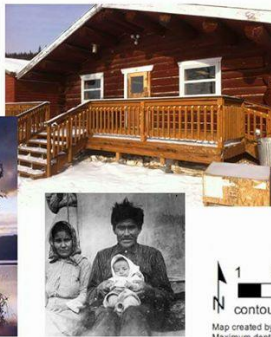




## *Healy Lake, Alaska*



# Healy Lake Community Plan 2018

Prepared by:  
Healy Lake Traditional Council  
Tanana Chiefs Conference, Planning and Development Program

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Healy Lake Traditional Council Of Healy Lake

**Resolution No. 2018 – 4**

**Healy Lake Community Plan**

Whereas, this Community Plan is important to the future growth and development of Healy Lake; and,

Whereas, this plan was created through 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 \_\_\_\_ in favor,  
\_\_\_\_ opposed by the following parties:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Melissa Erickson, President or Vice President

3-9-18  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Evelynn Combs, Secretary/Treasurer

3-9-18  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date



## VISION STATEMENT

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Healy Lake Village envisions a healthy, self-sustaining, and growing community for current and future Tribal members and community residents. We equally respect each other and respect the local wildlife and resources. Through hard work and dedication Healy Lake is determined to reach the goals identified in this community plan in order to increase our population size and reopen our school. Our Youth are our future and deserve to lead in a positive way for the survival of our community and culture. The vision is to promote educational and employment opportunities and provide healthcare services and housing to all who are interested.



FIGURE 1, HEALY LAKE RESIDENTS STAND OUTSIDE COMMUNITY HALL

## COMMUNITY VALUES

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FIGURE 2, HEALY LAKE BOAT DOCK, FALL 2017

## COMMUNITY ASSETS

Healy Lake residents were able to identify their community strengths in the 2017 Community Feedback Survey. Community assets are the strengths that can ultimately improve the quality of community life. Assets can be people, physical structures, community service, cultural identity, social characteristics, and natural environment. Establishing community assets is the first step in empowering community members to create positive community change.

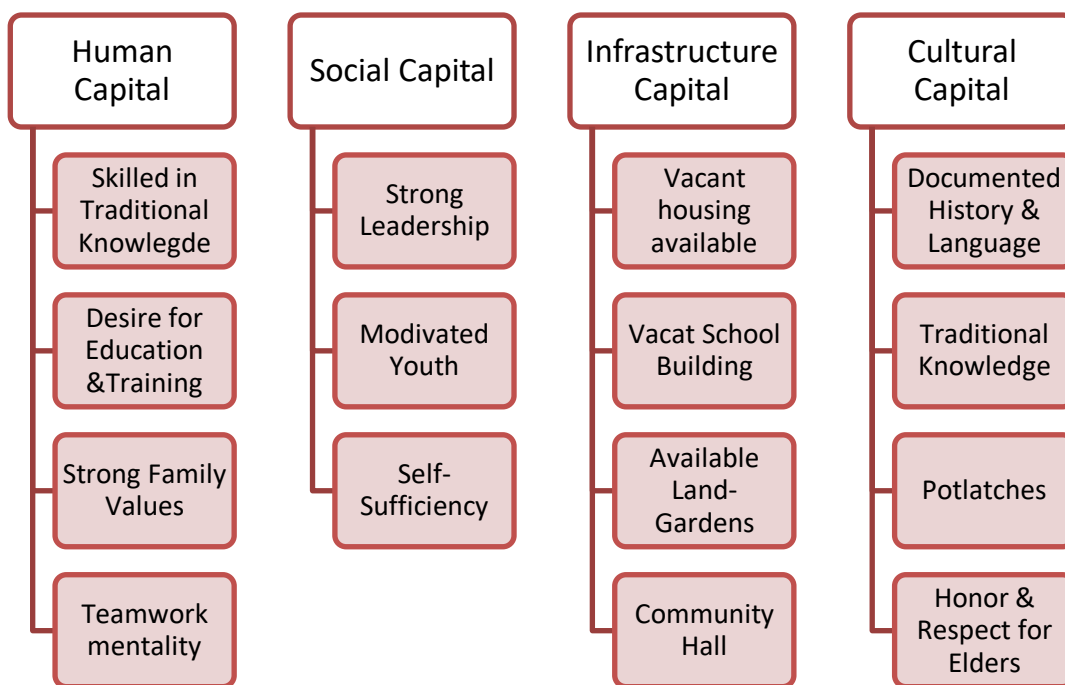


FIGURE 4 HEALY LAKE RESIDENTS GARDEN



FIGURE 3 CEREMONIAL OBJECTS IN TRIBAL HALL



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

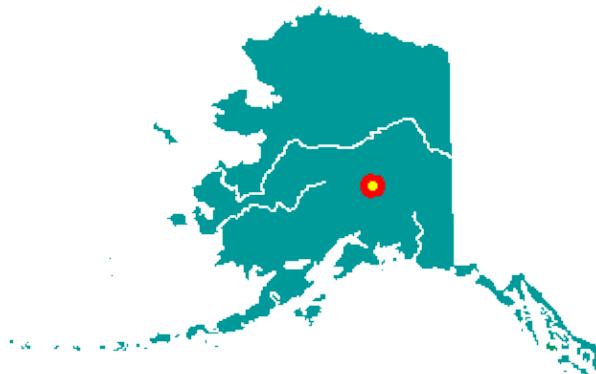
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In July 2017 the Healy Lake Tribe partnered with the Tanana Chiefs Conference Planning and Development Program to develop a Community Plan that outlines Healy Lake's primary objectives for future projects. The plan is designed to identify community goals and prioritize the community's objectives to help achieve future development projects. The community plan is built around the community's vision and values. It is a living document that is intended to be updated as goals are accomplished. A community feedback survey was administered August 2017. Data from this community survey was collected by community members to include everyone in the development of this document. The final plan was reviewed and adopted as an official document by the Healy Lake Traditional Council on March 9, 2018. .

## COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

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The Healy Lake Village Council will implement this community plan by utilizing it as a "living document". The community plan should be updated yearly and utilized to move the goals and objectives forward in order to develop projects and proposals. Implementation of the Community Plan also opens up capacity building and identifying future funding opportunities, including the TCC Village Planning & Development Grant Development Specialist position, which provides funding for the Tribe to employ a community based grant writing specialist that works closely together to write a grant for the Tribe to carry out one of the top goals and priorities in the community plan



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# COMMUNITY PROFILE

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## HISTORY

The Healy Lake area has been a site used by Athabascan Indians for many centuries with evidence of permanent structures in the area as far back as eleven thousand years ago, making it one of the oldest communities in Interior Alaska. Its long history is connected with its use as a fish camp during the summer months near the mouth of Healy River draining from Healy Lake. The current settlement of Healy Lake has ties to the Healy River-Joseph band which hunted and gathered over a 3,000 square mile area prior to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The nearby villages of Dot Lake, Tanacross, Tetlin, and Northway also have ties to this band. <sup>1</sup>

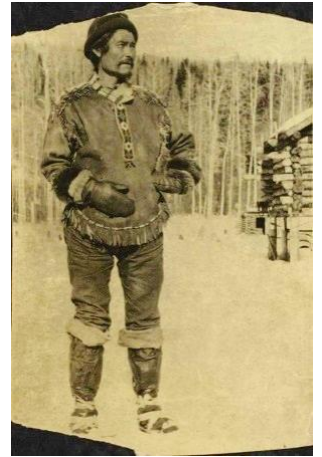


FIGURE 5  
OLD CHIEF HEALY

Healy Lake's permanent status began around 1907 when trader William Newton established a trading post at the mouth of Healy River. This trading post along with prospecting on the Healy River contributed to a more permanent establishment several years later. Newton's trading post first sold to prospectors in the area, then primarily to the Healy Lake Athabascan tribe that eventually settled in the area.

The "Famous Potlatch of Healy Lake" took place in July 1927 and was hosted by Old Chief Healy who invited the Copper River Chiefs along with the Upper Tanana and Upper Ahtna Bands to attend.



