

Beaver Village Council Community Plan



2016

Table of Contents

Executive Summary	3
Acknowledgements	4
Mission Statement	5
Vision of Community Residents	6
Values of Community Residents.....	7
Community Profile.....	8
Location	8
Soils and Topography.....	9
Climate.....	9
Land Status	10
History	11
Culture.....	12
Population	13
Government.....	13
Village Council.....	14
Village Corporation.....	15
Economy	15
Public Utilities.....	16
Washeteria.....	16
Water and Sewer	17
Communications	18

Post Office	18
Fuel.....	19
Electricity	19
Housing.....	19
Education.....	20
Transportation	20
Health and Wellness	22
Top Goals for the Next 5 Years	23
Community and Development Goals	27
Accomplishments and Projects Completed from the Past 5 Years	36
Assets	1
References	30



BEAVER VILLAGE COUNCIL

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Adopting Community Plan

Resolution# 16- 07

WHEREAS, this Community Plan is important to the growth and Development of Beaver: and,

WHEREAS, this plan was created thru a public process which captured the values and goals of our community: and

WHEREAS, this plan is a tool that helps us manage change in our community: and

WHEREAS, this plan is intended to coordinate future community development and service delivery: and

WHEREAS, it is understood that this document was created for public use and will be made publically available and,

WHEREAS, we ask all public, private, and non-profit entities serving our community to recognize and use this plan: and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the parties of this resolution agree to work together to pursue the values, goals, and vision express in this plan.

Certification

We hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed and approved 6 in favor, 0 opposed by the following parties:


Rhonda Pitka, First Chief


Selina Petruska, Secretary

Rhonda Pitka, Chief
Arlene Pitka, 2nd Chief
Salina Petruska, Secretary
Maryann Juneby, Aaron Petruska, Anna Joseph

Executive Summary

The Beaver Village Council Community Profile was completed through extensive analysis of records at the Beaver Village Council Office, Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC), and the University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF). The community goals were developed through mass community surveys and interviews conducted by the Beaver Community Planning Specialist. The final plan was reviewed and adopted as an official document by the Beaver Village Council on February 2016

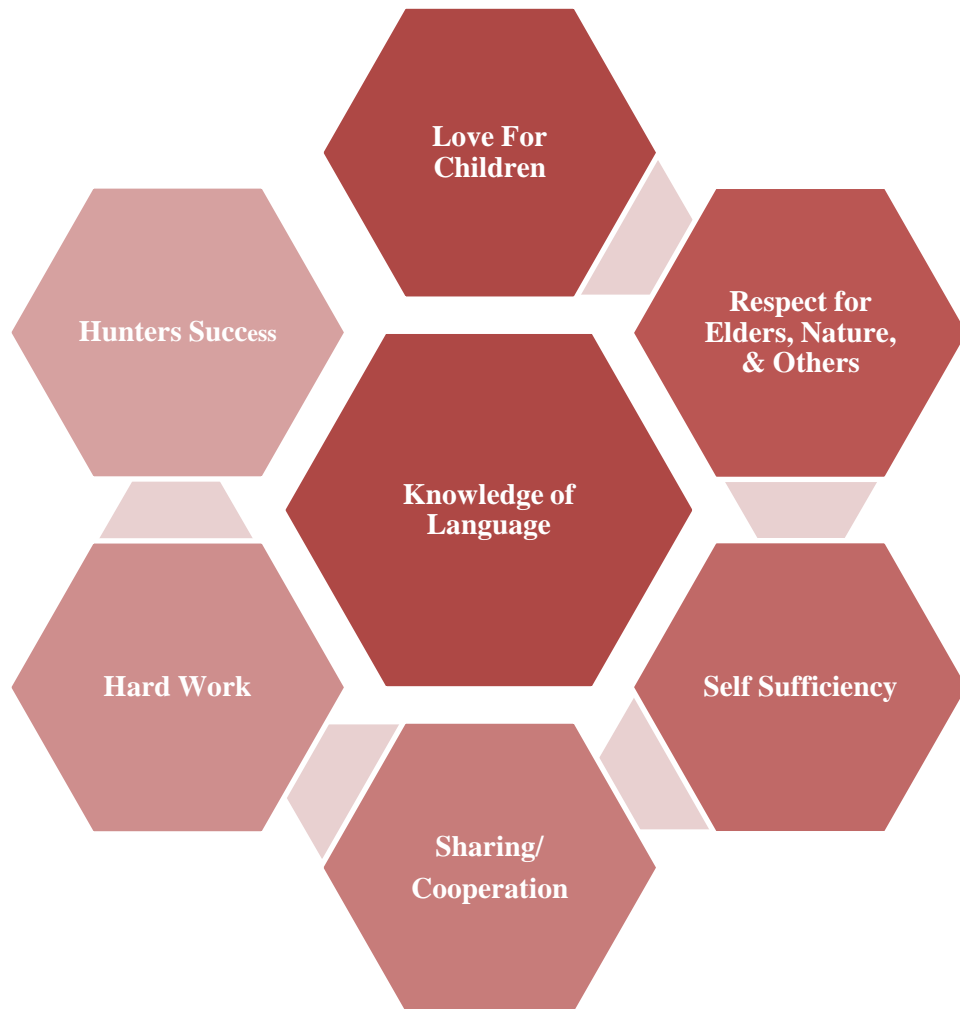
Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Tanana Chiefs Conference Community Planning Program. This plan was compiled and prepared by Marvin Sanford with the supervision of Chief Rhonda Pitka.

Mission Statement

We are a community of tribal people educated in a traditional and western culture. We stand together to build capacity and provide sustainability for our tribe through economic development; the protection and preservation of our culture, traditions and natural resources; to enhance the quality of life in our community through individual and family services, community programs and partnerships with other organizations to ensure the health and well-being of the community as a whole.

Vision of Community Residents



Values of Community Residents

We value the health of our land and the rich subsistence resources it provides to our people.



We value the closeness of our families, and the respect for our Youth and Elders.



We value our rich Gwichín, Koyokon, Inupiaq, & Japanese cultures, traditions, and history.



We value working together and standing strong in unity through hard times and good times.



We value Native Self-Determination and our Indigenous Rights provided through Indian Law.



We value a high-quality education for our people, both in traditional and western skills & knowledge, so that we have the capacity to govern and serve our community.



We value human safety and good health for all of our people.



We value human safety and good health for all of our people.

