



# Rampart Community Plan

2019



Prepared by Maryann Wiehl & the Rampart Tribal Council  
as a part of the Tanana Chiefs Conference Village Planning and Development Program

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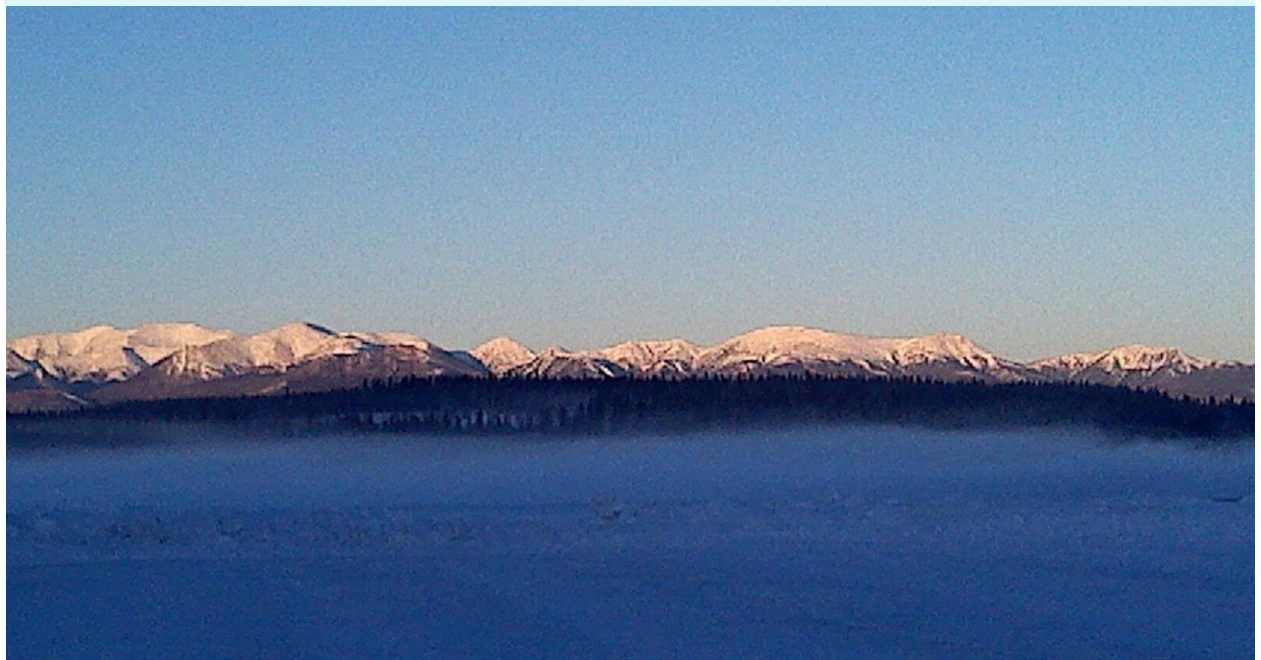




# Mission Statement



*Our mission is to revive the community of Rampart and improve the quality of life for the residents through economic development and the preservation of our culture, heritage and abundant natural resources.*



# Community Planning Process

Rampart began the Community Planning process in November 2013 with a community dinner and meeting to discuss the wants and needs of our village. Twelve people attended and participated in an exercise to find out what each community member liked most about living in Rampart and what they would like to see happen in this community in the near future. Following this meeting a short survey was conducted and goals and objectives were identified, in 2014 a community plan was developed and completed.

In 2016 and again, in 2019 all the goals in Rampart ' s community plan were addressed and the plan was updated. The community scheduled another meeting and new goals and objectives were identified. Rampart has come a long way since 2013, the population has quadrupled and continues to grow. As a result of developing a community plan many projects and development opportunities have assisted in the revival of this community

## Executive Summary

Rampart's Community Plan was a cooperative effort between the Rampart Village Council and Tanana Chiefs Conference Planning Department. Rampart's Community Plan includes the history, culture, population and information regarding the infrastructure and economy. The goals and objectives included in this plan reflect top priorities identified by Rampart's community members. A special thanks to Mary Ann Wiehl and Floyd Green for making the plan and its process a possibility.