FIGURE 7 HEALY LAKE POTLATCH, 1927



FIGURE 6 HEALY LAKE POTLATCH, JULY 1927

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<sup>1</sup> (McKenna, 1981)



Some of the neighboring communities who participated, but not limited to, include Northway, Tanacross, Nenana, Fairbanks, Tazlina, Copper Center, and Dot Lake. The potlatch lasted about two weeks and was the largest potlatch during that time.

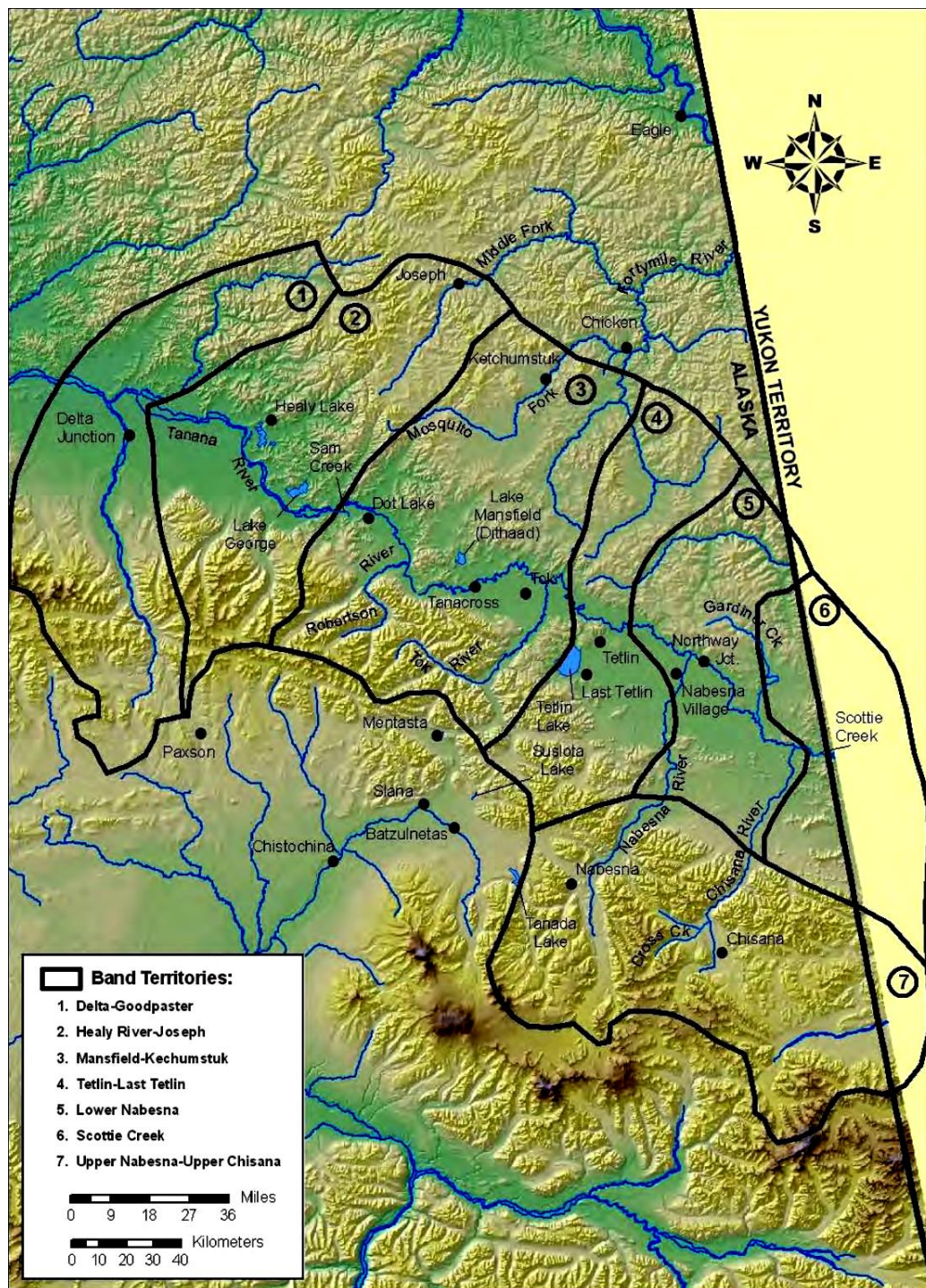


FIGURE 8 BAND TERRITORIES AND VILLAGES, UPPER TANANA REGION





Eventually members moved the village back to the traditional Healy Lake site after having been spread out for many years. A small population stayed in Healy Lake during this time, Margret Kirsteatter was among them. Healy Lake recovered and grew during the 1970s.<sup>2</sup> In 1995 the tribe reorganized and has since then completed many community projects.

The tribe experienced another decline, and in 2001 Healy Lake School closed its doors. Many families were able to remain, for several years after, through correspondents programs, but eventually the support that was needed to keep this program going diminished. Due to the school closure, no health aide, and lack of available jobs, Healy Lake's population has been slowly declining since 2000.

Currently Healy Lake Tribal Members has been putting forth active efforts to regrow its population and encourage more tribal members to move back to the community.

<sup>2</sup> (Cook J. P., 1989)

## CULTURE

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The Healy River/Joseph band traditionally spoke the Tanacross dialect. The traditional name for the original site of Old Healy Lake Village is Teyh Ch'ets'edze' and the traditional name for the modern day site is Mendeas-Chagg (body of water, with an outlet).

Traditional stories like, Yaabaa Teeshaay, were orally told by the Athabascan members of Healy Lake to pass on knowledge of the fundamentals of life, including how a person should be. These stories highlighted cultural values and ethics of the best and appropriate behaviors, and highly emphasized the importance of respect for other people, animals, and for nature.

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“WE DON'T HAVE TO GIVE UP OUR CULTURE.  
WE DON'T HAVE TO ACT LIKE WE DIFFERENT PERSON, NO.  
HIGH SCHOOL, WE GOTTA KEEP OUR CULTURE.  
OUR CULTURE IS MORE THAN EVERYTHING AND GOOD  
FOR THE CHILDREN AND THE FUTURE.”- ELLEN DEMIT<sup>3</sup>

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## LOCATION

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Healy Lake is a small residential community located in the Upper Tanana region of Interior Alaska. It overlooks its namesake, Healy Lake, a 5-mile long lake which lies on the course of the Healy River and the Tanana River. The current community is located about a mile from the traditional site of Old Healy Lake Village. It is bordered in the south by the Alaska Range and to the north by Yukon-Tanana Terrane. It is situated 29 miles east of Delta Junction off Cummings Road which leads to a boat dock. Healy Lake lies at approximately 64.026890 North Latitude and -144.661620 West Longitude. (Sec. 23, T011S, R015E, Fairbanks Meridian.)<sup>4</sup>

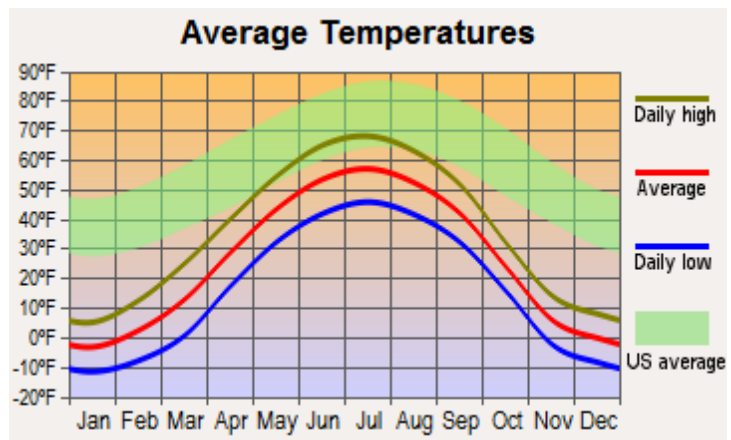
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<sup>3</sup> (Ellen Demit , 2017)

<sup>4</sup> (Alaska Department of Commerce, n.d.)

