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## **Guiding principles for working in northern communities 2020**

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***\*Woodwell Climate Research Center is located on traditional Wampanoag land\****

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## **I. Woodwell Climate Research Center's guiding principles for working in northern communities**

Respect is at the heart of all northern cultures and ethnicities. Working in northern regions requires mutual respect for and willingness to listen to and learn from unfamiliar cultural practices, languages, norms, traditions, and ways of life. While working respectfully in northern regions, Woodwell researchers should:

1. Abide by international, federal, state and local laws and regulations, and follow any existing research protocols while working in U.S. and international northern environments;
2. Contact and communicate with local city, corporation, tribe, and other relevant entities throughout the entirety of research (including proposal-writing and pre-planning) to allow for transparency and as a form of respect;
3. Familiarize themselves with local cultures, land ownership/use, historical events, and relevant entities before traveling to northern environments;
4. Incorporate travel support in their research proposals for attending relevant state/local conferences and workshops to share research, network with appropriate entities, and build relationships;
5. Take into account the knowledge and experience of the local people, and respect any sharing of such knowledge and experience in the research process. The incorporation of relevant traditional knowledge into all stages of research is highly encouraged;
6. Provide financial compensation for local people/elders for any time, energy, input, and/or contributions made during the research project;
7. Give appropriate credit and recognition, including in publications and presentations, to any locals who contributed to your research;
8. Guarantee confidentiality of any surveys, interviews, and/or sensitive material;
9. Communicate on-going and final research objectives, methods, findings and their interpretation to the local community in a language that is easily understood and applicable;
10. Ensure that the research itself is not exploitative of any traditional and sacred land, its resources, or its inhabitants;
11. Use Indigenous land acknowledgments at the beginning of presentations and meetings, and in publications as a form of respect and visibility.

***Woodwell's guiding principles are based on conversations with locals, personal experiences, and the previous work and/or documents listed below regarding this line of work.***

*Principle 2: Contact and communicate with local city, corporation, tribe, and other relevant entities throughout the entirety of research (including proposal-writing and pre-planning) to allow for transparency and as a form of respect.*

Before applying for funding, it is highly recommended to contact any relevant local indigenous organizations/groups beforehand, to include on-the-ground observations and traditional knowledge, and to consider research proposal's applicability and/or importance to every-day life of people who live and rely on the land. Constant communication with all involved entities through every step of a project is paramount.

*Principle 3: Familiarize themselves with local cultures, land ownership/use, historical events, and relevant entities before traveling to northern environments.*

Before traveling to the local community familiarization is highly encouraged, for it will certainly make the transition from more urban and suburban areas of the United States to rural and Indigenous areas of the Arctic much smoother.

*Principle 4: Incorporate travel support in your research proposals for attending relevant state/local conferences and workshops to share your research, network with appropriate entities, and build relationships.*

When submitting a research proposal, include travel funds to attend [[hyperlink to III.](#)] relevant conferences and meetings *for the entire duration* (not just the date[s] you present), to actively network, build relationships, and present research.

*Principle 6: Provide financial compensation for local people/elders for any time, energy, input, and/or contributions made during the research project.*

Be sure to include this in your budget. Similar to covering your coworker's time when asking them to help with something, you should pay locals for *any* help throughout the project (this includes pre-planning).

*Principle 7: Give appropriate credit and recognition, including in publications and presentations, to any locals who contributed to your research.*

This goes beyond a special thank you in a publication or listing people as authors—proper recognition should be given to those who helped when discussing the project on any platform.

*Principle 8: Guarantee confidentiality of any surveys, interviews, and/or sensitive material.*

As research ideas develop and more conversations are had, you may find yourself either formally or informally interviewing elders and/or local community members. Some topics of discussion or questions may be quite triggering. When conducting surveys or having sensitive conversations, be respectful, listen intently, and ensure complete confidentiality unless otherwise discussed.

*Principle 9: Communicate on-going and final research objectives, methods, findings and their interpretation to the local community in a language that is easily understood and applicable.*

Constant discussions with relevant local entities through all stages of project progress allows for transparency, accountability, and direction while avoiding confusion and miscommunication. Once the research is complete *do not* merely send a copy of a published scientific paper out to the people who helped you-- the work is not over when a paper is published. Reach out to relevant local entities on best ways to communicate findings (maps, PowerPoints, newsletters, photos, etc.), implement findings (get research to policymakers), and next steps the community wants to take. May require an additional trip.

*Principle 10: Ensure that the research itself is not exploitative of any traditional and sacred land, its resources, or its inhabitants.*

Do not take more than necessary when collecting samples. Be sure to communicate to locals what environmental resources are necessary before sampling begins-- disturbance to the environment should be slim to none. Do not cut ties with a community or its inhabitants once you have taken your samples or completed your research project.

*Principle 11: Use Indigenous land acknowledgments at the beginning of presentations and meetings, and in publications as a form of respect and visibility.*

An Indigenous land acknowledgement is a formal public recognition of respect for aboriginal people, their traditional lands that were colonized, and the relationship between the two that still exists. An Indigenous land acknowledgement is a small, simple, yet deeply impactful way to present yourself (and your organization) as an ally.

