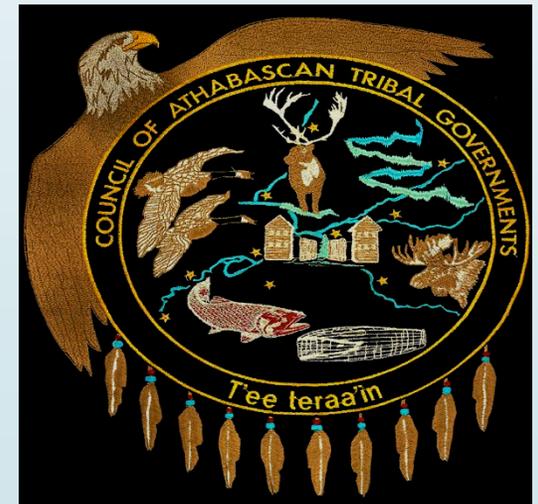


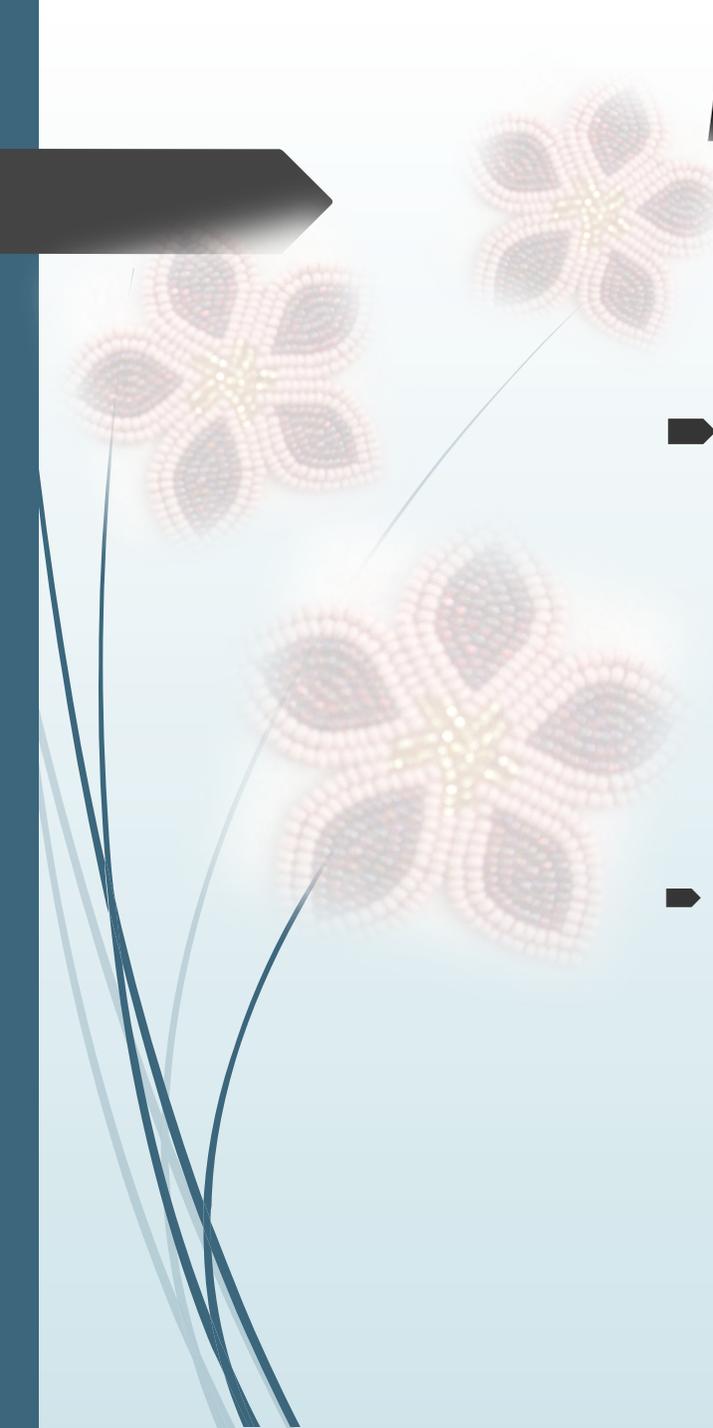
Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments



