

# Technical WorkGroup Meeting Q3 2013 TWG

## *Cultural and Paleontological Resources*

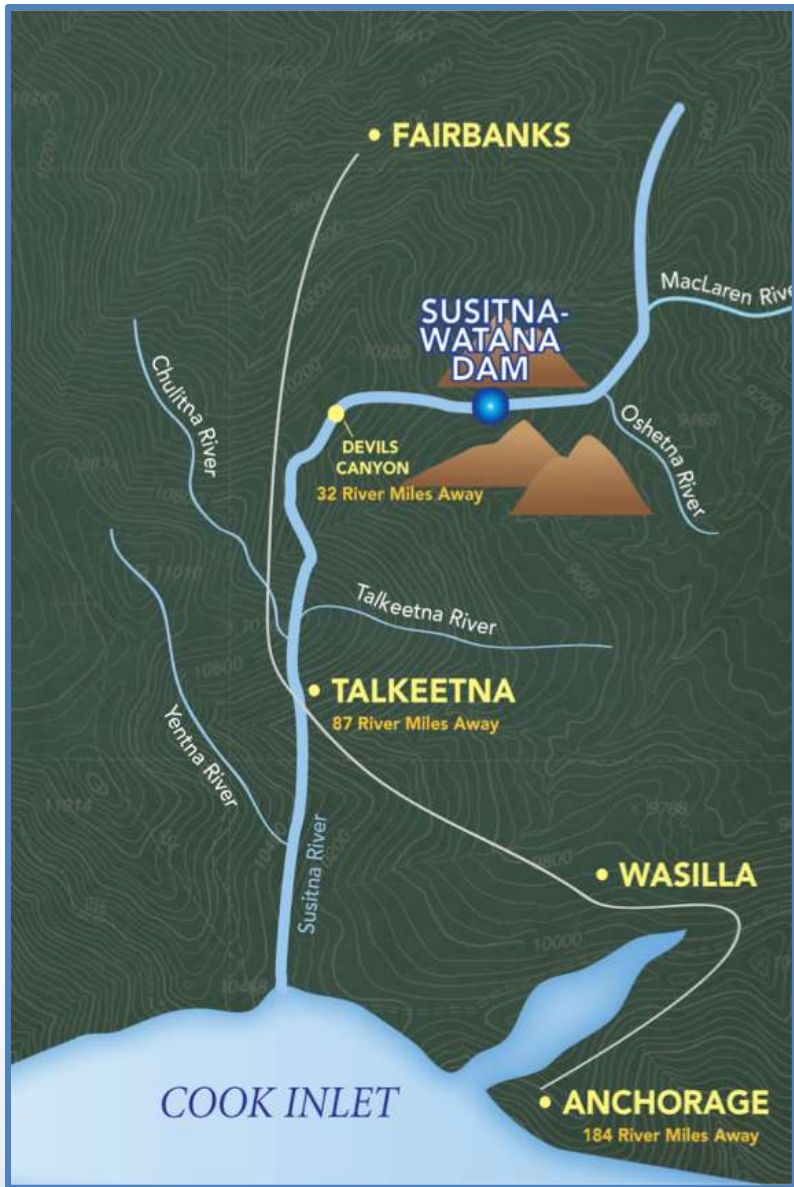
*September 11, 2013*

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# RSP 13.5 Cultural Resources Quarterly Progress

- *Archaeological Investigation*
- *Ethnogeography Investigation*
- *Paleoenvironmental Investigation*

# Archaeological Investigation

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## ***Logistics***

- *Six field crews each comprised of six people conducted archaeological inventory in the direct APE.*
- *Crews were based in camps at Stephan Lake Lodge, Gracious House, and Alpine Creek Lodge.*
- *Access was by land vehicle on parts of the Denali Corridor, and by two dedicated Long Ranger helicopters for the remainder of the area surveyed.*
- *Fieldwork was conducted from June 24 to July 8; July 12 to August 3; and August 8 to August 31, with some staggering of crew departures and arrivals.*
- *Aerial survey between the last two field sessions allowed SHPO/AOHA personnel to participate in the investigations as per Alaska Field Archaeology Permit 2013-16.*



