



**Northwest  
Alaskan**  
PIPELINE COMPANY

Alaskan Northwest Natural  
Gas Transportation Company  
Docket No. CP80-  
[REDACTED]

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# SOCIOECONOMIC COMMUNITY PROFILES

## A Background for Planning



**Delta Junction**  
**Dot Lake**  
**Northway**  
**Tanacross**  
**Tetlin**  
**Tok**

Prepared by Darbyshire and Associates, with Research Design Productions, under contract with Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company, June 1980.

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**AGENCY ASSISTANCE**

The following is a list of the principal state and federal agencies and private organizations that can assist in developing data, programs, or projects for rural communities:

**STATE AGENCIES**

**Dept. of Commerce and Economic Development, Alaska State Housing Authority**—Executive Director, P.O. Box 80, Anchorage, AK 99510 (279-7643)

Primarily involved in managing and maintaining a number of public housing programs throughout the state including low rent, turnkey, remote, and elderly housing projects. In addition, ASHA also conducts a housing rehabilitation program.

**Dept. of Commerce and Economic Development, Div. of Economic Enterprise**—Director, 338 Denali St., 7th Floor, MacKay Bldg., Anchorage, AK 99501 (277-1936)

Serves as the statewide planning and coordinating agency for economic development. It provides technical assistance to communities engaged in economic development projects; conducts the Basic Industrial Development Course which provides training in managing commercial enterprises; furnishes, upon request, information on state and federal loan programs of an economic development nature; and makes commercial loans through the Small Business Development Corporation to assist new businesses in Alaska which do not qualify for funds through normal banking channels.

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Engaged primarily in research. In addition to conducting electrification feasibility studies, the Division investigates alternative sources of energy production such as wind, geothermal, solar, and hydroelectric power. The Division is currently building several experimental windmill projects, but is not normally engaged in providing power generating facilities to communities. The weatherization program provides grants to local non-profit organizations which in turn provide construction materials to individuals for home winterization.

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At the request of a community, this office will provide technical planning assistance on general land management problems and small-scale planning projects. The Division also administers a comprehensive planning grant program to help communities finance long-range community planning projects or studies.

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**Dept. of Environmental Conservation**—Regional Env. Supervisor, 338 Denali St., Room 1206 MacKay Bldg., Anchorage, AK 99501 (274-5527)

Responsible for protecting the environment of the state. In this capacity it establishes and enforces regulations to prevent or abate environmental pollution. The Department also administers a number of grant programs for the construction of water supply and wastewater treatment facilities in communities.

**Dept. of Fish and Game**—333 Raspberry, Anchorage, AK 99502 (344-0541)

Responsible for managing the state's fish and wildlife resources. In this capacity, the Department establishes and enforces regulations for conserving fish and game resources so that the needs of the state's subsistence, commercial, and sport users can be met. The Department also administers programs aimed at developing fish and wildlife resources.

**Dept. of Fish and Game, Div. of Subsistence**—Juneau Headquarters, Subport Bldg., Juneau, AK 99801 (465-4147)

This Division plays an advocacy role for subsistence users and is charged with proposing regulations to meet the needs of subsistence users.

**Dept. of Health and Social Services, Office of Deputy Commissioner**—338 Denali St., Room 214, MacKay Bldg., Anchorage, AK 99501 (278-4668)

Administers a wide array of programs in the areas of public and mental health, family and children's services, and corrections. Some of the issues with which they deal specifically are aging, drug abuse, alcoholism, preventive medicine, and the treatment of adult and juvenile offenders. The Department also administers public assistance programs such as the food stamp program, aid to the blind and disabled, and old age assistance.

**Dept. of Labor, Office of Commissioner**—619 Warehouse Ave, Suite 209, Anchorage, AK 99501 (276-3201)

Responsible for enforcing all state labor laws, insuring occupational health and safety, and operating statewide employment referral centers. Workmen's compensation and wage and fringe benefit programs are developed and operated through several divisions of the Department.

**Dept. of Labor, Research and Analysis Section**—P.O. Box 1149, Juneau, AK 99811 (465-4514), 619 Warehouse Road, Suite 208, Anchorage, AK 99501 (276-3201)

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**Dept. of Military**—338 Denali St., Room 610, MacKay Bldg., Anchorage, AK 99501 (276-3656)

Administers the Alaska Army National Guard, the Air National Guard, the Alaska State Militia, and the Alaska Naval Militia programs. The Department works closely with the Alaska Wing of the Civil Air Patrol and operates the Alaska Disaster Office to assist in recovering from disasters.



**Dept. of Natural Resources—**323 E. 4th Ave., Anchorage, AK 99501 (279-5577)

Performs the conservation and development of the state's natural resources, including agriculture and minerals, as well as administration of state forests, parks, and recreation areas. The state program for protection and development of historic and archaeological sites and objects is administered through this Department, as is the management of state lands.

**Dept. of Public Safety, Office of Commissioner—**5700 Tudor Rd. (Mailing - P.O. Box 6188 Annex), Anchorage, AK 99502 (264-5501)

The three Divisions are: State Troopers, Fish and Wildlife Protection, and Fire Prevention. Drivers licenses, vehicle registrations, and driving records are processed by the Department. A Traffic Safety Program is operated to improve traffic safety throughout the state.

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Major responsibilities are for the collection, accounting, investment, and management of state monies. This is accomplished through taxes on income, certain properties, motor vehicles, and licenses for individual hunting and fishing and commercial fishing.

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Responsible for construction, maintenance, and operation of all state ferries, airports, harbor facilities, buildings, roads, and communications facilities. The Department is also responsible for design and construction of schools in rural communities.

**FEDERAL AGENCIES**

**Dept. of Agriculture, Forest Service, U.S.—**2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd. (Mailing - Pouch 6606), Anchorage, AK 99504 (279-5541)

Responsible for managing federally owned forest land. Operating under the principles of "multiple use" and "sustained yield," such management includes: the development of mineral, water and forest product resources, the provision of recreational opportunities, wildlife habitat management, forest fire protection, forest insect disease protection and control, and timber management. The Service also engages in research related to the production and management of the nation's renewable forest resources. In addition, the Service provides technical assistance to state and private forestry programs on many aspects of land use planning, management, protection, and forest utilization.

**Dept. of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service, U.S.—**2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 129, Anchorage, AK 99504 (276-4246)

Conducts soil and snow surveys and flood hazard studies and provides this information to the public. The Service also offers a number of technical, advisory, and financial assistance programs to plan and carry out a national soil and water conservation program, a program for the protection, development and utilization of land and water resources in small watersheds, and a program for the development of water and related land resources within river basins or regions.

**Dept. of Agriculture, USDA Representative, U.S.—**2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 126, Anchorage, AK 99504 (274-7738)

Many of the programs deal exclusively with farmers and farming needs; however, the Administration also directs programs aimed at development in non-farm rural areas. Loans for low- and moderate-income family occupant-owned and rental homes, rural housing site acquisition, and housing repair are provided. Also available are loans to rural communities for water and waste disposal systems, watershed protection and flood prevention, business and industrial development, and community facilities. A limited number of grant programs also exist, notably the Rural Self Help Housing Technical Assistance Grant available to help hire personnel to carry out a housing program, and Industrial Development grants available to public bodies to help stimulate the economy of rural communities.

**Alaska District Corps of Engineers—**P.O. Box 7002, Anchorage, AK 99510 (279-1132)

Engages in the study, design, and construction of projects to control flooding and impediments to navigation. Specific programs include aquatic plant and beach erosion control projects, snagging and clearing for flood control and navigation, repair of flood control mechanisms, and providing bank protection to certain important public works endangered by flood-caused erosion. Other services rendered include the provision of emergency assistance in flood fighting and rescue operations, the provision of technical information, advisory services and counseling on floodplain management, and cooperative projects with states to prepare comprehensive plans for drainage basins located within the boundaries of the state.

**Dept. of Commerce, Economic Development Administration—**701 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 44), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5009)

Administers a number of grant, loan, and information dissemination programs to help spur economic growth in areas of economic decline, to provide immediate employment to the under- and/or un-employed, and to provide financial assistance to employment-generating businesses that cannot obtain financing through banks or other private lending institutions. Assistance monies are used to construct public works facilities, to provide technical assistance to local governments, to develop the capability of state and local governments to undertake comprehensive economic development planning, and to conduct feasibility and other studies.

**Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service—**701 C Street (Mailing - P.O. Box 43), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5006)

Consists of three major Divisions: The Law Enforcement Division in conjunction with the Coast Guard is responsible for high seas surveillance and enforcement within the 200-mile zone and at dockside. Such responsibilities include keeping a watch on foreign fishing activities, recording the amount and type of fish landed at ports, and enforcing the Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Protection Acts. The Fisheries Management Division is responsible for developing and conserving fishing resources and for developing alternatives to avert fishing disasters. This division's work includes conducting feasibility studies, market surveys, and economic research. The Division of Environmental Assessment keeps track of marine habitat quality in areas of economic activity and/or resource development.

**Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Survey—**701 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 38), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5040)

Conducts hydrographic and topographic surveys and constructs bathymetric maps and nautical and aeronautical charts. The Survey also collects and disseminates information to supplement these maps and charts. Examples of such information include tide tables, tidal currents tables and charts, and en-route, area, and instrument approach procedure charts.

**Dept. of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency—710 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 19), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5083)**

Operates many programs to provide technical information, advisory services and counseling, training, project and research grants, and direct loans. Areas of study and/or control include water, air, and noise pollution, solid waste disposal, waste water treatment works, water quality control, underground water source protection, safe drinking water protection, pesticide science and technology, pesticide control, and radiation research.

**Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, Public Health Service, Office of Environmental Health—3350 Commercial Dr., Anchorage, AK 99510 (279-9628)**

Acting as the Indian Health Service, this agency provides water and sewer facilities to Native individuals and communities and to all new housing constructed by HUD. Non-Native communities can purchase a PHS constructed water/sewer system. Copies of as-builts, premise surveys, and project summaries are available from the Service office.

**Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, Social Security Administration—612 E. 14th (Mailing - Box 2600), Anchorage, AK 99510 (271-4015)**

Operates a number of programs to aid the elderly, the physically and/or emotionally disabled, and the blind, disabled or elderly with extremely low incomes. Examples of such programs include hospital and supplementary medical insurance under Medicare; disability, retirement and survivor insurance, and special benefits for persons aged 72 or over under Social Security; the Special Benefits for Disabled Coal Miners (Black Lung) Program; and the Supplementary Security Income Program for the blind, disabled, or people over 65 whose incomes and resources are very small.

**Dept. of Housing and Urban Development—334 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501 (271-4166)**

The three major Divisions are: Federal Insurance Administration, Community Planning and Development, and Housing Production and Mortgage Credit/Federal Housing Authority and Housing Management Offices. The FIA is primarily involved with flood protection and promoting floodplain management, although it also administers riot and crime insurance programs. The Community Planning and Development Division operates the Comprehensive Planning Assistance ("701") Program, the discretionary and entitlement Community Development Block Grants Program, and the New Communities Loan Guarantee Program. The Housing Division runs a myriad of direct payment and guaranteed/insured loan housing production and management programs. Also within HUD is the Office of Interstate Land Sales Registration, Office of Equal Opportunity in Housing, Office of Policy Development and Research, and the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration.

**Dept. of the Interior, Alaska Native Claims Appeals Board—716 W. 4th Ave. (Mailing - P.O. Box 2433), Anchorage, AK 99510 (271-4001)**

Created in 1974 to review village eligibility questions and property interest disputes arising under ANCSA. After BLM publishes a selection decision, 30 days exist in which anyone claiming a property interest in the land in question may appeal the BLM decision. This Board does not handle enrollment or allotment appeals.

**Dept. of the Interior, Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Office—620 E. 10th, Anchorage, AK 99501 (276-2955)**

One of four such offices in the United States, this office is responsible for managing the sea-bed of the outer continental shelf beyond the three-mile limit off the coast of Alaska. Such management includes the development of minerals, sand and gravel, salt, and other resources contained within the OCS. Current operations in Alaska deal largely with coordinating the sale of oil and gas leases on the OCS.

**Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs—1675 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 120), Anchorage, AK 99510 (271-4088)**

Operates a wide range of programs to aid the development of the human and natural resource potentials of those Native Americans living under a trust relationship to the Federal Government. Areas covered by Bureau programs include education, employment assistance, housing development and improvement, economic development, and various other social services. All BIA programs apply to any Native in Alaska who is at least one-quarter Native.

**Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management—701 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 13), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5960)**

Responsible for managing federal public lands and the resources contained thereupon. Included in this management responsibility are the tasks of firefighting, surveying land, managing the habitat for wildlife, leasing minerals, selling timber, building roads and trails, and providing areas for recreation. It is BLM which grants permits, licenses, easements, leases, or rights-of-way on public lands, including the OCS. BLM also runs the Townsite Trustee Program in Alaska. Copies of as-builts, status plats, and townsite plats are available from BLM.

**Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines—2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 110, Anchorage, AK 99504 (274-9521)**

Conducts research on mining and metallurgy. Specific areas of study include mine health and safety, improvements in mining technology, environmental problems associated with mining, and improvements in methods of processing and recycling metals and other minerals. The Bureau is also actively involved in the repair of environmental damage from past mining operations and does analysis of mineral supply and demand worldwide. The Bureau also engages in mineral surveys of federal lands and evaluates mineral potential and the economic significance of mineral occurrences.

**Dept. of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.—1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503 (276-3800)**

Conducts research, employs management techniques, and enforces federal laws and regulations concerning the nation's migratory birds and game, waterfowl, wild mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and sport fishing resources. This office is responsible for managing the National Wildlife Refuges and National Fish Hatcheries, monitoring the effects of resource development projects on fish and wildlife, and operating management programs for endangered species and other wildlife of national significance.

**Dept. of the Interior, Geological Survey, U.S.—Alaska Division, 508 W. 2nd Ave. (Mailing - 218 E. St.), Anchorage, AK 99501 (271-4145; Director - 271-4398)**

Assembles and disseminates information on the nation's land, mineral, and water resources. The Survey produces maps of physical features of land areas; identifies and assesses the quantity and quality of potential energy, mineral, and water resources, including those of the OCS; assesses the environmental consequences of alternative methods of developing these resources, and collects and disseminates information on natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, land subsidence, and floods. The Survey is also responsible for supervising the exploration, development, and production phases of resource development on federally leased land and collects royalties and rents on these lands.



**Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service—Alaska Area Office, 540 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501 (271-4243)**

Responsible for conserving and managing the use of the scenery, natural and historic features, and the wildlife in the national parks, monuments, and reservations of the United States. In this capacity the Service controls wildlife populations; supports, with project and research grants, the discovery, investigation, inventory, and preservation of significant historical, archeological, or paleontological remains, buildings, sites, landmarks, etc.; and provides technical information and advisory services to state and local agencies in the planning, development, and management of park and recreation areas.

**Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics—2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 120, Anchorage, AK 99504 (274-8731)**

Collects and provides data on a number of issues related to the nation's economy. Examples of collected data include: manpower and employment data, prices and cost-of-living data, productivity and technological data, wages and industrial relations data, and economic research data. Additionally, the Bureau does some analyses of information—long-range predictions, area and industry comparisons, and trend analysis.

**Dept. of Transportation, Coast Guard, U.S.—Captain of the Port, Marine Safety Office, 701 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 17), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5137)**

Responsible for protecting and patrolling the navigable waters and ports of the nation, including its ocean shores, bays and inlets, Great Lakes and inland waterways. Duties of the Guard include port safety and security, merchant vessel safety, boating safety, ice breaking, search and rescue, buoy tending, and prevention of marine environment pollution. The Guard also broadcasts National Weather Service reports and, together with the National Marine Fisheries Service, enforces federal conservation and territorial fishing laws and treaties.

**Dept. of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration—Alaska Regional Headquarters, 701 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 14), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5645)**

Responsible for assisting in the development of a nationwide system of public airports. In this capacity the Administration provides technical information, advisory services, counseling, and project grants to public agencies to promote the advancement of civil aviation. Planning and construction grants are available to public agencies for the development of airports and airport and navigation facilities.

**PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS**

**Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC)—Manager, 4831 Eagle St., Anchorage, AK 99503 (277-6632)**

An independent, member-owned cooperative that designs and constructs electrical facilities for its member villages with funds loaned by the Rural Electrification Administration.

**Fairbanks Town and Village Association for Development, Inc.—P.O. Box 74080, Fairbanks, AK 99707 (456-5178)**

Provides service for Fairbanks, the Fairbanks North Star Borough and 46 Alaskan villages, a nonprofit corporation. It is involved in long-range economic development of Interior Alaska; program and project assistance to communities and public interest organizations; business assistance; and public works financing.

**Interior Village Association—127½ Minnie Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701 (452-1601)**

Acts as management, financial and land consultants for area ANCSA village corporations. As a nonprofit corporation, it is involved in project permit reviews for pipeline activities on Native corporation selected lands.

**Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.—Doyon Bldg., 1st & Hall Streets, Fairbanks, AK 99701 (452-8251); Subregional Office, P.O. Box 126, Tok, AK 99780 (883-2762)**

As a nonprofit regional Native corporation, provides certain social services in the same geographic area as Doyon, Inc. The Tanana Chiefs Health Authority was formed as a department of Tanana Chiefs Conference. The health authority is responsible for administration and delivery of health services and grants with the federal government and State of Alaska.

**United Crow Band—P.O. Box 131, Tok, AK 99780 (883-2601)**

Is a service provider in the Upper Tanana region. It has contracted to provide employment counseling, general assistance, a foster care program and information and referral services. It administers general assistance programs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Upper Tanana Development Corporation—P.O. Box 459, Tok, AK 99780 (883-2661)**

One of 12 nonprofit regional development corporations, it promotes overall economic, social and educational development of people in the Upper Tanana region. Programs are aimed at low income Natives and non-Natives, the elderly and preschoolers. UTDC is extremely active and interested in the area of gasoline impacts.

**Upper Tanana Regional Council on Alcoholism—P.O. Box 155, Tok, AK 99780 (883-4201)**

Is responsible for its primary objective of reduction of alcohol and other drug abuse programs in the region. The agency pursues this goal through preventive measures (counseling, recreation and school programs), diversion of substance abusers from the criminal justice system, referral and coordination.

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State of Alaska

Department of Natural Resources

Division of Conservation

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Conducts soil and snow surveys and flood hazard studies and provides this information to the public. The Service also offers a number of technical, advisory, and financial assistance programs to plan and carry out a national soil and water conservation program, a program for the protection, development and utilization of land and water resources in small watersheds, and a program for the development of water and related land resources within river basins or regions.

**Dept. of Agriculture, USDA Representative, U.S.—** 2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 126, Anchorage, AK 99504 (274-7738)

Many of the programs deal exclusively with farmers and farming needs; however, the Administration also directs programs aimed at development in non-farm rural areas. Loans for low- and moderate-income family occupant-owned and rental homes, rural housing site acquisition, and housing repair are provided. Also available are loans to rural communities for water and waste disposal systems, watershed protection and flood prevention, business and industrial development, and community facilities. A limited number of grant programs also exist, notably the Rural Self Help Housing Technical Assistance Grant available to help hire personnel to carry out a housing program, and Industrial Development grants available to public bodies to help stimulate the economy of rural communities.

**Alaska District Corps of Engineers—** P.O. Box 7002, Anchorage, AK 99510 (279-1132)

Engages in the study, design, and construction of projects to control flooding and impediments to navigation. Specific programs include aquatic plant and beach erosion control projects, snagging and clearing for flood control and navigation, repair of flood control mechanisms, and providing bank protection to certain important public works endangered by flood-caused erosion. Other services rendered include the provision of emergency assistance in flood fighting and rescue operations, the provision of technical information, advisory services and counseling on floodplain management, and cooperative projects with states to prepare comprehensive plans for drainage basins located within the boundaries of the state.

**Dept. of Commerce, Economic Development Administration—** 701 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 44), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5009)

Administers a number of grant, loan, and information dissemination programs to help spur economic growth in areas of economic decline, to provide immediate employment to the under- and/or un-employed, and to provide financial assistance to employment-generating businesses that cannot obtain financing through banks or other private lending institutions. Assistance monies are used to construct public works facilities, to provide technical assistance to local governments, to develop the capability of state and local governments to undertake comprehensive economic development planning, and to conduct feasibility and other studies.

**Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service—** 701 C Street (Mailing - P.O. Box 43), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5006)

Consists of three major Divisions: The Law Enforcement Division in conjunction with the Coast Guard is responsible for high seas surveillance and enforcement within the 200-mile zone and at dockside. Such responsibilities include keeping a watch on foreign fishing activities, recording the amount and type of fish landed at ports, and enforcing the Endangered Species and Marine Mammal Protection Acts. The Fisheries Management Division is responsible for developing and conserving fishing resources and for developing alternatives to avert fishing disasters. This division's work includes conducting feasibility studies, market surveys, and economic research. The Division of Environmental Assessment keeps track of marine habitat quality in areas of economic activity and/or resource development.

**Dept. of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Ocean Survey—** 701 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 38), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5040)

Conducts hydrographic and topographic surveys and constructs bathymetric maps and nautical and aeronautical charts. The Survey also collects and disseminates information to supplement these maps and charts. Examples of such information include tide tables, tidal currents tables and charts, and en-route, area, and instrument approach procedure charts.

**Dept. of Energy, Environmental Protection Agency—710 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 19), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5083)**

Operates many programs to provide technical information, advisory services and counseling, training, project and research grants, and direct loans. Areas of study and/or control include water, air, and noise pollution, solid waste disposal, waste water treatment works, water quality control, underground water source protection, safe drinking water protection, pesticide science and technology, pesticide control, and radiation research.

**Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, Public Health Service, Office of Environmental Health—3350 Commercial Dr., Anchorage, AK 99510 (279-9628)**

Acting as the Indian Health Service, this agency provides water and sewer facilities to Native individuals and communities and to all new housing constructed by HUD. Non-Native communities can purchase a PHS constructed water/sewer system. Copies of as-builts, premise surveys, and project summaries are available from the Service office.

**Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare, Social Security Administration—612 E. 14th (Mailing - Box 2600), Anchorage, AK 99510 (271-4015)**

Operates a number of programs to aid the elderly, the physically and/or emotionally disabled, and the blind, disabled or elderly with extremely low incomes. Examples of such programs include hospital and supplementary medical insurance under Medicare; disability, retirement and survivor insurance, and special benefits for persons aged 72 or over under Social Security; the Special Benefits for Disabled Coal Miners (Black Lung) Program; and the Supplementary Security Income Program for the blind, disabled, or people over 65 whose incomes and resources are very small.

**Dept. of Housing and Urban Development—334 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501 (271-4166)**

The three major Divisions are: Federal Insurance Administration, Community Planning and Development, and Housing Production and Mortgage Credit/Federal Housing Authority and Housing Management Offices. The FIA is primarily involved with flood protection and promoting floodplain management, although it also administers riot and crime insurance programs. The Community Planning and Development Division operates the Comprehensive Planning Assistance ("701") Program, the discretionary and entitlement Community Development Block Grants Program, and the New Communities Loan Guarantee Program. The Housing Division runs a myriad of direct payment and guaranteed/insured loan housing production and management programs. Also within HUD is the Office of Interstate Land Sales Registration, Office of Equal Opportunity in Housing, Office of Policy Development and Research, and the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration.

**Dept. of the Interior, Alaska Native Claims Appeals Board—716 W. 4th Ave. (Mailing - P.O. Box 2433), Anchorage, AK 99510 (271-4001)**

Created in 1974 to review village eligibility questions and property interest disputes arising under ANCSA. After BLM publishes a selection decision, 30 days exist in which anyone claiming a property interest in the land in question may appeal the BLM decision. This Board does not handle enrollment or allotment appeals.

**Dept. of the Interior, Alaska Outer Continental Shelf Office—620 E. 10th, Anchorage, AK 99501 (276-2955)**

One of four such offices in the United States, this office is responsible for managing the sea-bed of the outer continental shelf beyond the three-mile limit off the coast of Alaska. Such management includes the development of minerals, sand and gravel, salt, and other resources contained within the OCS. Current operations in Alaska deal largely with coordinating the sale of oil and gas leases on the OCS.

**Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs—1675 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 120), Anchorage, AK 99510 (271-4088)**

Operates a wide range of programs to aid the development of the human and natural resource potentials of those Native Americans living under a trust relationship to the Federal Government. Areas covered by Bureau programs include education, employment assistance, housing development and improvement, economic development, and various other social services. All BIA programs apply to any Native in Alaska who is at least one-quarter Native.

**Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management—701 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 13), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5960)**

Responsible for managing federal public lands and the resources contained thereupon. Included in this management responsibility are the tasks of firefighting, surveying land, managing the habitat for wildlife, leasing minerals, selling timber, building roads and trails, and providing areas for recreation. It is BLM which grants permits, licenses, easements, leases, or rights-of-way on public lands, including the OCS. BLM also runs the Townsite Trustee Program in Alaska. Copies of as-builts, status plats, and townsite plats are available from BLM.

**Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines—2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 110, Anchorage, AK 99504 (274-9521)**

Conducts research on mining and metallurgy. Specific areas of study include mine health and safety, improvements in mining technology, environmental problems associated with mining, and improvements in methods of processing and recycling metals and other minerals. The Bureau is also actively involved in the repair of environmental damage from past mining operations and does analysis of mineral supply and demand worldwide. The Bureau also engages in mineral surveys of federal lands and evaluates mineral potential and the economic significance of mineral occurrences.

**Dept. of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S.—1011 E. Tudor Rd., Anchorage, AK 99503 (276-3800)**

Conducts research, employs management techniques, and enforces federal laws and regulations concerning the nation's migratory birds and game, waterfowl, wild mammals, amphibians, reptiles, and sport fishing resources. This office is responsible for managing the National Wildlife Refuges and National Fish Hatcheries, monitoring the effects of resource development projects on fish and wildlife, and operating management programs for endangered species and other wildlife of national significance.

**Dept. of the Interior, Geological Survey, U.S.—Alaska Division, 508 W. 2nd Ave. (Mailing - 218 E. St.), Anchorage, AK 99501 (271-4145; Director - 271-4398)**

Assembles and disseminates information on the nation's land, mineral, and water resources. The Survey produces maps of physical features of land areas; identifies and assesses the quantity and quality of potential energy, mineral, and water resources, including those of the OCS; assesses the environmental consequences of alternative methods of developing these resources, and collects and disseminates information on natural hazards such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, land subsidence, and floods. The Survey is also responsible for supervising the exploration, development, and production phases of resource development on federally leased land and collects royalties and rents on these lands.



**Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service**—Alaska Area Office, 540 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501 (271-4243)

Responsible for conserving and managing the use of the scenery, natural and historic features, and the wildlife in the national parks, monuments, and reservations of the United States. In this capacity the Service controls wildlife populations; supports, with project and research grants, the discovery, investigation, inventory, and preservation of significant historical, archeological, or paleontological remains, buildings, sites, landmarks, etc.; and provides technical information and advisory services to state and local agencies in the planning, development, and management of park and recreation areas.

**Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics**—2221 E. Northern Lights Blvd., Suite 120, Anchorage, AK 99504 (274-8731)

Collects and provides data on a number of issues related to the nation's economy. Examples of collected data include: manpower and employment data, prices and cost-of-living data, productivity and technological data, wages and industrial relations data, and economic research data. Additionally, the Bureau does some analyses of information—long-range predictions, area and industry comparisons, and trend analysis.

**Dept. of Transportation, Coast Guard, U.S.**—Captain of the Port, Marine Safety Office, 701 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 17), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5137)

Responsible for protecting and patrolling the navigable waters and ports of the nation, including its ocean shores, bays and inlets, Great Lakes and inland waterways. Duties of the Guard include port safety and security, merchant vessel safety, boating safety, ice breaking, search and rescue, buoy tending, and prevention of marine environment pollution. The Guard also broadcasts National Weather Service reports and, together with the National Marine Fisheries Service, enforces federal conservation and territorial fishing laws and treaties.

**Dept. of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration**—Alaska Regional Headquarters, 701 C St. (Mailing - P.O. Box 14), Anchorage, AK 99513 (271-5645)

Responsible for assisting in the development of a nationwide system of public airports. In this capacity the Administration provides technical information, advisory services, counseling, and project grants to public agencies to promote the advancement of civil aviation. Planning and construction grants are available to public agencies for the development of airports and airport and navigation facilities.

## **PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS**

**Alaska Village Electric Cooperative (AVEC)**—Manager, 4831 Eagle St., Anchorage, AK 99503 (277-6632)

An independent, member-owned cooperative that designs and constructs electrical facilities for its member villages with funds loaned by the Rural Electrification Administration.

**Fairbanks Town and Village Association for Development, Inc.**—P.O. Box 74080, Fairbanks, AK 99707 (456-5178)

Provides service for Fairbanks, the Fairbanks North Star Borough and 46 Alaskan villages, a nonprofit corporation. It is involved in long-range economic development of Interior Alaska; program and project assistance to communities and public interest organizations; business assistance; and public works financing.

**Interior Village Association**—127½ Minnie Street, Fairbanks, AK 99701 (452-1601)

Acts as management, financial and land consultants for area ANCSA village corporations. As a nonprofit corporation, it is involved in project permit reviews for pipeline activities on Native corporation selected lands.

**Tanana Chiefs Conference, Inc.**—Doyon Bldg., 1st & Hall Streets, Fairbanks, AK 99701 (452-8251); Subregional Office, P.O. Box 126, Tok, AK 99780 (883-2762)

As a nonprofit regional Native corporation, provides certain social services in the same geographic area as Doyon, Inc. The Tanana Chiefs Health Authority was formed as a department of Tanana Chiefs Conference. The health authority is responsible for administration and delivery of health services and grants with the federal government and State of Alaska.

**United Crow Band**—P.O. Box 131, Tok, AK 99780 (883-2601)

Is a service provider in the Upper Tanana region. It has contracted to provide employment counseling, general assistance, a foster care program and information and referral services. It administers general assistance programs of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

**Upper Tanana Development Corporation**—P.O. Box 459, Tok, AK 99780 (883-2661)

One of 12 nonprofit regional development corporations, it promotes overall economic, social and educational development of people in the Upper Tanana region. Programs are aimed at low income Natives and non-Natives, the elderly and preschoolers. UTDC is extremely active and interested in the area of gasoline impacts.

**Upper Tanana Regional Council on Alcoholism**—P.O. Box 155, Tok, AK 99780 (883-4201)

Is responsible for its primary objective of reduction of alcohol and other drug abuse programs in the region. The agency pursues this goal through preventive measures (counseling, recreation and school programs), diversion of substance abusers from the criminal justice system, referral and coordination.



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# DELTA JUNCTION

SHEET ONE



Photo courtesy of BLM.

Figure 2  
Upper Tanana Region Location Map

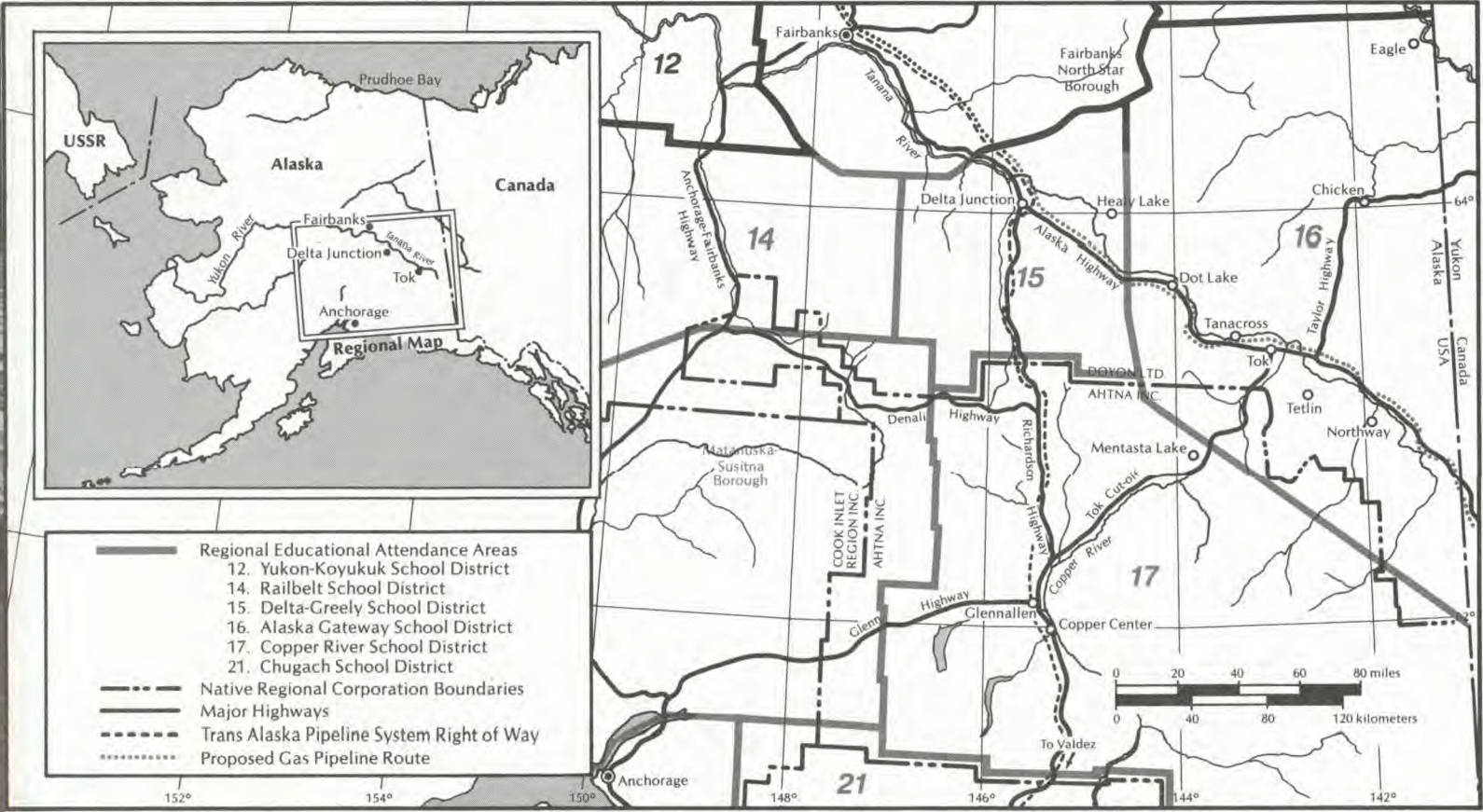


Figure 3  
Mileage Chart

Highway Mileages via Most Direct Overland Route	Anchorage/Canada Border	Anchorage	Big Delta	Dawson City, Canada	Delta Junction	Dot Lake	Fairbanks	Glennallen	Haines	Haines Junction, Canada	Northway Junction	Tanacross	Tetlin Junction	Tok	Whitehorse, Canada
Alaska/Canada Border		421	210	65	201	141	298	232	364	205	43	105	81	93	304
Anchorage	421		350	524	340	376	358	189	785	626	378	340	340	328	725
Big Delta	210	350		313	9	69	88	160	574	415	167	105	129	117	514
Dawson City, Canada	65	524	313		303	243	400	334	592	433	284	207	183	195	334
Delta Junction	201	340	9	303		60	97	151	565	406	555	96	120	108	505
Dot Lake	141	376	69	243	60		157	187	505	346	98	36	60	48	445
Fairbanks	298	358	88	400	97	157		248	662	503	652	93	217	205	602
Glennallen	232	189	160	334	151	187	248		596	437	586	151	151	139	536
Haines	364	785	574	592	565	505	662	596		159	208	469	445	457	258
Haines Junction, Canada	205	626	415	433	406	346	503	437	159		49	310	286	298	99
Northway Junction	43	378	167	284	555	98	652	586	208	49		62	38	50	347
Tanacross	105	340	105	207	96	36	93	151	469	310	62		24	12	409
Tetlin Junction	81	340	129	183	120	60	217	151	445	286	38	24		12	385
Tok	93	328	117	195	108	48	205	139	457	298	50	12	12		397
Whitehorse, Canada	304	725	514	334	505	445	602	536	258	99	347	409	385	397	

Source: State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

## The Community

**History** — The Delta area is located about 100 miles southeast of Fairbanks on the bank of the Dalton River at the junction of the Alaska and the Richardson, Highways. The study area for this report encompasses roughly a 20-mile radius centered on the City of Delta Junction and includes Big Delta, Ft. Greely Army Post, and the Clearwater area to the Johnson River.

In 1903 an overland trail was cut from Valdez to Fairbanks and a roadhouse was established a short time later at the junction of the Delta and Tanana Rivers. Originally called Bates Landing it later became known as Rika's Landing, then McCarty, and finally as Big Delta. This point was also the southern terminus for sternwheelers bringing passengers and supplies up the Tanana River from Fairbanks. In 1911 Lt. Billy Mitchell of the U.S. Army Signal Corps established a military telegraph station on the McCarty Military Reservation at Big Delta as a part of the Washington/Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System (WAMCATS). Ongoing mining activity just north of Delta Junction in the Tenderfoot area and the Chisana Gold Strike of 1913 brought many prospectors and other travelers north past the small settlement at Big Delta.

A construction camp was established at Big Delta in 1919 during building of the Richardson Highway which connected the port city of Valdez with Fairbanks. The community was named Buffalo Center in 1927 after the herd of about 25 American bison that were transplanted to the area. At present the herd consists of an estimated 300 bison. A second roadhouse was established in 1939 at the confluence of the Delta and Tanana Rivers by Bert and Mary Hansen. In 1942, a military facility, which later became Ft. Greely, was established 5 miles south of Delta Junction. The Alaska Highway, which culminates in its junction with the Richardson Highway at Delta Junction, was built in 1942-43. This highway provided the first land-link with Canada and the contiguous United States.

In 1946 homesteaders at Shaw Creek established a 320-acre dairy farm. Beef cattle were introduced to the area in 1953 with the increase in federal homesteading. By the late 1950's hay and potatoes were major crops. Further agricultural development came in 1970 with state homesteading and the development of an additional 4,100 acres. However, Ft. Greely and highway-related construction and support services remained the two economic mainstays of the area. Construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline between 1974 and 1977 brought about a dramatic upswing in Delta Junction's population and economy.

During the post-pipeline period there has been major expansion of agriculture in the Delta area. In 1978, the Alaska State Legislature established the Delta Agricultural Project to promote agricultural development in the Tanana Loop and Clearwater areas surrounding Delta Junction.

