

2020-2025

TANANA
CHIEFS
CONFERENCE

CIRCLE COMMUNITY PLAN



Working together for the future | Prepared by Tanana Chiefs
Conference, Planning and Development in Cooperation with the Circle
Tribal Council, Staff and Council, Danzhit Hanaii Corporation and
Community Members

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2020 Circle Community Plan was a cooperative effort between the Circle Native Community DBA Circle Tribal Council, Tanana Chiefs Conference, and many community members who contributed their thoughts and suggestions through the Community Feedback Survey.

A special recognition to Antoinette Wiehl, the Circle Community Planning Specialist who played a key role in creating, researching, compiling data and preparing the final community plan document.

A special thank you to the Tribal Administrator/2nd Chief Jessica Fields and Circle Native Community staff, 1st Chief Dennis Carroll; Tanana Chiefs Conference, Planning & Development staff members, LaVerne Huntington, Jolene Malamute, and many community members.

RESOLUTION

Circle Tribal Council Resolution

Adopting the Community Plan

Resolution 20-20

Whereas, this plan was created through a public process which captured the 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, this plan was created for public use and will be made publicly 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 goals expressed in this plan

Certification

We hereby certify that this resolution was duly passed and approved on September 25 2020
Within favor, 5 opposed, and 0 abstaining.

Dennis Carroll 9-25-20

1st Chief

Margaret H. John

Attest: Secretary/Treasurer

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Planning and Development (P&D) program was created in 2012 as village-based employment and training opportunity for communities within the TCC region. As part of the program, TCC provides funding for tribes to employ a local community planner or grant writer.

In October 2019, the P&D staff reached out to the Circle Tribal Council to provide assistance with drafting the community plan. Realizing the importance, Circle Tribe partnered with TCC to prepare the plan. This community plan was completed in collaboration with the TCC P&D and the Circle Tribal Council Chief/Acting Tribal Administrator and selected Community Planning Specialist.

The Circle Community Plan is a living document designed to be updated as the goals and objectives identified in the community plan are accomplished. The goals and objectives included in this plan reflect the top priorities identified by Circle's community members and will be utilized to plan future projects and guide future development.



FIGURE 2 CIRCLE WELCOME SIGN

INTRODUCTION

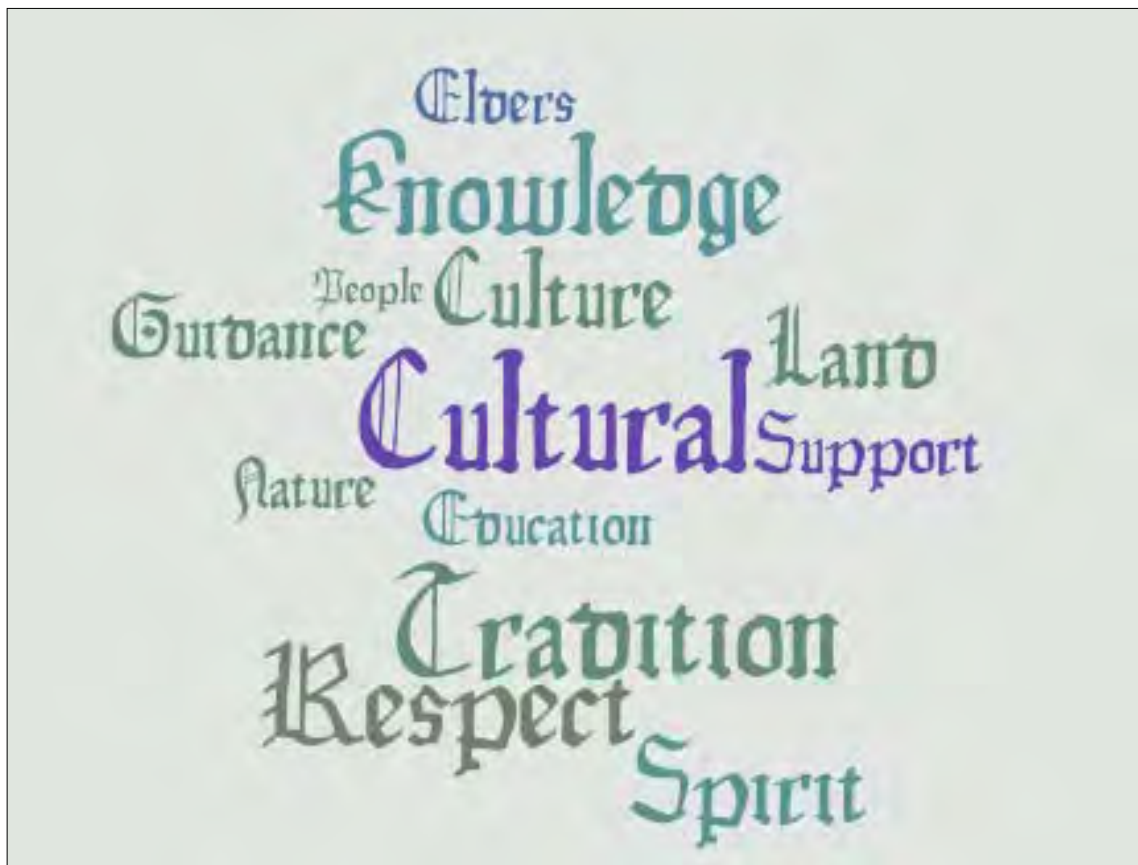
VISION STATEMENT

The Circle Tribal Council envisions a culturally and economically strong community of self-governing and resilient people united by shared values and traditions.

