

2010

Tetlin Community Strategic Plan



Prepared By: Tetlin Village Council &
Tanana Chiefs Conference Planning
Program
December 1, 2010

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Vision Statement

Our mission is to keep and enhance the quality of life for our family of residents by restoring the Native Village of Tetlin to a self-sustainable community that provides a home for our people and that preserves our cultural heritage, values, and our traditional way of life.



Figure 1: Tetlin Bell



Tetlin Village Council

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RESOLUTION NO. 10-09-21 (d)

WHEREAS, the Tetlin Village Council is the duly constituted and legal governing body of the Native Village of Tetlin, Alaska and

WHEREAS, this community plan is important to the future growth and development of Tetlin and,

WHEREAS, this plan was created through a public process which captured the values and goals of our community: and,

WHEREAS, this plan is a tool that helps us manage change in our community, and

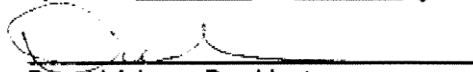
WHEREAS, this plan is intended to coordinate future community development and service deliver, and

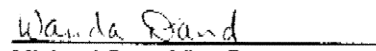
WHEREAS, we ask all public, private, and non-profit entities serving our community to recognize and use this plan, and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: that the parties of this resolution agree to work together to pursue the values, goals, and vision expressed in this plan.

DULY ADOPTED this 21th day of September 2010.

This certifies that the above resolution was duly adopted at a convened meeting of the Tetlin Tribal Council, at which time a quorum was present. This resolution was adopted by a vote 5 for, 0 against, with 0 abstaining.


Donald Adams, President


Michael Sam, Vice President

Executive Summary

Tetlin's Community Plan was a cooperative effort between the Tetlin Village Council and the Tanana Chiefs Conference Planning Department. Tetlin's Community Plan includes an overview of the community including information regarding its history, culture, and population in addition to information regarding its infrastructure and economy. Survey questions that were used to gather community profile information of Tetlin are included in Appendix B. Tetlin's Community Plan also includes a detailed list of community priorities in addition to strategies and steps that the Native Village of Tetlin will take to achieve them. The goals and objectives that are included in this plan reflect top priorities identified by Tetlin Community members during a series of community planning meetings held in the spring and summer of 2010. A detailed list of participants that attended the community planning meeting are included in Appendix A. Special thanks to Kristie Young and Patricia Young for organizing the meetings and Community Plan final review.

Community Planning Process

Tetlin began the Community Planning process in March 22 2010 by holding an open community meeting to discuss the needs and project priorities of the Tetlin Native community. A total of 17 people attended the preliminary meetings. The topics that were discussed included past projects such as the Environmental Program, Solid Waste Management Plan, and a Five Year Community Planning Discussion. Two additional Community Planning meetings, open to the community, were held on June 28 and 29 2010 to discuss and organize the project priorities into goals, objectives, and an action plan. On June 28, 16 people attended the community planning meetings and on June 29, 14 people attended. Project priorities from the March planning session were added to the project priorities discussed in the June 28 and 29 planning session.



Figure 2: Identifying community goals during June community planning meetings.

Community Overview

The information for the community overview was based on information provided by the Community Database Online operated by the Department of Community & Regional Affairs and the 2000 U.S. Census. Statistical information on housing characteristics, population, and employment are based on estimates of the 2000 Census and may not be entirely reflected of the community in Tetlin today. In addition to the Community Database Online and the 2000 Census, community profile information was gathered from community members during the community planning sessions in June of 2010 and Tetlin's supporting planning documents, which include the Solid Waste Management Plan and the Tetlin Tribal Moose Management Plan.

History & Community Overview

The semi-nomadic Athabascan Indians have historically lived in this area, moving with the seasons between several hunting and fishing camps. In 1885, Lt. H.T. Allen found small groups of people living in Tetlin and, to the south, in Last Tetlin. The residents of Last Tetlin had made numerous trips to trading posts on the Yukon River. In 1912, villagers from Tetlin would trade at the Tanana Crossing Trading Post. During the Chisana gold stampede in 1913, a trading post was established across the river from Tetlin. When two trading posts were opened in the village during the 1920s by John Hajdukovich and W.H. Newton, residents from Last Tetlin relocated to Tetlin. A school was constructed in 1929, and a post office was opened in 1932. The 786,000-acre Tetlin Indian Reserve was established in 1930. An airstrip was constructed in 1946. **When the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was passed in 1971, the reserve was revoked. Tetlin opted for surface and subsurface title to the 743,000 acres of land in the former reserve. In 1994, Tetlin Native Corporation transferred a majority of that land to the Villages Council, so 700,000 of that land is now owned by the Village Council.**¹

The Native Village of Tetlin is a federally recognized tribe. The people of Tetlin are Upper Tanana Athabascans with a membership of roughly 300 people. The population of the community consists of 97.4% Alaska Native or part Native. **Tetlin Village Council owns 643,174 acres of the former Tetlin Indian Reserve.** These lands are vital to the cultural and traditional identity and subsistence activities of the Tetlin Tribal members, whom retain a strong sense of pride in their cultural heritage and continue numerous traditional practices. Nearly all families participate in traditional harvest activities throughout the year. Traditional and cultural activities remain a significant resource for food and they also carry traditional and spiritual importance for local residents, which are critical to the cultural, physical and mental health of Tetlin Tribal members. The strength and importance of kinship, social bonds, and ties to the

¹ (Alaska Department of Commerce)

land and wildlife lead many people to prefer residence in the area despite the fact that employment opportunities are normally quite limited.²

Location

Tetlin Alaska is located along the Tetlin River, near the headwaters of the Tanana River in the southeast interior region of Alaska, approximately 230 miles south of Fairbanks and 65 miles from the Alaska/ Canada border. The community lies at approximately 63.137220° North Latitude and 142.516110° West Longitude. (Sec. 29, T018N, R015E, Copper River Meridian.) Tetlin is located next to the Tetlin Wildlife Refuge. It is connected to the Alaska Highway by a dirt road that is 20 miles long.

