

TETLIN COMMUNITY PLAN

2020



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Vision

To provide a healthy, safe and thriving village for the people and to ensure Tetlin is a safe, beautiful and thriving community with happy, healthy and hardworking people and environment. We live by our strong traditions, actively practice our culture and fluently speak the language. We desire to preserve and nurture our subsistence way of life while continuing to be resilient and adapt with the changing world. We are proud to sing and dance in unity with our respected elders who keep the fire burning while empowering youth leaders to carry the torch.

Traditional Values

1. T'oodjht'ay łąą' ts'uunay
Trust in God
2. Ch'ehłaadn' iin udzihchaa.
Respect for others.
3. Niltats' eishye'.
Sharing.
4. Ch'indadn' lin udzihchaa.
Respect for Elders.
5. K'at'ey ch'ats'eneegn.
No gossiping.
6. Ts'įkey iin xaah ts'įtaij'.
Love for children.
7. Noon iin udzihchaa.
Respect for animals.
8. Ts'edloo tah hq̄' hq̄sq̄.
Laughter/Humor.
9. Hq̄chaa t'ey ch'ah ts'etnah.
Hard work.
10. Jah neenann' ts'ą'ee'aa ts'ą' udzihchaa.
Respect for nature.
11. Neekey uszihchaa.
Respect for our village.
12. Naa'elsey chaanji'einih.
Honor hunters' success.
13. Nee'aaneegn' ch'ah hq̄sq̄.
Lanugage.
14. Dineh Shuu ch'idzüeh ch'iliign.
Dancing and Singing.
15. Naholnagn ch'ah' hq̄sq̄.
Story telling.
16. K'aadu' bihq̄liin xaah ts'įtsij'.
Honoring the newborn.
17. Nee'aaniign' chah hq̄sq̄,
Honoring the tradition.
18. Ogn ts'ą' haltsiil ts'ą' udzihchaa.
Respect for other clans.
19. Ogn t'iin iin ts'ą' altsiil ts'ą' hits'etnayh.
Knowledge of family tree.
20. Ts'ehlagn k'eh ch'atsaałeel.
Unity.

Executive Summary

Tetlin's Community Plan was a cooperative effort between the Tetlin Village Council and the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Village Planning and Development Department. During the summer of 2019, Tetlin was awarded a Community Planning Specialist contract by TCC to hire a short-term tribal council employee to update their community plan. In addition to financial assistance for employment, TCC also provided training and technical assistance to the village-based employee during the process.

Tetlin's Community Plan includes an overview of the community including information regarding its history, culture, population, infrastructure, transportation, subsistence, cultural well-being, and economy. This 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 priorities were gathered through an extensive community surveying effort, in which approximately 80 residents were surveyed. The priorities identified during the surveying were later confirmed as accurate during a community meeting. A detailed list of participants that attended the community planning meeting are included in Appendix 2. A special thanks to Kristie Charlie and Rowena Paul for organizing the survey, community meetings, and Tribal Council updates.

Previous Planning Efforts

Tetlin began the Community Planning process in June 24, 2019 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 public meetings were held on June 29, 2019 and August 6, 2019 to discuss and organize the project priorities into goals, objectives, and an action plan. On June 29, 16 people attended the community planning meetings and on August 6, 30 people attended. Project priorities from the June planning session were added to the project priorities discussed in the August Planning meeting.

Community Overview

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 was guided in to the region by a Native guide to the Tetlin People. When Lt. Allen came to Tetlin, he wrote in his journal, “we arrived to a great firing of rifles.” The Tetlin people were expecting him and



Figure 1 Last Tetlin

gave him advice on how to navigate the Tanana River. His time with the Tetlin Natives was recorded in his field journal.

The residents of Last Tetlin had made numerous trips to trading posts on the Yukon River and throughout the region. 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. The location of the trading post was due to the fact that was as far as the steam boat could make it up the Tetlin River. A BIA representative came to the village in 1920 to assess the possibility of a BIA School in Tetlin, he was impressed with the village and the sober lifestyle; the village leaders even built a school prior to his arrival to show that they wanted a school teacher in the village. The BIA representative agreed and a school was opened soon afterwards. The 786,000-acre Tetlin Indian Reserve was established in 1930 by executive order of the United States President. 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 land in the former reserve. In 1998, Tetlin Native Corporation transferred a majority of that land to the Village Council. Now, all lands surface

and subsurface North of the Tanana River within the original Tetlin Indian Reserve Land Boundary is owned by the Tetlin Native Corporation and all lands surface and subsurface south of the Tanana River is owed by the Native Village of Tetlin, which is governed by the Tetlin Village Council.¹ Tetlin Lands are not associated with any regional Native Corporation; it is unique in its land status. Through this course of retaining land rights, Tetlin Tribal Members did not become shareholders of any regional corporation. Today, majority of Tetlin Tribal Members do not hold any regional or village corporation shares, as Tetlin Native Corporation did not open enrollment to new shareholders for many decades.



Figure 2 Today: Native Village of Tetlin

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



Figure 3 Circa 1960s: Native Village of Tetlin

¹ (Alaska Department of Commerce)

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

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 100 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 and it borders the refuge along the Kalutna River. It also located north of the Wrangell – St. Elias National Park and Preserve, thus the Tetlin Tribal Lands are mostly surrounded by Federal Lands. It is connected to the Alaska Highway by a dirt road that is approximately 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 Athabascan 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



Figure 4 The road leading to the Native Village of Tetlin

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 River which follows closely the northern 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.



Figure 5 Manh Choh (Big Lake).Also known as Tetlin Lake on USGS Maps.