VALUES

As an Athabascan community, the things most valued are culture, tradition, education that teaches respect for land, nature, and other people. With guidance and support from our elders, we must pass on knowledge of our Cultural Spirit:

(Enideo, 2019)



COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

The purpose of this plan is to assist our community in identifying and meeting future needs. This document has been identified as a critical component in order to obtain important funding for priority community projects. The Circle Tribal Council and tribal members have spent countless hours ensuring our elders and youth are living in a healthy and happy community. The planning process has continued to support our goals and the vision we have for our community.

Circle Village Council community plan is intended to:

- Identify an overall vision and supporting goals that will set the direction for community development
- Examine and evaluate existing documents and reports pertaining to the current economy, land use, culture and tradition, transportation, education, housing, and public facilities
- Identify future development projects
- Respectfully coordinate with community members to solicit input and guidance
- Build project development partnerships inside and outside of the community
- Develop data collection activity in such a way as to support future funding requests
- Provide a document well-grounded in research that communicates a strategy for future economic and community development

TOP 5 CIRCLE NATIVE COMMUNITY GOALS

The Circle Native Community distributed a Community Feedback Survey in March of 2020. Thirteen (13) written surveys were returned and a total of 18 visits on the phone and in person with community elders, students, and various community members. The top 5 goal categories below were established by the collaboration of the Circle Native Community and all of its members.

Housing

- To provide safe, affordable and energy efficient homes to the residents of Circle Alaska

Infrastructure

- It is the Circle Native Communities goal to procure and build necessary infrastructure to support and maintain tribal programs, promote health and wellness for the youth and elders, and centralize community operations.

Emergency Preparedness

- As a result of historical and present emergencies that have arisen in the small community of Circle, it is the Circle Native Communities' goal to be proactive and be prepared for all future emergencies.

Public Utilities

- Tribal health will be maintained by providing proper home and public utilities to include indoor plumbing for sanitization to all homes, as well as an updated high functioning water and sanitation facility.

Culture & Traditions

- The Circle Native Community is a traditionally and culturally strong people that are grounded in their beliefs, values, and customs. The tribe will maintain and strengthen their traditional standpoint as well as keep it preserved for future generations.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

HISTORY

Sir Alexander Mackenzie established the first European contact with this area in 1789. By 1847, Alexander Murray of the Hudson's Bay Company established the Fort Yukon, a trading post.

In 1884, gold was discovered in the nearby Mastodon Creek and by 1887, L.N. McQuestern had built a trading post at the village. With the discovery of gold in the area, Circle (also known as Circle City) was established in 1893 as a supply point for goods shipped up the Yukon River.

These goods were then taken overland to the gold mining camps. By 1896, before the Klondike Gold Rush, Circle was the largest mining town on the Yukon with a population of 1,200. Early miners believed the town was located on the Arctic Circle and named it Circle. Even today, visitors driving the Steese Highway assume they are at the Arctic Circle.

At its highest point, Circle boasted the Alaska Commercial Company store, eight or ten dance halls, an opera house, a library, a school, a hospital, and an Episcopal Church. It also had its own newspaper, the Yukon Press, and a number of residential U.S. government officials, including a commissioner, marshal, customs inspector, tax collector, and postmaster.

In 1898, the town was virtually emptied after gold discoveries in the Klondike. A few hearty miners stayed on in the Birch Creek area, and Circle became a small, stable community that supplied miners in the nearby Mastodon, Mammoth, Deadwood, and Circle Creeks. Mining activity continues to this day and the village has remained a trade and distribution center for the Upper Yukon area because of its road connection via the Steese Highway to Fairbanks, located 163 miles away.

In interviews with current community elders, Circle's history since 1898 was marked by miners moving elsewhere to look for gold and members of surrounding villages moving to Circle for several reasons; one main reason being the availability of jobs. The community also established a school, and many families moved to Circle so that their children could get an education.

Travel via the Steese Highway is the easiest way to travel to Circle. Travel by boat, via the Yukon River, is only accessible during the summer months. Moving supplies to and from Fairbanks is easier, which also helps to create jobs in the community. Families also lived seasonally in Circle, summer being the busiest time. Today, families continue to live subsistence lifestyles of hunting, fishing, hauling wood and water, and gathering berries.

FAMILY HISTORY

Our history of Circle is unique because of the gold rush, but also because there are still many families who still live in Circle. Our history is rich with Athabascan culture and traditions passed down from our ancestors. According to census records for 1900, Joseph and his wife Emma were the one significant native family that lived in Circle. They had five children, Esias, Rachael, Sarah, Samson, and James. Joseph and Emma also took in Gladys Joseph. By 1939, there was 49 head of households according to census records. Of the 49 head of households, 20 were Athabascan families (or the head of household married an Athabascan woman). This growth is partially due to the children from the union of Joseph and Emma Joseph.

Esias Joseph married Alice Pilot, they had four children (Joseph family) their oldest son was Stanley Joseph. Stanley married a woman from Stevens Village, Rosalie Stephens and they had 8 children. Their second child was Alice Joseph, who later married Albert Carroll Sr. Until a few years ago, Alice lived in Circle surrounded by her many children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

In addition to the Joseph family lineage, there are descendants of Shinatii who still live in Circle. Shinatii was originally from Old Crow and his youngest son was Charlie Crow. Charlie Crow had a son, his name was Esau Crow and Esau moved to Circle. There he married Lucy, and they had 7 children; Ruth Crow, their daughter lives in Circle today, and also continues to subsistence hunt and fish for her family. Esau and Lucy Crow have many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren who also live in Circle.

Another founding family, Steven and Mary Nathaniel (originally from Chalkyitsik) have 4 children who reside in Circle. They lived subsistence lifestyles of hunting, fishing, and hauling wood. Steven was a skilled carpenter who built many of the buildings that still remain standing in Circle today. In 1964, Steven helped build the first public school in Circle, which is utilized as teacher housing today. Steven passed his skills on to his sons, who continue to build homes today in Circle.