TCC Village Planning and Development Training. Fairbanks, AK October 2013

# Community Profile

## History

The name Rampart comes from the range of low mountains through which the Yukon River passes and forms the “ramparts” of the Upper Yukon. Rampart was established in the late 1800's as a river supply point for Gold Miners in this area. In the 1890's when miners struck gold at Minook Creek, Idaho Bar, Quail Creek, and Eureka Creek, all within 30 miles of Rampart the population was as high as 10,000 residents. This population had Rampart listed as the second largest city in Alaska at the time.



Rampart City, Alaska. Alaska's Digital Archives



Ladies of Rampart. Alaska's Digital Archives

During this population boom Rampart had a local newspaper, hotels, saloons, theaters, a library, a fire department, various stores and businesses that were common in mining towns of this era.

Novelist Rex Beach was part of the population boom along with Wyatt and Josephine Earp. Wyatt Earp had a gambling establishment in Rampart, and he supplied his household with wild game to eat. From the inspiration Rex Beach modeled his character Ben Stark after Wyatt Earp in his novel “The Barrier”.

One thing that was always present in Rampart was the Native community. Because of gold strikes in other locations such as Fairbanks and Nome people moved away from Rampart. By the year 1903 only a Native community remained, most homes and businesses were abandoned. The Original Native Community was located across the River from Rampart at the mouth of Squaw Creek. By 1917 there were 30 natives and 30 non natives living in Rampart.



John Minook family. Alaska's Digital Archives





Agricultural Experiment Station Photograph Collection. Alaska's Digital Archives

In 1900 an agricultural experiment station was established by the University Of Alaska across the river from Rampart to cross-breed grains and legumes. By 1920, more than 90 acres were under cultivation. The station also tested vegetables, strawberries, flowers, and field crops. Some strawberries and wild onions can still be found around Rampart today. The farm was closed in 1925.

An airstrip was constructed by the Alaska Road Commission in 1939. A salmon cannery was established in the 1940's. A sawmill and logging operation was built in the 1950's. Residents continued to work in nearby gold mines, and the local store served as a supply point for area operations. Mines are still active outside of Rampart today

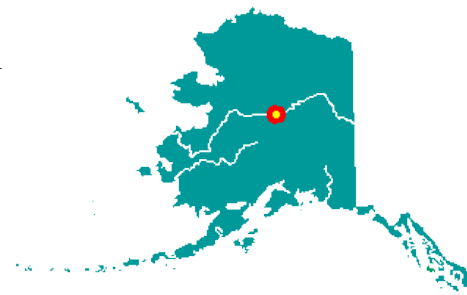
## **Culture**

The population of Rampart is predominantly Alaska Native and is very active in subsistence activities. The traditional ways of preserving fish and large game hunting are the most common subsistence activities currently in Rampart. Other subsistence activities are gardening and gathering of seasonal berries and plants and some people still trap for furs. There are many accomplished bead work artists and fur and skin sewers in Rampart and people often take the time to share their talents with the youth.

With the re-opening of Rampart School in 2015 preservation of the culture and heritage has become a focal point of interest for the community of Rampart. Rampart held a language preservation class, the students are instructed in the language weekly and Rampart has started the very first local Dance group. The name of the group is "Dlel Hutaaneets Hut'aanee Ch' ets'edelee," this means Rampart People are Singing

## **Location & Climate**

Rampart is located on the south bank of the Yukon River, approximately 75 miles upstream from its junction with the Tanana River, 100 miles northwest of Fairbanks. It lies approximately 65.505000 North Latitude and -150.170000 West Longitude. (Sec. 23 T008N, R013W Fairbanks Meridian.) Rampart is located in the Rampart Recording District.