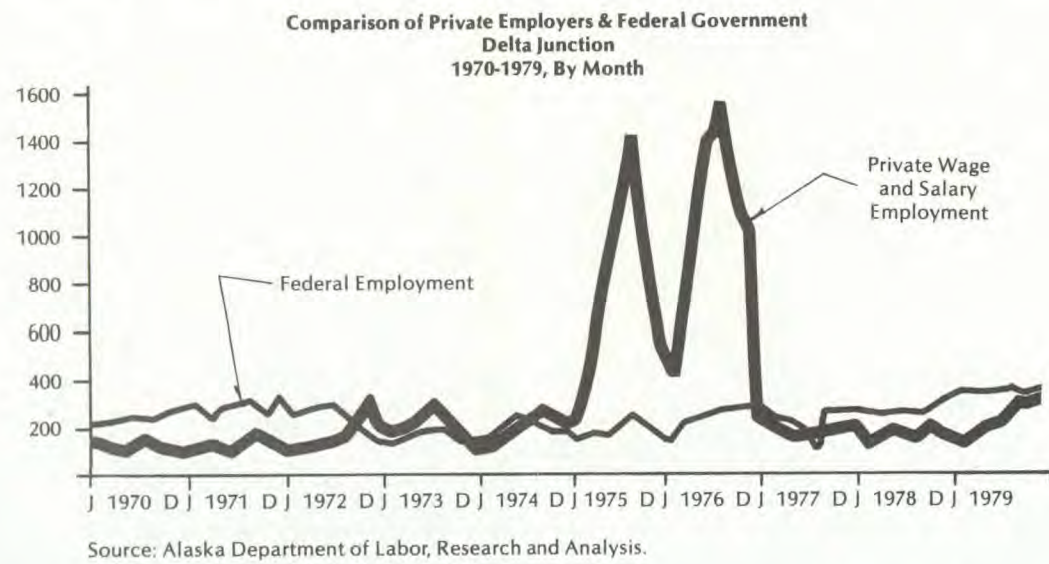
**Population** — The 1960 Census did not include a specific count for Delta Junction and the surrounding area. However, residents estimate that the 1960 population of what is now the city was about 300 persons. They estimated that an additional 400 residents lived within a 20-mile radius of the city. Adding these figures to the 1,536 people enumerated by the census at Ft. Greely, the area's 1960 population was about 2,200 persons. In 1970, the census counted 703 persons in the City of Delta Junction, 1,820 at Ft. Greely and 609 in the surrounding area for a total population of 3,132.

In 1975, the City of Delta Junction funded a special census which counted 892 residents within the city limits. During the building of the trans-Alaska pipeline, a construction camp was located 8 miles north of the city. The camp's population peaked at 1,550 workers in August 1975. Preliminary, unofficial counts for the 1980 Census showed 1,006

persons in the City of Delta Junction, and 1,345 in the outlying areas. Combining this with the 1,222 military personnel and dependents living on base at Ft. Greely brings the total Delta area population for 1980 to an estimated 3,340 persons.

**Economy** — For most of its history the Delta area's economic base has been highway-related services and Ft. Greely, Alaska Department of Labor (ADOL) figures indicate that in 1978 the total average annual wage and salary employment for the area was 572 persons. Of this total, 43% were federal workers, 31% employees of private businesses, 19% local government workers (primarily school district) and 7% state personnel. Private businesses employed 180 persons. However, in the Delta area there are a significant number of self-employed persons who are not included in these statistics. As a result, private sector employment is underestimated in the ADOL figures.

Figure 1  
Wage and Salary Employment



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis.



Barley is the major crop yield of the Delta Agricultural Project.

Much of this private employment is in highway-related services. The 6 motel/lodges, 6 restaurants, 8 lounges, and 5 service stations provide year-round employment for an estimated 60-65 residents. There are approximately 55 residents employed in retail sales businesses in Delta Junction that include a shopping center with a department store and a supermarket, a building supply store, a sporting goods store, an automotive store, a TV and appliance store, 2 gift shops, 2 greenhouses, and 5 liquor stores, among others. Thirty-two Delta area residents are currently employed by Alyeska Pipeline Service Company at Pump Stations 9 and 10.

Figure 1 graphs average monthly private wage and salary employment for Delta Junction since 1970. It shows that with the exception of the 1975-76 oil pipeline construction period, private sector employment has been fairly stable. Although area employment is typically higher in the summer and lower in winter, the seasonal fluctuations are not severe.

Except during construction of the oil pipeline, Ft. Greely has been the area's major employer. In April 1980 the post had 180 permanent wage grade and civil service positions and 20 temporary positions. Base officials indicated that 35 of these positions were filled by military dependents. In addition the post has positions which are paid through non-appropriated funds, i.e., salaries that are self-supporting. Most of these are part-time positions such as commissary and officers' club workers. There were 54 non-appropriated fund positions in April 1980 and only 7 of them were filled by civilians.

Other federal employment in the Delta area includes 12 full-time Federal Aviation Administration employees; 7 at the U.S. Post office and 2 at the Soil Conservation Service office. Figure 1 shows average monthly federal employment in Delta Junction since 1970. This includes civilian personnel on Ft. Greely and other federal agencies. State employees in Delta Junction in spring 1980 included: 8 at the Department of Transportation, 4 at the Division of Lands, 5 at the State Troopers, 4 at the Department of Fish and Game, 4 at the Court

System and 2 at the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Office. In the past 2 years the state has also hired a large number of temporary emergency fire fighters during the summer months. The Delta/Grady School District had 155 district personnel in spring 1980. The City of Delta Junction retains one full-time employee, a city clerk.



These grain elevators at the Delta Agricultural Project provide storage for a total of 250,000 bushels.

Further stability has been injected into Delta Junction's economy in recent years due to state support for agricultural development in the area. In 1978 agricultural rights to 58,000 acres of undeveloped state land near Delta Junction were sold by lottery. The tracts ranged in size from 2,000 to 3,600 acres. Individual farmers were able to secure loans made available through legislative appropriations for purchasing and clearing the land. State loans were also provided for a grain elevator, grain drying, a handling system, and other components of the agricultural production and marketing infrastructure.

Barley and rapeseed are expected to be the major crops produced for domestic use and for export. As a part of the project, a test marketing program was undertaken in 1979 for nearly 3,000 tons of barley grown on farmland in the Delta area. Much of the barley was equal to or better than export quality, thereby affirming the exportability of the production crops. As the availability of feed grain increases in Alaska, it is anticipated that the livestock industry will expand as well, adding even greater diversity to the area's economy. However, most activity to date has been land clearing.

In addition to the Delta Agricultural Project, agricultural rights to 6,000 acres of state land are being sold in smaller tracts of 20 to 325 acres in the Tanana Loop area north of Delta Junction. Another 10,000 acres are to be offered at lottery near Delta Junction during the spring of 1980. These tracts are also being developed for diversified farming enterprises.



These brome haystacks are another major product group of the Delta Project.



Modern farm machinery like this haystacker allows efficient harvesting of Delta Agricultural Project crops.

Prepared by Darbyshire and Associates, with Research Design Productions, under contract with Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company, June 1980.

**Government** — Delta Junction was incorporated in 1960 as a second-class city with a mayor-council form of government. The mayor is elected by the 7-member city council. A city clerk is the only employee retained by the city. As a second-class city, Delta Junction is able to assume diverse municipal powers under state law (Figure 1). At present, the city does not assess municipal sales or property taxes.

Delta Junction is a participant in the State of Alaska's revenue-sharing program; it is eligible to receive financial assistance for certain public services. With funds allocated on a per capita basis, the city received \$35,263 for fiscal year 1979 and will receive \$34,292 in fiscal year 1980. Federal revenue sharing funds for the city totaled \$8,000 for fiscal year 1979. Delta Junction has also been the recipient of the following special appropriation funds: \$300,000 in 1976 for pipeline impact; \$120,000 in 1976 for an addition to the fire hall and an additional fire truck; \$20,000 in 1978 for legal assistance; \$96,000 in 1979 for erosion control; \$100,000 in 1980 for streets; and \$250,000 in 1980 for a community recreation center.

For purposes of regional government, Alaska is divided into a system of organized and unorganized boroughs. The 11 organized boroughs cover about 40% of the state; Delta Junction is part of the single Unorganized Borough which covers the remainder of the state. The Unorganized Borough is unincorporated; no taxes are currently levied. The state legislature sits as the assembly for the Unorganized Borough, and has established local school district boundaries (Rural Education Attendance Areas or REAA's) throughout the Unorganized Borough area.



The small farms of the Tanana Loop Agricultural Project range in size from 20 to 325 acres.

**Land Ownership** — Land status within the City of Delta Junction is very complex. Major landowners include the State of Alaska, the University of Alaska, the federal government, private landholders, and the City of Delta Junction. Of the 9,023 acres of land within the municipal boundaries, approximately 4,000 acres (44%) are owned by the state, 2,140 acres (24%) are held by the University of Alaska and 65 acres are owned by BLM. The city has selected 320 acres (about 3 1/2%) in the core area, and will select 80 additional acres under the State Municipal Lands Program.

Starting in the early 1930's numerous applications for title to land were filed in the Delta area in accordance with federal public land laws, and from 1930 to the mid-1970's parcels of land were conveyed to individuals meeting the requirements of these laws. Perhaps the most important public land law under which entries were made was the Homestead Act of 1862. Under the law, parcels could be obtained for up to 320 acres (until an amendment in 1916 reduced parcel sizes to 160 acres). The primary requirements of the Homestead Act were cultivation, residence, and the building of a habitable dwelling. Homestead tracts and headquarters sites of 5 acres and trade and manufacturing sites to 80 acres could also be obtained. These federal programs were terminated primarily due to land selections filed by the state under the Statehood Act, and to a lesser degree, by Public Land Orders issued by the federal government in the early 1970's.

In the past 10 years land has been made available to private individuals by the state. The state has pursued various programs of disposal in the Delta area on lands patented to the state. These programs include agricultural sales, lotteries, entry programs, and leasing programs. These state programs are and will continue to be important to the area, especially as the agricultural potential is further developed.



In order to clear the fields on this 3500 acre farm the berm piles were disposed of by burning.

**Transportation** — Delta Junction's location where the Alaska and Richardson Highways meet affords the community access to and from the state's major population centers. Several overland truck carriers serve Delta Junction with daily deliveries of groceries, fuel oil, and other bulk supplies. Week-day bus service to Fairbanks and bi-weekly service to Whitehorse are available year-round. Bus service to the area increases in the summer with 4 additional weekly runs on the same routes.

There is no municipal airport in Delta Junction. Some pilots in the area make use of Allen Army Airfield at Ft. Greely, a U.S. Army controlled airfield with 3 paved runways. The FAA maintains a Flight Service Station at the airfield which provides weather service and pilot advisories. The airfield is equipped for instrument landings during reduced weather conditions. Some community residents make use of the BLM grass and gravel airstrip east of the Richardson Highway north of the junction. In addition, there are a number of unimproved landing areas that are used by small, private aircraft. Although there is no regularly scheduled air service to Delta Junction, 2 local air taxi

services offer charter service to Delta area residents. Also, residents are within 2 hours driving time of Fairbanks International Airport which offers domestic and international flights.

In spring 1977, the legislature approved funds to designate a utility corridor for a potential extension of the Alaska Railroad from the Fairbanks area to the Canadian border. In 1978, the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT/PF) proposed a route which would follow the Tanana River drainage for most of its length. In the Delta area the corridor crosses the Richardson Highway just north of the Jarvis Creek bridge before entering Ft. Greely property.



This access road from the Alaska Highway to the Delta Agricultural Project was constructed in 1979.



Photographs courtesy of Delta Agricultural Project and University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Service



The University of Alaska maintains Agricultural Experimental Plots in the Delta region as well.



Potatoes are one of the most successful cold crops on the small farms of the Tanana Loop Agricultural Project northeast of Delta Junction.

**Public Safety** — Delta Junction's Volunteer Fire Department has a total membership of 30 residents and an active force of 12. The department offers inspection services as well as emergency services. The city's 5 fire trucks cover the following service area: north to Mile 275 on the Richardson Highway, south to Mile 255 on the Richardson Highway, and east to Mile 1412 on the Alaska Highway. The city also has overlapping mutual aid agreements with the State of Alaska, Ft. Greely, and Alyeska Pipeline Service Company.

There are 21 active emergency medical technician II's residing in Delta Junction. Ten are certified in advanced cardiac life support. The city clerk operates the emergency communication system during office hours and volunteers man the system at night and on weekends. In an emergency the ambulance, which is operated by volunteers, is used to transport patients to Fairbanks Memorial Hospital. In 1979 the state legislature appropriated \$35,000 for a new 4-wheel drive ambulance to improve service to the outlying areas. It is expected to arrive in summer 1980. The emergency medical services area extends north to the border of the North Star Borough, south to Black Rapids

on the Richardson Highway, and east to the Johnson River on the Alaska Highway. In addition, in certain emergencies the physician's assistant at the Delta Junction Clinic can obtain a Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic (MAST) military helicopter dispatched from Ft. Wainwright to transport patients to Fairbanks.

Two Alaska State Troopers serve the Delta area with a full range of law enforcement/community protection services. The Delta service area extends north to the Richardson Roadhouse, south to Summit Lake on the Richardson Highway, and from Delta Junction east to Dot Lake on the Alaska Highway. Office hours are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If there is an emergency, other than during office hours, the phone is answered in Fairbanks where an Alaska State Trooper dispatcher determines whether a Delta Junction trooper should be called.

An acting district court judge is permanently assigned to the Delta Junction courthouse where both criminal and civil cases are tried. In the absence of the judge a local resident serves as magistrate. A private attorney from Fairbanks travels to Delta Junction once a week by appointment. There is one veterinarian in Delta Junction who provides care for both large and small animals.



McComb Plateau, mile 1379 on the Alaska Highway, is part of the state designated Delta Wild Lands.

Figure 4  
Calendar of Hunting, Fishing and Related Activities

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
*Sheep												
*Moose												
Black Bear, *Grizzly												
Bison <sup>1</sup>												
Rabbit												
*Ptarmigan, Grouse, Spruce Hens												
*Ducks, Geese												
*Caribou <sup>2</sup>												
Trapping												
Fur Bearers												
Whitefish												
Burbot												
Pike												
Grayling												
*Salmon												
Berry Picking												
Gardening												
Farming												
Wood Gathering												
Dog Mushing												
Cross-country Skiing												
Downhill Skiing												
Snow Machining												

\*Season for harvest of species subject to Fish and Game regulations.  
<sup>1</sup>Available by lottery only, 35 permits were issued, there were approximately 3,500 applications from all areas of the state.  
<sup>2</sup>In certain areas by permit only



Many area residents mush dogs in winter for transportation as well as recreation.

**Health and Social Services** — Health care is provided in the Delta Junction Clinic, a family practice/emergency health care facility which is a satellite of the Fairbanks Clinic. It is staffed by a physician's assistant (PA), a registered nurse and 2 secretary/receptionist/lab technicians. The 1,100 sq. ft. clinic which averages 18-20 patients per day, has 2 examination rooms, an emergency room, a lab, and a pharmacy. Equipment in the clinic includes an electrocardiograph (EKG), defibrillator, a respirator, an x-ray unit, and 2 cardiac telemetry units.

Specialists from the Fairbanks Clinic and the Fairbanks Mental Health Center visit on a regular basis. These include a doctor of obstetrics and gynecology 3 times a month; an ear, nose, and throat specialist once a month; and a clinical psychologist twice a month. In addition, a group of 21 active emergency medical technician II's, 3 of whom are always on call, serve the Delta Junction community. In life and death situations when the PA is not available, patients may be treated on Ft. Greely.

A state public health nurse (PHN) based in Tok spends one week

a month in Delta Junction. The PHN works out of a small clinic which is stocked with supplies necessary for the preventive services she provides. She gives immunizations, school screenings and physicals, deals with communicable disease prevention and treatment, home visits, and counseling and referral services. She also conducts clinics in prenatal care, family planning, and well-baby and child care.

A fully equipped dental clinic, staffed by a dentist and dental hygienist, has been in operation in Delta Junction since September 1978.

State Division of Social Services social worker travels to Delta Junction twice monthly and as needed on an emergency basis. The worker provides information and referral services, individual and family counseling, and child and adult protection services. A local person acts as a fee agent assisting residents in making application for public assistance programs. In February 1980, 30 Delta area residents were receiving public assistance (old age assistance, aid to the disabled, and/or aid to families with dependent children) and 95 households were receiving food stamps.



COMMUNITY MAP  
**DELTA JUNCTION**  
SHEET ONE

64°02'N 145°44'W Elevation 1175'

**Northwest Alaskan**  
PIPELINE COMPANY

Prepared by Darbyshire and Associates, with Research Design Productions, under contract with Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company, June 1980.

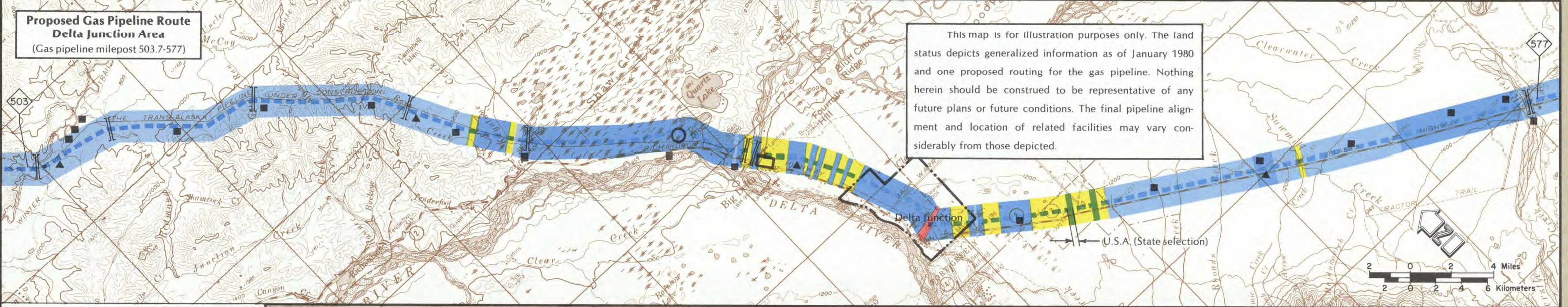
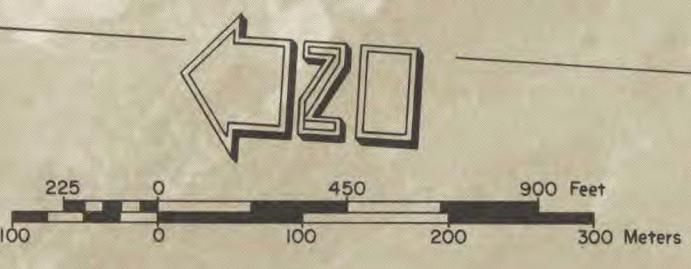
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Delta River to the North West corner of PLO 255, thence, in an Easterly direction approximately two and three-quarters (2-3/4) miles to the North East corner of PLO 255, thence, East an additional one-quarter (1/4) miles to Section line dividing Sections 29 and 30, T 10 S, R 11 E, thence North approximately four and one-eighth (4-1/8) miles to the point of beginning.

The area contains approximately thirteen and one-half (13-1/2) sections and thirteen and one-half (13-1/2) square miles.



This map is for illustration purposes only. The land status depicts generalized information as of January 1980 and one proposed routing for the gas pipeline. Nothing herein should be construed to be representative of any future plans or future conditions. The final pipeline alignment and location of related facilities may vary considerably from those depicted.

- Proposed gas pipeline route**
- Land status:
- U.S.A.
  - U.S.A. (State tentatively approved)
  - State patented
  - State (Delta Junction municipal selection)
  - Private (excluding Native corporation)
- Proposed pipeline facilities:
- Material site
  - Pipe storage area
  - Future compressor station
  - Construction camp
  - River or major stream crossing
  - Gas pipeline milepost

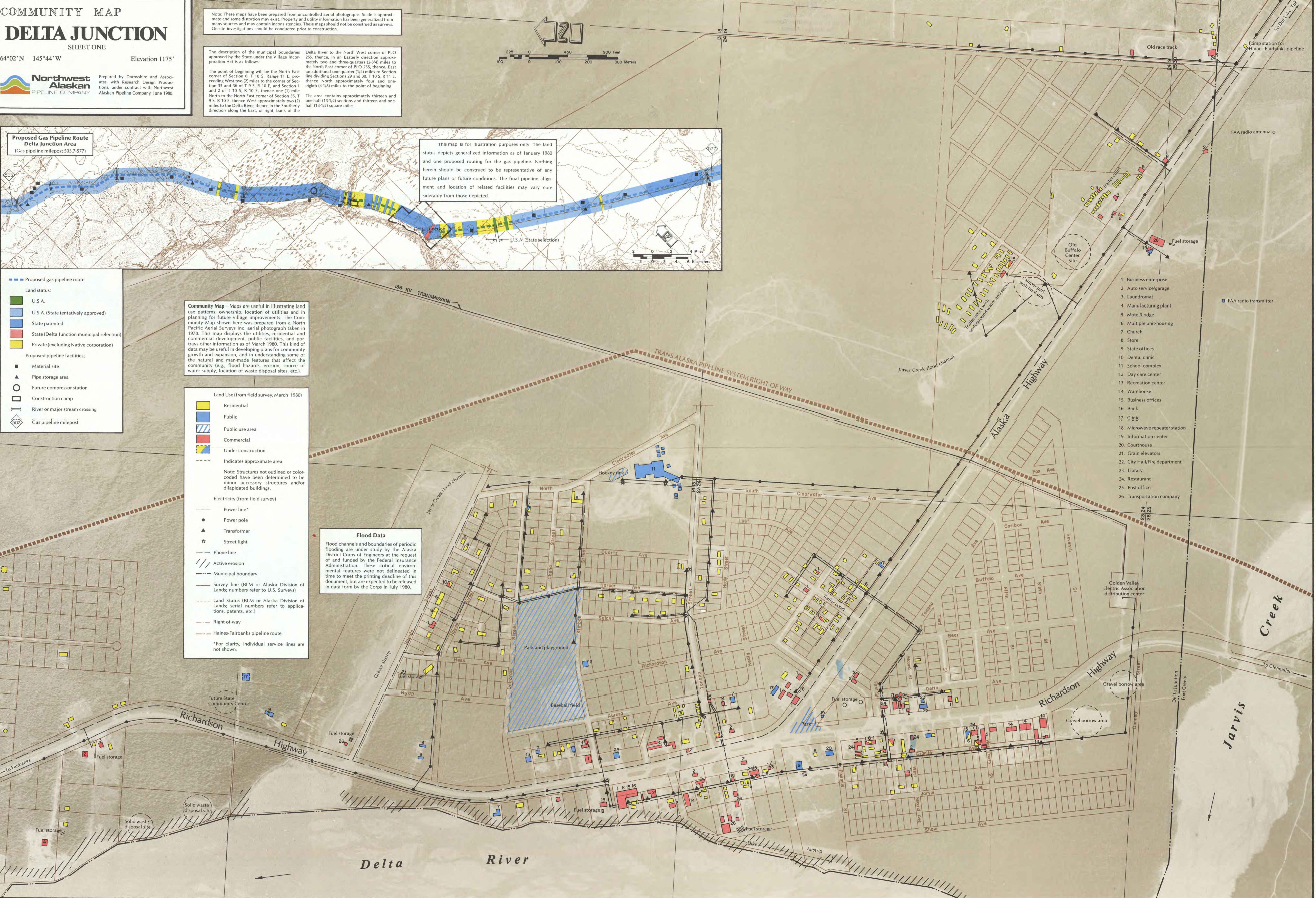
**Community Map**—Maps are useful in illustrating land use patterns, ownership, location of utilities and in planning for future village improvements. The Community Map shown here was prepared from a North Pacific Aerial Surveys Inc. aerial photograph taken in 1978. This map displays the utilities, residential and commercial development, public facilities, and portrays other information as of March 1980. This kind of data may be useful in developing plans for community growth and expansion, and in understanding some of the natural and man-made features that affect the community (e.g., flood hazards, erosion, source of water supply, location of waste disposal sites, etc.).

- Land Use (from field survey, March 1980)**
- Residential
  - Public
  - Public use area
  - Commercial
  - Under construction
  - Indicates approximate area
- Note: Structures not outlined or color-coded have been determined to be minor accessory structures and/or dilapidated buildings.
- Electricity (from field survey)**
- Power line\*
  - Power pole
  - Transformer
  - Street light
  - Phone line
  - Active erosion
  - Municipal boundary
  - Survey line (BLM or Alaska Division of Lands; numbers refer to U.S. Surveys)
  - Land Status (BLM or Alaska Division of Lands; serial numbers refer to applications, patents, etc.)
  - Right-of-way
  - Haines-Fairbanks pipeline route
- \*For clarity, individual service lines are not shown.

**Flood Data**

Flood channels and boundaries of periodic flooding are under study by the Alaska District Corps of Engineers at the request of and funded by the Federal Insurance Administration. These critical environmental features were not delineated in time to meet the printing deadline of this document, but are expected to be released in data form by the Corps in July 1980.

- Business enterprise
- Auto service/garage
- Laundromat
- Manufacturing plant
- Motel/Lodge
- Multiple unit-housing
- Church
- Store
- State offices
- Dental clinic
- School complex
- Day care center
- Recreation center
- Warehouse
- Business offices
- Bank
- Clinic
- Microwave repeater station
- Information center
- Courthouse
- Grain elevators
- City Hall/Fire department
- Library
- Restaurant
- Post office
- Transportation company





# DELTA JUNCTION

SHEET TWO

38755 000 2 955 35

ARLIS  
Alaska Resources  
Library & Information Services  
Anchorage, Alaska

Northwest  
Alaskan  
PIPELINE COMPANY

Prepared by Darbyshire and Associ-  
ates, with Research Design Produc-  
tions, under contract with Northwest  
Alaskan Pipeline Company, June 1980.

4T  
29.5  
-4.4  
3.40  
1980

## Land Use and Community Facilities

**Housing** — A survey done in April 1980 (Table 1) in conjunction with this profile found that there were 430 housing units within the Delta Junction city limits. There were 328 single family housing units, or 76% of the total and 102 multi-family housing units, or 24% of the total. Fifty percent of the single family housing units were mobile homes, 45% were of wood-frame construction and 5% were of log construction. There are 7 apartment houses (i.e., those with 5 or more units) in the city with a total of 71 units. At the present time there is a

housing shortage in Delta Junction with very few rental units available. Included in the available rental housing stock are 21 mobile homes. In addition, there are 29 available spaces in trailer courts with water, sewer, and electric hookups. There were about 8 new housing starts in the city in 1979-80. It is also important to note here that in May 1980, 432 of Ft. Greely's military and their dependents were living off-post in the Delta Junction area, while the remaining 1,222 lived on post.



An estimated 45% of the single family residences in Delta Junction are of wood-frame construction.



Several ranches in the Clearwater region southeast of the Delta Junction city limits raise horses and some cattle.



A total of 6 motel/lodges serves visitors to Delta Junction. Most have adjoining cafes, restaurants, or bars.



A total of approximately 165 mobile homes in Delta Junction makes up 50% of the single family housing stock.



Commercial businesses in Delta Junction provide necessary services for residents as well as passing tourists.



This office building on the Alaska Highway houses several public agencies and private businesses.



Delta Junction Elementary and High School was built in 1960 and accommodates students in grades K-6 and 9-12. Junior high students in Delta Junction attend Ft. Greely School.

**Education** — There are 2 schools in the Delta/Greely School District: 1 in Delta Junction and 1 in Ft. Greely. Each facility has an elementary school for grades K-6. However, all junior high students, grades 7-8, attend school on Ft. Greely, while all high school students, grades 9-12, go to the Delta Junction School. Since Delta Junction is not in an organized borough, the school system is funded by the state but is locally controlled by an elected 7-member school board. The district office has a staff of 7.

The first 5 classrooms of the Delta Junction School were built in 1960 and since that time there have been 8 additions. In spring 1980, the school had 445 pupils, a teaching staff of 45, and a support staff of 16. The school complex has 26 classrooms, a library, 2 science labs, 2 multipurpose gymnasiums, a woodshop, a welding shop, a home economics room, an agricultural lab, 2 resource rooms, and administrative offices.

Ft. Greely Elementary and Junior High School, located 5 miles southwest of Delta Junction on Ft. Greely Military Base, was built in 1954. In spring 1980 it had an enrollment of 405 students and a teaching staff of 24. The school has 17 classrooms, other facilities include a library, music room, arts and crafts room, kitchen, multipurpose room, and 2 resource rooms.

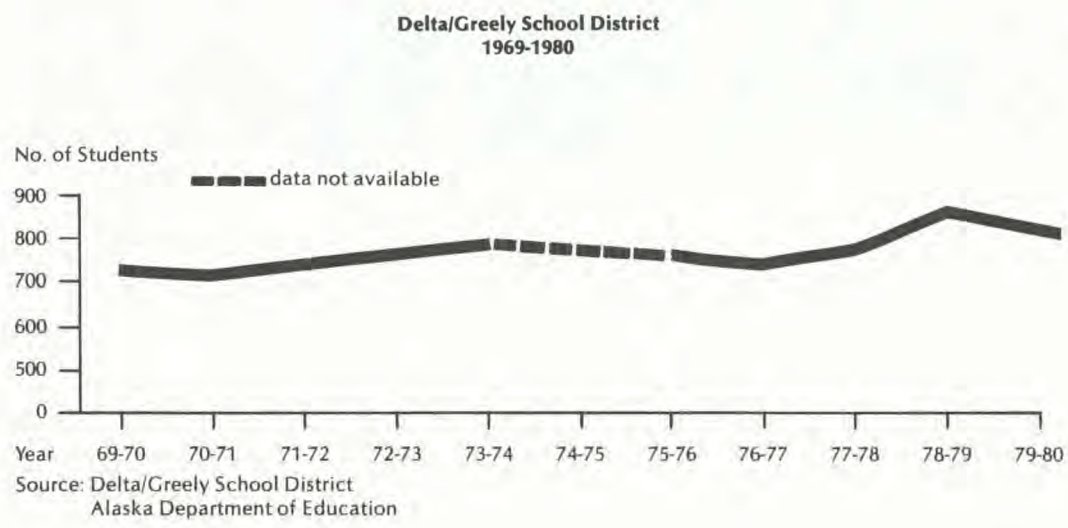
Figure 1 illustrates school enrollment trends for the Delta area over the past 10 years. Enrollment increased from 715 students in the 1969-70 school year to 812 students during the 1979-80 term, an increase of 14%. Prior to construction of the trans-Alaska pipeline, it was projected the school system would be impacted by an additional 176 students, predominantly children of pipeline workers. However,

during construction of the oil pipeline (1974-1977), school enrollment declined 4%. Two factors apparently contributed to this decline: 1) the number of pipeline workers who relocated their families to the Delta area was less than anticipated; and 2) during the same period the number of military personnel who were able to relocate their families decreased due to a shortage of housing.

The superintendent of schools estimates that the Delta and Ft. Greely schools are presently filled to about 85% of their capacity. An additional 5 classrooms will be built in 1980 and a \$2.1 million expansion program for 1981 is pending in the state legislature. The superintendent indicated that with completion of these additions, the system should be able to accommodate a substantial increase in students.

On July 1, 1980 the Delta/Greely Community Education Program (CEP) will merge with University of Alaska Rural Education to coordinate administration of a variety of post-secondary and vocational programs for area residents. CEP offers faculty enrichment and adult education programs in the arts, humanities, business administration, and vocational training. In addition, the joint program will offer a wide variety of credit courses through the University of Alaska and Tanana Valley Community College. A new \$750,000 joint-use facility with 5 classrooms, 4 offices, and a library/conference room will be built adjacent to Delta Junction School in 1980. At present most classes are held at Delta Junction School in the evening. In addition, the University of Alaska Cooperative Extension Office in Delta Junction offers commercial agricultural education programs to meet the needs of farmers starting out in Delta-Clearwater's developing agricultural industry.

Figure 1  
School Enrollment



**Electricity and Heat** — Golden Valley Electric Association in Fairbanks supplies electricity in the Delta Junction area at the same rate structure as Fairbanks. The minimum monthly cost per single family dwelling, apartment or farm is \$10 at a rate of \$1543/kilowatt hour for the first 100 kwh, \$0.0829/kwh for the next 1,400 kwh, and \$0.0650/kwh for over 1,500 kwh per month. At present, there 793 individual hookups to this system. Some residents have small, standby generators.

Most homes in the Delta Junction area have oil-burning furnaces. Oil- and wood-burning stoves serve as secondary and sometimes primary sources of heat in some homes. Most fuel is trucked to Delta Junction from the North Pole Refinery by private overland carriers and stored in commercial bulk fuel storage tanks in town. Fuel is delivered in the area by local distributors. In May 1980 fuel oil sold for \$5.83/gallon in Delta Junction. Many residents use propane for cooking. Some residents in the Delta-Clearwater area have been experimenting with alternative energy sources.

**Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste** — A central water and sewer system in Delta Junction does not appear practical because businesses and residences are widely dispersed over a large area. Water quality in the Delta area is excellent and wells vary from 15 to 250 feet deep. There is no sewage treatment plant in Delta Junction. Most residents have septic tanks which are emptied periodically by a private carrier with a pumping truck. Some residents in outlying areas do not have indoor plumbing.

Solid waste is hauled by individuals or by a private sanitation service which offers pickup and delivery to the solid waste disposal site which is operated as a sanitary landfill. It is located 7 miles north-east of the city center just off Jack Warren Road.

**Communications** — Glacier State Telephone Company, based in North Pole, provides telephone service for Delta Junction residents. There are 560 subscribers in Delta Junction who pay the following within the base rate area: \$20.95/month for a single party line, \$18.10/month for a 2-party line, \$15.20/month for a 4-party line and \$30.70/month for commercial service. Rates rise for each one-quarter mile outside the base rate area. Service will be expanded to the nearby Clearwater area in December 1980. The rate structure is expected to be the same. Citizens band radios are used extensively as a supplement to the telephone.

On August 31, 1980 Glacier State Telephone Co. will assume the contract for telephone service to Ft. Greely. Residential service will be offered to military users at a rate of \$20.95/month with a surcharge of \$4.55/month. All service on the base will be single party only. It is expected that there will be 280 to 350 hookups.

Television signals from Fairbanks stations KUAC, KFAR, and KTVF are received in Delta Junction via a microwave translator at Donnelly Dome. Reception on an estimated 1,000 sets in town varies depending on location. Fairbanks cable television will be extended to Ft. Greely in the summer of 1980. Broadcasts from 8 radio stations, 2 from Ft. Greely and 6 from Fairbanks are received in Delta Junction.

The Delta Paper is written, printed, and distributed locally each week. Other papers received in the area are the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner and the Anchorage Times. Mail is delivered daily by truck from Fairbanks.

## Environmental Considerations



Flower gardens proliferate in the 24-hour sunshine of the summer months in the Delta Junction area.

**Climate** — Delta Junction is in the continental climate zone, which is characterized by long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. The average lows (Ft. Greely data) for December, January, and February are  $-13^{\circ}\text{F}$ ,  $-11^{\circ}\text{F}$ , and  $-7^{\circ}\text{F}$ , respectively. Average highs are  $66^{\circ}\text{F}$ ,  $69^{\circ}\text{F}$ , and  $64^{\circ}\text{F}$  for June, July, and August, respectively. The highest recorded temperature was  $92^{\circ}\text{F}$ ; the lowest was  $-63^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

The average annual precipitation is 12.19 inches with the greatest average monthly precipitation of 2.70 inches in July. Average annual snowfall measured over a 24-year period was 37.1 inches. Greatest average monthly snowfall measured 6.2 inches for the month of January. Frost can occur in all months.

**Topography, Soils, and Permafrost** — Delta Junction is located on the east bank of the Delta River approximately 9 miles upstream from the confluence of the Delta and Tanana Rivers. The city limits lie between the wide, braided river course of the Delta River immediately to the west and is constrained along the northeast by marshy land running along the foot of a glacial moraine. The Ft. Greely military reservation provides the southern boundary to community expansion.

Development in the Delta Junction area occurs on 2 distinct soil types. Along the Alaska and Richardson Highways it occurs on soils which have evolved primarily from glacial till and under reoccurring flooding conditions of the Delta River. These soils are nearly level and range from well-drained to poorly drained, very fine sandy loams and silt loams. Gravel and cobblestones underlie the soils in nearly all the region. However, there are occurrences of exposed gravel, particularly in the Jarvis Creek flood channel and along the riverbanks. Some residential development is occurring approximately 6 miles northeast of the junction on elevated glacial moraine topography. These soils are well-drained and not subject to flooding. The vegetation is mainly paper birch, quaking aspen, and white spruce in the better drained sites. Black spruce is generally found on sites where drainage is poor, such as the low, waterlogged area northeast of the city.

Permafrost is discontinuous in the area surrounding Delta Junction. The top surface of permafrost is usually located at a depth of less than 30 inches in the thick, silty sediment and in depressions filled with organic material. Thick surface mats of decomposed moss and forest floor litter of leaves and twigs provide insulation to keep the ground from thawing. If this mat is removed or disturbed, it will cause thawing of the permafrost to a greater depth and eventual subsidence of the remaining soils.

**Drainage, Erosion, and Flooding** — Surface drainage within the city limits is excellent because of the permeability of these soils and also due to the existence of shallow drainage channels throughout the city. Some drainage problems exist where the floodplain meets with the moraine topography along the northeast limits of the city. Riverbank erosion by the Delta River is a critical environmental consideration along the riverfront properties of the city center. Additional land is lost each spring during breakup. A river dike has been constructed to check the erosion that is threatening these properties. However, diking has met with limited success. Windblown soils are constantly being deposited from the nearby Delta River silt.

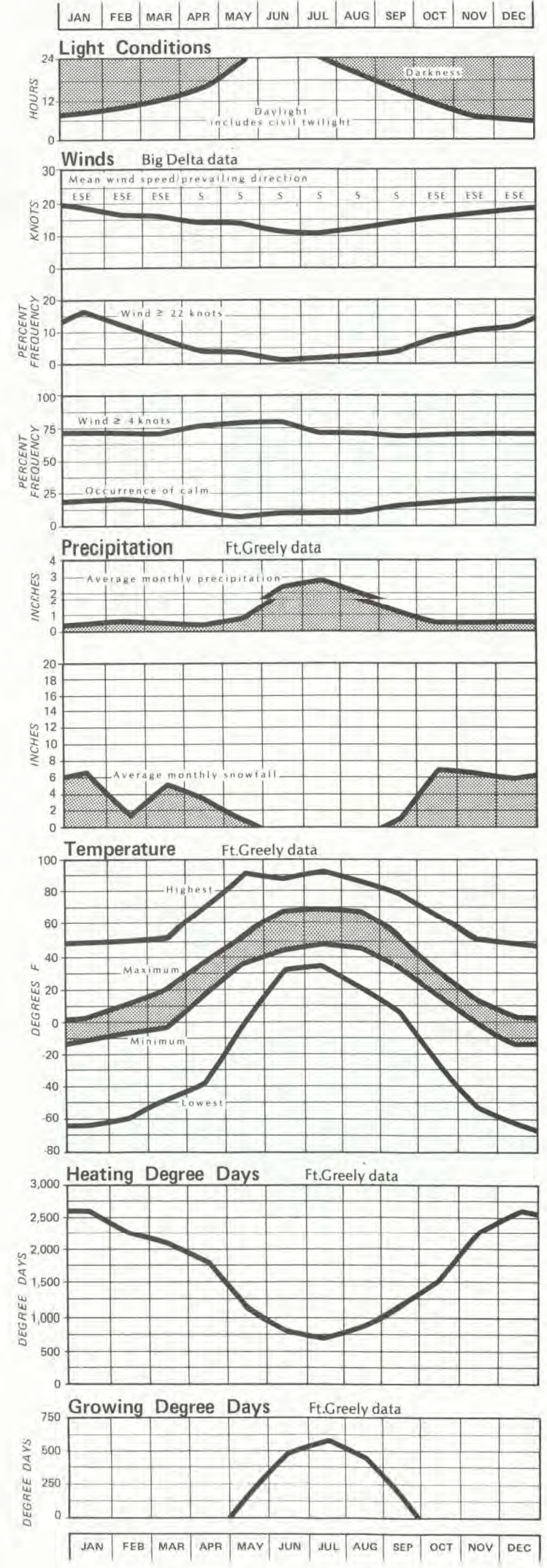
Ice damming of Jarvis Creek can cause water to back up and spill over the bank. This historical occurrence has developed a water drainage course which runs through the center of the city. Flooding of certain outlying areas can occur annually, however, flooding within the city is very infrequent.



