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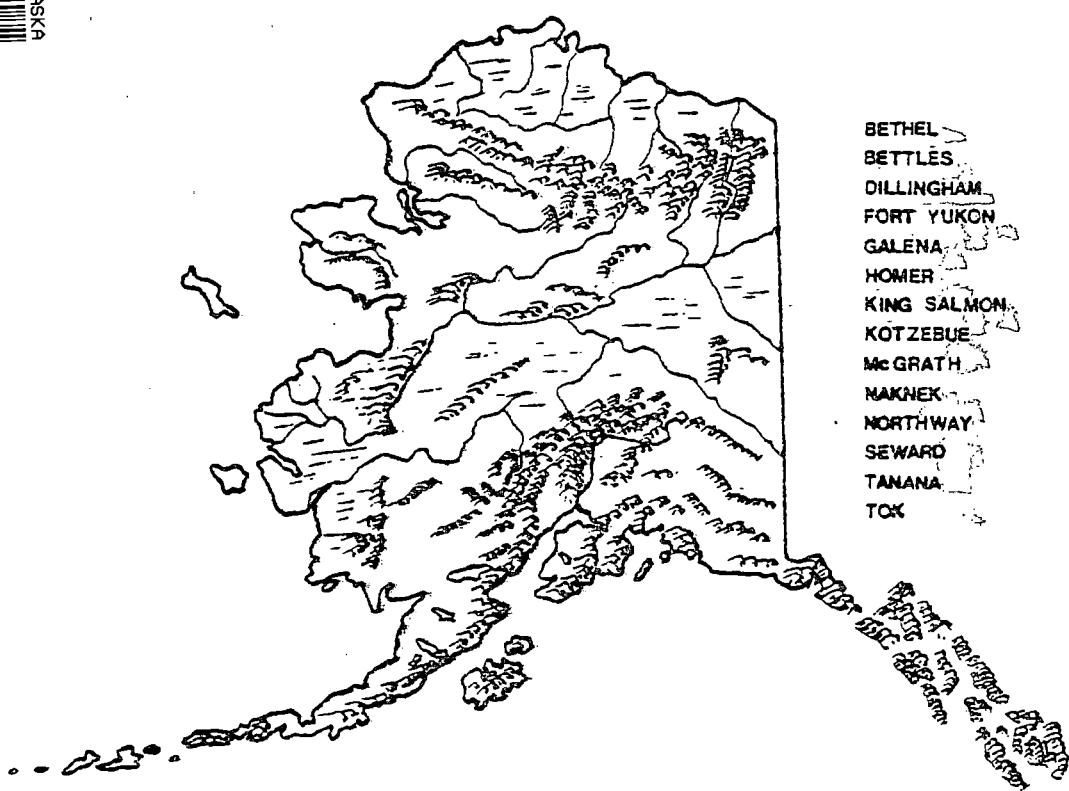
Community Profiles for :BETHEL,BETTLES,DILLINGHAM
FORT YUKON,GALENA,HOMER,KING SALMON,KOTZEBUE,MCGRATH,
NAKNEK,NORTHWAY,SEWARD,TANANA,TOK

FWLB
1264

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US FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE--ALASKA
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COMMUNITY PROFILES



U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
RESOURCE PLANNING TEAM
1978

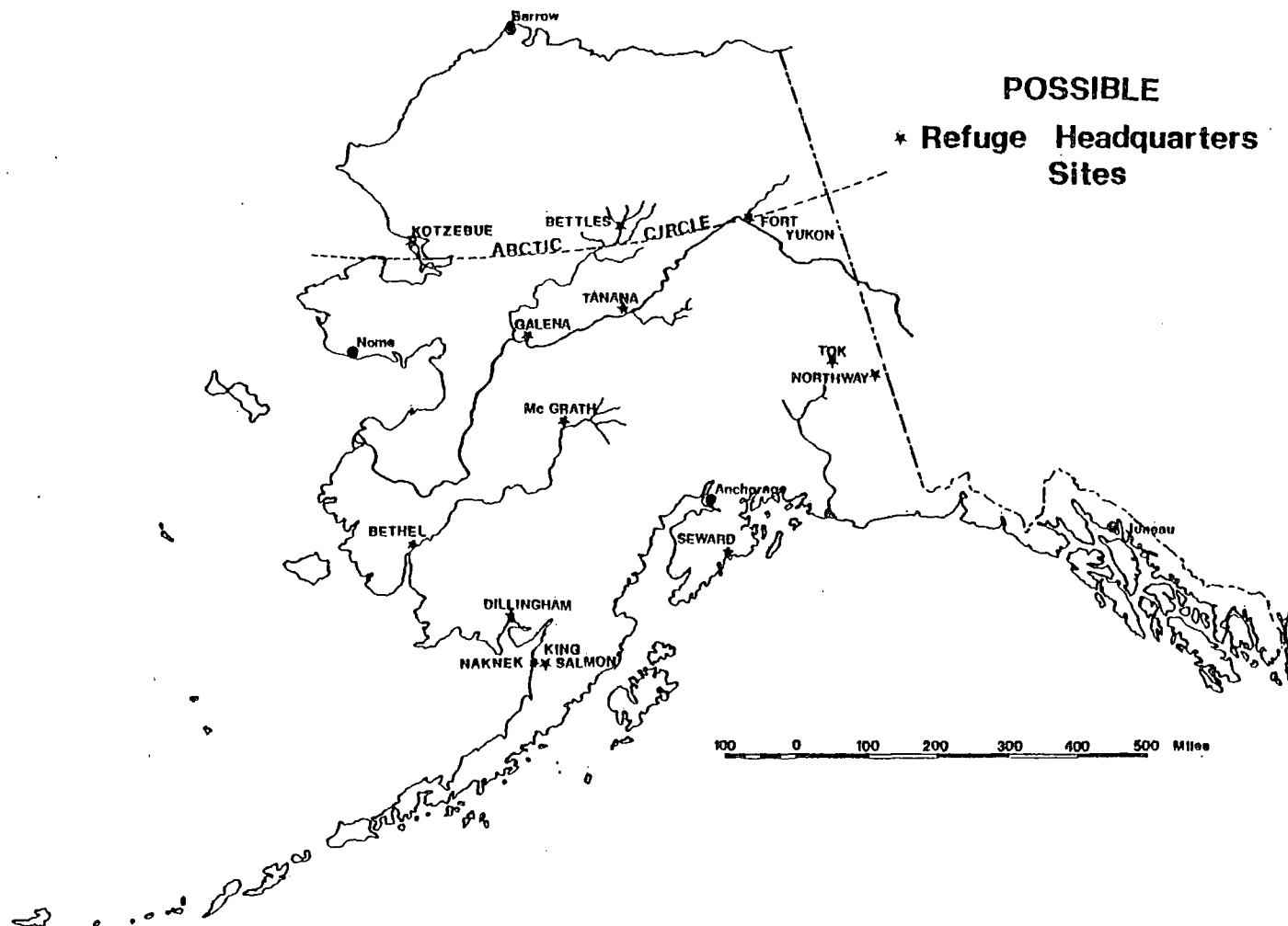
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		Municipal Classification	Housing	Running Water	Storm Sewer	Electricity	Air	Land	Water	Hospital	Clinic	Doctor	Nurse or A.N.	1-6	1-12	State Employees Pay Differential	Land Use Plan
BETHEL	2nd	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	27		
BETTLES		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	31		
DILLINGHAM	1st	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	23	●	
FORT YUKON	2nd	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	31	●	
GALENA	1st	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	31		
HOMER	1st	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	6		
KING SALMON		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	23		
NAKNEK	2nd	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	31		
KOTZEBUE	2nd	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	31		
Mc GRATH	2nd	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	31		
NORTHWAY		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12		
SEWARD	1st	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	6		
TANANA	2nd	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	31		
TOK		●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	12		

COMMUNITY DATA

- EXISTS
- LIMITED FACILITIES
- ★ % HIGHER THAN ANCHORAGE



BETHEL DATA SHEET

LOCATION: Bethel is situated on the Kuskokwim River about 80 miles upstream from the river's mouth. The community is 420 miles west of Anchorage and 400 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

POPULATION: The present population numbers around 3,000. Most residents are Native.

CITY GOVERNMENT: Bethel is a second-class city with a council/city manager form of government. Native corporations aid Natives in their activities.

GEOGRAPHY:

Landscape: The meandering Kuskokwim River dominates the Bethel landscape. The river is wide and slow-moving, and little topographic relief surrounds it. There is little vegetative diversity: most of the area is covered with moist and wet tundra and some shrubs, willows and alders along streams. While this might present a bleak appearance to the newcomer, there is much to be said for the beauty of the tundra-covered flat terrain.

Climate: Bethel's climate is transitional between maritime and continental. Temperatures range from -46° to 86°F, averaging 6.1° in January and 86° F in July. The average annual precipitation is around 18.4 inches, including 40 to 50 inches of snow. Freezeup of the river usually occurs around October 29th and breakup occurs seven months later, around May 15th. Winds are common and can create wind chill temperatures of -70°F in the winter.

Wildlife: Fishing is excellent and the immediate area affords good waterfowl, ptarmigan, and small game hunting.

TRANSPORTATION: Bethel has only 14 miles of road, mostly unsurfaced. The Kuskokwim River is used both in summer and winter for access to outlying areas. Wien Air Alaska offers two flights daily between Anchorage and Bethel. Sea-Airmotive also has scheduled flights to Anchorage. Round trip air fare is approximately \$150.00. Air charter services are also available.

HOUSING: Housing in the area is generally poor. Rentals range from \$175.00 - \$300.00 per month for a one bedroom apartment (no sewer or water) to \$250 - \$400 a month for a 1-2 bedroom house (no sewer or water). Housing is in extremely short supply.

SERVICES: The city has a police and fire department. Three state troopers are also stationed at Bethel.

UTILITIES:

Water & Sewage: The water and sewer system operates in two residential areas of the city. Many houses do not have waterlines or sewage hookups. Water is hauled to those houses and honey buckets are used for human wastes. Existing government offices and housing do provide water and sewer lines.

Energy: Most homes have electricity.

Communications: T.V., radio, newspaper.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: A U.S. Public Health Service Hospital is located in Bethel. It is a 42-bed hospital with 16 doctors, 6 dentists, and 80 nursing personnel.

SCHOOLS: Education for grades K-12 is offered in Bethel. The Kuskokwim Community College provides both vocational and academic training, and offers a two-year associate degree program.