Geographic & Climate

Tetlin's lands incorporate the Upper Tanana River drainage ecosystem, which consists of complex mixture of geomorphologic and environmental features. In general, the southern boundary of the Upper Tanana Athabaskan was defined by the Wrangell Mountains. This mountain range contains a number of glaciers that serve as the source of the White, Chisana, and Nabesna Rivers, along with their many tributaries. The Wrangell Mountains geographically separates the Tanana River valley from the southern coastal drainages. To the north of the Wrangell Mountains is the Nutzotin Mountain Range which runs parallel to the Wrangell Mountains. The Nutzotin Mountains are not as high in elevations and are not as rugged of terrain. The White, Nabesna, and Chisana Rivers, which are fed from the Wrangell Mountains, cut through the mountain range; therefore the headwaters of these rivers can be characterized as intermountain basins that are on average 4,000 feet in elevation. This terrain abruptly gives way to a broad, flat river valley, which is covered by numerous lakes, ponds, and streams. This terrain is blanketed with spruce trees and forests. The average elevation of the river valley is 2,000 feet. The water in this valley drains into the Tanana



Figure 3: The road leading to the Native Village of Tetlin.

River which follows closely the northern

² (Tetlin Environmental Program & Tetlin Village Council, 2009)

boundary of rolling hills which separate the river valley from the Yukon River drainage³.

Tetlin lies within the continental climatic zone, with cold winters and warm summers. In the winter, cold air settles in the valley and ice fog and smoke are common. The average low during January is -32 °F; the average high during July is 72 °F. Extreme temperatures have been measured from -71 to 99 °F.

Population & Demographics

The unofficial population estimate of 2010 Census in Tetlin is 141 of those 135 are Alaskan Native. According to the 2000 Census the population was 117, the Native population is 97 %, and the median age was 29. There were 75 males and 42 females residing in Tetlin at the time of the 2000 Census.

Governance

Tetlin is a federally recognized tribe which is governed by the Indian Reservation Act (IRA) Village Council. The Tetlin Village Council consists of a seven member council which consists of a president, vice president, secretary, treasurer, and three board members. Council member's terms last for four years, after the four year terms expire elections are held to elect new council members. The Tribal Administration is responsible for delivery a variety of service to the community. Programs and departments include the Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP), Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA), Tetlin Department of Transportation, State and Tribal Response Program which operates the Browns-field Program, Domestic Violence Program, HEAD Start, and AmeriCorps. Other programs operated by the Tetlin Village Council with assistance from Tanana Chiefs Conference Include the Tetlin Clinic and the Alcohol Program.

The Tetlin Village Council has an operational Tribal Court. Council members preside as the court's judges. Tetlin has a constitution with codes and policies that the Council regularly uses. Tetlin's Written Code of Tribal Ordinances was adopted in 1998. Tetlin does not have a Village Peace & Safety Officer (VPSO).

Tanana Chiefs Conference, a non-profit, assists Tetlin in maintaining its health and social services. Tetlin residents and Tetlin Native Corporation did not share in the distributions provided by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) and are not shareholders in the regional corporation, Doyon Limited. Tetlin does not have a regional corporation that represents it and its interests. In 1994 the Tetlin Native Corporation transferred the majority of the 743,000 acres of land allotted to it, to the Tetlin Village Council. As a result the presence and role of the Tetlin Native Corporation in Tetlin today is minimal.

³ (Tetlin Environmental Program & Tetlin Village Council, 2009)

Infrastructure

Housing

The houses in Tetlin were constructed through funds made available through the Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA). Housing statistics listed are based on the 2000 Census and may not accurately depict the number of housing units available and occupied currently. According to the 2000 Census there are 55 housing units in Tetlin 42 of which are occupied, 13 are vacant, and 12 are used seasonally. Of those 55 units 27 are owned by the occupants, the median value of the houses is \$110,900. Fifteen people rent homes and pay an average of \$369 a month. Of the 42 occupied households the average size is 2.79 people per household. There are 26 households that have families with an average of 3.46 people per household. There are 16 households that do not have families. Eighty percent of the households lack indoor plumbing.⁴ Tetlin has twenty eight houses on a haul system with twelve houses having a working sewer system. A number of homes have had water and sewer installed but due to lack of maintenance they are in disrepair. Between 1999 and 2000, 14 new homes were built in Tetlin and 20 homes were rehabilitated through the Inferior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA). One home received improvements after fire damage. Through Tanana Chiefs Conference housing program, 11 homes were rehabilitated.