CULTURE

Circle is unique due to the fact that we have a firm step in both Native and Western culture and also having the availability of many urban amenities though being in a remote village. The rich history of the community marks the change from using dogsleds to snowmobiles; wooden skiffs to motorized boats; lanterns to electricity; log homes to modern homes; verbal storytelling to the internet; and weekly or monthly planes to daily. With all the technologies and amenities the community of Circle still enjoys a traditional subsistence lifestyle.

The ancient wisdom of supporting and respecting one another and the bounties of our land continue to be taught to new generations.

There is abundant wildlife in the Circle area including moose, caribou, black bear, grizzly bear, and wolves. Ducks, geese, and swans are an important part of the subsistence lifestyle for many residents. Small game such as ptarmigan, grouse, rabbits, fox, squirrels, beaver, muskrat and mink are also present. The fishing opportunities have declined significantly in the last 20 years and the fish caught for subsistence are mainly Chum salmon. The surrounding Interior forested area offered the residents a variety of game animals for subsistence.

The early culture was subsistence based on these local resources and much of the efforts of the early inhabitants were hunting and gathering of food and wood to maintain their lives in this harsh northern area.

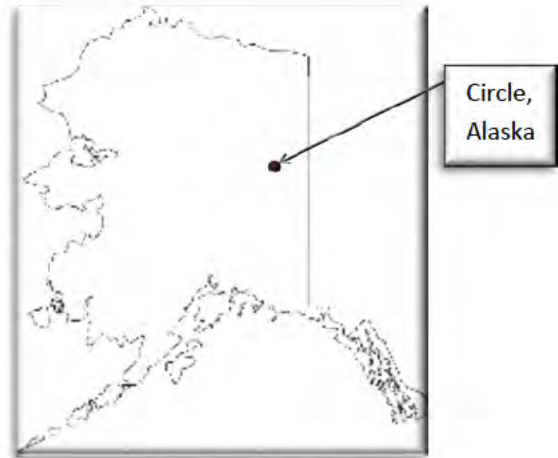


FIGURE 3 BEADWORK AND CANVAS BOOTS, LOCAL ARTIST

LOCATION

The community of Circle is located at the terminus of the Steese Highway on the west bank of the Yukon River. It is about 153 road miles from Fairbanks and about 60 miles upstream from Fort Yukon. This location, with its road to river access, gives Circle the strategic position in regards to the movement of freight, fuel, and other goods from the road network to riverboat traffic on the Yukon.

It lies approximately 65 degrees 49 minutes latitude north, 144 degrees 03 minutes west longitude.



The community is located in the Yukon Flats Region, in a broad valley between the White Mountains and the foothills of the Brooks Range. Circle lies on the eastern edge of a flat marshland area, which extends westerly to Birch Creek and is approximately 600 feet above sea level.

CLIMATE

Circle, along with most of Interior Alaska, is part of the continental climate zone, which is known for its temperature ranges of extremely warm summers to extremely cold winters. The average high temperature for Circle in July is 70°F; the average low during January is -18°F, with extended periods of -40°F and very strong wind chill factors. The highest temperature ever recorded was 93 °F; the lowest was -70°F.

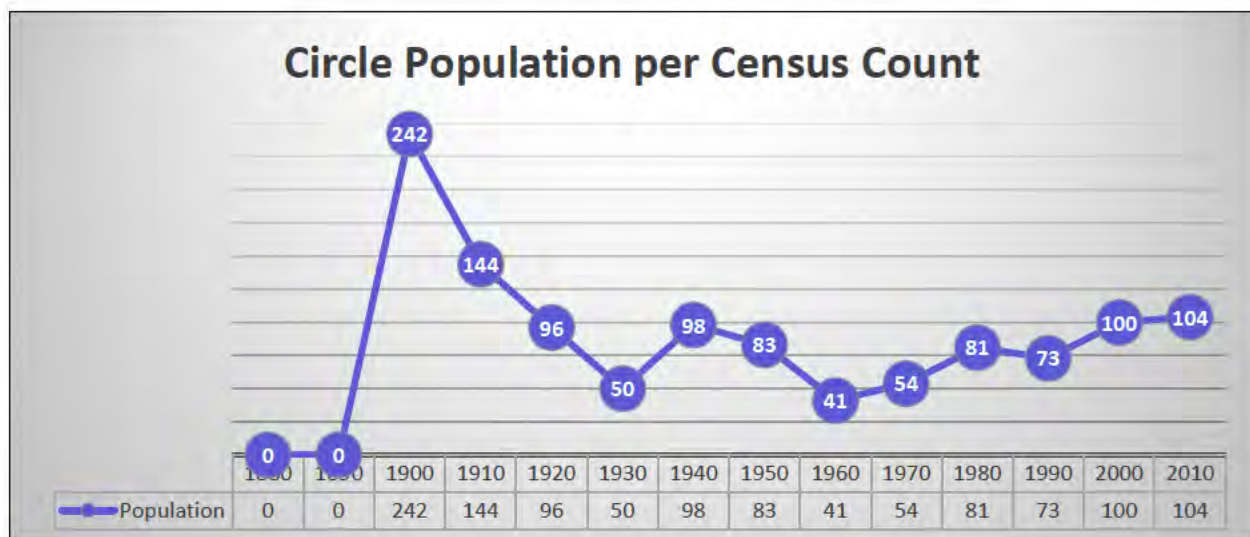
The average annual precipitation is 13.4 inches, with 77 inches of snowfall. The average annual precipitation is 15 inches with about 50 inches of snowfall. North and east winds are persistent in the area during the winter and often bring on a cold wind chill factor.