Community Profile

LOCATION

Beaver is a multi-ethnic village located on the northern bank of the Yukon River, in the 60 air-miles southwest of Fort Yukon, 13 miles south of the Arctic Circle, and 110 miles north of Fairbanks. The community lies at approximately 66.359440° North Latitude and -147.396390° (West) Longitude. (Sec. 30, T018N, R002E, Fairbanks Meridian.) Beaver is located in the Fairbanks Recording District and the Yukon Koyukuk Census Area.



The village encompasses 20.5 sq. miles of land and 1.1 sq. miles of water.

The beauty of Beaver is its location in a pristine wilderness setting; it is located within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge with an abundance of wild game, wild fowl and fish resources. The rich habitat supports moose, black and brown bears, wolf, and caribou. Smaller mammals include wolverine, lynx, red fox, beaver, snowshoe hare, mink, muskrat, weasel, marten, red squirrel, and porcupine. Upland birds include northern hawk-owls, great horned owls, rough grouse, spruce grouse, boreal chickadees, and red poles. Runs of king and chum salmon spawn in clear water streams each summer. Other fish supporting the region include northern pike, whitefish, burbot, and grayling. During spring, millions of migrating birds converge on the Flats, arriving from four continents, including various species of ducks, geese, and cranes. The region has one of the highest nesting densities of waterfowl in North America.

Boreal forests dominate the landscape with black spruce, white spruce, balsam poplar, paper birch, and trembling aspen. Black spruce forests often grow in permafrost flats where

drainage is poor. Common understory shrubs include bog birch, Labrador tea, crowberry, and blueberry. Feathermosses are common. Many wet depressions are dominated by alder and willow swamp communities. The low shrub layer typically includes currants, high and low bush cranberries. Bluejoint, sedge, horsetail, and marsh five-finger are common herbs. Sedge tussock communities dominate the coldest, wettest sites on the Yukon Flats. Mosses and berries are present here. Well-drained alluvial soils support mixed forests of white spruce and paper birch. Natural levees support a forest of white spruce and balsam poplar. Here understory consists of alder and willow, prickly rose, and high bush cranberry. Tall willow, birch, and alder communities are scattered throughout the region. Wildfires are common in the Yukon Flats.

SOILS AND TOPOGRAPHY

Beaver is located in the Yukon Flats, a flat marshy flood plain dotted with numerous thaw lakes, sloughs, and meandering streams. The primary vegetation in the area is an organic mat of mosses, grasses, tussocks, lichens and moderate to dense stands of willow, spruce, aspen, and birch. The townsite of Beaver sits on a low alluvial terrace of silt overlying gravel, and has continuous permafrost except where the thaw bulb from the river exists. In the spring, ice jams and flooding typically occur on the Yukon River and stream overflows are common. The Yukon River breaks up in May and freezes up starting in late September to early October. Flood hazard for the community is considered high. To mitigate flood risk, the recommended building elevation in Beaver is 365.5’.

CLIMATE

Beaver is located in the arctic continental climate zone, which is characterized by generally light surface winds, dark cold winters, and short warm summers. The extremes in temperatures are known to vary from -70 degrees F in the winter to 90 degrees F in the summer. The following data was interpolated from the Environmental Atlas of Alaska and is applicable to the area:

Mean Annual Precipitation: inches 10

Mean Annual Snowfall: inches 50

Mean Annual Temperature: degrees F 22.5

Thawing Index: degree days 2750

Design Thawing Index (1 year in 10): 3250

Freezing Index degree days: 6500

Design Freezing Index (1 year in 10): 7500



LAND STATUS

The Beaver Kwich'in Corporation owns the majority of land around Beaver. Within the village limits, private residents own town-site lots. The Beaver Village Council owns several town-site lots.

We are located within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service owns significant amounts of land around the Village of Beaver. Under the terms of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Section (ANCSA) 14(c) (1), Beaver is required to ultimately subdivide the Village into private and public lands. Lands intended for public use presumably have been conveyed to a State town-site trustee. Upon incorporation, the State will reconvey the land to the new municipality. Native lands within the Yukon Flats Wildlife Refuge are excluded from the refuge and the refuge management control under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

The village of Beaver is land locked between the Yukon River and the airport. There are no lands available for growth of our village. The State Of Alaska DOT owns 485 acres of land within the Village of Beaver. The Village of Beaver is 44 acres.

The Beaver town-site has been surveyed and a grid of rights-of-way for roads has been established. With exception of the unnamed road along the Yukon River, all existing roads

appear to lie within these dedicated limits. Right-of-way widths vary between 30 and 50 feet, with 50 feet the most common width.

HISTORY

In 1906 development began in the Beaver area with the initial intent of establishing an area that would be used as a river landing. However, gold discoveries in the Chandalar region in 1907 were a catalyst to the rapid development of the region and eventually led to the founding of Beaver Village. It was established as the Yukon River terminus for miners heading north to the gold fields. Around 1907, the Alaska Road Commission built a trail from Beaver to Caro, a small mining camp, located about 75 miles north of Beaver on the Chandalar River. In 1910, Thomas Carter and H.E. Ashelby established a store at Beaver, and three freight companies operated on the trail, commonly known as Government Road.

In 1911, Frank Yasuda, a Japanese adventurer of tremendous character, who had traded at Point Barrow and prospected in the Brooks Range, arrived with a group of Inupiaq and became a partner in the Beaver trading post. Frank Yasuda was born in 1868 in Inshinomaki, Miyagi Prefecture, Japan. When he was only 16 years of



age he boarded the US Revenue Cutter Bear in California as a cabin attendant. During the late 1800's times were very difficult in Barrow, with periods of starvation, influenza epidemics; the arrival of alcohol made life more difficult. Yasuda decided to seek out a better life for his family

and Inupiat companions. With his family and Inupiat companions, Yasuda traveled south, through the mountains of the Brooks Range to the Chandalar River drainage. The Yasuda's partnered with a man named Thomas Carter in early 1900's and prospected for gold in the region. They were successful and respected gold miners throughout the Interior. During this time Yasuda traveled further south to the Yukon River and the place known today as the village of Beaver. The Trading Store and Post Office which Yasuda built with his mining profits became the foundation from which the village of Beaver grew. It was here that Yasuda called home and raised his family. His family, his Inupiat companions and the local Athabascan Indians were all able to meet their needs and live together in Beaver due to its rich natural resource base, including the Yukon River and the mines at Caro.

In 1913, a post office was established and a second trading post opened in the early 1920s. The first Beaver school opened in 1928. People who lived in the area moved to Beaver



when the school opened. The first airstrip was built in the 1930s. Beaver's population remained stable from 1950s through the 1970s. In 1974, the Village Council purchased the local store and set it up as a cooperative, with villagers holding shares of stock. The current Cruikshank School was built in 1985.