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

Governance and Public Administration

Tribal Council

The Native Village of Tetlin is a federally recognized tribe. The people of Tetlin are Upper Tanana Athabascans with a membership of roughly 400 people. Tetlin has approximately 130 people living in the village. Tetlin has a total of 200 active tribal members that live in and around the community, and are involved with the community activities. The population of the community consists of 97.4% Alaska Native or part Native.

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 that the Native Village of Tetlin includes:

- the Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP)
- Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA)
- Tetlin Department of Transportation
- Domestic Violence Program
- Culture/language Program
- Teen Center
- Water and Sewer
- NALEMP
- Youth Program (CTAS)
- Tetlin Tribal Court

Several other small programs, including the Tetlin Clinic and Behavioral Health Aide Program are operated by the Tetlin Village Council with assistance from Tanana Chiefs Conference.

The Tetlin Village Council has an active Tribal Court. With the Tetlin council members preside as the court's judges. Tetlin has a constitution adopted in 1936 with codes and policies that the Council regularly uses. Tetlin's Written Code of Tribal Ordinances was adopted in 1998 and is currently revised sections 1, 2, 3 and 4 of the Public Safety Code. Tetlin has adopted the 1st Public Safety Code in the Tanana Chiefs Conference region. As of 2019, Tetlin currently has 20 employees with a few positions currently open.

Tetlin has a Village Public Safety Officer (VPSO), who is permanently stationed in Tetlin, but the position has been vacant for some time. When the VPSO is not

available, the nearest Alaska State Trooper is located in Tok, which is 25 miles away.

Village Corporation

In 1996, the Tetlin Native Corporation transferred the majority of the 743,000 acres of land allotted to it, to the Tetlin Village Council, both surface and subsurface. Now, all lands surface and subsurface North of the Tanana River within the original Tetlin Indian Reserve Land Boundary is owned by the Tetlin Native Corporation and all lands surface and subsurface south of the Tanana River is owed by the Native Village of Tetlin, which is governed by the Tetlin Village Council. As a result, the presence and role of the Tetlin Native Corporation in the Native Village of Tetlin today is minimal. They still are in existence but have not contributed to the betterment of the village in many years.

Regional Corporation

Tetlin does not have a regional corporation that represents it, nor its interests. 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. In 1971, ANCSA, Tetlin opted out of a Regional Corporation to own surface and sub-surface rights to the land. Tetlin is very unique in its land status.

Regional Non-Profit Corporation

Tetlin works with Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC). TCC is a non-profit organization with a membership of Native governments from 42 Interior Alaskan communities. TCC organizational decisions and services are guided and directed by a full board of directors, who represent and live in the rural villages throughout the region.

Tetlin also works with Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA) for our housing needs. IRHA has the authority derived from both state and federal law. IRHA was formed in 1974 along with thirteen other Alaskan housing authorities to administer programs of the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) throughout the state. IRHA serves the tribes of the Doyon Region, encompassing remote traditional villages, and Alaska's second largest city, Fairbanks.

Public Utilities

Water and Sewer

Only one house in the village has their own working well, which is limited to “brown water,” thus not drinking water. The remaining households use the one community well in Tetlin, which is operated by a self-haul system. There is an emergency backup well located at the school. Since a majority of homes in Tetlin are without running water, residents either dispose of their waste in the lagoon or dump it in their outhouses. Waste waters from homes that have running water are collected by sewage truck every Thursday. Sewage and water services are provided through the Tetlin Village Council. 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.

There is a high need to address the lack of running water in the village.

Communications

Alaska Power Telephone Company provides the services and there is internet available for the community. The majority of Tetlin homes have internet and the tribal offices all have internet access. People also communicate on radios when they are away from the community. There is no cell service in the village.

Solid Waste

Using ICDBG funding Tetlin was able to close their previous landfill in 2002, which was an open dump. The current class III landfill is operated by the Tetlin Village Council. It 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, limited construction and demolition waste. The existing landfill runs on a waste collection system that is operated by the Tetlin Environmental Program (IGAP). There are 15 haul cages distributed around the village that is taken to the dump weekly by the Landfill Operator. The new landfill is located 500 feet north of the old landfill. Tetlin’s Solid Waste Management Plan was completed in 2010. The plan was completed through funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The



Figure 6 Tetlin Environmental Program Waste Collection System

The existing landfill runs on a waste collection system that is operated by the Tetlin Environmental Program (IGAP). There are 15 haul cages distributed around the village that is taken to the dump weekly by the Landfill Operator. The new landfill is located 500 feet north of the old landfill.

Tetlin’s Solid Waste Management Plan was completed in 2010. The plan was completed through funding from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). 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. In 2014, Tetlin purchased a burn box with IGAP funds. Tetlin does not use burn barrels. Tetlin regularly submits to grants to upgrade the dump and fix the dump road, hopefully funding will be available to address the landfill issues. The road is unusable during breakup season.

In 2019, the Tetlin Class III Landfill scored the highest score ever in a landfill evaluation with the State of Alaska. The Tetlin Environmental Program (IGAP) has worked hard and closely with the Tetlin Village Council to implement numerous positive changes to the landfill.

Power/Energy (Bulk Fuel and Electric)

Bulk Fuel

Tetlin does not have any bulk fuel storage tanks. The biggest tanks in the village are the Tetlin Washeteria and the school. The Washeteria has a 5000-gallon tank. Diesel is at \$3.35 per gallon. Tetlin's Primary source of heat is wood. Many residents harvest their own cord wood to burn or buy wood from local vendors.

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; they are the only diesel delivery service within 100 miles of Tetlin. 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.