# Archaeological Investigation

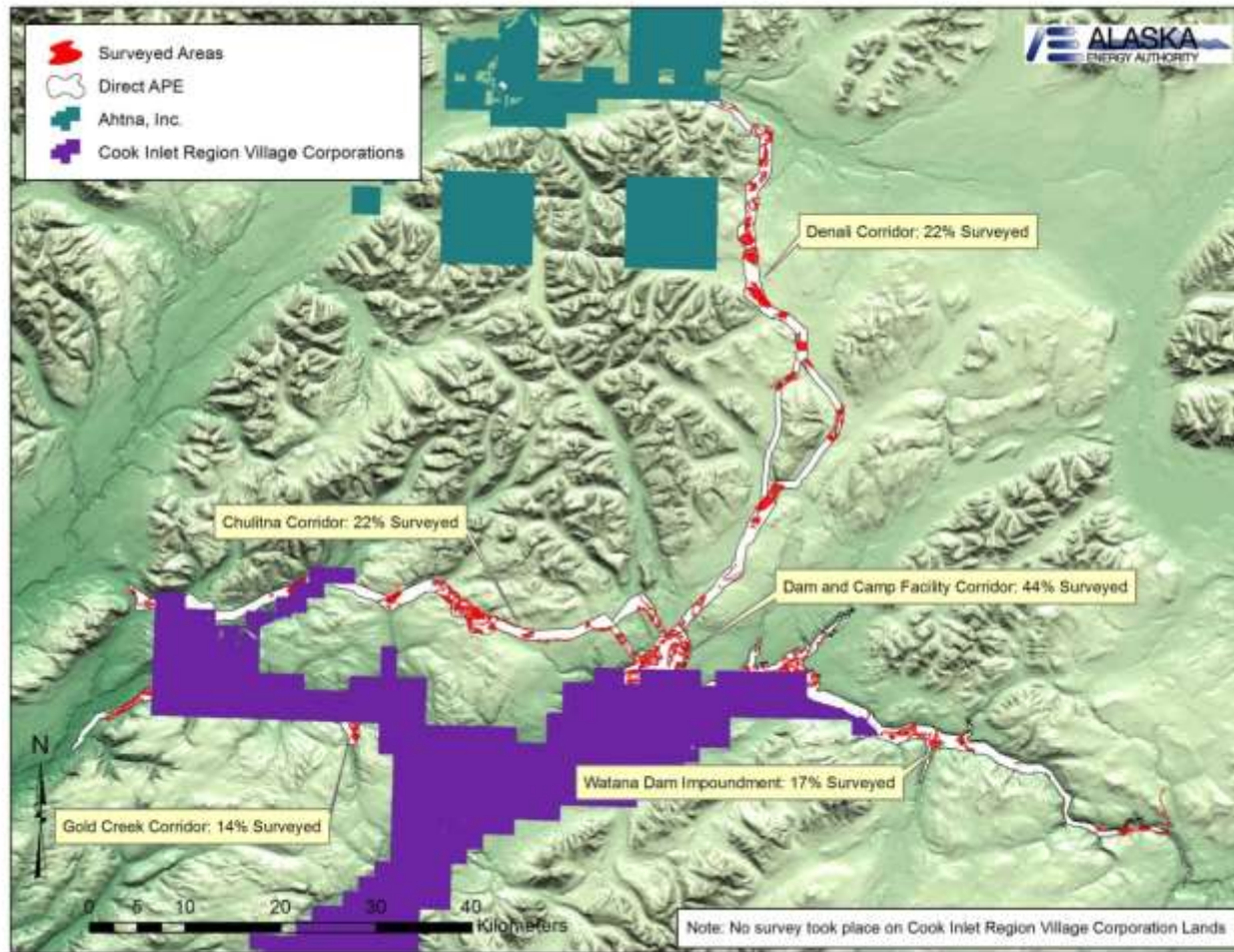
## ***Pedestrian Survey Coverage***

- *As of August 13, approximately 11,976 acres within the direct APE that were permitted for access were surveyed.*
- *That breaks down into: 2,675 acres (17%) of the Impoundment Area; 4,641 acres (21%) of the Denali Corridor; 368 acres (14%) of the Gold Creek Corridor, 3,583 acres (21%) of the Chulitna Corridor, and 2,019 acres (44%) of the Dam and Camp Facility corridor.*