Don't know whose land you are working, living, conducting research, or presenting on? [Download](#) the "[Native Land](#)" app on your mobile device.

## **II. Existing principles and resources to guide work with local and indigenous northern communities**

### *1. Guidelines for Considering Traditional Knowledges in Climate Change Initiatives*

The Department of Interior Advisory Committee on Climate Change and Natural Resource Science (ACCCNRS) submitted this lengthy but rich document in May 2014 for those looking to create/submit climate change initiatives with indigenous communities.

“There is increasing recognition of the significance of how traditional knowledges (TKs) can inform our understanding of the impacts of climate change and strategies for adaptation and mitigation. And yet there are potential risks to indigenous peoples in sharing TKs in federal and other non-indigenous climate change initiatives. We intend the term indigenous peoples to designate the diverse populations in the U.S. who could interact with federal and non-indigenous climate change initiatives in ways that involve TKs, whether in the U.S. they are federally-recognized, state-recognized, or unrecognized.”

*Author(s):* ACCCNRS participants, Monique Fordham (USGS), Frank Kanawha Lake (USDA Forest Service Pacific Southwest Research Station), Gary Morishima (Quinault Management Center), Ann Marie Chischilly (Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals)  
*Location:* U.S.A. (2014)  
*Website:* <https://climatetkw.wordpress.com/>

### 2. *Alaska Federation of Natives, Guidelines for Research*

The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) list 11 principles for all scientists and researchers who plan to work in Alaska.

“Alaska Natives share with the scientific community an interest in learning more about the history and culture of our societies. The best scientific and ethical standards are obtained when Alaska Natives are directly involved in research conducted in our communities and in studies where the findings have a direct impact on Native populations.”

*Author(s):* AFN chairs, board, and elders  
*Location:* Alaska (1993)  
*Website:* <http://ankn.uaf.edu/IKS/afnguide.html>

### 3. *In This Place – Kaktovik, Alaska*

A living document containing a plethora of traditional knowledge and insight when working within the community of Kaktovik, Alaska. *Every traveling researcher working with indigenous communities in the Arctic and subarctic should read this document, as it gracefully explains common Alaska Native outlooks regarding outsiders coming in, as well as general Alaska Native perspectives.*

“We the people of Kaktovik who have worked on these papers present and dedicate them to our children, our living future here in this place which defines us as the Kaktovikmiut, the only people who are native to this place... Native people for whom there is no other place in this world or any other. These papers are unfinished and will remain so forever, to be made better and more powerful with each new thought which goes into them, with each new generation that used them for their purpose, the survival of our people in this place. As we thought and spoke and wrote and read and wrote again, we were aided by those who went before us, who looked over our shoulder and nudged us. If these words say more things than we could know, as some think they do, then it is because of those shadows from which we come and are now so much a part of this place.”

*Author(s):* Elders of Kaktovik, Alaska  
*Location:* Kaktovik, Alaska (living document)  
*Website:* <https://www.bsee.gov/sites/bsee.gov/files/spill-summary/inspection-and-enforcement/kaktovik-guide.pdf>

### 4. *Ethical Principles for the Conduct of Research in the North*

The Association of Canadian Universities for Northern Studies (ACUNS) list 20 principles for modern research in Northern region, and how to apply those principles.

“Northerners are actively involved in research from conception to reporting, from funding to licensing. For all parties to benefit fully from research partnerships, mutual understanding is critical. High quality research depends both on communities understanding the needs and concerns of

researchers and on researchers understanding the needs and concerns of communities. Guidelines, or principles, are needed to provide a foundation for and to foster a mutual understanding of community and researcher needs and goals and to ensure that research is carried out with the least friction and social disruption and the most co-operation and support.”

*Author(s):* Amanda Graham (*Yukon College*), Jim McDonald (*University of Northern British Columbia*), ACUNS Board Committee

*Location:* Canada

*Website:* <http://acuns.ca/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/EthicsEnglishmarch2003.pdf>

#### 5. *Collaborative Research: an “indigenous lens” perspective*

This document delves into defining collaborative research, all of its entities, and how to work ethically with a northern indigenous group in Canada.

“Collaborative research may be viewed more as an attitude or approach rather than well-defined techniques to be followed. The focus is on empowering local people to take charge of the research process, and this empowerment may be achieved via numerous methods that should be determined by the details of the population and project at hand. Truly collaborative research involves respecting and understanding the participants and recognizing the knowledge and capabilities of the local people who can work with researchers to obtain analyses and solutions. It should be viewed not only has something that should be done for ethical reasons, but also as a way to improve the quality of research.”