POPULATION

Today, the State of Alaska-Division of Community and Regional Affairs (DCRA) shows the population for Circle is at 81. (SOA, 2019) The 2010 US Census shows 104 people were residing in Circle at the time.

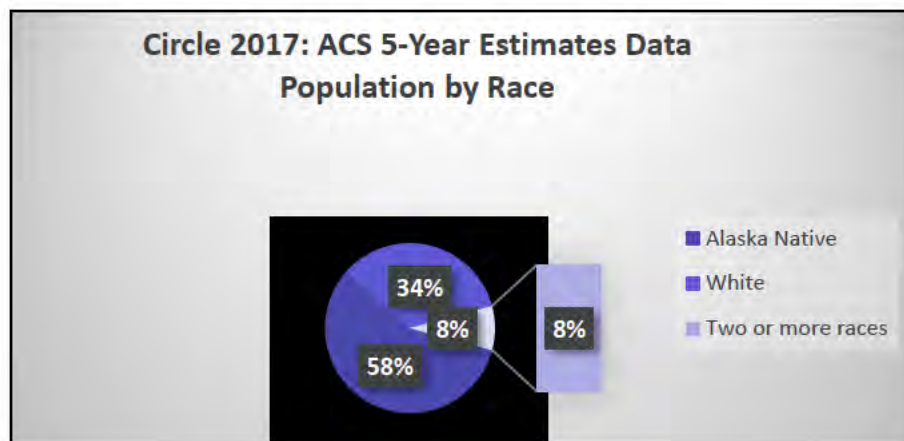
The population history chart depicts the population ranges from 242 to 104, with the last two census counts to be fairly even, with a difference of 4. The population dipped to an all-time low during the 1960 census but gradually increased over time.

The Circle Tribal Council conducted the 2020 Census Enumeration for the community and submitted the count to the Census Bureau for review. The population count results will be available in early 2021.



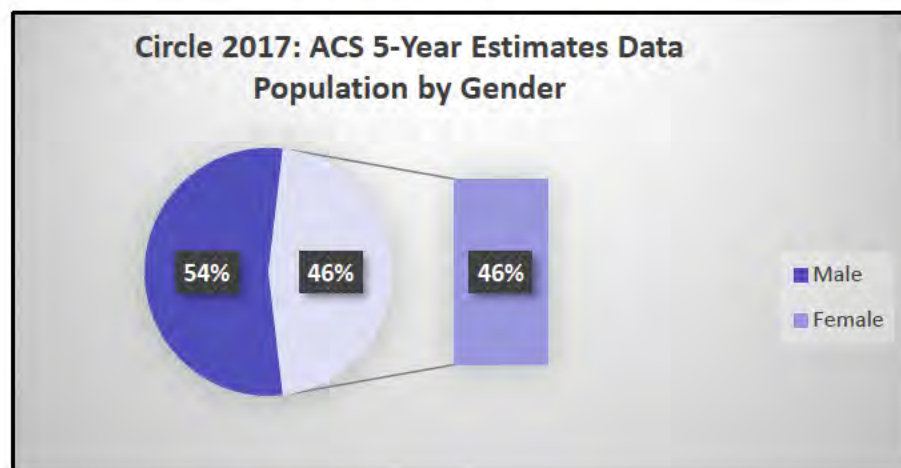
POPULATION BY RACE

According to the 2017 American Community Survey (ACS), the 5-year estimate data shows that Circle is predominantly an Alaska Native community with 62 Alaska Natives, 34 Whites, and 9 other. This information may be misleading; because the information that was collected during the survey may not reveal true accounts. For instance, individuals may have revealed only one race. This explains why they title it “estimates”. (Census, 2017)



POPULATION BY GENDER

The population, as estimated by 2017 ACS, shows the population by gender is quite equally balanced, with an 8% difference.



LAND STATUS & OWNERSHIP

The Village of Circle was platted and subdivided into individual lots by US Survey No. 3725. Most of these lots are individual ownership or owned by the Circle Tribal Council. The Danzhit Hanlaih Corporation owns 115,000 acres within and around Circle.

The regional corporation, Doyon, maintains ownership of corporation lands in the area as well as subsurface rights for most of the region's lands.

The Yukon Flats School District owns the land that the school is located in, as well as the lot immediately adjacent to and bordering on the south side of the existing property. See Appendix A for Circle Land Use Map.



FIGURE 4 CIRCLE SUNSET

GOVERNANCE & PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

CIRCLE TRIBAL COUNCIL

The Circle Tribal Council is the only governing body in Circle and consists of the First Chief, Second Chief, and 3 council members, for a total of 5 members.

Programs and facilities that are operated by the Tribe include Tribal Workforce Development Specialist (TWDS), Tribal Family Youth Specialist (TFYS), Community Planner, IGAP Coordinator and Technician, Maintenance/Groundskeeper, Tribal Administrator, and Custodial Staff for the Public Facilities. The Public Facilities are as follows: Circle Washeteria, Circle Clinic, Tribal Office, Community Hall, Circle Community Garage, Al Boquist Property, Old Clinic and Clinic Housing.

There are several programs that Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) offers to villages, and the Circle Tribal Council is currently working with several TCC departments to provide work, education, and community development.

As of early 2014, the Elder Nutrition Program contract was negotiated with the Council. The Council received an elder cook position during the summer of 2014. This position is supervised by the Council and the program is currently operating out of the Circle Native Community Hall. Elders will continue to receive 3 meals a week along with other social services as needed.

The Summer Youth Employment Program has been a successful program for the youth of Circle for the last 5 years. The youth are paid by a grant that TCC administers. The program is supervised by the Council, and the youth have opportunities to work with the Council in several areas. The youth have firsthand learned and experienced the work entailed in keeping our community clean and safe. They have also learned to care for elders ensuring that basic needs are being met, basic ground keeping, and maintenance skills, subsistence fishing, gardening, painting, cooking, cleaning, and brush cutting. They have also worked at the youth camp cleaning up after spring break-up by removing debris.