# Archaeological Investigation

*Distribution of pedestrian survey on permitted lands in the direct APE.*





# Archaeological Investigation

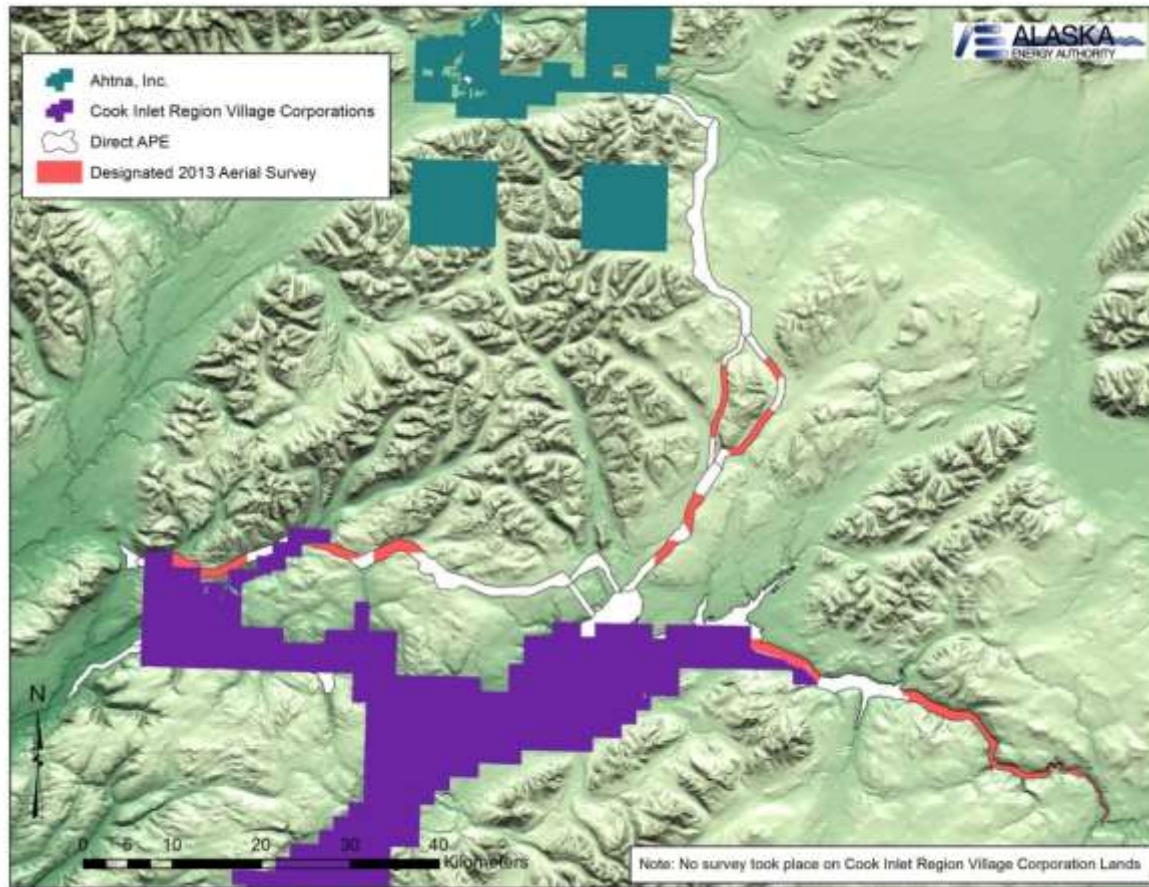
## ***Aerial Survey Coverage***

- *AR-001 is 3,232 acres; AR-011 is 1614 acres, DE-003 is 1,339 acres and DE-007 is 501 for a total of 6,687 acres (39% of direct APE) surveyed by air.*
- *Remaining direct APE to be surveyed is 10,518 acres (61%).*