CULTURE

With its broad history, it is no surprise that the village of Beaver today has such an extensive ethnic diversity. Residents of Beaver are predominantly mixed Gwich'in and Koyukon Athabascan and coastline and interior Inupiaq. Current residents of Beaver are originally from Arctic Village, Venetie, Chalkytsik, Stevens Village, Rampart, White Eye, Fort Yukon, Barrow, and Huslia. People came from all over the state to make their homes in Beaver.

The water and land are critical to the survival of our people. Residents practice a traditional subsistence way of life that dates back to pre-historic times. Hunting and fishing, as well as berry picking and gardening are popular activities within the community. Today, Beaver is home to about 72 people (2006 DCCED population) with a diverse history and strong sense of attachment to the community and to the land.

Traditional activities and celebrations are an integral part of village life. Potlatches, spring carnivals, Christmas, and New Year's celebrations are important events in the village. Residents blend modern influences with a traditional way of life.

POPULATION

In 2010, the US Census Bureau reported a population of 84 within Beaver; 95.2 percent of the entire population reported to be either Alaska Native alone or in combination with one or more races. At the time, 60.7 percent of the population was male and 39.3 percent female. Over the past four decades the population of Beaver has shifted dramatically. In 1970, the population was reported to be 101 persons, and dropped dramatically by 1980 to 66 residents. In 1990 the population rose again to 103 and again dropped by the 2000 census and is continuing to decline. According to the DCCED 2006 count, the population for the village was 72 persons, and the most recent 2007 reports from the Native American Housing Authority Self-Determination Act (NAHASDA) reported tribal enrollment of 82 members. The Beaver Village Council reports tribal enrollment of 256.

GOVERNMENT

The village of Beaver is an unincorporated community within the unorganized borough. The village is located within the Yukon Koyukuk Census Area. The community is led by the Beaver Village Council, a traditional Tribal Village Council. The Beaver Village Council is a seven member council consisting of a First Chief, Second Chief, Secretary/Treasurer, and four council members. The First Chief, Second Chief, and Secretary/Treasurer serve 3 year terms.

The four council members serve staggering terms. Seat A and B are one year terms. Seat C and D serve two year terms.

We want to ensure stability in tribal governance, but still ensure mentoring for younger tribal members interested in serving on tribal council. We hold elections in January for council members. Council members are nominated from the floor of the meeting and we have secret ballots counted by non-tribal members. In order to vote, you must be a resident for 30 days before elections and an enrolled tribal member. Our election notices are posted for a minimum of 30 days at three locations in the village.

VILLAGE COUNCIL

The Beaver Village Council owns and operates the Clinton Victor Wiehl Multi-Purpose Building. The building was built in 2003 and weatherized by Tanana Chiefs Conference in 2013. The first floor of the Tribal Building is 365.7'. New boilers were installed in 2008. The approximately 5,600 ft² building has two (2) fuel oil boilers, both Energy Kinetics 2000 AK-2 model. The Tribal Building uses approximately 1,675 gallons of fuel oil per year. A fuel oil day tank is filled manually by Beaver Village maintenance employee(s). Periodically the heating system goes down, and workers heat their spaces with electric resistance heaters.

The Beaver Village Council employs ten people: a Tribal Administrator, Bookkeeper, Transportation Planner, Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, IGAP Coordinator, Beaver Joint Utilities Manager, Water Plant Operator, 2 rotating Power Plant Operators, and a Water/Sewer Haul System Operator. The Council hires laborers for short-term brush cutting or dump clean-up projects, during the summer 2 high school students as interns, and students for the Summer Youth Program.

The Beaver Village Council manages BIA 638 contracts. We manage an EPA/IGAP grant, tribal transportation grant, Family Violence Services Prevention Grant We also own and operate the Beaver Joint Utility.

Beaver has an active tribal court with judges presiding as needed. The judges consist of two Village Council members, and one community member. The Beaver Tribal Court plans on updating and adopting Tribal Court codes and holding elections in January for tribal court judges. Beaver Village Council has tribal constitution and codes that were adopted in 1995. The council plans to update the constitution in 2016.

VILLAGE CORPORATION

The Village Corporation established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) for Beaver is the Beaver Kwit'chin Corporation. The regional corporation is Doyon, Limited. The Native community is also served by the regional nonprofit organizations Tanana Chiefs Conference and the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments. The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments is a consortium of ten tribal governments located in the Yukon Flats.

ECONOMY

Almost all of the residents in Beaver are involved in some form of subsistence activities. Moose, salmon, freshwater fish, bear, and waterfowl supply meat for the residents. Fish are a vital part of our life. Since the Chinook salmon crash, our ability to support ourselves using a traditional resource has been diminished.

Gardening and berry picking also contribute to the local diet. While subsistence living is a vital part of life for many of the residents in Beaver much of this



work is not included in the US Census Bureau's defined labor force. The percent of employed

individuals within the community, those that are in the wage labor force, is 65 percent. The rate of unemployed individuals then, including both those seeking and not seeking wage labor is 35 percent. As of 2000, the estimated median household income in 2013 is \$22,970 (it was \$28,750 in 2000).

One tribal member owns and operates a bed and breakfast and tour service. The bed and breakfast operates year round.

The community does not currently have a grocery store. Community members buy groceries in Fairbanks, and have them shipped by air cargo to Beaver, which is expensive.

PUBLIC UTILITIES

The Village of Beaver consists of 54 housing units, a multi-purpose building, a post office, a generator garage, two churches, a RCA Alascom earth station, a utilities building, a school, a clinic, and a washeteria.

In 1997 a new well and pump house were constructed; community residents haul their treated water from this point. Honey buckets are still used for sewage disposal in many of Beaver's homes. The Village owns a community operated dump-truck that is used to haul waste from the resident's homes.

WASHETERIA

Village residents still rely on the washeteria for bathing and laundry. The washeteria and school both operate on one septic system. The water tank, water



treatment system, and washeteria were renovated in the spring of 2003. To mitigate flood risk, the recommended building elevation in Beaver is 365.5'. All project buildings evaluated in this

study have building elevations that exceed the minimum. The first floor of the washeteria is 367.6'. The washeteria was built in 1978, and renovated in the early 1990s.