Erosion is a serious problem on the east bank of the Delta River near town.

**Acknowledgment:** We would like to thank the many agencies and individuals who provided information for this report. Special thanks goes to the community residents who gave so generously of their time and knowledge at the community meetings which were held to review the content of this profile.

Figure 2  
Climatology





COMMUNITY MAP  
**DELTA JUNCTION**

SHEET TWO

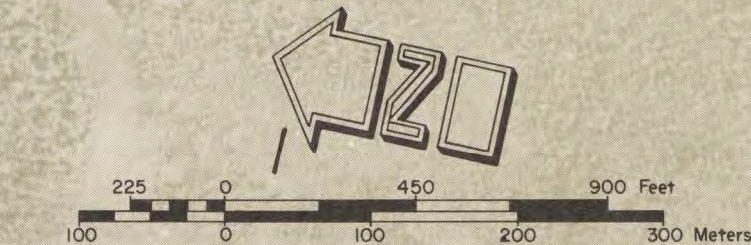
64°02'N 145°44'W

Elevation 1175'



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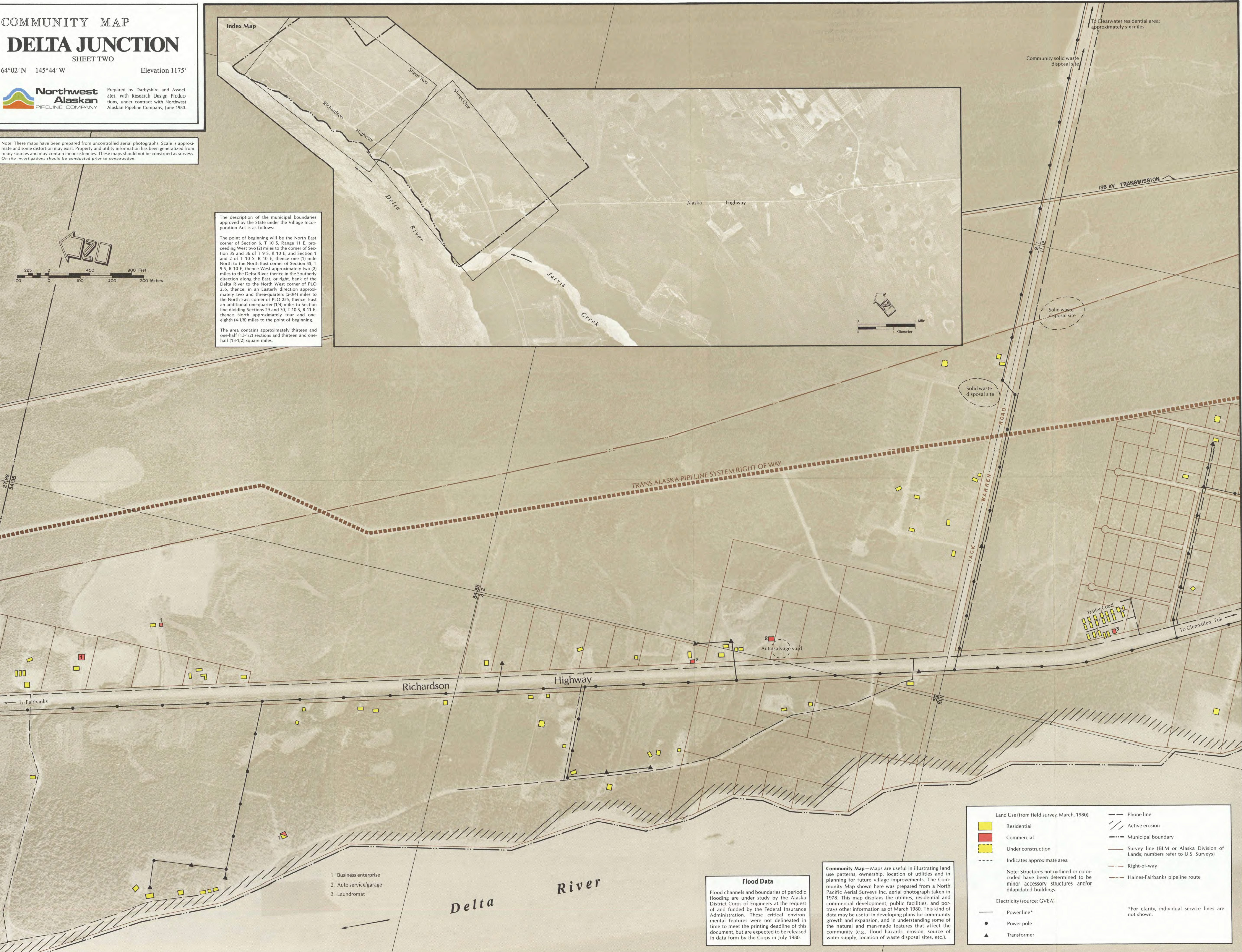
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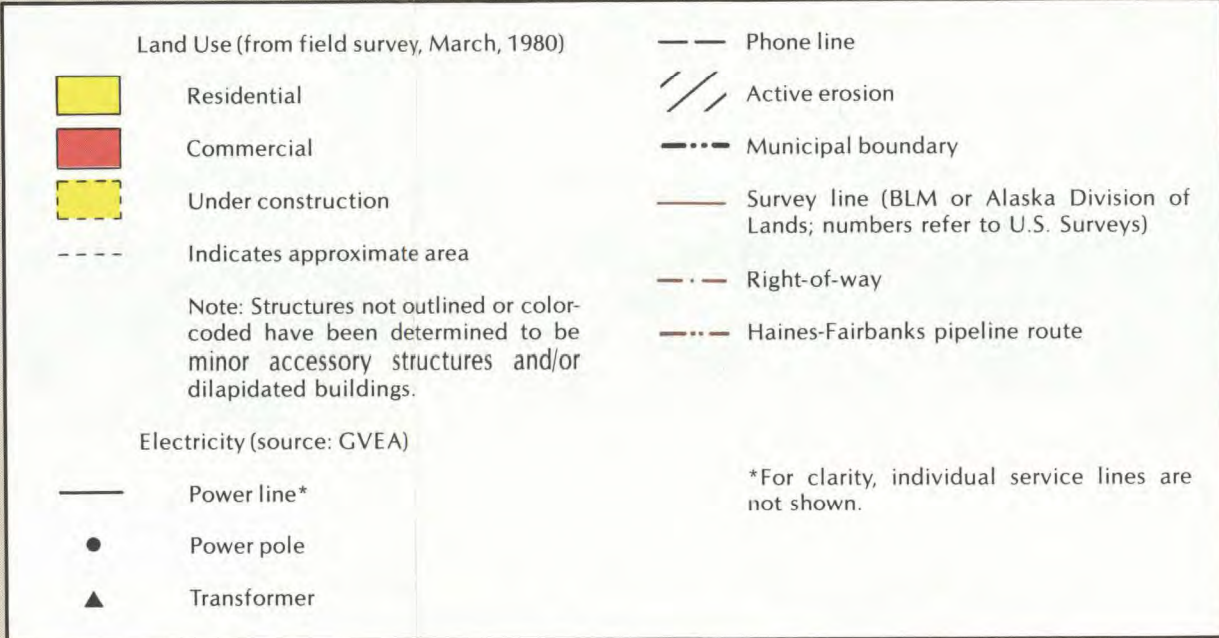


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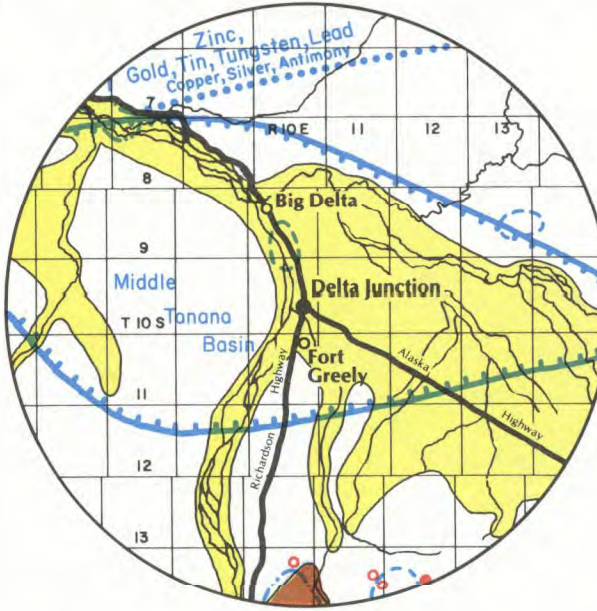
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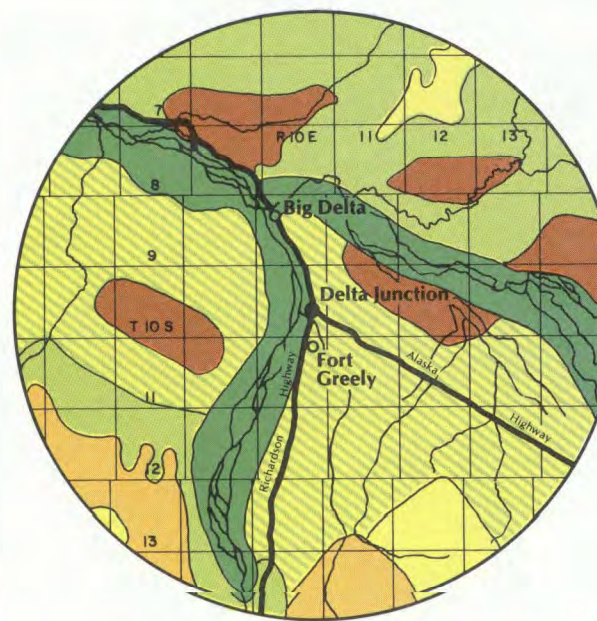


**Natural Resources of Delta Junction**



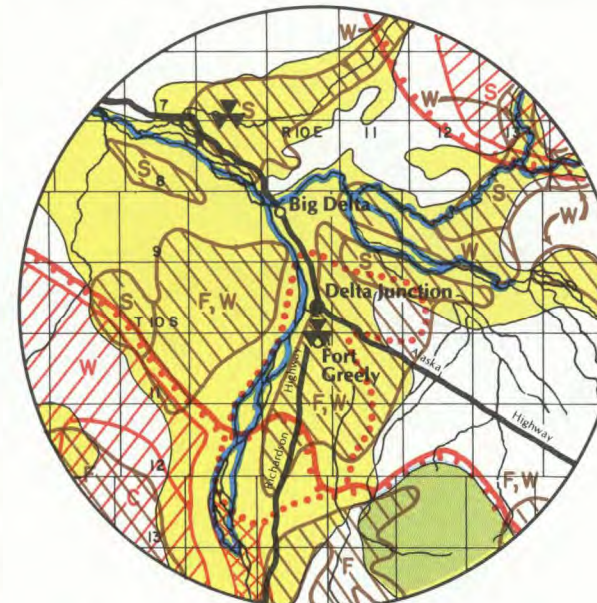
**Minerals**

- Metal province (major and minor commodities designated)
- Intensive mining claim activity area
- - - Moderate to low mining claim activity area
- Lode deposit, prospect or mine
- Placer deposit, prospect or mine
- Oil and gas province or basin—occurrence of oil and gas rated low
- Sand and gravel along major streams
- Coal province or basin containing known deposits



**Vegetation**

- Bottomland spruce—poplar forest
- Upland spruce—hardwood forest
- Lowland spruce—hardwood forest
- Low brush bog and muskeg
- Moist tundra
- Alpine tundra and barren ground



**Mammals, Waterfowl and Fish**

- Low density waterfowl range
- Major anadromous fish stream
- Major freshwater sport fish waters
- Caribou—present within designated area
- Summer range
- Winter range
- Calving area
- Bison range
- Calving area
- Dall sheep range
- Moose—present throughout area
- Spring and summer concentration
- Fall concentration
- Winter concentration



# DOT LAKE



## The Village

**Traditional Council** (May 1980)  
Hazel Kahalewi, Pres.  
Clara Goodman, Secy/Treas.  
Gene Henry  
Abraham Luke  
Vacancy

**Village Corporation** (May 1980)  
Ted Charles, Pres.  
Janet Emerick, V. Pres.  
Hazel Kahalewi, Secy/Treas.  
Stella Miller  
Carl Charles

**History** — Dot Lake is located on the Alaska Highway 155 road miles southeast of Fairbanks and approximately 50 miles northwest of Tok. The village, primarily a Native community, was established in 1946 by the Charles family. Before this, it was a temporary seasonal hunting camp for Natives from the George Lake/Tanacross area. At Healy Lake, about 40 miles away, archaeological excavations have revealed evidence of more than 10,000 years of human habitation and of Athabaskan occupation for at least 3,000 years. An Indian freight trail between Northway, Tetlin, Tanacross, and communities to the north along the Yukon River passed through what is now known as Dot Lake. Dot Lake residents had minimal contact with non-Natives until the Gold Rush days near the turn of the century. They then traveled periodically to the Yukon River to trade for tea, flour, tobacco, guns, and other items. Major contact with outsiders began during construction of the Alaska Highway in the 1940's, when a construction camp known as Sears City occupied Dot Lake's present location. Several local Natives worked on the project. After 1946, families moved permanently to Dot Lake from George Lake, Sam Lake, and the Tanacross area.

A post office and school were built in the community in the late 1940's. The Dot Lake Community Chapel was built by local residents in 1949. Dot Lake became the site of a licensed children's home in the late 1950's. A new children's home was built in 1967, and the existing lodge was built in 1973. Today, Dot Lake is a small commercial highway settlement dominated by a lodge, motel, and gas station.

**Population** — The population of Dot Lake was first recorded in the 1960 U.S. Census when 56 residents were counted. The 1970 Census reported 42 persons, including 29 Natives and 13 whites. Twenty-five residents were male and 17 were female; the median age for the total population was 34.9. The preliminary, unofficial 1980 Census count for Dot Lake is 55 persons. This includes residents of the village and those living along the Alaska Highway 8 miles south of the village and 2 miles to the north.

**Cultural Traditions** — Upper Tanana Athabascans have had direct exposure to Western culture since the late 1800's, following the introduction of trading posts and the entrance of gold miners to the Yukon River region. By the early 1900's Natives in the Dot Lake region were trapping and trading furs for useful items of European manufacture. Although these periodic contacts influenced traditional cultural patterns, the most significant changes followed the establishment of the permanent village of Dot Lake on the Alaska Highway in 1946. This not only disrupted the seminomadic lifestyle, but also paved the way for further Western influences in the form of schools, churches, and occasional opportunities for wage employment. Despite these strong acculturative influences, important elements of the traditional Athabaskan culture remain today.

Dot Lake Natives acknowledge the importance of their cultural heritage and continue to follow numerous traditional practices. The strength of kinship and social bonds leads many Natives to prefer residence in the local region, where they can remain close to relatives and friends; this also reflects the close ties the people have to the land. Traditional foods are served in many homes and are preferred by older village residents. Furs and tanned moosehides are used to make moccasins, mukluks, and mittens, which are worn by persons of all ages. These and other Native crafts are also sold at the local lodge or directly to private parties. The Native diet is used by adults, most frequently in conversations with older persons.

The guidance and wisdom of respected older persons are sought frequently by younger leaders on vital issues affecting the village. Elders play an important role in reinforcing traditional values, leading ceremonial activities, and assisting in the upbringing of children. Older men, especially, enjoy the therapeutic effects of steam baths and the opportunity they provide for social interaction.

Potlaches, ritual gatherings that celebrate significant community events with the exchange of gifts and food, are the major traditional activity in which Dot Lake Natives are active participants. One



This potlatch was held in Dot Lake and attracted people from throughout the Upper Tanana region. Photo courtesy of Ruth Charles.

Figure 2  
Upper Tanana Region Location Map

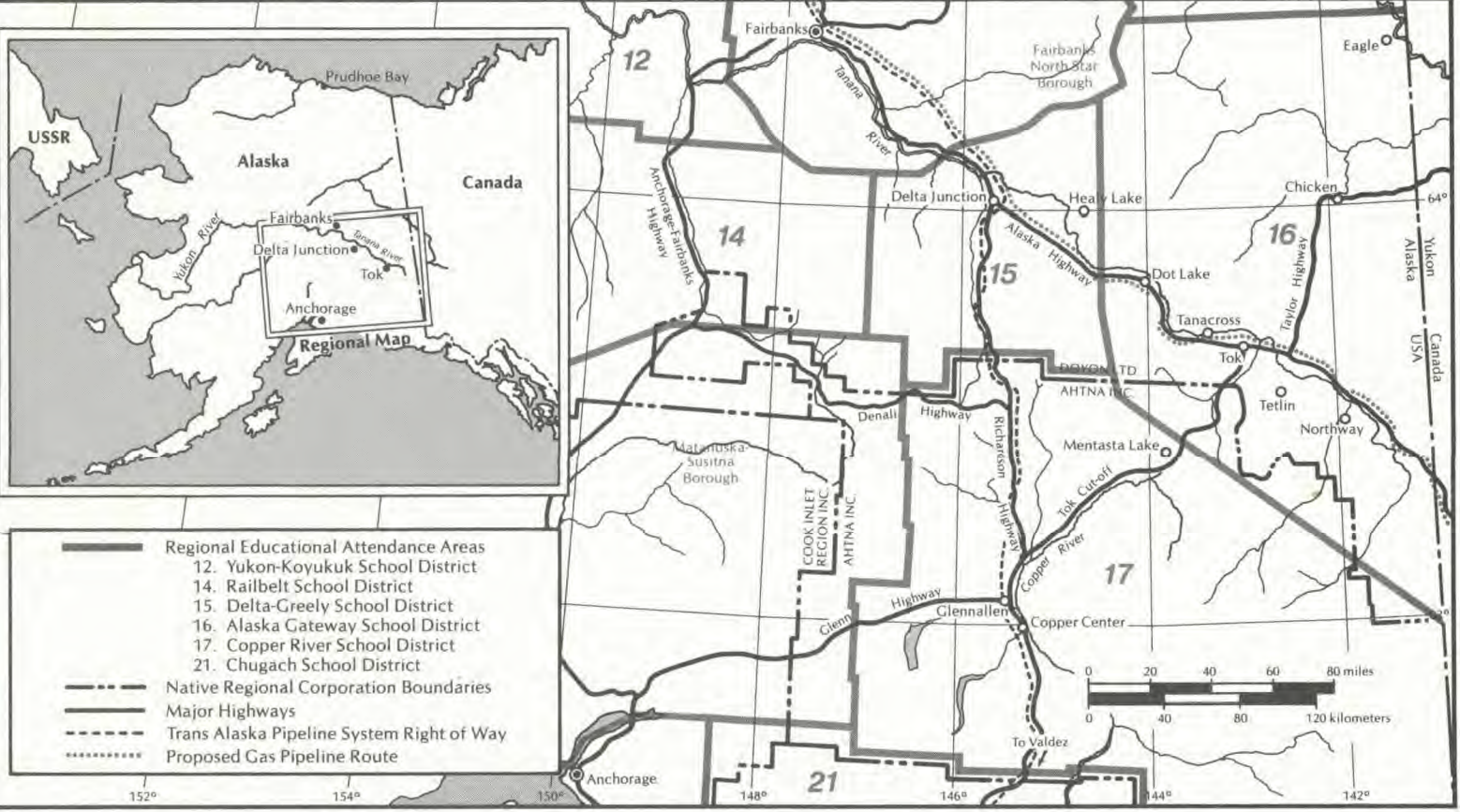


Figure 3  
Mileage Chart

Highway Mileages via Most Direct Overland Route	Anchorage/Canada Border	Anchorage	Big Delta	Dawson City, Canada	Delta Junction	Dot Lake	Fairbanks	Glennallen	Haines	Haines Junction, Canada	Northway Junction	Tanacross	Tetlin Junction	Tok	Whitehorse, Canada
Alaska/Canada Border	421	210	65	201	141	298	232	364	205	43	105	81	93	304	
Anchorage	421	350	524	340	376	358	189	785	626	378	340	340	328	725	
Big Delta	210	350	313	313	303	243	400	334	592	415	167	105	129	117	514
Dawson City, Canada	65	524	313	313	303	243	400	334	592	415	167	105	129	117	514
Delta Junction	201	340	9	303	60	97	151	565	406	555	96	120	108	505	
Dot Lake	141	376	69	243	60	157	187	505	346	98	36	60	48	445	
Fairbanks	298	358	88	400	97	157	248	662	503	652	93	217	205	602	
Glennallen	232	189	160	334	151	187	248	596	437	586	151	151	139	536	
Haines	364	785	574	592	565	505	662	596	159	208	469	445	457	258	
Haines Junction, Canada	205	626	415	433	406	346	503	437	159	49	310	286	298	99	
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Tanacross	105	340	105	207	96	36	93	151	469	310	62	24	12	409	
Tetlin Junction	81	340	129	183	120	60	217	151	445	286	38	24	12	385	
Tok	93	328	117	195	108	48	205	139	457	298	50	12	12	397	
Whitehorse, Canada	304	725	514	334	505	445	602	536	258	99	347	409	385	397	

Source: State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

geese, ptarmigan, grouse, rabbits, and porcupines. Residents fish for whitefish, burbot, pike, and grayling in streams and lakes in the area between spring and early autumn. Many residents also travel to the Copper River area, about 3 hours away by road, for salmon. Marten, lynx, fox, muskrat, and other species are trapped during the winter months. Some furs are used as trim for parkas, footwear, and mittens, but most pelts are sold to fur buyers and provide a seasonal source of income.

Rhubarb and, occasionally, the roots of a leguminous plant (*Hedysarum mackenzii*) are collected in the late spring, while raspberries, blueberries, and other edible berries are gathered in late summer and early autumn. Birchbark and spruce roots are normally obtained in the spring and are used in the construction of baskets and baby carriers. Wooden spoons, snowshoes, and drum frames are made occasionally from white birch, which can be obtained as needed throughout the year. Figure 1 illustrates the annual cycle of subsistence activities for Dot Lake residents.

**Economy and Employment** — There is a limited number of job opportunities available for Dot Lake residents: a health aide and an alternate health aide at the community clinic; a maintenance person for the village pumphouse and laundromat; a combination secretary-teacher aide; a secretary for the council and a maintenance person for the school. Two of the 3 teachers in the school commute from Tok. Village employment peaks during the summer when additional employees are hired at the local lodge and for fire fighting crews for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Usually there is additional employment on summer construction projects and in guiding for hunters and fishermen.

Local handicrafts include the making of parkas, moccasins, and gloves. Some residents do intricate beadwork which is sewn on headbands, chokers, moccasins, eyeglass cases, cigarette cases, and small change purses. These handicrafts are often sold at the local lodge or on an individual basis.

The Eagle's Rest Motel has 4 motel rooms plus one 3-bedroom apartment. In addition, the lodge has a cafe, store, post office, and gas station. The grocery store has a small assortment of canned goods, flour, sugar, paper products, and a limited supply of fresh foods. Directly behind the lodge is a trailer/camper park which can accommodate a dozen trailers. Cookstoves and tables are provided. There is a well drilled for these facilities, although it is not hooked up. A septic tank has been installed.

The village council owns and operates the laundromat/utility building in the community. The laundromat has 3 washers, 3 driers, a shower, and lavatory. The community hall is a focal point for village meetings, potlaches, dinners, movies, and dances.

The village corporations of Dot Lake, Healy Lake, Tetlin, and Northway have formed Chisana, Ltd., a joint venture with Alaska Constructors, Inc. which hopes to secure construction contracts for member corporations.

**Government** — Dot Lake's Native population is represented by a 5-member traditional council which is recognized by the federal government as the official tribal governing body of the village. The traditional council is eligible to administer a variety of federal programs,



The Dot Lake Lodge is the community's major commercial enterprise.

Prepared by Darbyshire and Associates, with Research Design Productions, under contract with Northwest Alaska Pipeline Company, June 1980.

**Transportation** — Approximately 10 automobiles and 4 to 5 trucks are owned by community residents. About 10 residents own snow machines for winter travel and there is 1 dog team in the community. Supplies may be brought in by truck or bus. Currently, however, the owners of the lodge report that they transport their own supplies from Tok, Delta Junction, and Fairbanks. Alaska Coachways buses stop at the lodge twice a week in winter and 3 times a week during the summer months. Cost for a 1-way ticket from Dot Lake to Fairbanks is about \$15. The UTCDC senior citizens bus makes a stop every other week at Dot Lake to take people to Delta Junction and back.

Access by airplane is very limited. At one time there was a 1140-foot runway located just north of the lodge, however, it has been converted to a heliport which is used infrequently. An air taxi operator (40-Mile Air Service) based in Tanacross will land on the highway in emergency situations. Dot Lake is not accessible by water since the Tanana River is 2 miles away. A few residents own riverboats which they use for hunting and fishing.

In spring 1977, the legislature approved funds to designate a utility corridor for a potential extension of the Alaska Railroad from the Fairbanks area to the Canadian border. In 1978 the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities selected a route which would follow the Tanana River for most of its length. In the Dot Lake area, the corridor crosses Delta Lake Native Corporation lands one-half mile north of the community.

**Health Care** — A new clinic in an annex to the community hall was completed in 1976. The clinic is staffed by a part-time health aide or an alternate when the health aide is unavailable. Health services are provided by Tanana Chiefs Health Authority (TCHA) and the public health nurse in Tok.

TCHA is a department within Tanana Chiefs Conference, the nonprofit Native corporation for Interior Alaska. TCHA administers health services through grants and contracts from both the state and federal governments. The village health aide and alternate have been trained in village health surveillance and preventive health care by the U.S. Public Health Service with specialized training provided by TCHA. The Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) has a subregional office in Tok. TCC acts as liaison between health agencies and villages in the Tok subregion by providing the following services: community health aide program, patient referral, health education, counseling, first aid training, fluoride treatments, and home health care services.

An itinerant public health nurse based in Tok visits Dot Lake approximately 8-10 times a year. The nurse deals primarily in preventive health care, conducts clinics in prenatal care, family planning and well-baby and child care. She also gives immunizations, deals with communicable disease prevention and treatment, home visits and counseling and referral services. Periodically there are visits by a dentist and a physician from the Alaska Area Native Health Service (AANHS). The last dental and medical visits to the community were in 1978.

A fully equipped dental clinic located in Delta Junction has a contract with AANHS to provide basic services to the Native residents of the Tok subregion. This clinic is utilized primarily on an emergency basis. Small, private clinics staffed by physician's assistants are located in Delta Junction and Tok. Patients requiring more extensive medical treatment are typically taken to hospitals in Fairbanks, Anchorage, and Glennallen. In an emergency, Dot Lake patients can be evacuated by private vehicle, air charter, or military helicopter, weather permitting.

**Social Services** — Upper Tanana Development Corporation was formed in 1975 as one of 12 nonprofit regional development corporations comprising Rural Alaska Community Action Programs. (Rural CAP). UTCDC's primary purpose is to promote the overall economic, social, and educational development of people in the Upper Tanana region. Its programs, which serve Natives and non-Natives, are targeted to assist low income persons, the elderly (over 60), and preschoolers. Current programs include a hot lunch program for the elderly, transportation, homemaker services, a parent-child program, and information and referral services. Since October 1977, UTCDC has assumed an advocacy role with regard to the gas pipeline project. In April 1978, it co-sponsored a Community Forum on Gas Pipeline Impact. As a part of its planning effort for pipeline construction, UTCDC has sponsored several studies of pipeline impact. The UTCDC Board is comprised of a member from each of the communities of: Healy Lake, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tok, Tetlin, Northway, and Eagle Village. The State Division of Social Services is a social worker in Tok who provides information and referral services, individual and family counseling, and child and adult protection services. The social service worker travels to Dot Lake as requested. A local person acts as a fee agent assisting persons in filling out forms for public assistance programs. In February 1980, 10 Dot Lake households were receiving public assistance (old age assistance, aid to the disabled, and/or aid to families with dependent children). In April 1980, 4 households were receiving food stamps.

Another social service provider in the Upper Tanana region is the United Crow Band (UCB). UCB administers the Johnson-O'Malley Program which provides for the special needs of Indian children. The executive board of UCB includes a council leader from Dot Lake. A paralegal is located at UCB's main office in Tok.

The North Star Home located on 80 acres one mile south of the village is a private, nonprofit organization. It was founded in 1978 and is placed in the home by the Alaska Divisions of Correction and Social Services. It can take both boys and girls on a long-term or emergency basis. At present the home has 12 children, ages 14 to 17. Twelve is the maximum number the home is licensed to care for.

The home emphasizes pre-vocational education training and presently offers training outside Dot Lake School in trapping, taxidermy, cooking, sewing, dog team handling, Native crafts, ceramics, and macramé.

Tanana Chiefs Conference has a variety of programs available to Dot Lake residents including general assistance, child welfare, employment information, vocational training, college assistance, realty, and agricultural assistance.



The children's home was licensed to accommodate a maximum of 12 children at one time in 1980.

**Public Safety** — There is no fire protection in Dot Lake, however, some individual homes have fire extinguishers. The Alaska State Troopers based in Tok, 50 miles away, provide law enforcement services upon request. The village council as the governing body takes some responsibility for monitoring problems. In addition, there are traditional, informal methods within the village for dealing with problems.

**Needs Assessment** — Dot Lake lies close to the proposed route of the natural gas pipeline project. Village residents are concerned about problems created by a population influx associated with construction. Community residents have also identified 11 specific urgent needs that warrant attention, whether or not further growth occurs in the region. The needs, which are not listed in order of priority are: (1) to secure a private telephone for the village clinic, which is currently on a 10-party line; (2) to make overall improvements to the telephone system; (3) to improve the electrical power system; (4) to establish an airstrip; (5) to upgrade the village clinic facilities and equipment; (6) to establish a community-based alcoholism counseling program; (7) to build new housing and upgrade existing dwellings; (8) to improve the central heating system in the village; (9) to renovate and expand the community hall; (10) to secure a television transmitter; and (11) to add fire protection services.

## Land Use and Community Facilities

**Housing** — There are approximately 24 single family dwellings in Dot Lake. 19 are currently occupied. Seven of these homes were built in 1971 under the Bureau of Indian Affairs Housing Improvement Program, and 3 more houses were built in 1978-79 under the same program. Five homes at Dot Lake are of log construction.

Some homes in the village are in need of reconditioning, while winterization materials would make other more energy efficient. Additional housing is needed to replace substandard dwellings and to meet needs that would be created by new residents in the area. There is concern among village residents that future growth and development in the Upper Tanana region will magnify the existing housing shortage.

**Education** — Dot Lake School is under jurisdiction of the Alaska Gateway School District headquartered in Tok. The school, built to accommodate 30 students, was constructed in 1977. It has 2 classrooms and a lunchroom which is now used as a classroom. Thirty-two students in grades K-12 are taught by 3 teachers. Presently, there are 10 students in high school grades. See Figure 4 for school enrollment data in Dot Lake from the 1969-70 school year to the present. The old school building will be used for a vocational education building. In addition to the teachers, the school employs a maintenance person and combination secretary-teacher aide. The school district plans to build 2 classrooms in the next few years and 4 more classrooms within the next 6 years. Since there is no teacher housing, 1 teacher rents the apartment at the motel and the other 2 commute from Tok.

Elective courses in the high school program include small engine repair, typing, and accounting. Correspondence courses are offered through the University of Nebraska whereby the high school teacher can supervise correspondence courses in English, biology, business English, algebra, and world history. The school has a special education program. Major sports activities are ice skating, speed skating, hockey, and cross-country skiing. The school has an outdoor ice hockey field and playground.

**Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste** — Eight houses are connected to the PHS-built water system which was constructed simultaneously with homes built under the BIA Housing Improvement Program in 1970. The system consists of 2-inch water pipe encased in a utilidor buried 18 inches underground. Owned by the traditional council, the system also contains a 2-inch diameter circulating heat loop which originates in the utility building. Source of the water is a well located within the building. Water treatment facilities and storage tanks are located in the pumphouse. Other homes, the school, and the children's home have individual wells.

Individual septic tanks and drainfields serve the community's sewage needs. A landfill for solid waste disposal is located approximately 1½ miles east of the community. Residents haul their own trash to the site.

**Electricity and Heat** — Alaska Power & Telephone Company, Inc. of Port Townsend, Washington, provides Dot Lake with electric power through two 100-kw generators located at the generator building near the lodge. One is used on-line, while the other serves as a backup during peak winter loads when both may be used. There are 22 homes connected to the system in Dot Lake. Consumers pay the following rates:

1st 100 kwh = 17.97¢/kwh  
Next 100 kwh = 16.97¢/kwh  
Next 800 kwh = 14.47¢/kwh  
Over 1,000 kwh = 12.97¢/kwh

Residents report that service is dependable and inadequate due to fluctuations in power. Alaska Power & Telephone has indicated that they have plans for 1980 to run a power line from Tok and to use the 2 generators presently in the community as standby power sources.

Eight homes connected to the utilidor are heated by hot water. Other homes are heated by oil- and wood-burning stoves. Fuel storage in 2 gasoline tanks at the lodge provides a combined capacity of 7,000 gallons. A 9,000-gallon oil tanker permanently parked at the generator building and a 1,500 gallon tank behind the laundromat provide for fuel oil storage. On March 4, 1980, gasoline retailed for \$1.35 per gallon. Fuel oil is not sold locally, but is usually purchased from distributors in Delta Junction. In March 1980, fuel oil delivered to Dot Lake from Delta Junction was 98¢/gallon.



The generator building houses two 100-kw generators.

**Communications** — Telephone service to the community is provided by National Utilities, Inc. There are approximately 7 subscribers in the village who share the same party line. Cost to subscribers is \$11.20 per month (residential) and \$13.75 per month (commercial). Residents report that telephone service is unreliable and inadequate. National Utilities is presently constructing a new central office in Dot Lake which is expected to improve service and make private lines available. This new system is planned to be in operation by winter 1980. Residents also utilize citizens band radios.

Approximately 9 village homes have television sets, but there has been no television reception since November 1979. Most families in Dot Lake have radios. Stations received include KJNP in North Pole and KCAAM in Glennallen. Depending on the weather, signals can occasionally be picked up from Fairbanks and Anchorage stations. Newspapers read by village residents include the statewide *Tundra Times*, the Tok *Mukluk News*, *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, and *The Delta Paper*. Mail is delivered 6 days a week to the post office located in the lodge.



The Dot Lake school maintains a hockey rink.

**Acknowledgment:** We would like to thank the many agencies and individuals who provided information for this report. Special thanks go to the community residents who gave so generously of their time and knowledge at the community meetings which were held to review the content of this profile.

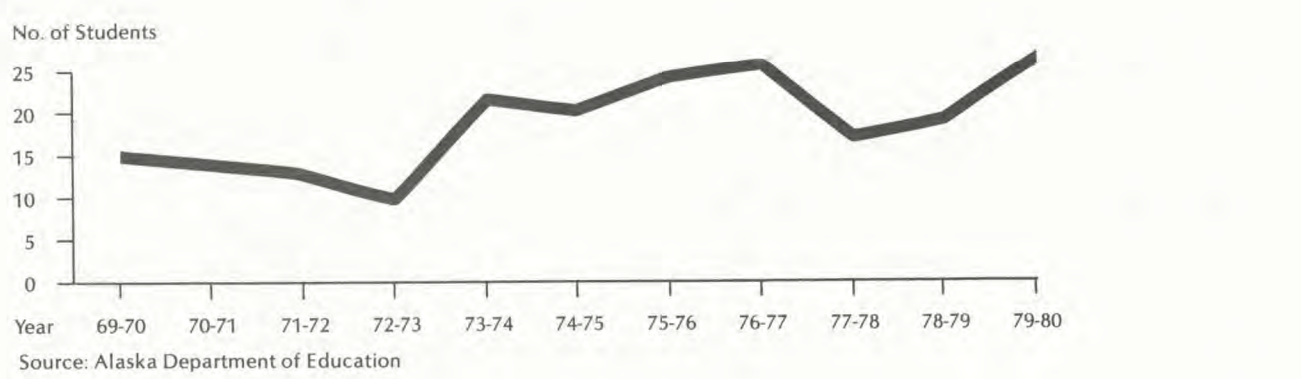


These wood-frame homes were built in 1970-71 and are connected to an underground utilidor which provides water and heat to residences.



