



Chalkyitsik Community Plan



2015

Contents

Vision..... 4

Values..... 5

Assets 6

Executive Summary 7

Past Planning Efforts 7

Community Profile 8

 History..... 9

 Culture 10

 Location..... 11

 Population and Demographics..... 12

Governance and Public Administration 13

 Tribal Council..... 13

 VPSO/ Law Enforcement 14

 Village Corporation 14

 Doyon, Limited..... 14

 Tanana Chiefs Conference..... 14

 Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments..... 15

 Local Collaboration 15

Public Utilities..... 16

 Water and Sewer..... 16

 Solid Waste..... 16

 Communications 16

 Power/Energy..... 17

Public Facilities..... 18

 Clinic..... 18

 School..... 19

 Emergency Services 19

 Washeteria 20

 Community Hall..... 20

Post Office.....	20
Economy.....	21
Local Stores and Businesses	21
Composition of Employment	21
Housing.....	23
External Transportation	24
Internal Transportation	24
Land Ownership.....	25
Geography	25
Environmental Concerns	25
Flooding	26
Subsistence.....	27
Community Well-being.....	29
Churches.....	30
Additional Education	30
Cultural and/or Seasonal Gatherings	30
Community Goals and Objectives.....	31
Resources.....	37
Appendices	40
Survey Questions.....	41
Arial View of Chalkyitsik.....	51
Tribal Council Resolution Adopting Plan.....	52

Vision

“Diikwaiik’it zhit zhehk’aa naii gwinzii gwagwandaii ts’a kwanchu’ehdan chan tr’agwandaii. Ch’anjaa naii jidii yeenaadai’ gooyuughwan geegoovoltin ts’a’ nats’aa googwiindai’ geediigwaatan ts’a’ chan diinaa gwagwaandak. Yeena dai’ nats’aa tr’agwiindai’ ts’a’ juk drin nats’aa tr’agwandaii hah ni’laa drn tee gwaanchy’aa zhit tr’agwandaii. Jii nan kat jidii nin gwandaii ts’a’ chan jidii nan kat nahshii kwahn tr’agwandaii ts’a’ juk drin jidii gwitr’it nihleejuk t’iinchy’aa aii t’ii tr’agwiheendaii chan ahragwaa’eh ihzhik chan diineenjit gwiinzii. Diikwaiik’it zhit gwiinzii than tr’agwandaii, ts’a’ gwinzii chan diikwaiik’it lahgweddhaa. Jidii nan kak kwan gwarandaii nizii. Diik’eejit naii nats’aa tr’agwandaii ts’a’ jidii tr’agwaraheendaii t’eegwaachy’aa ahgwagwaa’eh yeendaa diikwaiik’it

“Our community is made up of healthy sober families. Elders share their ancestral wisdom and traditions. In our daily lives, we live with both traditional values and modern amenities. We subsist and survive off the land while enjoying ample economic opportunities. Our community is self-sustaining. We use our natural resources appropriately, and our resources are stable. Our youth learn subsistence skills and traditions, ensuring the continued survival of our community. We raise our families here and enjoy living here throughout our lives.”

Values

- Gwiinzii tr'agwandaii ts'a' kwanchu' tr'idinii kwaa gwinjik tr'agwaandaii.
- Kaiik'it gwich'in naii goozhin nizii.
- Diich'anjaa naii nats'aa gwagwiindai' geediigwaatan jii gwagwaraa'eh eenjit.
Jii nats'aa tr'agwiindai' gaagwiheendaii gwi'teegwaachy'aa aii k'it gwiriheendaii geenjit.
- Ch'iyuukhwan naii digigii gihil'ee.
- Diik'eejit naii gwiintsii gooveegoo'aa, yeendoo diikwaiik'it k'aaganahtyaa eenjit.
- Zhat kwaiik'it zhit zheh k'aa naii ni'ts'agiinyaa ts'a' gwiinzii nilak'aganaatii.
- Diinan, tr'al tat ts'a' yeenaa dai' nats'aa tr'agwiindai' aii k'it juk drin nats'aa deegwiindhan ky'aa tr'agwandaii
- Jii kwaiik'it shrii natr'igwihee'aa eenjit gwitr'it'arahgwah'in.
- Diikheh kwai' naii jii kwaiik'it eenjit gwiinzii gwitr'it'agwagwah'in.

- A healthy sober lifestyle
- Community members with good attitudes
- Our Elders, who maintain and share our traditional practices and values
- Strong parents who respect their children
- Our youth because they are important to the future of our community
- Family stability in our community
- Our land, wilderness, and our freedom to pursue a traditional, semi-subsistence lifestyle
- Meaningful work that contributes to the community
- Good leadership

Assets

- Zhat kwaiik'it gwitch'ii naii gooveeshroonchy'aa ts'a' chan gwinzii aakin k'aganahatii
- Diitsii ts'a' diich'anjaa naii tr'ihl'ee
- Diikheh kwai' naii gwiinzii diineenjit gwitr'it'agwagwah'in
- Nijin gwatch'aa k'eech'arahtryaa ts'a' ch'ookwat zheh goo'arii diineenjit gwiinzii
- Zhat Chalkyitsik diik'eeriinjik ts'a' diizheh k'aa naii zhat gwagwitch'ii.
- Jii Chalkyitsik kwaiik'it goo'arii zheegwaanyaa ts'a' chan khahtrilch'i' kwaa ts'a' chan than goo'arii.
- Zhat kwaiik'it dinjii naii tthak nihlaa giindaii ts'a' tr'anaajat kwaa gwiinzii.
- Zhat diikwaiik'it tthak ni'ts'ariinyaa ts'a' chan diikwaiik'it geelin tseenedahn goo'arii k'it t'oonchy'aa.
- Tr'al tat dii'ehjyaa dhah'arii ts'a' zhat gwa'an nats'aa nan kak tr'agwandaii ahragwaa'ih