NASA ABoVE Science Meeting
January 19th, 2016
Presented by:
Kelda Britton



Promoting Self-Governance in the Yukon Flats for over 30 years



Healthy People, Thriving Communities

Vision Statement

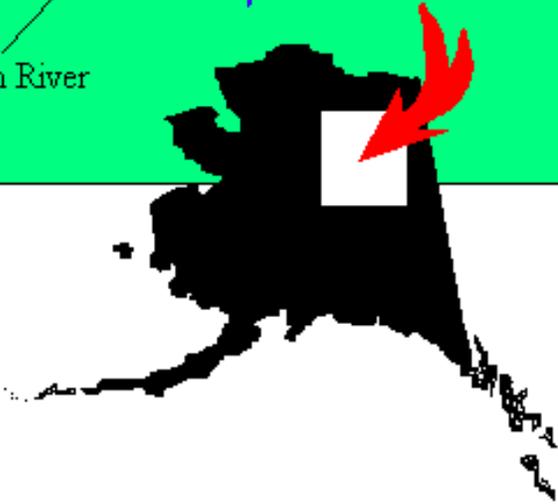
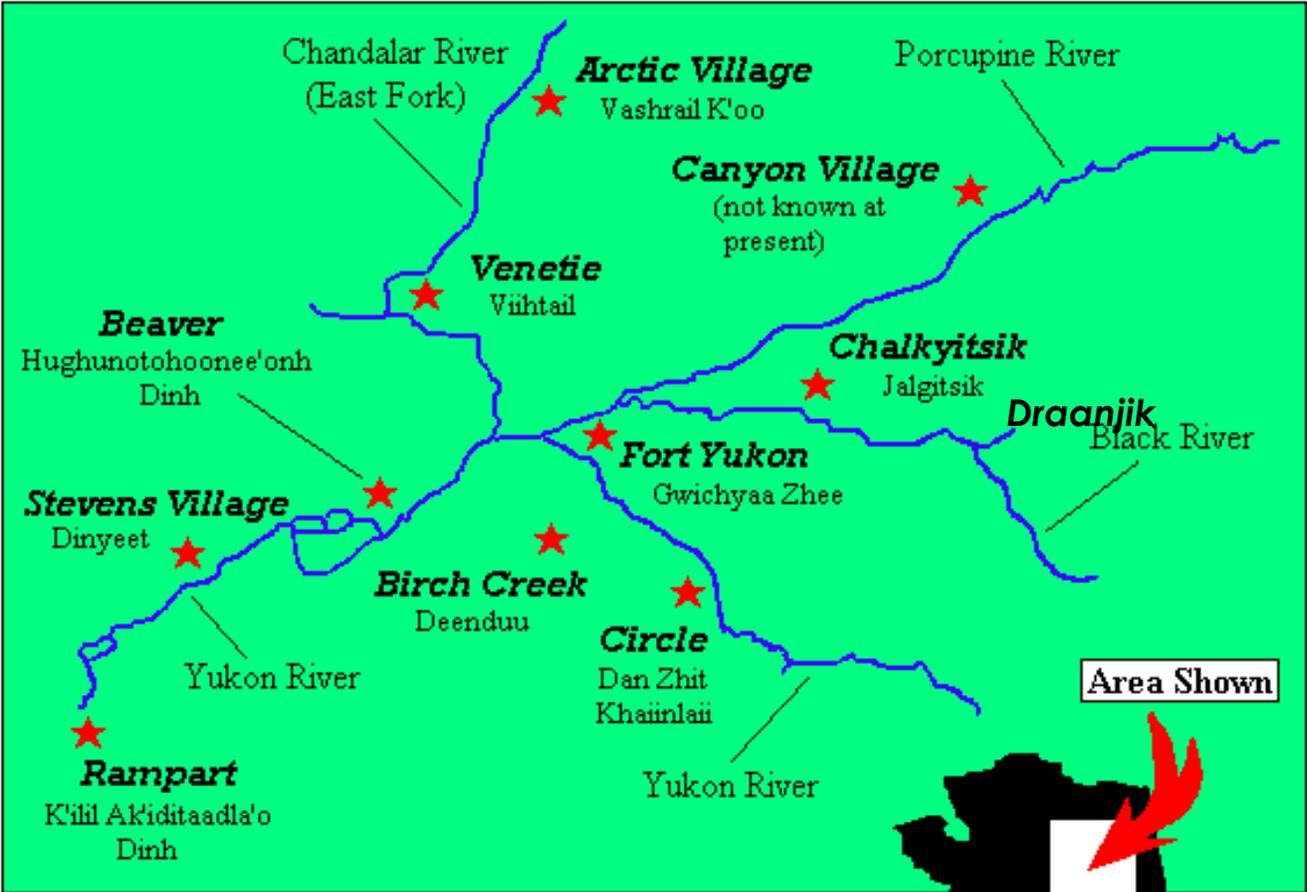
- ▶ *The long-term vision of the Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments (CATG) is of self-sufficient communities with shared commitment to a culturally integrated economy based on customary and traditional values.*
- ▶ “...A reflection of our People’s ability to overcome and survive throughout the many thousands of years of existence...” –Randy Mayo, former CATG Chair