Electric

The telephone, internet and power services available to the community are provided by Alaska Power & Telephone Company (AP&T). The power is generated in Tok and brought to Tetlin via an underground cable that follows Tetlin Road. There are 48 households that use electricity & power. The cost per Kw/H is 36.32 cents. There are currently no community plans to operate community utilities. There have not been any upgrades for existing electrical infrastructures since 2010, when AP&T got a grant to put a tie-in-line from Tok to Tetlin eliminating the power generator. 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.

Public Facilities

Clinic

The Tetlin Health Clinic staff and clinical equipment is operated by Tanana Chiefs Conference and Tetlin Village Council pays for the operating costs such as fuel, electric, maintenance, janitorial, water and sewer. The current clinic facility was constructed in 2002 through funding provided through the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) and matching funds from the Denali Commission. The clinic



Figure 7 Tetlin Village Clinic

has two full time health aide positions that offer care for minor ailments. If there is an emergency or fatal injury patients are medevacked to Tok, Fairbanks, or Anchorage depending upon the severity. The Clinic has a Pharmacy, office, exam room, dental room, lab room, BHA office, living quarters and the TWDS office. The clinic meets the medical needs of the community.

School

Tetlin School is part of the Alaska Gateway School District (AGSD), which oversees 8 schools in the region. There is only one school located in Tetlin (named Tetlin School) which is a Preschool-12 campus and serves community students. During the school year of 2017-2018 roughly 32 students attended. In 2018, two students received their high-school diplomas. 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. There was a huge disconnect from the school and the community during those years.

The school employs two teachers, two teacher's aides, a cook and janitor. Apart from the presence of the P-12 school there is no additional training or educational opportunities within Tetlin. Occasionally there are training opportunities offered by Tanana Chiefs Conference, 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. Tanana Chiefs Conference and AGSD collaborate to have an effective Pre-school program in Tetlin.

There isn't a threat of the Tetlin School closing anytime in the future. Tetlin has grown the last 10 years. With this growth rate, Tetlin should have more than 10 students enrolled into school. The school provides a meal program to all students and staff. Tetlin School has a high rate of Principal and Teacher turn over. This year the Principal/Teacher is proving more extracurricular activities to the students.

The school was built in the early 1980's. It does not have a childcare facility. In 2012, Tetlin Council got a grant to build a bio-mass heating until to heat the school to save on fuel costs, but currently, the bio-mass heating is not operating due to a number of factors involved.



Figure 8 Tetlin School

The relationship between parents and the school needs to be better improved and positively moving forward. Currently, there is a crack between the school and community, many have opinions on why that is, but the bottom line is that the relationship between the school, parents, community and village council needs to drastically improve for the sake of the youth.

Emergency Services

Tetlin has a Volunteer Fire Department (VFD) made up of individuals in the community. They meet monthly. Tetlin is currently trying to find funding for a fire

truck and a garage to store the truck and equipment. The Tetlin VFD needs to a community training and equipment to better serve the community.

The Village Council has organized group of volunteer members for Search and Rescue team. The team meets monthly and discusses equipment available in case of an emergency; including, boat and motor, trailers and snow machines. Additional funding is required to purchase the equipment needed for search and rescue. They have 25 active members in the search and rescue team. Most recently, the team went up the Taylor Highway north of Tribal Lands to assist in a search and rescue of a Tribal Member from a nearby village.

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 several agencies. The Council operates the Washeteria and provides water to the community.



Figure 9 Tetlin Washeteria

The Washeteria consists of showers, washers, dryers and are open to the public. Operating hours are Monday thru Saturday from 12 pm to 6 pm. There are two showers, four washers and five dryers. The Washeteria employs two part time workers that clean and provide customer service in addition to a water plant operator and 2 laborer/maintenance workers.

Tetlin is working with ANTHC to revisit the 10-year master plan to update and revise the plan to what best fits Tetlin needs because there are several upgrades and maintenance issues to be fixed.

Post Office

Tetlin does not have a US Post Office facility. In 2002, the US Postal Service decided not to continue service to Tetlin. All Tetlin residents now travel to Tok for post office needs. Therefore, residents travel over 50 miles round trip to receive their mail, or to mail out letters and packages. The Tok Post Office is only open 8 am to 5 pm, Monday through Friday, and on Saturday from 9 am to 2 pm. In 2019, the Tok Post Office shortened their lobby hours, as they have been short staffed. Therefore, Tetlin residents have an even harder time making the shortened time frame to collect mail and packages.

Community Hall

The Titus David Tribal Hall was constructed in 2003. The Tribal Hall is used for many



Figure 10 Titus David Tribal Hall

events and purposes ranging from community potlatches, church meetings, vacation bible studies, cultural activities, Council meetings, wellness meetings/activities, youth activities, and community meetings. The community hall is equipped with a full-size industrial kitchen, large meeting hall, and an upper floor that is currently used for storage, or a sleeping place for visitors hosting community activities.

The old Tribal hall referred to as the Community Center and/or Teen Center is used for the Environmental Program, Teen Center, Tribal Court Offices, Domestic Violence Advocacy, and Tribal Administration offices.



Figure 11 Tetlin Community Hall in 1959

Economy

Local Stores and Businesses

There is no store, snack shop, or other small business in the village. 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. Therefore, when community events are hosted, the Village Council usually hires a cook and cook assistant to feed participants and encourage people to stay active in the event or activity. It is essential to provide food to ensure participation at local events.

There are no hotel services of any kind, therefore consultants or other people coming into the village to participate in events or activities that are longer than one day must get a hotel in Tok, which is the nearest town with hotel and restaurant services. This has a direct increase on costs associated with hosting local events and conferences.