ECONOMY: Bethel is a transportation, communication, entertainment, and trading hub for a 75,000-square-mile area. The Department of Community and Regional Affairs estimated the Bethel cost of living to be 107% higher than the U.S. average in 1975. The State of Alaska pays its employees in Bethel 27% higher wages than employees in Anchorage. Three large general stores offer groceries, hardware, clothing, and other miscellaneous items. Because of the high prices, many people order goods from Seattle and have them barged in. The vast majority of employed persons in the Bethel area work in some aspect of public service employment. Public administration, education, hospital and health services, welfare, religious, and non-profit organizations are the major employers.

Many Natives hunt, fish, and trap for at least part of their subsistence.

CULTURAL FACILITIES: There is a library and a museum in Bethel.

RECREATION:

Indoor: There is a movie theater, teen center, gymnasium, and a weekly bingo game.

Outdoor: Snowmobiling, cross-country skiing, boating, fishing, picnicking, and berry picking are all popular activities.

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS: There are 12 churches and numerous community organizations. Community organizations include: Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bethel Film Club, Bethel Council of the Arts, Bethel Athletic Club, Boy Scouts of America, Bethel 4-H Club, and the Dog Musers Association.

SOCIAL EVENTS: The Winter Carnival is the highlight of the Bethel winter social scene. Summer months are spent on river excursions and picnics. The people of Bethel are friendly and there are many spontaneous get togethers.

BETTLES DATA SHEET

LOCATION: Bettles is located on the Koyukuk River 180 miles northwest of Fairbanks, at the northern edge of the Kanuti Flats Refuge proposal. The community is about 30 miles north of the Arctic Circle.

POPULATION: The current population is estimated to be 90 and 35% Native.

COMMENTS: Bettles is actually two distinct communities connected by 1/2 mile of road. Bettles Field is adjacent to the airport and includes primarily FAA employees and thier families. Evansville is a Native community. Because of their proximity, the two towns are usually considered as one and the same.

CITY ORGANIZATION: No formal municipal government exists in Bettles. Community decisions are usually made by consensus during village meetings. A traditional tribal council and the Tanana Chiefs Conference, the regional Native non-profit corporation, represent the native population. Two profit-making Native corporations also serve the village; Doyon is being the regional corporation and Evansville, Inc. is the village corporation.

GEOGRAPHY:

Landscape: The Koyukuk River, numerous streams, old meander scars and alluvial deposits, thousands of shallow lakes and ponds, bogs, and wet tundra meadows dominate the surrounding landscape. The immediate area around Bettles is flat and rolling terrain, but hills and mountains are visible in the distance. Elevations range from 643 feet at Bettles to nearly 7,000 feet in the Endicott Mountains to the north. Boreal forests of scrub spruce cover much of the lowlands and blend with alpine tundra above one thousand feet in elevation.

Climate: The region is characterized by a continental subarctic climate. Temperature extremes are great, and range from a maximum of 85°F in summer to -60°F or colder in winter. The mean temperature at Bettles is below freezing for over half the year. Cold spells of -40°F or colder last from one to several weeks. Precipitation averages about 14 inches annually, and includes about 76 inches of snow. During midwinter, night dominates except for an hour or so at noon, but daylight is continuous in midsummer.

Wildlife: The Kanuti Flats is an outstanding waterfowl area. Principal species include Canada and white-fronted geese, scaup, wigeon, and scoters. Resident big game includes moose, caribou, and brown and black bears. Important furbearers include beaver, muskrat, wolves, wolverine, mink, marten, otter, and fox. Salmon, pike, grayling, and whitefish are also found in the area.

TRANSPORTATION: Bettles is the only community within the refuge proposal. It has a large, lighted airport with a flight service station which operates 24 hours a day. Allakaket and Alatna lie adjacent to the west boundary of the proposal and are the only other communities whose residents use the Kanuti Flats extensively. It is 70 river miles and 40 air miles from Bettles. These villages and Fairbanks, the major service center for Interior Alaska, are the communities refuge employees will be dealing with. Commercial transportation is available daily between Fairbanks and Bettles via light twin-engine aircraft. The one-way cost is \$52.00. Daily flights from Bettles to Allakaket are via single-engine aircraft at a cost of \$18.00. Bettles has the only airstrip within the proposal, so travel within the refuge is by floatplane in summer and skiplane in winter. The Koyukuk River is also an important transportation route. Cars and trucks are found in Bettles, but their use is mostly limited to travel around town, as there are no roads other than a winter haul road.

HOUSING: Bettles has approximately 28 housing units. Most are small (under 800 square feet) log and frame cabins. FAA houses are larger and resemble suburban housing found in Anchorage. Vacancies in Bettles are almost non-existent at this time. It is not known what type of housing will be available for Fish and Wildlife employees.

SERVICES: Bettles has neither local police nor fire protection. Bettles does not have a crime problem and residents do not want any more law enforcement than the regular visits by State troopers. There is a full-service post office in Bettles.

UTILITIES:

Water and Sewage: Most of the domestic water is supplied by individual wells and is of good quality. Some water is hauled in Evansville. The FAA houses have indoor plumbing and flush toilets. Septic tanks are used by the FAA but have caused problems of surfacing effluents. Many other village homes offer the same conveniences as the FAA houses, although some households use privies.

Energy: Electricity for Bettles is supplied by a diesel generator. Fuel oil is used to heat homes and sells for about \$1.60 a gallon. Gasoline also sells for around \$1.60 a gallon. About 70% of the village residents supplement oil heaters with wood.

Communications: Telephone service is good. There is no T.V. reception, and radio reception seems to be good only in the evening. Newspapers are flown in from other towns.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: Bettles has no clinic or local health care facilities. Health service is provided by both the Federal and State Public Health Services. This consists of periodic visits by a Health Service nurse, doctor, and dentist. Medical cases are either transported to the Public

Health Service hospital in Tanana or to hospitals in Fairbanks or Anchorage. This transportation can be made via scheduled flights, by chartered flights at \$125 per hour, or, in case of emergency, by a medical evacuation plane at \$800 an hour.

SCHOOLS: Bettles has a state school with two teachers and eighteen students in grades 1-8. High school students go to Fairbanks or Tanana.

ECONOMY: The cost of living averages around 15-20% higher than in Fairbanks. There is only one small general store where groceries, clothing, sporting goods, hardware, and other necessary items can be purchased. Selection is limited. The store also has a snowmobile dealership. Many local residents order items through catalogs and stock up on goods when in Fairbanks. Government jobs offer the most employment opportunity in Bettles. FAA and the post office operate year-round and BLM firefighters work seasonally. The State employees also maintain the airport. There is also a lodge which offers lodging and food, and has a small gift shop. This is the office of the local air taxi operation. Many residents depend at least partially on subsistence resources and public assistance.

CULTURAL FACILITIES: The community has no theater, museum, or other cultural facilities. There are community centers both in Bettles and Evansville. The former offers a limited selection of books for reading and an occasional outdated movie shown by FAA personnel.

RECREATION: Nearly all recreation is outdoor-oriented. Outstanding opportunities for hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, climbing, snowmobiling, riverboating, dog sledding, and cross-country skiing exist in the region. However, almost every outdoor activity in the Arctic requires expensive, top-grade equipment. Also, most such recreation requires means of transportation which are very expensive to own and operate or to rent or charter.

SOCIAL INTERACTION ACTIVITIES: Bettles has several community dances and parties to which all residents are welcome.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. TUDOR RD.
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
(907) 276-3800

TO: Future U.S.F.W.S. Personnel in the Bettles Area

FROM: Roger Kaye, Biological Technician
Resource Planning, Anchorage

DATE: July 24, 1978

SUBJECT: Bettles Community

Bettles is a unique community which is difficult to characterize. The airport and its associated activities dominate town life, but the native village element is very evident. Summer can be exciting and stimulating; there is continual daylight and geological and recreational expeditions, hunters, guides, firefighters are all coming and going. Conversely, activity slows during the long and cold winter, and the community can become boring and depressing.

Bettles can be an enjoyable and pleasant community for those who are willing and able to adapt to it. It lies in one of the most wild and pristine regions of the U.S.. Recreational opportunities are outstanding. The community is friendly and far more accepting of newcomers than most in Alaska.

On the other hand there are several aspects of life in Bettles than many would find undesirable. The cost of living is high. Participation in most outdoor activities requires expensive equipment and transportation. Those who find shopping, churches, clubs, organizations, and other such amenities important may find Bettles very limiting. Intellectual influences some people desire may be lacking and socialization patterns are different than those most people from "Outside" are accustomed to.

A person wishing to fit into Bettles must first be accepting of a less sophisticated, more easy-going community and culture. They must not have a superior or elitist attitude, as this can be smelled a mile away. The long and dark winter is best survived by those who are able to find interests and remain active throughout the season.

I think the most important characteristic of the refuge employee from the lower '48 who comes to Bettles would be adaptability. Adaptability to the rigorous climate and lack of familiar conveniences, but more importantly, to people with a different lifeway and relationship to natural resources. A receptive and adaptable person will be welcomed in Bettles, and will find it a satisfying place to live.

DILLINGHAM DATA SHEET

LOCATION: At the confluence of the Wood and Nushagak rivers in western Alaska, the community is 350 air miles southwest of Anchorage.

POPULATION: The population is approximately 1,262 people. A majority of these are Natives.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: Dillingham is a 1st class city with a city council and city manager form of government.

GEOGRAPHY:

Landscape: On generally low-lying ground on the Nushagak River at the head of Nushagak Bay, surrounding terrain is predominantly vegetated with lowland spruce and hardwoods and associated herbaceous plants.

Climate: Dillingham has a transitional climate. Temperatures are cool and rainfall is moderate. Annual precipitation averages 26" and includes 56" of snow. The average freezeup date is November 7th, and breakup averages around May 9th. Summer temperatures range from 37° to 65°F while winter temperatures range from 7° to 30°F. Extremes of -41° and 92°F have been reported. Sunlight and civil twilight vary from about 7 hours in the winter to about 21 hours in the summer.

Wildlife: Fish, salmon, trout, and whitefish are found in quantity in local streams, and shorebirds are commonly noted wildlife. The surrounding area is inhabited by many species of wildlife. Bear are commonly observed mammals. The sockeye salmon run peaks in early July.

TRANSPORTATION: Wien Air Alaska and Kodiak Western Airlines operate scheduled air service among communities in the area, and Armstrong and Yute Air Services offer charter transportation. Other air taxi operators service the area from time to time. One-way fare to Anchorage is \$65.00. Four barge lines make scheduled trips from Seattle and lighterage is available to nearby communities. A maintained local road network affords access to the local airport, Wood River, and Nelsonville and Kanakanak villages.

HOUSING: Housing is fairly tight but some rentals are available. Rates run from \$475 per month for a two-bedroom unit to \$375 per month for a one-bedroom unit.