# Archaeological Investigation

*Distribution of aerial survey on permitted lands in the direct APE.*



## ***Re-Inventory of Known AHRS Sites***

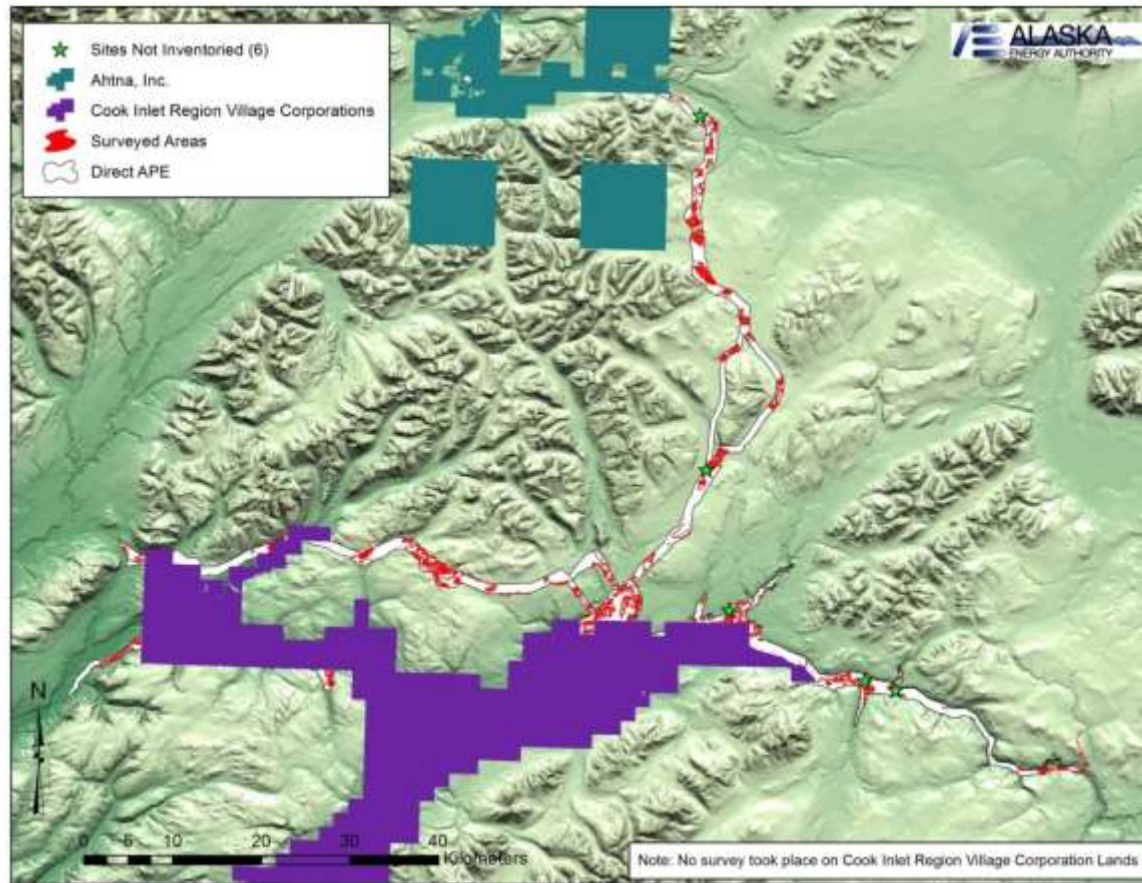
- *Of the 80 known AHRS sites in the direct APE permitted for access in 2013, 74 were found and re-recorded. Some adjustment of that total may occur as the new and old data sets are more closely compared in the coming weeks. The specific location of the remaining 6 known sites may or may not be determined this year.*





# Archaeological Investigation

*Distribution of AHRS sites yet to be re-inventoried on permitted lands in the direct APE.*



# Archaeological Investigation

## ***Factors affecting re-inventory of known sites include:***

- *AHRS database location error of up to 370 m in 2013.*
- *Inaccuracies and field measurements in 1980s data.*
- *GIS datum transformation from NAD 27 to NAD 83.*
- *Subtle landforms and microtopography.*
- *Dense vegetation and weather-related issues.*



## ***Discovery of New Sites***

- *As of August 13, 68 new sites warranting a new AHRS number have been found in the direct APE. Some adjustment of that total may occur as the new and old data sets are more closely compared in the coming weeks.*
- *The majority of the sites consist of surface lithic scatters.*
- *Unique alpine cairns and hunting blinds of various design, size, and function were discovered.*
- *A few historic mining and trapping artifacts were also recorded.*