Composition of Employment

Full time, year-round employment opportunities in Tetlin are limited, but growing steadily through federal funding opportunities. Many of the jobs available to residents are seasonal and directly related to federal funding and shutdowns. The majority of the year-round employment opportunities available in Tetlin are through the Tetlin Village Council, school, and Tanana Chiefs Conference. Seasonal jobs available to Tetlin residents are in mining exploration, construction and firefighting.

The primary sources of economic activity in Tetlin are through government transfers and subsistence activities. 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.

In 2008, Tetlin started working with Juneau Exploration, based out of Texas, to do mining exploration on Tetlin Tribal Lands. Contango Ore has over the past several years, provided season employment for 10-30 tribal members. In 2015, the Contango Ore announced that they have partnered up with Royal Gold now called Peak Gold, LLC. During the 2014 summer there was no work from the mining exploration and those 10-30 tribal members did not have any season work. Due to Contango Ore looking for partnership, there was no field work available for a couple of seasons. Although, now there is limited, seasonal work available but it is very competitive for local Tribal Members to receive those employment opportunities.

Housing

According to the 2010 Census there are 62 housing units in Tetlin 43 of which are occupied, 19 are vacant, and 11 are used seasonally. A majority of the houses in Tetlin were constructed through funds made available through the HUD, Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA) and approximately three homes were self-made. Since 1998, twenty homes have been constructed using Title 6 loans. Home rehabilitation and weatherization services have been completed by Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) Housing Department. Since 2003 TCC has helped in rehabilitating approximately 20 homes. In 2014, TCC helped with weatherizing approximately 5 homes in the community. Additional home owner assistance was provided by the Tetlin Tribe In 2009, the Tetlin Tribe was awarded funding from the Rural Alaska Community Action Program (Rural CAP) for a home fire safety project. This funding allowed each home to have a fire extinguisher.

Eighty five percent of the households in the community lack indoor plumbing. [1] Tetlin has twenty-eight houses on a haul system with ten 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. In 2014, 5 homes had their water and sewer redone with assistance from ANTHC. Tetlin is working with ANTHC to secure additional funding to re-do more homes. Since the addition of the haul system, many homes did not maintenance their systems and today only a handful are site operable.



Figure 12 Tetlin Main Street. 1959.

Transportation

External Transportation

Tetlin is one of the few rural communities located on the road system. It is located off of the Alaska Highway; at mile marker 1308. Tetlin is located roughly 25 miles from Tok, a regional hub in the area.

The State owns a 3,500' long by 75' wide gravel runway; a new air strip was constructed in the early 2000's. There are no scheduled flights to Tetlin however charter flights are available from Tok. 40-Mile Air is the only one airline that travels in and out of Tetlin. 40-Mile Air provides chartered flights into Tetlin Village.

Internal Transportation

The road connecting Tetlin to the Alaska Highway is susceptible to seasonal weather. During heavy rain and breakup, the road to the highway becomes very sloppy and hard to travel on. The Tetlin Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining and completing the needed road work in their community.

Tetlin has no paved roads, only dirt roads and trails in and around the community. The primary goal of transportation is to maintain and upgrade roads as funding is made available. In 2010, Tetlin upgraded the last 3 miles of Tetlin road and has been upgrading parts of the road every summer. In 2013, all roads within the community were upgraded, except the landfill road.

To ensure progress continues the Tetlin Tribal Council updated their Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) in 2008. Since then 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 public review at the Tetlin Village Council office.

In 2016, the Tetlin Road flooded and was impassable for over a month. The damage was extensive but the road was repaired. In 2017 and 2018, the Tetlin Road flooded again. The flooding is due to the Tanana River overflowing into the old river channel. NOAA told the Tetlin Village to prepare for future flooding events due to the Tanana River migrating into a new river path. In 2019, the Tetlin Road did not flood, but the village is attempting to be ready for future flooding and closure of the road. When the road closes due to flooding, there is no access out of the village, except by airplane and river boat, which makes the community vulnerable to medical emergencies and other incidents.

Land Use and Environment

Land Ownership

Although the Tetlin Tribal descendants lived in the Upper Tanana Valley for tens of thousands of years, according to archaeologists at numerous nearby sites; it wasn't until 1898, that the first non-Native peoples came into the traditional territory of the Tetlin people. That was the beginning of Tetlin People learning that their traditional land that was never "explored" by non-Natives was sold. Their land was "owned" by Russia and "sold" to United States, without any non-Natives ever entering the Upper Tanana region. It was still unexplored and the maps of that time were empty, as the non-Native people didn't know where the headwaters of the Tanana River began.

First contact into the traditional territory of the Tetlin People was in 1898 by Lt. Allen and the two army privates that traveled with him. This was the first documentation of the upper Tanana River.

In 1930, Tetlin People successfully advocated with the President of the United States to create the Tetlin Indian Reserve, by Executive Order of the President.

When the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) was passed in 1971, the Tetlin Indian Reserve was revoked. Tetlin opted for surface and subsurface title to the 743,000 acres of land in the former reserve. In 1998, Tetlin Native Corporation transferred a majority of that land to the Villages Council, so approximately 700,000 of that land is now owned by the Village Council. [1]

The land status and ownership of the Tetlin Tribal Lands are unique for Alaska. No other Tribes in Alaska own as much land as Tetlin with both surface and subsurface land rights.

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.

Tetlin Village Council owns 643,174 acres of surface and subsurface land and the Tetlin Native Corporation owns approximately 100,000 acres of surface and subsurface land. In the future Tetlin hopes to write and adopt a comprehensive land management plan or land use 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”. [1] 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 consisted 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.