In 2013, \$100,000 of Capital Improvement Grant monies was designated by the Alaska State Legislature to improve the washeteria, including efficiency measures. Several improvements are underway, but the scope and timeline of these projects is not yet known. The washeteria is managed by operator Paul Petruska, who was present during the site visit and public meeting. The approximately 1,340 ft² washeteria has two (2) fuel oil boilers, both Burnham V9A/V11 with 562,000 Btu net outputs. The hi / lo setting is 180 / 160°F. These boilers are in fair condition and are to be replaced, according to the 2013 CIP Grant agreement with Beaver Village Council.

The washeteria benefits from recovered heat provided by the adjacent power plant. The Beaver heat recovery utilization simulation estimates completed by Gray Stassel Engineering in 2008 to the reduction in annual fuel oil use between 2008-2013. Actual reduction closely matched estimated fuel oil savings, which indicates the system is meeting modeled performance.

The washeteria uses approximately 2,365 gallons of fuel oil per year. These gallons are used during the heating season, which may indicate they are primarily a function of space heat demand, rather than process



heat. However, there may be some process heat demands for higher temperature water than the recovered heat system can provide, resulting in oil-fired heat.

WATER AND SEWER

A water and sewer master plan was developed to form a haul water and sewer system for the community. A Village Safe Water Program is currently underway connecting 25 of the

community's year-round populated homes to the haul water and sewer system. Six more homes will be connected to the haul water and sewer system by spring 2016. The village owns 2 trucks, one to haul water, the other to haul sewer.

A Solid Waste Management Plan and Landfill Operations Plan were completed in June 2007. The landfill is located approximately 1-1/2 miles north of the Village on land owned by the Beaver Kwit'chin Village Corporation. The corporation has leased the land to the Beaver Village Council for the past 20 years. The landfill is sized based on a 20-year design life and will serve the community until the year 2016. A gravel road, approximately 2 miles long, provides access to the Beaver landfill from the village. Some members of the community continue to use burn barrels. The IGAP coordinator is working with the community to haul garbage to the dump to reduce burn barrel use.

COMMUNICATIONS

United Utilities provides telephone service to the village. There is no cell phone service in the village. United Utilities provides DSL internet and GCI provides satellite internet. The Village Council offices have internet from United Utilities. The clinic and school gets internet services from GCI. Most homes use DSL internet. Many homes do not have internet because the service is unreliable and the cost is prohibitively expensive. Many homes have satellite dishes providing cable TV.

POST OFFICE

There is a local Post Office which provides essential postal services to village residents. The Post Office is open Monday through Friday from 9 am until 4 pm.

FUEL

Fuel is flown in by plane because of the tank farm's location. The Yukon River's current channel has changed and made it difficult to deliver fuel by barge. The Beaver Village Council owns and operates a bulk fuel tank. Diesel fuel and gasoline cost \$9.00/gal. The primary source of heating for homes is wood and commercial facilities are diesel.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity is provided by Beaver Joint Utilities. The utility is owned and operated by the Beaver Village Council. The cost of electricity is \$0.90/kWh for residents. The cost of electricity for commercial facilities is \$1.00/kWh. The Village of Beaver is on PCE. It is reported that the current height of the power lines in some areas of the village are too low, and will need to be raised for future maintenance projects and to allow for the transportation of large vehicles traveling underneath. The Native Village of Beaver has three generators in the main powerhouse: 2 John Deere 67kw and a John Deere 110kw and both run off of a tank farm that hold 5000 gallons x3.

HOUSING

The 2000 US Census Bureau reported 54 total housing units within the Village area; 31 of these units are considered occupied housing (households), 23 are vacant housing units; of which, 10 were reported to be vacant due to seasonal use. We have significant need for new housing.



EDUCATION

Beaver has Cruikshank School, a K-12 one teacher school operated by the Yukon Flats School District. Declining enrollment has caused the school to be at risk for school closure. The school has a strong Gwich'in language program.

The Beaver Village Council funds higher education grants for tribal members.

TRANSPORTATION

Primary transportation into the village is by air. The state of Alaska owns and operates a 3,954' long by 75' wide lighted gravel airstrip. Air service is from Monday through Saturday by



Warbelows Air Service. Fuel, store goods, and supplies are shipped to Beaver via air cargo or barge during the summer months. Trucks and ATVs are used by many residents. Snow machines are used during the winter. Historically, many people used dog teams. Many people stopped using dog teams due to restricted fishing opportunities. During the summer months, Crowley's, a barge service, makes two trips up the Yukon River from Nenana. These barges are primarily used to transport bulk goods, heavy equipment, and other freight to the community. Residents also navigate the river waterways in their privately owned river boats for hunting, fishing, subsistence activities, and recreation.

Beaver has only 5.1 miles included in their 2006 IRR inventory. The two routes that are included are route 0003, 3.0 miles, and route 0004, 2.1 miles, the in town community routes. Route 0003 leads out of the Village site on the Old Government Road. This Route was frequently used at one time to connect the town site to the mining camp in Caro. The route still

exists but is in very poor condition beyond the 3 miles. The route is often used by residents of Beaver to access subsistence hunting areas.

There are no paved roads in Beaver, but some of the roads have received gravel surfacing. Generally, Beaver's roads were constructed of approximately two feet of gravel fill. During breakup and wet periods, roadway embankments become soft and muddy. As part of sanitation project several main roads in the village were resurfaced with large pebbles and river rocks. The new surfacing material is composed of what is known in the unified soil classification system as Poorly-Graded Gravel (GP). This material could be mixed with finer bonding agent soils (sands and silts) to be a surfacing material that holds together; but it would need to be crushed to be great surfacing material. It would be fine embankment material, if covered by about a foot± of surfacing material.

The community reported that culvert and roadside ditches provide roadway drainage. There are no bridges on the community road system; however there is a bridge along Government Road about 3 miles from the community. The roadways reportedly suffer from local flooding and washouts. Beaver is situated on land that is held in a trust by the Bureau of Land Management, and is bordered on the north and west by State-patented land; incorporation of routes into the BIA IRR Inventory is dependent upon appropriate State and Federal regulations and approval of the Village Council.

Routes in and around Beaver generally serve traffic between the community facilities, home sites, the airstrip, and subsistence areas. Routes within the central town site have reported road widths of 10-20 feet and have surfaces primarily composed of silty to gravel surfaces.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS

The local health clinic is the Beaver Clinic, which is a Primary Health Care facility. Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments operates the clinic and hires the health aide. Beaver is classified as an isolated village, found in EMS Region 1C in the Interior Region. Emergency Services have river and air access and are provided by a health aide. If residents have health problems that require a doctor, hospitalization, or a dentist between village visits, they must travel to Fairbanks or Fort Yukon by airplane to receive treatment.