The Community Outreach Specialist is another wonderful program for the community that was awarded in March of 2020. The Council is currently setting up the program office to house the Community Outreach Specialist as well as a Youth and Teen Activity Facility.

The Athabascan Self-Sufficiency Assistance Partnership program is offered by TCC Family Services Department. Clients are contracted with the Tribal Council to work under the subsidized program to become self-sufficient in their communities. Currently, there are eight clients working under the supervision of the Tribal Workforce Development Specialist to ensure work activities are

completed in the community. The goal of the program is to assist families to become self-sufficient and set goals that are attainable.

The Council continues to hold community activities during New Year's, Spring Carnival, Easter, Memorial Day, 4th of July, Youth Camp, Thanksgiving, Christmas, potlatches, Café, and supplies for a variety of projects. Donations are accepted and fundraisers are held throughout the year to support these activities along with financial support from Village Corporation.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Tribal Council is currently seeking a U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) TPO Grant to provide the community with a Tribal Police Officer (TPO). In early 2020 the Circle Native Community joined the VPSO Program but found that it was not the right fit for the community. In June of 2020 the Circle Native Community had a meeting and moved to pursue a DOJ-TPO grant.



FIGURE 5 CIRCLE TRIBAL BUILDINGS

CORPORATIONS AND ASSOCIATIONS

DANZHIT HANLAII CORPORATION

Danzhit Hanlaili Corporation was organized as the Circle, Alaska village corporation under the provisions of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (Act). The Act provided that 962.5 million dollars and 40,000,000 acres of public land were to be transferred to the regional and village corporations based on the number of shareholders enrolled in each corporation. The Danzhit Hanlaili share of land is approximately 115,000 acres of timber and surface estate.

The Danzhit Hanlaili board consists of five board members; President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and two members.

Services offered by the corporation entail

- ❖ Yearly dividends
- ❖ Scholarships for those seeking higher education assistance
- ❖ Burial assistance for shareholders
- ❖ Sponsoring community events

The Danzhit Hanlaili Corporation has made a commitment to its shareholders and the land the corporation owns. In 2013, there were maps, brochures, and kiosks placed to educate sport hunters about the land they may be potentially hunting on. The goal was to make the presence known to sport hunting, fishing, and processing of game on or from easements are not permitted. Board members also approved for two shareholders to patrol both Birch Creek and the Yukon River to enforce no hunting on the privately owned lands.

In July of 2020 Danzhit Hanlaili Corporation agreed to the sale of the Community Hall, Tribal Office, Garage, and Al Boquist to the Circle Native Community. These buildings and property will be used to assist in COVID-19 response, housing and tribal services to support the health and wellness of the community.

DOYON, LIMITED

Circle is part of Doyon Limited, the Alaska Native Regional Corporation for Interior Alaska, established in 1972 under the Alaska Native Claim Settlement Act (ANCSA). From provisions under ANCSA, Doyon is entitled to receive approximately 12.5 million acres of land across Interior Alaska, making Doyon the largest private landowner in Alaska. Doyon has, to date, received title to nearly 10 million acres. The land is mainly around the 34 villages within the TCC region. Doyon has over 20,000 shareholders.



DOYON VISION: Leader in All We Do

DOYON MISSION: To continually enhance our position as a financially strong Native corporation in order to promote the economic and social well-being of our shareholders and future shareholders, to strengthen our Native way of life, and to protect and enhance our land and resources.

DOYON VALUES:

- Financially responsible

- Socially and culturally responsible Alaska Native people

- Pride and respect in Native ownership

- Commitment to the long-term

- Honesty and integrity

- Commitment to excellence

- Respect for employees

- Commitment to employee safety and sound environmental practices

TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

Tanana Chiefs Conference was officially formed in 1962 and incorporated under Alaska State Law in 1971. TCC, organized as Dena' Nena' Henash or "Our Land Speaks," is an Alaska Native nonprofit corporation, charged with advancing Tribal self-determination and enhancing regional Native unity. TCC provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior.



VISION: Healthy, Strong, Unified Tribes

MISSION: Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a unified voice in advancing sovereign tribal governments through the promotion of physical and mental wellness, education, socioeconomic development, and culture of the Interior Alaska Native people.

TCC provides services while balancing traditional Athabascan and Alaska Native values with modern demands. TCC's objectives are to provide health, social, and economic services to the native people and villages of interior Alaska, known as the TCC region, using federal, state, and local resources. TCC is comprised of three core departments: Administration, Health Services, and Tribal Client Services.

Within those core departments, TCC offer services in the following categories: Tribal Development; Self Governance; Housing; Public Safety Officer; Natural Resources; Client Development; Elder Nutrition; Employment and Training; Child Development; Child Protection; Head Start; Staff Development; Vocational Rehabilitation; Work Assistance Program and ASAP; Dental; Quality Management; Laboratory; Purchase & Referred Care; Registration; Environmental Health; Pharmacy; Medical; Family Medicine; Family Medicine RN; Specialty Clinics; Radiology; Home Care Provider; Behavioral Health; Old Minto Family Recovery Camp; Psychiatry; SBIRT; Paul Williams House; Community Health Aide Program; Patient Hostel; Eye Clinic; Housing First; Wellness and Prevention; and Willow House.

The Tanana Chiefs Conference region covers an area of 235,000 square miles in Interior Alaska, which is equal to about 37 percent of the entire state, and just slightly smaller than the state of Texas. Within the TCC region are six sub-regions and within the six sub-regions are 40 villages, for an approximate population of 6,700. TCC also serve clients in the Fairbanks area.