- Residents are very nice and hospitable
- We honor our Grandfather and Elders
- We have good leadership
- We enjoy having public facilities – like the washeteria and the store
- We grew up in Chalkyitsik and our families reside here
- Chalkyitsik is quiet, slow-paced, and secluded
- We know everyone in the community, and there is a feeling of safety
- A supportive, helpful, and strong community spirit surrounds us
- The wilderness is our backyard where we can practice a subsistence lifestyle

Executive Summary

In 2015 the Chalkyitsik Village Council went into a contract with Tanana Chiefs Conference community planner program to update our existing 2009 community plan. James Nathaniel Jr was hired to be the community planner for Chalkyitsik.

Through the continued community planning efforts, the people of Chalkyitsik were able to successfully define their vision, values, assets, and goals for the future. The Chalkyitsik Community Plan is a reflection of their efforts and is intended as a tool to guide future growth.

Past Planning Efforts

Chalkyitsik developed its first local plan in 2002 through a partnership with the Yukon Flats Resource Conservation and Development Program. Five years later, the Chalkyitsik Village Council began participating in Rural Alaska Community Action Program's (RurAL CAP) Village Planning and Development Initiative. Funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development, this initiative was designed to support ten villages in the development and implementation of local community plans.

During the summer of 2009, RurAL CAP staff and two Denali Commission interns visited Chalkyitsik to help update and expand their local plan. A community planning meeting was held where approximately 25 residents of all ages participated. During the meeting, participants were asked to complete a short survey. The survey, which served as a discussion starter, revealed that residents were united in their concern about the future of the village, the need for increased job training and development, the desire to continue the subsistence lifestyle, the appreciation for family stability and the friendliness of their community.

Community Profile

History

For thousands of generations, the Dranjik Gwich'in occupied the area stretching from the mouth of the Black River to the headwaters of the Salmon, Black and Grayling Rivers. Traditionally, Chalkyitsik or Jalgitsik (meaning "fish hooking place") was known to the Dranjik people as a seasonal fishing camp.

Beginning in the early 1900's, the Dranjik people began settling in Salmon Village (70 miles upriver from Chalkyitsik). In the late 1930s, a boat carrying construction materials for a school was forced to unload in Chalkyitsik due to low water. The establishment of a school in Chalkyitsik drew in Dranjik families from the surrounding area and by 1969 the village had 26 houses, two churches, a store and a community hall.



2015 Summer Youth Camp

Culture

Chalkyitsik is one of 14 Gwich'in Athabascan communities that extend from northeastern Alaska in the U.S. to the northern Yukon and the Northwest Territories of Canada. Other

Gwich'in villages include:

Aklavik, Arctic Village,

Beaver, Birch Creek,

Canyon Village, Circle,

Eagle, Fort McPherson, Fort

Yukon, Inuvik, Old Crow,

Tsiigehtchic, and

Venetie. The indigenous

language of the region is

Gwich'in (or Takudh).

English is the most common

language spoken in

Chalkyitsik; however the

preservation of the Gwich'in language continues to be very important to the community. Gwich'in people share a collective identity based on common history, language, culture, and traditions. The tradition of hunting, fishing, trapping, and berry picking continues to be an important part of the Gwich'in lifestyle. Other cultural activities include beading, drumming, canoe and snowshoe making, skin tanning, storytelling, and string games.

Anglican missionaries arrived in the Yukon Flats region in the mid 1800's. Today, most Gwich'in communities are Episcopalian rather than Anglican. The fiddle was first introduced to the Gwich'in in the mid-1800 by French and Orcadian fur traders employed by the Hudson Bay Company in Fort Yukon. Since that time, fiddle music and dance has become an integral part of Gwich'in celebrations.



Location

Chalkyitsik is located within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge on the south bank of the Black River. Location-Chalkyitsik is located on the Black River about 50 miles east of Fort Yukon. Latitude 66.6544 Longitude-143.7222 Sq Mi Land 0.00 Sq Mi Water 0.00.

Climate

A dry continental sub-arctic climate prevails

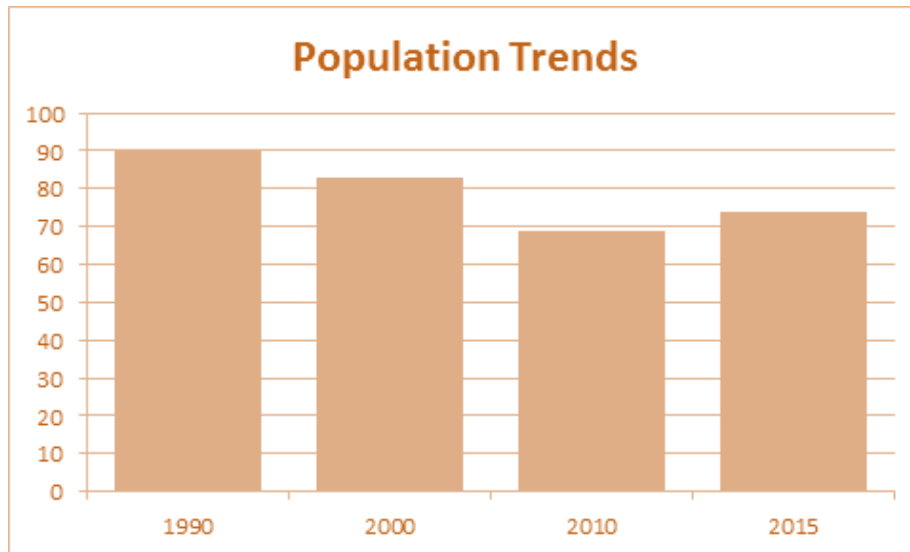
throughout the region, with warm summers and long cold winters. The mountains which surround the eco-region isolate it