SERVICES: The city police force has 3 officers and a chief. There is one state trooper and two Fish and Wildlife Protection officers. There is a volunteer fire department.

UTILITIES:

Water and Sewage: Water and sewer services are provided to Dillingham residents by the City of Dillingham. Untreated sewage is discharged into the Nushagak River. Water and sewer service is not provided to outlying residences.

Energy: The Nushagak Electric Cooperative provides electricity to the area. The average electrical cost for a residence is \$60.00 per month. Fuel oil for heating costs \$.59 a gallon. Fuel oil bills in the winter are high.

Communications: Telephone, T.V., radio, newspapers.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: The community has one resident medical doctor and a transient dentist who visits on a periodic basis. The Public Health Service Hospital at nearby Kanakanak is staffed with 4 doctors and 2 dentists.

SCHOOLS: The Dillingham school covers grades 1-12. There are about 400 students and 27 teachers. Native students constitute a majority of the student body. The University of Alaska has an extension center there.

ECONOMY: The economy of the area is dominated by the salmon industry and government employment. Because of dependence on the salmon industry, employment in the area experiences seasonal fluctuations. Reliance on public assistance programs is high. Government agencies offer stable employment. Dillingham is a regional commercial center and has general merchandise stores, a hardware store, a lumberyard, a bank, food stores, liquor stores, and a post office. The Dept. of Community and Regional Affairs estimated the Dillingham cost of living to be 100% higher than the national average in 1975. Many people order food and goods from Anchorage or the lower 48 because of high prices and limited selections.

CULTURAL FACILITIES: There is a public library and movie theater in town. The school also hosts some cultural events.

RECREATION: Outdoor activities include camping, hunting, fishing, and other outdoor sports. Indoor recreation includes the pool hall, youth center, and general get-togethers.

CHURCHES: There are seven established church groups. These are: Catholic, Baptist, Moravian, Russian Orthodox, Latter Day Saints, Assembly of God, and Ba Hai.

SOCIAL EVENTS: The annual beaver roundup is a notable social event.

FORT YUKON DATA SHEET

LOCATION: Fort Yukon is located 140 air miles northeast of Fairbanks and is centrally located within the proposed refuge.

POPULATION: The present population is close to 700. About 90 percent are Alaskan natives.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: Fort Yukon is a 2nd class city with a city council and city manager type of government. An Indian Reorganization Act Native Council deals with Native concerns, as do the village and regional Native corporations.

GEOGRAPHY:

Landscape: The Yukon Flats is a vast flood plain with over 40,000 lakes and ponds scattered throughout. Numerous rivers and creeks meander through the flats to the Yukon River, which bisects the proposal. The area is ringed by mountains - the Brooks Range to the north, the Ogilvies to the east, the Whites to the south and the smaller Ray Mountains to the west.

Vegetation is characterized by a complex interspersion of many community types. Large, unbroken stands of white spruce occur along rivers and well-drained areas. Black spruce muskeg and open bog dominate much of the region. Wild fires have reduced vast areas to seral stages consisting of aspen, birch, or willow. Moist tundra is found in the foothills.

Climate: The region has a continental subarctic climate. Temperature extremes here are among the greatest on earth, ranging from a high of 100°F to a low of -75°F. Warm temperatures are prolonged in summer by continuous sunlight, which is present for three months. In midwinter, darkness dominates for 20-23 hours a day. Cold spells of -40° to -50°F last from one to several weeks. Precipitation averages around 7" and includes 45" of snow.

Wildlife: The Yukon Flats ranks as one of the most important waterfowl areas of North America. Nesting densities for ducks are among the highest in the continent. Fifteen species of ducks, white-fronted and Canada geese, and sandhill cranes nest in the area. Moose, caribou, black and grizzly bear are found in the area. Important furbearers include wolves, wolverine, beaver, muskrat, otter, mink, marten, fox, and lynx. Twelve species of fish are found in the area. Those particularly important to subsistence fishermen include salmon, pike, and whitefish.

TRANSPORTATION: The large size of the Yukon Flats will require refuge managers to do considerable traveling. Light aircraft provide the primary means of transportation to all villages in the Yukon Flats except Circle, which is the northern terminus of the Steese Highway from Fairbanks. No improved road crosses any portion of the Flats proposal. Commercial transportation is available five times daily between Fairbanks and Fort Yukon. The cost is \$40.00. The Yukon River is also used as a transportation route.

Seven communities within and adjacent to the proposed refuge depend heavily on its resources. These include Birch Creek, Stevens, Beaver, Fort Yukon, Venetie, Chalkyitsik, and Circle. The villages are between 20 and 110 air miles from Fort Yukon. Scheduled flights to all villages are available three days a week, weather and runway conditions permitting.

HOUSING: Fort Yukon has 217 housing units, nearly all of which are single-family units. Most of these are built of logs, but many are HUD-provided frame structures that are poorly designed and which seriously detract from the natural character of the rest of the town. Most homes are overcrowded and substandard according to most urban standards. Vacancies are rare.

SERVICES: The city has one local policeman and two reserve officers. A state trooper who is responsible for the region is stationed in Ft. Yukon. The volunteer fire department has one truck and is considered effective.

UTILITIES:

Water & Sewage: Water is obtained from a well, then is chlorinated, filtered, and stored in tanks within the treatment building. A local purveyor provides a water hauling service.

The school and some community buildings are served by a sewer which discharges wastewater into an aerated sewage lagoon. This system is now operating at capacity. Seepage pits, pit privies, and cesspools serve the residences and other buildings.

Energy: Electric power is made available to all residences by Fort Yukon Utilities, a privately-owned company. Voltage fluctuations occur, but otherwise the service is satisfactory. Fuel oil costs around \$.55 a gallon, but gasoline may run as much as \$1.10 a gallon.

Communications: The entire community has telephone service. Television is limited to one channel showing taped programs six hours a day. Fort Yukon receives broadcasts from two radio stations from Fairbanks.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: Ft. Yukon currently has a clinic operated by the Public Health Service. Local health care is provided by a PHS nurse and a state health aid. The nearest hospital is Fairbanks. Emergency medivac service is available 24 hours, except during inclement weather.

SCHOOLS: Ft. Yukon has a state school with 17 teachers and 190 students in levels K-12. Very generally, academic achievement of students is one year behind the national average. The small size of the school system limits extracurricular activities.

ECONOMY:

The economy of Ft. Yukon is based mainly on subsistence hunting, fishing, and trapping and government employment. People find employment at various

government-sponsored activities, particularly during the summer. Private businesses--the utility company, two stores, and two inns--also offer some jobs. In addition, most families receive some financial assistance from state and federal social programs.

The two stores are small and provide a limited variety of goods. Most residents order items through retail catalogs and stock up on goods when visiting Fairbanks.

CULTURAL FACILITIES: The community has a small historical museum. There is no library but some books are available from the school collection. Movies are occasionally shown in the community center.

RECREATION: The area offers many outdoor recreational opportunities, such as boating, canoeing, hunting, fishing, trapping, cross-country skiing, and snowmobiling. For most residents, these activities are more subsistence-oriented than recreational. The Lions Club is constructing a park for ball sports and group activities. The recreation hall at the military base is occasionally open to residents.

CHURCHES & ORGANIZATIONS: The community has an Episcopal church and an Assembly of God mission. Missionaries of other denominations occasionally visit. The only other organizations are an active Lions Club and a dog mushers association.

SOCIAL EVENTS: Dances and parties, to which the entire community is welcome, are occasionally held. Drunkedness often accompanies such activities.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

memorandum

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. TUDOR RD.
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
(907) 276-3800

TO: Future U.S.F.W.S. Personnel in the Fort Yukon Area

FROM: Roger Kaye, Biological Technician

DATE: July 31, 1978

SUBJECT: Fort Yukon Community

Fort Yukon is a regional center in one of the most isolated areas of America. The boreal forest and the open bog country surrounding it are not considered particularly scenic; its uniqueness lies in its remoteness and wild character.

I have found that people whose employment has brought them to Fort Yukon describe it variously. Some appreciate the town's frontier character and become involved in activities, opportunities, and people they are accustomed to and find the long, cold winter boring and depressing. Almost all find their tour of duty in Fort Yukon interesting, but few would like to settle there.

Fort Yukon has more social problems than most communities of similar size in the lower 48. The town is "wet" and alcoholism is the cause of many social ills. Squabbles and factionalism make it difficult for the community to get together to solve its problems. Public safety and school officials find little community support for their programs.

The cost of goods is high in Fort Yukon and the two small stores offer a limited selection of items. Those who find shopping, television, organizations, and other such amenities important could find the community limiting. Outdoor recreational opportunities are outstanding, but many require expensive equipment and means of transportation.

School-age children usually get along well, but must adjust to being a racial minority. School standards are somewhat below the national average, but teachers state that with some help from supportive parents students can keep up.

People from outside who are considering locating in Fort Yukon should be adaptable and ready to accept a community with a different lifeway and relationship to natural resources.

GALENA DATA SHEET

LOCATION: North bank of Yukon River 270 miles west of Fairbanks, 350 miles NNW of Anchorage, and 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

POPULATION: 427 Natives and 204 whites, or 631 total. In addition, the number of military personnel is estimated at 350 (1976). Growth rate appears to be around 10%.

COMMENTS: Galena is actually three communities, which are addressed as one on this data sheet. The three communities are the U.S. Air Force Base, old-town Galena, and new-town Galena. A detailed history of the three will be provided to prospective employees destined for the area.

CITY ORGANIZATION: Galena is a 1st class city with a mayor, a city manager, and other city employees who provide municipal services. Native interests by both village and regional Native corporations. These corporations deal with various Native concerns such as land, health, and education. Their influence on affairs in the area is substantial.

GEOGRAPHY:

Landscape: The meandering Yukon River and its floodplain landscape are the dominant topographic features of the area. White spruce, intermixed with birch, willow and alder, line the natural levees of the river and old oxbows. Black spruce is the dominant vegetation of the muskeg swamps of the area. The immediate area is extremely low in relief, and elevations seldom exceed 200 feet. Low hills, ranging from 600-900 feet in elevation, are visible from the townsite.

Climate: Since it is in the Interior of Alaska, Galena has a continental climate. Because of its location 60° 44' north of the equator, Galena receives widely varying amounts of solar radiation. Winters are cold with long hours of dark, while summers are warm with long hours of light. Reported temperature variations have ranged from -65° F in the winter to 90° F in the summer. The average temperature for January is -10° F, and for July, 60° F. Wind chill factors between -85° and -100° F have been reported. The average annual rainfall is 14". Half falls from May to August during thunderstorm activity. Average snowfall is 56".