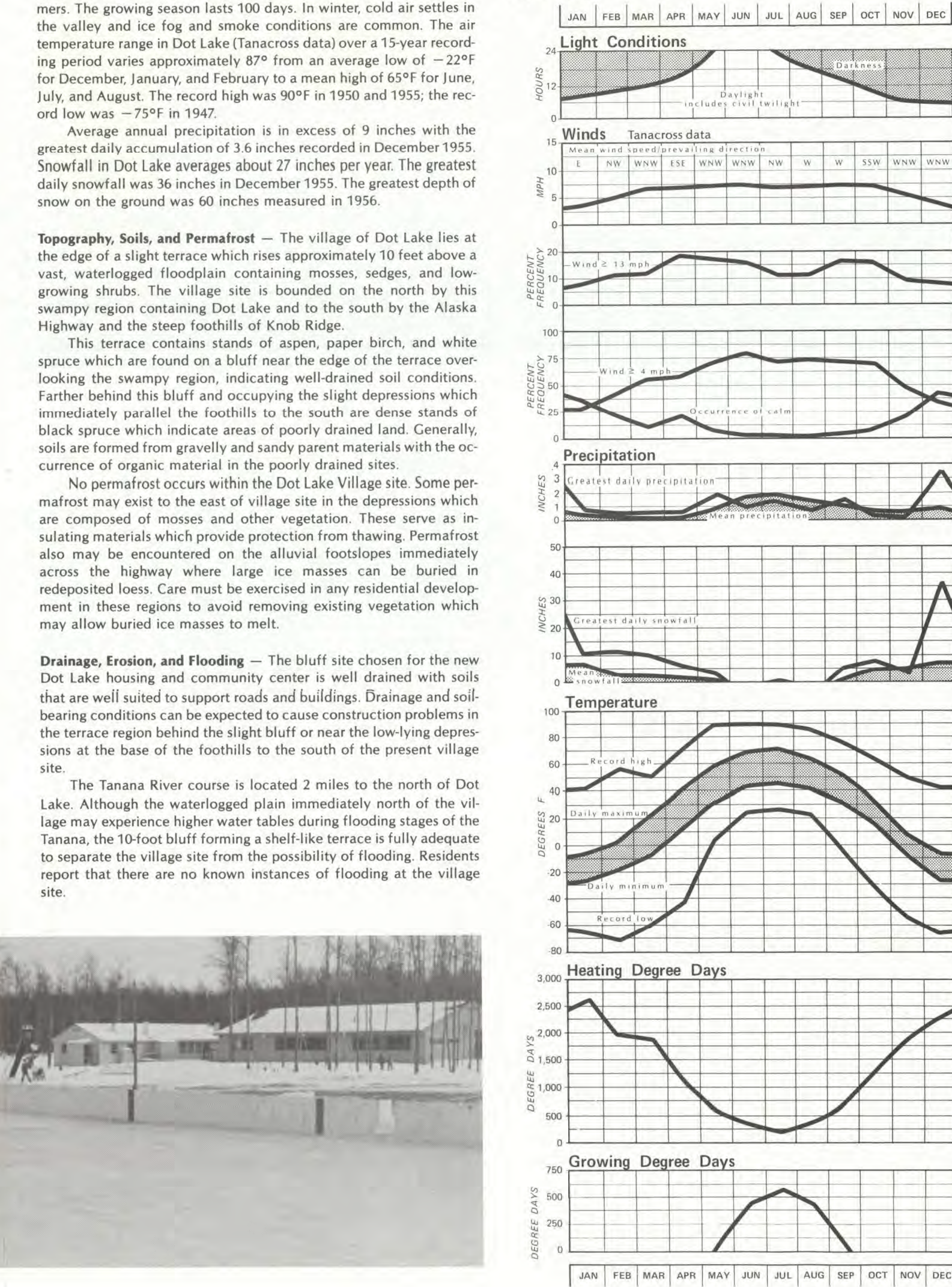
Dot Lake School accommodates students in grades K-12.

Figure 4  
School Enrollment



## Environmental Considerations

Figure 5  
Climatology





COMMUNITY MAP

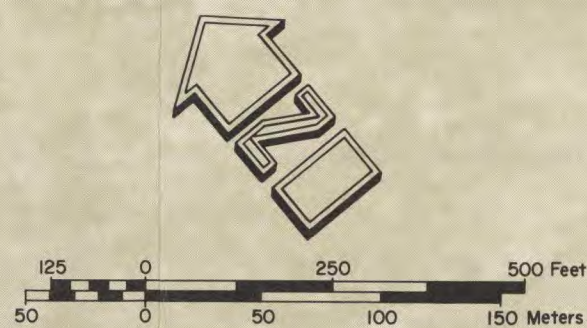
DOT LAKE

63°40'N 144°04'W Elevation 1350'



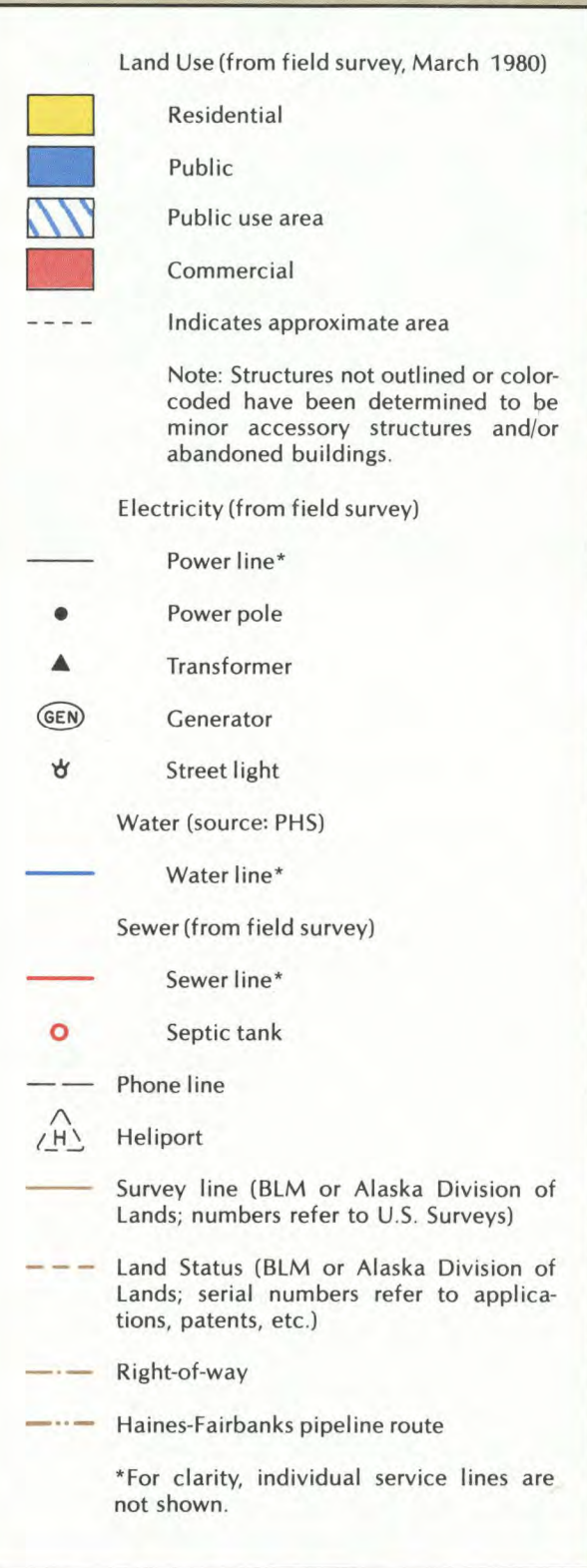
Prepared by Darbyshire and Associates, with Research Design Productions, under contract with Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company, June 1980.

Note: These maps have been prepared from uncontrolled aerial photographs. Scale is approximate and some distortion may exist. Property and utility information has been generalized from many sources and may contain inconsistencies. These maps should not be construed as surveys. On-site investigations should be conducted prior to construction.



To solid waste disposal site

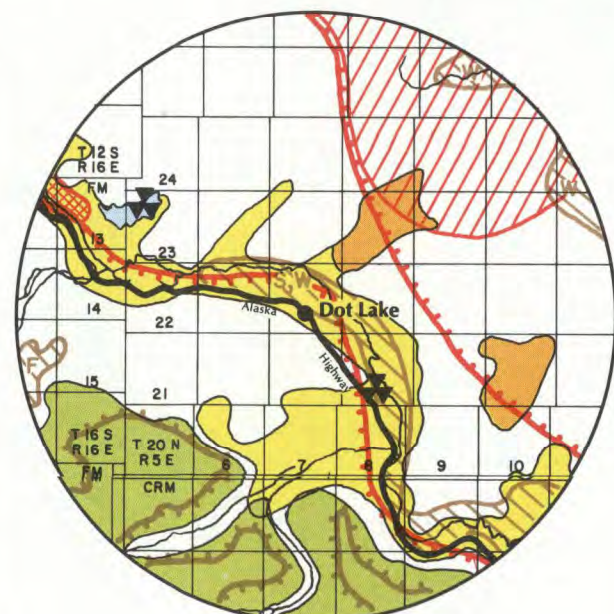
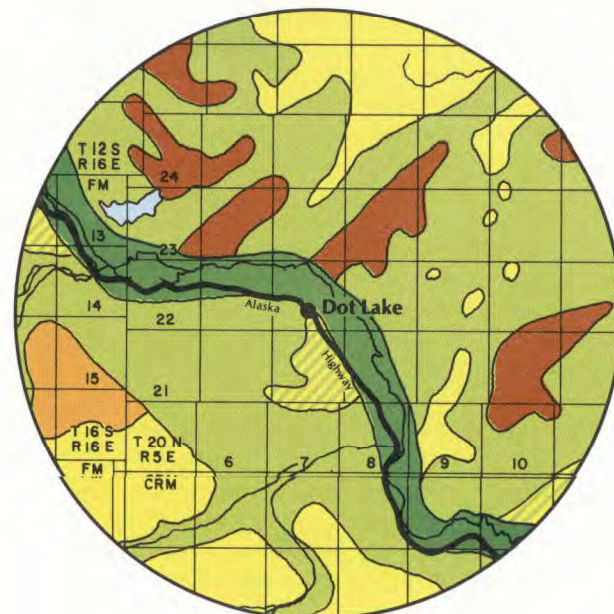
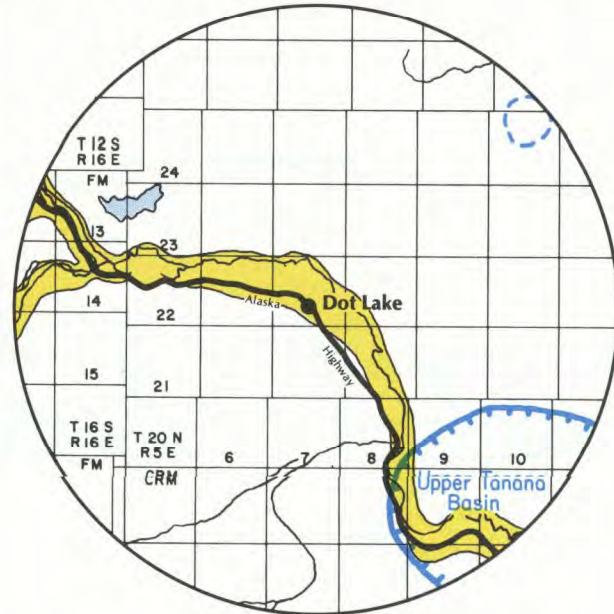
Community Map—Maps are useful in illustrating land use patterns, ownership, location of utilities and in planning for future village improvements. The Community Map shown here was prepared from a North Pacific Aerial Surveys Inc. aerial photograph taken in 1978. This map displays the utilities, residential and commercial development, public facilities, and portrays other information as of March 1980. This kind of data may be useful in developing plans for community growth and expansion, and in understanding some of the natural and man-made features that affect the community (e.g., flood hazards, erosion, source of water supply, location of waste disposal sites, etc.).



Dot Lake

1. Church
2. Motel
3. Car wash
4. Gas station
5. Lodge
6. Utility building
7. Community hall/Clinic/ Native corporation headquarters
8. School complex
9. Children's home

Natural Resources of Dot Lake



Minerals

- Moderate to low mining claim activity area
- Oil and gas province or basin—occurrence of oil and gas rated low
- Sand and gravel along major streams

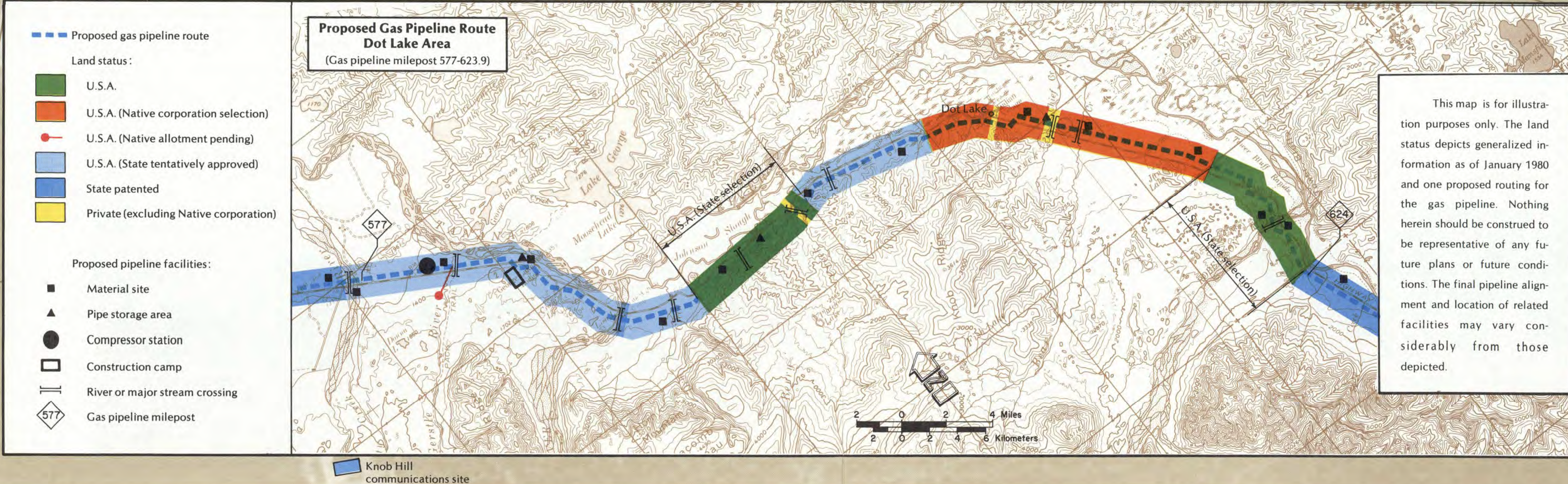
Vegetation

- Bottomland spruce—poplar forest
- Upland spruce—hardwood forest
- Lowland spruce—hardwood forest
- Low brush bog and muskeg
- Moist tundra
- Alpine tundra and barren ground

Mammals, Waterfowl and Fish

- Low density waterfowl range
- Medium density waterfowl range
- Major freshwater sport fish waters
- Caribou—present within designated area
- Summer range
- Bison calving area
- Dall sheep range
- Moose—present within designated area
- Spring and summer concentration
- Fall concentration
- Winter concentration

Adapted from Selkregg, L.L. et al., 1976, Alaska Regional Profiles: Yukon Region





# NORTHWAY



Northway Indian village.



Northway airport community.

## The Community

**Traditional Council** (May 1, 1980)  
Aloisia Felix, Pres.  
Jimmy Demit, V. Pres.  
Cora Demit, Secy/Treas.  
Gary Thomas  
Julius Sam  
Della May Northway  
Keith Albert

**Village Corporation** (May 1, 1980)  
Rosemarie Mahlo, Pres.  
Anthony Glazier, V. Pres.  
Jane Glazier, Secy/Treas.  
James Gallen  
Lorraine Felix  
Della May Northway  
Cora Demit  
Jimmy Demit

**History** — Northway, the second largest community in the Upper Tanana region, lies 50 miles southeast of Tok and 42 miles from the Canadian border. Residents of Northway generally consider the community to include the area served by Walter Northway School. This encompasses 3 settlements: (1) the junction at Milepost 1264, on the Alaska Highway; (2) the airport community, which is 7 miles southwest on the east bank of Nabesna Slough; and (3) the Native village which is 2 miles beyond the airport between Skate Lake and the Nabesna River.

The area around Northway was first settled by Athabaskan Indians who pursued seasonal subsistence activities in the vicinity of Scottie and Cardine Creeks and the Chisana, Nabesna, and Tanana Rivers. Their first contacts with white people probably occurred in the late 1800's during periodic trips to trading posts along the Yukon River. White traders entered the region as early as 1912, and by the 1920's had established trading posts at Gardiner Creek and along the Nabesna River.

Nabesna Village, the first settlement in the area, was located across the Nabesna River from the site now occupied by Northway Native village. Flooding problems led to the abandonment of the Nabesna Village in the 1940's. Residence at the new site provided Native workers with construction jobs on the Alaska Highway and at the airfield at Northway during World War II.

A post office was first established in the area on February 18, 1941. On January 1, 1942, the name of the village was changed to Northway to honor the village chief, "Tay Ta", who had adopted the Anglo-Saxon name Northway from a riverboat captain who traveled the Tanana and Nabesna Rivers in the early 1900's. Residents report that most of the settlement along the Alaska Highway near Northway Junction has occurred in the past 10 years.

**Population** — The population of Northway was first reported in the U.S. Census of 1950 which counted 196 residents. By 1960 the population had grown to 237 persons (197 in Northway and 40 in Nabesna). The 1970 Census counted only 40 persons for Northway, but it appears that only the airport community was included in this figure. An additional 194 persons in Northway "outsiders" (the village and other near-by areas) brought the 1970 total to 234 persons, or nearly the same as the 1960 population.

The preliminary, unofficial 1980 Census count for Northway is 324 residents, which represents a 38% increase since 1970. About two thirds of the population are Native.



Chief Walter Northway attended this potlatch in Tetlin in 1975.  
Photo courtesy of Bella Demit.

**Cultural Traditions** — Upper Tanana Athabascans have had direct exposure to Western culture since the late 1880's, following the establishment of trading posts and arrival of gold miners in the Yukon River region. By the early 1900's, Natives in the Northway region were trading furs for items of European manufacture. Although these periodic contacts affected traditional cultural patterns, the most significant changes accompanied the establishment of a permanent village on the Nabesna River in the early 1940's. This disrupted the seminomadic lifestyle and led to the introduction of schools, churches, and opportunities for wage employment. Despite these strong ac-

culturative influences, important elements of the traditional Athabaskan culture remain today.

Northway Natives retain a strong sense of pride in their cultural heritage and continue numerous traditional practices. The strength and importance of kinship and social bonds lead many people to prefer residence in the local region, although employment opportunities are normally quite limited; this also reflects the close ties of the people to the land. Traditional foods are served in many homes and are preferred by older persons. Furs and tanned moosehides are used to make moccasins, mukluks, and mittens, and are worn by persons of all ages. Most adults are bilingual, although the Native dialect is used most frequently by, or in conversations with, the elderly.

The present Northway village council has no elderly members, but the guidance and wisdom of village elders are sought frequently by younger, Western-educated leaders on vital issues. Elders play an important role in reinforcing traditional values, leading ceremonial activities, and assisting in the upbringing of children. Older men, especially, enjoy the therapeutic effects of steam baths and the opportunity they provide for social interaction.

Potlatches, ritual gatherings that celebrate significant community events with the giving of gifts and food, are the major traditional activity still practiced by Northway Natives. One type, the funeral potlatch, is held in memory of a person who has recently died. It often accompanies a Christian funeral. That the funeral potlatch is an important traditional religious ceremony is illustrated by a 1979 State of Alaska Supreme Court ruling that allows Natives to kill a moose out of season for use in the feast accompanying the funeral potlatch, reinforcing the cultural importance of this traditional religious ceremony.

The second type of potlatch is often referred to as a "party," and is given to honor someone or to celebrate the recovery of a person from a serious illness or near-fatal accident. This potlatch consists of speeches, singing and dancing, feasting, and distribution of gifts during a 3- to 4-day period. These festive occasions, conducted at considerable expense to the sponsor(s), are attended by guests from as far away as Copper Center, Minto, and Dawson, Yukon Territory. Many features of the potlatch are quite complex and involve months of careful preparation, adherence to traditional kinship and social obligations, and the ceremonial exchange of goods.

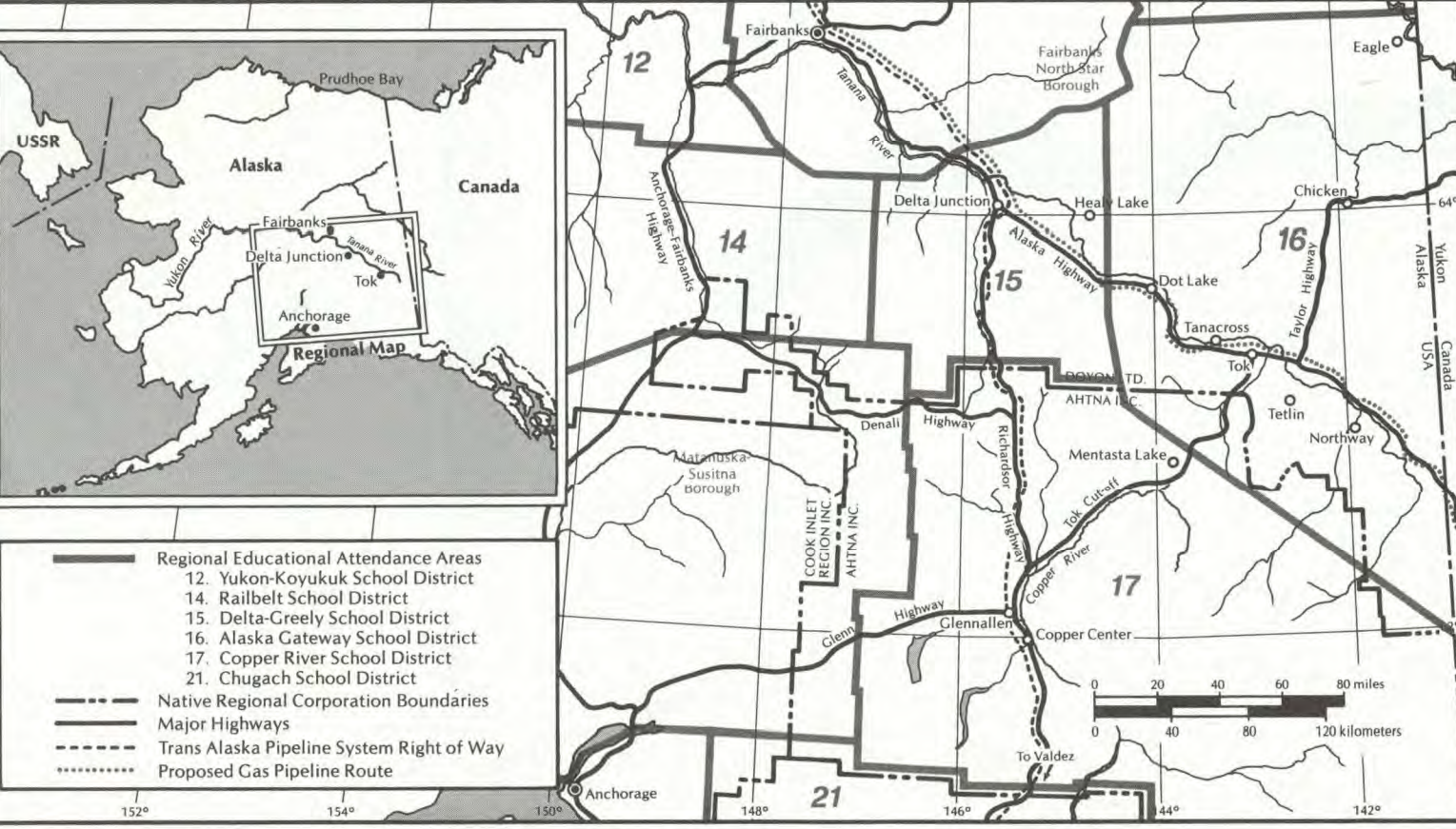
**Subsistence (Traditional Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Pursuits)** — The importance of subsistence activities to Northway Natives goes beyond their value as a means of obtaining food and furs. The people maintain a close relationship to and careful understanding of their environment and the seasonal cycle of subsistence activities.

**Figure 1**  
**Calendar of Subsistence Activities**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
*Moose												
*Caribou												
*Sheep												
Hunting												
Porcupine												
Muskkrat												
Rabbit												
*Ptarmigan; Grouse, Spruce Hens												
*Ducks, Geese												
Trapping												
*Fur Bearers												
Burbot												
Grayling												
Fishing												
Pike												
*Salmon!												
Whitefish												
Berries; roots												
Bark, Roots												
Other												
Wood Gathering												

\*Season for harvest of species subject to Fish and Game regulations.  
!Not available locally, but residents travel to Copper River area.

**Figure 2**  
**Upper Tanana Region Location Map**



**Figure 3**  
**Mileage Chart**

Highway Mileages via Most Direct Overland Route	Anchorage/Canada Border	Anchorage	Big Delta	Dawson City, Canada	Delta Junction	Dot Lake	Fairbanks	Glenallen	Haines	Haines Junction, Canada	Northway Junction	Tanacross	Tetlin Junction	Tok	Whitehorse, Canada
Alaska/Canada Border	421	210	65	201	141	298	232	364	205	43	105	81	93	304	
Anchorage	421	350	524	340	376	358	189	785	626	378	340	340	328	725	
Big Delta	210	350		313	9	69	88	160	574	415	167	105	129	117	514
Dawson City, Canada	65	524	313		303	243	400	334	592	433	284	207	183	195	334
Delta Junction	201	340	9	303		60	97	151	565	406	555	96	120	108	505
Dot Lake	141	376	69	243	60		157	187	505	346	98	36	60	48	445
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Glenallen	232	189	160	334	151	187	248		596	437	586	151	151	139	536
Haines	364	785	574	592	565	505	662	596		159	208	469	445	457	258
Haines Junction, Canada	205	626	415	433	406	346	503	437	159		49	310	286	298	99
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Tanacross	105	340	105	207	96	36	93	151	469	310	62		24	12	409
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Tok	93	328	117	195	108	48	205	139	457	298	50	12			397
Whitehorse, Canada	304	725	514	334	505	445	602	536	258	99	347	409	385	397	

Source: State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

physical environment and its renewable plant and animal resources. Although the annual subsistence cycle has been altered by changing animal migration patterns, restricted hunting seasons, and wage employment, the Subsistence Calendar for 1979 (Figure 1) reveals that Northway Natives continue to harvest local resources each month of the year.

In the late 1920's Chief Sam, then a 60-year-old Native residing near the mouth of the Nabesna River, summarized the annual subsistence cycle in the Northway region to anthropologist Robert McKennan:

In the old days the people seldom stayed in the village. Always they were on the trail, hunting and camping. In July whitefish were dried and cached at Fish Camp. Then the people went moose hunting, caching the meat. In the winter they visited the caches and then when the caribou came from a serious illness or near-fatal accident. This potlatch consists of speeches, singing and dancing, feasting, and distribution of gifts during a 3- to 4-day period. These festive occasions, conducted at considerable expense to the sponsor(s), are attended by guests from as far away as Copper Center, Minto, and Dawson, Yukon Territory. Many features of the potlatch are quite complex and involve months of careful preparation, adherence to traditional kinship and social obligations, and the ceremonial exchange of goods.

Since then the annual cycle has changed significantly. An increase in the number of subsistence hunters and trappers has affected the availability of some species. Also contributing to fluctuating populations are biological cycles, weather conditions, and a region-wide decline in forage. Caribou and sheep are rarely seen in the immediate vicinity and are hunted infrequently because of the expense involved in traveling to the animals' range. Moose, ducks, geese, ptarmigan, and grouse are taken during autumn. Trapping for fox, wolf, marten, lynx, mink, and beaver dominates the winter subsistence cycle; muskrat are trapped and hunted in early spring. Rabbits are procured during all but the late spring and early summer months. An estimated two thirds of the Northway Native families ran traplines during the winter of 1979-80. The sale of pelts provides income for residents; pelts not sold are used in making parkas, moccasins, mittens, and mukluks.

Fishing generally begins during spring and continues throughout the summer at fish camps and at most other drainages in the area. Fish catches include whitefish, pike, grayling, and burbot. Whitefish are frequently dried and cached for consumption during the winter. Some residents also travel to the Copper River area (about 4 hours away by road) for salmon.

Birchbark and spruce roots, used in making baskets, baby carriers, and model canoes, are gathered in the late spring or summer. Rhubarb is picked in early summer, while blueberries, raspberries, and cranberries ripen and are gathered in late summer and early autumn. Some families raise vegetables in gardens. Residents cut firewood year-round for personal use or for sale.

**Economy and Employment** — Most of the wage employment in Northway is with the government and/or facilities associated with the airport complex. Wage employment in the community includes the following number of employees: 12 at the Federal Aviation Agency (FAA), 12 at the Northway Lodge and Store, 2 with the Alaska State Troopers, 1 at the post office, 1 with U.S. Customs, 1 with the telephone company, and 16 at the school district. The Native village has a health clinic which employs 1 health aide and 2 alternates. There are some family businesses on the Alaska Highway, namely Stout's Store and the Northway Motel and Garage which is closed in the winter. The state highway maintenance station employs 4 people. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) office near Northway Junction, which is open only during the summertime, normally employs people from Northway part-time as emergency fire fighters.

Unemployment in the village is relatively high, although it decreases during the summer months when people are hired for fire fighting or local fish construction projects. The village corporation, or Northway, Dot Lake, Tetlin, and Healy Lake have formed Chisana Ltd., a joint venture with Alaska Constructors, Inc. of Anchorage, which hopes to secure construction contracts for member village corporations.

Many Native residents engage in crafts to obtain income. Some make gloves, mittens, and mukluks from furs, and others sell bead-work items such as headbands, chokers, key chains, eyeglass cases,

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Alaskan Pipeline Company, June 1980.

appealing a June 1978 BLM Decision to Issue Conveyance on another 107,101 acres. Another Decision to Issue Conveyance in the Northway area is also on appeal. This decision involves the conveyance of surface and subsurface rights on 115,009 acres to Doyon, Ltd.

ANCSA also requires that a minimum of 1,280 acres be recovered from the village corporation to the community for municipal purposes and community expansion. Since Northway is not in a municipality, this land will be recovered to and administered in trust for a future municipality by the Municipal Lands Trustee. The Municipal Lands Trustee Program is administered by the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Sixty Northway residents have filed for Native allotments. Most of these allotments are located along the Alaska Highway and on the Nabesna and Chisana Rivers. Under the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906, the Secretary of the Interior could allot to the Interior up to 160 acres of land, providing the claimant could prove continuous use and occupancy. Because this act was repealed with the passage of ANCSA, applications for allotments have not been accepted by BLM since December 18, 1971. However, many applications filed prior to that date are still being processed.

Surrounding the 25-township area that was withdrawn for selection by Northway is the proposed 770,000-acre Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge. This area was withdrawn on a temporary basis on November 16, 1978, pursuant to Section 204(e) of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) of 1976. In February 1980, the land was again withdrawn under FLPMA, on a permanent basis as part of 40 million acres in the state designated for new national parks, forests and wildlife refuges.

Northway has a federal townsite. A townsite patent on 48 acres of land was issued to the BLM Townsite Trustee on August 3, 1965. The trustee, in turn, has deeded approximately 25 occupied parcels to residents. Other unsubdivided property remains with the trustee. Other privately held land parcels are located along the Alaska Highway and near the airport community.

There are about 2,500 acres of federal land withdrawals in the Northway area including an air navigation site, a FAA withdrawal, a military withdrawal, an airport withdrawal, and a BLM administrative site.

**Transportation** — Northway, situated on Nabesna Slough, and Northway Indian Village, located on the Nabesna River, are connected to the Alaska Highway by an unpaved road, making Northway accessible year-round to road traffic. Most passengers, cargo, and mail arrive by road. Approximately 75 trucks and 75 autos owned by Northway residents use the state-maintained, 9-mile stretch of road between Northway Indian Village and the Alaska Highway.

As a result of 3 trucking companies serving Northway, residents receive freight on a weekly basis. The community is served by Alaska Coachways buses that travel between Fairbanks and Whitehorse twice weekly in winter and every other day in summer. In addition, a bus that travels between Anchorage and Haines during the summer stops at Northway.

Northway airport has a 5,147-foot runway. Surface composition is asphalt. FAA gross weight for the runway is 26,500 pounds. These load limitations do not apply during winter when the ground is frozen. The state-owned airport is attended during all daylight hours year-round. Beacon and runway lights operate from dusk to dawn. Six single-engine aircraft are based at the airport. The Flight Service Station located at Northway estimates that there were approximately 200 military operations at the airport during 1978-79. Other annual air traffic includes: air taxi operations (1,600), local operations (2,000), itinerant operations (6,000), for a total of 1,600 peak-month operations.



The Flight Service Station is one of many buildings in Northway owned by FAA.

The airport provides a port of entry for air traffic, refueling, and general flight support services as well as customs services. Scheduled aircraft service to Northway is provided by Aurora Air Service from Fairbanks. Flights arrive and depart on a once-a-week schedule. A charter operation located in the community maintains a Cessna 185. Most frequent charter flights are to Fairbanks, Anchorage, Tetlin, Eagle, Chisana, the Wrangell Mountains, Nabesna, and the White River.

Community residents own approximately 50 boats which are used for subsistence fishing and hunting activities on area creeks and rivers during the May-to-October boating season.

In spring 1977 the legislature approved funds to designate a utility corridor for the potential extension of the Alaska Railroad from Fairbanks to the Canadian border. In 1978 the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities selected the route which would follow the Tanana River for most of its length, bringing the east-west route about 19 miles north of the Northway Junction.

**Health Care** — A new clinic was completed by the village corporation in 1979. It is staffed by a full-time health aide or an alternate when the health aide is unavailable.



The Indian village's washeteria/clinic was built in 1979-80.

Tanana Chiefs Health Authority (TCHAH) is a department within Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), the nonprofit Native corporation for Interior Alaska. TCHAH administers health services through grants and contracts from both the state and federal governments. The village health aide and alternate have been trained in village health surveillance and preventive health care by the U.S. Public Health Service with specialized training provided by TCHAH, and are certified as emergency medical technicians. TCC has a subregional office in Tok. TCC acts as liaison between health agencies and villages in the Tok subregion by providing the following services: community health care program, patient referral, health education, counseling, first aid training, fluoride treatments, and home health care services.

An itinerant public health nurse based in Tok visits Northway approximately once a month. The nurse deals primarily in preventive health care, conducts clinics in prenatal care, family planning, and

well-baby and child care. She also gives immunizations, school screenings and physicals, deals with communicable disease prevention and treatment, home visits and counseling and referral services. Periodically, there are visits by a physician and dentist from the Alaska Area Native Health Service. A fully equipped dental clinic in Delta Junction is utilized primarily in emergency situations.

A small, private clinic staffed by a physician's assistant is located in Tok. The clinic provides a full range of medical care including physicals. Patients requiring more extensive medical treatment are typically taken to hospitals in Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Glenallen. In an emergency, Northway patients can be evacuated by air charter.

**Social Services** — Upper Tanana Development Corporation (UTDC) was formed in 1975 as one of 12 nonprofit regional development corporations comprising Rural Alaska Community Action Programs (Rural CAP). UTDC's primary purpose is to promote the overall economic, social, and educational development of people in the Upper Tanana region. Its programs, which serve Natives and non-Natives, are targeted to assist low income persons, the elderly (over 60), and preschoolers. Current programs include a hot lunch program for the elderly, transportation, homemaker services, a parent-child program, and information and referral services. Since October 1977 UTDC has assumed an advocacy role with regard to the gas pipeline project. In April 1978, UTDC co-sponsored a Community Forum on Gas Pipeline Impact. As part of its planning effort for pipeline construction, UTDC has sponsored several studies of pipeline impact. The UTDC Board is comprised of a member from each of the communities of: Healy Lake, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tok, Tetlin, Northway, and Eagle Village.

The State Division of Social Services has a social worker in Tok



These apartment units, located on the Alaska Highway, are owned by Northway Natives, Inc., the village corporation for the community.

## Land Use and Community Facilities

**Housing** — There are approximately 54 single family dwellings in Northway Village and at the airport community. Of the 37 houses at the Indian Village, 7 were built within the last few years under a program sponsored by the Tanana Chiefs Conference. Thirty-one of the 37 are log structures, 2 are frame construction and the remaining single family dwellings are trailers. At the airport community there are 17 single family dwellings, a 6plex (1 unit has been converted into an office), and a single apartment in the end of the pool hall. Ten of the 17 single family dwellings are wood-frame structures owned by the FAA. The FAA also owns the 6-plex building. The remainder of the dwellings are trailers.

There are virtually no housing vacancies in the community. In spring 1980, the school principal noted that 1 teacher and a living in a motel room, and another in the small unit in the pool hall and a third was living in a travel trailer.

The village corporation owns rental units on the Alaska Highway at Northway Junction. These units include three 3-bedroom apartments and one 3-bedroom house plus garages. These stucco and concrete buildings provide rental income to the village corporation. Other homes are sparsely scattered along the Alaska Highway, often in connection with a roadside business.

The Interior Regional Housing Authority, through the Department of Housing and Urban Development, plans to build approximately 19 new homes in Northway in 1980. Most of these homes will be located at the Indian Village, although there will be some constructed along the Northway access road. The owner of the Northway Lodge reports that there will be buildings, 3 to 5 chalet-type houses in summer 1980 at the airport community.

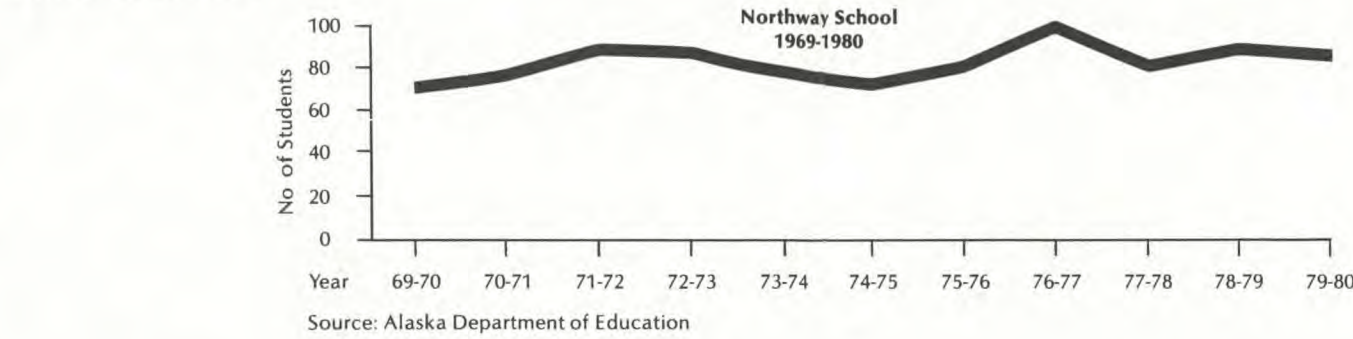
According to community leaders, additional housing is needed for teachers, the elderly, and short-term residents. Although the planned construction projects for 1980 will resolve most immediate housing needs, any additional population influx into Northway would require additional housing.

**Education** — Walter Northway School, under jurisdiction of the Alaska Gateway School District headquartered in Tok, serves students from preschool through grade 12. The metal-frame building, completed in 1977, has 8 classrooms, a gymnasium, library, and vocational education shop. In fall 1979, the school had 100 students: 24 in grades 9-12, 64 in grades 1-8, and 12 preschool and kindergartners. There are 10 teachers, a principal, secretary, 2 aides, a maintenance person, and custodian. The school is located 1 1/4 miles north of the airport community, and all pupils are bused. At the present time, the school, which was designed for 70-80 students, is beyond capacity. Twenty preschoolers are expected to be attending the school within the next 2 to 3 years. See Figure 4 for school enrollment data for Northway from the 1969-70 school year to the present.