In 2019, Tetlin Village Council met with representatives with the Alaska Fish and Game to begin talking and learning about the possibility of introducing Wood Land Bison onto Tetlin Tribal Lands. The Council Members and community present at the meeting were very interested in the idea and wants to work together with the Alaska Fish and Game to pursue introducing Wood Land Bison to Tetlin Tribal Lands.

Geography

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 River which follows closely the northern boundary of rolling hills which separate the river valley from the Yukon River drainage (Tetlin Environmental Program & Tetlin Village Council, 2009).

Parks and Wildlife

Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge borders Tetlin Tribal Lands to the East and was established in 1980 to conserve and manage habitat critical to migratory and resident wildlife for benefit of present and future generations. The Refuge covers 730,000 acres (3,000 km²) and includes snowcapped mountains and glacier-fed rivers, forests and treeless tundra, and an abundance of wetlands. The "Tetlin Passage" serves as a major migratory route for birds traveling to and from Canada, the Lower 48 and both Central and South America.

Wrangell – St. Elias National Park and Preserve borders Tetlin Tribal Lands to the South and was established in 1980 to maintain the natural scenic beauty of the diverse geologic, glacial, and riparian dominated landscapes, to protect the attendant wildlife populations and their habitats, to ensure continued access for a wide range of wilderness-based recreational opportunities, and to provide continued opportunities for subsistence use. It is also the largest national park in the United States and the largest wilderness area in the National Preservation System. Mt. Wrangell, at 14,163 feet, is one of the largest active volcanoes in North America, while Mt. St. Elias, at 18,008 feet, is the second highest peak in the United States.

Surrounding lands also supports a variety of large mammals. Dall sheep occupy the higher slopes while moose feed upon the tender new growth that springs up in the wake of frequent lightning-caused fires. Wolves, grizzly, black bears and many members of three different caribou herds range over the refuge. Two of the six known humpback whitefish sprawling areas of the Yukon River drainage are located within the refuge. Along with caribou and moose, these fish are important subsistence resources for area residents. Arctic Grayling, Northern Pike and burbot are also found in the many streams and lakes. There is no salmon in the region.

Environmental Concerns

In the past ten years, Tetlin has been able to secure a variety of funding to establish a solid waste collection program with solid waste transfer cages, 4-wheeler with trailer to haul the cages, and a burn box system to help reduce waste in the landfill.

One of the major concerns are disposing of human waste, therefore the Council is looking for funding for closing and constructing new outhouses and educating the village about the safety hazards of disposing of human waste. Loose dogs

have been a concern also. The environmental program has been notifying dog owners of the current laws and ordinances about loose dogs.

Tetlin has 5 sites listed as contaminated sites. Four of the five are currently open. Tetlin Utilities Tank Farm was reported in 1989. This site is still active. Tetlin School Pond site was open in 1990 and closed in 1992. A transformer was removed from the pond and the School District filled the pond to make a playground, the water and sediment may be contaminated with PCB's. The Haines-Fairbanks-Pipeline site was approved in 2007 and is still active. These site locations were the basis for the Site Investigations that were conducted in order to determine if petroleum contamination is present along the pipeline. Tetlin Rock Hill Warehouse was open in 2011 and is still active. In 2012-2013 an investigation of the Rock Hill Warehouse property took place at the request of the Tetlin Village Council, through EPA's Targeted Brownfields Assessment (TBA) program. Tetlin NALEMP has a Cooperative Agreement with the Department of Defense to actively mitigate and clean-up old military sites that exist on Tribal Lands, which includes Native Allotments and Tetlin Native Corporation Lands.

The Village Council and residents expressed a great need to establish baseline data for air, water and soil quality. The village needs the data to know what everything was like before the potential impacts of the proposed mine.

Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee

The Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee represents the communities of Tok, Northway, Tetlin, Dot Lake, Tanacross, and Healy Lake. There are three designated seats for Tok, one designated seat for all of the other communities, and one undesignated seat. These communities are located in Game Management Unit (GMU) 12 and Game Management Subunit 20D. The Upper Tanana/Fortymile Advisory Committee is an active committee that meets monthly to discuss local and statewide game and habitat concerns on state and federal levels. At this time, Tetlin's position is Vacant. Tetlin is working on getting a representative to represent our issues and concerns. Many of the local Tribes have not been actively participating in the advisory committee, more resources are needed to educate and advocate for regular participation from the Tribes.

Nearly all households participate in and heavily depend on 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 land and wildlife lead many people to prefer residence in the area despite the fact that employment opportunities are normally quite limited. [2]

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. Blueberries, raspberries and cranberries are picked to make jam and other canned goods. In addition to being an important 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.



Community Well-Being

Youth Services

In 2014, Tetlin received funding from Rasmussen Foundation to upgrade part of the Community center building adding a Teen center. There have been cultural activities for all youth provided weekly at the Tribal Hall, which will be moved into the Teen Center. Tetlin has also been involving youth in the wellness group and other activities. Tetlin encourages the youth to participate in AFN, TCC Convention, Denakkanaaga Conference and leadership trainings. In 2018, Tetlin received the DOJ CTAS Purpose Area 9 funding to develop and implement the Tetlin Youth Program, which focuses on providing tutoring and cultural activities afterschool, while developing and strengthening the connection between the parents, students, community and school. Youth are hired each summer with funding from Tanana Chiefs Conference Youth and Employment Services and Tetlin Village Council. In 2019, 14 youth worked in the summer on locally based projects. The youth expressed at the Community Planning Meetings these past few months that they would like to see a NEW concrete basketball court and baseball field for them to use.