Wildlife: Moose, black bears, wolves, beaver, mink, and marten are indigenous mammals. Ducks, geese, and swans nest in the area. Pike, sheefish, and whitefish are caught in adjacent streams. The salmon run begins around June 15th. Mosquitoes are abundant in early summer months.

TRANSPORTATION: Galena is accessible by commercial airlines at a rate of \$70.00 one-way from Anchorage, \$50 from Fairbanks. Travel in the Galena region is by scheduled air taxi, chartered aircraft, riverboat, or snowmachine. Rates for scheduled flights to neighboring villages

are: to Ruby, 40 miles, \$15; to Koyukuk, 30 miles, \$21; to Nulato, 35 miles, \$15; to Kaltag, 55 miles, \$21; to Huslia, 78 miles, \$21; and to Hughes, 105 miles, \$35. There are only 10 miles of roads and no roads connect to the Alaska Highway system. Barge service is available once a week during the summer.

HOUSING: Housing is a scarce commodity in Galena, but adequate housing will probably be available for new personnel. Initial housing will probably consist of units leased by FWS and rented to employees. Many amenities of typical urban housing may be lacking. 5% of the non-government homes have running water, 5% have sewer hookups, and about 100% have electricity. It is not known what type of housing will be made available for Fish and Wildlife personnel.

SERVICES: Adequate police protection is provided by a city patrolman and a state trooper. Problems sometimes arise due to drinking, but otherwise the town is fairly quiet. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service protection officer will probably be present next year. Fire protection is provided to both the city and the Air Force base. A full-service post office operates in town.

UTILITIES:

Water and Sewage: A Public Health Service water plant provides good-quality water after treatment. Individuals can haul their own water at 2.5¢ a gallon or have it hauled for 4¢. The plant is also the location of the community showers and washeteria, which are used by most Galena residents. Domestic sewage is hauled to a common disposal site.

Energy: Electricity is supplied by two 250KW generators with sufficient capacity for the immediate future. Fuel oil at \$.75 a gallon is the basic heat source for homes. Propane is also available. Gasoline goes for \$.90 a gallon at the pump or \$.73 a gallon by the barrel.

Communications: Telephone, T.V., radio, and local and non-local newspapers.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: Health care is provided by a modern, fully-equipped city clinic in cooperation with State and Federal agencies. Care is free to Natives, but a nominal fee is charged to non-Natives. A registered nurse and health aid reside in the village. A Federal public health dentist and doctor visit the village every few months, as does a State public health nurse. The Air Force also has highly-trained medical personnel. Cases that cannot be handled by the clinic are transported to the PHS hospital in Tanana or to hospitals in Fairbanks or Anchorage by scheduled flights, chartered flights at \$125 per hour, or, in the case of emergency, by an emergency medical evacuation plane at \$800 an hour. Tanana is approximately 40 minutes away, and Fairbanks is 60 minutes distant. Women are asked to go to Fairbanks during their last two weeks of pregnancy.

SCHOOLS: Grades 1-12 are offered in a new, well-equipped school. Class sizes range from 6-21 pupils. 170 students are enrolled, and there are 16 teachers. School capacity is 220 students. The current growth rate is 10% per year. Quality of education is fair, and vocational and business courses are taught along with general education courses. Some students complain about lack of preparation for college.

ECONOMY: The economic base of Galena is increasing. Sources of income include construction, State and Federal civil service, military service, air services, and other occupations, such as teaching, trapping, mining, and craftwork. Stores in the area include two general stores and a sporting goods store. Clothing and other small articles are mail ordered, or purchased in Fairbanks or Anchorage. Large items are barged. Grocery prices average around 50% higher than Anchorage prices. An alternative to the high cost of groceries is to order food out of Seattle. There are many recipients of State and Federal aid programs. Incomes are also supplemented by subsistence activities. Seasonal firefighting jobs are a large income source.

CULTURAL FACILITIES: Public library in school.

RECREATION: Outdoor recreation includes hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, trapping, ice fishing, cross-country skiing, basketball, volleyball, and baseball. Indoor activities include pool playing, guitar playing, and dancing and drinking at the Yukon Inn. The Air Force base has movies, and bowling, and tennis facilities which sometimes can be used by Galena residents.

CHURCHES & ORGANIZATIONS: St. John's Catholic church is in town and Protestant services are held on base. The Galena Sports Association is popular but there are few other organizations.

SOCIAL EVENTS: The spring carnival is a festive time with snowshoe, cross country ski, and snowmobile races. Potlatches after funerals are occasions for community get-togethers. Dances at the NCO club and community hall are good times.

AIR FORCE: 350 military personnel. The base is separate from old- and new-town Galena. The base has its own recreation facilities which are usually available to Federal employees. Also, many housing amenities not found in town are found on base. The base will soon be hiring a large number of civilians. Forty new families are expected to move to Galena as a result.

OTHER GOVERNMENT GROUPS: BLM plans to increase its Galena base to be the center for firefighting in Interior Alaska and more seasonal jobs will result. FAA has four full-time positions in Galena, but these may be phased out.

HOMER DATA SHEET

LOCATION: Homer is located on the Kenai Peninsula in Southcentral Alaska. Located on the shore of Kachemak Bay, Homer is 227 miles south of Anchorage by the Sterling Highway and 40 minutes from Anchorage by plane.

POPULATION: A 1977 community profile shows 1,660 persons within the city limits and 6,200 in the greater area.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT: Homer is a first-class city with a council-manager form of government.

GEOGRAPHY:

Landscape: Situated in a lush spruce forest on the shores of the biologically productive Kachemak Bay and offering a expansive view of the Kenai Mountains and their glacier covered peaks, Homer is one of the most beautiful communities in Alaska.

Climate: Homer has a maritime climate, with cool summers and moderate winters. Summer temperatures range from 42° to 59° F, and winter temperatures range from 17° to 42° F. Recorded extremes are -15° and 81° F. Precipitation averages 28" and includes up to 101" of snowfall at higher elevations around town. Light winds are common and extreme winds of 50 knots have been recorded. Summer days are long and winter days are short.

Wildlife: The Homer area is excellent marine habitat. Harbor seals, sea lions, sea otters, and several species of whales are indigenous to the bay. The bay is also known for its excellent crabbing and salmon fishing. Large animals in the area include black bears, moose, and wolves. Bald eagles and grouse are also commonly sighted.

TRANSPORTATION: Homer is accessible by road, air, and water. The community is served by two commercial airlines as well as four air charter businesses. One of the charter services offers helicopter charters. State ferries connect Homer with Seward, Kodiak, and Valdez. The proposed Alaska Maritime Refuge will stretch along 1,600 miles of rugged coastline and numerous different forms of transportation will be used during the course of work. These might include large boats, small boats and rafts, airplanes, and helicopters.

HOUSING: Housing availability fluctuates seasonally. There are few vacancies in the summer and many in the winter. Rents vary with the size and condition of housing, but generally are expensive. Land is available in Homer and much of that land is suitable for housing construction. Land is expensive as Homer is a popular community to live in.

SERVICES: Homer has a police department and a volunteer fire department.

UTILITIES:

Water & Sewage: Water and sewage treatment are provided by the city and are adequate.

Energy: Homer Electric Association provides electricity to the community.

Communications: Telephone, T.V., radio, newspapers.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: Homer has a 17-bed hospital and two clinics. There are two doctors and two dentists.

SCHOOLS: Homer has an elementary school and a high school. There were 324 students and 17 teachers at the elementary school in 1976, and 287 students and 22 teachers at the high school.

ECONOMY: Homer is primarily a fishing and trade center and supports a considerable tourist industry. A bank, grocery stores, retail stores, restaurants, and bars are all found in Homer along with various other businesses and shops. The cost of living is not much more than Anchorage's.

CULTURAL FACILITIES: There is a museum, theater, and library in town.

RECREATION: There is an Olympic-sized swimming pool (in the high school), bowling alley, and theater in town. Backpacking, hiking, fishing, hunting, boating, clamming, cross-country skiing, and other outdoor sports are popular.

CHURCHES & ORGANIZATIONS: There are nine denominations of churches and numerous clubs and lodges.

SOCIAL EVENTS: Homer is a friendly town where people get together frequently. Numerous social events are held during the year.

KING SALMON/NAKNEK DATA SHEET

LOCATION: King Salmon and Naknek are located on the Alaska Peninsula about 300 miles southwest of Anchorage. Naknek is located at the mouth of the Naknek River where it empties into Kvichak Bay. King Salmon is found about twenty miles up the river. The northwest boundary of the Becharof Refuge is 10 air miles south of King Salmon.

POPULATION: Naknek has a population of about, and while King Salmon has a civilian population of about 200 and 400 military personnel on the Air Force Base.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: Naknek is a 2nd class city and is the seat of local government for the Bristol Bay Borough. King Salmon has remained unincorporated.

GEOGRAPHY:

Landscape: King Salmon and Naknek are in nearly flat, slightly rolling tundra. The rugged volcanic terrain of Katmai National Monument and the Aleutian Range lies in the east. Distant mountains are sometimes visible, but cloudy skies usually obstruct the view. Kvichak and Bristol Bays are a dominant part of the regional landscape. The bays are murky, shallow, and surrounded by flat, relatively featureless terrain. Sea ice is a common sight during the winter months.

The tundra of the area is characterized by a wide variety of low-growing shrubs, herbs, grasses, and sedges rooted in a mat of mosses and lichens. Although moist tundra is the predominant vegetation type, dry tundra and occasional stands of spruce and cottonwood occur.

Climate: A transitional climate prevails. Temperatures are cool and rainfall is moderate, with an annual precipitation level of 20". Winter snow accumulations are heavy in the mountains but light along the coast, where high winds and frequent thaws keep the tundra relatively snow-free. Winds of 25 to 35 miles per hour for extended periods of time are not uncommon and can result in windchill and drifting snow. By December, temperatures may fall to -20°F or colder, but rise to +40°F for brief periods. The average winter temperature is about 10°F, and by June temperatures rise into the 70's. Recorded extremes are +85° and -42°F. Sunlight and civil twilight vary from about 7 hours in the winter to about 21 hours in the summer.

Wildlife: The region is known for its dense population of brown/grizzly bear. Other large animals include moose year-round, and caribou during seasonal migrations. Nesting and migrant waterfowl frequent lowlands and small lakes. Bald eagles are also indigenous to the area. Prime salmon fisheries exist in the region.