In addition to the regular curriculum, courses offered include accounting, home economics, business machine operation, and vocational shop. Students participate in writing books and have had their works published through a Foxfire project. The school also has an outdoor skating rink in winter.

The Tok Regional Center of the University of Alaska, which opened in 1976, offers cooperative extension courses to residents of Tok and nearby communities such as Northway. In spring 1980, the center taught a course in Northway in emergency medical training, and 10 persons were enrolled.

**Figure 4**  
**School Enrollment**



Source: Alaska Department of Education

**Community Facilities** — In addition to living units, the FAA owns the Flight Service Station building, the community services facility, a fire station, sewage treatment plant building, and a pump house. The privately owned lodge includes a cafe and motel with 19 rooms which can accommodate 38 guests. Other facilities in conjunction with the Northway Lodge and airplane charter operation are the general store (which offers canned and frozen goods, fresh fruits, vegetables, and dairy products as well as dry goods including jackets, jeans, and boots), a bar and pool hall, and a tennis court. The privately owned Northway Power and Light Company is in an aircraft hangar building, while the post office is located in a double-wide trailer. The U.S. Customs Office, staffed by 1 person, is located at the old school. The number of planes inspected by customs varies from approximately 8 to 25 aircraft per day. Most flights occur during the summer months. There is also a Catholic church at the airport location.

Other structures in the Indian village include the laundromat-clinic, the community hall and the Pentecostal Holiness church. The laundromat building was completed in winter 1979-80. Owned and operated by the village corporation, the facility has 6 washing machines, 4 driers, and 2 showers. User charges are \$10 per load for washing, \$1 per load for drying, and \$1.50 per shower. At Northway

who provides information and referral services, individual and family counseling, and child and adult protective services. The social service worker travels to Northway as requested. A local person acts as a fee agent assisting persons in filling out forms for public assistance programs. In February 1980, 31 Northway households were receiving public assistance (old age assistance, aid to the disabled, and to the blind, and/or aid to families with dependent children). In February 1980, 33 households were receiving food stamps.

The Upper Tanana Regional Council on Alcoholism (UTRCA) was established in Tok in 1973. UTRCA has as its primary objective the growing season lasts 100 days. The average lows for December, January, and February are -24°F, -27°F, and -18°F, respectively. Average highs are 66°F, 69°F, and 64°F for June, July, and August, respectively. The highest recorded temperature was 91°F in June 1969; the lowest was -72°F in January 1952.

The average annual precipitation is in excess of 10 inches with the greatest daily precipitation of 3.91 inches measured in August 1944. Snowfall in Northway averages about 30 inches per year. The greatest daily snowfall was 11.5 inches in 1949. The greatest overall depth of snow accumulated was 51 inches in 1949.

**Topography, Soils, and Permafrost** — Both the Native village and airport community are located at the upper end of a broad glacial outwash plain of the Tanana River basin that extends downstream as far as Tanacross. The highway settlement of Northway Junction is located at the foot of Cheenathah Hill ("Shehniiah" in Athabaskan) approximately 100 feet above the broad river basin. Northway airport is located on the east bank of Nabesna Slough while the Native village, 2 miles to the north, is on the banks of the Nabesna River. Alder, black spruce, and willow are predominantly in areas of poorly drained soils, while mosses, low-growing shrubs, and sedge tussocks occur in the open marshy sites. Stands of aspen, paper birch, and white spruce predominate on the Cheenathah Hill site.

Large exposed deposits of gravel in abandoned riverbeds provide abundant foundation materials for construction near these settlements. The soil of the well-drained sites in the basin region are forming on ancient sand dune topography.

Thick seams of river gravel have been deposited in some areas by the Nabesna River. Both the village and airport communities



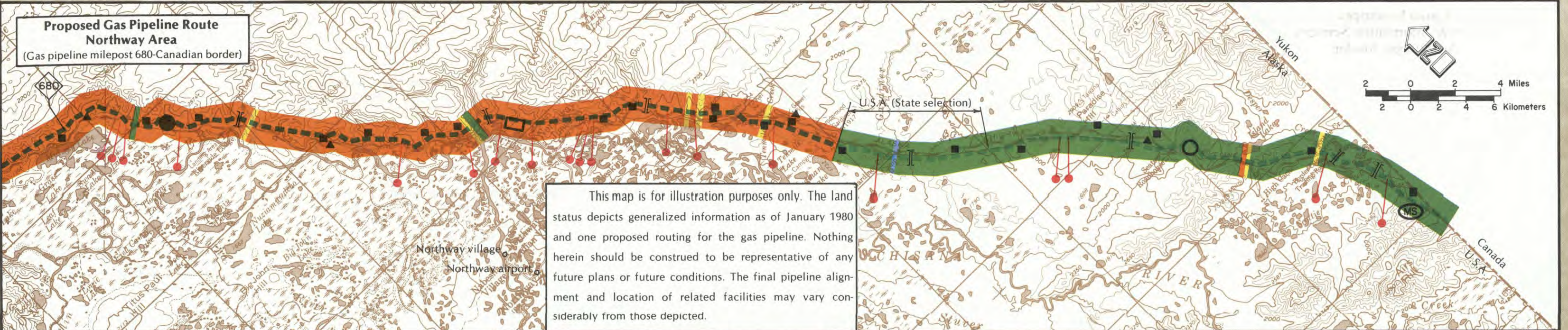
COMMUNITY MAP

NORTHWAY

62°58'N 141°56'W Elevation 1712'



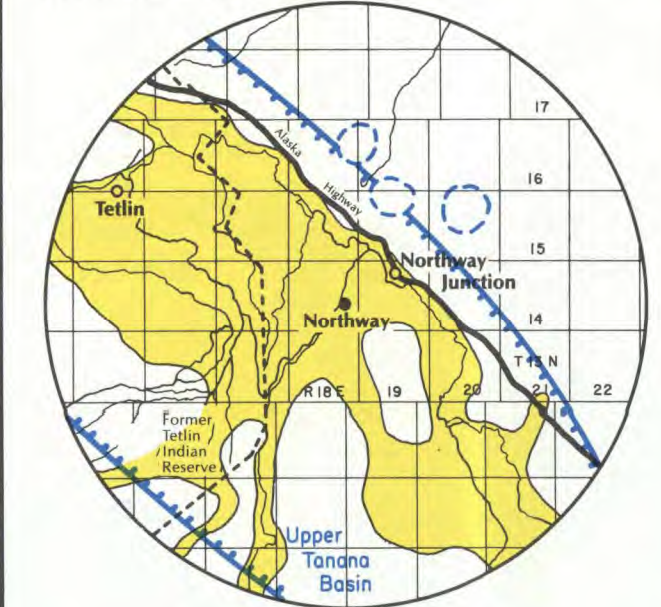
Note: These maps have been prepared from uncontrolled aerial photographs. Scale is approximate and some distortion may exist. Property and utility information has been generalized from many sources and may contain inconsistencies. These maps should not be construed as surveys. On-site investigations should be conducted prior to construction.



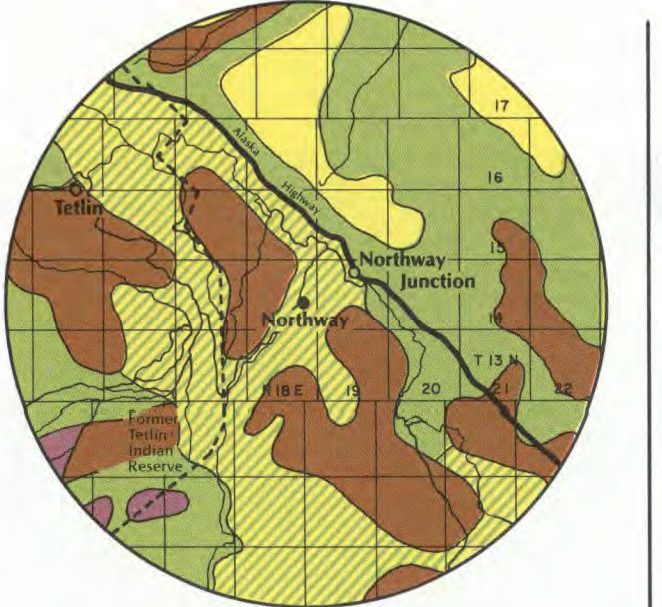
- Proposed gas pipeline route**
- Land status
  - U.S.A.
  - U.S.A. (Native corporation selection)
  - U.S.A. (Native allotment pending)
  - State patented
  - Private (excluding Native corporation)
- Proposed pipeline facilities**
- Material site
  - Pipe storage area
  - Compressor station
  - Future compressor station
  - Construction camp
  - Metering station
  - River or major stream crossing
  - Gas pipeline milepost

This map is for illustration purposes only. The land status depicts generalized information as of January 1980 and one proposed routing for the gas pipeline. Nothing herein should be construed to be representative of any future plans or future conditions. The final pipeline alignment and location of related facilities may vary considerably from those depicted.

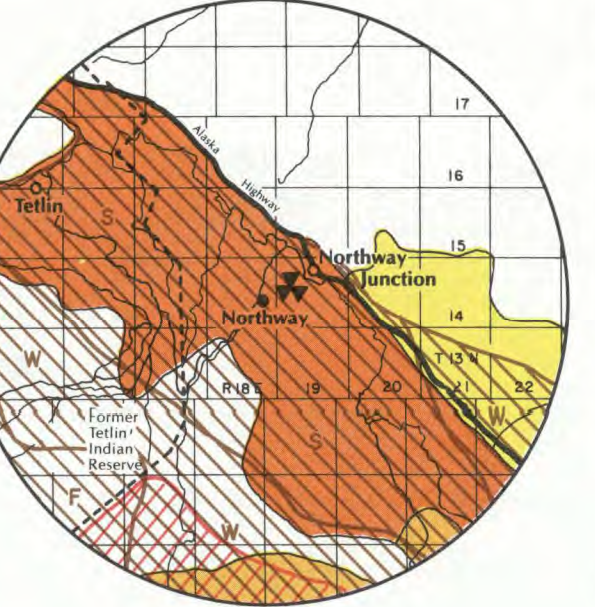
Natural Resources of Northway



- Minerals**
- Moderate to low mining claim activity area
  - Oil and gas province or basin—occurrence of oil and gas rated low
  - Sand and gravel along major streams

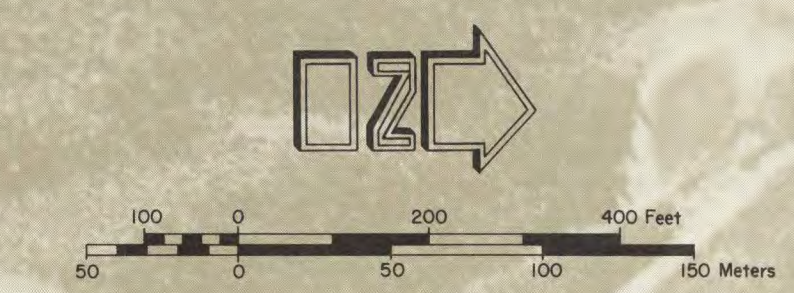


- Vegetation**
- Upland spruce—hardwood forest
  - Lowland spruce—hardwood forest
  - High brush
  - Low brush bog and muskeg
  - Alpine tundra and barren ground



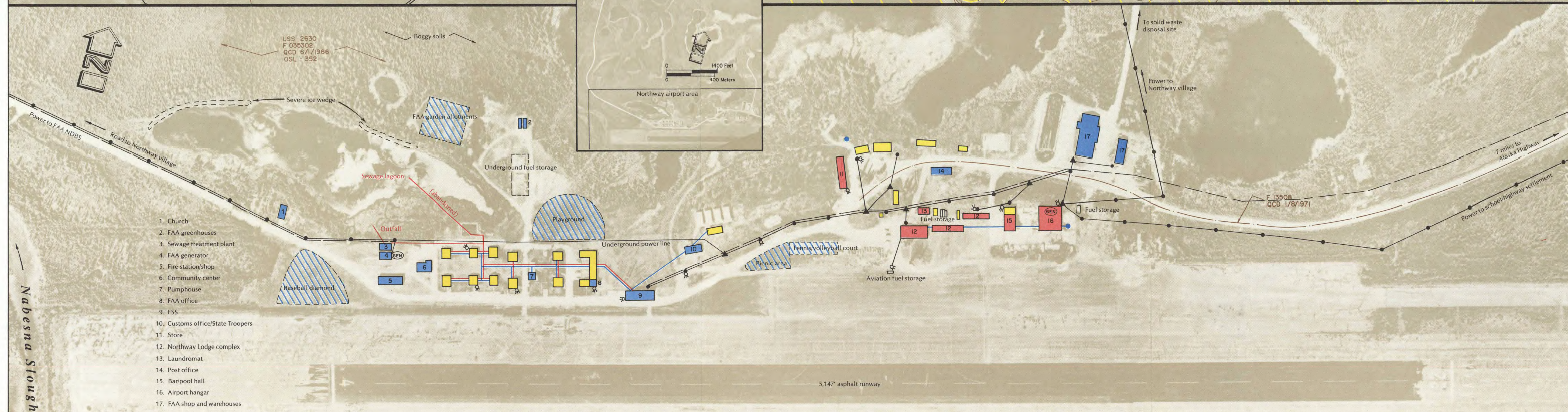
- Mammals, Waterfowl and Fish**
- Low density waterfowl range
  - Medium density waterfowl range
  - High density waterfowl range
  - Major freshwater sport fish waters
  - Caribou—present throughout area
  - Winter range
  - Moose—present throughout area
  - Spring and summer concentration
  - Fall concentration
  - Winter concentration

Adapted from Seilkegg, L.L. et. al. 1976. Alaska Regional Profiles: Yukon Region



**Community Map**—Maps are useful in illustrating land use patterns, ownership, location of utilities and in planning for future village improvements. The Community Map shown here was prepared from a BLM aerial photograph taken in 1974. This map displays the utilities, residential and commercial development, public facilities, and portrays other information as of March 1980. This kind of data may be useful in developing plans for community growth and expansion, and in understanding some of the natural and man-made features that affect the community (e.g., flood hazards, erosion, source of water supply, location of waste disposal sites, etc.).

- Land Use (from field survey, March 1980)**
- Residential
  - Public
  - Public use area
  - Commercial
  - Under construction
  - Indicates approximate area
- Note: Structures not outlined or color-coded have been determined to be minor accessory structures and/or abandoned buildings.
- Electricity (from field survey)**
- Power line\*
  - Power pole
  - Transformer
  - Generator
  - Street light
- Water (from field survey)**
- Water line
  - Well
- Sewer (from field survey)**
- Sewer line
- Other**
- Phone line
  - Active erosion
  - Townsite boundary (BLM)
  - Survey line (BLM or Alaska Division of Lands; numbers refer to U.S. Surveys)
  - Land Status (BLM or Alaska Division of Lands; serial numbers refer to applications, patents, etc.)
  - Right-of-way
- \*For clarity, individual service lines are not shown.



**Flood Data**

Area that would be inundated by a flood with a frequency of approximately 100 years.

**NOTES:**

- Flood hazard work was performed by the Alaska District Corps of Engineers at the request of and funded by the Federal Insurance Administration.
- The flood hazard area shown hereon is based on meager data, plus a minimum of historical flooding information and should be considered as preliminary.
- The major flooding that occurs at this location is the result of stream overflow.
- Any levees or dikes were considered in delineating the approximate 100-year flood.

February 1975



# TANACROSS



Photo courtesy of Charles Leo.

## The Village

**IRA Council** (May 1980)  
Jerry Isaac, Pres.  
Roy Denny, V. Pres.  
Betty Thomas, Secy/Treas.  
Franklin Paul  
Britten Jonathan  
Cora Isaac  
Irene Arnold

**Village Corporation** (May 1980)  
Robert Brean, Pres.  
Roy Denny, V. Pres.  
Kath Woods, Secy/Treas.  
Betty Thomas  
Kenny Thomas, Sr.  
Kenny Thomas, Jr.  
Jerry Isaac  
Virginia Moore  
Debbie Spore

**History** — Tanacross is a Native village located on the banks of the Tanana River, 12 miles northwest of Tok and 1 mile from the Alaska Highway. Many early-day residents relocated from Mansfield Village (Dishdaha), located about 6 miles northwest of Tanacross, while others originally resided at Kechumstuk, Last Tetlin, and in the Copper River Valley. Mansfield Natives had gone on trading expeditions to the Yukon River Valley long before Lieutenant H. T. Allen and other military expeditions visited what they referred to as "Kheeltat's Village" (Mansfield Village) in 1885 and 1898-1900. A long-time Tanacross resident estimates the Native population of villages in the Mansfield region at approximately 400 persons before 1900.

Some families moved from Mansfield to "Tanana Crossing" in 1912 when Bishop Rowe established St. Timothy's Episcopal mission on the north side of the Tanana River. The mission was located near abandoned buildings previously used by mail carriers traveling from Valdez to Eagle City and by the U.S. Signal Corps during operation of a telegraph line (WAMCATS) between 1902 and 1910. A trading post opened near the mission in 1912, and St. Timothy's post office began mail distribution in 1920. More Natives moved from Mansfield when a formal school opened at Tanana Crossing in 1932, although classes had been held previously at the mission. The name of the community was eventually shortened to Tanacross.

In the mid-1930s an airfield was built across the river from the village. In 1941, the village council gave permission to the military to use the field as an emergency airport during World War II. The field was blacktopped in 1942, and temporary camps were established. During the war, thousands of troops were deployed through Tanacross airfield. People from the village served as volunteer scouts and backup support for the army. After the war, the airfield was closed and the camp facilities were sold and removed.

The original village was located on a floodplain and had recurring problems with water contamination. In the early 1970's, in conjunction with a government housing program, a new site was selected across the river near the airfield. By 1976, no residents were living permanently in the old village, although some families stored possessions in their previous residences. In April 1979, most of the buildings in the old village burned when a grass fire spread out of control. Some cabins and the cemetery in Mansfield Village are still utilized.

**Population** — The first U.S. Census of Tanacross was taken in 1920 when 101 residents were counted. Residents report that this count is very low. Tanacross was one of the largest villages in Interior Alaska in the mid-1920's. Subsequent counts reported 80 residents in 1930, 135 residents in 1939 and 137 residents in 1950. The population decreased to 102 in 1960 and 84 in 1970. According to U.S. Census figures for 1970, 77 of the 84 residents were Native; the remainder were white. Median ages for males and females were 30 and 18 years of age, respectively. The preliminary, unofficial U.S. Census count for Tanacross is 115 residents, most of whom are Native.

**Cultural Traditions** — Tanacross Natives have been directly exposed to Western culture since the late 1800's, following the introduction of trading posts and the arrival of gold miners in the Yukon River region. By the early 1900's, Natives in the Tanacross/Mansfield Village region were trading furs in Dawson, Fortymile, and Valdez for items of European manufacture. Although these periodic contacts affected traditional cultural patterns, the most significant changes accompanied the establishment of a permanent village on the Tanana River in 1912 and the introduction of schools, churches, and opportunities for wage employment. This eventually disrupted the seminomadic lifestyle. Despite these strong acculturative influences, important elements of the traditional Athabascan culture remain in Tanacross today.

Tanacross Natives retain a strong sense of pride in their cultural heritage, and numerous traditional practices persist. The strength and importance of kinship and social bonds lead many people to continue living in the local region; this also reflects the close attachment of the people to the land. Traditional foods are an important part of the diet in many homes and are preferred by older persons. Furs and tanned



Hundreds of blankets and rifles were distributed on the last night of the potlatch held in September 1979. Photo courtesy of Bartz Englishloe.

Figure 2  
Upper Tanana Region Location Map

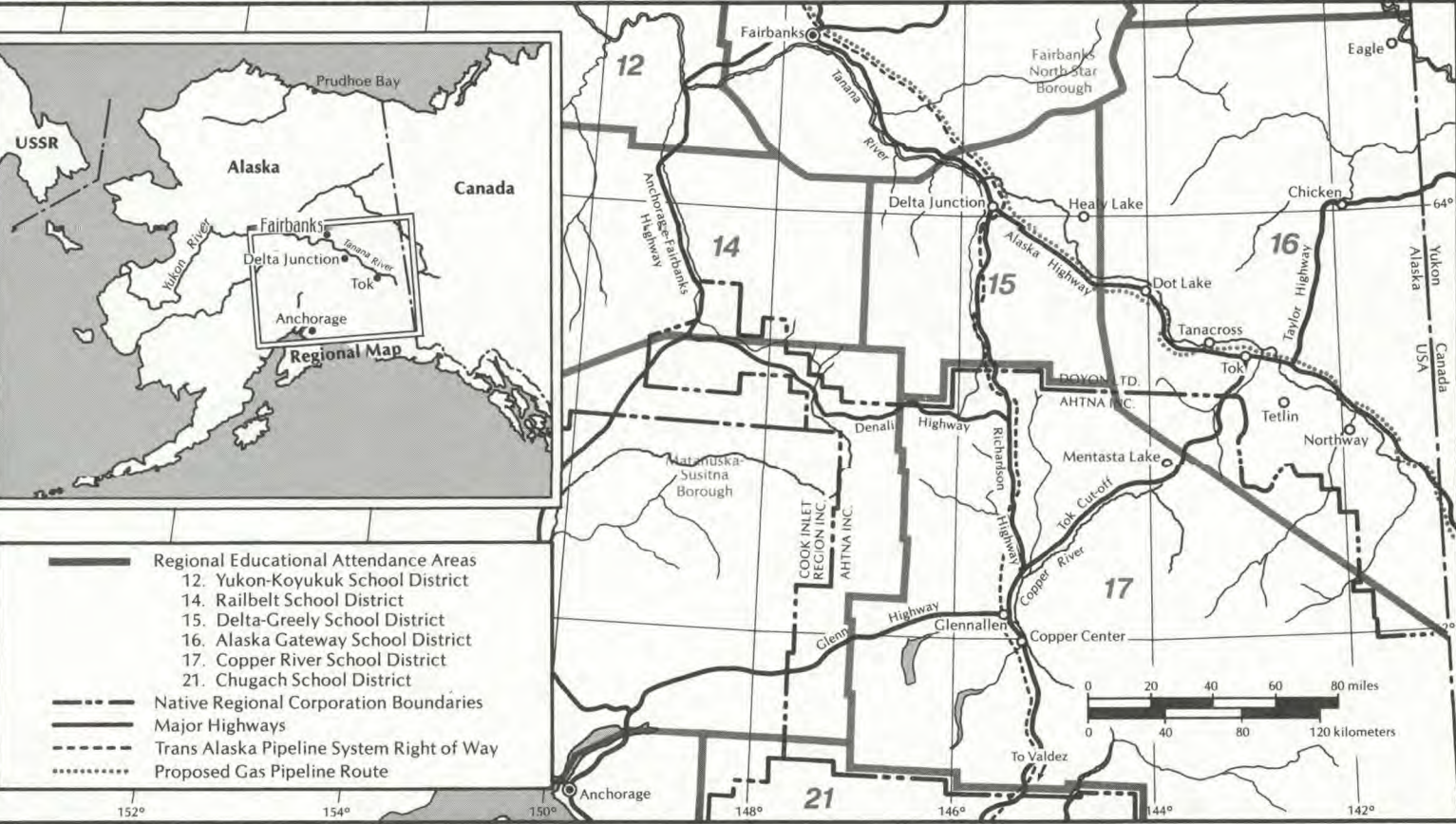


Figure 3  
Mileage Chart

Highway Mileages via Most Direct Overland Route	Anchorage/Canada Border	Anchorage	Big Delta	Dawson City, Canada	Delta Junction	Dot Lake	Fairbanks	Glennallen	Haines	Haines Junction, Canada	Northway Junction	Tanacross	Tetlin Junction	Tok	Whitehorse, Canada
Alaska/Canada Border	421	210	65	201	141	298	232	364	205	43	105	81	93	304	
Anchorage	421		350	524	340	376	358	189	785	626	378	340	340	328	725
Big Delta	210	350		313	9	69	88	160	574	415	167	105	129	117	514
Dawson City, Canada	65	524	313		303	243	400	334	592	433	284	207	183	195	334
Delta Junction	201	340	9	303		60	97	151	565	406	555	96	120	108	505
Dot Lake	141	376	69	243	60		157	187	505	346	96	36	60	48	445
Fairbanks	298	358	88	400	97	157		248	662	503	652	93	217	205	602
Glennallen	232	189	160	334	151	187	248		596	437	586	151	151	139	536
Haines	364	785	574	592	565	505	662	596		159	208	469	445	457	236
Haines Junction, Canada	205	626	415	433	406	346	503	437	159		49	310	286	298	99
Northway Junction	43	378	167	284	555	98	652	586	208	49		62	38	50	347
Tanacross	105	340	105	207	96	36	93	151	469	310	62		24	12	409
Tetlin Junction	81	340	129	183	120	60	217	151	445	286	38	24		12	385
Tok	93	328	117	195	108	48	205	139	457	298	50	12		12	397
Whitehorse, Canada	304	725	514	334	505	445	602	536	258	99	347	409	385	397	

Source: State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

**Subsistence (Traditional Hunting, Fishing, and Gathering Pursuits)** — Tanacross Natives maintain a close relationship to and a thorough understanding of their physical environment and its plant and animal resources. Consequently, the importance of subsistence activities extends beyond their value as a means of obtaining food and furs. Many factors have altered the traditional subsistence cycle, including changing animal migration patterns, restricted hunting seasons, an increasing number of subsistence hunters and trappers, and involvement in wage employment. Additionally, animal populations fluctuate in size from year to year as a result of biological cycles, winter temperature and snowfall conditions, and a regionwide decline in fur.

The original inhabitants of Tanacross followed an annual subsistence cycle similar to that outlined by anthropologist Marie-Francoise Guedon:

...It was a semi-nomadic life which periodically brought back the population to several meeting places for short periods of time.... The movements of the population were directed, of course, by the localities where game could be found most easily.... The construction of fish weirs and game fences required a great deal of work and they were re-used one season or one year after another. Here a large number of people would meet during the fish runs and the caribou migrations. In the spring, people would live in camps situated near some lake or slow stream for hunting muskrat or water fowl; during most of the year, groups of men (sometimes men and women) would travel through the land tracking big game in small hunting parties....

In the winter, small groups usually composed of one or two families would move to the caches where muskrat, fish and other food, such as berries and roots, had been stored the previous summer (Guedon 1974:38).

Today, village residents hunt in the local area for moose, caribou, rabbits, ducks, geese, spruce hens, and porcupine. Trapping for muskrat, lynx, fox, marten, wolverine, beaver, and wolves occupies the winter months, with the number of trappers varying from year to year. Most furs are sold to buyers in Tok, Copper Center, Seattle, and Montreal (for the Hudson's Bay Company); others are used by local craftsmen as trim for parkas, footwear, and mittens fashioned from tanned moosehides.

Villagers fish locally for whitefish, grayling, pike and burbot, and many travel to summer fishing camps at Lake Mansfield. Whitefish are often dried and binedark are collected in the spring and are preserving berries. Many residents travel to the Copper River area (140 miles to the south) to fish or trade for salmon.

Roots of a leguminous plant, (*Hedysarum mackenzii*), known in Tanacross dialect as "tcaas," are collected in the spring and early autumn, and rhubarb is obtained in late spring. Some residents pick cranberries, blueberries, and raspberries after they ripen in late summer. Spruce roots and binedark are collected in the spring and are used in making baskets and baby carriers. White birch is obtained when needed for making sleds, snowshoes and drum frames. Some men cut firewood for personal use or for sale to other village residents. A few families have gardens, and the village sponsors a community garden project each summer.

Several Native men maintain dog teams and actively participate in dogsled racing during the winter months in the Upper Tanana region. Snow machines are, however, generally used for checking trailfines. Figure 1 illustrates the annual cycle of subsistence of Tanacross residents for 1979.

**Economy and Employment** — Wage employment in the community includes the following positions: a postal clerk, 2 school employees, a laundromat attendant, an alcohol program counselor, a health aide, a bus aide for the Upper Tanana Development Corporation (UTDC) aging program, a home visitor for the parent-child program, an aide to the disabled, a para-planner, a recreation director, and a clerk for the village council. Several tanacross residents commute to Tok to work 2 at the United Crow Band, 2 with the Upper Tanana Development Corporation and 1 with the Upper Tanana Regional Council on Alcoholism. Unemployment is typically high in the community, but many residents are able to work during the summer as emergency fire fighters for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Usually there is additional employment on summer construction projects.

Some people in the community engage in the making of traditional Native handicrafts to sell. Items made include mittens, moccasins, mukluks, gloves, and rifle cases made from furs; beadwork, bircbark baskets, drums, snowshoes, and sleds.

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machine. During spring breakup and fall freezeup the river was not passable. Now, most passengers, cargo and mail arrive by road. Approximately 20 automobiles and 8 trucks are owned by community residents, and about 15 residents own riverboats which are used primarily for hunting and fishing.

The Alaska Coachways busline serves Tok twice weekly in winter on runs from Tok to Fairbanks. The bus will stop in Tanacross, provided residents call the Tok stop to make this request. Senior citizens are served by daily bus service between Tanacross and Tok under the UTDC program. On a biweekly basis, the bus goes to Delta Junction.

An air taxi operator, 40-Mile Air Service, operates out of the Tanacross airport. Located immediately southeast of the village, the airfield is paved, unattended and unlighted. It has 2 runways, 5,000 and 5,100 feet long; both are 150 feet wide. In addition to year-round air taxi operations, the airport is used for BLM fire crew operations during the summer. The Federal Aviation Agency (FAA) estimated in 1977 that there were 3,500 annual air taxi operations and 2,500 general aviation operations at the Tanacross airport. BLM maintains a small tower, shop, maintenance yard, and fuel tanks at the airport. At the southwest end of the airport is a hangar, trailer, office, and 2 fuel trucks. Aurora Air Service provides a weekly flight on Fridays from Fairbanks to Tanacross.

Village residents estimate that there are approximately 15 snow machines and 4 dog teams in Tanacross. The latter are used mostly for racing. Winter trails radiate in all directions from the village.



Tanacross airport is the headquarters for Warbelow Brothers' 40-Mile Air Service. Photo courtesy of David Maxwell.

**Health Care** — A new clinic was completed by the IRA council in 1978. It is staffed 6 hours per day by a health aide or an alternate when the health aide is unavailable. Tanana Chiefs Health Authority (TCH) is a department within Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), the nonprofit Native corporation for Interior Alaska. TCH administers health services through grants and contracts from both the state and federal governments. The village health aide and alternate were selected by the village council and have been trained in village health surveillance and preventive health care by the U.S. Public Health Service, with specialized training provided by TCH. TCC, which has a subregional office in Tok, acts as liaison between health agencies and villages in the Tok subregion by providing the following services: community health aide program, patient referral, health education, counseling, first aid training, fluoride treatments, and home health care services.

An itinerant state public health nurse based in Tok visits Tanacross approximately once a month. The nurse deals primarily in preventive health care, conducts clinics in prenatal care, family planning and well-baby and child care. She also gives immunizations, school screenings and physicals, deals with communicable disease prevention and treatment, home visits and counseling and referral services. Periodically, there are visits by a physician and dentist from the Alaska Area Native Health Service (AANHS). The last visit by a dentist was in May 1980. A fully equipped dental clinic in Delta Junction has a contract with AANHS to provide basic services to the residents of the Tok subregion. Village residents utilize the dental clinic in Delta Junction, primarily in emergency situations.

A small, private clinic staffed by a physician's assistant is located in Tok. The clinic provides a full range of medical care including physicals. Patients requiring more extensive medical treatment are typically taken to hospitals in Anchorage or Fairbanks. In an emergency, Tanacross patients can be evacuated by air charter, weather permitting.

**Social Services** — Upper Tanana Development Corporation (UTDC) was formed in 1975 as one of 12 nonprofit regional development corporations comprising Rural Alaska Community Action Programs (Rural CAP). UTDC's primary purpose is to promote the overall economic, social, and educational development of people in the Upper Tanana region. Its programs, which serve Natives and non-Natives, are designed to assist low income persons, the elderly (over 60), and preschoolers. Current programs include a hot lunch program for the elderly, transportation, homemaker services, a parent-child program, and information and referral services. Since October 1977, UTDC has assumed an advocacy role with regard to the gas pipeline project. In April 1978, it co-sponsored a Community Forum on Gas Pipeline Impact in Tok. As part of its planning effort for pipeline construction, UTDC has sponsored several studies of pipeline impact. The UTDC Board is comprised of a member from each of the communities of: Healy Lake, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tok, Tetlin, Northway, and Eagle Village.

The State Division of Social Services has a social worker in Tok who provides information and referral services, individual and family counseling, and child and adult protection services. The social worker travels to Tanacross when requested by the village council. A local person acts as a fee agent assisting persons in filling out forms for public assistance programs. In February 1980, 12 Tanacross households were receiving public assistance (old age assistance, aid to the disabled, and/or aid to families with dependent children) and 15 households were receiving food stamps.

The Upper Tanana Regional Council on Alcoholism (UTRCA) was established in Tok in 1973. UTRCA has as its primary objective the reduction of alcohol and other drug abuse problems in the region. There is an outreach counselor, a local person, in Tanacross who in addition to providing counseling, organizes recreation and school programs for the village corporation, while the regional corporation, Doyon, Ltd., will receive subsurface rights. Most of the land selected by the village corporation is significant for its subsistence value resources. Other areas were selected along the Alaska Highway. Interim conveyance on the core township of Tanacross including 19,630 acres was issued to Tanacross, Inc. on March 3, 1980.

ANCSA also requires that a minimum of 1,280 acres be recovered from the village corporation to the community for municipal purposes and community expansion. Since Tanacross is not in a municipality, this land will be conveyed to and administered in trust for a future municipality by the Municipal Lands Trustee. The Municipal Lands Trustee Program is administered by the Alaska Department of Community and Regional Affairs.

Under the Alaska Native Allotment Act of 1906, the Secretary of the Interior could allot to individual Natives up to 160 acres of land, providing the claimant proves continuous use and occupancy. Because this act was repealed with the passage of ANCSA, applications for allotments have not been accepted by BLM since December 18, 1971. Many applications filed prior to that date are being processed, however. Several certificates of allotment have been issued on Native allotment claims in the area. Native allotments claimed by Tanacross residents are located on the Tanana River, Mansfield, Fish and Wolf Lakes and along the Tok Cut-off, Alaska and Taylor Highways, and near Mentasta.

**Transportation** — Tanacross is located a mile off the Alaska Highway, northwest of Tok and is accessible to all vehicular traffic. Before the village was moved to its present location across the river from the old site, the village was accessible only by boat in summer. During the winter the river ice could easily be crossed on foot or by snow

## Land Use and Community Facilities

**Housing** — Tanacross is laid out in a rectangular grid system. Twenty-seven houses in this new village location were built in the 1970's under various housing programs including the BIA (5), Alaska State Housing Authority (7) and HUD (15). Seven additional houses and 2 trailers are also located in this area. One home in the old village is utilized most of the year, while 3 others are used only during the summer. Five houses are situated across the Tanana River from the old village site, while several other homes are scattered across the general area. Most homes are of wood-frame construction. An estimated 4-5 families need housing in Tanacross, and several homes are in need of major maintenance. Community housing is inadequate to accommodate a population influx.

**Education** — The Tanacross Elementary School, for students in grades K-8, was completed in 1979. The school had an enrollment of 18 students in spring 1980. It is under jurisdiction of the Alaska Gateway School District headquartered in Tok, has 2 classrooms, a multipurpose room and playground. The 2 teachers commute from Tok, but the school district employs 2 Tanacross residents, a part-time custodian and teacher aide. The staff estimates that the school could accommodate 10 additional students. Figure 4 shows school enrollment data in Tanacross from the 1969-70 school year to the present. Approximately 8 high school students attended school in Tok in 1980.

**Other Facilities** — Tanacross has a community hall which is used for dances, meetings, bingo games, and potlatches. The local clinic building is used for meetings, and houses the Tanacross village corporation and IRA council offices. The post office is open 6 days per week for 3 hours (generally from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.) after the mail is delivered. The community washeteria has 3 washers, 2 driers, and a bath which includes a shower, toilet, and sink. The Tanacross BLM fireguard station is located on the Alaska Highway. Residents built a new church in Tanacross in 1980. The community hall and Episcopal church in the old community are still used. The baseball field and outdoor ice hockey rink located at the school are owned by the village.



The Tanacross post office is open Monday through Friday for approximately 2 hours each day.

**Electricity and Heat** — Alaska Power & Telephone Company, Inc. of Port Townsend, Washington, provides electric power for Tanacross via a tie line from Tok. Twenty-two homes and 4 public buildings are connected to the system. In May 1980 rates for Tanacross were:

1st 100 kwh = 17.97¢/kwh  
Next 100 kwh = 16.97¢/kwh  
Next 80 kwh = 14.47¢/kwh  
Over 1,000 kwh = 12.97¢/kwh

A privately owned 3.5-kw generator serves homes opposite the old village.

About 75 % of the community's homes have oil furnaces and the other homes have wood-burning stoves. Oil is delivered by truck from Tok to individual 500-gallon storage tanks. Fuel oil sold for 95 cents a gallon on March 10, 1980. A cord of wood cost \$75-80 in 1980. Gasoline for cars and snow machines is purchased in nearby Tok. One of the benefits that residents hope to derive from the gas pipeline project is lower energy costs.

**Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste** — In 1976 the U.S. Public Health Service built a water and sewer system in Tanacross. Ownership of the system was transferred to the village in 1977. Twenty-nine homes are connected to the system. The water source for the system is a 6-inch diameter, 50-foot well situated inside the PHS-built pumphouse in the southeastern part of the village. Water quality is excellent. The system includes a 25,000-gallon water storage tank located within the 32' x 32' wood-frame building. Water is circulated through approximately 3,600 feet of 4-inch, insulated PVC water line.

Wastewater drains through 4-inch PVC pipe into an 8-inch insulated sewer main. Common septic tanks (each shared by several homes) drain into subsurface leachfields. Residents report that due to some leachfield problems, the septic tanks have backed up at the northwest end of the village. The school has its own well, septic tank, and leachfield, and the clinic building has its own septic tank and leachfield.

The solid waste disposal site for the village is located approximately 800 feet west of the village. Refuse is hauled by individuals to the site. A new disposal site has been proposed approximately 1100 feet to the north of the present site.

**Communications** — Telephone service to the community is provided by National Utilities, Inc. There are approximately 9 subscribers in the village who share the same party line. Cost to residential subscribers is \$16 per month. Residents consider the telephone service inadequate and unreliable. The lack of private lines for the village clinic and school is a major concern. National Utilities has indicated that they have plans to install a new cable to Tanacross. This would make private phone lines available by winter 1980.