Mission Statement

- ▶ Advocate and provide technical assistance to enhance the regional economy by protecting and supporting local employment and private enterprise; to protect and manage traditional tribal land and resources for future generations; to empower tribal governments; and to promote healthy living.



YUKON FLATS REGION



CATG YUKON FLATS VILLAGES



ARCTIC VILLAGE

BIRCH CREEK

BEAVER

CANYON VILLAGE

CHALKYITSIK

CIRCLE

FORT YUKON

RAMPART

STEVENS VILLAGE

VENETIE

WHO WE ARE

- ✓ Gwich'in and Koyukon Athabascan
 - ✓ Regional population ~ 1,210
 - ✓ Village populations from less than 10 inhabitants to nearly 600.
 - ✓ ~90% Native Population
 - ~ 505 total households in the region.
- The rivers connects the villages in the summer, snow machine travel connects them through winter, and bush airlines connects them year round.
- ✓ The seasons and the land still dictate traditional and customary lifestyles. Locally harvested moose, caribou, bear, sheep, salmon, whitefish, grayling, ducks, geese, ptarmigan, rabbit, and berries comprise the majority of their diet.

(US Census 2000)



DRIVING PHILOSOPHIES



- ✓ Self Governance in Practice
- ✓ Community and Tribally driven programs incorporating youth and elders
- ✓ Success through collaboration and partnerships
- ✓ Effectiveness & Efficiency

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS

Health Department

- ▶ Yukon Flats Community Health Center
- ▶ Emergency Medical Services
- ▶ Tele-medicine
- ▶ Pediatrics
- ▶ Diabetes Education
- ▶ Dental Care
- ▶ Behavioral Health, Counseling, Domestic Violence

Education Department

- ▶ Early Head Start Program
- ▶ Native American Careers & Technical Education Program



OVERVIEW OF PROGRAMS

Natural Resources Department

- ▶ Wildlife & Fisheries
- ▶ Environmental Health
- ▶ Lands and Mapping
- ▶ Sustainable Community Development

Administration

- ▶ Leadership Development
- ▶ Policy Advocacy, Self-governance Development
- ▶ Human Resources Development & Training
- ▶ Telecommunications
- ▶ Travel & Procurement
- ▶ Finance