TRANSPORTATION: Except for the 17-mile road connecting King Salmon and Naknek and the 7-mile road from King Salmon to Naknek Lake, the area is roadless. Air travel is the primary means of transportation. There are daily commercial flights to Anchorage for \$55.00 one-way, and Dillingham for \$22.00 one-way. Transportation between outlying villages is by local air carriers, supplemented by boats during the summer and snowmobiles during winter. Air charter rates run from \$85 to \$100 an hour on wheels and \$125.00 an hour on floats. Freight service by sea is infrequent and unscheduled.

HOUSING: As is the case in many Alaskan villages, housing is scarce and few of the amenities associated with homes in cities are offered. When houses are available, rental costs vary from \$450 to \$650 plus utilities for units ranging from converted quonset huts to 3-bedroom trailers or apartments. Initial employee housing will probably consist of units leased by FWS and rented to employees. Characteristics of such housing are not yet known.

SERVICES: There are no local policemen. One state trooper is based in Naknek and serves most of the Alaska Peninsula. He is not always available. There is also one magistrate residing in Naknek. Fire protection is provided by the Air Force base and a small volunteer fire department in Naknek. Social services are provided in the area by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the State Division of Social Services, and by Native Corporations.

UTILITIES:

Water & Sewage: Domestic water is obtained primarily from individual wells. Some water is hauled. Domestic sewage is disposed of with septic tanks, drain fields, and honey buckets. King Salmon may construct a sewage system.

Energy: Naknek provides electricity for both communities with a diesel generator. Fuel oil is used for heating and sells for about \$.50 a gallon. Gasoline sells for approximately \$.70 a gallon.

Communications: A telephone system exists but varies in quality of service. There are one T.V. station, two radio stations, and local and non-local newspapers.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: There is a State Health Center and a U.S. Public Health Clinic. A public health nurse and a health aide work at the center. A private physician holds clinics in the communities one day each month. A private dentist and optometrist also visit the area periodically. The King Salmon Air Force Base also provides a dispensary type of medical service to people of the area. Medical service is better during salmon fishing seasons when canneries bring in more nurses to treat employees and fishermen on an emergency basis. The PHS hospital in Kakanak, near Dillingham, is the nearest hospital, and is 75 miles

away by air. Cases are also sent to Anchorage. Medical transportation can be costly, ranging from normal commercial air line rates to \$800 an hour for emergency medical evacuation. The nearest helicopter for field rescue is 175 air miles away in Kodiak.

SCHOOLS: The Bristol Bay Borough School in Naknek serves grades 1-12 and one pre-school. There are approximately 282 students and 18 teachers, or about 15 students per teacher. Approximately 56% of the students are Alaska Natives. Opinions of quality of education vary.

ECONOMY: The economy of the area is dominated by the salmon industry and government employment. Because of dependance on the salmon industry, employment in the area experiences pronounced seasonal fluctuations. Bad years for fishing create increased demand for Bureau of Indian Affairs and food stamp assistance to supplement incomes. Government agencies offer the greatest number of year-round jobs. Federal employment in the area is provided by the Air Force, the Post Office, the Federal Aviation Administration, and the National Park Service. State and Borough governments also provide job opportunities. There are three general stores in the area; one in King Salmon and two in Naknek. Also found in the area are a fuel distributor, a hotel, and several restaurants. Food prices are 25% - 50% higher than in Anchorage and the State of Alaska pays its employees in this area 26.5% more than employees in Anchorage to make up for the greater cost of living. Many people order food and other goods from Anchorage or the lower 48.

CULTURAL FACILITIES: The Bristol Bay Historical Museum is in Naknek. Each community has a library with many paperbacks open two days a week.

RECREATION: There is excellent fishing, hunting (primarily by air charter), trapping, and occasional cross-country skiing and snowmobiling. The Air Force base has movies, bowling, a gym, and a hobby shop that may be used by civilian government employees. The NCO club may be used for dining out as can the King Ko Inn.

CHURCHES AND SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS: There are several churches of different denominations. The Lions Club and Katmai Club are both community service groups that sometimes sponsor dances and picnics. Government agency groups tend to be a little clannish. There is little interaction between King Salmon and Naknek except for school-related activities.

memorandum

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. TUDOR RD.
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
(907) 278-3800

TO: Prospective FWS Personnel in the King Salmon/Naknek Area

FROM: Bob Leedy, Fish and Wildlife Biologist

DATE: August 8, 1978

SUBJECT: King Salmon/Naknek Communities

King Salmon is comprised primarily of transient government employees living in compounds scattered along the runway of a small Air Force Base. Naknek is a fishing village with a more stable population inflated during summer by nonresidents, who constitute about 85% of the work force at eight canneries. Although connected by only 17 miles of road, there is little interaction between the two communities; major ties are the school in Naknek and the airport in King Salmon. There is little racial strife due to a long history of commercial activity and mixed marriages. Some jealousies arise over equality of Borough services, and there is some resentment over the better facilities and services provided to some government employees.

It is paradoxical that the greatest unifying force in these and other "bush" communities seems to be independence of thought and belief in individual freedoms. The specter of increased regulation and restriction of accustomed lifestyles can cause greater hostility than almost any other subject. Most residents are ardent hunters and fishermen, and perception of outside pressures affecting local use of the land and its resources causes great resentment. Such matters must be approached with great tact in order to avoid unnecessary confrontation.

New residents desirous of friends usually are accepted rapidly into the communities (especially King Salmon) because new faces and experiences stimulate conversations that are a major form of entertainment in this generally isolated and bleak setting. Frequent wind, rain, cold or swarms of insects require that much time be spent inside waiting for opportunities to travel for work or recreation. The slow pace imposed by weather can be relaxing for those who can adjust to it, but can cause great frustration for individuals who feel compelled to remain active. Flexibility and ability to entertain oneself and one's family are key criteria for life on the Alaska Peninsula.

Excellent fishing and hunting are available in the King Salmon/Naknek area, but boat and/or aircraft are the only means of access beyond the limited road system. Hiking cross-country is virtually impossible without flying to alpine tundra in mountains to the east. Likewise, beachcombing is generally done by plane. Quality of snowmachining and ski touring is highly variable from year to year.

King Salmon and Naknek themselves would not appeal to many people, but they are near some of the most scenic and biologically interesting land in Alaska. Major attraction of work in the Becharof region is field activity away from town; furthermore, local people do not feel that biologists or managers can do their jobs unless working directly with the resources. Potential strains on family life under these circumstances are obvious. Finally, it should be stressed again that the only way for most people to fully enjoy recreation in this area is with aircraft, either privately-owned or chartered. In either case, or with commercial flights to Anchorage and other urban areas, expenses for travel may constitute a significant portion of one's budget in an area with a basic cost of living already over 25% higher than that of Anchorage.

KOTZEBUE DATA SHEET

LOCATION: 550 miles northwest of Fairbanks, 700 miles northwest of Anchorage, about 25 miles by air to the nearest point on the proposed refuge. It is also 25 miles north of the Arctic Circle and only 200 miles from the eastern tip of the Soviet Union.

POPULATION: 2546, and approximately 80-85% Eskimo.

CITY ORGANIZATION: 2nd class city with city manager and 7 council members. The Indian Reorganization Act Council and the Mauneluk Native non-profit corporation represent the native population. Two Native profit corporations also serve the area; NANA is the regional corporation and Kikitagruk Inupiat is the village corporation.

GEOGRAPHY:

Landscape: Located on a spit at the northern tip of the Baldwin Peninsula, Kotzebue's natural landscape may seem rather barren and hostile to the newcomer. The spit is flat, treeless, and surrounded by ice for nearly 2/3 of the year. After breakup arrives, around June 1st, water dominates the landscape. Kotzebue Sound lies in the west, Hotham Inlet in the east, and marshland with numerous lakes on the spit. The dominant vegetation of the area is moist tundra, which is dominated by sedges, lichens and mosses, scattered willows, and dwarf birch. Numerous wildflowers and berry bushes are also present in the landscape. The lack of trees exposes Kotzebue to the full force of climatic elements and often impresses a feeling of foreignness on newcomers.

Climate: Kotzebue has a transitional climate, with long, cold winters and cool summers. During the summer, temperatures average between 40-50°F. An extreme of 85°F has been recorded. Because of the town's location north of the Arctic Circle, the sun does not set for 36 days during the summer. But the long days of summer are followed by long winter months of darkness. The average temperature during winter is between -15° and -20°F. The lowest recorded temperature was -58°F. Winter can last from October to June. Precipitation averages around 11 inches and includes 15 inches of snow. Winds are present both summer and winter. Winds in the winter create both drifting snow and wind chill, which has been reported at -100°F.

Wildlife: There are rodents, ermine, foxes, and occasional moose. Bears and wolves have been reported within 20 miles of town. Sometimes there is a rare sighting of a lost polar bear or walrus, and infrequent sightings of beluga whales. Seals are observed in the Sound. Ravens and ptarmigan are present year-round, and owls, warblers, shorebirds, and waterfowl are present seasonally.

TRANSPORTATION: Other than traditionally-used winter trails, no developed transportation routes exist between Kotzebue and other remote communities and air travel is the lifeline between Kotzebue and other areas. Villages that will normally be visited on refuge business will be: Selawik, 100 miles east; Buckland, 100 miles south; Noorvik, 40 miles east; and Kiana, 60 miles east. Munz Northern Airlines serves the villages daily for \$60 or less. Commercial air travel is provided daily to Anchorage for \$95.56 one-way and to Fairbanks for \$82.20 one-way. Nome is served three times a week for \$43.25 one-way.

Kotzebue has approximately 11 miles of gravel road and over 180 cars, trucks, and motorcycles that make use of them. During the winter, travel is usually by snowmobile around the immediate area. Shipping is also important to Kotzebue's livelihood, but because of ice, is restricted to about 3 months a year.

HOUSING: The housing supply in Kotzebue is very limited. Initial housing will probably consist of units leased by FWS and rented to employees. Rents in Kotzebue are about \$500 or more for one-bedroom apartments and \$600 and up for two-bedroom apartments. Unlike many rural Alaskan communities, 90% of Kotzebue's houses have water and sewer hookups and about 100% have electricity. The dependability of these services is a problem, though, because of climatic conditions.

SERVICES: There is an adequate police force of a chief and seven officers, a volunteer fire department of 28, and an ambulance crew with two vehicles. State employment services, State social services, a public assistance officer, and a motor vehicle office are all located in Kotzebue. There is also a FAA Flight Service station and a Civil Air Patrol, and a magistrate and circuit court.

UTILITIES:

Water and Sewage: The U.S. Public Health Service constructed the water and sewer system used by most of the town at a rate of \$50.00 a month. Problems arise due to winter freezeups. Water is supplied from an inland lake and is said to be "typically murky at best, to brownish in color."