DENAKKANAAGA

Denakkanaaga, meaning “Our People Speak” in Denaakk’e (Koyukon Athabaskan), is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization which serves as the voice for the Interior Native Elders in the Doyon and Tanana Chiefs Conference region. Denakkanaaga acts on behalf of the elders, working to ensure their concerns are addressed regarding topics such as Native cultures, traditions, languages, subsistence, and social issues.

As the population, over the age of 65, grows within Interior Alaska, Denakkanaaga works with other organizations to maximize efforts to advocate for Native Elders.



DENAKKANAAGA CORE VALUES/COMMITMENTS:

- United Voice

- Keep Native voice stronger together for positive action

- Continue traditions, art, cultural values, language, and subsistence life

- Unity among Native organizations and people

DENAKKANAAGA CORE PROGRAMS:

- Peer support for each other (elder to elder)

- Support/mentor the next generation

- Cultural programs

- Regional voice on issues/concerns

INTERIOR REGIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA), a non-profit organization, is the Tribally Designated Housing Entity (TDHE) for Hughes Tribal Council. Formed in 1974, IRHA implements the Indian Housing Plans to improve and expand affordable housing. By designating IRHA as a TDHE, Tribes choose to use IRHA for building the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHASDA) construction projects. IRHA offers professional services such as, grant writing, environmental reviews, project managers, project site control, payroll, accounts payable, financial reporting, procurement, material inventory/shipment, homebuyer counseling and collections.



MISSION STATEMENT:

To provide housing opportunities and support self-sufficiency through housing.

VISION STATEMENT:

Thriving families with quality affordable housing.

VALUES:

- Innovation
- Respect
- Honesty
- Accountability

IRHA Board Member: Larry Nathaniel from Circle, 3 year term through March 2021

In 2020 there were three projects awarded to Circle Native Community through IRHA: Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG), ICDBG-CARES, and Rehab/Weatherization.

DOYON FOUNDATION

Doyon Foundation was established in 1989 by Doyon, Limited as a separate non-profit organization.

Mission: Provide educational, career and cultural opportunities to enhance the identity and quality of life for Doyon Shareholders.



VISION:

Financial Sustainability

Effective and Collaborative Strategic Partnerships

Organizational Excellence

Every Shareholders' Dream is realized

Strong Demonstration of Indigenous Language, Culture and Values

DOYON VALUES:

Dene - Culture, Language, Work Ethic/Way of Life, Intergenerational Well-being/Connectivity

Integrity - Transparency, Honesty, Accountability

Quality- Excellence, Focus, Proactive, Measurable results, Innovative

Community- Raising Healthy and Happy Native Children, Supporting, Mentoring, Shared Vision within the Community

Identity- Who We Are, Where We Come From, Discipline, Respect

Board of Directors from Circle includes:

None at this time

PUBLIC FACILITIES

TRIBAL OFFICE

The Circle Native Community purchased the Tribal Office Building from Danzhit Hanlaih Corporation in the fall of 2020. The Council and all tribal programs are currently being operated out of this building but will be moving into the Multi-Purpose Building when it is complete in the fall of 2021.



FIGURE 6 TRIBAL OFFICE BUILDING



COVID EMERGENCY RESPONSE & STORAGE/TRIBAL MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING

In FY2020 the Circle Native Company was awarded a CARES ICDBG Imminent Threat Grant that will fund renovating and finishing a portion of the old Lodge that was not completed. This building will meet the need for emergency response, health, and safety of Elders and Youth as well as create necessary infrastructure the community needs. There will be a wide variety of health, safety, and nutrition-related activities and programs that will address the needs of Circle Native Community members.



FIGURE 7 CIRCLE LODGE BUILDING

CIRCLE NATIVE COMMUNITY HALL

The Circle Native Community purchased the Old Yukon Trading Post from Danzhit Hanlaih Corporation in the fall of 2020. The Community Hall Full Kitchen houses the Elder Nutrition Program, all community activities and also has an attached two-bedroom apartment, two full bathrooms and laundry. The apartment is rented out to supplement the cost of running the facilities as well as house essential workers coming into the community. The building is a great asset to the community as it assists in the health and wellbeing of the community. This building is also dedicated as a pop-up hospital and quarantine facility for COVID 19 Response.



FIGURE 8 CIRCLE NATIVE COMMUNITY BUILDING, PURCHASED AUG 2020

TRIBAL COUNCIL GARAGE

The Circle Native Community purchased the Tribal Garage from Danzhit Hanlaih in the fall of 2020. This garage is a designated space for tribally owned equipment, materials, and supplies needed for the maintenance of tribally owned buildings.



FIGURE 9 TRIBAL GARAGE

ALICE CARROLL CLINIC

The new Alice Carroll Health Center was opened to serve residents in Circle, Alaska in the fall of 2018. The Circle Tribe unanimously named the new clinic after Alice in honor of her 30 years as a health aide. This facility has high tech capabilities and meets the medical needs of both Circle and Central Alaska. There is currently one health aide and room for a second. The clinic comes equipped with the ability for telemedicine, high-speed internet, and office space for health aides, dental and behavioral health personnel.



FIGURE 10 ALICE CARROLL HEALTH CENTER

FIRE HALL

The Circle Civic Community Association (CCCA) maintains the Circle Fire Hall. The CCCA is a four-member board, and the board members meet yearly to discuss maintenance and renovations of equipment and the fire hall. The fuel and electricity are paid by the CCCA to ensure our local fire truck is kept in a safe place to prevent damage due to the environment and natural disasters.

The CCCA also owns a dump truck, cat, and grader and maintains the community dump located two miles from Circle. The CCCA supports community members who are seeking to obtain hours running heavy equipment in hopes that they can either obtain jobs with DOT or the local 302 unions.