from the weather systems affecting the neighboring regions. Consequently, summer temperatures tend to be much colder. The average annual temperature is approximately 25 degrees Fahrenheit. Daily winter temperatures range from lows as low as 60 degrees Fahrenheit below 0 to highs around 10 degrees. Daily summer temperatures range from lows in the 30's to highs in the 90's, although freezing can occur in any month. Annual precipitation is low averaging 6 to 10 inches and average snowfall averages at about 45 inches. The Yukon River remains frozen from early October through late May.



Population and Demographics

Recent population counts reveals that the currently population for the community of Chalkyitsik is approximately 74 people. The community is 99% Alaska Native, a majority of them (approximately 90% are enrolled members in the Chalkyitsik Tribal Council). The community of Chalkyitsik has seen a decrease in its population in recent years due to the number of people leaving to find employment. The decrease is also due in part to the number of elders in the community who have passed. Before 2007 half of Chalkyitsik population (approximately 30 people) was over the age of 50, currently there are approximately seven elders living in the community.



<http://commerce.state.ak.us/craDCRAExternal/community>

Governance and Public Administration

Tribal Council

The Chalkyitsik Village Council (CVC) is a federally-recognized tribe, consisting of a seven-member Council and 12 staff. The CVC is the local governing body within the boundaries of Chalkyitsik. Council positions include the first chief (two year term) and six members (annual terms). Tribal council elections are held each January. Those interested in applying for a position must be a current tribal member and have lived in Chalkyitsik for the prior year.

The Tribe administers numerous grants and contracts, including P.L. 93-638; IRR Transportation, HUD Housing Program; and Environmental. The P.L. 93-638 Self-Governance program includes Indian Child Welfare, Higher Education/Vocational, Natural Resources, and Tribal Enrollment. The electrical and washeteria utilities provide other revenues.

The Chalkyitsik Village Council adopted Tribal By-Laws, Constitution, and drafted Tribal Governance Codes. The 2015 new council members will be updating all existing policies, codes and constitution of the tribe.

Since the community doesn't have a local city government, the Tribe also operates and manages the following utility services:

- Water Treatment Plant
- Washeteria
- Piped Water and Sewer (for the school, tribal offices, and clinic)
- Landfill
- Electricity supply and distribution
- Equipment Rentals
- Building Rentals

VPSO/ Law Enforcement

The community has monthly Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO) visits into the community. The VPSO program is operated by the Tanana Chiefs Conference. Additionally, an Alaska State Trooper will make periodic visits. Emergency response for the community is dependent on weather conditions, but in serious situations response is generally within an hour.

Village Corporation

The Chalkyitsik Native Corporation was incorporated with the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) of 1971. The corporation has a board of directors and a land manager that are responsible for overseeing village corporation lands and for making land available for community purposes. Section 14(c) of ANCSA provides that the village corporations allow for the transfer of land to individuals for home or subsistence uses; non-profit organizations such as churches; tribal government for community expansion; and the State Department of Transportation for existing airport purposes.

Doyon, Limited

Doyon, Limited is a regional, for-profit Native corporation formed under ANCSA. With a land entitlement of 12.5 million acres across Interior Alaska, Doyon is the largest private landowner in the state and one of the largest private landowners in North America. Doyon currently has more than 17,550 shareholders.

Tanana Chiefs Conference

Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) is a regional nonprofit organization founded in 1973. Based in Fairbanks, TCC serves 42 Interior villages, including Chalkyitsik, and administers a variety of programs. TCC Health Services currently employs one health aide in Chalkyitsik.

Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments

Created in 1985, the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG) is a consortium of 10 tribal governments in the Yukon Flats region. Based in Fort Yukon, CATG is managed by a Board of Directors that is comprised of Chiefs from each of its member villages. Chalkyitsik currently has 151 tribal enrollees.

Local Collaboration

The Chalkyitsik Tribe and Chalkyitsik Corporation have a strong history of working together for the betterment of the community. Previous collaboration has occurred in issues surrounding housing, environmental issues, and community events and activities. As of 2015, the corporation is currently working with the Tribe (CVC) to negotiate a land transfer that would allow the relocation of the existing dump site. The corporation has also operated a local store for 30+ years and employs three employees.



Public Utilities

Water and Sewer

The washeteria, health clinic, tribal council office, and school are the only building connected to the water and septic system. Residents primarily use outhouses or honey buckets and will explore “sweet smelling toilets, or other compost toilet options.

Solid Waste

Chalkyitsik has an open dump which is reaching its’ capacity in volume and/or area. An “open dump” site attracts bears during the summer months. A fence was installed recently to combat issues of flyaways, predators, and such. A site has been selected, and the Chalkyitsik Native Corporation has transferred ownership of the approximately 10-acres of land to this site, to the Chalkyitsik Village Council.