Churches

Tetlin Church was recently completed in the last few years with additional renovations over the last year. In the summer of 2019, a church bell was added to the Top of the church. The Northern Lights Missionary sends a pastor every week to conduct regular services. This is the first time in over 50 years that regular church services are done weekly.

The Tetlin People are happy that the church was completed and many go weekly. There are other religious organizations and groups that travel to Tetlin throughout the year, mostly in the summer months, to host Bible Camps, Women's Retreats, and other such functions for the community.



Figure 13 Tetlin Church

Additional Education

Tetlin offers no local higher education or training programs in the community. Although, Tetlin provides HAZWOPER training and CPR/1st Aide Classes every year, approximately 20 residents attend each year, which is provided through the Tetlin

NALEMP. University of Alaska Interior Aleutians Campus in Tok is the closest education and training program. When funds are available, Tetlin works with UAF to provide classes in Tetlin. The last Training Program Tetlin worked with UAF was in 2019, providing a variety of classes from sewing to human resources. The Tetlin Tribe offers educational scholarships through Tanana Chiefs Conference for tribally enrolled members seeking a degree or certificate.

Community Programs and Services

In 2011, Tetlin Tribal Council was contacted by the Visions Group organization and asked to be a host site for their community service. The Visions Group, a non-profit organization, is a community service program for high school students. Each year a group of about 30 youth and 5 adults come into the community and stay for a month while they complete projects around the community. Since 2011, The Visions Group has helped with building a gazebo by the river, rebuilt the wooden basketball court, helped elders with projects, put together playground equipment, fixed the outside cooking area for potlatches, built benches for the Tribal hall, and do gathering with the youth once a week.

The Upper Tanana Development Corporation, based out of Tok, runs the daily Elder Meal Program. There are approximately 10 local elders that utilize the program. They also provide elders with transportation to Tok weekly for meals, shopping and doctors' appointments. Additional elder assistance is provided through personal care attendants, staffed by TCC or various other organizations.

Tetlin Wellness Committee was recently established and is currently hosting monthly meetings to address a variety of issues in the community. They are attempting to coordinate with the TCC Behavioral Health Program to develop a routine of wellness in the village.



Cultural and/or Seasonal Gatherings



There is an annual week-long cultural camp that is held in June or July each year. The location of the camp is in the village or at the old village site across Tetlin Lake. In the past, anywhere from 80-130 residents and their families have traveled to the old Tetlin site, "Last Tetlin." The Tribe utilizes various funding to help offset the costs associated with travel. Additionally, tribal council staff participate and help during the event.

The week provides a great opportunity for adults and elders in the community to mentor the youth in our traditional way of living. Cultural activities include beading, talking circles, harvesting our food and building things like smoke houses the way it was done a long time ago.



Figure 14 Last Tetlin Village, the traditional village site of the Tetlin People.

A lot of tribal members attend this event as it is right around the time that white fish starts in the creek when it is held in Last Tetlin. Tribal members also talk about what clan they are from and their clan colors. This event is very spiritual and peaceful allowing community members and family to engage.

An Upper Tanana Language Workshop held in 2014 and approximately 70 people attended the week-long event. The late Paul Milanowski, an elder who is fluent in Tetlin dialect, came to Tetlin and taught the language. Copies of a dictionary with the English and Athabascan word forms; translation of the bible; and a compilation of old stories from the region were provided to all attendees and teaches the participants how to read and write the language.



Community Goals and Objectives by Department

Culture and Language Goal:

The Native Village of Tetlin will ensure the future of our cultural and traditional knowledge.

Priority: Increase the knowledge of language, culture and traditional ways by proactively encouraging cultural activities that bring the community together.

Action Plan

- ✓ Continue to host annual Culture Camps and Culture Days
- ✓ Identify and Document traditional resources.
- ✓ Preserving and encouraging traditional harvesting practices.
- ✓ Encourage families to participate together.
- ✓ Monthly activities hosted by Tribe, such as Cultural Nights.
- ✓ Identify local resources and elders.
- ✓ Have elders tell stories in the Native language along with recording and documenting interviews.
- ✓ Plan for local language classes to be offered to residents.
- ✓ Secure more funding to support the increase of knowledge.
- ✓ Host Hunting and Harvesting Camps for all seasons (spring, summer, fall, winter). For example; whitefish run in the summer, moose hunt in fall.

Priority: Encourage Tribal Members to become Cultural Leaders and Teachers.

Action Plan

- ✓ Apply for ANA Language and Preservation Grant to "Train the Trainers."
- ✓ Provide training for cultural leaders and teachers to support the transfer of knowledge to others.
- ✓ Encourage knowledgeable people to participate in local events and activities.

Priority: Preserving traditional knowledge and culture.

Action Plan

- ✓ Document traditional and cultural knowledge.
- ✓ Research and document traditional songs, while learning and teaching how to make new songs.
- ✓ Learn about and document traditional foods and harvesting practices.
- ✓ Provide Cultural Training for boys and girls.
- ✓ Have Elders share their knowledge in the Native language along with recording and documenting interviews.
- ✓ Researching and documentation of traditional medicine and how to make the medicine from local resources.
- ✓ Learn how to incorporate digital technology to preserve culture and tradition.

Elder and Youth Goal:

To ensure the quality of life of the Elders and Youth in the Native Village of Tetlin, but providing meaningful opportunities.

Priority: Increase the number of field trips and campus visits for the youth.

Action Plan

- ✓ Secure funding to take youth on field trips, for learning and recreational purposes.
- ✓ Secure funding to take youth to University of Alaska Campuses throughout Alaska.
- ✓ Secure funding to take youth to the Northern Most Campus to expose them to the Native University that exists in Barrow.

Priority: Promote learning of survival skills, both outdoor survival and survival in today's modern world.