Rampart, Alaska. Alaska Community Database

Winters in Rampart are harsh and long and the summers are short and hot. After freeze up the plateau is a source of cold, continental arctic air. Daily minimum temperatures between November and March are usually below 0 degrees F. Extended periods of -50 to -60 degrees F. are common. Summer high temperatures run between 65-80 degrees F with a recorded high of 97 degrees F. Total annual precipitation averages 6.5 inches, with 43 inches of snowfall. The Yukon River is free of ice from May through September.

## **Population**

The current population of Rampart is 53 with a large increase in the summer months. Subsistence is a large part of the lives of most Rampart residents and many people come home to fish and hunt.

## **Transportation**

Air transportation provides the only year round access to Rampart. A state owned 3,500' long by 75' wide lighted gravel airstrip is available. Weather permitting; three flights a week are scheduled to Rampart to deliver mail and supplies. A 30 mile road exists from the Elliott Highway north to Rampart. It is mainly used during the winter months by snow machine; 4-wheelers may be used during the summer months by seasoned travelers. Funds have been delegated at the Tribal level for completing the road to Rampart on the current winter trail. This would reduce the cost of living in Rampart greatly. The other transportation link is the Yukon River. Fuel and other goods are delivered by barge two or three times each summer. Skiffs, snow machines and 4-wheelers are used for subsistence hunting and fishing. Personal vehicles include trucks, 4-wheelers and snow machines, they are used for personal transportation and hauling supplies.



Rampart Snowmachine Trail. 2013

## **Land and Environment**

Most of the land in and around Rampart is owned by; community members, Baan O Yeel Kon, Doyon Ltd, Rampart Village and State of Alaska. In 2013, some of the land was contaminated by an oil spill due to an unfortunate accident. Approximately 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel was spilled in town next to the main road. This spill was assessed and cleaned by the State of Alaska, Emerald and local residents. A plan is being set up to address environmental concerns and emergency response plans for such instances. Our land and environmental health of the community of Rampart is very important to the residents as subsistence is a large part of our economy.

## **Infrastructure**

### **Housing**

There are 54 houses in Rampart Alaska, of which 16 are unlivable. Most houses in Rampart are log cabins that were built by individuals over many years. On average there are 2 people per home. There are five houses IRHA built 18 years ago using 1937 Act Federal Grant monies. In 2015, Rampart Village Council withdrew from IRHA and created the Rampart Housing Program (RHP) operating under Policies and Procedures developed internally. This has been very successful. Under RHP two new homes were constructed for local residents and two existing homes were given to people under a lease to own program, the tribe gives the new home owners the



Condemned Rampart Home. 2013



# Public Facilities

## **Energy and Fuel Facilities**

Electrical power is supplied by the Rampart Electric Company; this is owned and operated by the Rampart Village Council. A bulk fuel tank is located near the community Laundromat. Diesel fuel is stored for the generator and is also sold to residents for home heating needs. The community has identified alternative energy development in the near future to be highly desirable. The cost of transporting fuel to the village via barge or airplane greatly increases the cost of fuel. This compounded by the lack of any store in town makes it difficult to meet personal fuel needs such as gasoline for personal vehicles.

In 2016 the power poles in our community were stabilized and two new generators was installed for Rampart Electric Company. This will increase energy efficiency and reduce line loss here in Rampart. Transformers have also been replaced and new energy efficient LED streetlights have been installed throughout the community. Stabilizing the power poles was the number one priority outlined in Ramparts 2014 community plan.

## **Rampart School**

Due to low numbers of students the Yukon Flats School District closed down the Rampart school in 1999. Consequently many families left Rampart in order to get a proper education for their children. The local school here in Rampart has been re-opened after a long 15 year closure. In 2015 upon completion of the new multi-purpose building Rampart School opened the doors with 15 students from grades K-12. The first year of operation was challenging under Yukon Flats School District. The village of Rampart petitioned to switch districts and this was done in the beginning of the 2016. Rampart School is now part of the Yukon Koyukuk School District and currently has 13 students in attendance. There are two teaching positions here at the Rampart School and they each have a teachers aide. A janitorial and maintenance position is also available, this provides four seasonal employment opportunities.