The Chalkyitsik Village Council operates an Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) which promotes local environmental initiatives. These include recycling batteries, aluminum cans, and other recyclables; completing an environmental assessment of the village and campsites; pursuing funding for a burn box and a waste oil burner, developing a Solid Waste Management Plan, and closing our existing dump and opening our new landfill. Chalkyitsik is working with ANTHC to put a self-haul system in each home for water n sewer system.

Communications

Chalkyitsik residents have relatively reliable telephone and internet service. Residents are kept informed of current events through the Fairbanks Daily News Miner e-edition, KZPA radio station (Fort Yukon), and mail which is delivered daily.

Power/Energy

Bulk Fuel

Chalkyitsik has the capacity of 30,000 gallon storage available for bulk fuel. We have to fly the fuel in from Fairbanks for the generator which runs from \$5-\$6 a gallon with Evert's Air Fuel every 4-6 months. The community has both wood and heating fuel to warm most of the homes; we would like to upgrade our existing storage tanks and area in the future due to its old age.

Electric

Chalkyitsik Village Council operates Chalkyitsik Energy Systems which provides electricity to all local houses at \$.95 per kilowatt hour. In the summer of 2009, the cost of heating fuel was \$6.00 per gallon. The Power Cost Equalization Program (PCE) is a state program that offsets a percentage of household electrical costs thereby alleviating some energy costs.



Public Facilities

Clinic



The new Chalkyitsik health clinic was constructed in 2011 and is staffed by two health aides. The old clinic space, located in the Washeteria building, is vacant. The new clinic is connected to the water and septic system. The clinic continues to provide basic primary and preventative health care services including: health education, immunizations, well baby checks, routine health screening; simple lab services; blood draws; emergency medical services and trauma stabilization; chronic health condition monitoring; and treatment for common colds and other minor ailments. Additional medical and dental care is provided once or twice a year by traveling doctors and dentists from Chief Andrew Isaac Health Clinic. Prior to 2009 the community did not receive any dental care services in the community, after listing it as a priority in their previous plan the Chalkyitsik Tribal Council worked with Tanana Chiefs Conference so now dental care services are offered one to two times a year. Patients requiring more advanced care travel to Fairbanks (two hour plane ride).

School

The Yukon Flats School District operates a school in Chalkyitsik and employs two teachers, a bilingual teacher, a special reading instructor, and a cook. In 2014/2015 the school had 14 students. In 2013 and 2014 the school was nearly closed down due to the lack of students. This was based on the Yukon Flats School District Office in Fort Yukon that determined the closure of the school unless there are 10 students.

In 2009, the school had approximately 23 students. The facility contains two classrooms, a library,

art room, lockers,

bathrooms, and a loft

which serves as a

reading room. Higher

education programs

are available to

Chalkyitsik residents

through numerous

distance delivery

programs including

the Alaska College of

Rural and Community

Development and the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments' American Indian

Vocational Technical Education Program



Emergency Services

The Tribal Administrator is currently working on getting our code red back up and running with a volunteer fire department.

Washeteria

In the 2009 planning efforts, Chalkyitsik residents identified the local washeteria as one of their most important asset. The washeteria provides treated water as well as shower and laundry facilities. Residents are responsible for water from the washeteria to their homes. In 2014 there was new washers and dryers installed.

Community Hall

In 2014 the community hall was renovated and a kitchen was added to the building. The need for water and sewer in the new kitchen area will increase good and safe hygiene. Additional need is a safe and energy efficient heating system.

Post Office

The United State Postal Service for Chalkyitsik is contracted out to a local resident, and is operated out of her own house. Daily mail is delivered Monday thru Friday via local airline.



Economy

Local Stores and Businesses

There are two stores in Chalkyitsik one of which is operated by the Chalkyitsik Native Corporation and the other is a privately-owned store run by the Salmon family since 2005. The stores sell canned and boxed foods, basic supplies, and fuel which is all freighted by plane.



Composition of Employment

There are few opportunities for year-round employment in Chalkyitsik. The Yukon Flats School District, Chalkyitsik Village Council, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments are the primary employers in the village. Seasonal opportunities for generating income include firefighting and traditional arts (i.e. beadwork, sleds and snowshoes), and trapping though that market has been declining. Chalkyitsik met the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development's 2009 standard of a "distressed" community. Those standards include:

- A comparison of average income of a community to full-time minimum wage earning
- The percentage of the population earning greater than full-time minimum wage
- A measure of the percentage of the population engaged in year-round wage and salary employment

According to the 2000 Census, 54.5% of Chalkyitsik families were living below the poverty level compared to the 7.6% of Alaskan families or 9.8% of U.S. family's living below the poverty line.

Poverty

	Estimate	Margin of Error
Population for whom poverty status is determined	65	28 +/-
Persons below poverty level	33.80 %	22.10 % +/-
All Individuals below 125 percent of poverty level	37	21 +/-