Beaver does not have a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO). Our past VPSO was a tribal member of Beaver. Unfortunately, he moved and the community has been without a VPSO since 2013. The community wishes to hire a permanent VPSO. For law enforcement services, residents must call the Alaska State Troopers, located in Fairbanks. Response times can be extremely slow.

Top Goals for the Next 5 Years

Infrastructure and Housing

We have been under threat of school closure for several years. There are very few lots left within the village to build on. Our current housing stock is aging and a lot of houses sit vacant. We need to locate land to build future housing.

Purchase a loader, compactor, and rock crusher.

In fall of 2015, Beaver Village Council applied for an ICDGB grant to complete a 2-bedroom duplex in the community. Should this project be funded and built successfully, a second 2-bedroom duplex is proposed to be built as well.

The old school house, which is not in use, lies adjacent to the washeteria and the current school building. The village would like to see the old school demolished and redeveloped with new community housing. This project only in the brainstorming stage and is likely much further out in terms of planning and implementation than the others in this list.

The village is currently working to extend the water/sewer haul system in the community to include an additional six homes.

Energy

Beaver is currently in the pre-feasibility stage of planning a biomass district heating system. A pre-feasibility study was completed in 2014 in order to determine next steps for the project. The village is currently working to obtain a land transfer from the Episcopal Church in order to move forward with determining the feasibility of this project.

Procure LED Street lights for entire community (up to 20). Currently, the community has 4 functioning street lights located sporadically around the main roads in town. However, there is infrastructure via already existing telephone and electrical poles in town that would enable easy integration of additional lights into the community. At a minimum, there are 20 street posts in the community either with no lights or non-functioning lights. This project would serve to enhance the safety of the community at night and during the winter months.

In order to pursue grants in an effective manner, it's imperative to have a staff member in the village council focus on this task. By developing a staff position to work on energy efforts within the community, the goals of the community plan can be implemented effectively. The Tribal Energy Development Capacity (TED-C) Grant through the Bureau of Indian Affairs is a program that can help fund a full-time position within the community. Beaver Village should pursue this grant first and foremost.

Currently the Village-owned power plant has a solar system on the roof. However it is lacking general maintenance that is affecting the output of the system. Training a tribal government employee on the Operations and Maintenance (O&M) tasks for the PV system will ensure that the community gets the most output possible from the system year-round.

Landfill

Upgrade the condition of the road to the landfill. The road to the landfill is currently in fair to poor condition. Potholes and wash board surface areas are common along the 2.8 mile section of road stretching from the village to the landfill. Due the poor condition of the road ATV drivers experience extremely rough rides, and garbage spills are common. The current condition of this road impedes safe travel and is threat to residents traveling along the landfill road. Dust is also a reported problem along Dump Road during the dry summer months and is a health concern for Village youth, elders, and other residents of the community with asthma

Road Conditions

Upgrade the road condition of the Barge Access Road. The Barge Access Road is the main access provider to the Yukon River Barge landing located 2.9 miles downstream from the community. The current poor condition of the Barge Access Road is an impediment to village development and access to the barge landing. The Barge Access Road is currently in fair to poor condition with frequent areas of washboard and potholed surface. Dust is also a reported problem along Barge Access Road during the dry summer months and is a health concern for Village youth, elders, and other residents of the community with asthma.

Community and Development Goals

Goal: Encourage positive growth through responsiveness and accountability within the tribal government

- Update current policies and procedures
- Revise financial management policies
- Revise and update personnel policies
- Revise and update property management system and policies
- Update tribal constitution, codes, and ordinances
- Update tribal policies and procedures
- Update tribal court codes, policies, and procedures

Goal: Organize and maintain office operations.

- Develop a central filing system and records management policies and procedures
- Inventory and tag property
- Plan and budget for equipment purchases
- Plan and budget for equipment maintenance
- Prepare a negotiated indirect cost proposal
- Increase self-governance capacity
- Strengthen tribal budgeting process
- Tribal members actively engaged in tribal affairs
- Encourage youth to participate in tribal business

Goal: Strengthen government to government relationship with state and federal government by engaging in meaningful government to government consultation.

- Develop good working relationships with fish and wildlife officers to improve wildlife management.
- Comment and develop Subsistence Harvest Regulations

Goal: Promote, protect, and sustain our traditional way of life

- Identify, document, map, and protect traditional fishing spots and all culturally important sites along rivers.
- Clean up contaminated sites
- Ensure that land uses and human activities are consistent with protecting and restoring wildlife habitat.
- Support efforts to document cultural plant use.
- Support language programs that enhance community cultural understanding.

Goal: Protect food security and promote culture activities

- Ensure all trap lines are active and managed to provide opportunities for cultural activities.
- Protect food security
- Over population of wolf/bears
- Contaminants in subsistence food
- Indigenous hunting and fishing rights

Goal: Economic Development; develop, encourage, and advertise educational, job, and training opportunities.

- Build workforce development and encourage employee development
- Encourage village development and entrepreneurship.
- Excellent educational opportunity
- Build business management experience and education
- Examine tourism opportunities that involve a diversity of experiences
- Stable, consistent employment opportunities with reasonable pay are available for all able community members.

Goal: Improved public infrastructure; water, sewer, electric, telecommunications, transportation, to improve village development

- Develop affordable, energy efficient, adequate, and safe housing.
- Electrical upgrades in homes.
- Support and promote a safe community
- Safe, well-lit roads
- Safety and protection of women, children, and elders.
- Culturally appropriate prevention services for women and children
- Increase the health level of all community members
- Community Members living healthy lifestyle
- Protect and Preserve traditional way of life for tribal members.