Public Facilities

Public Utilities

The local landfill initially was certified as a class 3 landfill. At this time Tetlin's landfill needs to complete it certification renewal. The landfill is operated by the Village Council. The landfill was established in 2002. The current land fill consists of an open trench surrounded by a fence and is projected to last for 20 years if properly managed. The 20-year projection is based on an estimate population of 150 people with a 1.4 annual growth rate. Waste products are to include only domestic solid waste and limited construction and demolition waste. The existing landfill runs on a self haul basis. There is no landfill operator at present, although this is a decided need identified by Tetlin Community Members. The new landfill is located 500 feet north of the old landfill. Tetlin's Solid Waste Management Plan was completed in 2010. The plan details methods for properly disposing of different types of waste in addition to outlining what is and is not permitted to be disposed of in the landfill.

The power available to the community is provided by Alaska Power & Telephone Company (AP &T). The power is generated in Tok and brought to Tetlin. To reduce the cost and consumption of energy Tetlin hopes to research viable alternative energy sources for Tetlin. These will not replace the existing energy source, but augment it.

⁴ (Alaska Department of Commerce)

There are two wells in Tetlin which are used on a haul system. Waste from homes that have running water is collected by sewage truck and disposed of in the lagoon. The majority of homes in Tetlin are without running water and either dispose of their waste in the lagoon or dump it in their outhouses. Proper disposal of waste has been an issue in Tetlin. Although there are ordinances set forth in Tetlin's Master Water and Sewer Management Plan, identifying an adequate enforcement mechanism remains a priority of the Tetlin Village Council.

Clinic

The Tetlin Health Clinic is operated by Tanana Chiefs Conference. The current clinic facility



Figure 4: Pictured above is the washeteria connected to the health clinic in front.

was constructed in 2002 through funding provided through the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and matching funds from the Denali Commission. The clinic has one full time health aide that offers care for any type of ailment. If there is an emergency or fatal injury patients are medivaced to Tok, Fairbanks, or Anchorage depending upon the severity. Tetlin currently has job opening for an additional health aide.

School

During the school year of 2009-2010 roughly 25 students attended. In 2010 there was one graduate who received a high-school diploma and one student that receive a certificate of completion. Before 2010, the most recent student that received their high school diploma was in 2005. The school employs three teachers and two teacher's aides. Apart from the presence of the K-12 school there are no additional training or educational opportunities within Tetlin. Occasionally there are training opportunities offered by Tanana Chiefs, the Tetlin Village Council, or through the rural campus located in Tok. These trainings are irregular and do not provide any further educational opportunities that would benefit Tetlin's residents. Improving and adding youth programs that are available through the school remains a high priority of the Tetlin community.

Washeteria

The washeteria was constructed between 2000 and 2001 through a joint project between the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and the Tetlin Village Council. The project was funded by the State of Alaska. The Council takes operates the Washeteria, and provides

water to the community. The washeteria consists of showers, washers, dryers and are open to the public. Operating hours are Monday thru Friday 10am to 6pm. The washeteria employs two part time workers that clean and provide customer service in addition to water plant operator.

Store

There is a small snack shop located in the washeteria with limited hours of operation. Tetlin residents travel to Tok regularly for food and supplies. Due to the high prices of goods available in Tok, many residents also make the five hour trip to Fairbanks for groceries.

Community Hall

The Titus David Tribal Hall was constructed in 2005. The hall is used for many events and purposes ranging from community potlatches, church meetings, youth activities, and community meetings. The community hall is equipped with a full size industrial kitchen, large meeting hall, and an upper floor that houses the newly established Tetlin Youth Center.

Bulk Fuel Storage

Currently there is no bulk fuel storage in the village. Northern Energy from Tok comes in periodically to fill the fuel tanks for the school and other public buildings. Delivery services of Northern Energy are inconsistent and unreliable. This poses problems in operating local facilities especially during the winter months. In 2010, during the coldest months between December and March, no delivery truck came to Tetlin. Residents of Tetlin are required to travel to Tok for fuel using fifty gallon barrels. Residents are required to hand-pump fuel from barrels to their homes even in -50° weather conditions when fuel is not delivered.

Transportation

Tetlin is located off of the Alaska Highway making travel in and out of the village by vehicle possible. The road to Tetlin from the Alaska Highway is not always in good enough condition to permit passage to vehicles thus making the use of the locally maintained road seasonal. During heavy rain and breakup the road to the highway becomes very sloppy and hard to travel on. Tetlin is located roughly 20 miles from Tok, a regional hub in the area. 40 Mile Air is the only one airline that travels in and out of Tetlin. The State owns a 3,500'



Figure 5: During heavy rains the road leading to Tetlin and roads within Tetlin become almost impassible with mud. Improving road conditions remains a high priority.

long by 75' wide gravel runway. The village also owns and maintains a 1,700' turf airstrip. There are no scheduled flights to Tetlin however charter flights are available from Tok. Tetlin has a Transit Transportation System that brings people to Tok and from Tok six days a week. The Tetlin Village Council hopes to expand this transportation as to go to Fairbanks and Anchorage for such needs as medical and shopping. The Tetlin Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining and completing the needed road work in their community. Tetlin's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) was most recently updated in 2008 and has been used to complete several road projects. Tetlin's LRTP includes detailed descriptions and routes throughout Tetlin Village Council lands in addition to a comprehensive list of transportation priorities. Tetlin's LRTP is available for review at the Tetlin Village Council office.

Land Management

Tetlin Village Council owns 643,174 acres of surface and subsurface land and the Tetlin Native Corporation owns 100,000 acres of surface and subsurface land. In the future Tetlin hopes to write and adopt a comprehensive land management plan that will, among other things, designate tracts of land for specific purposes and uses. This plan is vital for the future protection of Tetlin's lands.