Action Plan

- ✓ Identify local and regional resources.
- ✓ Provide educational workshops and activities.
- ✓ Secure funding to support the priority.
- ✓ Partner with local agencies to educate community.

Priority: Increase the mobility of Elders in the village.

Action Plan

- ✓ Install handicap ramps at all Elder homes.
- ✓ Purchase Elder-Friendly Van to transport Elders to Tok, etc.
- ✓ Secure funding to upgrade Elder homes to be more accessible.
- ✓ Secure funding to provide transportation to Elders to community events and to Tok, where the nearest post office and grocery stores are located.

Housing Goal:

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

Priority: Construct new homes and renovate existing homes for Tetlin Tribal Members and residents of the Native Village of Tetlin.

Action Plan

- ✓ Provide renovations to existing homes from foundations, provide modern appliances, fire extinguishers, and CO2 sensors.
- ✓ Continue to work with IRHA and other appropriate agencies
- ✓ Weatherize homes and Rehab homes.
- ✓ Apply for housing grants
- ✓ Continue to utilize available local resources.
- ✓ Test homes for safety, including mold and other indoor quality assessments.
- ✓ Address overcrowding issues in the village.
- ✓ Beautify the village by painting all the houses and sheds.
- ✓ Construct wood sheds for residents to help with burning properly dried wood to help with air quality (indoor and outdoor).
- ✓ Build new homes.

Priority: Address the issues with human waste disposal for all households.

Action Plan

- ✓ Assess the situation with old outhouses.
- ✓ Close the older outhouses and construct new ones.
- ✓ Purchase sewer haul truck that can handle cold weather.
- ✓ Educate community about the importance of proper disposal.

- ✓ Research human waste hopper, which is used in some villages without outhouses.

Priority: Construct new community steam bath.

Action Plan

- ✓ Assess the situation with current steam bath, look into rehab or disposal and build new one.
- ✓ Assess the possibility of needing a new one that can be properly disinfected to help stop the spread of infections (MRSA) and other sicknesses.
- ✓ Construct Steam Bath that separates the men and women, so they don't have to share the same space and take turns.

Infrastructure Goal:

To improve Tetlin Infrastructure, to provide reliable public services for all residents and Tribal Members.

Priority: Develop a plan to construct a volunteer fire department warehouse and purchase a fire truck

Action Plan

- ✓ Work with agencies for funding
- ✓ Construct a building
- ✓ Purchase a new fire truck
- ✓ Purchase protective gear
- ✓ Organize VFD with regular trainings and meetings in the community.

Priority: Update and/or Rebuild Tetlin Washeteria and Clinic.

Action Plan

- ✓ Continue to work appropriate agencies to upgrade existing
- ✓ Address the issue that the Washeteria is the main watering point in the village and the pipes freezing on a regular basis is extremely expensive to keep heated.
- ✓ Locate a new watering point/well and construct new Washeteria.
- ✓ Upgrade/rebuild Washeteria and clinic, weatherize building and outgoing pipes.

- ✓ Upgrade Washeteria with energy efficient, heavy-duty washers and dryers.
- ✓ Upgrade Clinic to have better heating system, back-up heating system, and AC Unit.

Priority: Community Improvements throughout the village for a safer, happy community.

Action Plan

- ✓ Listen to youth about what they want; which includes concrete basketball court and upgrade the baseball field.
- ✓ Durable playground, with sections for little kids and older kids.
- ✓ Fix and Upgrade Street Lights.
- ✓ Construct Community/Village garage for tools, tire repair shop, so residents have a place they can fix their vehicles and other modes of transportation.
- ✓ Construct Community wood shop with tools, so residents have access to tools to do personal upgrades on their homes and smoke houses as needed.
- ✓ Clear brush and grass for safety concerns throughout the village.
- ✓ Guest house/shelter for stranded visitors and/or traveling doctors/nurses/employees.
- ✓ Provide safe and reliable transportation to the youth to get to and from school.
- ✓ Address the contamination at the Old BIA School or demolish and dispose of the building and surrounding sheds.
- ✓ Disposal of old vehicles in the village, move them to dump or crush and transport out of the village.

Priority: Upgrade landfill and sewer lagoon.

Action Plan

- ✓ Work with agencies for funding
- ✓ Upgrade road, fence, and dump cell
- ✓ Purchase equipment.
- ✓ Research the possibility of closing the current landfill and construct one further away from the village for safety concerns.
- ✓ Address the issue of the sewer lagoon, upgrade it and/or close the current lagoon that may be leaking.

- ✓ Research options for sewer haul trucks that can handle extreme cold weather.
- ✓ Address the issue of illegal human waste disposal that is occurring at the landfill.
- ✓ Continue to provide solid waste collection services in the village.

Environment/Land Use Goal:

To protect, respect and utilize the land.

Priority: Create Natural Resource Department within the Native Village of Tetlin Administration to address the concerns of Tetlin Tribal Members and promote the protection of the Tetlin Tribal Lands.

Action Plan

- ✓ Create Land-Use Management Plan for Tetlin Tribal Lands.
- ✓ Begin Base-line testing for water, Soil and Air on Tetlin Tribal Lands; there is a need for a baseline study and findings.
- ✓ Upgrade Tribal Regulations and monitoring for hunting, fishing, trapping, and natural resources on Tetlin Tribal Lands.
- ✓ Find funding to hire Land Patrol Officer for all ~700,000 acres of Tribal Lands to address several land issues the Tribe has been having, including Trespassing and illegal hunt guiding.
- ✓ Research the impacts the Tetlin Road Flooding had on local fishery resources.
- ✓ Address issues of illegal dumping of human waste from honey buckets.
- ✓ Create an alternative energy plan, including the use of solar at Last Tetlin Cultural Camp for camp functions.
- ✓ Cleanup the old fish traps in Last Tetlin and Tetlin, then construct new ones for community use.
- ✓ Create a detailed Traditional Land Use Map, with local native place names.