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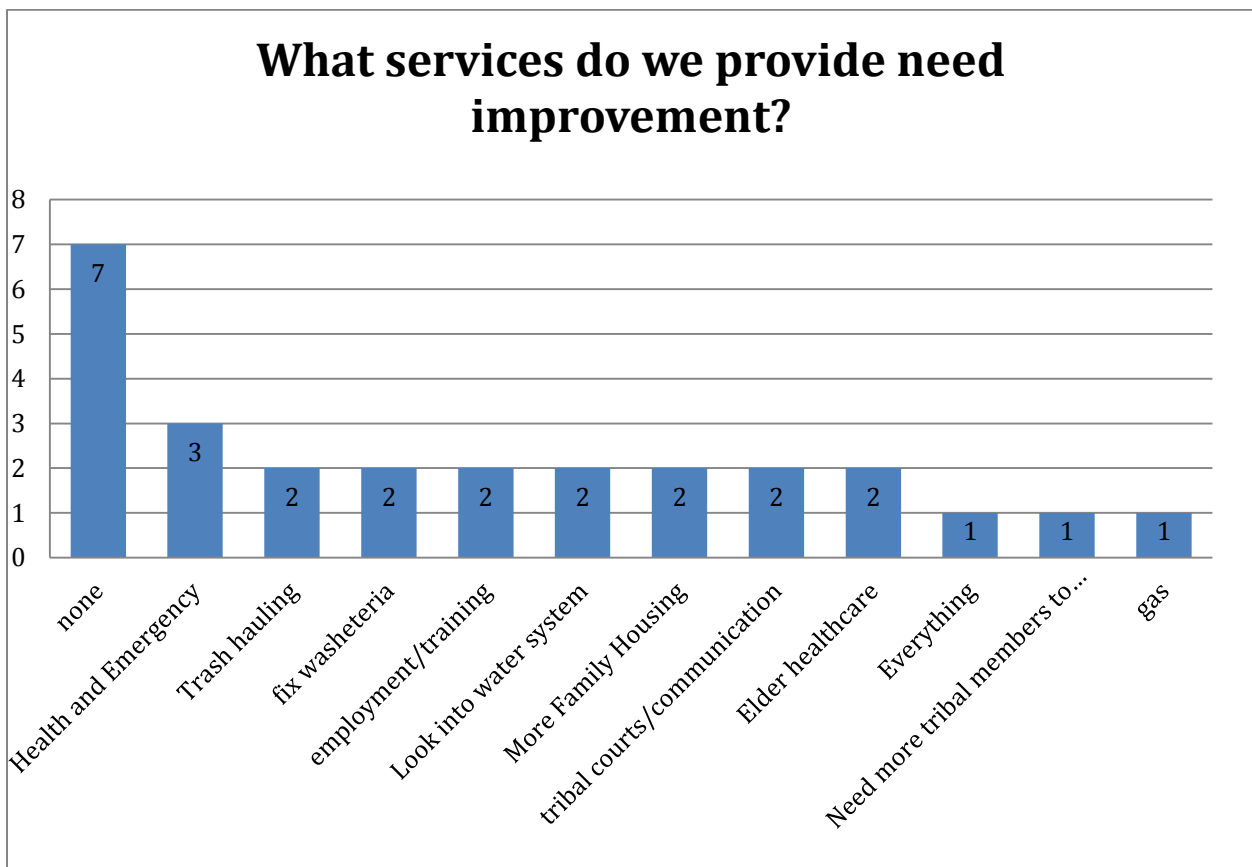
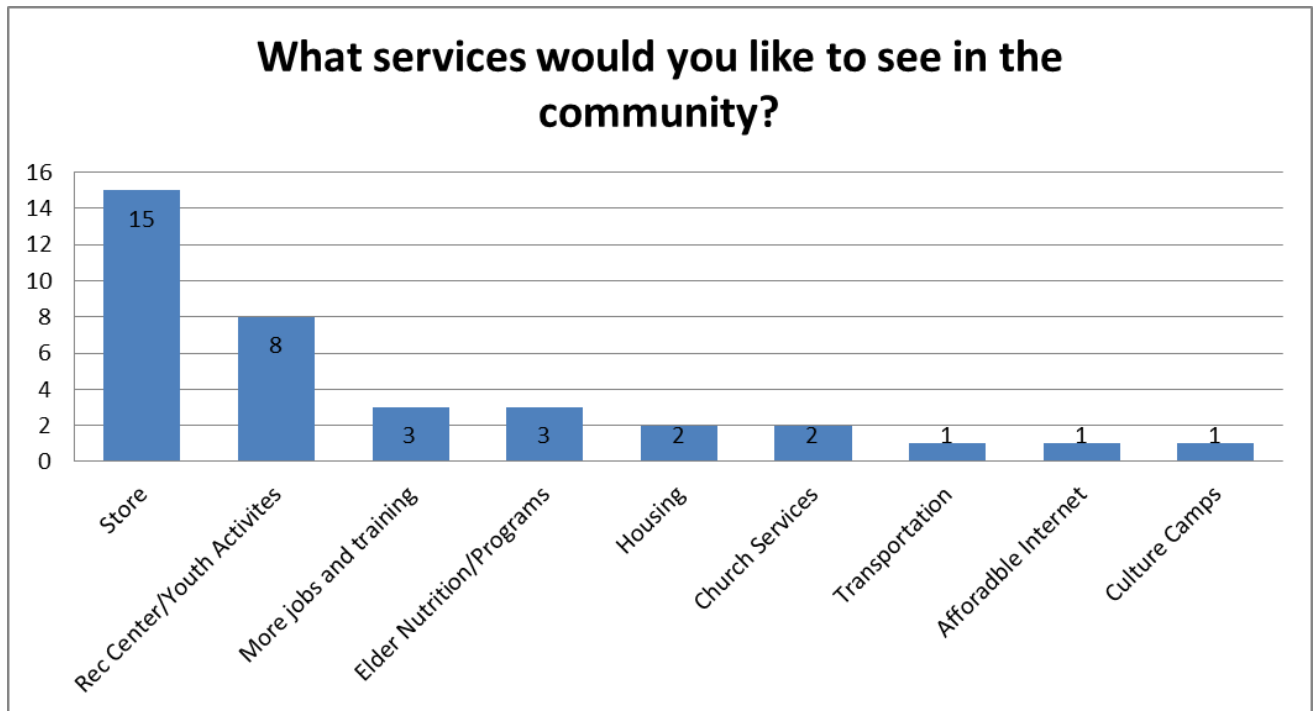
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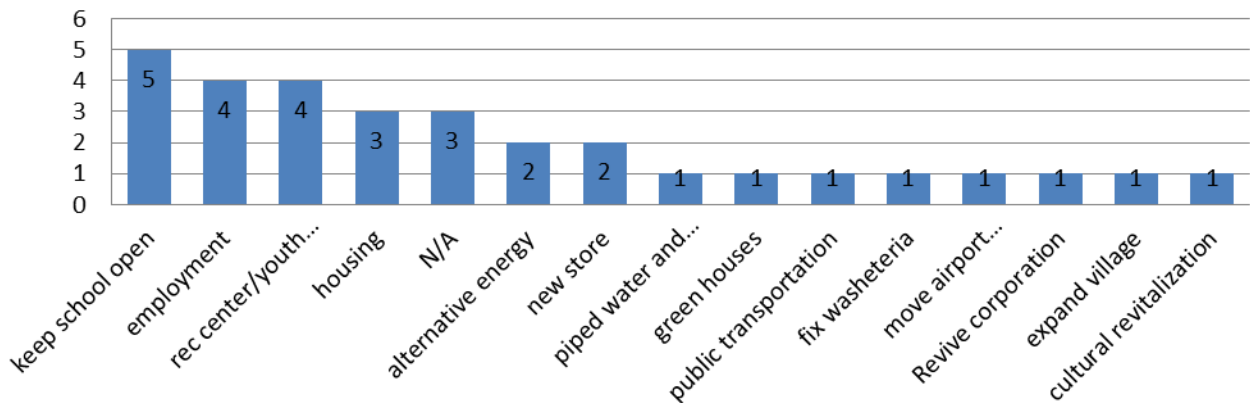
<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/dcra/PlanningLandManagement/CommunityProfileMaps.aspx>