The Tetlin Village Council, with the financial backing of the Tribal Wildlife Grant through the U.S. Department of the Interior Fish and Wildlife Service, adopted a Moose Management Plan in 2009 to help with the management of its wildlife. The purpose and mission of the plan sets out to "Protect, enhance, and maintain moose populations and habitats on Tetlin Tribal Lands; while maintaining traditional and cultural lifestyles for Tetlin Tribal Members".⁵ Tetlin Village Council is working toward Tribal management on their Tribal lands. Through the Moose Management Plan the Tetlin Village Council hopes to ensure that the moose population is not depleted and there is a guarantee of this valuable subsistence and cultural resource for the use of future generations. One of the projects initiated through the Moose Management Plan includes a moose habitat rehabilitation project which consists of plowing 200 acres of land to help the willows and their root systems to regenerate which is a vital food source for mature moose and young calves alike.

⁵ (Young, 2010)

Economy

Economic Overview

The primary sources of economic activity in Tetlin are through government transfers and subsistence. The majority of economic stimulus is through government transfers which are delivered through a variety of federal and State agencies in addition to grants provided through private foundations. Without government transfers the village of Tetlin would struggle to retain year round employment opportunities. Tetlin is identified as a distressed community according to the Denali Commission's 2010 list of Distressed Communities. In order for a community meet the 2010 criteria of being considered distressed it must meet two out of the following three criteria; the average market income is less than \$14,968 in 2009, more than 70% of residents over the age of 16 earned less than \$14,968 in 2009, or less than 30% of residents over the age of 16 worked the entire year. According to the Denali Commission, in 2009 Tetlin's average earnings was \$8,274, 82.1% of the population had an annual wage below \$14,968, and only 20.2% of the population was employed year round.⁶

Industry & Capital Projects

Industry is limited in Tetlin, much of the economic activity is made possible through government transfers in capital projects. Several large Capital Projects have been completed in recent years in Tetlin including the construction of a new washeteria in 2001, a new clinic in 2002, construction of a new airstrip between 2003 and 2007, and a new landfill in 2002.

Tetlin contracts directly with the Federal Highway Administration and the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA) to ensure that the transportation needs of the Tetlin Community are adequately met. The Tetlin Department of Transportation completes projects according to its Long Range Transportation Plan. The construction and improvement of the road leading to Tetlin from the Alaska Highway has been a consistent source of seasonal employment for some Tetlin residents.

Grants Awarded

In 2009 and 2010 Tetlin was awarded a number of different grants for environmental protection and land management. RurAL CAP awarded Tetlin several grants including funds for their Community Environmental Demonstration Project, Energy Wise Project, Home Fire Safety Project, and Youth Leadership Project. The Alaskans for Litter



Figure 6: Keeping Tetlin clean through recycling and litter control are important projects.

⁶ (Denali Commission, 2010)

Prevention and Recycling (ALPAR) funded a Youth Litter Grant program. The Alaska Gas Pipeline with matching funds from Denali Commission funded the 2010 Youth Leadership Project. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) funded the Tetlin Solid Waste Management Project which was completed in 2010. In 2009 the State and Tribal Response Program, otherwise known as the Brownsfield Program, was initiated. The National Park Service awarded Tetlin a Cultural Preservation Grant which is funding the Tetlin Trails Program. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service awarded Tetlin with the Tribal Wildlife Grant to fund the Tetlin Tribal Moose Management and Restoration Project which was completed in 2008.

Other grants that Tetlin was awarded and successfully completed included the JOM Culture Camp, Physical Activity Grant which was used to fix the baseball field and purchase playground, exercise, and basketball equipment. A tobacco prevention program was funded from 2003 to 2005. The Alaska Mental Health Authority Grant was able to fund a men and women's Wellness Conference in the summer of 2007.

Projects that Tetlin Village Council is currently pursuing funding for include: renovating the Tetlin Native Chapel, demolishing the old outhouses and building new ones, securing a backhoe with a blade for the landfill, securing emergency radios/ base radios, developing an Alternative Energy Strategy Plan. Tetlin would also like to secure a culture preservation grant and a Tribal Court grant. This list reflects the funding priorities at the time this plan was written, but is constantly changing as projects funded and new project priorities emerge.

Available Jobs

Full time, year round employment opportunities in Tetlin are limited. Many of the jobs available to residents are only seasonal. The majority of the year round employment opportunities available in Tetlin are through the Tetlin Village Council, school, and clinic. Seasonal jobs available to Tetlin residents are in construction and firefighting. The Tetlin Village Council is currently in its third year of securing an AmeriCorps volunteers. According to the 2000 Census, 70 persons in Tetlin could potentially be a part of the workforce while only 17 had full time employment.

Income Levels

The employment statistics are based on the 2000 Census and may not accurately reflect income levels in Tetlin accurately today. Unemployment rates are based on those who were actively seeking employment at the time the census was taken and do not account for those who are unemployed but are not actively looking for rate, therefore the actual unemployment rate is slightly higher than what is listed below. Statistics are further based on the Southeast Fairbanks Census Area, which Tetlin is a part of, and not based on the Tetlin community specifically. The per capita income on average is \$7,371, the household median is \$12,250, the median family

income is \$18,750. In Tetlin 46 persons are in poverty or 46.9 % of the population is below the poverty line.