Energy: Electricity is supplied to the community by diesel generator, and \$10.00-a-month bills are minimum. Fuel oil is used to heat most homes. Most households use 2 barrels a month during the winter at a cost of \$60.00 per barrel.

Communications: Telephone, T.V., radio, and local and non-local newspapers.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: The U.S.P.H.S. Hospital has 40 beds. The outpatient fee is \$9.00 per visit presently and will increase to \$50. In-patient fees are \$256 per day for non-Natives. The staff consists of four doctors

2 pharmacists, 2 lab techs, a social worker, and 2 dentists for native patients and for non-Natives in cases of emergency. A State PHS health clinic serves also serves the area. One private dentist is located in Kotzebue. More serious medical cases are sent to Anchorage via commercial airlines.

SCHOOLS: The state school serves K-12, with a ratio of 18 students per teacher in lower grades. Teacher aides are in most classes. The quality of education is rated by parents at from one year behind outside schools to normal. A good basketball program exists. 25% of graduating seniors continue their education at college or trade school. Kotzebue Community College is located in town with courses in many academic and non-academic subjects.

LOCAL ECONOMY: Kotzebue is the gateway to remote villages of Northwest Alaska. Sources of income include: commercial fishing, construction, teaching and school-related jobs, hospital jobs, NANA regional corporation jobs, seasonal tourist industry, seasonal barge unloading. Stores include two general stores offering groceries and general merchandise, a clothing/variety store, three grocery stores, a department store, lumber and hardware store, appliance store, and two gift shops. There are also snowmobile and motorcycle dealers. Marketbasket prices are reported to be 45% higher than Anchorage and 90% higher than Seattle. Large barge shipments and catalog buying are common. There is widespread use of food stamps and other welfare assistance programs. Kotzebue has a primarily cash economy, but outlying villages are more subsistence-oriented.

CULTURAL FACILITIES: There are no movie theaters. The Council of the Arts brings 6 performances yearly of music, dance, theater, mime, etc. There is a small Kotzebue library, and a small museum of relics, artifacts, and cultural items. The NANA museum of the Arctic is also located in Kotzebue.

RECREATION:

Outdoor recreation includes hunting, fishing, canoeing, kayaking, snowmachining, dog sledding, softball, and cross-country skiing.

Indoor recreation includes cable T.V., Bingo, basketball. There are a teen center and senior center.

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS: Friends Quaker, Catholic, Episcopal, Bible Missionary, Baptist, B' hai, Mormon, and Methodist churches and a Church of God are all found in Kotzebue. Local organizations include Service Sorority and the Mother's Club.

SOCIAL EVENTS: Church gatherings are popular. 4th of July festivities, snowmobile and dog sled races, dances, and private get-togethers are all popular social events.

MCGRATH DATA SHEET

LOCATION: McGrath is located 280 miles southwest of Fairbanks and 225 miles northwest of Anchorage on the floodplain of the Kuskokwim River.

POPULATION: McGrath had a population of 296 in 1975, and is estimated to be about 2/3 white and 1/3 Native.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: The McGrath area is not organized into a borough, but the town is a second-class city. Town Council members are elected at large. The Native Corporation, MTNT, manages Native lands and deals with political issues to a limited extent.

GEOGRAPHY:

Landscape: McGrath is located on a flat terrace of the Kuskokwim River, but the surrounding region is gently rolling terrain. Occasional peaks rise above timberline. Spruce intermixed with willow, birch, alder, and aspen dominates the riverbanks and southfacing slopes, and black spruce muskeg covers low-lying areas and northfacing slopes.

Climate: In winter, McGrath receives only 4-5 hours of light each day. and temperatures descend to -50°F many times in December and January. The record minimum temperature is -67°F. The first snowfall can be expected in late September and snowmelt begins in mid-April. The summer months have maximum temperatures in the sixties, and the record high is 89°F. During the summer, twilight continues after sunset, providing almost continuous light. Rainfall averages 16.5 inches per year.

TRANSPORTATION: McGrath is accessible by plane from Anchorage or Fairbanks. Mail flights and chartered aircraft are used to reach surrounding villages. There is one scheduled flight per week to the villages along the Yukon River west of McGrath. Grayling is 160 air miles from McGrath, Anvik 150, and Holy Cross 144. Barges arrive regularly and river boats and snowmachines are considered necessities by most people. There are no roads outside of town.

HOUSING: Most houses are of frame construction, but there are several remarkable log homes also. Most homes are large by village standards and a great deal of pride is taken in their upkeep. However, none are available to rent at the present time. Within a year, a housing project may open homes to lease. Several scattered parcels of land are available.

SERVICES: There is a state trooper on call in Aniak, but there are none in McGrath. Fires are tended by a volunteer staff and an FAA firetruck.

UTILITIES:

Water & Sewage: Water is provided by private wells. Septic tanks and cesspools are used for sewage disposal. The PHS may construct a centralized sewage treatment plant.

Energy: Electricity is available from the Alaska Commercial Company for 13.5 cents per kwh. Fuel costs 79.6 cents per gallon and gasoline costs \$1.00 per gallon.

Communications: Telephone and television service is available. Radio broadcasts can sometimes be received from Anchorage stations..

MEDICAL FACILITIES: There is a registered nurse stationed in McGrath and a highly trained health aid is always on call. Doctors, dentists, and eye doctors make regular visits 2-4 times a year. Air taxi services can evacuate emergency cases to the Anchorage hospital within 40 minutes.

SCHOOLS: The McGrath school offers grades 1-12 and has a current enrollment of 100 pupils and a staff of 10 teachers. Many college preparatory classes are offered, including foreign languages, and several McGrath students have completed college with no difficulty.

ECONOMY: Businesses in McGrath include a sporting goods store, two air taxi services, a small repair shop, a snowmachine and cycle shop, a road house, and the Alaska Commercial Company. Each of these provide income for several local residents. Two bars are located near the airport and three construction firms are present. There is no commercial fishing industry, but subsistence fishing and hunting supplement the incomes of most families. The school, airport, and FAA employ several people.

Costs of most items average 40-100% higher than similar goods in Anchorage. Produce is especially high and only frozen meat is sold.

CULTURAL FACILITIES: There is a public library with a large selection of books, and movies are shown each week by FAA and the school.

RECREATION: Hunting, trapping, fishing, boating, snowmobiling, ceramics, pottery, photography, visiting, and card-playing are common. Volleyball, basketball, and softball are played by almost everyone. Races and dances are held periodically and dog racing is very important to some people.

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS: The Assembly of God has a resident minister, St. Michael's Catholic Church has an itinerant priest, and McGrath Community Church is an interdenominational organization. Ba'hai fireside meetings are held each week. There is a library association and a ceramics club.

SOCIAL INTERACTION: There is considerable community spirit and pride evident in McGrath. Many people stated that they were very pleased with the lack of tension between races or between long-term residents and newcomers. They prefer to see newcomers take an active role in making McGrath a good place to live.

memorandum

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. TUDOR RD.
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
(907) 276-3800

TO: Future USFWS Personnel in the McGrath Area

FROM: Susan Todd, Biological Technician
Resource Planning, Anchorage

DATE: August 3, 1978

SUBJECT: McGrath Community

To many people, McGrath is their ideal of small town life. The citizens are proud of their community and put time into making it a good place to live. They are open to new ideas and developments but wish to preserve the thing they cherish most: their proximity to wilderness. McGrath has many of the necessary facilities such as water, telephones, an airport, and electricity. For these reasons, McGrath would make an excellent headquarters site, although it is at a greater than desirable distance from the proposed refuge.

Those who can enjoy small towns should do well in McGrath. It has many things in common with small towns everywhere. People are friendly, there is a slow pace to life, people tend to help each other on projects, and there are many get-togethers. Still, one must be more self-reliant here than in most communities in the lower 48, and it is very helpful if prospective staff members enjoy the outdoor life, are not afraid of the dark, and hate to see the snow melt. Prices are high, temperatures are sometimes very low, and there are few places to go for entertainment. The mosquitoes are sometimes intolerable and there is little anonymity in a town this size. But for those who wish to become a part of a small community living near a large expanse of wilderness, this should be a good introduction.

NORTHWAY DATA SHEET

LOCATION: Northway is 267 miles southwest of Fairbanks via the Alaska Highway and the 9-mile Northway Road, 62 miles southeast of Tok along the same roads and 400 miles northeast of Anchorage via the Glenn and Alaska Highways and the Northway Road. The Northway area extends from the Canadian Border to Mile 1301 (Tetlin Junction) on the Alaska Highway and south 9 miles along the Northway Road to the native village of Northway.

POPULATION: As of May 31, 1978, there was a total population of 389 in the Northway area; 232 were Native and 157 were non-Native. The majority of the Native population resides in Northway Village, and most of the non-Native residents live about two miles down the road at the Northway Airport community and along the Alaska Highway.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: The Northway area is not organized into a municipality or a borough. The Natives have a village council to handle political, social and cultural matters and a corporation to manage their natural and capital resources as well as to deal with political issues. The white residents either fend for themselves or live in a government housing compound.

GEOGRAPHY:

Landscape: Northway is situated on an undulating alluvial plain containing scattered forested hills, meandering glacial rivers and clear-water streams, abundant thaw lakes, sloughs, and muskeg. Elevations vary from 1679 in the flats to 3100 feet in the Black Hills.

Climate: The Northway area has a continental climate. Summers are moderately warm and dry with average daily minimum and maximum temperatures of 48° and 69°F. The coldest month is January, with average minimum and maximum temperatures of -27° and -10°F. Recorded annual extremes are -72° and 96°F. The average annual precipitation is 11 inches, which includes 37 inches of snow. The amount of sunlight varies throughout the year. Long days with continuous twilight after sunset are characteristic of summer months, but during winter months the sun is above the horizon for only 4-5 hours. Winters are cold and dark. Winds are generally present year-round but are mild.

Wildlife: Close to Northway there is good hunting for moose, sheep and bear, good trapping for furbearers, and good fishing for northern pike, arctic grayling and whitefish. There is excellent waterfowl habitat within an hour's drive.

TRANSPORTATION: Northway is accessible by both car and plane. The community is connected to the Alaska Highway and is served by Coachway and Alaska Yukon buslines every other day during the summer and twice a week during the winter. The highway provides access to many communities that the refuge manager may need to do business with.

Border City is about 34 miles from Northway. Tok is 62 miles away, Tanacross 74 miles, Dot Lake 104 miles, and Nabesna Road is at least 130 miles away. The airport is served by both the twice-a-week scheduled flights of Polar Air and Floyd Miller's charter air service. Tetlin, another community that may be visited by the refuge manager, is a 15 minute flight from Northway.