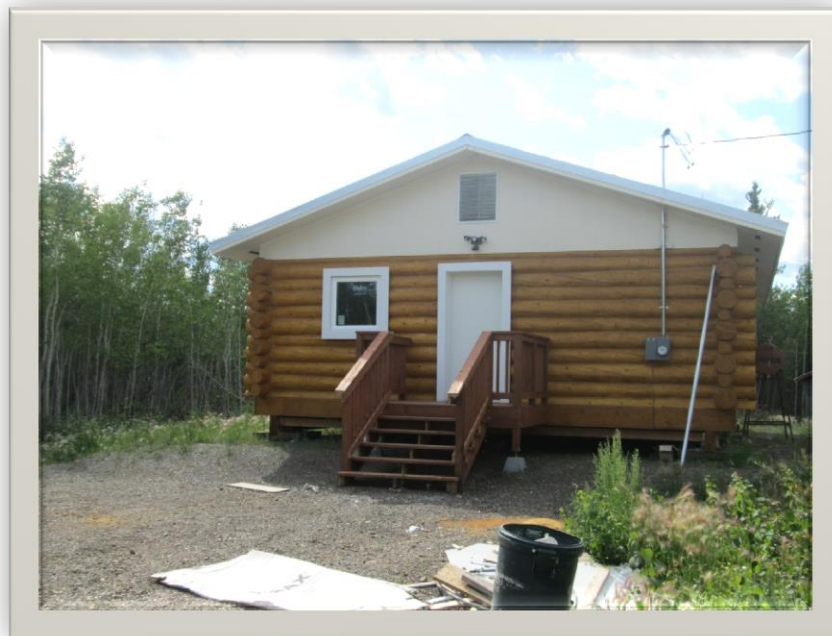
Income

	Estimate	Margin of Error
Per Capita Income	\$12,628	\$5,997 +/-
Median Household Income	\$38,750	\$16,617 +/-
Median Family Income	\$32,500	\$12,609 +/-

Housing

In 1994, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development began supporting numerous housing projects in Chalkyitsik through the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Program. The block grants were made available by the American Indian Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA).

In 2000, there were a total of 62 housing units in Chalkyitsik. In 2014 there were 25 occupied housing units in Chalkyitsik. In 2014 Chalkyitsik Housing Program built 2 homes and



rehabilitated 15 residential homes with our HIP Grant. There is still a need for more new homes and rehab of residential homes in Chalkyitsik.

The Chalkyitsik Housing Authority was established in 2012 when the tribe decided that residential homes needed weatherization and new homes for tribal members. The tribe became the contractor for the American Indian Housing Assistance and Self Determination Act of 1986 (NAHASDA) funds.

Transportation

External Transportation

There are no roads to/from Chalkyitsik. Air travel in/out of the village is limited to one daily flight (Warbelow's Air Ventures) except on Saturdays, which originates in Fairbanks and passes through Beaver.

The state-owned and maintained runway is approximately 3,200 feet long by 90 feet wide, and it is constructed to add another 1,000 feet to comply with regulations.

Only small boats are able to navigate the Yukon River, which is extremely shallow. In the winter the river freezes and serves as an ice road to/from neighboring communities.

Internal Transportation

Chalkyitsik has small, unpaved roads that connect residents and public facilities. Most residents use ATV's or snow machines; however, there are few cars in the village.



Land Use and the Environment

Land Ownership

The Chalkyitsik Native Corporation owns 69,120 acres.

Geography

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

Environmental Concerns

Chalkyitsik, like other arctic communities, is experiencing climate change impacts. Local residents have observed numerous environmental changes including declining numbers of both caribou and fish.

The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment conducted a study of climate change and its effects on the indigenous people who depend on subsistence activities for survival; the report states that climate change challenges food security as well as cultural and social identity. In addition, both people and animals will increasingly be exposed to higher levels of UV rays, which affect human health in a number of ways: increased chance of skin cancer, premature aging, cataracts and other eye disorders, and immune system damage.

Boreal forests are moving farther north- displacing native plant species by increasing the amount of invasive species. Changes in local plant life also increase the risk that people and animals will be exposed to airborne toxins and to new pollens, allergens and illnesses.

As the local climate changes, essential traditional land use patterns will need to be modified by local hunters, land ownerships, and commonly the local residents. Utilized plants and berries may no longer be found in their traditional locations. Likewise, animals will alter their migration routes as they search for food- challenging hunters to travel to unfamiliar hunting grounds.

According to the Alaska Climate Change Strategy, a sustained period of warming occurred in Alaska between 2000 and 2005. During that same time period, the number of forest fires, which directly threaten lives and property, increased. Less direct effects of forest fire – and the dust it creates- include negative impacts on the respiratory system, especially for those with asthma or other health disorders.

Finally, warming weather affects hunting activities. As the temperatures rise, hunters will encounter new weather patterns leading to increased weather unpredictability, and to travel danger due to melting ice and other snow conditions.

Flooding

Each spring Chalkyitsik faces the threat of flooding from snow melt. Floods pose numerous risks to the community including the potential for spreading solid waste from dumps, abandoned outside privy pits, and sewage lagoons around the community– exposing residents to toxic substances and contaminating drinking water sources.

Subsistence

Subsistence plays an extremely important role in Chalkyitsik's local economy. Moose, caribou, sheep, salmon and whitefish provide a relatively stable source of food which community members rely upon.

The rich habitats of the surrounding lowlands support 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. 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.

In the early 1990s, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (AFG&G) estimated Chalkyitsik's wild food harvest to be 514 pounds per person annually (1.408 pounds per person daily). By contrast, Fairbanks' wild food harvest was estimated at 16.0 pounds per person annually (0.044 pounds per person daily) clearly indicating the importance of subsistence to the lives of Chalkyitsik residents.

Elders report that in recent years the annual return of caribou and moose is decreasing. In 2002, AFG&G developed the "Yukon Flats Cooperative Moose Management Plan" to address the issue of diminishing moose numbers -- along with a plan to increase those numbers.

Chalkyitsik Village Council has a Natural Resource Director to maintain the tribal to tribal consultation process with various agencies to protect our land, water and animals within our area and work with the environmental department on mapping our traditional hunting/trapping areas.