## **Laundromat**

The Rampart Laundromat is operated by the Rampart Village Council. It provides two employment opportunities: a maintenance/water plant operator position and a custodian position. The maintenance /waterplant operator is a full time position. The custodian position is part time about 2 to 4 hours a day as needed. The building offers 2 large washers, 3 small washers, 4 dryers, 1 handicap tub and shower, 1 regular tub and shower, 1 Jacuzzi tub and shower, 2 restrooms and a watering point with both hot and cold water available. All of these run off of tokens that cost fifty cents each. A token machine is available on location.

## **Tribal Office**

Most employment opportunities are provided by the Village Council. Some of the seasonal job opportunities that are available through the tribal office include: work on the road to Rampart, brush cutting, and community clean up. The TCC Summer Youth Employment program also provides seasonal jobs for the youth and is run through the tribal office. Rampart received an IGAP grant in October of 2012, this program is run through our Tribal Office. The IGAP program provides two employment opportunities; and IGAP administrator and an operator. Our IGAP operator collects all recyclable cans and bottles and does weekly trash hauls to the local landfill for residents here in Rampart. The IGAP administrator does the reporting, billing and work plans for these grant funded positions. The Tribal Administrator works to keep our tribal office running efficiently; his/her responsibilities include purchasing fuel to be shipped or hauled into the community, billing for power and housing, overseeing all 10 employees, pay roll, federal reporting, and securing funding for our village operations.

Rampart Village Council has a relocation program that assists people with funds to move to Rampart providing they have children that are school aged and they agree to keep them enrolled in the school here for one year. This is one way to recruit families to relocate here.

## **Clinic**

We currently have one Health Aide in training here in Rampart. Our local clinic was built in 1998 with Indian Health Service funds. Rampart also has itinerant health Aide's who usually stay for one week at a time. Tanana Chiefs Conference provides a full time position for a Village Health Aid, whose duties include: providing primary health care to village residents, clinic services, scheduling appointments, community education, assisting other health care providers and administers with emergency care. People employed as the Village Health Aid are sent to training and a place to live is provided for them here in Rampart.

## **Community Hall**

Our community hall is a 24 x 30 foot prefab building that is over 20 years old. A fire ignited by the wood stove damaged the hall in April of 2015. The damage was repaired by Rampart Village Council employees and local residents as a group effort and is available for use today. The community hall is now heated by a monitor stove using diesel fuel and is only heated when community events are scheduled.

The new multi-purpose building offers a gymnasium space for other scheduled community events. Local residents may use the community hall for birthday parties, fundraisers and anything they feel is fitting as long as they take care of the trash and clean the space. The community hall is in dire need of an upgrade and energy efficient measures need to be implemented.



Rampart Spring Carnival outside of Community Hall



## **Land Management**

All the land in and around the community of Rampart is owned either by private residents, Baan O Yeel Kon Village Corporation, Doyon Ltd. Regional Native Corporation, Rampart Village Council and State of Alaska DOT (see appendix F). Rampart Village Council is currently working on a Traditional Land Use Plan for protection of our abundant natural resources in our surrounding area.

## **Airport**

The State of Alaska owns the airfield located at the end of town. The airfield is 3,500 feet long by 75 feet wide lighted gravel airstrip available for landing airplanes. Everts Air Cargo has 3 scheduled flights a week to carry passengers, supplies, and mail the community of Rampart. DOT is responsible for maintenance of the airfield.

## **Post Office**

United States postal service is available in Rampart. The Post Office is open 2 days a week for 2 hours a day from 12:30pm to 2:30pm. All services are available such as mailing letters and packages, making money orders, buying stamps and receiving mail and COD's. This provides the village with one job as the village postmaster.