## CLIMATE

Healy Lake lies within the continental climatic zone, experiencing the extreme temperatures of long and harsh winters with warm and short summers. Its long summer days consist of 18-21 hours of daylight between June/July, and the winter days consist of 4-10 hours between November/March. The average temperatures range from -32 °F during the winter months to 72 °F in the summer. Winter temperatures can drop well below this average reaching down to -60°F or even -70°F. Estimated snowfall is 42 inches and maximum estimated snow depth is measured at 11 inches. Ice typically starts to form on the Tanana River around October with breakup occurring around May. The following line graph illustrates the yearly temperate range for the community of Healy Lake. <sup>5</sup>



## POPULATION

The most recent estimate of Healy Lake's fulltime residents is 13 people based off the 2012 Alaska Department of Labor estimates. 11 of the 13 are identified as Alaska Native. Although there is a small number full time residents the Healy Lake, there are 54 Tribal members currently enrolled. Lack of employment opportunities and the school being closed in Healy Lake contribute to the unsteady population. The Tribal Council is being proactive and is actively developing strategies for increasing the population in the community.

<sup>5</sup> (Southeast Fairbanks Census Area/Healy Lake, AK Housing info/Healy Lake, Alaska , 2017)

## GOVERNANCE

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### TRIBAL COUNCIL

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Healy Lake Village is a federally recognized tribe that is governed by a 5 member Tribal Council. Council members serve 2- year terms which are staggered. The Officers of the Council are a President, Vice President, and Secretary/Treasurer. The Healy Lake Tribe adopted its first written Constitution in 1971. The Tribe's constitution and codes are updated and expanded as different needs of the community arise. There are currently active efforts being made towards the progress of starting a youth council to promote future government stability and involvement. The tribal council office is currently located in Fairbanks because internet communication is limited in Healy Lake with the intention of moving all council business back to Healy Lake in the near future.

### VPSO/LAW ENFORCEMENT

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There is no Village Peace and Safety Officer (VPSO) present in Healy Lake. The community periodically requests the Alaska State Troopers visit the community to check on things to improve the overall feeling of safety in the village. The Northway State of Alaska Trooper Post serves the community of Healy Lake. There is also an Alaska State Trooper Post located in Delta Junction, 29 miles east.

#### ARE YOU SATISFIED WITH CURRENT LAW ENFORCEMENT IN HEALY LAKE?



### VILLAGE CORPORATION

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Healy Lakes Village Corporation is Mendas Cha-ag Village Corporation which owns the majority of land in and around Healy Lake.

### REGIONAL CORPORATION

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Doyon Limited is Healy Lakes for profit Regional Corporation and has a village entitlement of 69,120 acres. Because of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, Doyon assists its shareholders in managing the economic development of the national resources in the Interior.



## NON-PROFIT CORPORATION



Tanana  
Chiefs  
Conference

The Tanana Chiefs Conference is the non-profit corporation that serves Healy Lake. The Tanana Chiefs Conference provides services to thirty-seven federally recognized Interior Athabascan Villages of Alaska. The Mission is to provide 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. Some of the programs TCC offer rural communities are energy assistance, temporary assistance, education, mental and physical health services, and job training.

### Map of Healy Lake Area

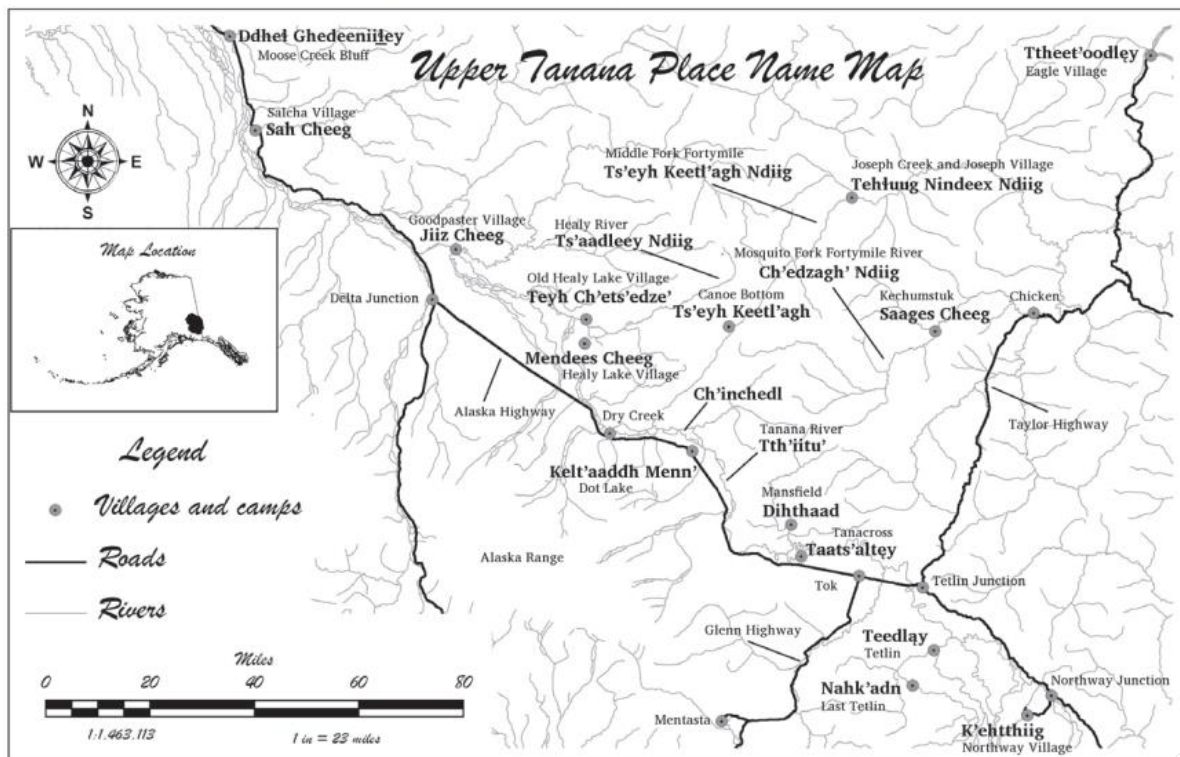


FIGURE 10 MAP IS FROM THE ADVENTURES OF YAABAA TEESHAAY: FIRST MAN STOREIES FROM HEALY LAKE, ELLEN DEMIT; DAVID JOE

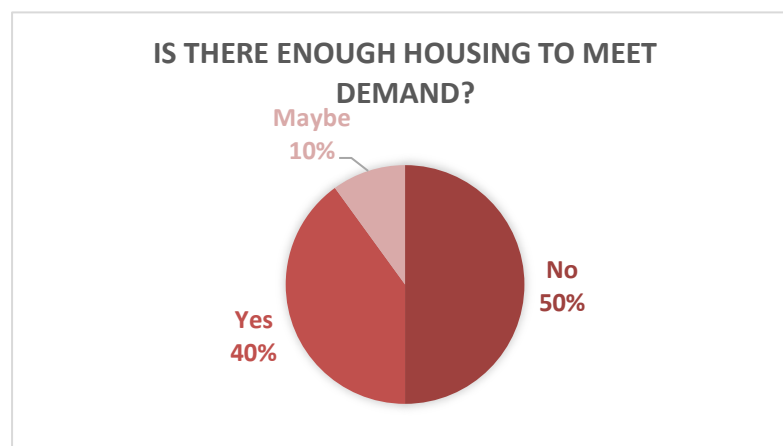
## INFRASTRUCTURE

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### HOUSING

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According to 2010 Alaska census data there are 19 housing units with 7 households in Healy Lake. 4 housing units are managed by the Tribe. Roughly 65% of occupied houses lack complete plumbing, and 41.2% lack a complete kitchen. There are 4 out of the 11 year round housing units that have individual wells and septic systems. The remaining households haul their potable water from the washeteria. In 2016 there were two Interior Regional Housing resolutions passed for the rehabilitation of two community member's homes. These two projects were funded through the Native American Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (NAHSADA.)<sup>6</sup>