Subsistence

Almost all families in Tetlin take part in subsistence activities throughout the year. Although Tetlin Tribal members harvest a variety of fish and game; whitefish and moose make up the majority of the harvest each year. Whitefish are harvested throughout the summer while moose are harvested primarily in the fall. Tetlin residents depend on their white fish catch and moose harvest to make it through the winter. In addition to being an important food supplement, subsistence practices are essential to Tetlin Tribal members for preserving traditions and cultural values. Tetlin Village Council created and adopted a Moose Management Plan in 2008 to help keep the moose population that Tetlin depends on, healthy and abundant. The last comprehensive data collection on the subsistence harvest was completed in 2004 by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game, Division of Subsistence.

Table 1: Subsistence Harvest

Study Year	Resource	Percent Using	Percent Attempting to Harvest	Percent Harvesting	Percent Giving Away	Percent Receiving	Reported Harvest
2004	All Resources	100	96.8	96.8	61.3	77.4	3318
2004	Non-Salmon Fish	100	96.8	96.8	48.4	61.3	2785
2004	Burbot	58.1	58.1	54.8	19.4	22.6	133
2004	Pike	48.4	45.2	45.2	19.4	19.4	241
2004	Whitefish	96.8	93.5	93.5	41.9	51.6	2214
2004	Humpback Whitefish	96.8	93.5	93.5	41.9	51.6	2214
2004	Large Land Mammals	96.8	80.6	61.3	38.7	74.2	39
2004	Black Bear	0	6.5	0	0	0	0
2004	Brown Bear	0	6.5	0	0	0	0
2004	Caribou	54.8	45.2	32.3	22.6	38.7	16
2004	Moose	93.5	80.6	54.8	35.5	74.2	22
2004	Dall Sheep	3.2	3.2	3.2	0	0	1
2004	Small Land Mammals	54.8	48.4	45.2	25.8	35.5	494
2004	Beaver	9.7	6.5	6.5	0	6.5	3
2004	Hare	25.8	22.6	22.6	16.1	9.7	65
2004	Snowshoe Hare	25.8	22.6	22.6	16.1	9.7	65
2004	Lynx	3.2	3.2	3.2	0	0	2
2004	Marten	3.2	3.2	3.2	0	0	1
2004	Muskrat	48.4	41.9	41.9	16.1	29	401
2004	Porcupine	29	19.4	19.4	9.7	22.6	13
2004	Wolf	3.2	6.5	3.2	3.2	0	9

Information from Table 1 provided by Alaska Department of Fish & Game

Barriers to Economic Development

One of the most significant barriers to economic development is the lack of available employment opportunities within Tetlin. Many residents must leave Tetlin in order to secure year round employment opportunities. Tetlin continuously seeks funds to stimulate economic growth within the village. One barrier to fully taking advantage of the opportunities that do arise is the lack of adequate training among community members in the positions that do come available. Limited opportunities in pursuing higher education and trades certification contribute the barriers to economic development.

Assets

Tetlin's strongest assets lie within the strength of its community. Tetlin is a community that works together, especially during hard times. Tetlin includes youth in its projects and respects the wisdom of its elders. It is a community that works to protect and promote its cultural traditions. Among these traditions is Tetlin's subsistence lifestyle. Tetlin Village has a strong tie to the land. Tetlin Village Council manages nearly 700,000 acres of land. This area possesses a rich and diverse habitat that encompasses lakes, rivers, forested areas and mountains abundant in fish and wildlife.⁷

Potential for Growth

Areas of potential growth and future development include resources such as local residents with trainings and support to own and operated their own fishing and/ or guiding businesses. Tetlin has a tremendous resource with the land that it owns and manages. This resource can be utilized by Tetlin Tribal members as a reliable source of income. Another area for potential development is in a local landscaping business. Although this would only be seasonal it would provide an opportunity particularly for local summer youth employment.

Areas of industrial development include exploring the opportunities for mineral exploration and extraction on Tetlin Lands. Although this process would require close consideration of the effect and benefits to the Native Village of Tetlin it has the potential for securing steady employment for residents.



Figure 7: A traditional food cache.

⁷ (Alaska Division of Fish & Game, 2010)

Table 2: Goals & Objectives

Goals	Objectives
<p>The community of Tetlin provides a well functioning education system for its children with an importance placed on cultural heritage in addition to promoting further educational opportunities and training for its adults.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Encourage open dialogue between Alaska Gateway School District (AGSD) and the Tetlin community to improve the educational opportunities and system.</p> <p>Objective 2: Promote and increase opportunities for college and vocational education.</p> <p>Objective 3: Increase more community and parent involvement in our youth’s education.</p> <p>Objective 4: Begin a student council in school.</p> <p>Objective 5: Establish a student counselor position to support Tetlin students.</p> <p>Objective 6: Ensure that the Head Start Program remains active and available in the community.</p>
<p>To ensure we respect, maintain, and utilize the environment and the land in a healthy, safe, and culturally respectable manner; while ensuring the future of our cultural heritage and way of life.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Create a land use plan and update land use policies.</p> <p>Objective 2: Research and implement alternative energy sources appropriate for the Tetlin community.</p> <p>Objective 3: Implement Tetlin Solid Waste Plan.</p>
<p>Improve and maintain sustainable transportation infrastructure.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Improve and maintain Tetlin roads.</p> <p>Objective 2: Establish and maintain a boat dock on the Tetlin River.</p>
<p>Tetlin is a community that appreciates and respects our traditional way of life and teaches our future generation to carry it on.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Promote language preservation by proactively encouraging cultural activities that bring the community together.</p> <p>Objective 2: Ensure that the cultural and environmental camp continues to educate the community.</p>
<p>To ensure sustainable economic growth that creates and maintains more opportunities for Tribal Members and residents to work and achieve personal, economic, and cultural fulfillment.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Construct a Tetlin cultural center.</p> <p>Objective 2: Promote individual guiding and fishing operations.</p> <p>Objective 3: Help develop and prepare a local workforce.</p>