## **Community Streets**

In 2010 Rampart Village Council (RVC) received a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) Agreement and has successfully administered the Tribal Transportation Program annual shares and 2009 ARRA funds.

The TTP annual share is used to address the maintenance responsibilities for the community streets and TTP Inventory and Long Range Transportation Plan annual updates.

RVC received \$90,000.00 ARRA funds to address the tribe's highest priority project Airport Road Grade & Drain Improvement Project. In 2012 the tribe contracted with Western Federal Lands Highway (WFLH) to perform the (NEPA) and design requirements needed to construct. The final PS&E package will be delivered by February 1, 2014.

Rampart Airport Road was upgraded in the summer of 2016, phase one was completed, plans for phase two are complete and the work is expected to happen in the summer of 2017.

# Economy

The Economy in Rampart is heavily dependent on Subsistence activities. Salmon, whitefish, moose, caribou, water fowl, and small game provide meat sources.

Gardening, berry picking and gathering supplement food for villagers. In 2010 only one person held a commercial fishing permit.

There aren't many employment opportunities in Rampart. Most positions are through the Tribal Office and are currently being held by community members such as the Generator Maintenance, Water-plant maintenance workers, Laundromat janitor, IGAP Coordinator, IGAP Operator and Tribal administrator. The Community Planning Specialist and the Grant Writing position are under contract through TCC but are also through the Tribal Office.

IGAP grant funds were received in 2012 to inform community members of the recycling efforts and to make them more aware of recycle needs here in Rampart. Having your trash hauled is also a big bonus provided through the IGAP grant here in the community of Rampart. TIP is the Tribal Transportation Program that offers seasonal positions for road maintenance. The Rampart Housing Program (RHP) offers seasonal construction jobs.

TCC offers the following positions: Tribal workforce Development Specialist, Chore Provider, and Health Aid. IGAP offers the Coordinator and the Operator positions. Eventually our landfill will need to be relocated; this would mean hiring other community members.



Elder Henry Wiehl cutting meat.



Salmon strips drying.

## **Goal 1: Increase Accessibility to Resources and Decrease Cost of Living**

Complete the current road to Rampart to make outside resources more available, improve access to medical services, and decrease the cost of living.

**Objective 1:** Increase accessibility to resources for the residents of Rampart.

**Action Plan:** Seek Grant funding through The State of Alaska and the Tribal Transportation Program to complete the last 13 miles of road.

**Objective 2:** Develop Tribal Transit plan to connect the communities of Rampart, Manley, Tanana, Minto and Fairbanks.

**Action Plan:** Redo the BUILD proposal to be more feasible and resubmit the grant application again.

## **Goal 2: Economic Development**

The community of Rampart is in need of lodging units for tourists, visitors, business associates and other professionals coming to work and visit our community.

**Objective 1:** Develop business plan for rental cabins or for community lodge.

**Action Plan:** Work with Tanana Chiefs Conference Community Planning and Development program to seek grant funding for this project

**Objective 2:** Use Economic Development plan and develop a tourism business plan that includes the surrounding communities and benefits our tribes.

**Action Plan:** Work with Tanana Chiefs Conference Community Planning and Development program to seek grant funding for this project. Develop a partnership with the communities of Minto, Manley and Tanana for tourism project.

## **Goal 3: New Clinic**

The Rampart Clinic is old and very small for our growing population. We are in dire need of a new health care facility to accommodate the rapid growth of our community.

**Objective 1:** Construct a larger, new Health Care Facility in the community of Rampart to meet the needs of the growing population.

**Action Plan:** Contact both CATG and TCC (Rampart's IHS funding is there) to see what our options are for funding a new Health Care Facility in Rampart.