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<sup>6</sup> (Tanana Chiefs Conference, 2016)

## PUBLIC UTILITIES

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### WATER AND SEWER

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There are two wells located in Healy Lake that are connected to and provide water to the community facilities. The more permanent year-round residents own and maintain their own individual wells and septic systems.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

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Healy Lake Tribe owns and operates the local Class III Landfill, located ½ mile east of the community on a dirt road near the airstrip. It has unrestricted access and is a non-permitted landfill. Fencing and additional equipment are needed to upgrade. There may be funding available to upgrade their facilities through Indian Health Services.<sup>7</sup>

### COMMUNICATIONS

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Electricity is owned and operated by the Alaska Power & Telephone Company (AP&T). Power is generated by two diesel generators, one primary and one backup. Diesel fuel for the generators is delivered once a year at the same time the rest of the village receives fuel. The majority of homes that are inhabited get their electricity from AP&T or from their own powered generator. Electric bills remain high and are a significant burden on many community members. In 2015 Healy Lake participated in the Power Cost Equalization (PCE) Program with Alaska Energy Authority which provided economic assistance to lower the cost of electricity per kWh.<sup>8</sup> The PCE Reimbursement rate is 0.18 cents per kWh. AP&T also provides a telephone service in Healy Lake which allows cell phone service and limited internet.

### BULK FUEL

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The Tribal Council owns three 500 gallon fuel tanks which they fill up once a year when it is possible to travel the ice road. When these tanks are filled the council ensures that all community members have their fuel tanks filled at this time.

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<sup>7</sup> (Proposed Sanitation Projects for Healy Lake, 2017)

<sup>8</sup> (Power Cost Equalization Program Statistical Data By Community, Reporting Period: 2014-2015, 2017)

The Alaska Power & Telephone company also owns a 14,000 gallon fuel tank which is located in the community. The Alaska Energy Authority reported average price of fuel at \$4.47 in their Power Cost Equalization Program Statistical Data by Community Report for 2015.



FIGURE 11 FUEL TANKS, PICTURE TAKEN IN HEALY LAKE

## ENERGY

According to the Interior Regional Energy Plan, Healy Lake had a pre-feasibility assessment done in 2013 with the Alaska Wood Energy Development Task Group (AWEDT) grant for local wood biomass resources. The study investigated three types of biomass heating sources that could potentially heat the Washeteria and Margaret Kirsteatter Community hall. The three types of biomass investigated were wood chip, hydronic heater stick-fire wood boiler, and pellet boiler system resulting in all three projects being economically viable. Funding to move forward with these projects would most likely come from Alaska Energy Authority through the AWEDT.<sup>9</sup>

Healy Lake was ranked high in Biomass, solar energy, and energy efficiency for potential energy resource projects. The community ranked medium in hydroelectric projects according to the 2015 Interior Regional Energy Plan. A priority Healy Lake Stakeholders identified in the Interior Regional Energy Plan is the need to install a solar PV- diesel hybrid system with battery storage to serve small electricity demand.

In 2010 Healy Lake was awarded an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant through the Department of Energy with the purpose to reduce fossil fuel emission and reduce total energy use.

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<sup>9</sup> (Pelunis-Messier, Hansen, Qatalina Schaeffer, & Peirce, 2015)



## PUBLIC FACILITIES

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### BUILDINGS

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All of the main buildings are centralized and located in the heart of the community. The Margaret Kirsteatter Community Hall and the Washeteria are adjoined and located near the boat dock. The Clinic, Tribal Office, and Post Office are located in the same building adjacent to the Hall. There is a school building that is currently vacant due to the school closing in 2001. There is also a portable maintenance building that houses the equipment to maintain the ice bridge during the winter season and the equipment to clear the trees to maintain the main road used to enter the community.

### WASHETERIA

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The Washeteria facility, owned and operated by the Tribal Council, is equipped with washing machines and dryers for self-service laundry and shower stalls. New washers and dryers have recently been installed. There are two community wells that are used for public facilities which include the Washeteria. All homes with current residents residing year-round have individual wells and septic systems. Homes that are used seasonally utilize the Washeteria facility for potable water.



FIGURE 12 HEALY LAKE WASHETERIA

## CLINIC

The clinic facility shares the same building as the Tribal Office. Healy Lake is in the process of renovating and updating all of their medical equipment. The community has been unable to successfully hire a full time health aid. The hiring process has been a continual frustration for the community. Because there is no health aid within the community all medical emergencies are reported to the Tribal Administrator who then contacts Chief Andrew Isaac Health Center (CAIHC) in Fairbanks to clear the medivac if needed. Securing and obtaining a permanent health aid remains an important priority of the community to better guarantee the health and safety of its residents.

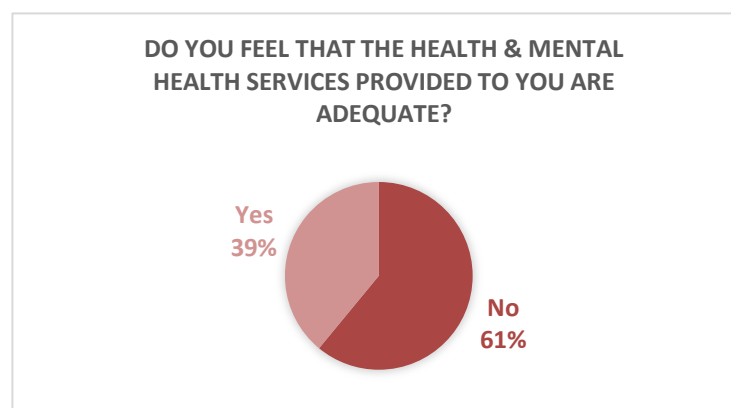


FIGURE 13 TRIBALL OFFICE, FRONT VIEW



FIGURE 14 TRIBAL OFFICE, SIDE VIEW

The Community utilizes the Indian Health Services through CAIHC. Reliable transportation to the Fairbanks hospital has been identified as a barrier in the Community Feedback Survey.



## MARGARET KIRSTEATTER COMMUNITY HALL

The community hall is used for a wide variety of events and activities in Healy Lake. It is where marriages, potlatches, funerals, and baptisms take place. It is truly where the heart of the community lies. Healy Lake has no church building so it is also where the community gathers to worship. The building has a full kitchen with plumbing. A new front and side deck were built this past summer to make the community Hall and Washeteria handicap accessible.



FIGURE 15 MARGARET KIRSTEATTER COMMUNITY HALL, EXTERIOR & INTERIOR

## HEALY LAKE SCHOOL

The Healy Lake School was built in 1999 and is approximately 7,600 square feet. The school was within the Delta-Greely School District. Unfortunately, the school closed in 2001 due to a decline in enrollment.<sup>10</sup> The structure holds two large classrooms, a large gymnasium, a kitchen, two restroom facilities, and a large vestibule with windows.

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<sup>10</sup> (School Facility List for Healy Lake , 2017)

## TRANSPORTATION

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### EXTERNAL

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Travelling to and from Healy Lake presents a considerable challenge particularly in delivering freight and supplies. In the summer Healy Lake is accessible by driving to the end of Cummings Road, 30 miles past Delta Junction which leads to a public remote gravel launch. From there the commuter travels by boat to the community. Residents and visitors traveling to Healy Lake must venture down one of the roughest stretches of the Tanana River before the Healy River is reached. Healy Lake Tribal members often retain damages to their boats as they travel to and from their home.



FIGURE 16 BOATS PREPARING TO PICK UP PARTICIPANTS FOR THE 2017 UPPER TANANA SUBREGIONAL MEETING

In the winter Healy Lake Tribal Council maintains an ice road which is used to get in and out of the community. The time frame to utilize the ice road varies from year to year as the fall freeze and spring thaw differ from year to year. Once the ice along the Tanana River, Healy River, and Healy Lake is thick enough the ice road allows Healy Lake residents to transport heavy equipment and supplies for any upcoming projects. The ice road requires frequent maintenance throughout the winter as strong winds often blow across Healy Lake forming large impassible snow drifts.