HOUSING: There is very limited housing for rent or land for sale in the Northway area. Most houses are of log construction. There are a few private frame houses and a frame-construction FAA compound. There are several trailers near the airport. It is not known what type of housing will be available for U.S. Fish and Wildlife employees.

SERVICES: There is one state trooper and one constable in Northway. Federal Aviation Administration personnel run a volunteer fire department.

UTILITIES:

Water & Sewage: Water is provided by a community well in the Native village and by Floyd Miller's well at the airport community. While most homes in the airport community have running water, Native village residents haul their water, as do residents along the road. There is a community laundry and shower in both the Native village and the airport community. Domestic sewage is handled either by drainage fields, privies, honey buckets, or a lagoon. FAA treats their sewage before dumping it into a lake.

Energy: Electricity is provided by Northway Power and Light to houses along the Northway Road. Private generators are necessary along the Alaska Highway.

Communications: There is telephone, T.V. and radio.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: The natives have a health aide and both whites and Natives are served by an itinerant Public Health nurse. Tok has the closest community health clinic with one physician's assistant and a nurse. Hospitalization is available in Glennallen, Fairbanks or Anchorage. Tok has an ambulance and 3 emergency medical technicians that serve Northway. Emergency transportation is costly, since an ambulance or plane must be used. This takes a substantial amount of time.

SCHOOLS: Northway has a new school for preschool through 12th graders. There are presently 91 students with 9 teachers and a principal. Class size ranges from 22 in lower grades to 8 in higher grades, and averages 10. Courses cover the basics of english, math, social studies, and science plus a few courses in bicultural-bilingual studies, home economics, business, and shop.

ECONOMY:

Private employment is limited to the following:

1. Floyd Miller Enterprises at the airport, which includes an air charter service, auto and plane fuel service, cafe, motel, and general store.
2. Stout's Store, a general store with gasoline.
3. Northway Motel and Garage.
4. Lakeview Inn, a bar.

The government employs Federal Aviation Administration personnel, highway maintenance men, customs inspectors, teachers, police, and summer firefighters.

Cost of living is much higher than in Anchorage or Fairbanks. Only groceries and a few basic necessities are available in Northway. Tok has a few additional supplies. Anchorage, Fairbanks, or mail order houses supply many other items...

CULTURAL FACILITIES: The only cultural events are held by the school through the Johnson O'Malley Program.

RECREATION: Winter recreation includes trapping, snowmobiling, hockey, cross country skiing, indoor basketball, pool or foosball, and partying.

Summer recreation includes fishing, camping, tennis, basketball, and inter-village softball.

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS: There is a non-denominational Bible Church and a Pentecostal church in Northway. There is a Homemakers Club, Gun Club, and the Northway Native Village Council and Northway Native Corporation.

SOCIAL INTERACTION: Informal parties.

memorandum

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. TUDOR RD.
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
(907) 276-3800

TO: Future USFWS Personnel in the Northway Area

FROM: Lana Shea, Biological Technician
Resource Planning, Anchorage

DATE: July 24, 1978

SUBJECT: Northway Community

Northway is a challenging environment in which to live. Long-term residents cherish the freedom only possible when a small population lives within a vast, undeveloped land. Many of them depend on natural resources to various degrees and strongly desire to continue their lifestyle of hunting, fishing and trapping. They obtain their cash from either a job in a store, cafe, lodge or gas station, as a highway maintenance man or summer firefighter, from unemployment or welfare, and/or from trapping. Most of the Native people are very shy and private and want nothing to do with whites. A newcomer would have to work at developing a friendship for several years.

The Federal Aviation Administration employs 12 people and around 45 family members live within the F.A.A. compound of frame houses adjacent to the airstrip. These families generally remain from 1 to 5 years. Some of them attempt to become integrated into Northway but for the most part F.A.A. remains a separate group. Most teachers remain only a few years.

People survive the long, very cold, dark winters by trapping and working hard to stay warm, or by keeping busy with a job and personal projects. Social interaction increases during the winter. In summertime the airstrip is alive with small planes and Floyd Miller's air charter, lodge, and cafe businesses keep 10 people busy. Stout's store and the Northway Motel and garage are busy with highway travelers. Some Natives work as firefighters or making birch baskets while others enjoy a more carefree life. Most teachers leave.

USFWS personnel must be prepared to live with the strong anti-government atmosphere and almost universal belief in individual freedom to use the local natural resources. They must also be satisfied living among a very small population, composed primarily of families, with almost no cultural distractions.

SEWARD DATA SHEET

LOCATION: Seward is located on the shore of Resurrection Bay in the Prince William Sound area of Southcentral Alaska. The city is 128 miles south of Anchorage by road and 35 minutes by air.

POPULATION: There were 2,340 people in the greater Seward area and 1,823 within the city limits in 1975.

CITY ORGANIZATION: Seward is a home rule city with a council-manager form of government.

GEOGRAPHY:

Landscape: The rugged terrain of the Kenai Mountains dominates the Seward landscape. The mountains west of Seward seem to rise straight up from the gently sloping alluvial deposits Seward itself situated upon. These mountains reach heights of 4,600 feet and create an awesome sight in the winter when their white slopes contrast the dark blue waters of Resurrection Bay, and the dark green spruce forests found at their base. Numerous rivers and creeks empty into the bay near Seward and contribute their beauty to that of the overall scene.

Climate: Seward has a maritime climate. Annual precipitation averages around 67" and includes 81" of snow. Summer temperatures range from 44° to 63°F and winter temperatures range from 18° to 46°F. Clouds, fog, and wind prevail throughout the area. Severe storms are common, especially in winter. As is common in Southcentral Alaska, summer days are long and winter days are short.

Wildlife: Seward is known for its excellent marine habitat. Harbor seals, sea lions, sea otters, and various species of whales are found in the area. Seward is also known for its salmon runs. Bald eagles, grouse, and ptarmigan are commonly found there. Mountain goats range in the mountains of the area.

TRANSPORTATION: Seward is accessible by road, air, water, and freight train. Commercial air transportation is by small Cessna flights daily to and from Anchorage. Alaska State Ferries connect Seward with Kodiak, Valdez, and Homer. The proposed Alaska Maritime Refuge will stretch along 1,600 miles of rugged coastline, and numerous different forms of transportation will be used during the course of work. These might include large boats, small boats and rafts, airplanes, and helicopters.

HOUSING: Housing in Seward is extremely tight. Development of more housing is expected to be slow because of the natural building constraints imposed by the physical terrain and economic situation.

SERVICES: Seward has a police and fire department.

UTILITIES:

Water & Sewage: Water and sewer services are available in Seward, although there is concern about the system's inadequacy to handle future growth. Freezeup problems are common.

Electricity: Electricity is provided by the city-owned utility.

Communications: Telephone, T.V., radio, newspapers.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: Seward has a 33-bed hospital and the associated clinic has offices for two resident doctors. A Kenai Peninsula Borough report states that the x-ray, laboratory and emergency room space is inadequate to serve the existing population. It states that there is one dentist and a need for one more. There is also a 64-bed nursing home in Seward.

SCHOOLS: Seward has an elementary school and a new high school. 1975 figures showed 338 elementary school students, 195 high school students, and 31 teachers. There are also vocational facilities used by 160 students and 21 teachers in 1975. The University of Alaska has an Institute of Marine Sciences in Seward.

ECONOMY: Seward has long been the southern terminus of the Alaska Railroad. Recently the economy has expanded because of the addition of timber and fish processing industries. There is a bank, hotel, and a limited variety of retail stores, and numerous restaurants and bars. The State of Alaska's 1978 pay scale reflects a 6% higher cost of living in Seward than in Anchorage.

CULTURAL FACILITIES: There are a museum, a theater, and a library in Seward.

RECREATION: Backpacking, hiking, fishing, hunting, boating, clamming, cross-country skiing, and other outdoor sports are popular.

CHURCHES & ORGANIZATIONS: There are 13 churches in Seward and numerous clubs and lodges.

SOCIAL EVENTS: The July 4th Mount Marathon Footrace and the annual Silver Salmon Derby are both big events in the city.

TANANA DATA SHEET

LOCATION: Tanana is located on the north bank of the Yukon River 130 miles west of Fairbanks and 100 miles south of the Arctic Circle.

POPULATION: In the 1976 census, there were 499 people in Tanana, 85% of them Native. This census did not include most of the hospital and FAA personnel.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: Tanana is a second-class city but is not located in an organized borough. Town council members are selected at large. There is a Native corporation, Tozitna, Ltd., established by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971. This is a profit-making corporation. A non-profit organization, the Native Council, was formed to deal with social and political issues concerning local Natives.

GEOGRAPHY:

Landscape: The Yukon and Tanana Rivers dominate the landscape. They cut through rolling hills ranging from 600 to over 3,000 feet in elevation. White spruce intermixed with birch, willow, aspen, and alder line riverbanks and cover south-facing slopes. Black spruce muskeg dominates low-lying areas. The townsite itself is at the 220-foot elevation.

Climate: Tanana has a continental climate with hot summers, cold winters, and little precipitation. The record low temperature is -76°F , and temperatures in December and January average -10°F . Daily minimum temperatures in those months average -18°F . A snow cover of up to 50 inches generally remains until mid-April, and the first snow usually falls in September. Summers are hot and dry. The record high in Tanana is 92°F , while average highs during the summer are in the high sixties or low seventies. Most precipitation falls during August, and the annual total averages 13 inches. Summer days are long and twilight is continuous after sunset, but in winter, there are only 3-4 hours of light each day in December and January.

TRANSPORTATION: Tanana is accessible by riverboats and planes. Daily flights arrive from Fairbanks and Galena, and several cargo planes arrive each week. The Tanana River provides access to Fairbanks and Manley Hot Springs, while the Yukon is used extensively for travel to other villages or to hunting and fishing areas. Galena is 145 air miles away, Ruby 100 miles, and Ft. Yukon 218 miles. Riverboats and snowmachines are considered necessities by most residents.

HOUSING: There are very few places available for rent in Tanana. FAA is releasing some of their houses in Tanana, and three individuals expect to be selling their residences. Some poor-quality land is available north of town, but no other land is open for newcomers at this time. Most houses are very small log cabins, often shared by more than one family.

SERVICES: There is a policeman currently employed by the city. A new fire station is under construction and the fire truck will be operated by volunteers.

UTILITIES:

Water & Sewage: Water is supplied by two public wells and by a few private ones. Only twelve houses in town now have running water. A community water plant is under construction and it will provide water, shower, and laundry facilities.

Most people use outdoor privies, but some use septic tanks. The water plant will include a short sewage line and treatment lagoon for the FAA, hospital, school, and a few houses.