Chalkyitsik is a part of the Yukon Flats Advisory Committee. The committee represents the subsistence interests for the communities of Chalkyitsik and Fort Yukon. There are two designated seats for each community. In 2014 we only had one person on this committee from Chalkyitsik. As of January 2015, both advisory committee seats for Chalkyitsik are vacant.



Community Well-being

Tanana Chiefs Conference contracts with Yukon Flats school district to have the school cook serve our local elders with a lunch program during the school year months. In the summer months the Chalkyitsik Village Council opens the cook position to serve lunch to the elders.

There is a yearly Culture Camp that is funded by the Doyon Daaga' grant, and various non-profit organizations such as the local Church, Corporation etc. Survival and traditional skills are taught to the youth by outside instructors from neighboring communities.

The local school has program funds for a cultural week where the students are learning to tan caribou and/or moose skin and play our traditional fiddle music. Just recently, the UAF funded a workshop where local residents were taught how to make trapper hats, usually consisting martin and/or beaver fur.

Chalkyitsik has a community garden and some locals have gardens with assistance from Tanana Chiefs Conference and Bureau of Indian Affairs agriculture programs.



The community has a local playground near

the community hall, but is old and needs an upgrade. We have a youth center but it has a poor heating system and needs to be renovated and upgraded.

Churches

Angelican missionaries arrived in the Yukon Flats region in the mid-1800. Today, most Gwich'in communities are Episcopalians rather than Anglican. Church services are held once a week, usually on Sundays, officiated by a Deacon. The Diocese of Alaska sends a bishop periodically to Chalkyitsik.

Additional Education

The Chalkyitsik Village Council (CVC) has funds available for Higher Education, Adult Vocational Training, Adult Basic Education (General Equivalency Diploma (GED)), and Direct Employment.

Cultural and/or Seasonal Gatherings

In the summer of 2009, Chalkyitsik hosted a regional fiddle camp with the primary goal of passing on the musical tradition to younger generations. The success of the camp was a direct result of Chalkyitsik's motivation and the contribution of community members.



Community Goals and Objectives

Goal: Promote a proud history and strong hold on tradition.

- Action Item: Continue Native Education within the school
- Action Item: Involve Elders in school activities
- Action Item: Learn and practice tradition
- Action Item: Incorporate Gwich'in language materials within the school curriculum



2015 Summer Youth Camp

Goal: Youth.

Priority: Encourage and expand culturally relevant recreational opportunities.

- Action Item: Encourage the youth to learn local subsistence practices through the mentorship of adults.
- Action Item: Encourage the community (local teachers, parents, and students) to participate in cultural activities.
- Action Item: Teach survival skills to future generations.
- Action Item: Research funding for the opening of a recreation hall.



Priority: Effective solution to substance and alcohol abuse.

- Action Item: Encourage and support events and activities in Chalkyitsik that promote healthy choices.
- Action Item: Provide alcohol abuse awareness resources to the community.

Priority: Create a sustainable system for organizing youth events.

- Action item: Work with the school staff to create a list of parent volunteers who would be willing to donate their time and skills to teaching and monitoring the youth events.
- Action item: Determine a calendar of events for indoor and outdoor youth activities.

Goal: Provide more housing opportunities.

Priority: Support the construction and rehabilitation of new homes by providing a centralized location for resources regarding housing assistance programs for new and existing homes such as grants, loans, or other assistance programs.

- Action Item: Research available resources both locally and through grants.
- Action Item: Work with Interior Regional Housing Authority and other appropriate agencies.
- Action item: Obtain the “match” funding required for grant applications.
- Action item: Look for funding available to help with the costs of construction.
- Action item: Invite representatives from the Rural Alaska Community Action Program, Alaska Housing Finance Corporation, and Interior Regional Housing Authority to give community presentations for those interested in applying for low-interest home loan programs specific for rural Alaskan communities.

Priority: Provide a building for community members and guest at the airport to keep warm.

- Action Item: Research funding opportunities.
- Action Item: Research the costs associated with construction of a building.

Priority: Ensure existing home owners have the tools necessary to maintain their homes and surrounding areas.

- Action item: Work with TCC weatherization program to provide weatherization services for low-income residents.
- Action item: Invite representatives from appropriate organizations to give community wide presentations on basic home maintenance and repair, weatherization, toyo stove repair, fire safety, emergency preparedness, etc.
- Action Item: Research funding opportunities to purchase equipment such as sawmills for logs.

Goal: Promote growth of Chalkyitsik’s local economy.

Priority: Reach out to organizations such as Interior Aleutian Campus to offer local tradesman’s courses. Many community members are interested in construction, heavy equipment, and power plant training.

- Action item: Reach out to Interior Aleutians Campus (IAC) to offer local tradesman courses. Many of the local residents indicated interest in construction, carpentry, plumbing, etc. during the community plan surveying.
- Action item: Better advertise education assistance programs and scholarships to encourage more residents to seek a higher education.

Priority: Support residents in acquiring training and identifying job opportunities.

- Action Item: Support residents in identifying and enrolling in training opportunities.
- Action Item: Ensure there is community participation in promoting and developing workforce development trainings.

Priority: Identify ways to keep money in the community.

- Action Item: Decrease fixed costs to increase disposable income.
- Action Item: Create jobs that attract outside business and funding.

Priority: Create sustainable jobs within the community that utilize the skills and talents of residents.

- Action Item: Support new, innovative ideas to build the local economy.
- Action Item: Explore opportunities to develop natural resources.

Goal: Provide safe transportation in and around Chalkyitsik for residents and visitors.

- Action Item: Enhance transportation to/from surrounding communities.
- Action Item: Encourage the construction of new roads for new houses.