Unlike many other rural Alaskan villages, Healy Lake Tribal Council own and maintain their 2,500 foot airstrip. 40 Mile Air makes three trips a week to Healy Lake. However, due to the length of the airstrip only 6-seater passenger planes are able to fly in. Due to weight constraints typically only 4 individuals are able to take this flight at one time with only 30 pounds of freight allowed per person. High costs and weight limitations force residents to utilize alternative modes for travelling to and from Healy Lake.



## INTERNAL

Healy Lake has been the test site for a nation-wide study using a product called Dura Mats. These mats are laid on top of the silt loam base that the Healy Lake roads are built upon. The silt that predominates in the area creates extremely dusty conditions when it is dry and very muddy conditions when it is wet. Through using the Dura Mats, Healy Lake has been able to solve the problems caused by dust and mud within their village. They are hoping to expand the use of the Dura Mats throughout the village. They hope that their success with using the mats will also provide a viable solution to other rural Alaskan villages facing some of the similar health and transportation problems due to dust and mud.

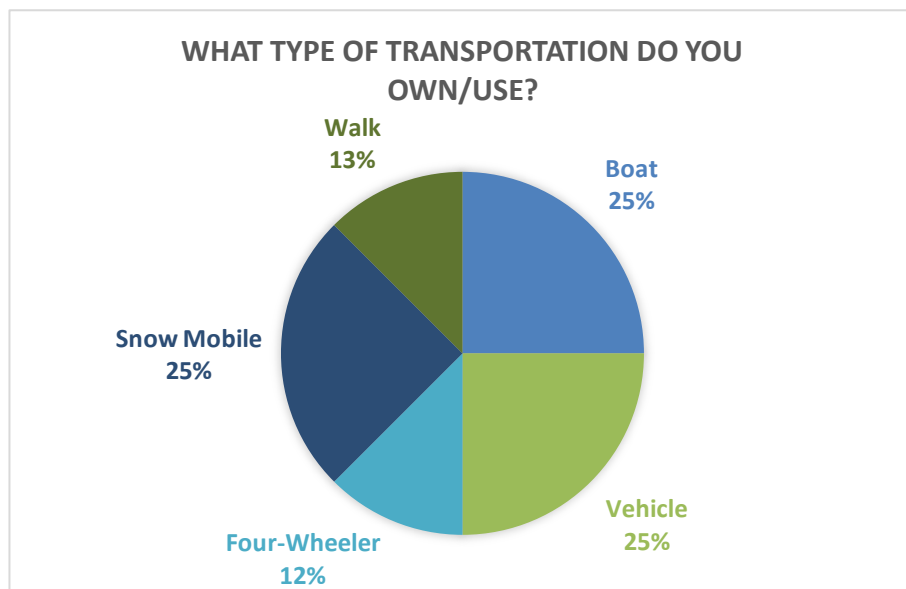


FIGURE 17 DURA MATS THROUGHOUT THE COMMUNITY

The boat dock is made up of the Dura Mat that runs from the lake to the entrance of the school. Healy Lake consists of trails and dirt roads that lead to community member's houses and to the airport. There are no paved roads in the community.



FIGURE 18 DIRT ROADS LOCATED NEAR THE AIRPORT AND SCHOOL





## ECONOMY

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### AVAILABLE JOBS

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Jobs available in Healy Lake include seasonal construction, transportation, and management related position. One of the primary challenges for Healy Lake community members is the lack of employment opportunities. Many community members have found it necessary to relocate to areas where jobs are available such as Fairbanks or Tok Junction. The Tanana Chiefs Conference offers various jobs throughout the year depending on different funding opportunities; positions currently being advertised are for a Tribal Workforce Development Specialist, Tribal Family & Youth Services (TFYS) and a Community Health Aide/Practitioner. There currently isn't a local store or any local businesses that are operational in the community.

### POTENTIAL FOR GROWTH:

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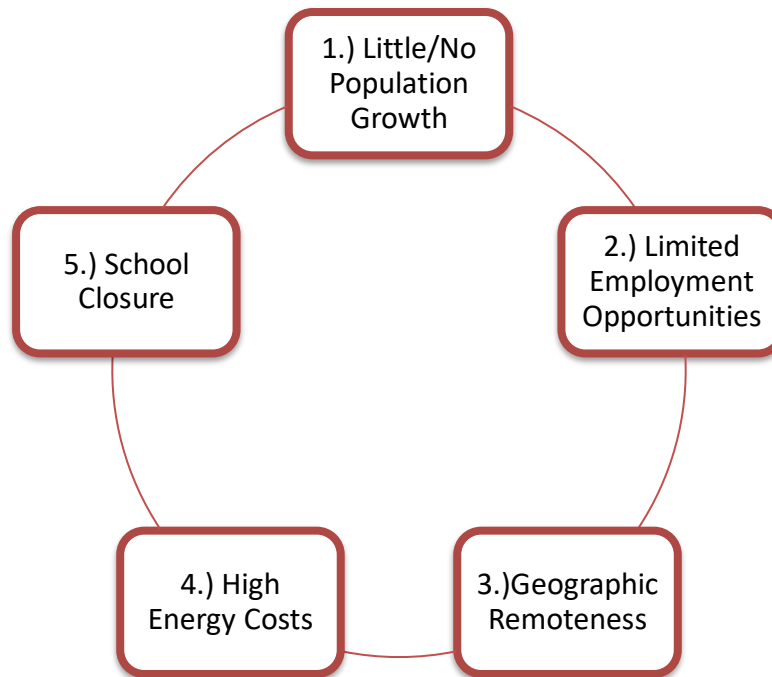
The area for the greatest potential economic growth is tourism. There is a potential market for demand in visitors interested in experiencing Healy Lake's majestic natural surroundings. There are two avenues tourism can flourish. Cultural tourism which has a high focus on cultural and traditional activities and Nature tourism that focuses on the activities the landscape has to offer. Estimated jobs that a tourism market could possible produce are tour guides, local artist demonstrations, bed & breakfast positions, and boat drivers.



FIGURE 19 GUESTS OF THE FALL 2017 SUBREGIONAL BOARDING BOATS (IMAGE COURTESY OF ALISSA HEALY)

## BARRIERS TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The following chart illustrates the specific challenges Healy Lake faces for economic development.



- 1.) Little to no population growth- Result in small labor force and small number of consumer consumption.
- 2.) Limited employment opportunities- Employment opportunities available for an array of different candidates in regards to age, gender, experience, and education.
- 3.) Geographic remoteness- Challenges in transportation hinders supplies and goods being shipped into the community.
- 4.) High energy cost – The high price of fuel and energy make it difficult to maintain buildings and infrastructure.
- 5.) School Closure- No School in the community reduces the appeal for families to move into the community and keeps population size down.

## COMMUNITY WELL BEING

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### COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENCE

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Healy Lake elected its first youth delegate this year and she has since then created a Healy Lake Tribal Website with information on history, enrollment, and community surveys/studies. She successfully produced the first newsletter to keep everyone informed on Council meetings, community events and projects, job openings, and other updates. There is also an active Facebook page, which is used to keep tribal members and community residents informed and connected.

### COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

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A community feedback survey was administered August, 2017, and Tribal members of the community were asked what kind of health and wellness program they would like to see in the community. Two Tribal members identified a need for a health aide and two other Tribal members identified the need for a local clinic. Diabetes prevention, addiction treatment, and more youth programs were also identified as a need. More reliable transportation for medical related travel was also identified.

There is currently a Tribal Wellness Program that offers a private counselor, Grace in Motion Counseling, to all Healy Lake Tribal Members. Currently, members are able to travel to Fairbanks to utilize these services; future plans include a schedule for the health care professional to occasionally visit the community for direct services.