*Author(s):* Kishk Anaquot Health Research

*Location:* Canada

*Website:* [https://www.ccghr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/IndigenousLens\\_GIHR\\_2008\\_en.pdf](https://www.ccghr.ca/wp-content/uploads/2013/04/IndigenousLens_GIHR_2008_en.pdf)

#### 6. *Gwich’in Renewable Resource Board*

The Gwich’in Renewable Research Board (GRRB) offers assistance with researchers wanting to work in the Gwich’in Settlement Area of the Northwest Territories in western Canada. Their website is “intended to help external researchers understand the existing processes for research in the Gwich’in Settlement Area (GSA). Here, you will find a reminder of our mandate, our research priorities and a list of community research interests. You will also find instructions on how to engage with us depending on the type of support you seek.”

*Author(s):* GRRB

*Location:* Northwest Territories, Canada

*Website:* <http://www.grrb.nt.ca/research.htm>

#### 7. *Nunavut Research Institute*

The Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) was created to help/guide outside researchers who want to work with/on Nunavut. They also have a *hugely* useful list of resources.

“The Nunavut Research Institute (NRI) is your gateway to scientific research in Nunavut! NRI is responsible for licensing research in the health, natural, and social science disciplines, as required under Nunavut's Scientists Act. We act as a clearinghouse for information on research in Nunavut



and we provide mentorship, guidance, and support to scientists working throughout the territory. NRI ensures that Nunavummiut are consulted and engaged in research, and we help to broker research partnerships that address needs and concerns of Nunavummiut.”

*Author(s):* NRI  
*Location:* Nunavut, Canada  
*Website:* <https://www.nri.nu.ca/>  
*Resources:* <https://www.nri.nu.ca/links>

#### **8. *Negotiating Research Relationships with Inuit Communities: A Guide for Researchers***

A comprehensive document delving into what it looks like to work with Inuit communities. Anyone working in any Inuit community in Canada should read this.

“Northern researchers are ever-aware of the growing expectations on them to ensure that northern communities are involved in, and benefit from, research. But what are researchers really being asked to do? How can community members participate meaningfully in research? What level of community involvement is appropriate in a given project? What are the best ways to communicate with local people? How can researchers initiate and maintain a meaningful relationship with community members? This guide is an attempt to address these questions, and provide practical advice to assist researchers who plan to work with, or in the vicinity of, Canadian Inuit communities in the regions of Nunatsiavut (Labrador), Nunavik (northern Québec), Nunavut, and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region of the Northwest Territories (NWT).”

*Author(s):* Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Nunavut Research Institute  
*Location:* Canada  
*Website:*  
[https://www.climatechangenunavut.ca/sites/default/files/nri\\_research\\_fyi\\_guide\\_2007\\_0.pdf](https://www.climatechangenunavut.ca/sites/default/files/nri_research_fyi_guide_2007_0.pdf)

#### **9. *Principles for Conducting Research in the Arctic***

The U.S. Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee (IARPC) has five principles for researchers looking to work in the Arctic, with more information and examples on how to follow through with those five principles. A great resource.

“• Be Accountable • Establish Effective Communication • Respect Indigenous Knowledge and Cultures • Build and Sustain Relationships • Pursue Responsible Environmental Stewardship”

*Author(s):* IARPC  
*Location:* Arctic (2018)  
*Website:*  
[https://www.iarpccollaborations.org/uploads/cms/documents/principles\\_for\\_conducting\\_research\\_in\\_the\\_arctic\\_final\\_2018.pdf](https://www.iarpccollaborations.org/uploads/cms/documents/principles_for_conducting_research_in_the_arctic_final_2018.pdf)



### **III. Relevant conferences and meetings**

#### *1. Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (statewide)*

The Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM), organized by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, is an annual gathering that brings together Alaska Tribes, Non-profits, and State & Federal organizations, for a week of environmental conversations. The discussions focus on finding and implementing solutions to address the unique environmental concerns facing Alaskan communities.

***\*Highly recommended to attend the full week if conducting environmental research in Alaska, attend as presenter/moderator or observer. Open to public: all can participate***

*When:* Mid-November  
*Duration:* 5 days (one work week)  
*Cost:* Non-presenter (general): \$500  
Presenter: \$350  
Non-profit vendor booth: \$500  
Elder (65 and older) or Youth (younger than 18) with ID: \$100  
*Location:* Anchorage, AK (local hotel)  
*Website:* <http://www.atcemak.com/>

#### *2. Alaska Forum on the Environment (statewide)*

The Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE) is an annual statewide gathering of environmental professionals from government agencies, non-profit and for-profit businesses, community leaders, Alaskan youth, conservationists, biologists, and community elders. As many as 1,800 people attend AFE each year to learn more about the environment and meet other Alaskans that work in the environmental field or are interested in the environment. The Planning Committee includes representatives from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Department of the Interior, US Forest Service, CH2M Hill, University of Alaska, ConocoPhillips, and many others. The Forum provides an opportunity for State, local, Federal, military, private, and Native leaders & professionals to come together and discuss the latest projects, processes, and issues that affect people in Alaska.