Energy: Electricity is provided by the Tanana Power Plant. Light bills often run \$100 per month at 21¢ per KWH. Most homes are heated with oil, which averages \$150 per month during the winter.

Communications: Telephones are available. One radio station can be received from Fairbanks, but not on a reliable basis. No television is available.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: Health care is available at the Tanana Hospital. Two doctors, a pharmacist, lab technician, X-ray technician, and dietician are on duty 40 hours a week. A dentist comes twice a year. If emergency cases cannot be handled here, they are flown to Fairbanks. The trip requires 50 minutes.

SCHOOLS: Tanana offers grades 1-12 and has 133 pupils. Its capacity is about 200. There are now 10 teachers and a principal. The elementary grades are widely praised for their quality, but the high school is oriented to vocational training so students desiring college preparatory classes attend boarding schools.

ECONOMY: The hospital employs a total of 47 people, 25 of them local. FAA and BLM employ several people. The school, two grocery stores, a sporting goods store, sawmill, power plant, an air taxi service, and a lodge employ several people. Commercial fishing is the mainstay of about 15 people in town. Construction, communications (RCA earth station), and the water plant will provide several jobs.

The cost of living in Tanana is higher than in Fairbanks or Anchorage, and is even high by busy village standards. Groceries cost between 50% to 100% more in Tanana than in Anchorage. Produce and dairy goods are especially expensive. Many people mail order any items they can, but the stores are well-stocked with most common dry goods and groceries.

CULTURAL FACILITIES: There is a public library open one day a week, and movies are held several times each week.

RECREATION: Dog racing, snowmobiling, trapping, hunting, ice fishing, cross country skiing, basketball, boating, and picnics are popular. Bingo, poker, and other card games are played regularly. Hobbies, reading, visiting, and dancing are also important pastimes.

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS: St Aloysius Catholic Church, St James Mission Episcopal Church, and Tanana Bible Church are present. There are no official clubs except the hospital social club.

SOCIAL INTERACTION: There is a fairly distinct division between whites and Natives in town. This does not involve all individuals, but for some, racial tensions lead to difficulties in living in Tanana.

memorandum

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. TUDOR RD.
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
(907) 276-3800

TO: Future USFWS Personnel in the Tanana Area

FROM: Susan Todd, Biological Technician
Resource Planning, Anchorage

DATE: August 3, 1978

SUBJECT: Tanana Community

Tanana is not the best site for a large headquarters at the present time. There is considerable political and social tension which will hopefully find a solution within the next few years. Much of the conflict is rooted in the rapid change occurring in many facets of life and many long-term residents feel that newcomers are responsible. Therefore, bringing in new residents at a time when this attitude prevails may not be prudent. In the meantime, it may be better to operate out of Galena and possibly locate a subheadquarters here in Tanana.

Newcomers who get along best in Tanana are not politically aggressive and are not in competition with local residents for jobs. They are not too attached to the American suburban lifestyle; instead they are willing to forgo things like large modern homes, television, and maybe even running water. They are unusually tolerant, adventurous, and adaptable people who enjoy the outdoor life and know how to entertain themselves without urban amenities. Frequently mentioned advantages of Tanana include quiet, outdoor recreation, learning traditional lifestyles, no traffic, a much slower pace, more self-reliance, and the willingness of neighbors to help each other. Darkness and cold are the most frequently mentioned disadvantages. Other problems include lack of acceptance, difficulty in living near people with drinking problems, high prices, racial tensions, and the lack of any roads.

TOK DATA SHEET

LOCATION: Tok is 206 miles southeast of Fairbanks via the Alaska Highway, 328 miles northeast of Anchorage via the Glenn Highway and the Tok Cutoff, and 30 miles from the northwest corner of the proposed Tetlin Refuge. The Tok area extends along the Alaska Highway from milepost 1301 (Tetlin Junction) to 1324 (Tanacross), north up the Taylor Highway to Chicken and south down the Tok Cutoff to Mile 99. It is about 90 miles to the Canadian Border.

POPULATION: As of May 31, 1978 there was a total population of 763 in the Tok area; 91 were Native and 672 non-Native.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION: Tok is an unorganized community in an unorganized borough. When a group of individuals within the community want a community service, such as a health clinic, they form a nonprofit corporation to satisfy their needs. There is a Chamber of Commerce to promote business interests. When necessary, volunteer groups form to address issues.

GEOGRAPHY:

Landscape: Tok is situated within the Tanana and Tok River valleys and only a few miles north of the Alaska Range. The center of Tok is located on flat, well-drained, forested land underlaid by an old gravel riverbed. The elevation at Tok is 1632'. Rugged mountains and hills with gentle slopes are a dominant characteristic of the regional landscape.

Climate: Tok has a continental climate. Average January minimum and maximum temperatures are -32.1° and -12.4°F . Average July minimum and maximum temperatures are 42.6° and 72°F . Recorded extremes are -59° and 86°F . Mean precipitation over 15 years was about 11 inches including 34" of snow. Daily periods of sunlight and twilight vary from 24 hours at summer solstice to about 7 hours at winter solstice.

Wildlife: Close to Tok there is good hunting for moose, sheep, and bear, good trapping for furbearers, and good fishing for northern pike, arctic grayling, and whitefish. There is excellent waterfowl habitat within an hour's drive.

TRANSPORTATION: Tok is accessible by car because of its location on the Alaska Highway System. The area is served by Coachways and Alaska-Yukon buslines every other day during the summer and twice a week during the winter. The highway provides access to many of the communities the refuge manager may be expected to do business with. Tanacross is 12 miles away, Dot Lake 42 miles, Northway 62 miles, and Nabesna Road 63 miles. The airport at Tanacross is suitable for planes as large as 737's but there are no scheduled flights. However, a private air charter operates from it. Tetlin, another community the refuge manager may be required to visit, is a 15 minutes flight from the airport.

HOUSING: Most people live in frame houses but there are many very nice log houses and a few trailers. Community-supplied estimates in 1976 listed 270 houses. Rental prices are around \$250 per month for a 1-bedroom, \$350 per month for 2-bedroom and \$400 per month for a 3-bedroom house or apartment. Housing is available but scarce. There are small tracts of land for sale at an average of \$3500 per acre. It is not known what type of housing will be available for Fish and Wildlife employees.

SERVICES: There are 6 State Troopers and 1 constable in Tok, and a volunteer fire department with at least 7 men. There is a magistrate in Tok and the district judge visits about once a month.

UTILITIES:

Water & Sewage: Private wells provide good quality water. Domestic sewage is handled by septic tanks, drainage fields, cesspools, and privies.

Energy: Electricity is supplied by Alaska Power and Telephone. Gasoline costs about \$.89 a gallon and fuel oil to fill a 500-gallon tank costs around \$.56 a gallon; \$.69 for a 50-gallon tank.

Communications: Telephone, T.V., radio, and local and non-local newspapers.

MEDICAL FACILITIES: Tok is the location of the health facilities for the Upper Tanana Region. There is a clinic with a physician's assistant and nurse, a Public Health Service itinerant nurse, 1 ambulance, and 3 emergency medical technicians. Hospitalization is available in Glennallen, Fairbanks, or Anchorage. Emergency transportation to either hospital is costly as an ambulance or plane must be used. This takes a substantial amount of time.

SCHOOLS: Tok School serves kindergarten through 12th graders and employs 15 teachers, 2 teacher's aids, and 1 principal. It is the largest school in the Alaska Gateway School District and is a high school for some villagers. Average class size is 16. Courses cover the basics of english, math, social studies, and science, and there are a few courses in bicultural-bilingual studies, business, shop, and home economics. The school is used at night for meetings, recreation, and adult education courses offered by the University of Alaska, Tok Extension Center.

ECONOMY: Tok is a service and trade center for the region's nearly 2000 residents as well as a fuel, food, and lodge stop for tourists during the summer. Many residents trap for a living during the winter and work at a seasonal summer job. Education and government are other important employers.

There are 6 motels, 6 restaurants, 3 general grocery stores, 4 gas stations, 2 laundromats and showers, and 2 nature craft outlets. Anchorage, Fairbanks, or mail-order houses supply many items. Cost of living is very high compared to Anchorage or Fairbanks.

CULTURAL FACILITIES: There is a small state library in the State Tourism Visitor Center.

RECREATION: Winter recreation includes trapping, dog mushing, cross country skiing, basketball, pool, and partying.

Summer recreation includes gardening, swimming, bicycling, hiking, fishing, and partying.

CHURCHES AND ORGANIZATIONS:

Churches: Roman Catholic, Baptist, Assembly of God, Faith Chapel.

Clubs: Tok-a-Tans (homemakers), Dog Mushers, Rod and Gun, VFW.

Organizations: Tok Native Association, United Crow Band, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Chamber of Commerce, Upper Tanana Development Corporation, John Birch Society.

SOCIAL EVENTS: Tok has a 4th of July celebration and an Annual Dog Musher's event in March. There is much socializing in the bars.

memorandum

U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

1011 E. TUDOR RD.
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503
(907) 276-3800

TO: Future USFWS Personnel in the Tok Area

FROM: Lana Shea, Biological Technician
Resource Planning, Anchorage

DATE: July 24, 1978

SUBJECT: Tok Community

Life in Tok depends on whether it is summer or winter. Warm, sunny summers bring seasonal employers and employees and the tourists which support most seasonal workers. Jobs are available. Money flows. Everyone is happy. Long before the darkness of winter has descended upon Tok, the transients have departed and some of the wealthy employers have found a warm refuge. Permanent residents fight against winter depression by trapping, dog mushing, keeping busy with government jobs, school affairs and personal projects, and socializing in the bars. Newcomers in Tok are more easily accepted by the community after they have proven their trustworthiness and intentions to reside in Tok by enduring the winter.

The majority of Tok residents are strongly against development and government. Tok is the subregional center for the Upper Tanana Valley and therefore already has several government social service workers and enforcement agents. The subregion's approximately 2000 residents use Tok as a supply center to various degrees. There is a faction struggling against the isolationist sentiment to promote the incorporation of Tok, community planning, more government programs, gas pipeline economic benefits, etc. Many people are concerned about minimizing the impact of the gas pipeline which will run through Tok. The existence of various organizations reveals the interests of Tok residents. There is an active church going group, John Birch Society, homemakers club, trap shooting group, dog mushers club, Chamber of Commerce, Upper Tanana Development Corporation, United Crow Band, Tok Native Association, and a beginning libertarian movement.

Tok will continue to grow into a larger subregional center and new residents will be accepted if they prove their genuine interest to reside in Tok. Transient government workers will remain outsiders.

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