FIGURE 11 CIRCLE FIREHALL

POST OFFICE

The Circle Post Office was built in 2000; it is open to the public Monday through Friday 10-4 and closed on Holidays. Warbelow Air Venture is the only air service that delivers mail to Circle weather permitting. (USPS, 2019)



FIGURE 12 CIRCLE POST OFFICE

SCHOOL

The Yukon Flats School District manages and operates the Circle School. The school employs two full- time teachers, two teachers' aides, a pre-school teacher, a cook, a janitor, a bus driver, and a maintenance man.

The school is Pre-K through 12th grade. The school runs a lunch program for all students, as well as an Elder Lunch Program. The elder lunch program is offered to elders three times a week and is delivered by school staff.

Some other services the school has offered are an open gym, sleepovers, fundraisers, and mentoring students.



FIGURE 13 CIRCLE SCHOOL, PLAYGROUND, BASKETBALL COURT AND HOUSING

WASHETERIA

Circle Washeteria Water System offers the community a small water system that serves less than 500 people and less than 100 service connections. The Washeteria is supplied with men and women shower rooms, washers and dryers, and a utility sink. There is also a watering point located on the outside of the building where the community fills up their individual water buckets and tanks.



FIGURE 14 CIRCLE WASHETERIA



FIGURE 15 CIRCLE WASHETERIA

PUBLIC UTILITIES

WATER AND SEWER

Water, provided from the Circle Washeteria Water System, is treated and the output is located at a local watering point stemming from the building. The school and clinic are the only buildings hooked up to the sewer system.

Individuals use water buckets or water tanks to haul their own water using their personal vehicles. (DEC, 2019)

ELECTRICITY AND POWER

Circle Telephone and Electric, LLC provides power and telephone utilities to the community.

BULK FUEL STORAGE

The Central General Store retails gas at \$3.34 per gallon and Crowley Fuel retails heating fuel at \$2.69 per gallon.

Hutchison's Commercial retails gas at \$5 and heating fuel at \$5.

SOLID WASTE

The Circle Tribal Council manages the Class III Landfill located approximately 5 miles south of the community on the west side of the Steese Highway at Milepost 156.5. (SWIMS, 2019)

COMMUNICATION

The community relies on the internet provided by Microcom or Hughes Net and cable TV provided by Direct TV. The long-distance carrier is AT&T. Circle Native Community was awarded a grant in August 2020 for a Broadband study to improve communications.



HOUSING

According to 2017: ACS 5-Year Estimates Data, there were a total of 58 housing units in Circle. Of those 58 homes, 39 of them are occupied and 19 of them are unoccupied. Of the 39 occupied homes, 16 were Owner-Occupied and 23 were Renter-Occupied. (ACS)

The survey estimates that 21 homes used wood, 15 used fuel oil, and 3 used electricity to heat their homes.

The HUD housing division is located along the Steese Highway is under private ownership by community residents on various Native allotments.

In September of 2020, the Circle Native Community purchased 6 cabin kits to address the need for quarantine homes and homelessness in the community. In FY2021 IRHA will be constructing two three-bedroom homes. The Circle Native Community to continue building enough homes to address all homeless and multigenerational housing situations in the community.



FIGURE 16 PANORAMIC PHOTO, MAIN STREET, CIRCLE, AK SEPTEMBER 22, 1899, BY PILLSBURY & CLEVELAND

CHURCH

The Holy Trinity Church is an Episcopalian church located near the Steese Highway on Fire Hall Drive.



FIGURE 17 HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

GOALS

HOUSING GOALS: To provide safe, affordable, and energy-efficient homes to the residents of Circle, Alaska.

Objective 1. Circle Native Community consists of 43 homes of which the majority is overcrowded, multigenerational, or unfit for habitation.

Action Items:

Conduct a housing needs assessment for all community members and identify how many homes and of what size will be needed. The following categories will be used in the assessment:

- Homeless
- Member of a multigenerational housing unit
- Occupying a home unfit for habitation
- Identify needs on an individual basis, such as disabled or elderly

Objective 2. Circle Native Community will work towards funding 8-10 new homes, varying in size, to address the overcrowding and multigenerational living situations within the community.

Action Items:

- Search for granting sources.
- Hire an individual that will be available to apply for grants and work with community members on their barriers to purchasing a home.
- Identify available land for the construction of new homes.

COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE GOALS: It is the Circle Native Communities' goal to procure and build the necessary infrastructure to support and maintain tribal programs, promote health and wellness for the youth and elders, and centralize community operations.

Objective 1. Circle Native Community will procure funding to renovate the existing structure to house all tribal programs in one central location that will have the capacity to strengthen Tribal Programs, streamline processes, and build a strong team of Tribal employees working together towards the goals of the community.

Action Items:

- Research funding opportunities.
- Update policies and procedures.
- Identify key team members.

Objective 2. To properly maintain Tribal infrastructure for the successful health and wellness of the community.

Action Items:

- Create an annual budget to track operational costs.
- Identify key team members/agencies and roles of each.
- Focus on the sustainability of the infrastructure and services that will be provided.

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS GOALS: As a result of historical and present emergencies that have arisen in the small community of Circle, it is the Circle Native Communities' goal to be proactive and be prepared for all future emergencies.

Objective 1: Circle Native Community will be prepared for natural disasters to include but is not limited to the following: flooding, drought, wildfire, and any other catastrophe that may occur.

Action Items:

- Identify historical natural disasters and what was needed, so it may be stockpiled.
- Identify funding sources, storage area, and procurement processes.
- Purchase and store all emergency supplies in an accessible area in the event of a natural disaster.

Objective 2: Circle Native Community will be prepared to respond to any emergency medical situations.