***\*Highly recommended to attend the full week if conducting environmental research in Alaska, attend as a presenter/moderator. Open to public: all can participate***

*When:* mid-February  
*Duration:* 5 days (one work week)  
*Cost:* Non-presenter (general): \$400  
Presenter (oral or poster): \$350  
*Location:* Anchorage, AK (Dena'ina Center)  
*Website:* <http://www.akforum.org/afe/>

#### *3. Alaska Federation of Natives (statewide)*

The Alaska Federation of Natives (“AFN”) is the largest statewide (Alaska) organization that represents more than 140,000 Native peoples – one out of every 5 Alaskans. Its membership includes 175 federally recognized tribes, 155 village corporations, 11 regional corporations, and 12 regional nonprofit and tribal consortiums. AFN hosts an annual convention in October, that serves as

the principal forum and voice for the Alaska Native community in addressing critical issues of public policy and government. At the Convention, delegates discuss strategic opportunities and challenges, listen to memorable keynote speeches, hear reports from political leaders and presentations from expert panels, and share stories resilience, experiences, strengths, knowledge and hope for the future. The resolutions passed by the voting delegates set the priorities for the year and guide AFN's efforts. The Convention is the largest representative annual gathering in the United States of Native peoples.

***\*If attending: encouraged to attend the whole four days as an observer. Open to public: all can observe***

*When:* Mid-October  
*Duration:* 3-4 days  
*Cost:* Unknown (~\$300-500)  
*Location:* Fairbanks, AK (Carlson Center) OR Anchorage, AK (Dena'ina Center)  
*Website:* <https://www.nativefederation.org/>

#### ***4. Elders and Youth (statewide)***

First Alaskans Institute (FAI) hosts an Elders and Youth conference annually. The purpose of the gathering is to develop leadership in our Native youth, strengthened with the experience and wisdom of our Native Elders. For many participants (ages 13-18), the conference is their first opportunity to attend a statewide gathering and to engage in serious dialogue on issues relevant to Alaska Natives. Youth and Elders network with statewide organizations and individuals who are making a positive impact on our communities through Native traditions and modern technology alike.

***\*Suggest that if you are not Alaska Native, you should contact FAI before attending. Open to registered: most can attend as observers***

*When:* Mid-October  
*Duration:* 2-3 days (right before AFN)  
*Cost:* Unknown (~\$300-500)  
*Location:* Fairbanks, AK (Carlson Center) OR Anchorage, AK (Dena'ina Center)  
*Website:* <https://firstalaskans.org/>

#### ***5. Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science – annual Conference (nationwide)***

The Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) holds the largest multidisciplinary and multicultural STEM diversity event in the country. The SACNAS conference is a three-day gathering which serves to equip, empower, and energize participants for their academic and professional paths in STEM.

***\*If attending: encouraged to attend the whole week as a presenter/moderator. Open to public: all can participate***

*When:* Late-October  
*Duration:* 3 days  
*Cost:* \$390 (non-student)  
*Location:* Santa Cruz, CA  
*Website:* <https://www.sacnas.org/what-we-do/conference/>

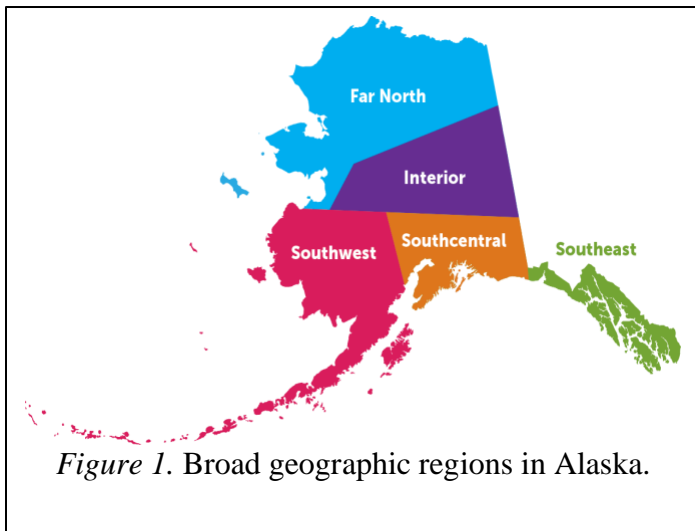
**6. Arctic Net - annual scientific meeting (nationwide)**

The Arctic Net’s annual scientific meeting (ASM) gets Arctic researchers, Inuit, First Nations, Métis and Northern community representatives, government and non-government organizations, students, and industry stakeholders together to discuss all things science and policy in Canada. Northern participation is a highly valued aspect of the ASM, making this a great resource for those conducting research in Canada.

***\*If attending, encouraged to attend the whole week as a presenter/moderator. Open to public: all can participate***

**When:** Early-December  
**Duration:** 4-5 days  
**Cost:** Unknown  
**Location:** Canada (city changes each year)  
**Website:** <https://arcticnetmeetings.ca/>

**IV. Relevant entities in Alaska regions**



There are five broad geographic regions in the state of Alaska: North, Interior, Southwest, Southcentral, and Southeast (Figure 1). Communities in each of these regions have different respective experiences, histories, cultures, ways of life, governance structures, and coordinating entities. Below are a few relevant entities to contact prior to working in any region.