## **Goal 4: New Water Treatment Facility**



The local water treatment facility is the biggest cost creator here in the community of Rampart, 80% of the fuel used for our community facilities is used at the local water plant. The current facility is 20+ years old and is not energy efficient, the floor is badly damaged, the wash machines and dryers don't work, the tubs, sinks and toilets are very old and outdated.

**Objective 1:** Work with ANTHC to see what is available for new water plants.

**Action Plan:** Raise RUBA score to improve chances for state funding for new water plant, identify other funding sources.

## **Goal 5: Public Safety/Environmental Protection**

The community of Rampart needs water and sewer to each home to prevent disease and the contamination of the land and ground water sources.

**Objective 1:** Install sinks, tubs toilets, water holding tanks, and piping for a flush and haul system for those who cannot get well water.

**Action Plan:** Seek funding through ATNTHC scattered sites program, seek additional funding through USDA.

**Objective 2:** Install Well and Septic systems at the houses that can support them.

**Action Plan:** Seek funding through ATNTHC scattered sites program, seek additional funding through USDA.

# References

Agricultural Experiment Station Photograph Collection. Alaska's Digital Archives. <http://vilda.alaska.edu/>

Ashcraft, Stephanie TCC Community Planning Coordinator. Interview by Maryann Wiehl.

Baan O Yeel Kohn Village Corporation

Bredeman, Lawrence, Rampart IRR Contractor." Interview by Maryann Wiehl.

Community Surveys. Conducted by Maryann Wiehl

[explorenorth.com](http://explorenorth.com)

[grants.gov](http://grants.gov)

Green, Floyd. Photo Credit

"John Minook and family." Alaska's Digital Archives. <http://vilda.alaska.edu/>

Orrison, Desiree, Rampart IGAP Coordinator. Interview by Maryann Wiehl.

"Rampart City Alaska." Alaska's Digital Archives. <http://vilda.alaska.edu/>

Rampart Sanitation Plan

Rampart Tribal Council Meetings

"School Class at Rampart." Alaska's Digital Archives. <http://vilda.alaska.edu/>

Severa, Shellie TCC Grants Administrator. Interview by Maryann Wiehl.

[vendergroup.org](http://vendergroup.org)

Wiehl, Betty. Photo Credit

Wiehl, Mary ann. Photo Credit

Wiehl, Mary Jane. Photo Credit

Wiehl, Mike. Photo Credit

Wiehl, Patty. Photo Credit

## Appendix A: Community Meeting Attendees

Mary Ann Wiehl	Grady Keyser
Mike Wiehl	Jeanette Keyser
Joanne Wiehl	Jessie Keyser
Teionna Wiehl	Prarrie Keyser
Nekoya Wiehl	Zemira Keyser
Floyd Green	Giddion Keyser
Peggy Wright	William Keyser
Betty Wiehl	Chyanne Keyser
Leroy Evans	

## Appendix B: Community Survey Participants

Floyd Green	Kathrine Kokrine	Brooke Wright
Betty Wehl	Fayleen Peters	Desiree Orrison
Tom Wiehl	Jenny Joseph	John Orrison
Mike Wiehl	Gary Joseph	Henry Kokrine III
Joanne Wiehl	June Joseph	Judith Evans
Tom Evans	Dawn Newman	Rosemary Wiehl
Sarah Evans	Ben Newman	Steven Newman
Leroy Evans	Natawnee Wiehl	Pheonix Moses
Peggy Wright	Kristine Evans	Maria Wiehl
Majorie Merry Grunin	Margret Moses	Henry Wiehl III
Linda Evans	Mary Wiehl	Elsie Lassiter
Ryan Evans	Patty Wiehl	
Brenda Lopez	Judy Evans	



# Appendix C: Community Survey

## General Questions

What do you enjoy most about living in Rampart?

What is your most important concern facing your community today and why is it such a big concern?

What would you like to see happen in your community in the next 20 years?

What can we do to see that these things happen?

## Infrastructure Questions

Do you feel housing in Rampart is adequate or does it need improvement?