Resources

Resources

Arctic Climate Impact Assessment. “ACIA Scientific Report.” June 2007
<http://www.acia.uaf.edu/>

Alaska Climate Change Strategy. “What will Climate Change Mean to Alaska?”
<http://www.climatechange.alaska.gov/cc-ak.htm>

Alaska Climate Change Sub Cabinet. “Research Needs Work Group: Recommendations on Research Needs Necessary to Implement an Alaska Climate Change Strategy.” June 2009.

http://www.climatechange.alaska.gov/docs/rn_12jun09_dftrpt.pdf
Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation. “Yukon Flats Cooperative Moose Management Plan.” 15 May 2002.

Alaska Community Database. “Chalkyitsik.” 19 May 19, 2015.
http://www.commerce.state.ak.us/dca/commdb/CF_BLOCK.cfm

Doyon, Limited. “Land Maximization Agreements Yukon Flats.” 10 November 2003.
<http://www.doyonlands.com/images/12bMaximizationMarch2007.pdf>

Governor’s Report on the Climate Change Sub-Cabinet. July 2008.
http://www.climatechange.alaska.gov/docs/govrpt_jul08.pdf

Hopkins, Kyle. “Yukon Flats land trade for oil exploration is no deal” Anchorage Daily News. 19 July 2009.

Jost, Keith & Jenny Starkey. “Getting Started on 14(c)(3) A Basic Guide for City and Village Councils.”

Overland, J., Walsh & Wang. “Atmosphere.” Arctic Report Card 2008.
<http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/reportcard/atmosphere.html>

Rural Alaska Community Action Program. “Let Your ASSETS Be Your Guide: A Handbook for Community Planning.” 2006.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. “Indian Housing Block Grant Program.” 23 July 2009
<http://www.hud.gov/offices/pih/ih/grants/ihbg.cfm>

Resources Continued

U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Land Management “Land Transfer Terms.”
http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/land_trans_prog/alaska_land_transfer/land_terms.print.html

<http://www.acia.uaf.edu/>

<http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/reportcard/atmosphere.html>

<http://www.climatechange.alaska.gov/cc-ak.htm>

http://www.climatechange.alaska.gov/docs/iaw_USACE_erosion_rpt.pdf

<http://www.umm.edu/skincancer/effects.htm>

http://www.wc.adfg.state.ak.us/index.cfm?adfg=wildlife_news.view_article&articles_id=356&issue_id=60

<http://vilda.alaska.com>

Appendices

Survey Questions



General Questions

What do you enjoy most about living in Chalkyitsik?

- It is home; feel safe, peaceful.
- Quietness, no traffic to deal with.
- Rural Living environment.
- Outside world is mean; it is safe here.
- Family is here.
- The scenery.
- The community activities.
- Fish, Hunt, make campfire anytime you want.
- Subsistence Lifestyle.

What do you think can be done to improve our community?

- Law Enforcement.
- Strong Active Council.
- More houses.
- More things for kids.
- More community events.
- More ways to interact with surrounding communities.
- Cell service.
- More social gatherings.
- Build two smaller houses rather than one big one.
- Open Rec Hall instead of being bored and drinking.
- Jobs.
- Stop the drinking.
- Don't know.
- Workshops, Activities, Communication.

What do you think can be done to encourage people to move back?

- Build more homes.
- More job opportunities.
- Help with housing/weatherization.
- Strong leaders to steer our village in right direction to improve.
- People are moving back already.
- Give them new housing, kids will go to school.
- More jobs for parents; why do we have to wait so long to become resident?
- I came home to not be homeless.

What is your biggest concern facing the community? Why is it a concern? What do you think can be done to improve it?

- Alcohol Consumption/Transporting Alcohol.
- People driving too fast/no street lights.
- Development which goes against subsistence - our lifestyle.
- Alcohol - educate people and kids about it.
- More things to do.
- Poor communication, people not bringing up issues to council and steady complaining.
- Bootlegging (dry village).
- Doyon & State of Alaska has 30-year Scope of Vision that plans for land acquisition & minerals of tribal lands-federal protection are gone.
- High cost of living.
- Children safety. People need to slow down when they drink alcohol.
- Not enough things to do; people turn to drinking.
- Nobody work together; people stay in their homes.
- Children safety.
- Work to communicate.

How often do you leave Chalkyitsik and for what reason?

- Every other month, usually business.
- Every three weeks, business.
- 2 to 10 times a year, shop or work.
- Every few months for vacation.
- Not very often maybe medical - my money stays here.
- Every two months for pleasure.
- Yearly, and for emergencies.
- Just moved here.
- Once a month - medical.
- Rarely, because of my job; if I do go, it's on training.
- Very seldom.

Utilities

Would you be interested in a self-haul system for your home? (explain the cost of maintenance) would you be willing to pay this monthly fee?

- No thank you.
- Yes-2
- Don't know what that is so no comment.
- No.-5
- Yes, willing to pay \$140 a month.
- Sure.
- No comment-2

How often do you recycle? What can be done to encourage you to recycle?

- Do not recycle.
- All the time.
- I don't. Nobody pick it up.
- Never. More public recycling venues.
- Do not use much material for recycle.
- I recycle at home and work.
- No.
- I try; need more recycle bins around town.
- Have trash can.
- I did for a while but quit.

Transportation

Do you think Chalkyitsik is in need for new roads, or improvements to existing roads?