**1. Northern Alaska**



*Kawerak, Inc.* is a regional corporation based in Nome, Alaska. Kawerak contracts with the state and federal government to provide services to residents of the Bering Strait Region, 75% of whom are Alaska Native Inupiat, Yup’ik, and St. Lawrence Island Yup’ik peoples. Kawerak’s organizational goal is to assist Alaska Native people and their governing bodies to take control of their future. With programs ranging from education to transportation, and natural resource management to economic development, Kawerak seeks to improve the region’s social, economic, educational, cultural and political conditions.

**Location:** Nome, Alaska  
**Phone:** +1 (907) 443-5231

**Address:** 500 Seppala Dr. Nome, Alaska 99762  
**Website:** <https://kawerak.org/about-us/who-we-are/>



**BERING  
STRAITS**  
Native Corporation

*Bering Straits Native Corporation* (BSNC) is an Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) for-profit regional corporation for the Bering Strait and Norton Sound region based in Nome, Alaska. BSNC owns and manages the subsurface estate of the region's 12 village corporations (~2 million acres) as well as the surface and subsurface estates of an additional 145,000 acres. BSNC deals a lot with streamlined contracting, business certificates, and land use.

**Location:** Nome, Alaska  
**Phone:** +1 (907) 443-5252  
**Address:** 110 Front St. #300 Nome, Alaska 99762  
**Website:** <https://beringstraits.com/>



*Norton Sound Health Corporation* (NSHC) is a tribally owned and operated non-profit healthcare organization for the Bering Strait/Norton Sound region based in Nome, Alaska. NSHC welcomes researchers looking to improve the lives of the people of the region. The NSHC Research Ethics and Review (RERB) Board is available to review research projects in the region. The RERB meets twice a year.

**Location:** Nome, Alaska  
**Phone:** +1 (907) 443-3304 *OR* +1 (907) 443-3294 (Environmental Health)  
**Address:** P.O. Box 966 Nome, Alaska 99762  
**Website:** <https://www.nortonsoundhealth.org/about-us/research/>



*Maniilaq Association* is a regional non-profit corporation representing 12 federally recognized tribes in northwest Alaska based in Kotzebue, Alaska. Maniilaq manages health, tribal and social services for about 8,000 people within the Northwest Arctic Borough, and is an advocate for all Native issues, including tribal health, housing, and political rights.

**Location:** Kotzebue, Alaska  
**Phone:** +1 (907) 442-3321  
**Address:** P.O. Box 256 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752  
**Website:** <https://www.maniilaq.org/>



*Kikiktagruk Inupiat Corporation* (KIC) is an Alaska Native corporation formed to serve the Iñupiat people of Kotzebue, Alaska. KIC infuses the traditional values of the Iñupiat people, who are descendants of Alaska's first people, into its workplace culture and business partnerships. These values include adaptability, honesty, hard work, cooperation, integrity and a commitment to quality.

**Location:** Kotzebue, Alaska  
**Phone:** +1 (907) 442-3165  
**Address:** P.O. Box 1050 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752

Website: <http://kikiktagruk.com/>



**NANA** *NANA Regional Corporation, Inc.* (NANA) is an ANCSA for-profit regional corporation in northwest Alaska based in Kotzebue, Alaska. There are 11 Alaska Native Iñupiat communities in the NANA region. NANA owns & manages 2,280,000 acres, including both the surface and subsurface lands, with the exception of the surface acreage Kikiktagruk Iñupiat Corporation (KIC) retained.

*Location:* Kotzebue, Alaska  
*Phone:* +1 (907) 265-4100  
*Address:* P.O. Box 49 Kotzebue, Alaska 99752  
*Website:* <https://nana.com/>



**ASNA** *Arctic Slope Native Association* (ASNA) is an Alaska Native tribal non-profit organization based in Utqiagvik, Alaska in the north slope. Their purpose is to respond to the self-determined needs and priorities of the eight recognized tribal councils, as determined by those councils on the North slope; enhance and promote the self-respect, pride and well-being of the Native members of the Arctic Slope region; and represent and be an advocate for Arctic Slope Natives and the tribal councils of the Arctic Slope region authorized by those councils and organizations.

*Location:* Utqiagvik, Alaska  
*Phone:* +1 (907) 852-2762  
*Address:* P.O. Box 1232 Utqiagvik, Alaska 99723  
*Website:* <https://arcticslope.org/>



*Ukpeagvik Iñupiat Corporation* (UIC) is an ANCSA for-profit corporation for the Iñupiat community of Utqiagvik, Alaska located along the North Slope. UIC owns 212,000 acres of land in Alaska's North Slope Borough. As provided under ANCSA, subsurface estate in UIC lands is owned by the Alaska Native regional corporation for the region, Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC). UIC's operations and industries are very diverse, and include projects ranging from high-tech IT, fiber optics, data collection, and many other military and logistics support services.

*Location:* Utqiagvik, Alaska  
*Phone:* +1 (907) 852-4460  
*Address:* P.O. Box 890 Barrow, Alaska 99723  
*Website:* <https://uicalaska.com/>



*Arctic Slope Regional Corporation* (ASRC) is an ANCSA for-profit regional corporation in northern Alaska based in Utqiagvik, Alaska. ASRC is the most economically successful ANCSA corporation in the state, having developed their traditional land for oil drilling.