Do you feel there is a need for running water in Rampart and why?

How would you rate the current condition of the community hall in Rampart?

a. Excellent

b. Adequate

c. Poor

How would you rate the importance of the community hall in Rampart?

a. Extremely Important

b. Important

c. Somewhat Important

d. Not that important

What is the primary use for the community hall?

## Health and Wellness Questions

Describe the current condition of the Clinic in Rampart, do you feel that it is adequate?

Do you feel that Rampart would benefit from having a full time health care provider and why?

Do you feel that there is a need for a church here in Rampart and why would this be important to you?

Are the services for Behavioral Health issues provided by TCC adequate for the needs of our community?

## Youth Questions

What are some suggestions that can be made for youth activities for the summer months.

In teaching language and culture to the youth what are some suggested ideas for subsistence activities that would benefit youth in the future.

How can we include language and what resources are available to teach our children?

Do you have any special skills you would be willing to share with our youth?

## Economy Questions

Do you feel Rampart would benefit from more employment opportunities?

What kind of business opportunities would you like to see here in Rampart?

How do you provide for you and your family here in Rampart?

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

How does subsistence activities impact the lives of community members here?

## Transportation Questions

How often do you leave Rampart and for what reasons?

When leaving Rampart what mode of transportation do you use?

Do you have your own form of transportation, if so what kind?

Do you feel that Rampart would benefit from having a maintained road all the way into town?

What would be the pro's and con's of having a road to Rampart?

## Environmental Questions

Describe the current condition of waste management in Rampart?

What is your opinion of the current recycling efforts being made by IGAP in Rampart?

What if any other improvements can our community make in our recycling efforts?

Do you feel that the mines outside Rampart have any impact on our water sources or on our land?

Do you have concerns about our water, air, land or any other environmental issues Rampart may have?

What can we as a community do to improve our environment here in Rampart?