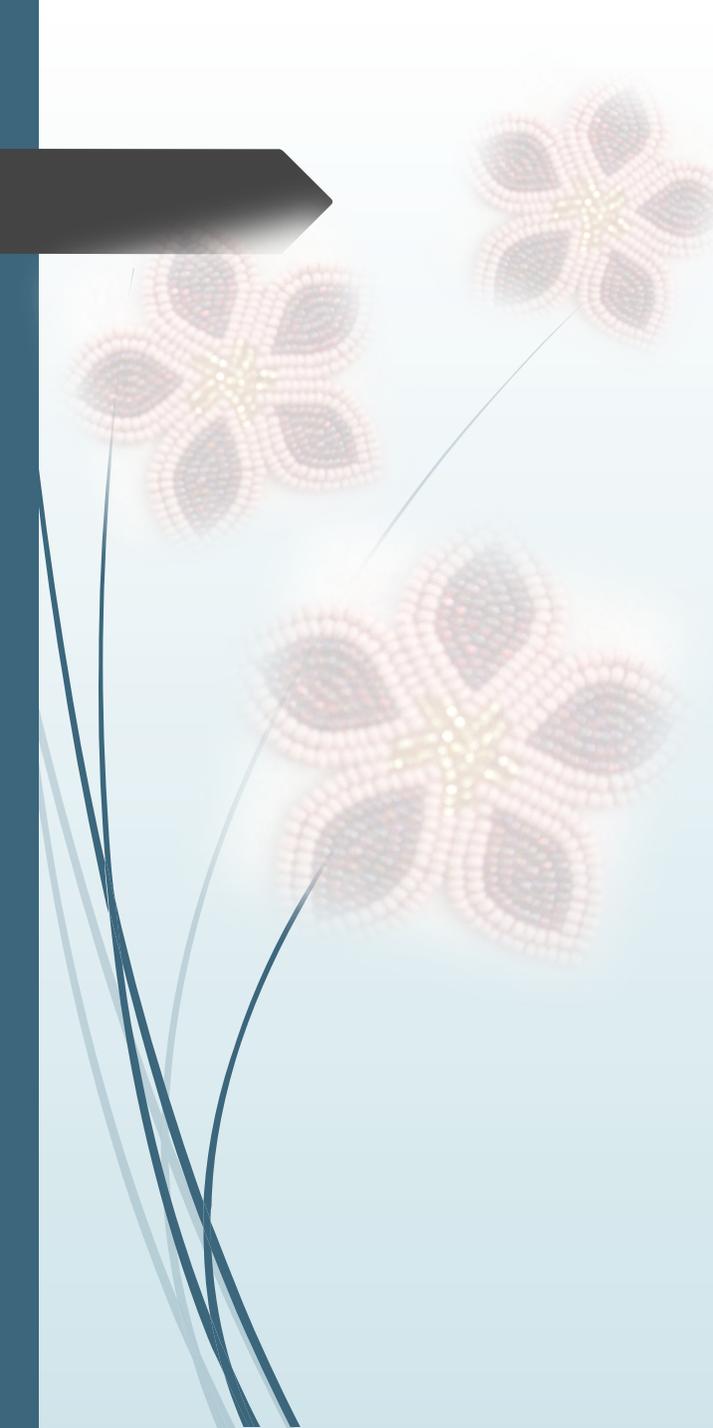


FOCUS ON NATURAL RESOURCES



GOALS

- ✓ Tribal representation in Traditional & Customary Land and Resource Management;
- ✓ Traditional Lands protection & conservation;
- ✓ Healthy Fish & Wildlife populations;
 - ✓ Clean land, air, & water; &
- ✓ Sustainable village economies to maintain a healthy subsistence economy, protect the traditional Athabascan way of life, & promote self-sufficiency.

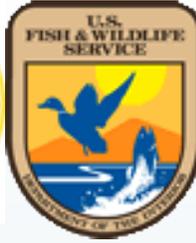


SPOTLIGHT ON COLLABORATION

Our partners are key to our success.

- ✓ **US Fish & Wildlife Service**
- ✓ **Alaska Fire Services (BLM)**
- ✓ **US Department of Agriculture**
- ✓ **US Environmental Protection Agency**
- ✓ **DHHS Administration for Native Americans**
- ✓ **Alaska Department of Fish & Game**
 - ✓ **Alaska Energy Authority**
 - ✓ **State Forestry**
 - ✓ **University of Alaska**
- ✓ **Alaska Conservation Foundation**
- ✓ **First Nations Development Institute...and many more!**

We believe in integrated inter-agency Collaboration to create the most effective, efficient programming for the Yukon Flats



SUCCESS STORIES

The Council has maintained an Annual Funding Agreement (AFA) with the USFWS Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge for selected programs, functions, services and activities since 2004. The AFA set precedent in tribal self-governance across the nation. The Agreement was the first of its kind between a tribal entity and a federal conservation unit. This AFA provides the foundation for the programs Self Governance initiatives.

***Programs, Functions, Services,
Activities***

- ✓ **Conservation & Hunter Outreach & Education**
- ✓ **Maintenance & Logistics**
- ✓ **Moose Population Surveys & Moose Management Activities**
- ✓ **Subsistence Harvest Data Collection**



SUCCESS STORIES



The Council has operated an Indian General Assistance Program, Tribal Consortium capacity-building office since the 1990's. The program has served as the cornerstone for Tribal Environmental Programs in the region, building capacity, leveraging funds, and cleaning up communities.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ **Founded the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council**
 - ✓ **Cross-border PCB Removal International Demonstration Project**
 - ✓ **Natives training Natives**
- ✓ **Region Wide Solid Waste Backhaul Support**
 - ✓ **Environmental Baseline Data Gathering, Air and Water**
- ✓ **Solar Energy Demonstration Projects**
 - ✓ **Environmental Justice Special Projects**