<p>To improve Tetlin’s available housing structures through providing access to efficient, modern, and affordable homes for Tetlin Tribal members & residents.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Build new homes and improve existing homes.</p> <p>Objective 2: Construct an Assisted Living Center</p> <p>Objective 3: Ensure that all of Tetlin’s homes and facilities are properly weatherized.</p>
<p>To improve, appreciate, provide and maintain a healthy, safe, natural environment for our community to continue our Native culture.</p>	<p>Objective 1: Establish a community garden and personal gardens to promote healthier living and fight diabetes.</p> <p>Objective 2: Update and implement the Master Water & Sewer Plan.</p> <p>Objective 3: Updating and enforce Tribal laws and ordinances.</p> <p>Objective 4: Establish law enforcement in Tetlin to ensure all adopted law ordinances & policies are followed.</p> <p>Objective 5: Promote and establish elder wellness and safety.</p> <p>Objective 6: Construct a new church.</p> <p>Objective 7: Upgrade sewer haul garage.</p>

Goals, Objectives, & Action Plan

Goal 1: Education

The community of Tetlin provides a well functioning education system for its children with an importance placed on our cultural heritage in addition to promoting further educational opportunities and training for its adults.

Objective 1: Encourage open dialogue between Alaska Gateway School District (AGSD) and the Tetlin community to improve the educational opportunities and system.

Action Plan

- Host an open community meeting and invite members from AGSD and the Tetlin School to discuss the educational needs of Tetlin’s youth.
- Schedule regular monthly or quarterly meetings to address needed youth programs available through the school to promote more teacher, parent, and community involvement.

- Work with AGSD to develop educational opportunities for Tetlin students such as after school programs that include homework tutoring & exit exam tutoring, more athletic programs, and vocational programs such as wood shop, welding, and home economics.
- Ensure that there is access to college classes offered via teleconference or internet for interested students.
- Work with school district to create a plan of action to increase student attendance, participation, and quality of education with an emphasis placed on parent involvement and enforcement mechanisms.

Objective 2: Promote and increase opportunities for college and vocational education.

Action Plan

- Work with appropriate agencies to bring opportunities to youth.
- Research and apply for appropriate funding.
- Invite Tok UAF center to inform youth and community of available resources.

Objective 3: Increase more community and parent involvement in our youth’s education.

Action Plan

- Create a memorandum of agreement between parents, teachers, and students.
- Promote teacher involvement through encouraging teachers to meet with parents, attend Tetlin Village Council, and other community functions and events.



Figure 8: Kids at play.

- The school works with council and community to promote activities particularly around holiday and cultural celebrations.
- Establish a Parent Teacher Association.

Objective 4: Begin a student council in school.

Action Plan

- Create interest among students to get involved with school government and activities.

- Establish bylaws and have elections.
- Add a youth representative to the Tetlin Village Council.

Objective 5: Establish a student counselor position to support Tetlin students.

Action Plan

- Research and secure funding for position.
- Work with school and district to provide position in Tetlin.

Objective 6: Ensure that the Head Start Program remains active and available in the community.

Action Plan

- Take steps to reduce the high turnover rate among employees.
- Promote local work force to staff Head Start Positions.

Goal 2: Environment & Land Use

To ensure we respect, maintain, and utilize the environment and the land in a healthy, safe, and culturally respectable manner; while ensuring the future of our cultural heritage and way of life.

Objective 1: Create a land use plan and update land use policies.

Action Plan

- Plan a community meeting to re-visit land use policies.
- Identify land areas for residential housing, subsistence use, and



Figure 9: Writing the Action Plan for community projects.

resources.

- Host a community meeting to discuss policies for implement the Land Use Plan.

Objective 2: Research and implement alternative energy sources appropriate for the Tetlin community.

Action Plan

- Research alternative energy sources that are practical for Tetlin.
- Research and apply for funding to implement alternative energy technology.
- Ensure that alternative energy projects are properly installed and maintained.
- Ensure alternative energy projects are sustainable.

Objective 3: Implement Tetlin Solid Waste Plan while maintaining Waste Management Program.

Action Plan

- Obtain Class III permits for Tetlin’s Landfill by the State of Alaska.
- Research Funding possibilities to hire a permanent landfill operator and obtain program equipment for maintenance.
- Write a grant and submit to appropriate funding source.
- Ensure that human waste is properly disposed of by enforcing policies and procedures established in the Solid Waste Plan.
- Ensure any necessary additional policies to the plan are passed and implemented.



Figure 10: Transit between Tetlin and Tok is available six days a week.

Goal 3: Transportation

Improve and maintain sustainable transportation infrastructure.

Objective 1: Improve and maintain Tetlin roads.

Action Plan

- Make sure the road projects are in compliance with the Long Range Transportation Plan.
- Ensure that the Long Range Transportation Plan is implemented with attention being paid to high priority projects.

- Maintain and expand the services of the Tetlin Transit Service.

Objective 2: Establish and maintain a boat dock on the Tetlin River.