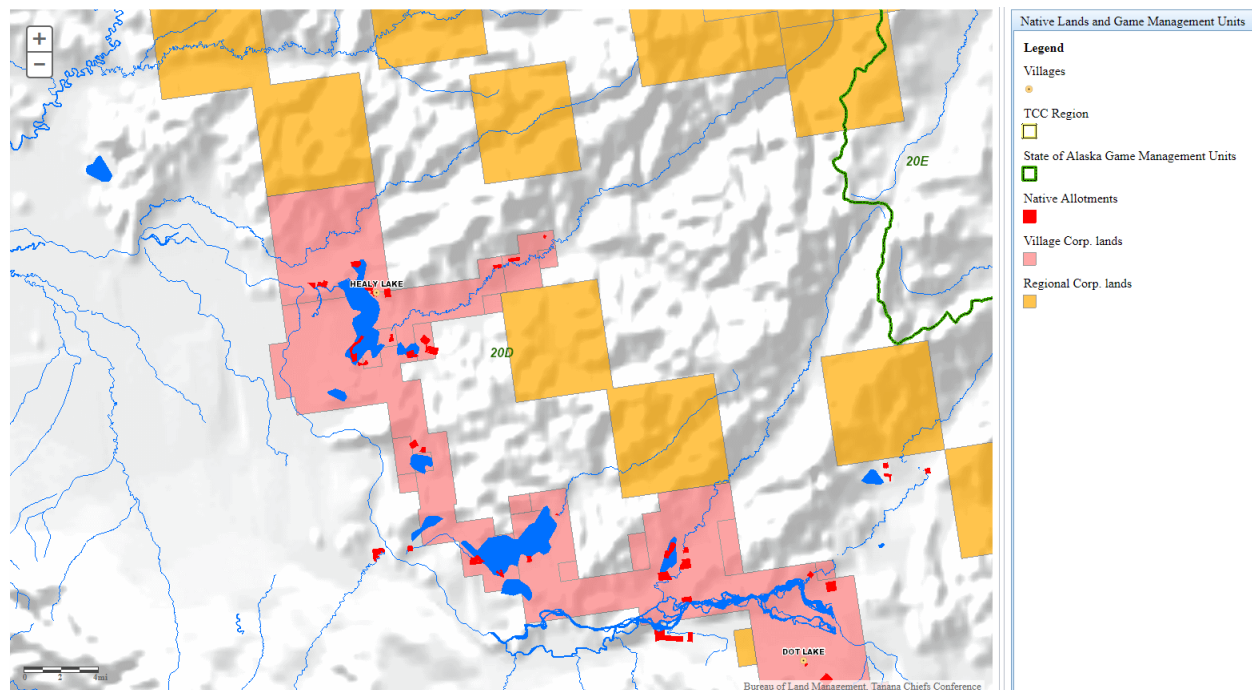
## LAND USE AND ENVIRONMENT

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### LAND OWNERSHIP

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Healy Lake Village Corporation owns 69,120 acres. The Tribe has not completed its 14(C)3 conveyance.



### ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

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The community residents identified a variety of different environmental concerns in the 2017 Community Feedback Survey. Fuel spills, Water pollution, proper disposal of trash and having spill kits for all fuel tanks/equipment were all identified as a need. There were no environmental concerns that affect residence, such as fish/animal population, weather, and water quality but two participants identified dust as a concern. Potential funding for air, water, waste, and other environmental protection issues may be available through the United States Environmental Protection Agency Grant Programs for Tribes.<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>11</sup> (Grants Programs For Tribes , 2017 )

## WILD FOOD RESOURCE/HARVEST (SUBSISTENCE)

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Healy Lake residents rely on subsistence activities for an alternate food source. Although the community is primarily a cash economy, residents participate in traditional hunting, fishing, gathering, sharing, and trading within traditional use areas. There is a sense of pride in living off the land and maintaining the cultural tradition of practicing a healthy dietary balance the land provides. Traditionally, Healy Lake clan members were semi-nomadic and followed the annual seasonal cycle of harvest activities with vast knowledge of the weather patterns and animal movements. Various game, fish, and berries are dried, frozen, and preserved for consumption in the winter.

The river and lake provides the community with a variety of different fish like burbot, northern pike, and sheefish. The land mammals of the area include but aren't limited to: moose, caribou, sheep, beaver, fox, hare, coyote, brown/black bear, lynx, and muskrat. Grouse, ptarmigan, and other waterfowl are hunted as well. The community also gardens and gathers a variety of berries for consumption.

In 2002 the Healy Lake community was included in the resident zone for the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. The National Park Service recognizes Healy Lake's traditional subsistence lifestyle therefore the community can engage in customary subsistence practices in the park. These subsistence practices include harvesting fish, plant, and hunting/trapping wildlife resources from park lands without having to obtain a subsistence eligibility permit for the Park.<sup>12</sup>

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“WE LIVED UNDER THE UMBRELLA OF BASICALLY A  
SUBSISTENCE LIFESYLE AND MORE REWARDING PROBABLY  
MORE ECONOMICALLY WAY OF LIFE REALLY.” – FRED  
KIRSTEATTER<sup>13</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> (Haynes & Simeone, 2007)

<sup>13</sup> (Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve Project Jukebox, Fred Kirsteatter , 2017)

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## COMMUNITY GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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## GOALS

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### Goal #1: Employment & Economic Development

- **Healy Lake is a community that has local employment opportunities for residents and utilizes an array of resources to develop economic growth.**

### Goal #2: Public Facilities and Housing

- **Healy Lake is a community where residents and newcomers are able to have adequate housing that suits their needs and where all public facilities are established and maintained.**

### Goal #3: Transportation

- **Healy Lake develops a well maintained transportation system with year around access to residents for commerce and medical care.**

### Goal #4: Health and Safety

- **Healy Lake is healthy, productive village, free from addictions, it is able to meet the diverse medical needs and ensure proper treatment and care of its people.**

### Goal #5: Youth & Education Opportunities

- **Healy Lake is a community that meets the needs of its people by providing educational and training opportunities that enrich their lives and will in turn help them better serve the needs of the people.**

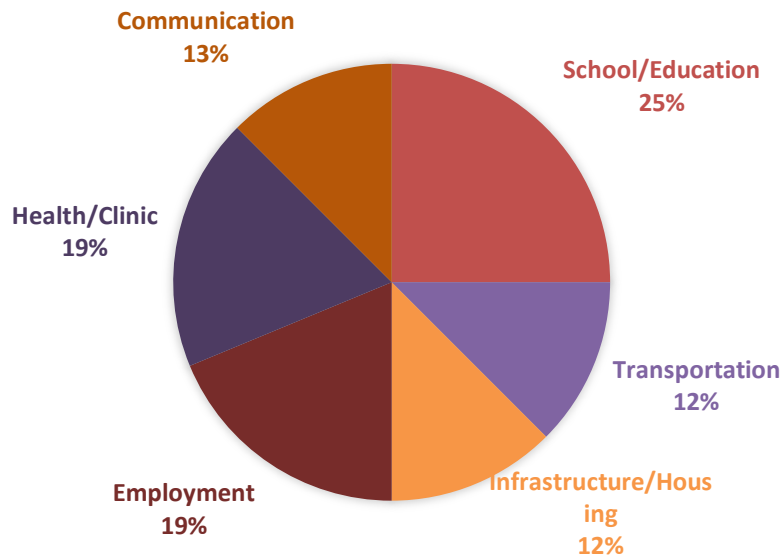
### Goal #6: Alternative Energy

- **Healy Lake utilizes alternative energy sources to promote cost efficient energy consumption and to preserve our natural resources and environmental integrity.**