Approximately 30 televisions in the village receive one Fairbanks-based television station (KTIV—Channel 11) via a transmitter located near Tok. Neuberger, with special antennas some residents receive KUAC—Channel 9. Because the transmitter runs on propane, residents contribute to a TV fund. Reception is reported to be fair to good depending on weather conditions. Radio stations received are KJNP in North Pole and KCAM in Glennallen. Depending on the weather, signals can occasionally be picked up from Fairbanks and Anchorage stations.



The pumphouse and washeteria are housed in the same building.

**Acknowledgment:** We would like to thank the many agencies and individuals who provided information for this report. Special thanks goes to the community residents who gave so generously of their time and knowledge at the community meetings which were held to review the content of this profile.

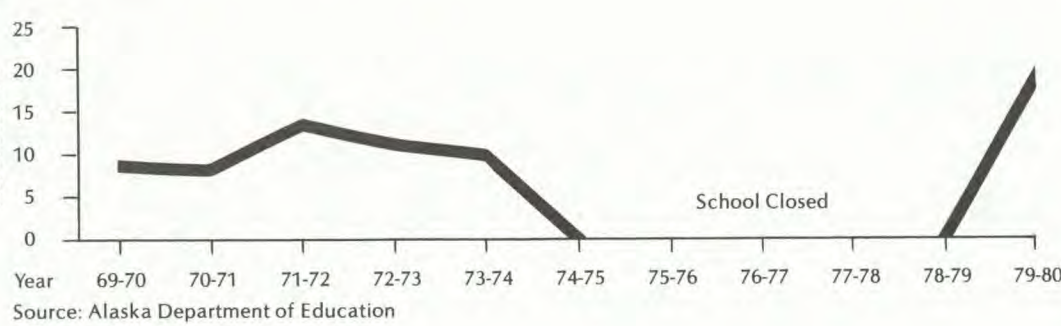


A typical house in Tanacross.



The Tanacross School is a 2-classroom facility serving grades K-8.

Figure 4  
School Enrollment



## Environmental Considerations

**Climate** — Tanacross lies within the continental climatic zone, which is characterized by long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. The growing season lasts 100 days. In winter, cold air settles in the valley and ice fog and smoke conditions are common. The air temperature range in Tanacross over a 15-year recording period varied approximately 87° from an average low of —22°F for December, January, and February to a mean high of 65°F for June, July, and August. The record high was 90°F in 1950 and 1955; the record low was —75°F in 1947.

Average annual precipitation is in excess of 9 inches with the greatest daily accumulation of 3.6 inches recorded in December 1955. Snowfall in Tanacross averages about 27 inches per year. The greatest daily snowfall was 36 inches in December 1955. The greatest depth of snow on the ground was 60 inches measured in 1956.

**Topography, Soils, and Permafrost** — Tanacross is located on a broad alluvial plain of moderately well-drained sites with nearby low terraces which are subject to annual flooding. Soils are formed from deep silty sediments that contain a thin strata of fine sandy loam, silt loam and sand. Numerous old abandoned stream channels characterize the area with exposed seams of gravel and cobblestones. The new village site occupies moderately well-drained land adjacent to the Tanana River. This site is bounded on the north by a low terrace of very poorly drained land subject to frequent flooding.

Most of the village site is underlain with permafrost, and special construction techniques have been used to prevent thawing. Most of the area surrounding Tanacross is underlain with discontinuous permafrost. Generally, it is at a depth of less than 30 inches in the thick silt sediment on alluvial bottoms and in depressions filled with organic material. Thick surface layers of moss or other vegetation act as insulating materials and if removed or disturbed will cause thawing of the permafrost table to a greater depth.

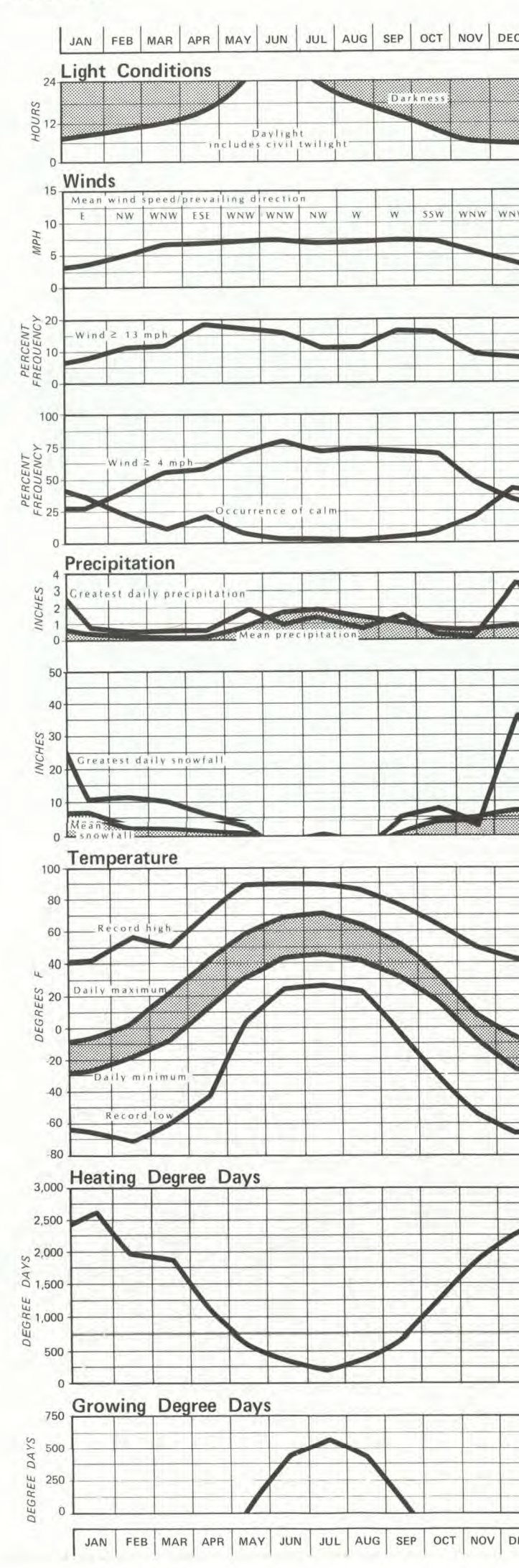
**Drainage, Erosion, and Flooding** — The alluvial plain along the Tanana River is broad and nearly level. Dense stands of aspen, park birch, and white spruce grow on the well-drained sites. Stands of black spruce are generally found on sites where drainage is poor, such as the low, waterlogged terrace north of the new village site.

Streams that drain the unglaciated uplands are relatively clear, such as the small tributary entering the Tanana River across from the old village. Streams that flow from the mountains, such as the Tanana, are glacier fed and are heavily laden with silt and sand.

Active erosion is occurring along the outside bank of major bends in the Tanana River. This erosion poses a potential hazard for the 5 homes which are clustered across the river from the old village site. The only access road to these homes is also threatened. Erosion along the riverbank below the new village site is not as active as found immediately upstream. Due to its distance from the river, there is little present threat of riverbank erosion at the new village site.

The threat of major flooding from the Tanana River still exists in the new village site even though it was selected on the highest available ground near the old village site. Although this particular site has not experienced flooding in the memory of local residents, evidence in the soils and vegetation indicate its susceptibility to a 60-year flood cycle. All surrounding low terraces experience annual flooding, such as the area immediately to the north of the new village site.

Figure 5  
Climatology



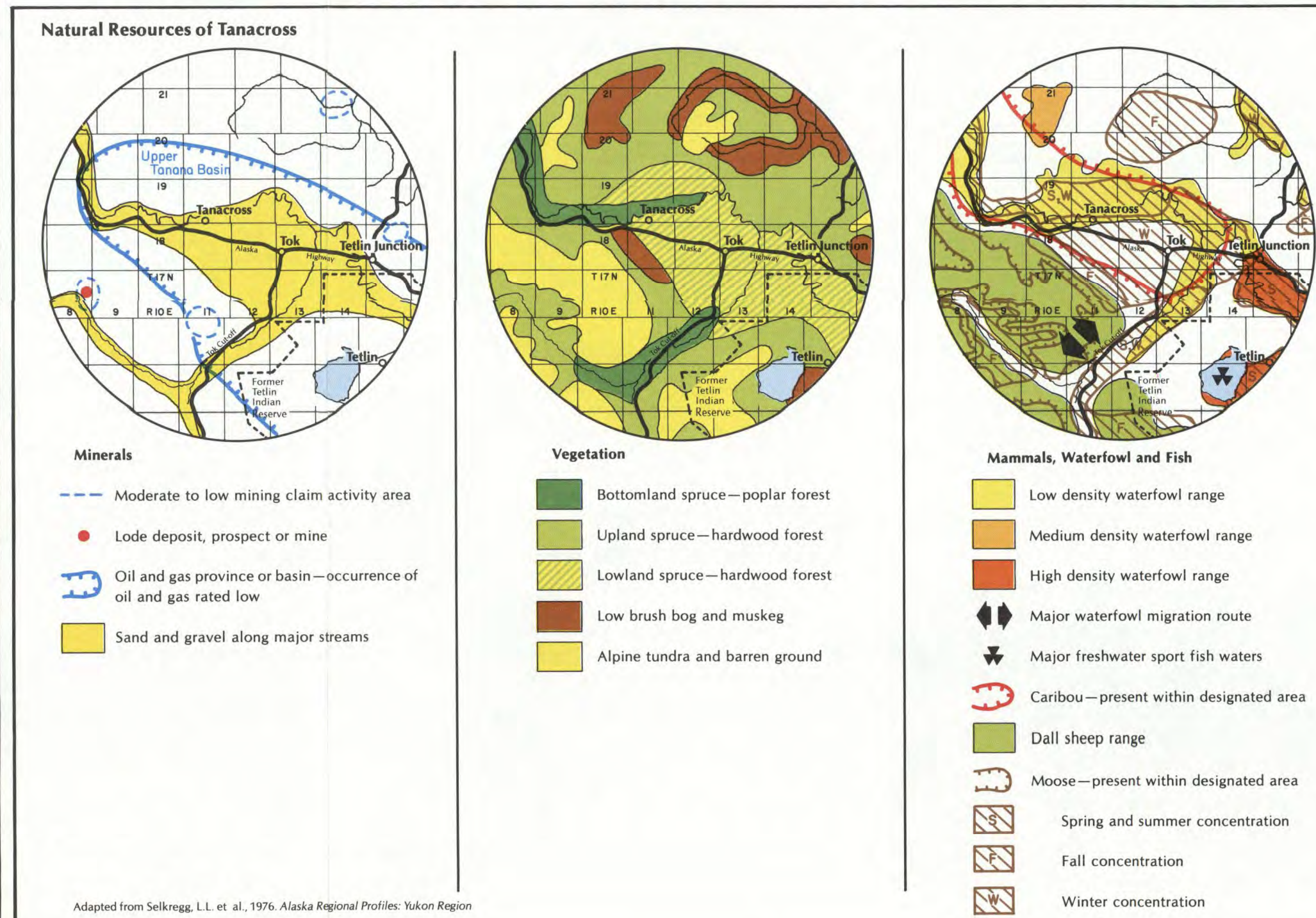
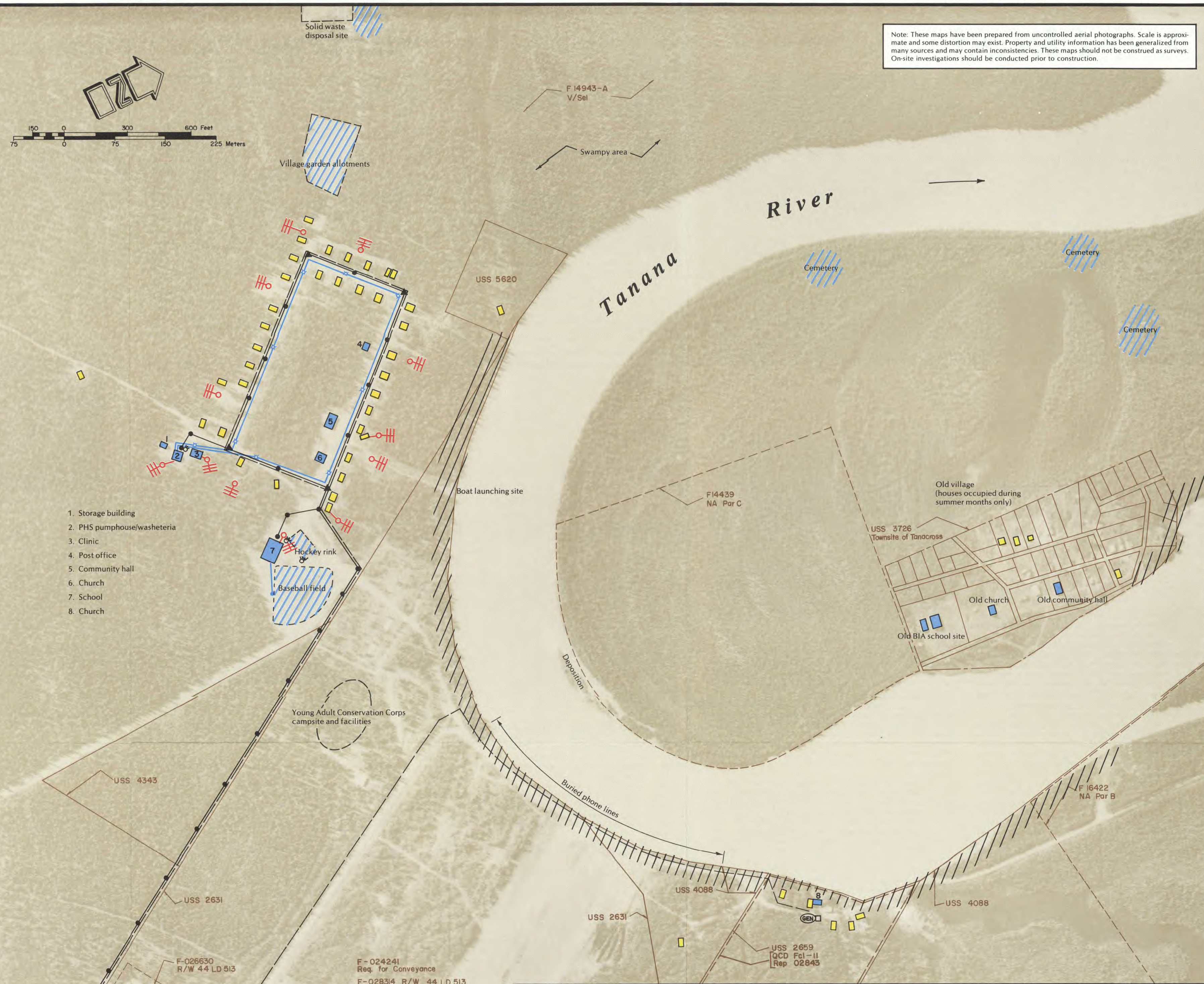
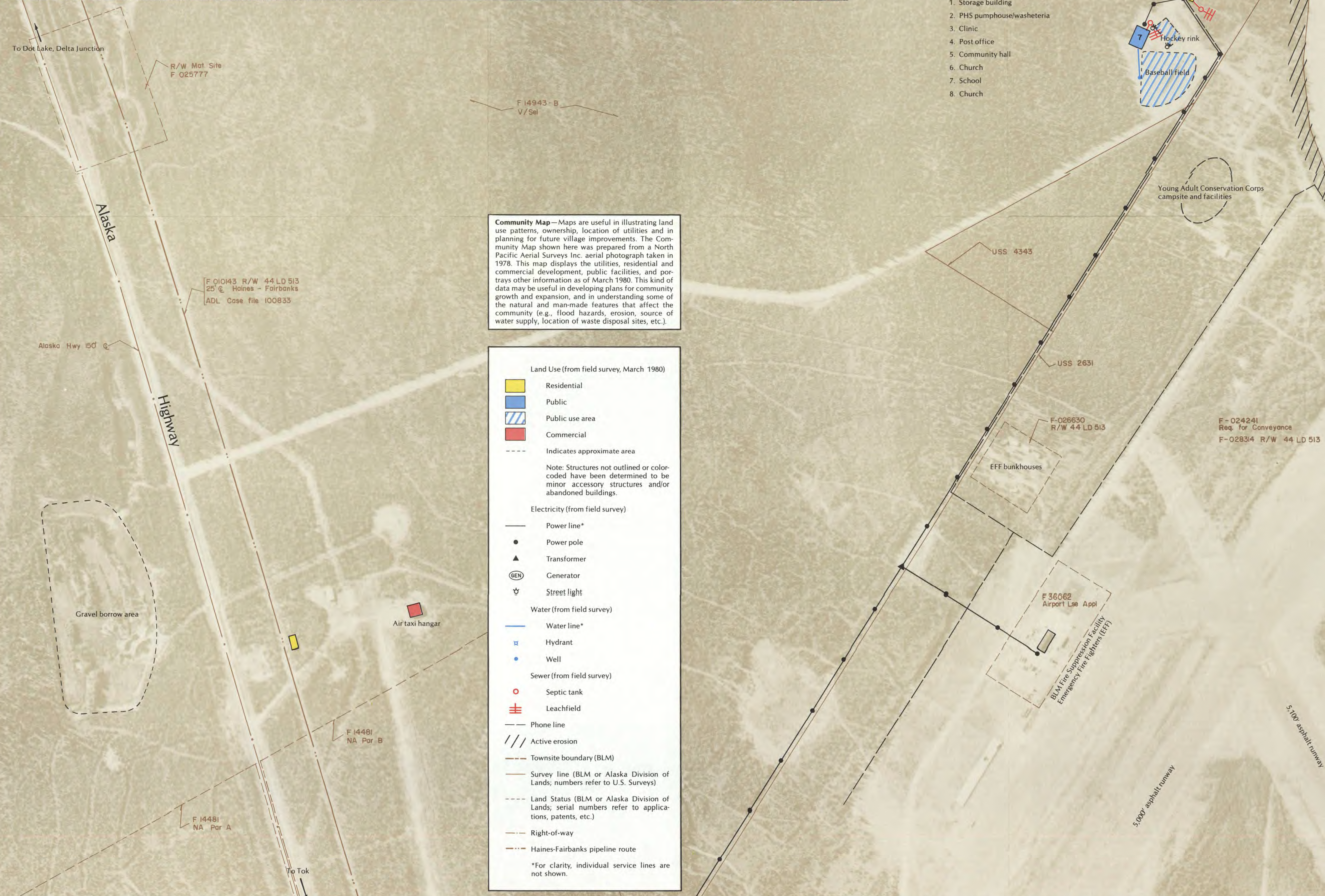
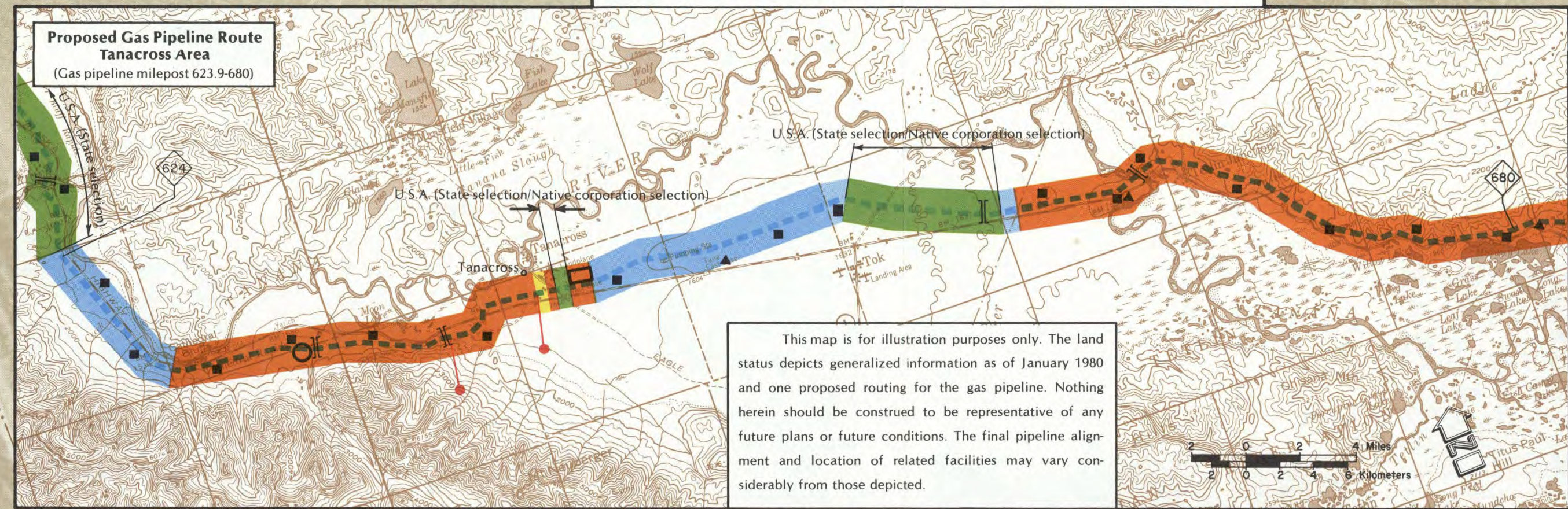


# TANACROSS



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Prepared by Darbyshire and Associates, with Research Design Productions, under contract with Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company, June 1980.





# TETLIN



Photo courtesy of the Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center, University of Alaska.

## The Village

**IRA Council** (May 1980)  
Bentley Mark, Sr., Pres.  
Smitty S. Gene, Sr., V. Pres.  
Titus David, Treas.  
Alex Taylor  
Roy David  
Charlie David, Jr.  
Fred Demit  
Wanda David, Village Clerk

**Village Corporation** (May 1980)  
Donald Joe, Pres.  
Charles David, Jr., V. Pres.  
Nettie David, Secy.  
Bentley Mark, Sr.  
Danny Adam

**History** — Tetlin is located along the Tetlin River, between Tetlin Lake and the Tanana River. The village is 15 miles south of Tetlin Junction on the Alaska Highway, and 20 miles southeast of Tok, but is not presently connected by road to the Alaska Highway. As a consequence of this isolation, village residents, 103 Natives, and 4 non-Natives, pursue a more traditional lifestyle than is characteristic of inhabitants of most communities in the Upper Tanana region.

Historically, the Athabascan Indian settlements in the area were semipermanent hunting and fishing camps occupied seasonally. Lieutenant H. I. Allen explored the area in 1885, and found small groups in residence at Tetlin and Last Tetlin (located several miles to the south). Other small, abandoned camps were also present in the area. Lt. Allen learned that Natives residing at Last Tetlin had already made numerous trips to trading posts on the Yukon River, and at least one current resident of Tetlin recalls traveling to Dawson before posts were established in the Upper Tanana region. Another resident said that the people occasionally traveled to Tanana Crossing (Tanacross) after a trading post opened there in 1912.

An influx of white people into the region during the Chisana gold stampede in 1913 led to the establishment of a trading post across the river from the village before 1920, when Chief David was leader of the people. As early as 1921, a fur buyer from Dawson who was conversant in the Native language was making periodic trips to Tetlin. After John Hajdukovich and W. H. Newton opened posts in Tetlin in the 1920's, Natives from Last Tetlin relocated to the village. Residents curtailed their seminomadic patterns following organization of a school in 1923. The first school building was constructed in 1929, and since 1931 education in the community has been administered by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

Monthly mail delivery by boat from Big Delta began about 1926, with the school teacher distributing mail to village residents until a post office opened in 1932. Construction of an airstrip in 1946 facilitated weekly mail delivery by airplane from Fairbanks.

In 1930 the 786,000-acre Tetlin Indian Reserve was established by Federal Executive Order. When revoked following passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act in 1971, Tetlin chose to acquire surface and subsurface rights to the property.

**Population** — The population of Tetlin was first reported by Lt. Allen in 1885 when he counted 17 people in the village. Anthropologist, William McKennan reported seeing 34 people in Tetlin in 1929. It is likely that the actual Native population of the Tetlin area at this time was substantially larger than either of these observations. The first U.S. Census of 1930 counted 66 people in 1939. Residents believe that federal census figures are generally low due to seasonal migration. The 1950 Census counted 73 residents, 122 people in 1960 and 114 in 1970. The preliminary, unofficial 1980 Census count for Tetlin is 107 residents, most of whom are Native.

**Cultural Traditions** — Upper Tanana Athabascans have had direct exposure to Western culture since the late 1800's, following the establishment of trading posts and the arrival of gold miners in the Yukon River region. By the early 1900's, Natives in the vicinity of Tetlin were trading furs for items of European manufacture. Although these periodic contacts affected traditional cultural patterns, the most significant changes accompanied the establishment of a permanent village in the early 1920's. This disrupted the seminomadic lifestyle and led to the introduction of schools, churches, and occasional opportunities for wage employment. Despite these strong acculturative influences, many important elements of the traditional Athabascan culture remain today.

Tetlin Natives retain a strong sense of pride in their cultural heritage and continue numerous traditional practices. The strength and importance of kinship and social bonds lead many people to prefer residence in the local region, although employment opportunities are normally quite limited; this also reflects the close ties the people have to the land. Traditional foods, especially muskrat, moose, ducks, and fish, are served in many homes and are preferred by older persons. Furs and tanned moosehides are used in the preparation of mocassins, mukluks, and mittens, worn by persons of all ages. Most adults are bilingual, although the Native dialect is used most frequently by, or in conversations with, the elderly.



This potlatch held in Tetlin in 1975 attracted people from throughout the Upper Tanana region. Photo courtesy of Bella Demit.

The present Tetlin village council has one elderly member, whose guidance and wisdom on vital issues are sought frequently by younger leaders. Elders play an important role in reinforcing traditional values, leading ceremonial activities, and assisting in the upbringing of children. Older men, especially, take frequent steam baths, not only for their therapeutic effects but also because of the opportunity they provide for social interaction.

Potlatches, ritual gatherings that celebrate significant community events with the exchange of gifts and food, are the major traditional activity still practiced by Tetlin Natives. One type, the funeral potlatch, is held in memory of a person who has recently died. It often accompanies a Christian funeral. That the funeral potlatch is an important traditional religious ceremony is illustrated by the 1979 State of Alaska Supreme Court decision allowing Natives to kill a moose out of season for use in the feast accompanying this event.

Some persons refer to the second type of potlatch as a "party." It is given to honor someone or to celebrate the recovery of a person from a serious illness or near-fatal accident. This potlatch consists of speeches, singing and dancing, feasting, visiting, and distribution of gifts during a 3- to 4-day period. These festive occasions, conducted at considerable expense to the sponsor(s), are attended by guests from as far away as Copper Center, Minto, and Dawson, Yukon Territory. Minto was well represented at a potlatch held in Tetlin in 1978. Many features of the potlatch are quite complex and involve months of careful preparation, adherence to traditional kinship and social obligations, and the ceremonial exchange of goods.

**Subsistence (Traditional Hunting, Fishing and Gathering Pursuits)** — Nearly all families in Tetlin engage in subsistence activities throughout the year. Traditional resource utilization practices have been affected in recent years by changing animal migration patterns, fluctuating populations due to biological cycles, winter temperatures and snowfall conditions; and increased participation by the people in wage employment. Nevertheless, Tetlin Natives as a group remain more committed to a subsistence lifestyle than Athabascans residing in road-accessible Upper Tanana villages, in part because their land has been less affected by development of the Upper Tanana region. In the late 1960's a woman who formerly resided at Last Tetlin summarized the traditional annual subsistence cycle. She recalled that the spring was devoted to hunting and trapping muskrats, hunting moose and caribou, fishing, and drying meat; in the summer roots and berries were gathered and preserved, while ducks were hunted in the spring, late summer and early autumn months. Fishing occupied the autumn months, trapping dominated activities during the winter months. The annual cycle required seasonal movements to several temporary camps in the area.

Today, caribou and sheep no longer migrate across Tetlin lands, and the expense of traveling to the animals' range is beyond the means of most village residents. Moose, ducks, geese, and spruce hens are hunted in season by individuals or small hunting parties. Trapping for lynx, fox, wolf, mink, marten, otter, weasel, and beaver occurs during the winter months. Approximately 16 trawlines were in operation during the winter of 1979-80. Muskrats are particularly abundant and are trapped or are hunted from boats in the early spring. Rabbits can be taken year-round but normally are not sought during the summer months. The sale of pelts provides income for residents; furs not sold are used as trim for parkas, footwear, and mittens.

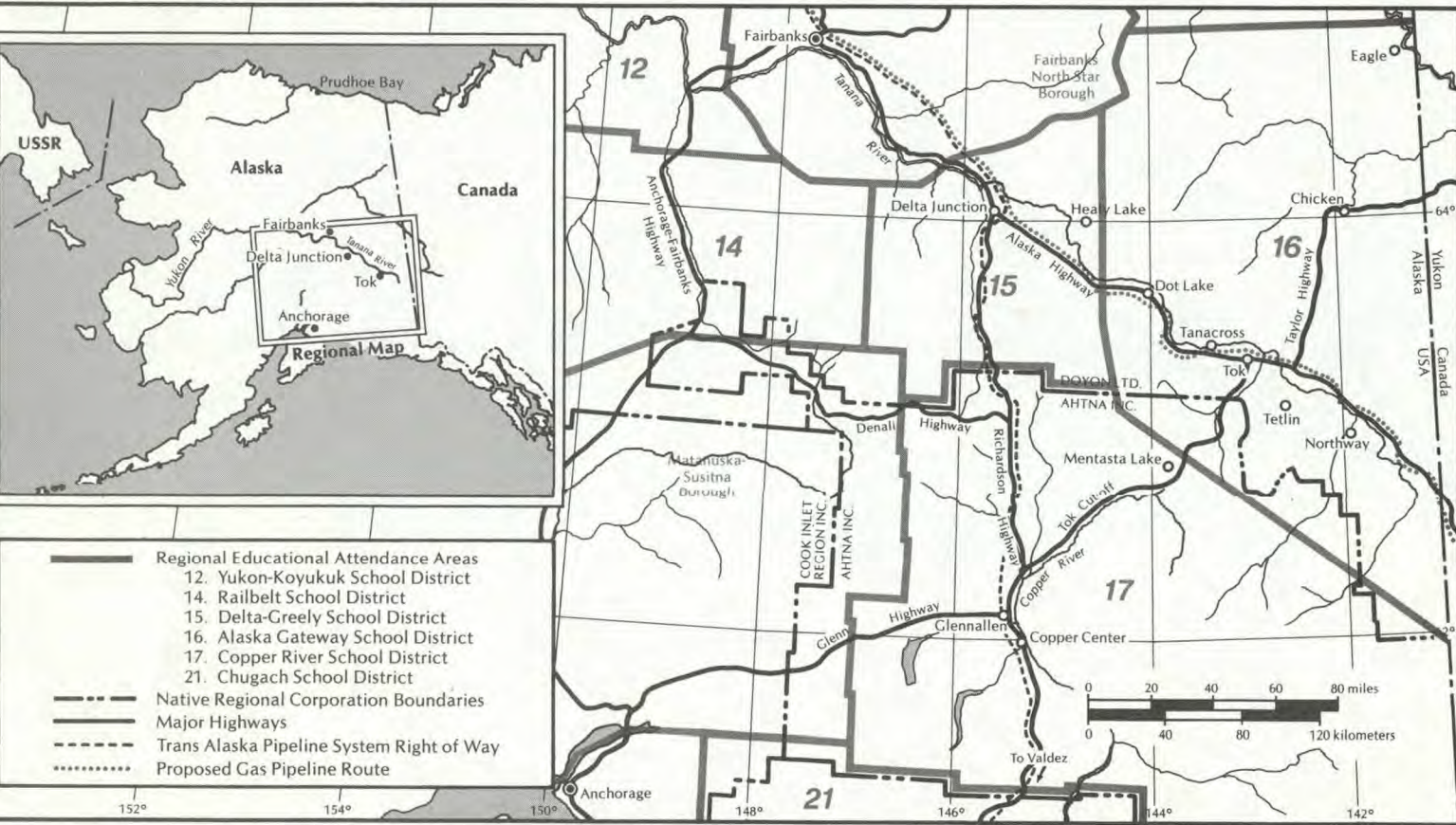
Fishing for whitefish, grayling, burbot, and pike begins in the spring and continues through the summer and early autumn. Some families move to temporary summer fish camps, where they spend several weeks netting and drying whitefish during the peak of the season. Dried fish are then cached until winter when other food resources are in short supply.

**Figure 1**  
**Calendar of Subsistence Activities**

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Hunting	*Moose											
	*Sheep											
	Porcupine											
	Muskrat											
	Rabbit											
Trapping	*Ptarmigan, Grouse, Spruce Hens											
	*Ducks, Geese											
Fishing	*Fur Bearers											
	Burbot											
	Grayling											
	Pike											
	*Salmon*											
Other	Whitefish											
	Berries; Roots											
	Bark; Spruce Roots											
	Wood Gathering											

\*Season for harvest of species subject to Fish and Game regulations.  
\*Not available locally  
\*Not available locally, but residents travel to the Copper River area or Eagle

**Figure 2**  
**Upper Tanana Region Location Map**



**Figure 3**  
**Mileage Chart**

Highway Mileages via Most Direct Overland Route	Anchorage/Canada Border	Anchorage	Big Delta	Dawson City, Canada	Delta Junction	Dot Lake	Fairbanks	Glenallen	Haines	Haines Junction, Canada	Northway Junction	Tanacross	Tetlin Junction	Tok	Whitehorse, Canada
Alaska/Canada Border															
Anchorage	421														
Big Delta	210	350													
Dawson City, Canada	65	524	313												
Delta Junction	201	340	9	303											
Dot Lake	141	376	69	243	60										
Fairbanks	298	358	88	400	97	157									
Glenallen	232	189	160	334	151	187	248								
Haines	364	785	574	592	565	505	662	596							
Haines Junction, Canada	205	626	415	433	406	346	503	437	159						
Northway Junction	43	378	167	284	555	98	652	586	208	49					
Tanacross	105	340	105	207	96	36	93	151	409	310	62				
Tetlin Junction	81	340	129	183	120	60	217	151	445	286	38	24			
Tok	93	328	117	195	108	48	205	139	457	298	50	12	12		
Whitehorse, Canada	304	725	514	334	505	445	602	536	258	99	347	409	385	397	

Source: State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities



Some village residents (for example, Titus David) engage in trapping as a source of income. Photo courtesy of David Maxwell.

Blueberries, cranberries, salmonberries, and other edible berries ripen in the late summer and early autumn. Some berries are preserved and stored in tallow for winter use. The roots referred to as "muskrat cache" are occasionally obtained from the winter dwelling places of muskrats and are considered a delicacy by older Natives. In the spring and early autumn roots of a leguminous plant (*Heidsarum mackenzii*) are gathered; rhubarb is collected in the spring. Birchbark and spruce roots, used in making baskets and baby carriers, are normally obtained in the late spring or summer. Birch bark is used in the construction of drum frames and snowshoes; it can be found at any time of the year but must be used while still "green" and pliable. Firewood is gathered year-round. It is available close to the village and is often transported by snow machine and sled during winter. Figure 1 illustrates the annual subsistence cycle for Tetlin residents.

**Economy and Employment** — Many residents engage in the making of handicrafts for sale. Almost all women in the village make beadwork items including chokers, headbands, key rings, bracelets, watchbands, eweglass cases, and cigarette cases. Other traditional Native products include birchbark baskets, model canoes, sleds, snowshoes, drums and baby carriers, and fur mittens, caps, and slippers. Some residents make craft items from the diamond willow tree on which they etch and carve designs. These handicrafts are generally sent for sale to the gift shops in Tok or the Alaska Native Hospital in Anchorage. Wage employment in the community includes the following positions: teacher aide, school maintenance person, school cook, store owner, postmaster, health aide, alternate health aide, and alcohol program counselor. Three Upper Tanana Development Corporation employees include: a cook for the aging program, a home visitor for the parent-child program and an Easter Seal homemaker. One village resident works at Prudhoe Bay, while another operates a store in Tok. Employment peaks in the summer and fall when seasonal jobs are available to members of the community in firefighting for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), guiding, and in summer construction projects. Village electrification, community hall renovation, and home repairs will provide employment for some residents in summer 1980.

The local village corporation recently sold 175,000 board feet of timber to a sawmill in Tok. The timber is located on approximately 13

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bridge at Mile 1302 on the Alaska Highway. He averages 20 trips during the summer season.

Although there is no road connecting Tetlin to the Alaska Highway, and there are no roads within the community, residents own approximately 8 vehicles which they keep in Tok or off the Alaska Highway near Midway Lake southeast of Tok. Some residents use snow machines to transport them to Midway Lake where they either use their own vehicles to go to Tok, arrange to be picked up by friends, or flag down the Alaska Coachways bus to Tok for \$2.90.

Tetlin has a 2,000-foot x 25-foot turf airstrip located across the Tetlin River from the village. A footbridge which has become unstable due to frost heaves connects the airstrip with the village. Scheduled air service between Tok and Tetlin is provided on Fridays of each week for \$4.50 by Aurora Air Service. Other residents take the biweekly mail plane flown by 40-Mile Air Service at a price of \$13 to fly to Tok. The local airstrip usually charters a plane or hires a snow machine to bring in goods. Forty-Mile Air Service charges \$65 to charter a plane from Tok to Tetlin, \$90 from Tanacross to Tetlin and 10 cents a pound (\$5 minimum) for freight from Tok to Tetlin.

In spring 1977, the legislature approved funds to designate a utility corridor for a potential extension of the Alaska Railroad from Fairbanks to the Canadian border. In 1978 the State Department of Transportation and Public Facilities selected a route which would follow the Tanana River for most of its length. The proposed route would run in an east-west direction near Tetlin Junction.



Once weekly scheduled air service and the twice times weekly mail plane serve the community of Tetlin.

**Health Care** — The Tetlin clinic is staffed by a full-time health aide or an alternate when the health aide is unavailable. Health services are provided by Tanana Chiefs Health Authority (TCHA) and the public health nurse in Tok.

TCHA is a department within Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), the nonprofit Native corporation for Interior Alaska. TCHA administers health services through grants and contracts from both the state and federal governments. The village health aide and alternate have been trained in village health surveillance and preventive health care by the U.S. Public Health Service with specialized training provided by TCHA. TCC has a subregional office in Tok. TCC acts as liaison between health agencies and villages in the Tok subregion by providing the following services: community health aide program, patient referral, health education, counseling, first aid training, fluoride treatments, and home health care services.

An itinerant public health nurse based in Tok visits Tetlin approximately once a month. The nurse deals primarily in preventive health care, conducts clinics in prenatal care, family planning and well-baby and child care. She also gives immunizations, school screenings and physicals, deals with communicable disease prevention and treatment, home visits and counseling, and referral services. Periodically, there are visits by a dentist and a physician from the Alaska Area Native Health Service (AANHS). A fully equipped dental clinic located in Delta Junction has a contract with AANHS to provide basic services to the Native residents of the Tok subregion. A small, private clinic staffed by a physician's assistant is located in Tok. Patients requiring more extensive medical treatment are typically taken to the Alaska Native Health Center in Anchorage. In an emergency, Tetlin patients can be evacuated during daylight hours by air charter, weather permitting.