Action Plan

- Host a community planning meeting to discuss the construction and maintenance of a community boat dock.
- Determine an appropriate location for the community boat dock.
- Ensure that necessary permission for the location and construction of the boat dock is passed by the Tribal Council.
- Organize a crew of volunteers to build a boat dock and compile a list of necessary resources needed to construct the dock.
- Hold an annual dock maintenance meeting to ensure that all necessary repairs are annually completed.

Goal 4: Cultural Tradition

Tetlin is a community that appreciates and respects a traditional way of life and teaches future generation to carry it on.

Objective 1: Promote language preservation by proactively encouraging cultural activities that bring the community together.

Action Plan

- Identify local resources and elders.
- Have elders tell stories in the Native language along with recording and documenting interviews.
- Plan community gatherings to learn and practice our Native language, to ensure that our cultural heritage is retained and passed onto our future generation.
- Plan for local language classes to be offered to residents.

Objective 2: Ensure that the cultural and environmental camp continues to educate the community; while promoting the essentials of what makes a community.

Action Plan

- Ensure activities remain relevant and engaging for youth participants.
- Ensure that community support remains strong.

Goal 5: Economic Growth

To ensure sustainable economic growth that creates and maintains opportunities for Tribal Members and residents to work and achieve personal, economic, and cultural fulfillment.

Objective 1: Promote individual guiding and fishing operations.

Action Plan

- Research available options and opportunities for expanding or creating tourism business for Tetlin residents.
- Develop a business plan.
- Develop an economic development plan.
- Implement plan.

Objective 2: Construct a Tetlin Cultural Center.

Action Plan

- Develop master plan that will include blue prints for building structure and what will be included in the cultural center.
- Research and secure appropriate funding.
- Implement Cultural Center Master Plan.
- Provide training for local workforce that will staff the cultural center.

Objective 3: Establish a day care center that would allow young parents the opportunity to work in the day.

Action Plan

- Develop plan of action that includes funding a funding sources, building site, insurance, necessary training and certification, etc.
- Implement the proposed business plan.

Objective 4: Provide and promote workforce development among Tetlin Tribal members.

Action Plan

- Identify areas of training interest within Tetlin.
- Partner with organizations and educational institutions to provide training in areas community members are interested in.
- Research and secure contracts.
- Ensure there is community participation in promoting and developing workforce development trainings.

Goal 6: Housing

To improve Tetlin’s available housing structures through providing access to efficient, modern, and affordable homes for Tetlin Tribal members & residents.

Objective 1: Build new homes and improve existing homes.

Action Plan

- Research available resources both locally and through grants.
- Continue to work with IRHA and other appropriate agencies.
- Establish funding to build homes and rehab older homes.

Objective 2: Construct an Assisted Living Center.

Action Plan

- Research available funding sources (non-profit, federal, state, private, etc.)
- Work with appropriate agencies, including local tribes, for advice on developing a business plan.
- Develop a business plan that identifies an appropriate location for an assisted living center and how the center will be managed and funded including regional and/or local options.
- Apply for appropriate funding for assisted living center.
- Secure necessary funding to send interested community members to necessary and appropriate training to run the assisted living center.

Objective 3: Ensure that all of Tetlin’s homes and facilities are properly weatherized.

Action Plan

- Research funding opportunities for home improvement projects and energy smart projects.
- Develop a Tetlin Energy Conservation Plan that will include strategies to reduce the energy consumption of tribal facilities, homes, and the school.
- Implement the strategies set for in the Tetlin Energy Conservation Plan.
- Continue to utilize available local resources.

Goal 7: Health, Wellness, & Safety.

To improve, appreciate, provide and maintain a healthy, safe, natural environment for our community to continue our native culture.

Objective 1: Establish a community garden and personal gardens to promote healthier living and fight diabetes.

Action Plan

- Identify a location for a community garden.
- Establish a program where individuals that need to complete community work service can volunteer at the community garden.
- Look for donations and funding for the purchase of garden tools, seeds, and rotatiler.
- Host workshops and classes on gardening such as composting and how make nutrient rich soil.



Figure 11: Outhouses are still a common site within Tetlin.

Objective 2: Update and implement the Master Water & Sewer Plan.

Action Plan

- Research and apply for appropriate funding to update the Master Water & Sewer Plan.
- Ensure that the water and sewer is properly installed and maintained.
- Train Tribal members and residents to properly and regularly maintain all water and sewer systems in Tetlin as it is home-owners responsibility.
- Ensure that systems are modern and reliable for the future needs of our community.

Objective 3: Updating and enforce Tribal laws and ordinances.

Action Plan

- Review current Tribal laws and ordinances.
- Hold meetings with community to gather community input and suggestion on needed policies and ordinances.
- Consult with TCC Tribal Government Development Department for any necessary technical support.
- Produce final draft to be reviewed and passed by the Tetlin Village Council.

Objective 4: Establish law enforcement in Tetlin to ensure all adopted law ordinances & policies are followed.

Action Plan

- Research and apply for appropriate funding.
- Develop a plan for law enforcement that includes a Village Peace and Safety Officer (VPSO), Tribal Police, and a Tribal Land Wildlife Protection Officer
- Encourage and promote local workforce to apply for positions.
- Establish relationship with Alaska State Troopers.
- Establish land protection office that includes managing marked boundaries and trespassing signs.

Objective 5: Promote and establish elder wellness and safety.