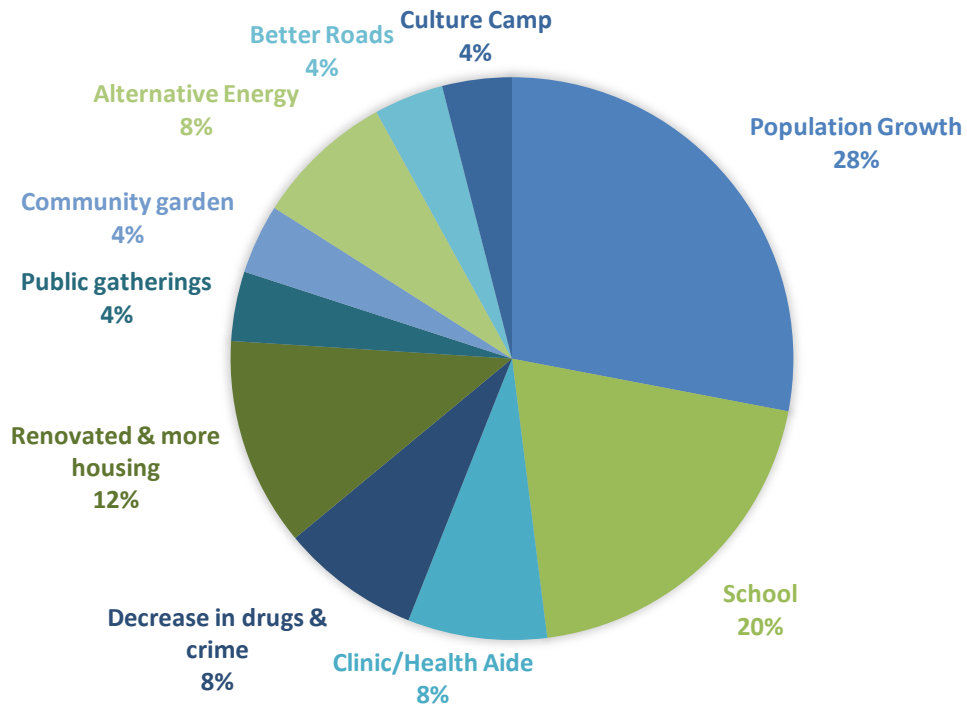
### Goal #7: Self Governance

- **The Healy Lake youth council will be fully staffed and functional with a fully amended constitution. The Healy Lake council will continue to work on establishing a Upper Tanana Tribal Court Consortium.**

## TOP PRIORITIES OF THE COMMUNITY



## WHAT DO YOU WANT YOUR COMMUNITY TO LOOK LIKE IN 5 YEARS?





## EMPLOYMENT & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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**Goal #1: Healy Lake is a community that has local employment opportunities for residents and utilizes an array of resources to develop economic growth.**

**Objective 1:** Support residents in acquiring training and identifying employment opportunities that are located in the community.

CPR Training/Boat Safety Course for community members to promote local village hire for transporting residents to and from the community by boat.

Heavy Equipment training to provide community members with the acquaint skills to maintain the ice road, clear the primary road to the community in the winter,

**Objective 2:** Promote Healy Lake tourism through constructing appropriate infrastructure such as an RV park, bed & breakfast at the end of Cummings Road near the boat landing.

Build tourism cabins in the village and purchase a track vehicle for sightseeing tours.

**Objective 3:** Construct and operate a local store at the end of Cummings Road that could be used by residents along Cummings Road.

**Objective 4:** Identify ways to keep money within the community.

## PUBLIC FACILITIES & HOUSING

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**Goal #2: Healy Lake is a community where residents and newcomers are able to have adequate housing that suits their needs and where all public facilities are established and maintained.**

**Objective 1:** Ensure existing home owners have the tools necessary to maintain their homes and surrounding areas and identify specific infrastructure needs for new construction projects.

**Objective 2:** Build a duplex that is handicap accessible with an attached apartment for public officials who visit, e.g. VPSO, Tribal Administrator, TCC Staff, and safe house option.

**Objective 3:** Build a new roof and refurbish the Tribal Hall.

**Objective 4:** Renovation of local clinic ensuring updated technology and equipment to provide the best service to residence.

**Objective 5:** Seek funding for sewer and water upgrades for the wash

**Objective 6:** Upgrade community transit site.

## TRANSPORTATION

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**Goal #3: Healy Lake provides consistently safe, year round access to residents for commerce and medical care.**

**Objective 1:** The Tribe will purchase a communal boat for residents and visitors to travel to and from Healy Lake community during the summer season.

**Objective 2:** Healy Lake's Long Range Transportation Plan is revised and updated to reflect the current transportation needs of Healy Lake.

**Objective 3:** The airport is resurfaced and widened to ensure the ability to fly in and out of Healy Lake is not reduced during wet conditions.

**Objective 4:** Identify preferred road system access for residents and/or maintain current roads to ensure safety of residents.

**Objective 5:** Post safety signs on winter travel routes.

## HEALTH & SAFETY

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**Goal #4: Healy Lake is healthy, productive village, free from addictions, it is able to meet the diverse medical needs and ensure proper treatment and care of its people.**

**Objective 1:** Proper health care is available and delivered to Healy Lake Tribal members through hiring a permanent health aide.

**Objective 2:** A permanent safe house is constructed and maintained.

**Objective 3:** Effective solutions/programs for substance abuse and alcohol abuse.



## EDUCATION

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**Goal #5: Healy Lake is a community that meets the needs of its people by providing educational and training opportunities that enrich their lives and will in turn help them better serve the needs of the people.**

**Objective 1:** Healy Lake creates and promotes incentives that will attract families with school age children back into the community.

**Objective 2:** A charter school is established in Healy Lake that will allow families to live in Healy Lake year round.

**Objective 3:** Healy Lake School is reopened and enrollment is sustained.

**Objective 4:** A Head Start program is established and maintained.

**Objective 5:** Higher Education opportunities are easily accessible to Tribal members.

## ALTERNATIVE ENERGY

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**Goal #6: Healy Lake utilizes alternative energy sources to promote cost efficient energy consumption and to preserve our natural resources and environmental integrity.**

**Objective 1:** Install Biomass energy system for the wisteria and community hall to decrease cost of operation and increase energy efficiency.

**Objective 2:** Research and secure funding for a feasibility study for wind turbines in Healy Lake.

## SELF GOVERNANCE

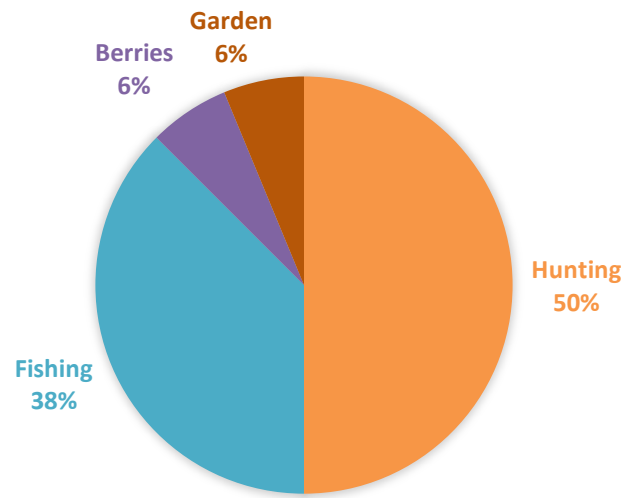
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**Goal #7: The Healy Lake youth council will be fully staffed and functional with fully developed by-laws. The Healy Lake council will continue to work on establishing an Upper Tanana Tribal Court Consortium.**

**Objective 1:** Establish youth by-laws and teach emerging leaders the day-to-day functions of a tribal government agency to promote leadership skills in the future generation.

**Objective 2:** Collaborate with local tribal councils within the Upper Tanana region to promote communication and increase tribal unity.