**Social Services** — Upper Tanana Development Corporation was formed in 1975 as one of 12 nonprofit regional development corporations comprising the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (RACAP). UTDC's primary purpose is to promote the overall economic, social, and educational development of people in the Upper Tanana region. Its programs, which serve Natives and non-Natives, are targeted to assist low income persons, the elderly (over 60), and preschoolers. Current programs include a hot lunch program for the elderly, homemaker services, a parent-child program, and information and referral services. Since October 1977, UTDC has assumed an advocacy role with regard to the gas pipeline project. In April 1978, it co-sponsored a Community Forum on Gas Pipeline Impact. As part of its planning effort for pipeline construction, UTDC has sponsored several studies of pipeline impact. The UTDC Board is comprised of a member from each of the communities of Healy Lake, Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tok, Tetlin, Northway, and Eagle Village.

The State Division of Social Services has a social worker in Tok who provides information and referral services, individual and family counseling, and child and adult protection services. A social service worker travels to Tetlin as needed. A local person acts as a fee agent for the IRA council and is responsible for public assistance programs. In February 1980, 22 Tetlin households were receiving public assistance (old age assistance, aid to the disabled, and/or aid to families with dependent children) and 16 households were receiving food stamps.

The Upper Tanana Regional Council on Alcoholism (UTRCA) was established in Tok in 1973. UTRCA has as its primary objective the reduction of alcohol and other drug abuse problems in the region. There is a resident outreach counselor in Tetlin, who in addition to providing counseling, organizes recreation and school programs (old age assistance, aid to the disabled, and/or aid to families with dependent children) and 16 households were receiving food stamps. Another social service provider in the Upper Tanana region is the United Crow Band (UCB). The executive board of UCB includes a council leader from Tetlin. UCB has contracted to provide employment counseling, general assistance, a foster care program, and information and referral services. A paralegal is located at UCB's main office in Tok. There are currently 2 licensed foster homes in Tetlin.

**Public Safety** — There is currently no fire protection of individual homes in Tetlin. There is a volunteer fire extinguisher brigade which provides protection for the school. Residents rush to a room in the school where backpack chemical fire extinguishers are stored when the school bell sounds the alarm. They are in the organizational stages of expanding this service to the community. Since 1978 there have been major fires in or before December 18, 1979.

There are several means for addressing problems within the community. Traditional informal methods generally involve kinship. As the governing body the village IRA council takes some responsibility for monitoring problems. The Alaska State Troopers based in Tok will fly into Tetlin if requested.

**Needs Assessment** — Village council members listed several important problems in Tetlin requiring attention. Although the village itself may be less impacted than highway communities by regional growth associated with energy development activities, increased pressure is anticipated on existing facilities, some of which already are in need of renovation or replacement. Highest priority is given to a sanitary landfill for solid waste disposal and a new footbridge connecting the village with the airstrip.

Additional concerns include repairs for the community hall, improvements to and lengthening of the existing airstrip, expanded medical facilities and a laundromat. Tetlin residents frequently concern for the high cost of transportation from the village to highway communities, which is made even more problematic by the limited opportunities there for wage employment and the difficulties of travel during the winter months.

## Land Use and Community Facilities

**Housing** — Several of the 36 single family housing units in Tetlin are not currently occupied. Four residences are located on the airstrip side of the river, while the others are in the main village. Thirteen homes were constructed in 1971 with state appropriations under the Alaska State Housing Authority (ASHA). One home was built under a 1974 BIA Housing program and 4 others were built under a Tanana Chiefs Conference program in 1977. Sixteen homes are pre-cut or wood-frame buildings; the remainder are log structures.

Many residences in Tetlin, including several homes occupied by older persons, are inadequately insulated or in need of other repairs. The available housing is inadequate to meet needs that might be created by further community growth.

**Education** — Tetlin Day School is under jurisdiction of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. In spring 1980, 23 students were enrolled. Two teachers instruct grades 1 - 8 in 2 classrooms. The main building containing 1 classroom was built in 1963; the other classroom building was constructed in 1966. Additional buildings house the sewage treatment facility, boiler room, generator plant, pumphouse, shops, and storage buildings. Teacher housing is in the main building. Support staff includes a teacher aide, maintenance person, and cook. High school students are usually sent to the BIA school at Mt. Edgecumbe (Sitka, Alaska). Attendance of high school students from Tetlin at Mt. Edgecumbe High School over the past several years is as follows:

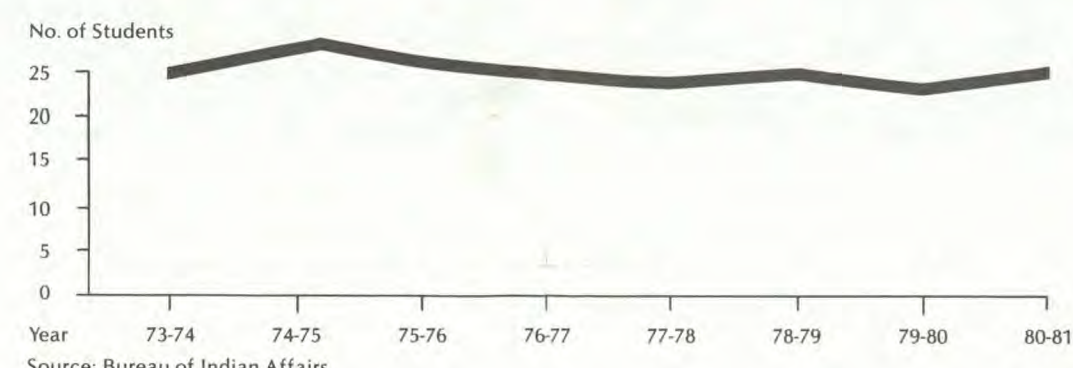
School Year	Number Enrolled Beginning School Year	Number Enrolled End School Year	Number Graduating
1976-77	5	3	0
1977-78	3	3	1
1978-79	7	8	1
1979-80	5	4*	1*

\*expected



The Tetlin BIA Day School has 2 classrooms.

**Figure 4**  
**School Enrollment**



Generally, 1 or 2 students every year will stay in a boarding home and attend high school in Tok. See Figure 4 for attendance data on the Tetlin Day School from the 1973-74 school year to the present.

Sports programs for the school include ice skating, skiing, football, track, basketball, and soccer. A baseball field is located at the airstrip and students play games both in the village and away from home.

The local school board is responsible for managing the school, recommending staff for hire, and leasing and showing movies in the community.

**Community Facilities** — The Tetlin store sells groceries, some hardware, and fuels. The community hall, which was gutted by fire due to an oil furnace explosion in 1979, will be repaired in summer 1980. The local post office is open twice weekly for approximately 2 hours each time after the mail is flown in by 40-Mile Air Service. A Pentecostal Holiness church is currently used for regular services conducted by a village resident.

**Electricity and Heating** — The BIA school has one 25-kw generator and two 35-kw generators. The former is used during the summer off-peak season. The school provides electricity for the clinic/pumphouse, post office, and store. One individual has a private generator.

The village council received a capital improvement grant of \$50,000 from the state legislature in February 1980 for village electrification. These funds will be combined with a HUD community development grant of \$110,000. The village plans to provide labor and materials to complete the work. The village owns two 90-kw generators in Fairbanks and one 50-kw unit (which is not currently in use) in the village.

Homes in Tetlin are heated with wood-burning stoves. The local store sells containers of fuel for snow machines, chain saws, cooking, and gas lighting. The BIA school facility has 4 tanks with a combined total of 23,000 gallons capacity for fuel. Fuel is brought to town by airplane via belly tanks or by local barge. Propane sold for \$30 per 100 pounds, and Blazo sold for \$14 per 5-gallon can in March 1980. A snow machine load of wood (approximately ¼ cord) sold for \$15 in 1980.

**Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste** — No homes in Tetlin have plumbing systems. Residents haul water from the pumphouse/clinic building which was completed in 1970 with funds provided by the U.S. Public Health Service. The well, which is located within the pumphouse, is 56 feet deep. Storage capacity for water is 300 gallons. Residents report that the pipes sometimes break causing the floors to flood and, consequently, ice to build up inside the building. The BIA school has its own private well and 1,000-gallon storage tank, a piped water, sewer, and electric system which is housed in an above-ground utility. Water is reported to be of good quality.



The footbridge which leads from the airstrip across the Tetlin River to the village has been damaged due to frost heaves.

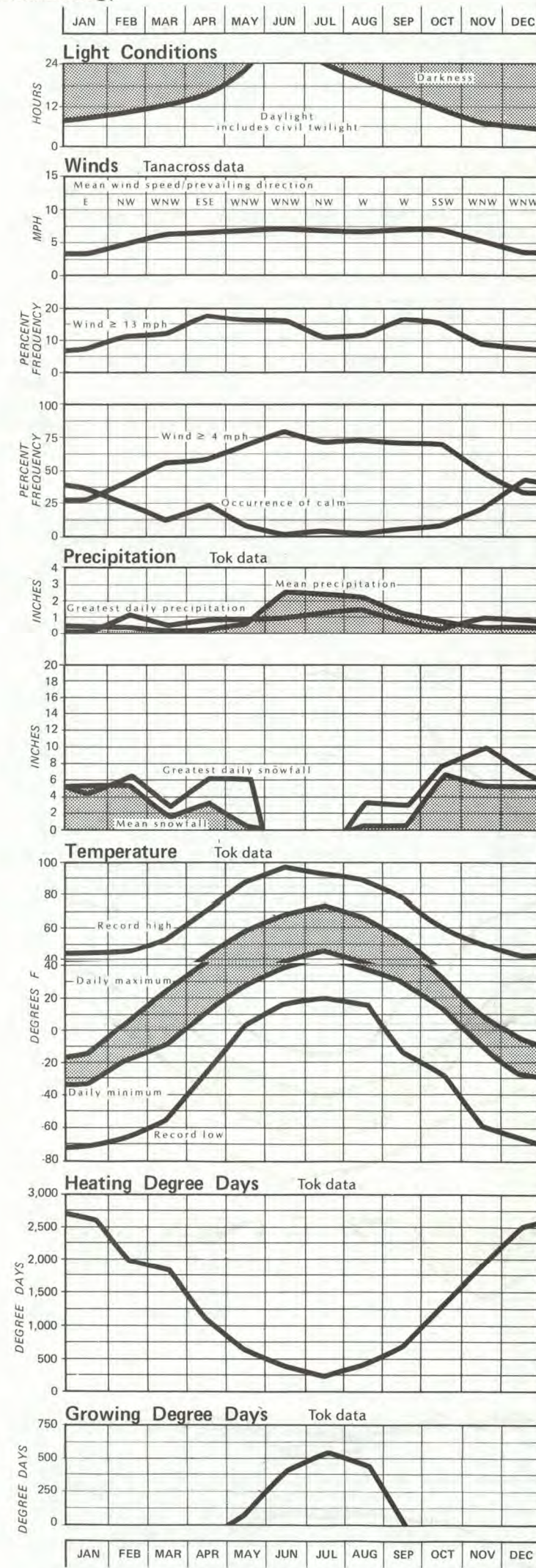
**Acknowledgment:** We would like to thank the many agencies and individuals who provided information for this report. Special thanks goes to the community residents who gave so generously of their time and knowledge at the community meetings which were held to review the content of this profile.

## Environmental Considerations

**Climate** — Tetlin lies within the continental climatic zone, which is characterized by long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. Average temperatures (Tok data) range between -32°F and 72°F. The growing season lasts 100 days. In winter, temperature inversions and smoke conditions are common. The average lows for December, January, and February are -25°F, -32°F, and -17°F, respectively. Average highs are 69°F, 72°F, and 67°F for June, July, and August, respectively. The highest recorded temperature was 99°F, registered in June 1979; the lowest was -71°F, recorded in January 1965.

The average annual precipitation is 10.89 inches with the greatest daily precipitation of 1.4 inches measured in August 1958. The average annual snowfall is 33.5 inches. The greatest daily snowfall was in 1973 when 10 inches fell.

**Figure 5**  
**Climatology**



**Topography Soils, and Permafrost** — The village of Tetlin is located on a slight bluff adjacent to Chisana Mountain and overlooks a broad valley containing numerous thaw lakes. This site is immediately adjacent to the narrow floodplain of the Tetlin River that runs along the north side of the valley. A steep 10- to 15-foot bank provides a natural river dike to protect the village from the 40- to 60-year flood cycles that characterize the rivers of this region. The Tetlin River is navigable by barge and is the main commerce route linking the village to the outside.

Immediately behind the village, adjacent to the foothills, are depressions in the terrain caused by thawing of permafrost. These depressions hold surface runoff and contain poorly drained sites which act as natural barriers to future village development further back from the Tetlin River.

The slight bluff on which the village is sited is the remnant of a glacial outwash plain of sand and gravel which has since been eroded by continuing stream action. Soils of the bluff site are forming under well-drained conditions and support stands of paper birch, quaking aspen, and white spruce. The surrounding depressions in the terrain and broad valley floor, brought about by melting of the permafrost, act as catchment basins to surface runoff. These swampy conditions are developing organic soils from the decomposition of mosses, low growing shrubs, and sedge tussocks in the standing water marshes. Later, when drainage conditions improve with the natural build-up of soil, they will develop stands of alder, black spruce, and willow.

The village site is underlain by continuous permafrost which is interrupted only by the occurrence of thick gravel lenses deposited by the Tetlin River. Surrounding lands are generally underlain by discontinuous permafrost. Permafrost causes problems with sewage disposal, water availability and the placement of pipes and building footings. Even careful use of insulation does not avoid some melting of the permafrost which causes major shifting in the structure and bearing strength of these soils.

**Drainage, Erosion, and Flooding** — The selection of the present village site was greatly influenced by the adjacency of well-drained land to the Tetlin River. The village is located on a bench of fine-grained deposits forming on a 10-foot bank rising abruptly from the floodplain of the river. The river's numerous stream channels provide good surface drainage for the village site.

Erosion is occurring along the edge of the bench land which drops abruptly from the village site into the floodplain of the Tetlin River. One problem area is threatening 2 homes that are close to the Tetlin River at the north end of the village. Reinforcement of the bank with logs has been required at various places near the village. In 1964, floodwaters rose to their highest levels in recent memory and threatened the village post office, the building closest to the riverbank. No actual flooding of village structures has occurred in recent memory.



COMMUNITY MAP

TETLIN

63°08'N 142°31'W Elevation 1625' (at airstrip)



Prepared by Darbyshire and Associates, with Research Design Productions, under contract with Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company, June 1980.

Note: These maps have been prepared from uncontrolled aerial photographs. Scale is approximate and some distortion may exist. Property and utility information has been generalized from many sources and may contain inconsistencies. These maps should not be construed as surveys. On-site investigations should be conducted prior to construction.

**Community Map**—Maps are useful in illustrating land use patterns, ownership, location of utilities and in planning for future village improvements. The Community Map shown here was prepared from a BLM aerial photograph taken in 1972. This map displays the utilities, residential and commercial development, public facilities, and portrays other information as of March 1980. This kind of data may be useful in developing plans for community growth and expansion, and in understanding some of the natural and man-made features that affect the community (e.g., flood hazards, erosion, source of water supply, location of waste disposal sites, etc.).

Land Use (from field survey, March 1980)

- Residential
- Public
- Public use area
- Commercial
- Under construction
- Indicates approximate area

Note: Structures not outlined or color-coded have been determined to be minor accessory structures and/or abandoned buildings.

Electricity (from field survey)

- Power line
- Generator
- Street light

Water (from field survey)

- Well

Sewer (from field survey)

- Sewer line
- Septic tank

Phone (VHF link to Tok exchange)

- Phone

Fuel line

- Fuel line

Active erosion

- Active erosion

**Natural Resources of Tetlin**

**Minerals**

- Moderate to low mining claim activity area
- Oil and gas province or basin—occurrence of oil and gas rated low
- Sand and gravel along major streams

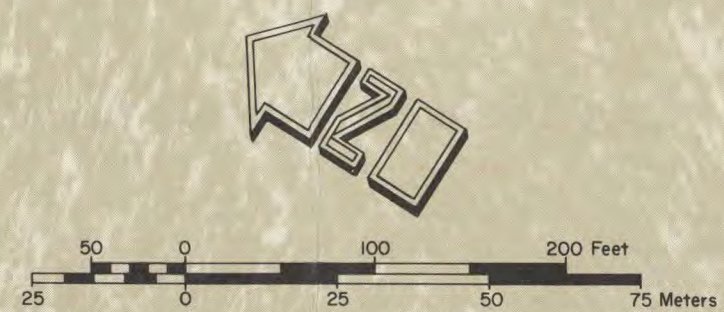
**Vegetation**

- Bottomland spruce—poplar forest
- Upland spruce—hardwood forest
- Lowland spruce—hardwood forest
- Low brush bog and muskeg
- High brush
- Alpine tundra and barren ground

**Mammals, Waterfowl and Fish**

- Low density waterfowl range
- High density waterfowl range
- Major waterfowl migration route
- Major freshwater sport fish waters
- Caribou—present within designated area
- Dall sheep range
- Moose—present throughout area
- Spring and summer concentration
- Fall concentration
- Winter concentration

Adapted from Selkregg, L.L. et al., 1976. Alaska Regional Profiles: Yukon Region



Limit of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers floodplain study

Tetlin River

Baseball field

Plug-in for aircraft

Dip net fish site

2,000' sod airstrip

Old trading post/storage

Old mission

Unconnected outfall line

Sewage lagoon (fenced)

Solid waste disposal site

- 1. School complex
- 2. Tetlin Store
- 3. Clinic/wash house
- 4. Community hall
- 5. Post office
- 6. Steam bath building
- 7. IRA Council building
- 8. Church

**Flood Data**

- Area that would be inundated by a flood with a frequency of approximately 100 years.

NOTES:

- Flood hazard work was performed by the Alaska District Corps of Engineers at the request of and funded by the Federal Insurance Administration.
- The flood hazard area shown hereon is based on meager data, plus a minimum of historical flooding information and should be considered as preliminary.
- The major flooding that occurs at this location is the result of stream overflow and spring ice jams.
- Any levees or dikes were considered in delineating the approximate 100-year flood.

February 1975

**Proposed Gas Pipeline Route Tetlin Area**  
(Gas pipeline milepost 661.4-715)

Land status

- U.S.A.
- U.S.A. (Native corporation selection)
- U.S.A. (Native allotment pending)
- U.S.A. (State tentatively approved)
- Private (excluding Native corporation)

Proposed pipeline facilities

- Material site
- Pipe storage area
- Compressor station
- Construction camp
- River or major stream crossing
- Gas pipeline milepost

This map is for illustration purposes only. The land status depicts generalized information as of January 1980 and one proposed routing for the gas pipeline. Nothing herein should be construed to be representative of any future plans or future conditions. The final pipeline alignment and location of related facilities may vary considerably from those depicted.

2 0 4 Miles





The Community

**History** — Tok is located at the junction of the Alaska and Glenn Highways, about 90 miles from the Canadian border and 200 miles from Fairbanks. Residents generally consider the Tok area to extend north to the Tanana River, 12 miles east to the Fortymile Roadhouse, 23 miles south to Mile 102 on the Tok Cut-off, and 7 miles west to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) area headquarters, formerly a Haines-Fairbanks pipeline pump station.

Tok originated as an Alaska Road Commission camp for the construction of the Alcan and Glenn Highways between 1942 and 1946. A branch of the Northern Commercial Company was established in 1944. In 1946 Tok was established as a presidential townsite. In that same year the Alcan was completed, and a post office and roadhouse had been established in the community. The first school was started in 1947 in a room in an Alaska Road Commission building. In 1958 a new school was built with funds appropriated by the territorial legislature. In 1954 the U.S. Army began construction of the 8-inch diameter Haines-Fairbanks fuel pipeline with a pump station in Tok, which had a peak resident work force of 52 persons in 1968. The U.S. Army closed down the pipeline in September 1979. The Tok pump station is currently utilized by the BLM and serves as headquarters for the Fortymile Resource Area.

In 1976 the U.S. Coast Guard established a LORAN-C (Long Range Aids to Navigation) station in Tok. Four 700-foot towers 6 miles east of the junction transmit radio navigation signals for air and marine traffic, primarily in the Gulf of Alaska.

Tok is often referred to as the "Gateway to Alaska" because it is the first major community on the Alaska Highway after the Canadian border. It was the site of the U.S. Customs offices from 1947 to 1971 when the office was moved to its present location at the border.



The Bureau of Land Management's Fortymile Resource Area facilities.

**Population** — The 1960 Census counted only 129 persons for the community of Tok. However, an additional 186 persons were listed as residing nearby in "unspecified" places. As it is likely that most of these were in the Tok area, a more accurate figure for the 1960 population would be 315 persons. Similarly, the 1970 Census recorded only 214 persons for Tok, but counted an additional 363 in the immediate area for a total of 577 persons. Preliminary, unofficial figures from the 1980 Census counted 696 persons in Tok. According to the state public health nurse about 14% of the Tok population is Alaska Native. Alaska Department of Health and Social Services statistics for Tok indicate that between 1970 and 1978 there were an average of 10-11 births per year and 2.3 deaths. Thus, since 1970, Tok's population has grown at an average rate of about 2% per year with about 1% due to immigration.

Table 1, which gives 1960, 1970, and 1980 population statistics for Tok and other area communities shows that the regional population for 1980 is 1,297 persons, up 23% from the 1970 Census total of 1,051 persons.



Tok's annual Fourth of July celebration draws residents from many of the surrounding villages. (Photos courtesy of Joyce Erickson and David Maxwell)

Figure 1 Upper Tanana Region Location Map

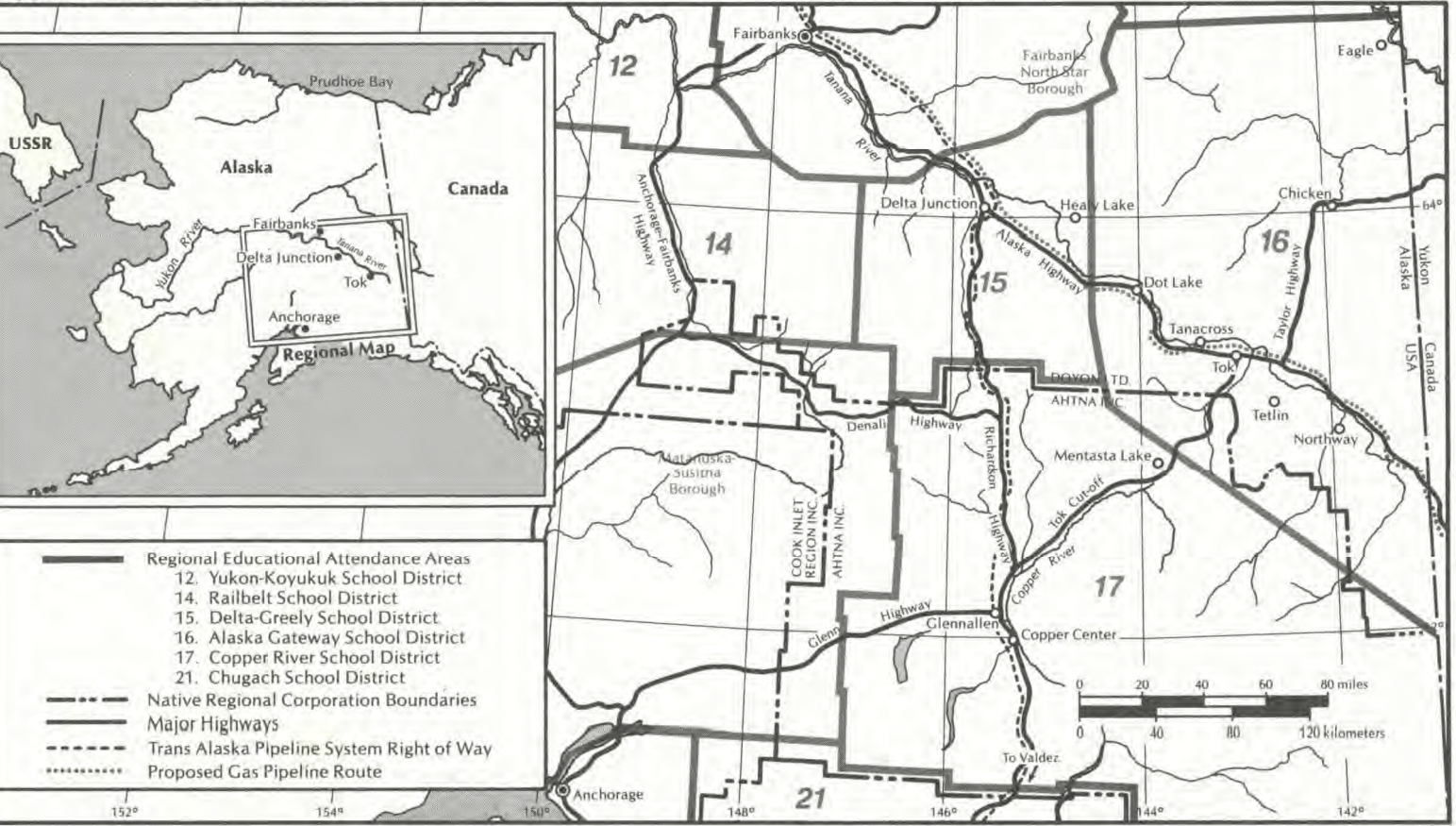


Figure 2 Mileage Chart

Highway Milesages via Most Direct Overland Route	Anchorage/Canada Border	Anchorage	Big Delta	Dawson City, Canada	Delta Junction	Dot Lake	Fairbanks	Glenallen	Haines	Haines Junction, Canada	Northway Junction	Tanacross	Tetlin Junction	Tok	Whitehorse, Canada
Alaska/Canada Border	421	210	65	201	141	298	232	364	205	43	105	81	93	304	
Anchorage	421	350	350	524	340	376	358	189	785	626	378	340	340	328	725
Big Delta	210	350	313	9	69	8	160	574	415	167	105	129	117	514	
Dawson City, Canada	65	524	313		303	243	400	334	592	433	284	207	183	195	334
Delta Junction	201	340	9	303		60	97	151	565	406	555	96	120	108	505
Dot Lake	141	376	69	243	60		157	187	505	346	98	36	60	48	445
Fairbanks	298	358	88	400	97	157		248	662	503	652	93	217	205	602
Glenallen	232	189	160	334	151	187	248		596	437	586	151	151	139	536
Haines	364	785	574	592	565	505	662	596		159	208	469	445	457	258
Haines Junction, Canada	205	626	415	433	406	346	503	437	159		49	310	286	298	99
Northway Junction	43	378	167	284	555	98	652	586	208	49		62	38	50	347
Tanacross	105	340	105	207	96	36	93	151	469	310	62		24	12	409
Tetlin Junction	81	340	129	183	120	60	217	151	445	286	38	24		12	385
Tok	93	338	117	195	108	48	205	139	457	298	50	12	12		397
Whitehorse, Canada	304	725	514	334	505	445	602	536	258	99	347	409	385	397	

Source: State of Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities

Figure 3 Covered Private Employment \*

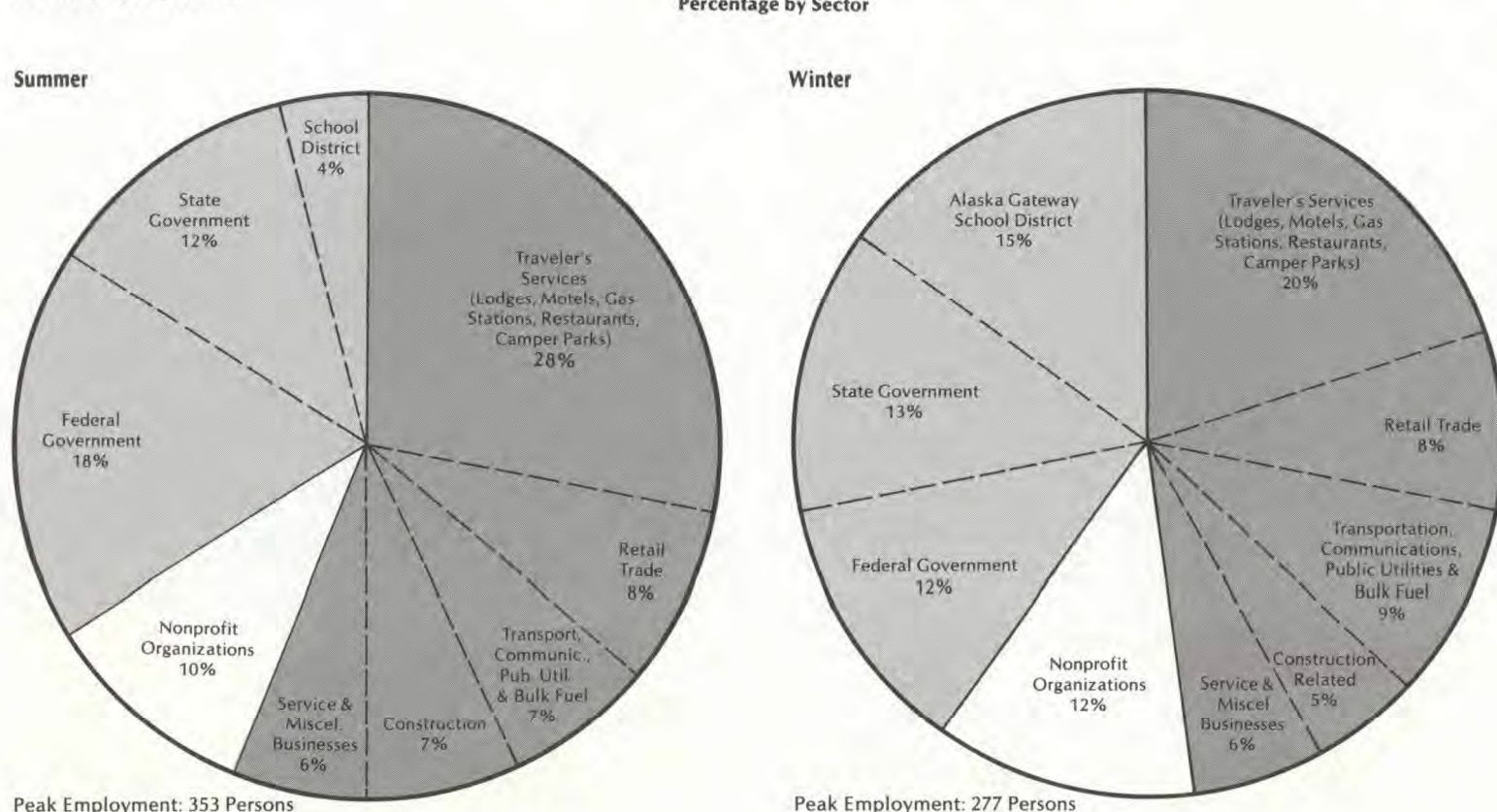


\*Covered employment includes only private employment covered by unemployment insurance.  
Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research and Analysis.

To gain a more complete perspective on the current Tok economy for this profile, employment information was compiled for 53 local businesses, 8 nonprofit organizations and 11 government agencies. The data (Table 2) indicated that in summer 1979, total employment in Tok was 353 persons: 69 self-employed, 130 employed by private businesses, 34 employed by nonprofit organizations, and 120 employed by government. In winter 1979, total employment was 277 persons, or about 21% lower than the summer.

Table 2 illustrates that in the summer of 1979 private business employment accounted for 199 jobs, or 56% of the total. One hundred of the private employment jobs were in traveler services, a group which includes lodges, motels, gas stations, restaurants, and camper parks. Retail trade employed 29 persons; transportation, communications, public utilities and bulk fuel employed 26; construction employed 26; and services and miscellaneous employed 20 persons.

Figure 4 Total Employment



Source: Survey of businesses, organizations, and agencies made by Northwest Alaskan Pipeline's Socioeconomic Department in Spring 1980.

Prepared by Darbyshire and Associates, with Research Design Productions, under contract with Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company, June 1980.

Court System, and the University of Alaska.

Some residents take seasonal construction jobs outside of the area for several months at a time. Other sources of income to the local economy include breeding sled dogs which are raised in several local kennels. The local agent for a major fur buyer estimates that Tok residents received \$300,000 in 1979 from the sale of pelts trapped in the area. There is a small bank in Tok which is a branch of a Fairbanks-based bank. However, a group of Tok residents is attempting to receive a charter to start its own bank.

Although there has been some mining activity in the Upper Tanana region since the early 1900's, recent increases in the price of gold have resulted in a sharp increase in gold mining. In addition, over the past 5 years there has been a steady increase in mineral exploration activity in the region. Although there is currently no mining or mineral exploration within the Tok study area, the community is a transportation, service, and supply center for these activities in the region.



Several gift shops in Tok offer a wide variety of Alaskan crafts to the passing highway visitor. (Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)

**Government** — The community of Tok is not incorporated as a municipality under state law. Residents of Tok have on several occasions decided against forming a local or regional government. Property and sales taxes are not levied in Tok. For the purposes of regional government, Alaska is divided into a system of organized and unorganized boroughs. The 11 organized boroughs cover about 40% of the state; Tok is part of the single Unorganized Borough which covers the remainder of the state.

In the absence of a local government, state agencies and other groups often hold community meetings or public hearings to gain input from Tok area residents. The Alaska Gateway Regional School Board, which includes 3 members from Tok and 4 from other villages in the region, is the only publicly elected body in Tok. However, there are several local committees with volunteer membership which provide quasi-governmental functions for the community including: Local Roads Committee, Public Library Committee, Clinic Board, Airport Committee, Cemetery Committee, Area Mental Health Council, Tok Advisory School Board, the Tok Fire Department, and the Upper Tanana/Fortymile Fish and Game Advisory Committee.

In addition there are a number of membership organizations, special interest groups and nonprofit corporations in Tok. These include Tok Fine Arts Council, Tok TV Committee, Tok Emergency Medical Technicians Organization, Tok Regional Center Policy Advisory Council, Tanana Chiefs Conference, United Crow Band, Tok Dog Mushers, Tok Chamber of Commerce, VFW, Alaska Fur Trappers Club, Upper Tanana Regional Council on Alcoholism, Upper Tanana Development Corporation, and the Tok Native Association.

**Land Ownership** — The Tok area, as defined in this study, encompasses 72 square miles. (Note: All figures used in this section were derived from BLM status plats on file as of March 1, 1980, and are estimated figures.) The analysis of land status found that the federal government owned approximately 19,500 acres or 46% of the land in the study area. However, land ownership is expected to change when nearly all of this federal land is transferred to either the State of Alaska under the Statehood Act, or Tanacross, Inc., a nearby Native village corporation, under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA).

The state already has received patent to major portions of land southwest of the junction of the Glenn and Alaska Highways and to the north of the Alaska Highway. East of the junction large areas have been tentatively approved for conveyance to the state and a small amount has been state selected. When state selected and tentatively approved lands (excluding those also selected by Tanacross, Inc.) are conveyed and combined with lands already patented to the state, it should eventually own approximately 63% of the land in the study area. Major tracts of land north of the Alaska Highway show a mixture of state patented, tentatively approved, and state selected lands.

ANCSA selected Native village corporations to select land which had been previously selected by the state. Because of this double selection it is not possible to determine how much of the area will be owned by Native corporations until conveyance by the federal government. Assuming that Tanacross, Inc. were to receive all the land selected within the area, Native ownership could potentially amount to roughly 31% of the total land area. The subsurface estate of land conveyed to Tanacross, Inc. will be conveyed to the regional Native corporation, Doan, Limited.

Private ownership, amounting to about 2,500 acres, or 6%, is concentrated in the area surrounding the junction and along narrow bands on either side of the Alaska and Glenn Highways. This ownership category is a result of land sales held by the state and federal governments. The state proposes to dispose of another 1,980 acres of land in the area in June 1980. Residents are hopeful that the state will continue to make land available for private ownership under state land disposal programs.

**Transportation** — The community of Tok is centered on the junction of the Alaska Highway and the Tok Cut-off to the Glenn Highway. This location affords Tok road access directly to and from Anchorage and Fairbanks, the state's major population centers. According to the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, about 100,000 persons crossed the border going northwest on the road to Tok in 1979. About 80% of these persons passed through between May and September. It is likely that many of these persons also traveled through Tok again on their way south. Figure 5 gives monthly statistics on persons entering Alaska via the Alaska Highway for 1970-1979.

Several private carriers provide Tok with bus service. Buses leave Tok for Fairbanks on Tuesdays and Fridays, and for Whitehorse on Mondays and Thursdays. Service is increased in the summer months when buses travel from Tok for Fairbanks 6 times/week; to Anchorage 3 times/week; to Haines 3 times/week; to Whitehorse 2 times/week, and to Skagway once a week. There is no bus service to Anchorage in the winter. Although several overland freight carriers provide Tok with weekly and biweekly deliveries of groceries and other products, there is no general freight delivery service.

Light aircraft can land at Tok Field, known locally as the Tok Lodge Strip, a 2,300-foot gravel strip located on the east side of the Tok Cut-off 2 miles south of the junction. Another airstrip, located 1 mile east of the junction on the south side of the Alaska Highway, was closed in 1976. In addition, there are a number of private airstrips that are used by small aircraft. Aurora Air Service provides a regular flight once a week from Fairbanks with stops in Delta Junction, Tanacross, and then Tok on its way to Tetlin and Northway. Locally owned 40-Mile Air Service, based at the Tanacross airport, makes scheduled mail/passenger runs to Tetlin each Tuesday and Friday at 9 a.m., and to Chikena and Boundary each Friday at 11 a.m. Forty-Mile Air Service also provides air charter service in the area.

