



Susitna River Basin Subsistence Baseline Update

Project to update community subsistence harvest and use information for communities in the Susitna River Basin

WHY CONDUCT THIS RESEARCH

The purpose of this project is to document subsistence harvests of wild resources by residents of the Susitna River basin. The Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game is charged with quantifying subsistence harvests by conducting studies, including collecting data from subsistence users. The Alaska Board of Fisheries and the Board of Game apply this information to define nonsubsistence areas, identify fish stocks and game populations with customary and traditional subsistence uses, and establish the amounts reasonably necessary to provide opportunities for Alaskans to participate in these subsistence activities.

The Division of Subsistence has conducted systematic household surveys in 202 rural communities in Alaska (67%), the results of which appear in the on-line Community Subsistence Information System (CSIS). While at least one year of data is available for most communities in southeast, southcentral, and southwest Alaska, comprehensive data are lacking for the majority of communities in the remainder of the state, including most communities in the interior and western Alaska where subsistence harvests are largest. In addition, of the 202 communities with available data, the data for 66% of these communities are at least 10 years old, and for 44% of these communities, the data are more than 20 years old.

This research is funded by the Alaska Energy Authority. It will allow the Division of Subsistence to fill in major gaps in our database by producing up-to-date harvest estimates for communities in the Susitna

River Basin. Additionally, this information may be used as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) required review of the proposed Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project. The first phase of the project as shown on the map is to occur in communities in the Susitna River Basin. A second year of studies is planned in communities of the Copper River Basin, which have not recently been surveyed as part of other subsistence survey efforts.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

In addition to providing comprehensive subsistence harvest data on a regular basis, the program will include training of local researchers in each study community and partnerships with local governments and regional organizations to support implementation and maintenance of the project. Communities will also have the opportunity to review the data collected before it becomes final and comment.

HOW WE USE THIS DATA

The resulting information will assist state and federal managers in their subsistence management responsibilities, will be of use to local and regional advisory councils in making recommendations for regulatory changes, and will assist the State of Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game and the Federal Subsistence Board in the informed management of fish and wildlife in the region. Final results will be summarized in a technical report as well as included in the Division of Subsistence Community Subsistence Information System (CSIS). Both are available online from the Division of Subsistence, ADF&G.

TIMELINE

October - December 2012

Community scoping meetings

January - March 2013

Household surveys

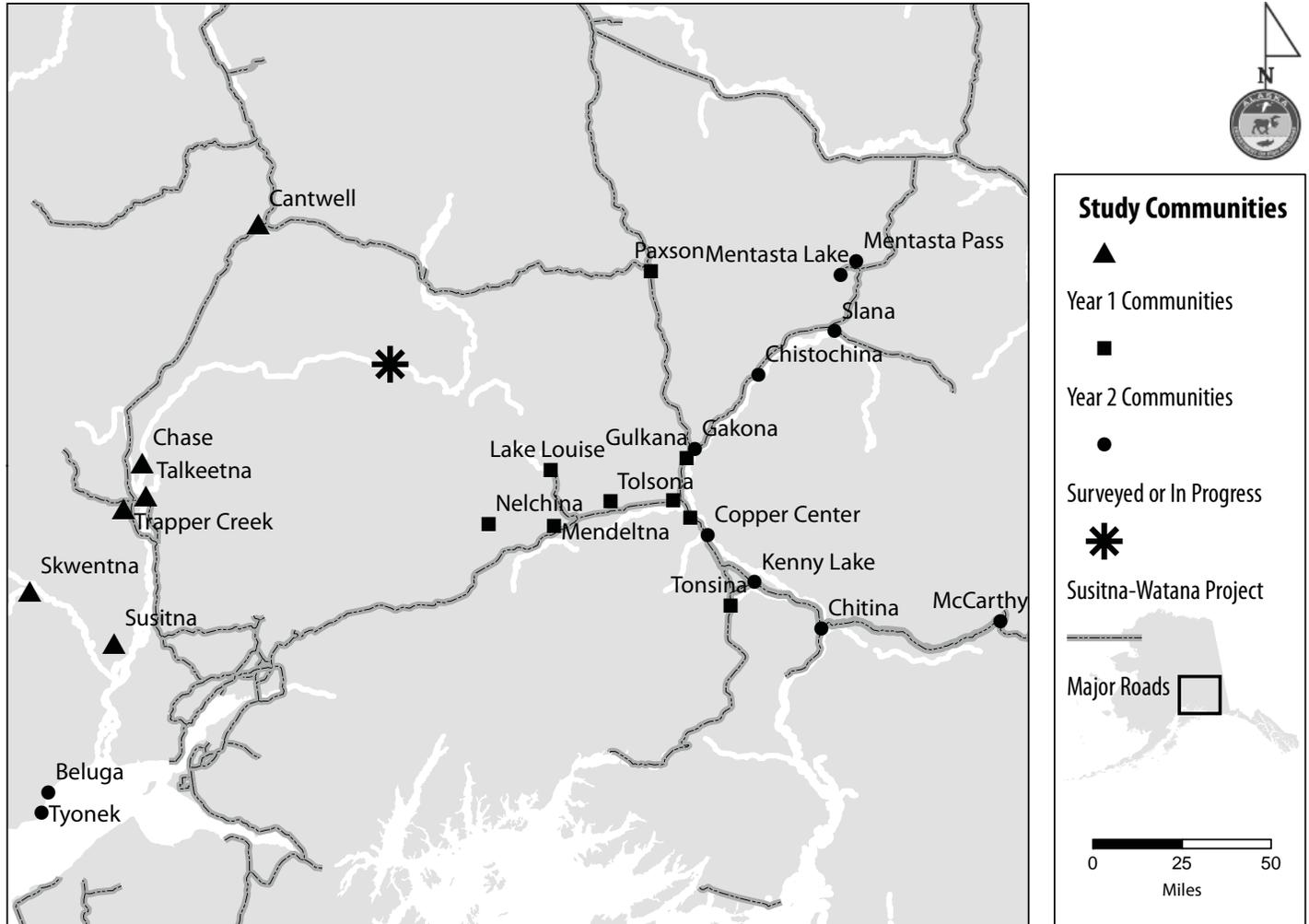
September-October 2013

Community review of study findings

December 2013

Final report sent to communities

PROPOSED STUDY COMMUNITIES



ADF&G Contact

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DIVISION OF SUBSISTENCE

For a copy of our OEO statement, see www.adfg.alaska.gov