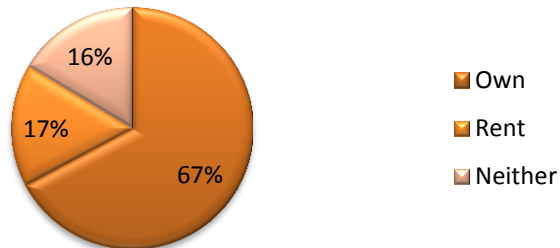
- Yes, in the village - too swampy.
- More roads, we need places to drive.
- Yes.
- More roads to timber to protect timber from wildfires.
- Yes, all over - please pave.
- Street lights.
- Make new roads for new houses; make existing roads bigger
- No.
- Please improve the existing roads.

What other transportation concerns you have regarding airport, bridges, roads, existing roads, etc. Please list.

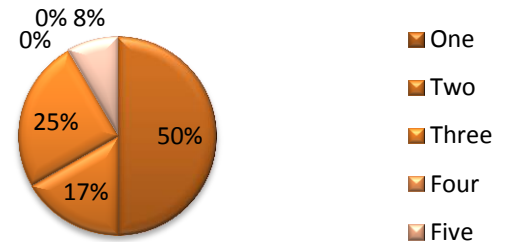
- Need street light on the hill near school.
- Build Roads!
- Need new airline.
- The Ridge trail, no turnaround, too much bumps.
- Road to long stretch and new dump.
- Road to timber for heating wood.
- Bridge to Circle, Alaska.
- Airport is good.
- Build a real road to Fort Yukon.
- I have no transportation, I am elder.
- Build a place at airport to stay warm while waiting for plane.
- None.

Housing

Do you rent or own?



How many people live in your household?



Other answers:

- Free.
- Living with family for now - no house/home.

Is your home adequate to live in? If not, what improvements do you need?

- House is cold in winter.
- No - need weatherization.
- Yes.
- Need second story.
- Back room needs improvement.
- No porch and outhouse.

- No. Wiring is not safe in home; fire hazard.
- No, need new house.
- We had it renovated last year.

Youth & Culture

What are some suggestions for youth activities for the summer months?

- Water Safety.
- Fish Camp -label everything in Gwich'in.
- Play area below school.
- Fishing, volleyball, basketball, baseball, swimming, boating (rafts), more jobs for youth.
- More on-the-job trainings; just training alone doesn't promise a job.
- Water sports.
- Work for the youth.
- Berry picking.
- Build new fish camp.
- Bible Camps.
- Take youth out on boatings.
- Youth camps on the river.
- Open youth center on a daily basis with no alcohol allowed.



In teaching gwich'in language and culture to the youth, what are some suggested ideas for subsistence activities? How can we include the gwich'in language?

- Paul Williams Jr to teach classes @ summer camp.
- How to make fishwheel and traps - record items.
- Make signs in gwich'in and stick them throughout CIK.
- Fix up fishtrap, use labels. Learn and spell the gwich'in language the right way.
- Weekend camps at different spots.
- Parents should speak to their kids at home.
- Have summer gwich'in classes.
- Our language is lost to the younger generation; all elders are gone to teach.
- Take away technology and teach the youth subsistence lifestyle.

Do you talk to your children in Gwich'in? How often?

- Sometimes and when do homework.
- Don't have children.
- No.
- I wish that I did.
- No. I can only understand it.
- N/A.
- I don't.

Do you participate in subsistence activities, and if so what kind?

- Moose hunting.
- Oh yeah - cook, sew, bead.
- I hunt and fish, including trapping.
- I am too old.
- Ice fishing/Summer fishing.
- Youth camp.
- I try to.
- ALL!



Economy

Do you think there is a need to train tribal members? If so, what kind of training do you think the community need?

- Electric wiring in home.
- Construction.
- Computer Trainings & GIS.
- Train them in more political and governmental areas.
- Financial Training - to safe keep our funds and use them wisely.
- Generator.
- Water Plant.
- Tribal management in the Council.
- Heavy Equipment.
- Emergency Trauma Training.
- People here are capable.
- People with skills are unreliable.
- Train the students to work.
- Teach the subsistence lifestyle.
- CPR; Domestic Violence; talking circles.

Would you be willing to participate in training in the community and/or leaving the village?

- Both-3
- Leave the village.
- Yes.
- Prefer in the community, not have to leave.
- Yes, out of town-2
- Can't; already have much things going on.
- Yes. Get all the young people out there and encourage them.

Arial View of Chalkyitsik



Tribal Council Resolution Adopting Plan



P.O. BOX 57, CHALKYITSIK, ALASKA 99788

TELE: 1-907-848-8117 FACSIMILE: 1-907-848-8986

"Home of the Draanjik Gwich'in

Resolution 2015-22

WHEREAS, the Chalkyitsik Village Council is a federally recognized tribe and is the sole governing body of the community of Chalkyitsik, and;

WHEREAS, this community plan is a vital tool in the social and economic development of Chalkyitsik, and;

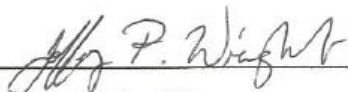
WHEREAS, this plan was created through house-to-house surveys and public process which captured the values and goals of our community, and;

WHEREAS, this plan will be a guideline in all future growth in Chalkyitsik.


THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that his plan is adopted and approved by the Chalkyitsik Village Council on June 03, 2015.

CERTIFICATION

We hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed and approved by the Chalkyitsik Village Council.



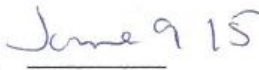
Jeffrey Wright, First Chief



Date



Mary Nathaniel, Secretary/Treasurer



Date