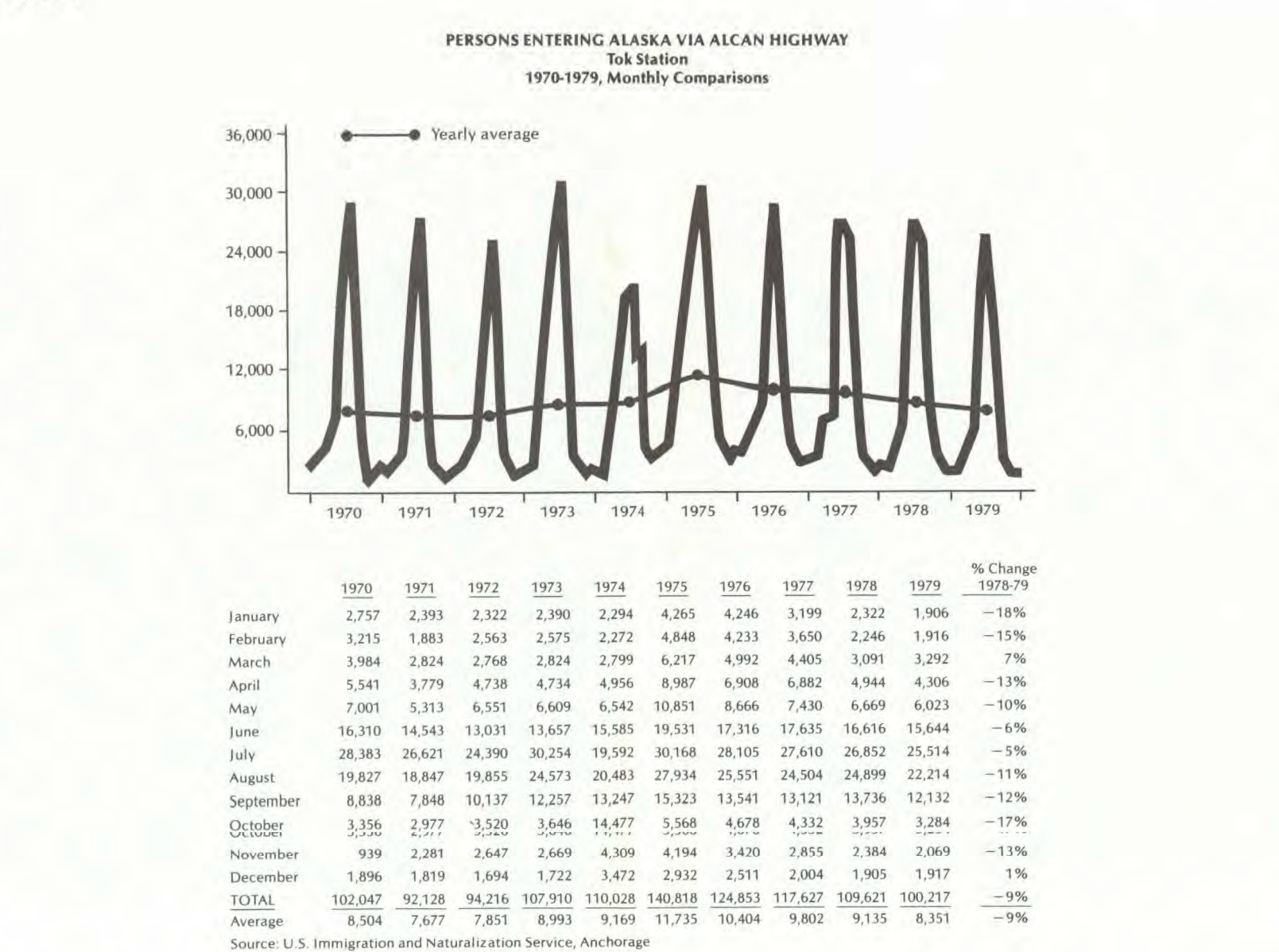
A network of trails and waterways connects Tok with nearby villages. The Tanana River is 4 miles north of Tok and provides a river route to the nearby village of Tetlin. In the summer months barge service transports bulk groceries and fuel from Tok to Tetlin.

In spring 1977 the legislature approved funds to designate a utility



Lumber to help meet local building needs is processed at a sawmill located 5 miles south of town on the Tok Cut-off. (Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)

Figure 5



Persons Entering Alaska via Alcan Highway  
Tok Station  
1970-1979, Monthly Comparisons

Yearly average



Aircraft landings in the area in winter often require skis to assure a smooth landing on the snow. (Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)

**Public Safety** — Five Alaska State Troopers serve the Tok area with a full range of state law enforcement and community protection services. The Tok office responds to the following service area: 175 miles north to the Yukon River, 61 miles south to Mile 62.7 on the Tok Cut-off, 93 miles east to the Canadian border, and 48 miles west to Dot Lake.



Tok's Volunteer Fire Department has 6 fire trucks at its disposal. (Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)

Local troopers are on call from 8 a.m. to midnight daily. After midnight local residents must call a Fairbanks referral number for a trooper dispatcher. If the situation is determined to be critical by the Fairbanks dispatcher, a Tok area trooper is called to respond to the emergency. Tok residents have expressed dissatisfaction with this indirect communication and with the delayed response time that allows. A state magistrate resides in Tok as well. At present, the courtroom is housed in the Information Center; however a new courthouse will be constructed in Tok in the summer of 1980.

In the event of a medical emergency the physician's assistant at the Tok Clinic is usually the first to respond. Also on call in the area are 6 active emergency medical technicians (EMTs). They serve the same area as the local Alaska State Troopers. There is an ambulance stationed in Tok, but it must cover a large area and is reportedly not suitable for travel over a long distance. If medical evacuation is necessary, it is usually done by air charter to a hospital in Fairbanks or Anchorage. Cost for ambulance service to these destinations would be about twice the cost of an air charter.

**Acknowledgment:** We would like to thank the many agencies and individuals who provided information for this report. Special thanks goes to the community residents who gave so generously of their time and knowledge at the community meetings which were held to review the content of this profile.

wolverine, muskrat, beaver, fox, marten, and lynx. Species fished locally include whitefish, sheefish, burbot, rainbow trout, grayling, and pike. Several of these are available year-round through winter ice fishing. Some residents also travel to Glennallen or Eagle to fish for salmon since they are not available locally.

Raspberries, blueberries, rosehips, mushrooms, crowberries, and cranberries are gathered in the late summer and fall. In addition, many Tok residents plant individual gardens and some have greenhouses. Figure 6 is a calendar of hunting, fishing, and related activities for the Tok area.

Trails are used for trapping, snowmobiling, and dogsledding. About half of Tok's households have snow machines and about 15 families keep sled dogs. The 20-mile trail for Tok's annual "Race of Champions" extends from Tok east to the Tanana River bridge and back again. The trail is well known as one of the finest in North America and attracts many noted mushers to the race.

Tok Station is the site of much of the community's recreational



Dall sheep are taken by Tok residents as little as 15 minutes flying time away in the nearby mountains. (Photo courtesy of Joyce Erickson)

activity including volleyball, basketball, and winter ice skating. Students participate in interscholastic sports programs which include basketball, wrestling, cross-country running and skiing, hockey, and speed skating. Other recreational activities include weekly movies at both the school and a local hall, a square dancing club, a trapshooters club, a dog mushers club, and a dart club.



Approximately 30 area residents are members of the Tok Dog Mushers Association. (Photo courtesy of John Olding)

Several community teams participate in the Tok Summer Softball League. Between mid-May and mid-October, an estimated 20-25 families use boats on the nearby Tok and Tanana Rivers.

**Health Care** - The Tok Community Clinic was constructed in 1970 with volunteer labor. The original building was 30' x 40' and a 30' x 40' addition will be completed in 1980. The community-owned clinic building is leased to the Tanana Valley Medical and Surgical Group of Fairbanks. When the new addition is completed, the clinic will have 2 examination rooms, an emergency room, pharmacy, lab, x-ray room, and waiting room. It is staffed by a physician's assistant and an LPN/secretary. A full range of medical care, including physical examinations, is available to everyone. Alaska Area Native Health Service (AANHS) has subcontracted with the Tok clinic to provide basic medical care for local Natives.

The Alaska Department of Health and Social Services maintains a small clinic in Tok. The clinic is staffed by an itinerant public health nurse (PHN) who covers 6 communities in addition to Tok, a half-time PHN who works only in Tok, and a secretary. The sanitation for the region also has an office in the same building as the clinic. The PHN deals primarily in preventive health care, conducts clinics in prenatal care, family planning, well-baby, and child care. In addition she gives immunizations, communicable disease prevention and treatment, school screenings and physicals, home visits and counseling and referrals. Periodically, there are visits by a dentist and a physician from the AANHS.

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Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) maintains an office in Tok. The director and coordinator/instructor provide assistance, information and training for community health aides, coordinate visits of health care professionals and personnel from Tanana Chiefs Health Authority (TCHIA), and travel frequently to the villages.

The private, nonprofit Tok Area Mental Health Council has recently hired a psychologist to develop a mental health clinic. Services will be available locally as well as in the surrounding communities. Initially, the clinic will provide: (1) family and individual counseling, (2) community education, information and referral, (3) community liaison outreach in cooperation with the Anchorage Psychiatric Institute, and (4) consultation and direct services for the Alaska Gateway School District.

The nearest dental clinic is located in Delta Junction. It is staffed by a dentist and hygienist who provide all basic dental services. Additionally, the clinic has a contract with AANHS to provide dental services to the Native residents of the Tok subregion.

**Social Services** — The State Division of Social Services has a social worker based in Tok. In addition to maintaining an office in Tok, the social worker makes visits to 9 communities in the Upper Tanana service area. The social worker provides: information and referral services, individual and family counseling, and child and adult protection services. In February 1980, 37 households were receiving public assistance (old age assistance, aid to the disabled, and/or aid to families with dependent children). In February 1980, 46 households were receiving food stamps.

The Upper Tanana Regional Council on Alcoholism (UTRACA), based in Tok, is working to reduce alcohol and drug abuse problems through counseling, recreation activities, court liaison assistance, and educational programs. In 1977, UTRACA started the Tok Recreation Center to provide an alternative activity to alcohol and drug abuse. UTRACA has outreach counselors in Northway, Tanacross, and Tetlin.

Upper Tanana Development Corporation was formed in 1975 as one of 12 nonprofit regional development corporations comprising Rural Alaska Community Action Programs (Rural CAP). UTDC's primary purpose is to promote the overall economic, social, and educational development of people in the Upper Tanana region. Its programs which serve Natives and non-Natives are targeted to assist low income persons, the elderly (over 60), and preschoolers. Current programs include a hot lunch program and transportation for the elderly, homemaker services, a parent-child program, and information and referral services. Since October 1977, UTDC has assumed an advocacy role with regard to the gas pipeline project. In April 1978, it co-sponsored a Community Forum on Gas Pipeline Impact. As a part of its planning effort for pipeline construction, UTDC has sponsored several studies of pipeline impact.

Another social service provider in the Upper Tanana region is the United Crow Band (UCB) which has contracted to provide employment counseling, general assistance, a foster care program, and information and referral services. A paralegal is located in UCB's office in Tok.



COMMUNITY MAP

TOK  
SHEET ONE

63°20'N 142°59'W Elevation 1635'



Prepared by Darbyshire and Associates, with Research Design Productions, under contract with Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company, June 1980.

Note: These maps have been prepared from uncontrolled aerial photographs. Scale is approximate and some distortion may exist. Property and utility information has been generalized from many sources and may contain inconsistencies. These maps should not be construed as surveys. On-site investigations should be conducted prior to construction.

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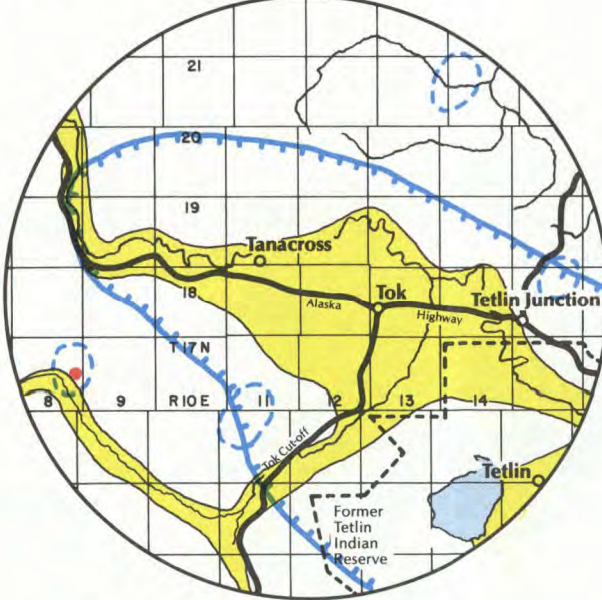
1. Business enterprise
2. Auto service/garage
3. Laundromat
4. Business—out-of-home
5. State offices
6. Motel/Inn
7. Restaurant
8. Business office
9. Movie hall
10. Dog kennels
11. School complex
12. Church
13. Post office
14. Microwave repeater station
15. Information center
16. Power house
17. Recreation center
18. Hockey rink
19. Clinic
20. Fire department
21. Multiple unit housing
22. Store
23. Bank
24. Future courthouse
25. Lounge

- Land Use** (from field survey, March 1980)
- Residential
  - Public
  - Public use area
  - Commercial
  - Under construction
  - Indicates approximate area

- Electricity** (from field survey)
- Power line\*
  - Power pole
  - Transformer
  - Phone line
  - Townsite boundary (BLM)
  - Survey line (BLM or Alaska Division of Lands; numbers refer to U.S. Surveys)
  - Land Status (BLM or Alaska Division of Lands; serial numbers refer to applications, patents, etc.)
  - Right-of-way
  - Haines-Fairbanks pipeline route

\*For clarity, individual service lines are not shown.

Natural Resources of Tok



Minerals

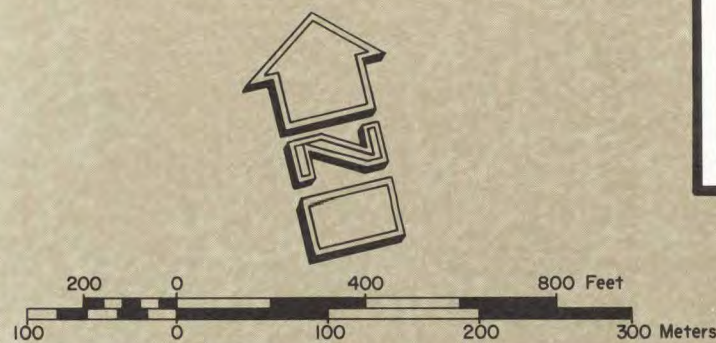
- Moderate to low mining claim activity area
- Lode deposit, prospect or mine
- Oil and gas province or basin—occurrence of oil and gas rated low
- Sand and gravel along major streams

Vegetation

- Bottomland spruce—poplar forest
- Upland spruce—hardwood forest
- Lowland spruce—hardwood forest
- Low brush bog and muskeg
- Alpine tundra and barren ground

Mammals, Waterfowl and Fish

- Low density waterfowl range
- Medium density waterfowl range
- High density waterfowl range
- Major waterfowl migration route
- Major freshwater sport fish waters
- Caribou—present within designated area
- Dall sheep range
- Moose—present within designated area
- Spring and summer concentration
- Fall concentration
- Winter concentration



Index Map

Pump station for Haines-Fairbanks pipeline

Alaska Highway

Sheet One

Sheet Two

Inset Map on Sheet Two





**Housing** — A survey done in April 1980 in conjunction with these community profiles found that there were 291 housing units within the Tok study area. There were 244 single family housing units, or 84% of the total, and 47 multi-family units, or 16% of the total. Forty percent of the single family housing was log construction; 39% frame construction; and 21% mobile homes. Twelve additional single family dwellings were under construction at the time of the survey. Lumber is available from a locally owned and operated sawmill and building materials are available from a number of local vendors. However, residents typically purchase building materials in Delta Junction, Fairbanks, or Anchorage. Table summarizes housing information from the April 1980 survey.

Table 1 TOK AREA HOUSING BY TYPE April 1980		
	Number of Structures	Number of Housing Units
Single Family Housing		
Frame Construction	95	98
Log Construction	98	98
Mobile Homes	51	51
Subtotal	244	244
Multiple Family Housing		
Duplex	7	14
4-Plex	2	8
5-Plex	1	5
6-Plex	2	12
8-Plex	1	8
Subtotal	13	47
TOTAL	257	291

\*NOTE: The "Tok area" is defined to include the BLM pump station, Fortymile Roadhouse, the 7-Mile curve and the area within.



Most residences in Tok are wood-frame or log single family units. (Photo courtesy of Joyce Erickson)

**Education** — In 1976 Tok became the regional headquarters for the Alaska Gateway School District. Prior to this time, Tok was part of the State-Operated School (SOS) system. The district, which encompasses 28,000 square miles, includes Tok and the communities of Tanacross, Dot Lake, Mentasta Lake, Northway, and Eagle Village. In May 1980, the school district was governed by the following elected board members:

- Laurene Stout (Northway), President
- Richard Shultz (Mentasta), Vice President
- Sharon Young (Tok), Clerk
- Ruth Charles (Dot Lake/Tanacross)
- Buddy Johnson (Tok)
- Sonny Miettunen (Eagle)
- Wally Wallace (Tok)

Tok School was originally built in 1958, but several additions have been made. Present school facilities include 15 classrooms, a multipurpose room, a resource center, a shop, a music/drama room and stage, a media room, a gymnasium, and an outdoor ice hockey rink. During the 1979-80 school year the Tok Public School had 18 teachers, 2 aides, 1 librarian, 1 administrator and 3 support staff. A total of 227 students was enrolled in grades K-12; the facility's estimated capacity is 270 students. Figure 1 shows school enrollment data for Tok from the 1969-70 school year to the present.

The Alaska Gateway School District Office retains a staff of 3 administrators, 5 central office personnel, 1 correspondence teacher, 1 secretary/aide and 1 maintenance person. The district office administers a special education program.

In addition, the United Crow Band (UCB) in Tok administers a Johnson-O'Malley Program at Tok School which provides for the special educational and cultural needs of Indian children. The program has provided Tok School with sports programs and equipment, an Alaskan library, a preschool library and a broadcasting system. UCB has sponsored Tok students to attend summer camps, cultural exchanges, regional Native conferences, and the Indian Eskimo Olympics.



Visiting and local instructors provide a variety of post-secondary and vocational classes through the Tok Regional Center of the University of Alaska. (Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)

The Tok Regional Center (TRC) of the University of Alaska, which opened in 1976, offers courses to residents of Tok and other nearby communities. Courses offered range from vocational education to business skills to special interest courses. In fall 1979 about 100 students were enrolled in classes. Most are held in the evenings at the Tok Public School as there are no TRC classroom facilities.

## Land Use and Community Facilities



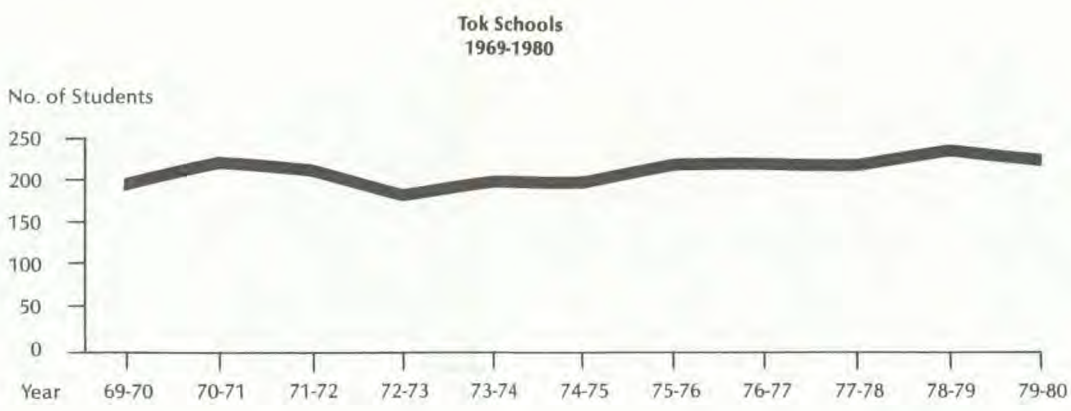
The Tok Community Recreation Center provides facilities for meetings, cooking, and various recreational activities.



Tok School was built in 1958 and accommodates students in grades K-12.

(Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)

Figure 1  
School Enrollment



Source: Alaska Department of Education

**Electricity and Heat** — A central power plant in Tok provides power to residences and businesses in the community. Power is provided by 6 diesel generators: two 200 kilowatt, three 300-kw, and one 950-kw. Alaska Power Telephone Company of Port Townsend, Washington, provides the service to Tok residents at the following rates:

Next 100 kwh = 17.97 ¢/kwh  
Next 100 kwh = 16.97 ¢/kwh  
Next 800 kwh = 14.47 ¢/kwh  
Over 1,000 kwh = 12.97 ¢/kwh

Not only is there adequate power to meet consumer demands at present, but there is also capacity for expansion. Three additional generators with a capacity of 1,250-kw each are owned by the power company, but have not yet been installed and activated. In the event of a power outage, the nearby LORAN-C station, the Alascom site, and the BLM Fortymile Resource Area Headquarters have their own generators.



Six generators at this central power plant provide electricity to most Tok residents.

Most homes in Tok are heated with fuel oil. However, many residents have wood-burning stoves as both primary and supplementary heating sources. Bulk fuel oil is delivered by truck from Valdez and North Pole. The cost to the consumer was \$1.09/gallon in March 1980. Four bulk storage tanks in Tok have a combined capacity of 111,000 gallons. Most residents use propane for cooking, water heating, and clothes drying.

**Water, Sewer, and Solid Waste** — There is no central water and sewer system in Tok and one does not appear practical because businesses and residences are spread out over a wide area. Most residences and businesses have individual wells at 50- to 125-foot depths. Water is plentiful and of excellent quality. Most residents dispose of raw sewage through individual septic tank systems, although some older homes have cesspools. Residences built since 1975 are required by state law to have septic tanks. Soil conditions in the Tok area are excellent for percolation and drainage. Solid waste is hauled by truck to a central solid waste disposal site located approximately 4 miles south of town on the Tok Cut-off. This site is operated by a local refuse contractor and is maintained in accordance with state environmental regulations. This contractor also offers refuse collection service to area residents.



Fuel oil and gasoline are delivered to Tok by tanker truck from Anchorage and Valdez.

(Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)

**Communications** — National Utilities, headquartered in Port Townsend, Washington, provides telephone service to Tok residents at a rate of \$12/month for residential use and \$15/month for commercial use. There are 227 hookups to the system.

Television signals are received in Tok from Fairbanks via a translator powered by a .5 watt propane generator atop a 6,000-foot peak near Mt. Neuberger 14 miles from Tok. Maintenance of the system is made possible by \$40/year donations by Tok consumers. Approximately 139 television sets in the community receive Fairbanks stations KTVF and KUAC.

Tok is located in a broad river valley where radio reception is possible by installation of proper antennas. Residents are able to listen to an Armed Forces Radio Network Station via transmitter located at the nearby U.S. Coast Guard housing site (for LORAN-C personnel). Radio stations from Anchorage, Fairbanks, and Glennallen can be received. At present there are plans for the development of a Tok translator and base station for North Pole radio station KJNP which broadcasts both AM and FM stations. This would improve AM



Telephone signals are received in Tok via this microwave receiver station. (Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)

reception and would make FM reception available in Tok for the first time.

A local newspaper, *The Mukluk News*, is published bimonthly. In addition, some residents subscribe to the Anchorage or Fairbanks papers. Mail is delivered 6 days/week by truck from Fairbanks and twice weekly by truck from Anchorage.

Prepared by Darbyshire and Associates, with Research Design Productions, under contract with Northwest Alaskan Pipeline Company, June 1980.



Tok Visitor Information Center greets visitors to the state 93 miles after they cross the border from Canada and enter the "Gateway to Alaska" on the Alaska Highway. (Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)



Mail is delivered to Tok daily by truck from Fairbanks.

(Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)



Holy Rosary Catholic Church is one of 6 churches in Tok.

(Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)



Small businesses in Tok provide necessary services for residents as well as area visitors.

(Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)



Several kennels in town attest to the interest and participation of area residents in dog mushing activities.



Tok Clinic provides some medical services for area residents.



Six motel/lodges serve the highway trade passing through Tok on the Alaska Highway and the Tok Cut-off to the Glenn Highway.

(Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)



One of the most popular courses at the Tok Regional Center of the University of Alaska involves an Experimental Gardens Project. (Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)



Winter recreation in Tok includes hockey at the rink at Tok School. (Photo courtesy of David Maxwell)

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## Environmental Considerations

**Climate** — Tok is in a continental climate zone which is characterized by long, cold winters and relatively warm summers. Average temperatures range between  $-32^{\circ}\text{F}$  and  $72^{\circ}\text{F}$ . The growing season lasts 100 days. In winter, temperature inversions, ice fog and smoke conditions are common. The average lows for December, January, and February in Tok are  $-25^{\circ}\text{F}$ ,  $-32^{\circ}\text{F}$ , and  $-17^{\circ}\text{F}$ , respectively. Average highs are  $69^{\circ}\text{F}$ ,  $72^{\circ}\text{F}$ , and  $67^{\circ}\text{F}$  for June, July, and August, respectively. The highest recorded temperature was  $99^{\circ}\text{F}$  registered in June 1979; the lowest was  $-71^{\circ}\text{F}$ , recorded in January 1965.

The average annual precipitation in Tok is 10.89 inches with the greatest daily precipitation of 1.40 inches measured in August 1958. The average annual snowfall is 33.5 inches. The greatest daily snowfall was in 1973 when 10 inches fell.

**Topography, Soils, and Permafrost** — Tok lies near the center of a very broad and flat valley plain. It is a heavily timbered region, bordered along the south by the Alaska Range and the north by the Yukon-Tanana Uplands. The Tok River crosses  $\frac{4}{5}$  miles east of the highway junction flowing northward into the Tanana River, which flows along the north edge of the broad plain.

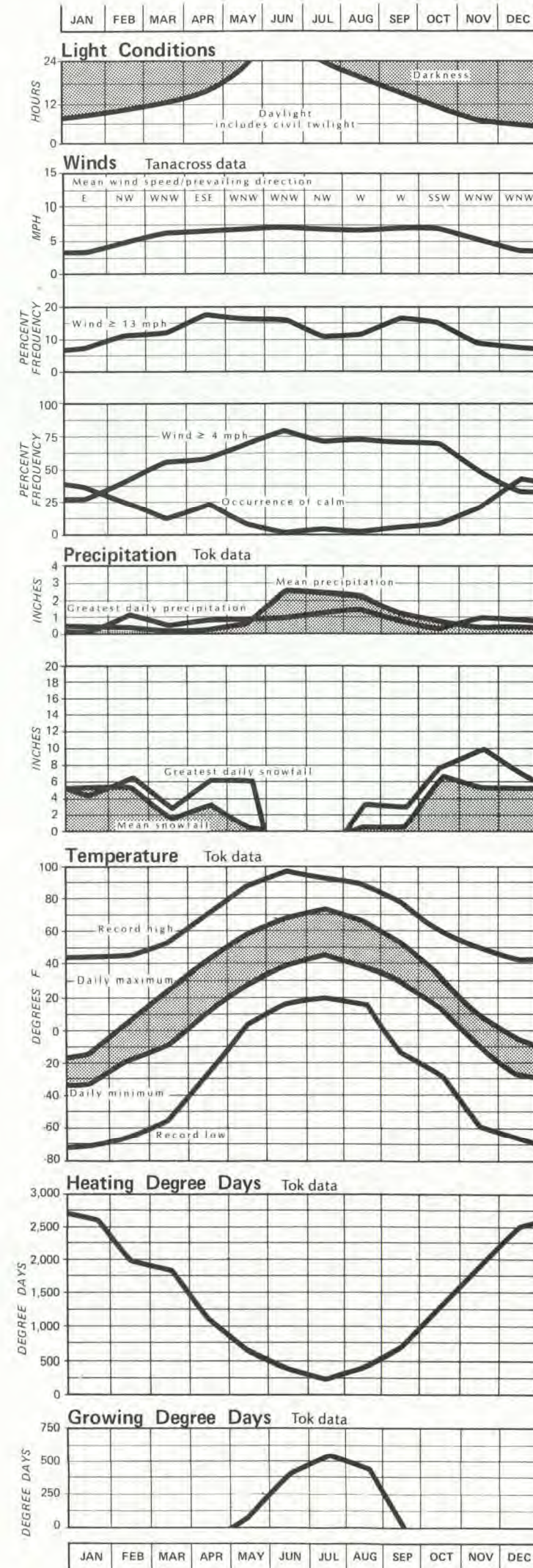
Despite the flat topography, there are few lakes or bodies of standing water due to rapid drainage through the gravelly soils. These soils are composed of gravel and coarse sand. They have extremely high load bearing capacities which facilitate road and building construction. The floor forest is composed of a 2- to 4-inch thick surface mat of decomposing vegetation.

The small upland streams which attempt to cross this general area are eventually absorbed into the underlying gravel which serves as an underground aquifer. This aquifer is easily tapped by well drilling and provides an abundant supply of water of excellent quality.

The vegetation in the region is predominantly spruce interspersed with dense stands of aspen and paper birch on the better-drained sites. Black spruce stands usually indicate the occurrence of silt lenses which account for the few poorly drained sites in the region. Within the study area there are a few isolated occurrences of permafrost.

**Drainage and Flooding** — Surface runoff can be a problem during spring breakup because the area is flat and the frozen ground does not allow soil drainage. The intersection of the highways is presently the only area which has a problem with such ponding. Although soils in this area have excellent drainage, construction of new roads, parking lots and berming for foundations should avoid blocking water runoff courses so that the drainage capacity of adjacent soil does not cause additional problems with ponding.

Figure 2  
Climatology





# COMMUNITY MAP

## TOK

SHEET TWO

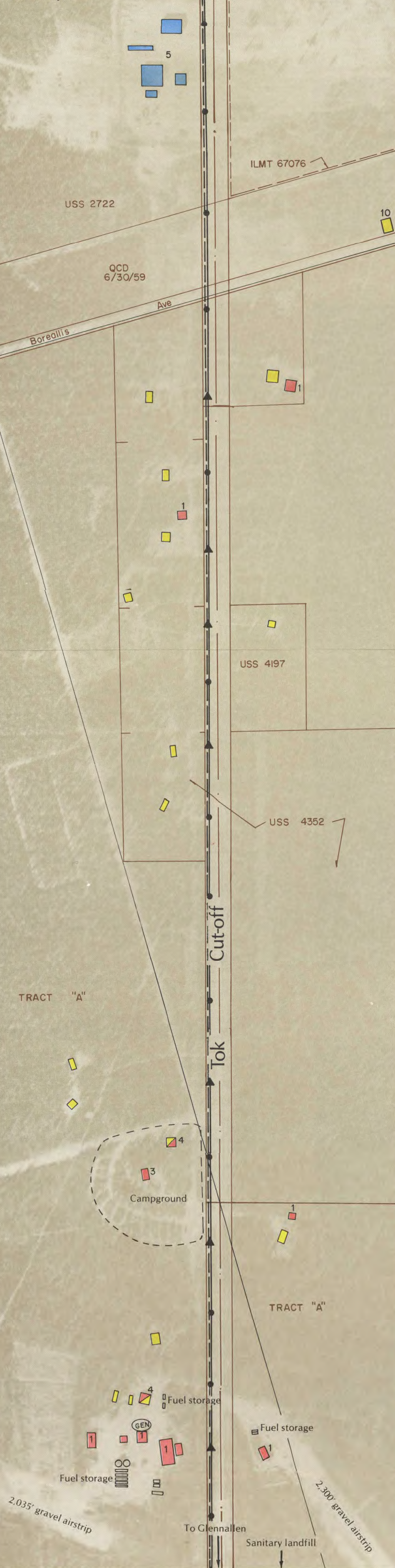
63°20'N 142°59'W

Elevation 1635'



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**Land Use (from field survey, March, 1980)**

- Residential
- Public
- Commercial
- Under construction
- Indicates approximate area

**Electricity (from field survey)**

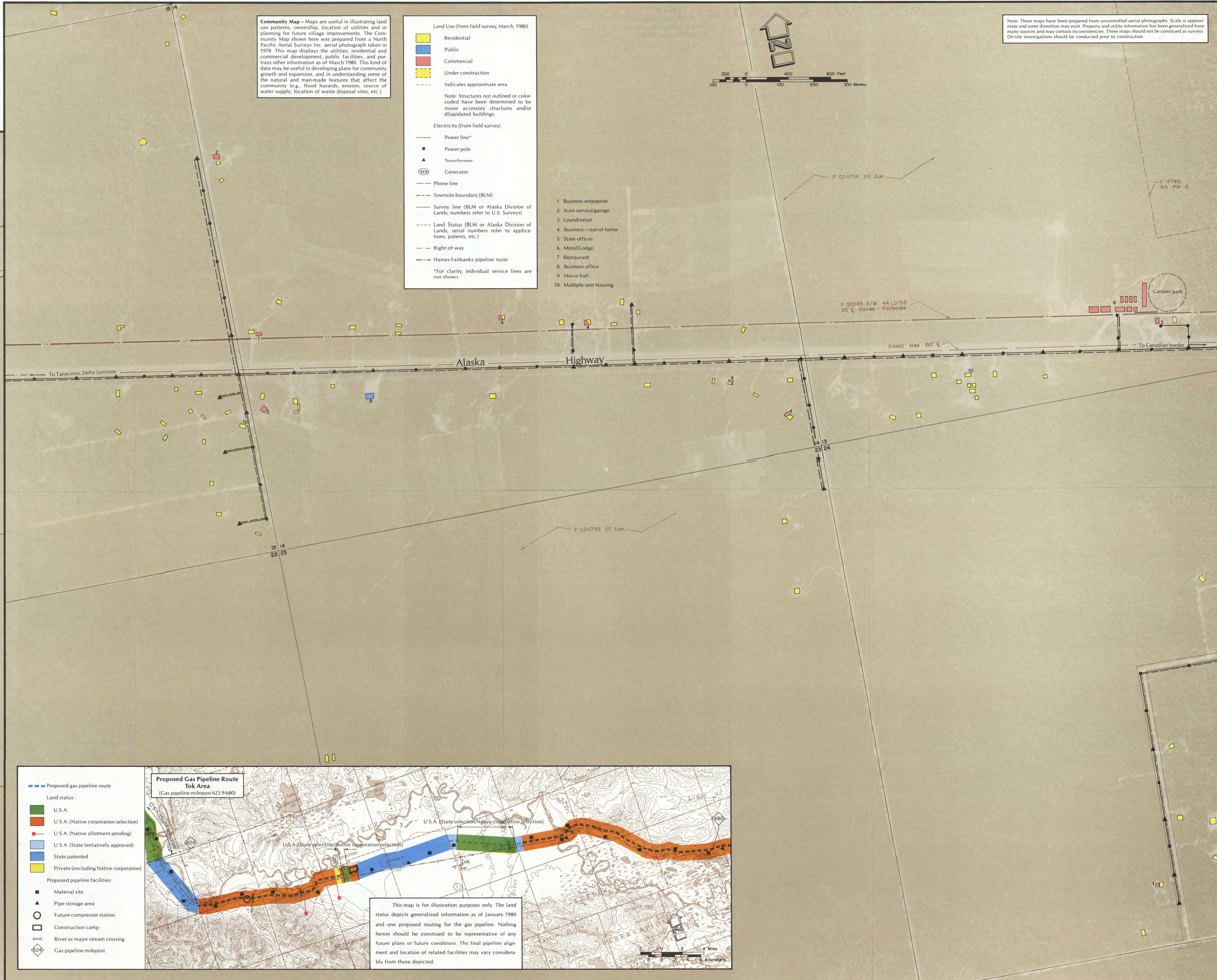
- Power line\*
- Power pole
- Transformer
- Generator
- Phone line
- Townsite boundary (BLM)
- Survey line (BLM or Alaska Division of Lands; numbers refer to U.S. Surveys)
- Land Status (BLM or Alaska Division of Lands; serial numbers refer to applications, patents, etc.)
- Right-of-way
- Haines-Fairbanks pipeline route

\*For clarity, individual service lines are not shown.

1. Business enterprise
2. Auto service/garage
3. Laundromat
4. Business—out-of-home
5. State offices
6. Motel/Lodge
7. Restaurant
8. Business office
9. Movie hall
10. Multiple unit housing



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**Proposed gas pipeline route**

**Land status:**

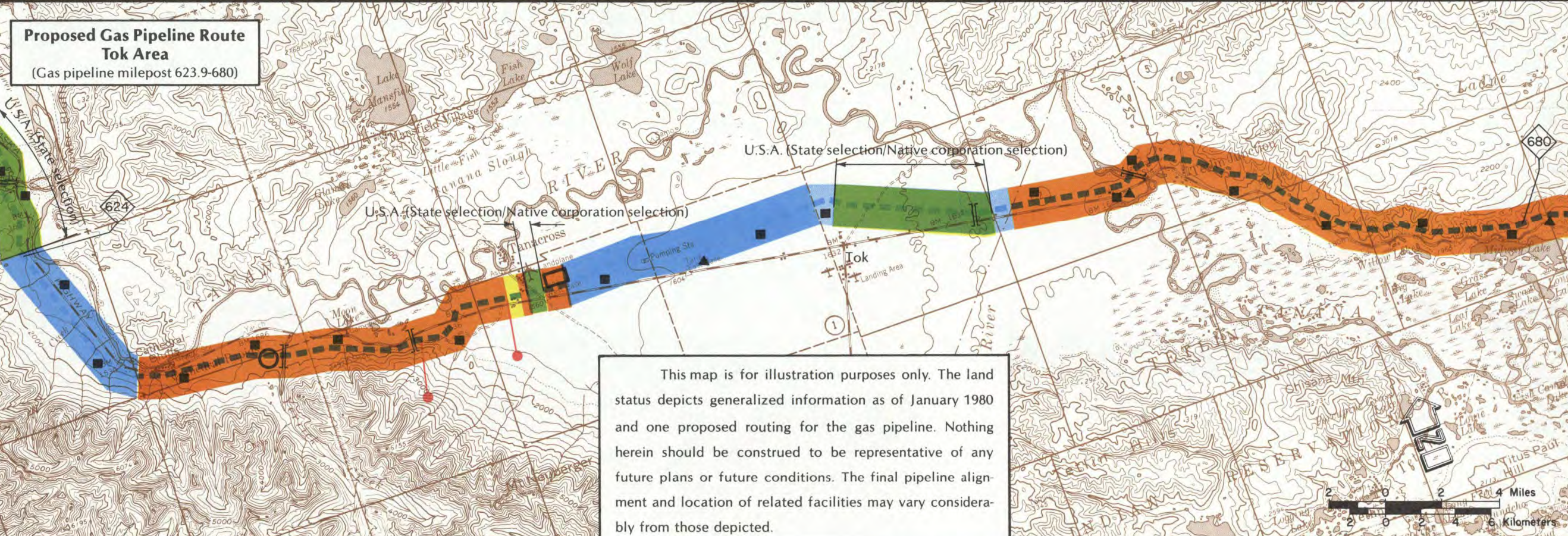
- U.S.A.
- U.S.A. (Native corporation selection)
- U.S.A. (Native allotment pending)
- U.S.A. (State tentatively approved)
- State patented
- Private (excluding Native corporation)

**Proposed pipeline facilities:**

- Material site
- Pipe storage area
- Future compressor station
- Construction camp
- River or major stream crossing
- Gas pipeline milepost

### Proposed Gas Pipeline Route Tok Area

(Gas pipeline milepost 623.9-680)



This map is for illustration purposes only. The land status depicts generalized information as of January 1980 and one proposed routing for the gas pipeline. Nothing herein should be construed to be representative of any future plans or future conditions. The final pipeline alignment and location of related facilities may vary considerably from those depicted.



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