## Appendix D: Rampart Arial Overview



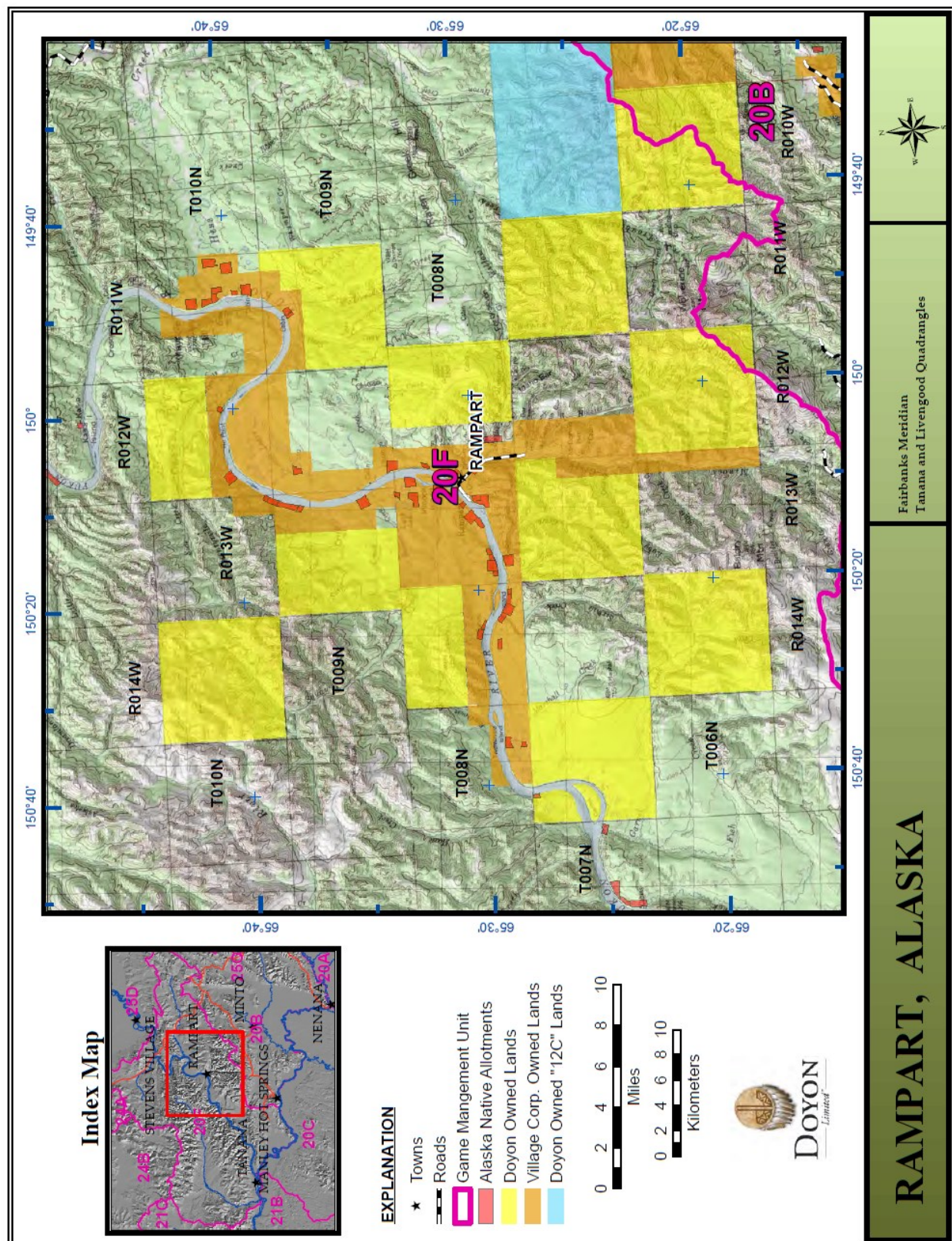


## Appendix E: Rampart Arial Overview





# Appendix F: Doyon Land Ownership Map







**Resolution # 2019-9**

**AUTHORIZING TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE (TCC) TO UPDATE RAMPARTS COMMUNITY PLAN TO  
SUIT THE GOALS DEVELOPED BY THE RESIDENTS OF RAMART**

**WHEREAS:** The Rampart Village Council is the only governing entity in the community of Rampart; and

**WHEREAS:** An updated community plan is needed to secure grant funding and to outline priorities for the community of Rampart

**WHEREAS:** there is a substantial need for grant funding to improve the quality of life for the residents of Rampart and

**WHEREAS:** by updating Ramparts current community plan through the Community Planning and Development program this provides sustainability to our tribal members, and

**WHEREAS:** it is in the best interest of the Rampart Village Council to update the current community plan

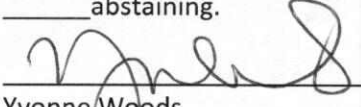
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** that the Rampart Village Council requests Tanana Chiefs Conference assist us in updating Ramparts Community Plan

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that Rampart Village Council and Tanana Chiefs Conference continue to work together to assist all tribal members of this region, and

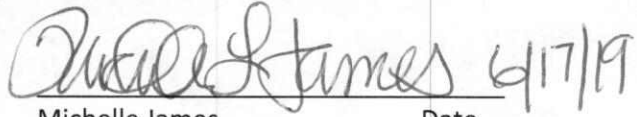
**NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** that updating Ramparts Community Plan will assist Rampart Village Council in achieving their mission *to revive the community of Rampart and improve the quality of life through economic development and the preservation of our culture, heritage and abundant natural resources.*

**Certification**

This certifies that the above resolution was passed at a regular Rampart Village Council meeting in which quorum was established. This resolution was passed with \_\_\_\_\_ for, \_\_\_\_\_, against, and \_\_\_\_\_ abstaining.

  
Yvonne Woods  
2<sup>nd</sup> Chief

Date

  
Michelle James  
Tribal Administrator

Date