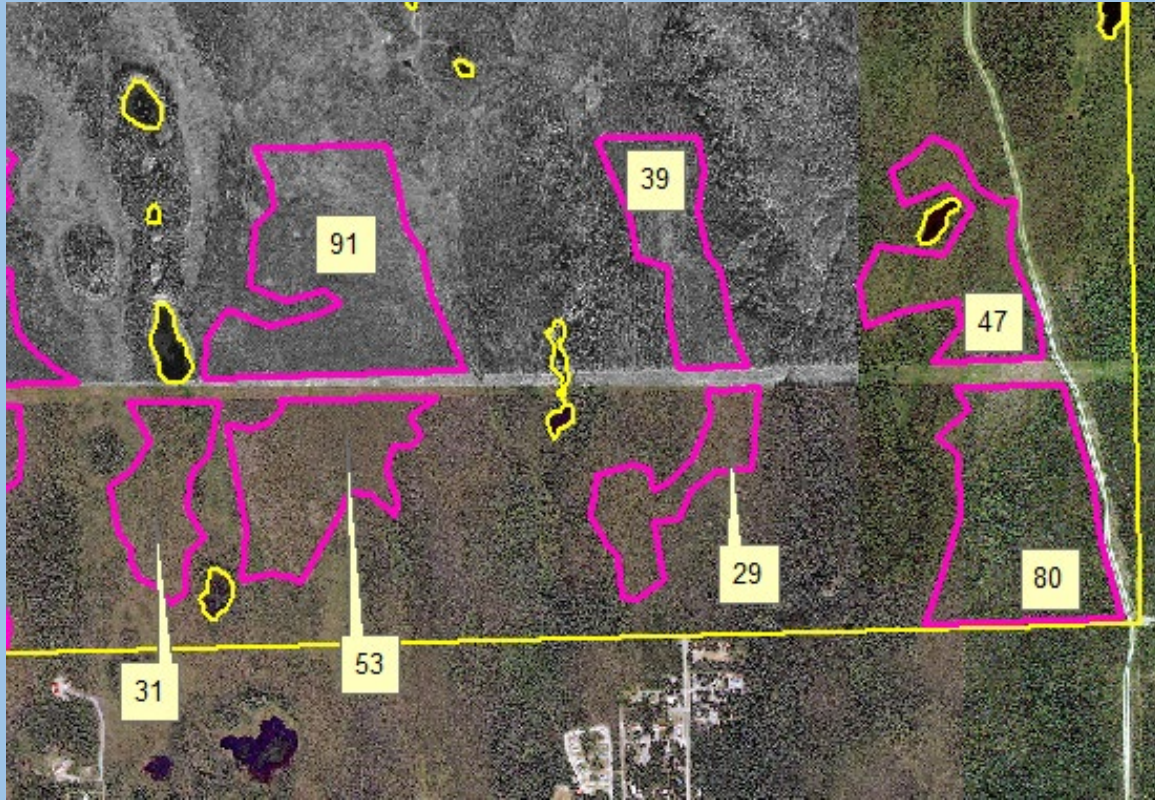
Opportunities

- Hi-light resource strengths and find gaps
- Identify potential energy projects by community and region
- Increased positive collaboration between regional stakeholders and energy resources available
- Implementation PLAN to reduce energy costs
- Road Belt Inter-Tie (RBIT)

Tribal Stewardship



Tribes and Corporations Working Together



- **Participate as cultural and technical experts**
- **AITRC/Tribes/Ahtna are building the most impressive model of cooperation to create the capacity to engage in resource management**
- **Integrated moose habitat enhancement, biomass production, fire safe communities strategy – Village based plans in development**
- **Update the Regional Energy Plan to include Village Priorities.**

Linking Habitat, Biomass & Fire Protection

- AITRC's priority is to develop an integrated biomass program that will incorporate:
 - sustainable biomass production
 - building fuel breaks and fuel reduction projects around our communities while
 - creating moose habitat wherever possible.

This is our Food, Fuel, Jobs Initiative.

The goal is to create sustainable and affordable heating fuel by linking improved moose habitat and community wildfire protection.

Communities that use biomass:

Mentasta, Cheesh'na, Gakona, Gulkana, Tazlina, Cantwell, Kenny Lake & Glennallen



Habitat Projects





Integrated Funding Program

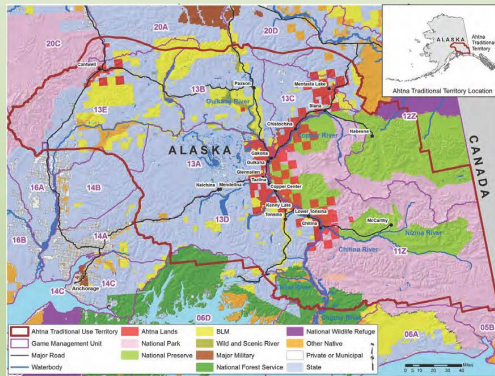
- USFWS Tribal Wildlife Grant developed first community habitat plan
- NRCS Conservation Innovation Grant set ecosystem approach basis developed 10 year plan
- NRCS Regional Conservation Partners Program
 - plan implementation
- Alaska DNR Wildfire Urban Interface funding
 - 3 Community Wildfire Protection Plans written – and now implemented
- USDA RD Rural Business Development Grant
 - purchase and test biomass harvest equipment
- BIA, Tribal Stewardship Advancement Project.

Landscape Partnerships Working Together

Ahtna Traditional Use Territory

Landscape Assessment: A CIG Project

Karen Linnell, Bruce Cain, Jon Haufler, Carolyn Mehl, Scott
Yeager, Bill Wall



- **GIS data sharing & collaboration**
- **Working together to develop a Landscape fire strategy for safety and habitat enhancement**
- **Landscape Resilience – reduce catastrophic fire risk**
- **Biomass Plan**

Partnerships are key to SUCCESS



Ahtna



- Tribal Stewardship Planning
 - Working with UAF Tribal Management Program on Tribal Stewardship Planning
 - Partnering Tribes with Ahtna, Inc. and Chitina Native Corporation (land owners)
- Food, Fuel, Jobs Initiative
 - Moose Habitat Management Plan Enhancement
 - Partnering with land owners to get EQIP and WUI Fuels Reduction projects done
- Strong partnership with NRCS
 - EQIP projects & program support
 - Soils Surveys
- Joint ADF&G, AITRC, AI browse survey training

Tsin'aen

Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
(907)822-4466

Karen Linnell, Executive Director
Karen@AhtnaTribal.org

Pete Peschang, Program Director
Pete@AhtnaTribal.org

Greg Engebretson, Project Manager
Greg@AhtnaTribal.org