Appendices

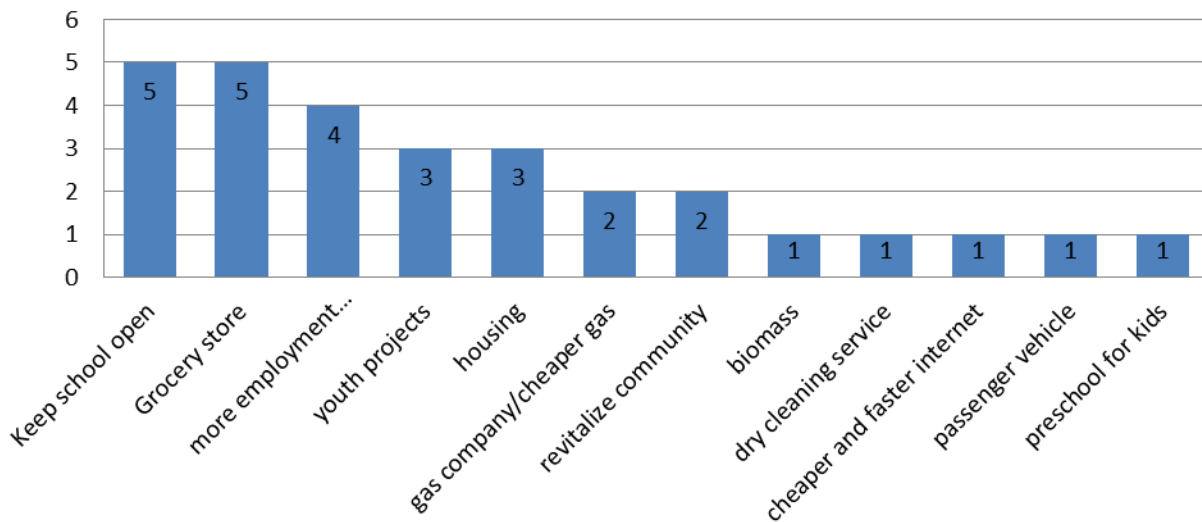
Survey Results



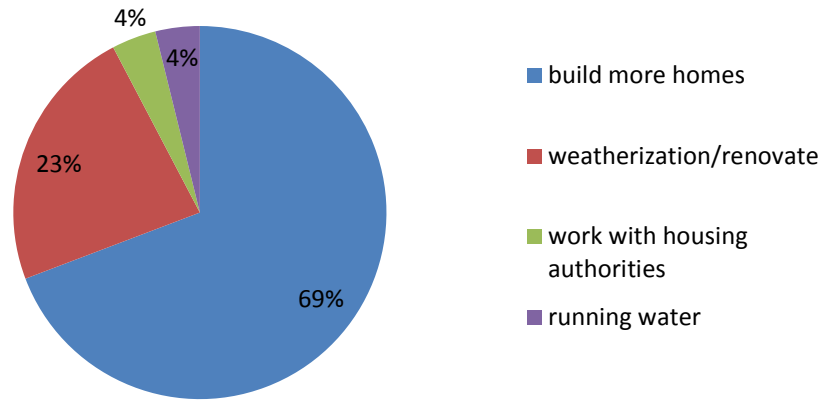
What are some long term goal you would like established in the community



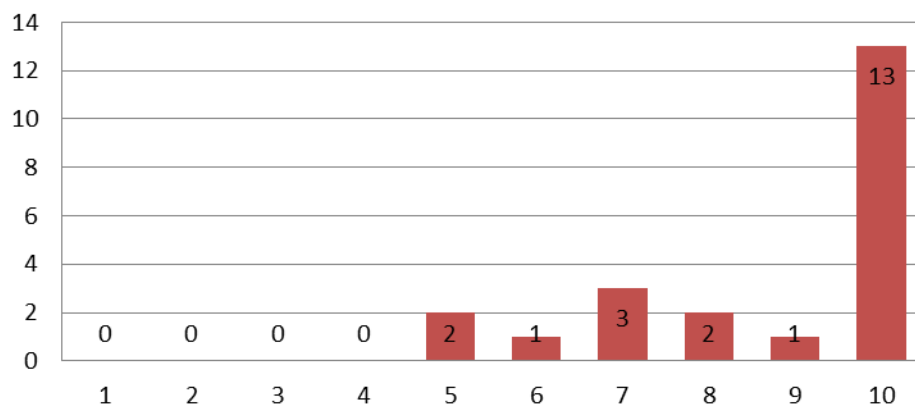
What are some short term goals you would like to see accomplished in your community