*Location:* Utqiagvik, Alaska  
*Phone:* +1 (907) 852-8633



**Address:** P.O. Box 129 Utqiagvik, Alaska 99723  
**Website:** <https://www.asrc.com/>



The  
Northernmost  
American  
City

*The City of Utqiagvik* is one of many entities in the community of Utqiagvik, Alaska that should be contacted if wanting to work in this community or on the nearby land.

**Location:** Utqiagvik, Alaska  
**Phone:** +1 (907) 852-5211  
**Address:** P.O. Box 629 Barrow, Alaska 99723-0629  
**Website:** <https://www.utqiagvik.us/>

## 2. Interior Alaska



*Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC)* is an Alaska Native non-profit organization serving all 42 villages in the interior of Alaska based in Fairbanks, Alaska. TCC works toward meeting the needs and challenges for more than 10,000 Alaska Natives (mostly Alaskan Athabascans) in the region. The Hunting and Fishing Task Force is a great outlet for researchers-- they work directly with the tribes with a multitude of issues, research being one of them. Strategies TCC's Hunting and Fishing Task Force are doing to protect and serve interior Alaska Natives are: increase Alaska Native influence in regulation/policy, enhance Alaska Native management seek legislation, administrative action & litigation, and impact climate change and Arctic policy, research, and international dialogue.

**Location:** Fairbanks, Alaska  
**Phone:** +1 (907) 452-8251 ext. 3078  
**Address:** 122 1st Ave. Fairbanks, Alaska 99701  
**Website:** <https://www.tananachiefs.org/services/hunting-fishing-gathering-task-force/>



*The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments (CATG)* is a tribally owned and operated Alaska Native region-wide non-profit organization representing tribes in the Yukon Flats of interior Alaska based in Fort Yukon, Alaska. This is an entity doing great things that should be informed of any research in interior Alaska.

**Location:** Fort Yukon, Alaska  
**Phone:** +1 (907) 662-7588  
**Address:** N/A  
**Website:** <https://www.catg.org/>



*Doyon Limited* is an ANCSA for-profit regional corporation for interior Alaska based in Fairbanks, Alaska. Doyon owns & manages more than 12.5 million acres of land, making it the largest private landholder in Alaska and one of the largest in North America. If Doyon is contact regarding research in interior Alaska, the tribal entity TCC should also be contacted.

*Location:* Fairbanks, Alaska  
*Phone:* +1 (907) 459-2000  
*Address:* 1 Doyon Place, Suite 300 Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-2941  
*Website:* <https://www.doyon.com/>

### 3. Southwest Alaska



The *Association of Village Council Presidents (AVCP)* is an Alaska Native regional non-profit tribal consortium dedicated to supporting the interests of the 56 federally recognized member tribes of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta based in Bethel, Alaska. AVCP works in partnership to provide community development, education, social services, culturally relevant programs and advocacy for the people and Tribes of the AVCP Region, to promote self-determination, protection and enhancement of cultural and traditional values. The AVCP region covers approximately 6.5 million acres, or 55,000 square miles.

*Location:* Bethel, Alaska  
*Phone:* +1 (907) 543-7300  
*Address:* P.O. Box 219 Bethel, Alaska 99559  
*Website:* <https://www.avcp.org/>



*Bering Sea Elders Group*

*Bering Sea Elders Group (BSEG)* is an Alaska Native non-profit association of elders appointed by 39 Tribes in the Yukon-Kuskokwim and Bering Strait regions in western Alaska. Each participating Tribe designates an Elder Representative to serve on the Elders Board. The mission of BSEG is to speak and work together as one voice to protect and respect our traditional ways of life, the ocean web of life that supports the resources we rely on, and their children's future.

*Location:* N/A  
*Email:* [beringsea.elders@gmail.com](mailto:beringsea.elders@gmail.com)  
*Website:* <http://www.beringseaelders.org/>



*Calista Corporation* is an ANCSA for-profit regional corporation for western Alaska based in Anchorage, Alaska. Calista owns & manages about 6.5 million acres in southwestern Alaska, 6.3 million of which being surface lands in the Yukon-Kuskokwim River Delta and Kuskokwim Mountains, making it the second-largest ANCSA regional corporation. However, approximately 75 percent of the land within the region is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

*Location:* Anchorage, Alaska  
*Phone:* +1 (907) 275-2800  
*Address:* 5015 Business Park Blvd, Suite 3000, Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
*Website:* <https://www.calistacorp.com/>





*Bristol Bay Native Association, Inc. (BBNA)* is an Alaska Native non-profit regional corporation & tribal consortium for the Bristol Bay region of Alaska based in Dillingham, Alaska. BBNA serves 31 Tribes in the Bristol Bay Region by providing educational, social, and economic services to benefit the Tribes and Native people of the region.