Action Items:

- Identify emergency response personnel and clear roles for each.
- Procure emergency response equipment and supplies.
- Procure an ambulance for Emergency Medical Response.
- Procure funding for Emergency Medical Response Equipment and storage.

Objective 3: In the light of COVID 19, Circle Native Community will be prepared to respond and prevent any worldwide, nationwide, or statewide pandemic.

Action Items:

- Create a process for mitigating the spread of any virus.
- Procure funding for stockpiling, prevention, and response supplies in the event of an outbreak.
- Identify response and prevention teams with clear roles.

PUBLIC UTILITIES AND SANITATION GOALS: Tribal health will be maintained by providing proper home and public utilities to include indoor plumbing for sanitization to all homes, as well as an updated high functioning water and sanitation facility.

Objective 1: Provide an updated Washeteria facility to mitigate sanitation issues.

Action Items:

- Research and secure funding to update the facility or to build a new facility.
- Procure new washers and dryers.

Objective 2: Provide running water to all homes that currently do not have any water systems.

Action Items:

- Complete feasibility study to installing water in all homes without running water.
- Research funding sources.
- Collaborate with ANTHC.

CULTURAL AND TRADITIONAL: The Circle Native Community is a traditionally and culturally strong people that are grounded in their beliefs, values, and customs. The tribe will maintain and strengthen their traditional standpoint as well as keep it preserved for future generations.

Objective 1. Increase the amount of community participation in traditional and cultural activities.

Action Items:

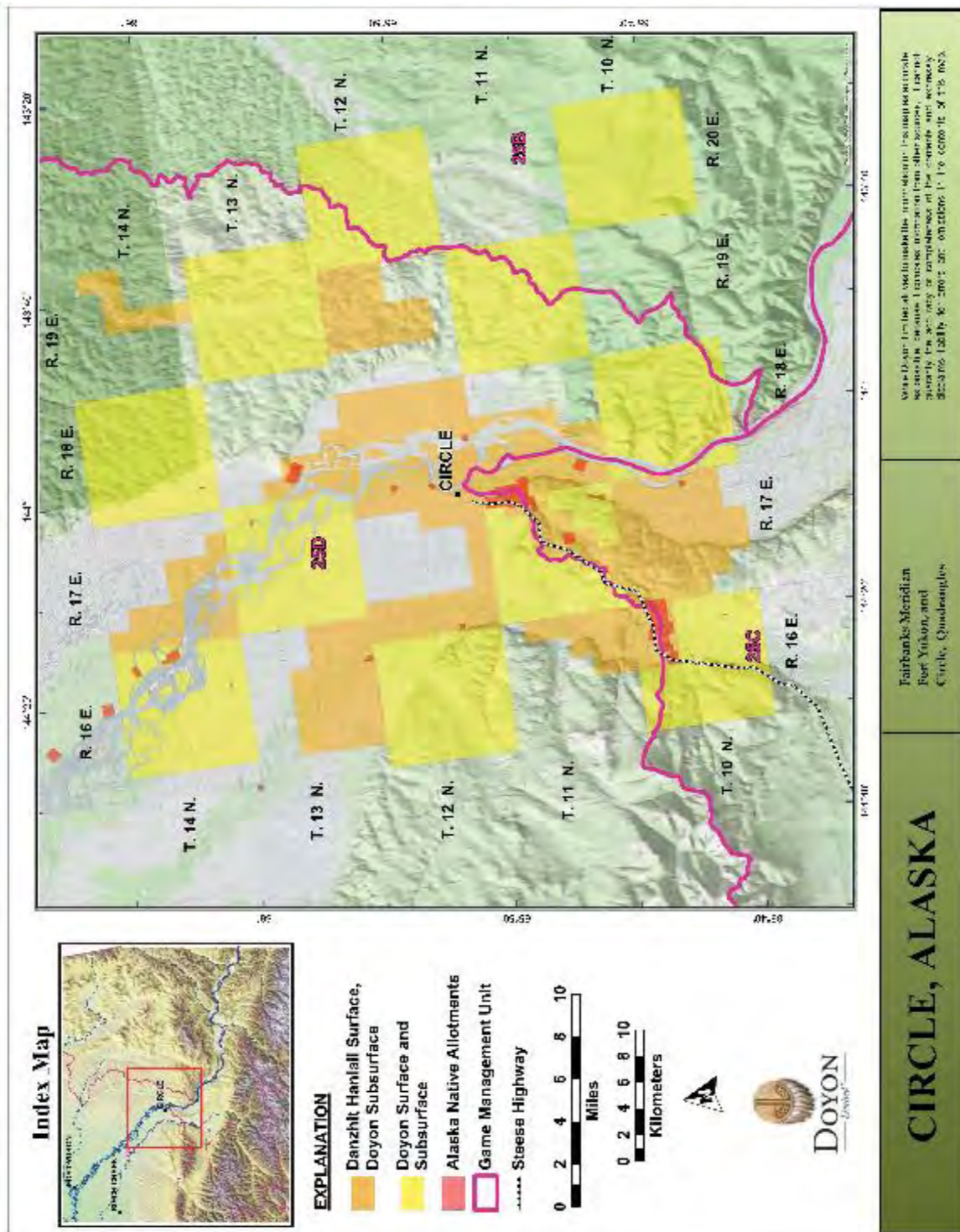
- Identify cultural and traditional activities that will entice community interest.
- Identify Elders in or around the community that are; well-versed in traditional activities.

Objective 2. Preservation of traditional and cultural practices of the Circle Native Community

Action Items:

- Identify preservation methods for future generations.
- Record Elder stories and practices.
- Engage the youth in cultural and traditional practices.

APPENDIX A: Doyon, Limited – Index Map



APPENDIX B: DCRA - Circle Area Use Map



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