### WHAT SUBSISTENCE ACTIVITIES DOES YOUR FAMILY PARTICIPATE IN?





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## APPENDICES

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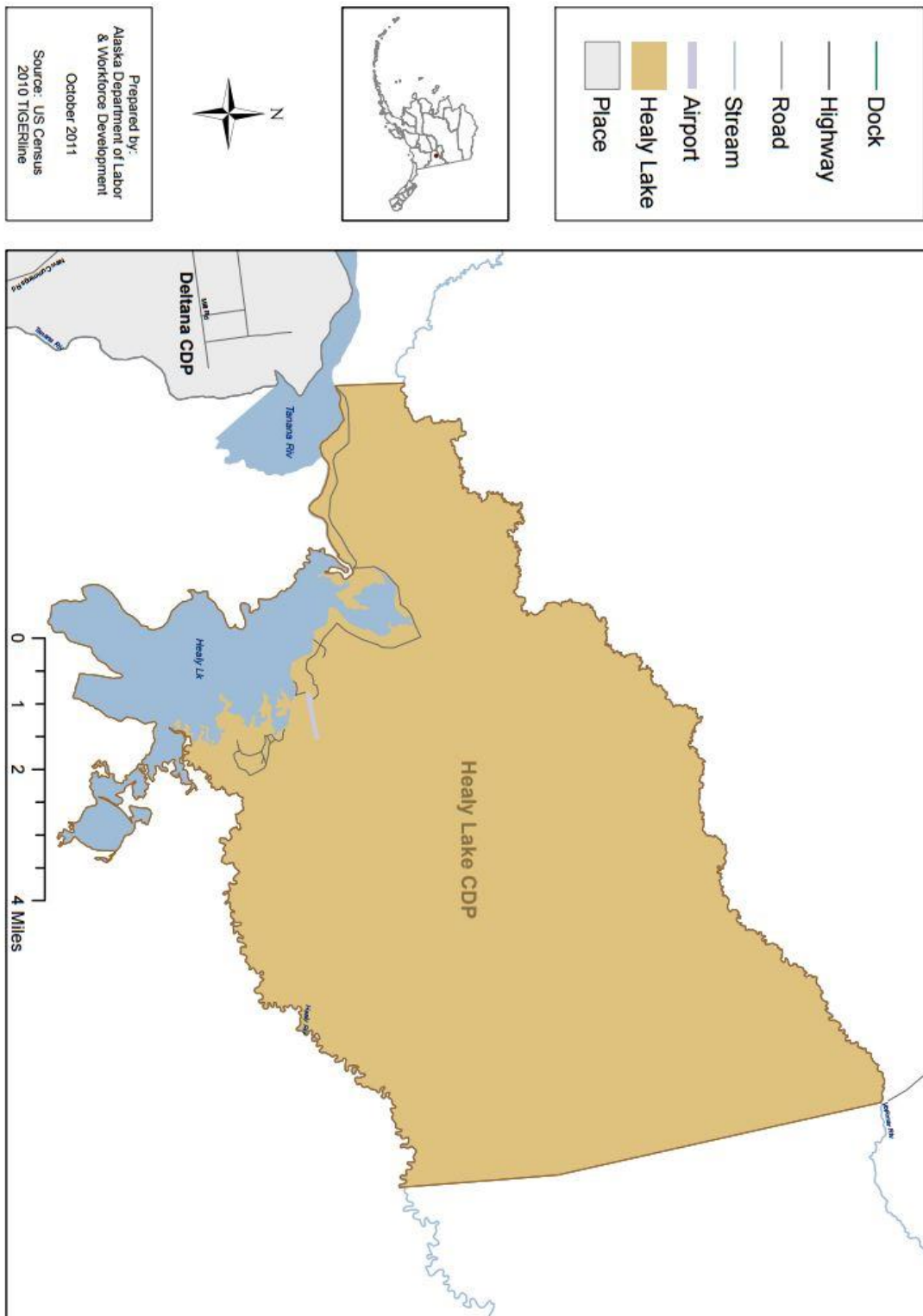
## Aerial Map 2003 Healy Lake





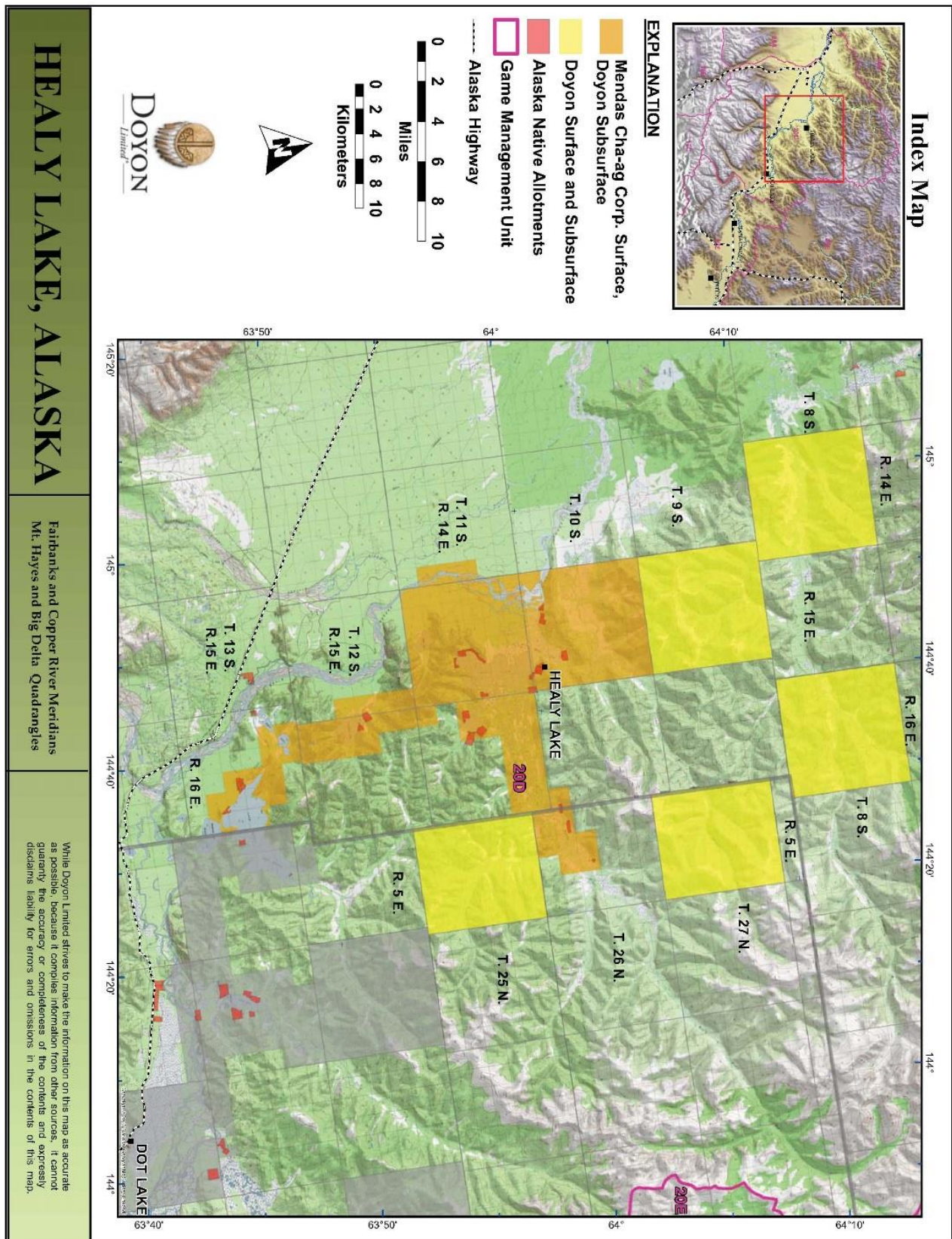
## 2011 Alaska Department of Labor & Workforce Map of Healy Lake

### Healy Lake CDP





# Doyon Limited Land Ownership Map of Healy Lake



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## COMMUNITY CONTACT INFORMATION

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#907-876-5013

### **Mendas Cha-ag Native Corporation**

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#907-452-3094

### **Healy Lake Clinic**

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#907-876-5136

### **Tanana Chiefs Conference**

122 First Ave, Suite 600

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