*Location:* Dillingham, Alaska  
*Phone:* +1 (907) 842-5257  
*Address:* P.O. Box 310 Dillingham, Alaska 99576  
*Website:* <https://bbna.com/>



Nunamta Aulukestai is an Alaska Native non-profit organization based in Dillingham, Alaska. Nunamta Aulukestai works with 10 Bristol Bay village corporations and 10 tribal governments with a goal to responsibly manage the land and water in the region.

*Location:* Dillingham, Alaska  
*Phone:* +1 (907) 842-4404  
*Address:* N/A  
*Website:* <http://nunamta.org/>



The *Southwest Alaska Municipal Conference (SWAMC)* is a non-profit regional economic development organization for Southwest Alaska based in Anchorage, Alaska. SWAMC serves three subregions of Southwest Alaska: Aleutian/Pribilofs, Bristol Bay, and Kodiak. Municipal leaders from the regions forged a partnership to advocate for the needs of rural communities and the responsible development of the region's core economic sector – commercial seafood harvesting and processing.

*Location:* Anchorage, Alaska  
*Phone:* +1 (907) 562-7380  
*Address:* 3300 Arctic Blvd, Suite 203, Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
*Website:* <https://swamc.org/>



The *Aleutian Pribilof Island Community Development Association (APICDA)* is an Alaska Native non-profit regional organization for the Aleutian-Pribilof region of Alaska based in Anchorage, Alaska. APICDA is dedicated to strengthening local economies and building infrastructure to support commerce in six remote villages in the Aleutian-Pribilof region of Alaska. They focus their efforts on community-based initiatives, advocacy, vocational training, education and social programs that have been identified as high priorities.

*Location:* Anchorage, Alaska  
*Phone:* +1 (907) 929-5273  
*Address:* 717 K Street Anchorage, Alaska 99501  
*Website:* <https://www.apicda.com/>



*Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (APIA)* is a federally recognized tribal organization of the Aleut people in southwestern Alaska based in Anchorage, Alaska. The mission of APIA is to promote self-sufficiency and independence of the Unangaġ (Aleut) people by advocacy, training, technical assistance and economic enhancement, to assist in meeting the health, safety, and well-being needs of each Unangaġ community, to promote, strengthen and ensure the unity of the Unangaġ, and to strengthen and preserve the Unangaġ cultural heritage. APIA contracts with federal, state and local governments as well as securing private funding to provide a broad spectrum of services throughout the region.

**Location:** Anchorage, Alaska  
**Phone:** +1 (907) 276-2700  
**Address:** 1131 East International Airport Rd. Anchorage Alaska 99518  
**Website:** <https://www.apiai.org/>



*Aleut Corporation (TAC)* is an ANCSA for-profit regional corporation for southwestern Alaska (Alaska Peninsula, Aleutian Islands, Pribilof Islands, and Shumagin Islands) based in Anchorage, Alaska. TAC owns & manages 1.572 million acres of subsurface estate with 70,789 acres of surface lands.

**Location:** Anchorage, Alaska  
**Phone:** +1 (907) 561-4300  
**Address:** 400 Old Seward Highway, Suite 300 Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
**Website:** <https://www.aleutcorp.com/>



KODIAK AREA NATIVE ASSOCIATION

*Kodiak Area Native Association (KANA)* is an Alaska Native non-profit corporation that serves the Kodiak region of southwest Alaska based in Kodiak, Alaska. KANA partners with a multitude of entities, including but not limited to ANCSA corporations, state organizations, tribes, and universities in order to best serve the indigenous people of the Kodiak island.

**Location:** Kodiak, Alaska  
**Phone:** +1 (907) 486-9800  
**Address:** 3449 Rezanof Drive East, Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
**Website:** <http://kodiakhealthcare.org/environment/>



*Koniag, Inc.* is an ANCSA for-profit regional corporation for the Kodiak Islands, Alaska based in Kodiak, Alaska. Koniag owns & manages 844 acres of land and the subsurface estate of around 900,000 acres. Koniag promotes and shares their Alutiiq culture and advocates for the people and communities of the Kodiak Island region. Like their Alutiiq ancestors over thousands of years, Koniag adapts to meet the needs of their Shareholders and their region.

**Location:** Kodiak, Alaska  
**Phone:** +1 (907) 486-2530

Address: 194 Alimaq Dr. Kodiak, Alaska 99615  
Website: <https://www.koniag.com/>

#### 4. Southcentral Alaska



*Cook Inlet Tribal Council (CITI)* is an Alaska Native non-profit organization that serves 12,000 indigenous locals in southcentral Alaska based in Anchorage, Alaska. CITI should be contacted if wanting to work or organize events in/around the Anchorage region.

Location: Anchorage, Alaska  
Phone: +1 (907) 793-3600  
Address: 3600 San Jeronimo Dr. Anchorage, Alaska 99508  
Website: <https://citci.org/>



*Copper River Native Association (CRNA)* is an Alaska Native non-profit organization that serves the entire Copper River Basin in southcentral Alaska based in Copper Center, Alaska. CRNA should be contacted if wanting to partner in the Copper River area to conduct environmental research.