Community Wellness Goal:

To provide a safe, healthy and thriving community.

Priority: Develop a public safety department with VPSOs and Tribal Police Officers.

Action Plan

- ✓ Develop a community safety plan.
- ✓ Create and maintain a Tribal Police Department.
- ✓ Upgrade Public Safety Tribal Codes.
- ✓ Create an action plan to address the public intoxication and alcohol importation issues.
- ✓ Create an action plan to promote safe driving in the village, as there are too many speeding issues and it creates too much dust.

Priority: Create an active wellness committee in the village, with adult, youth and elder participants.

Action Plan

- ✓ Develop and implement plan for prevention and intervention with drugs and alcohol, starting with the youth.
- ✓ Educate the youth and community about the issues and dangers of underage drinking.
- ✓ Develop and implement plan to address bullying at the school, while working with school administration.
- ✓ Bring more domestic violence awareness to the village.
- ✓ Create an active wellness group to host regular activities for village.
- ✓ Research and develop a plan of action to have a local or regional rehab center for Tribal Members.
- ✓ Install gate on Tetlin Road with Patrol Officers on-site.

Transportation/Tetlin Road Goal:

To provide safe and reliable roads and transportation for the village.

Priority: Improvement and maintenance of Tetlin Road and village roads.

Action Plan

- ✓ Secure funding for regular maintenance and improvements of all roads.
- ✓ Implement dust control measures on all roads.
- ✓ Research impacts of Tetlin Road Flooding and secure funding to deal with the flooding damages to road.
- ✓ Develop Tribal Transportation Safety Plan.

- ✓ Eliminate blind spots on corners on roads.
- ✓ Secure funding for regular winter maintenance, such a road plowing and plowing throughout the village.
- ✓ Construct safety shelter along Tetlin Road for emergencies if road becomes impassable.
- ✓ Purchase equipment.
- ✓ Build shop for Village equipment.

Education/Training Goal:

To ensure that families, educators, and community will work together as partners to help youth and adults become responsible citizens and life-long learners.

Priority: Increase more community and parent involvement in the education of the youth.

Action Plan

- ✓ Create a MOA with parents, school, and community.
- ✓ Continue to have Tetlin Youth Program promote opportunities for collaboration between school and community.
- ✓ Establish a Parent Teacher Association.
- ✓ Secure funding to host regular youth workshops.
- ✓ Invite speakers to the school and community to promote the value of positive community involvement in the school and the lives of the students.
- ✓ Encourage open dialogue between the Alaska Gateway School District (AGSD) and the Tetlin community to overcome barriers and issues facing the education system in the village.
- ✓ Schedule regular meetings through the Tetlin Youth Program and encourage participation of parents, community and the school.
- ✓ Encourage parents to be more involved at the school.

Priority: Increase more opportunities for youth and adults to access trade schools and other alternative learning environments.

Action Plan

- ✓ Promote GED educational opportunities in the village.

- ✓ Create a plan of action to encourage and help Tribal Members go to trade school or vocational educational academies.
- ✓ Secure funding to assist those interested in attending trade/vocational schools outside of the region.
- ✓ Ensure there is access to college classes for interested students.
- ✓ Work with appropriate agencies to bring opportunities to the village.

Economic Goal:

To provide a thriving economy for Tetlin Tribal Members.

Priority: Increase opportunities for Tetlin Tribal Members to start small businesses.

Action Plan

- ✓ Host educational classes and workshops in the village promoting small businesses.
- ✓ Coordinate workshops for Tetlin Tribal Members to receive guiding licenses for hunting and fishing.
- ✓ Organize and Host Coast Guard Training for boat owners to drive boats for Forest Fires and guiding purposes.
- ✓ Promote tourism; such as boat day rides to see birds of prey, etc.
- ✓ Create a plan to have a store for village.

Resources

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Appendices





Appendix 1: Community Meeting Sign-in Sheet

1. Joyce Taylor
2. Stanley Taylor
3. Yvonne John
4. Nathaniel Gene
5. Vincent Paul
6. Michelle Demientieff-Baker
7. JD Miller
8. Desirae Sam
9. Marianne Young
10. Kristie Charlie
11. Rowena Paul
12. Ashely Newyaner
13. Shiana Joe
14. Patricia Young
15. Anita Joe
16. Ethan Gunter
17. Bryan Adams
18. Mason Adams
19. Allen Agnes, Jr.
20. Bryant Joe
21. Teddy Northway
22. Cody Charlie
23. James Wright, Jr.
24. Daniesha Paul
25. Catherine Captain
26. Loren Thomas
27. Craig Paul, Jr.
28. Shae Gunter
29. Breanna Sam
30. Preston Paul
31. Gerald Joe, Sr.

**Appendix 2: Tribal Council Meeting Sign-in Sheet & Minutes Pertaining to
Community Plan Discussions**

Appendix 4: Arial View of Tetlin

Satellite image of Tetlin in the early 2000's.



Appendix 6: Tribal Council Resolution Adopting Plan



Tetlin Village Council

**P.O. Box 797
Tok, Alaska 99780
(907) 883-2021 phone
1-877-883-2021
(907) 883-1267 fax**

RESOLUTION NO. 19-12-09 (b)

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 the Native Village 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 delivery; 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 9th day of December 2019.

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.



Michael Sam, Chief



Council Member