Action Plan

- Increase knowledge of the needs of Tetlin's elders.
- Promote and encourage local workforce to care for elders.
- Create a plan to protect and care for elders that could be included in the Assisted Living proposal.

Objective 6: Construct a new church.

Action Plan

- Hold community meetings to identify location and type of new church facility that should be built.
- Research and identify resources for constructing new facility.



Objective 7: Upgrade sewer haul garage.

Action Plan

- Identify which upgrades are most needed and prioritize them.
- Research and apply for appropriate funding to complete upgrades.

Figure 12: The old Tetlin Native Chapel is no longer usable and is in need of repairs.

Community Planning Review Process

Annual Review

Each year, the Tetlin Village Council and Council staff will conduct an informal review of its progress in implementing this plan. The review will consist of a written report prepared by Council staff and a work session attended by both Council and Council staff. Ideally the plan review should occur about a month prior to when the Council normally approves its annual operating budget.

Council staff will prepare, from monthly reports, a report summarizing achievements of the previous year, as well as any plan actions that were delayed or not completed, and accompanying reasons. Additionally, Council staff will prepare a list itemizing current grants, upcoming grant proposals, and flagging any current programs that either are reaching the end of a grant period or are in danger of losing funding due to unforeseen budget cuts. These reports will be submitted to the Council at least one week prior to the work session.

During the work session, the Council and Council staff will review the previous year's progress, identify new threats and opportunities, and modify, as necessary, the next year's proposed activities as detailed by the community plan. This plan is intended to be used as a resource guide, and thus is flexible, dynamic and open to changes that will maximize Tetlin's opportunities to achieve the vision that the community has developed.

Five-Year Review

Because of the constant changes that are made to the communities goals and objectives as projects are completed and new priorities are made, the 5 year review will be an ongoing project. The 5 year review will consist of the Council and Council staff undertaking a more comprehensive review of the community plan, and convene at least one open community meeting. The purpose of the meeting will be to present to Tetlin's residents with progress made, as well as obstacles encountered, during the previous five years, revisit the remaining goals, and develop, if necessary, additional ones to replace or augment current goals. Following the community meeting, Council staff and Council will prioritize these goals, develop objectives and actions, and produce a Five-Year Update of the plan. The Five-Year Community Plan and all supporting plans and documents are available at the Tetlin's Village Council office for review by residents, Tribal members and the public.

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Appendices

Appendix A

List of attendants during the June 28th and 29th community planning meetings;

June 28th

Patricia Young- Environmental Director
Kristie Young- Executive Director/ Tribal Administrator
Lydia David- Community Health Aid
Wilbert Gene- AmeriCorps
Trevor Joe- Summer Youth Employee
Ronnie Joe- Tribal Member
Desirae Sam- Tribal Member
Juanita Wilson- Environmental Technician
Theda Joe- Elder
Marissa David- Summer Youth Employee
Diane S. John- Council Member
Cora David- Elder
Roy H. David- Elder
Eva Thomas- Teacher Aide

June 29th

Wanda David- Village Council
Andrew Baker- Tribal Response Program
Tammy Joe- Tribal Member
Kristie Young- Executive Director/ Tribal Administrator
Lydia David- Community Health Aid
Marissa David- TCC Summer Youth Employee
Patricia Young- Environmental Director
Theda Joe- Tribal Member
Bryan Collins- Tetlin DOT Assistant
Trevor Joe- TCC Summer Youth Employee
Diane S. John- Village Council
Juanita Wilson- Environmental Technician
Howard Mermelstein- Director Tetlin DOT
Wilbert Gene- AmeriCorps

Appendix B

List of Community Profile Survey Questions

Community Overview

What important cultural activities does your village have?

Governance

How many members are on the Tribal council?

How many years do council members serve?

How does the election process work?

What projects are run by the Tribal council?

Is there a city?

How many members are on the city council?

How long are there terms?

What departments are ran by the city?

What committees does your city have?

Is there a VPSO

If not, where is the nearest trooper located?

Are there Tribal courts?

Have you adopted a Tribal constitution, and/or codes.

What is the village corporation?

Are there any sub-regional corporations?

Are there any for profit organizations?

Public Facilities and Utilities

Are there any community plans on how run or operate community utilities?

Who runs the water facility?

What percentage of homes have running water?

How is sewage collected and/or disposed of?

Who runs electricity?

What is the village source of electricity?

How many household use electricity?

Who provides telephone services?

Is internet available? If so where?

How does the community manage their solid waste?

Are there any plans to upgrade in the near future?

Is their bulk fuel storage in the community, how much does it hold?

Who has bulk storage fuel tanks in the community; how much do they hold?

Does the community have a local store? What does it sell?

Does the community have a cooperative store, what does it sell?

Clinic

Is there a health aid, if so how many?

What does the health aid treat?

Who runs/ funds the health clinic?

Where are patients referred to when their symptoms can't treated at the clinic?

Education

How many students attended the school this past year?

How many students graduated?

Is there any threat of the school closing?

How many teachers are there?

Are there any additional education or training programs available in the community?

Who provides any additional training?

Are there any youth programs in your community?

Transportation

What is the primary mode of transportation?

How are supplies brought to village (barge, plain)?

Is there a Long Range Transportation Plan?

Capital Projects

What projects are currently going on in your community?

What subsistence activities are most common in your community?

Housing

When was the most recent housing structures completed?

Are there enough homes in your community to meet demands?

Are there any housing projects underway including renovation and construction of new homes?