Location: Copper Center, Alaska  
Phone: +1 (907) 822-5241  
Address: Mile 111.5 Richardson Hwy, Copper Center, Alaska 99573  
Website: <https://crnative.org/what-we-do/tribal-community-services/>




*Chugach Alaska Corporation (CAC)* is an ANCSA for-profit regional corporation for the Chugach region of southcentral Alaska based in Anchorage, Alaska. The CAC region owns and manages 378,000 acres of both surface and subsurface land plus an additional 550,000 acres of subsurface land, for a total of 928,000 acres ranging from the Prince William Sound to the Kenai Peninsula.

Location: Anchorage, Alaska  
Phone: +1 (907) 563-8866  
Address: 3800 Centerpoint Dr #1200, Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Website: <http://www.chugach.com/>



*Ahtna, Inc.* is an ANCSA for-profit regional corporation for the Ahtna region of southcentral Alaska based in Glennallen, Alaska. Ahtna, Inc. owns and manages 1,770,000 acres of land. Ahtna, Inc. has partnered with a multitude of relevant companies that work with environmental services, engineering, technology, and more.

Location: Glennallen, Alaska  
Phone: +1 (907) 822-3476  
Address: 115 Richardson Hwy, Glennallen, Alaska 99588  
Website: <https://www.ahtna.com/>

 **CIRI** Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI) is an ANCSA for-profit regional corporation in southcentral Alaska based in Anchorage, Alaska. CIRI owns and manages 1.3 million acres of subsurface land, making it one of the largest private land-owners in southcentral Alaska.

Location: Anchorage, Alaska  
Phone: +1 (907) 274-8638  
Address: 725 E. Fireweed Lane, Suite 800, Anchorage, Alaska 99503  
Website: <https://www.ciri.com/>

## 5. Southeast Alaska



The *Central Council of the Tlingit and Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska* (Tlingit & Haida) is an Alaska Native non-profit organization based in Juneau, Alaska. Tlingit & Haida is dedicated to serving all people of Tlingit and Haida heritage across the country. If conducting research in any Tlingit and/or Haida dominant areas, this would be a great non-profit to contact.

Location: Juneau, Alaska  
Phone: +1 (907) 463-7186  
Address: 320 W. Willoughby Ave., Suite 300, Juneau Alaska 99801  
Website: <http://www.ccthita.org/services/community/environmental/index.html>



*Sealaska Corporation* is an ANCSA for-profit regional corporation in southeast Alaska based in Juneau, Alaska. Sealaska owns & manages 290,000 acres of surface estate and 560,000 acres of subsurface estate.

Location: Juneau, Alaska  
Phone: +1 (907) 586-1512  
Address: 1 Sealaska Plaza, Juneau, Alaska 99801  
Website: <https://www.sealaska.com/>

## **V. Decolonization**

### *1. Definitions*

In order to fully understand modern decolonization, one must first understand colonialism. Colonialism in Alaska has been defined as “the criminalization and dispossession of Alaska Natives within their traditional territories for being who they are, for speaking their languages, for living their ways of life,” (Stevens, 2020) Thus, one can certainly see how exploitative and destructive the act and taught mindset of colonialism is. Colonialism is still very much active, not only in the Arctic, but in the Western world in its entirety.

Decolonization has been described as “the cognitive dismantling of personal systemic settler practices and values, while simultaneously healing the traumas that come with political, social, and

economic occupation, and reclaiming to traditional ways of life and values, and indigenizing the spaces in which we respectfully occupy,” (Stevens, 2020). It takes an immense amount of humility and vulnerability to decolonize. Below are resources to assist in the decolonization process.

## 2. Resources



*Native Movement* is an Alaska Native non-profit organization based in Fairbanks, Alaska. According to their website, “Native Movement supports grassroots-led projects that align with our vision, that dismantle oppressive systems for all, and that endeavor to ensure social justice, Indigenous Peoples’ rights, and the rights of Mother Earth.”

Native Movement has extensive decolonization resources that every person working in Indigenous communities should utilize.

Organization website: <https://www.nativemovement.org/>  
Resource website: <https://www.nativemovement.org/resources>  
Executive director (2020): Enei Begay (she/her/hers), [enei@nativemovement.org](mailto:enei@nativemovement.org)

*Melissa Shaginoff* is an Alaska Native woman living and working in Anchorage, Alaska. Melissa hosts Land Acknowledgement Workshops for organizations and groups. The workshop highlights and encourages the internal work to be done in regard to colonial concepts that arise when giving land acknowledgements.

Resource website: <https://www.melissashaginoff.com/land-acknowledgment-workshop>

*Tuck et al (2014)* presents an overview of articles focused on Land education: Indigenous, post-colonial, and decolonizing perspectives on place and environmental education research. This article, and those discussed in this summary, discuss how colonial practices remain embedded in environmental research and education.

Resource reference:  
Eve Tuck, Marcia McKenzie, Kate McCoy (2014). *Land education: Indigenous, post-colonial, and decolonizing perspectives on place and environmental education research*. Environmental Education Research, 20:1, 1-23, DOI: 10.1080/13504622.2013.877708

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