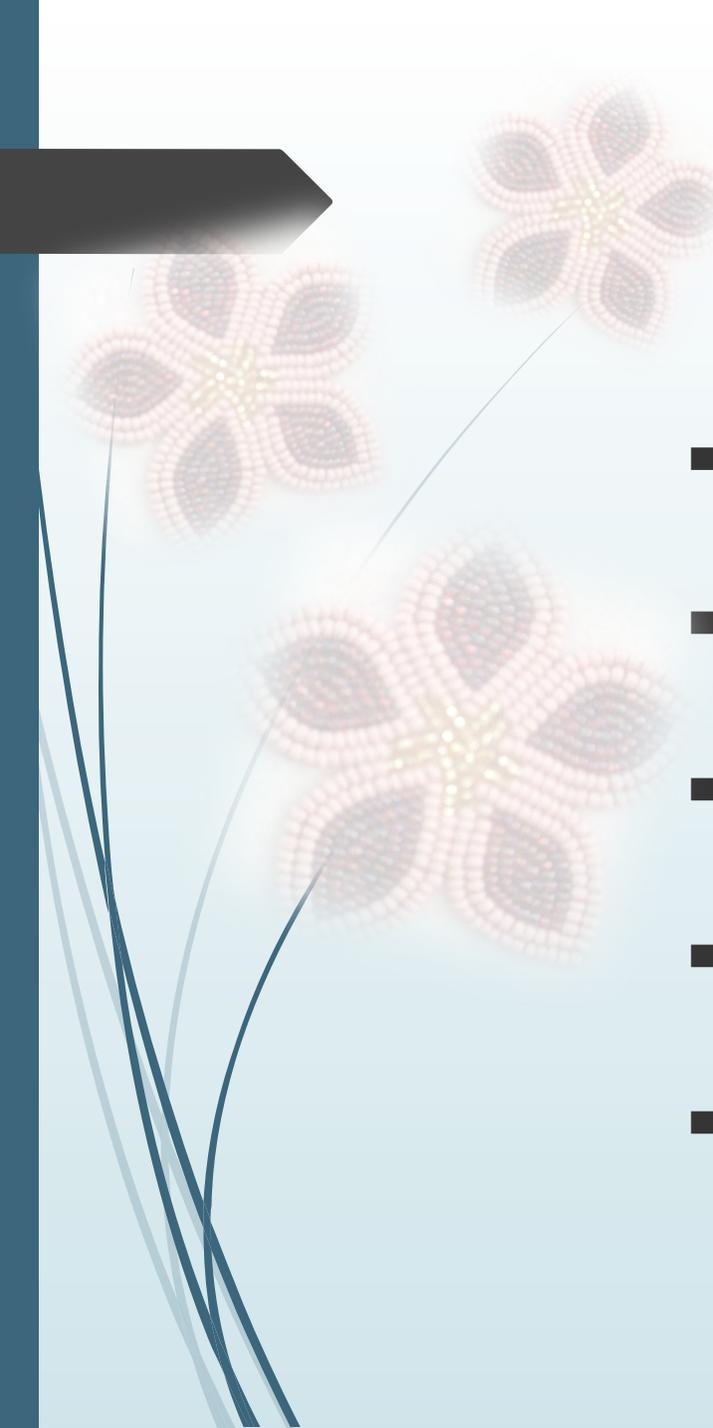


FUTURE PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT



- ✓ Wildfire and Forest Management in collaboration with the Bureau of Land Management
- ✓ Increased Wildlife and Subsistence Management in collaboration with the USFWS Office of Subsistence Management
- ✓ Climate Change Documentation and Research across agencies
- ✓ Language and Cultural programming across agencies





CATG Vision (2014 – 2024):

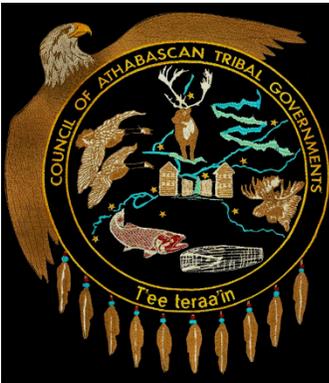
- More resilient, sustainable villages through affordable community infrastructure
- Increased food security through the protection of hunting and fishing rights
- Healthier communities through environmental stewardship, health care, language and culture
- Stronger partnerships between CATG and all Yukon Flats villages
- Increased self-governance through tribal capacity building

INNOVATIVE, TRAIL BLAZERS

The Council is committed to maintaining and developing integrated and strategic federal agency partnerships to implement a comprehensive stewardship program.



**Self-Governance in Practice: Exercising Local
Decision Making over Traditional & Customary
Resources**



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