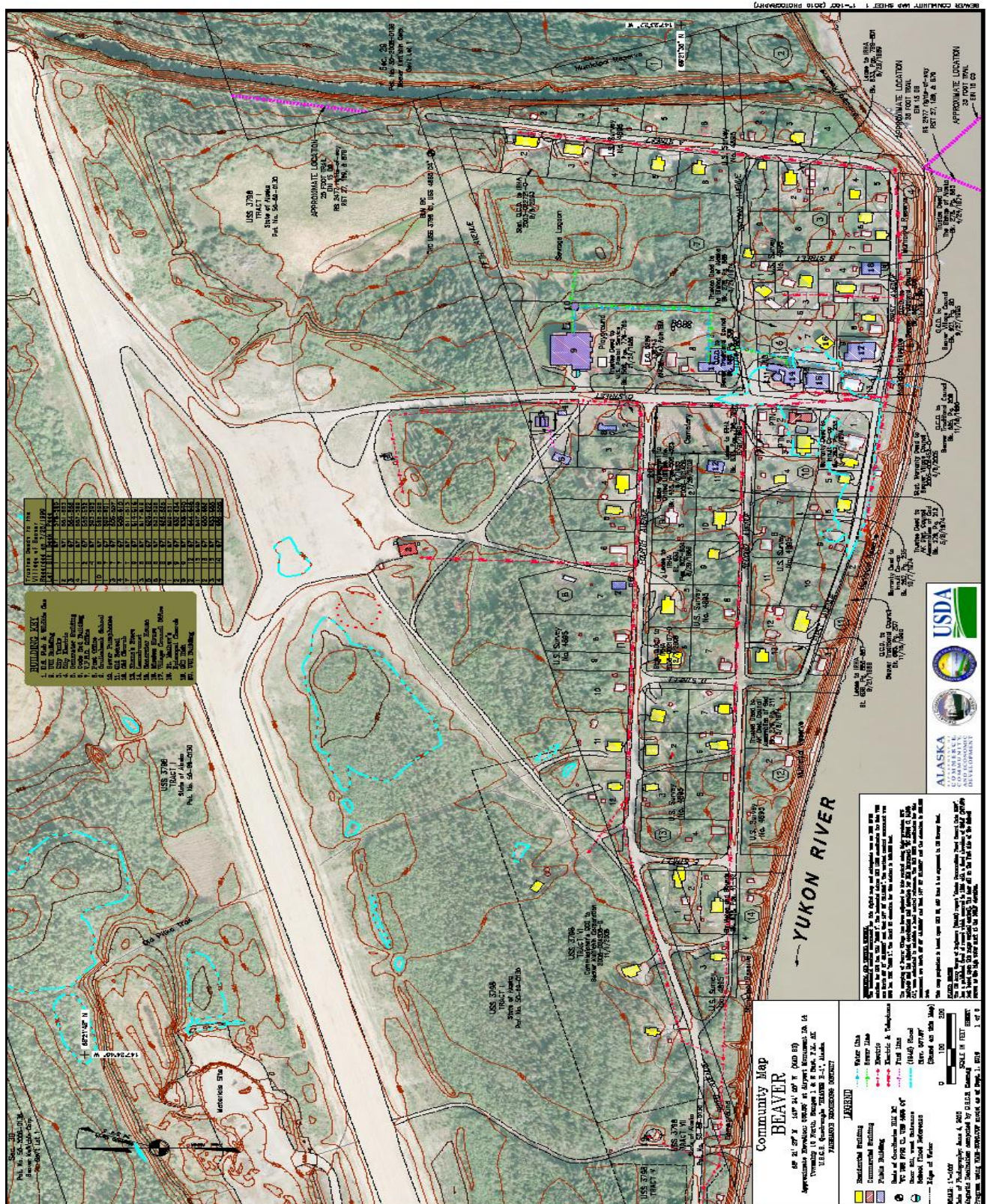
How can we improve housing?



What is the housing situation on a scale of 1-10?



Map



Accomplishments and Projects Completed from the Past 5 Years

- Community facilities including the washeteria and the tribal building were approved for PCE in Spring of 2015
- Chief Rhonda Pitka met President Obama at an Alaska Native Leaders Round Table
- Submitted the ICDGB grant to complete a 2-bedroom duplex in the community.
- Overhauled generators
- Extend the water/sewer haul system to include an additional six homes
- BIA 638 Grant
- EPA IGAP Grant
- Family Violence Prevention Services Act Grant
- Road Maintenance Grant
- Transportation Planning Grant

2014

- Capital Improvement Grant to perform Washeteria Energy Efficiency Upgrade and Renovations
- UAF CTT plumbing and construction classes in the community
- BIA 638 Grant
- EPA IGAP Grant
- Pre-feasibility study for a biomass district heating system
- Family Violence Prevention Services Act Grant
- Road Maintenance Grant
- Transportation Planning Grant

2013

- Capital Improvement Grant to purchase and install Smart Meters

- BIA 638 Grant
- EPA IGAP Grant
- Family Violence Prevention Services Act Grant
- Road Maintenance Grant
- Transportation Planning Grant

2012

- BIA 638 grant
- EPA IGAP Grant
- Tanana Chiefs Conference weatherized 20 homes
- Family Violence Prevention Services Act Grant

2011

- BIA 638 Grant
- EPA IGAP Grant
- Family Violence Prevention Services Act Grant

2010

- BIA 638 Grant
- EPA IGAP Grant
- Family Violence Prevention Services Act Grant
-

ASSETS

Physical Assets

- Post office
- Airport
- Old school
- Roads
- Multi-Purpose Building
- Washeteria
- Power Plant
- Garage
- Bulk Fuel Tank
- Utility
- Plow Truck
- Fuel Tank Trailer
- Water hauling truck
- Sewer hauling truck
- Dump Truck
- Front End Loader
- Backhoe
- Snow machine
- Snow machine trailer
- 4 wheeler
- 4 wheeler trailer
- Town Site Lots
- Land

Human Capital

- Chief
- Village Council
- Tribal Administrator
- Bookkeeper
- Tribal Workforce Development Specialist
- EPA/IGAP Coordinator
- Janitor
- Facilities Maintenance Technician
- Power Plant Operator
- Water Plant Operator
- Water Truck Driver
- Mechanic
- Plow Truck Operator
- Fuel Hauler
- Elders
- Youth
- Caring people
- Relatives
- Foster Parents
- Tribal Members
- Story Tellers
- Fish wheel builders
- Fisher people
- Snowshoe builders
- Carpenters
- Artists
- Cooks
- Hunters
- Sled builders
- Teachers
- Health Aides
- Jacks & Jill's of all trades

Social Capital

- Leadership development
- Tribal Leadership Skill
- K-12 Education
- Higher Education
- Social Justice
- Self Sufficiency

Financial Assets

- Bank Accounts
- Receivables
- Financial Management Experience

- Financial Management Skill

Environmental Assets

- Land base (137,000 acres)
- Wildlife
- Wild Birds
- Subsistence Foods – (salmon, whitefish, moose, berries, muskrats, beaver, geese, duck)
- Fish
- Pristine Wilderness
- Forest
- Water
- Gravel
- Clean Air
- Yukon River, Creeks, and Lakes
- Timber
- High potential for natural gas

Cultural Assets

- Indigenous Language – Gwich'in, Koyukon, Inupiaq
- Traditional Way of Life
- Singing and Dancing
- Potlatch
- Knowledge of elders
- Church
- Traditional Knowledge
- Old wagon
- Historical buildings – Yasuda House
- Past mining site

Political Assets

- Decision-making powers
- Sovereignty
- Tax Immunity
- Village Support
- Government Capacity
- Leadership Capacity