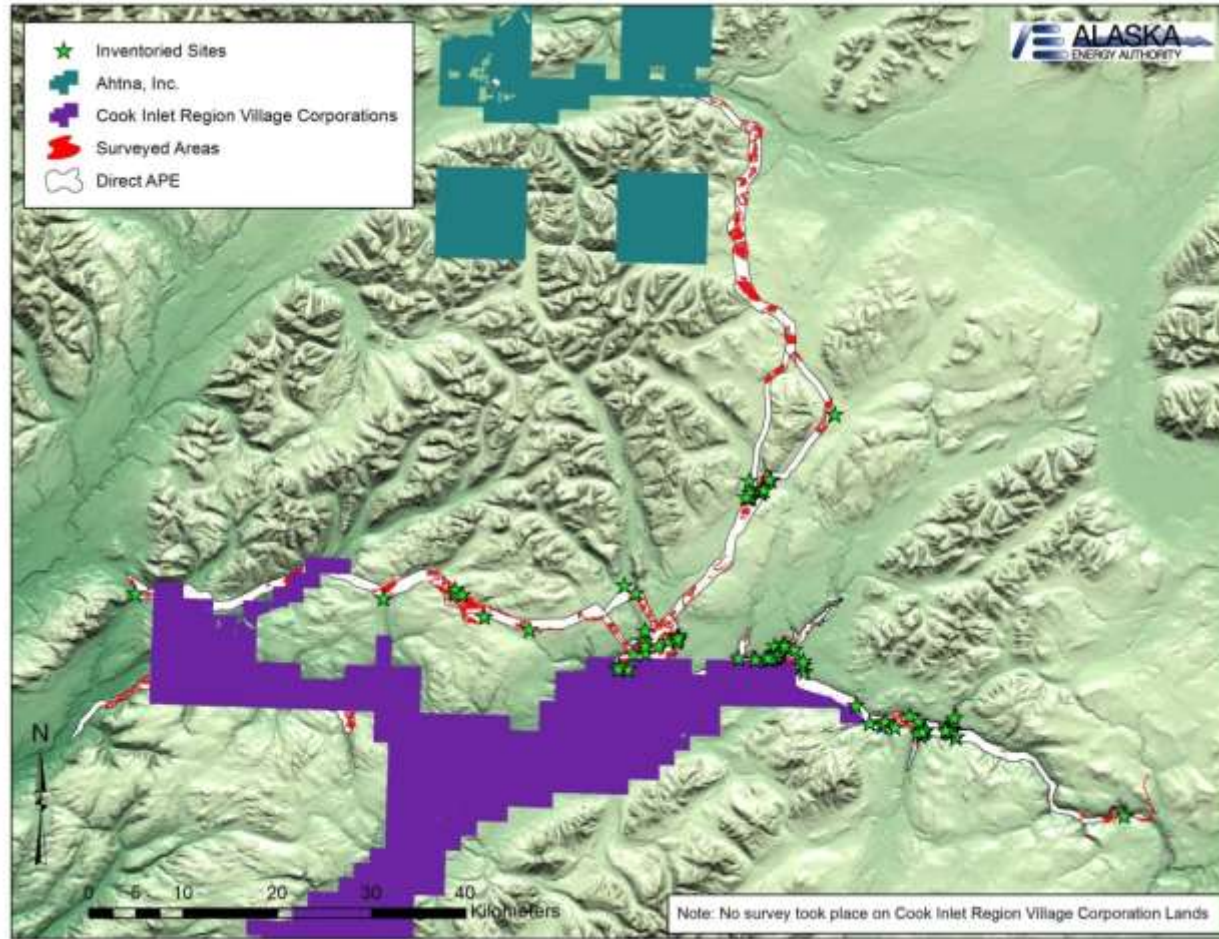
*Lithic Artifacts:  
flake scatter (upper left),  
scraper (far right), and bifaces.*





# Archaeological Investigation

*Distribution of re-inventoried AHRS sites on permitted lands in the direct APE.  
(none of the inventoried sites are on Cook Inlet Region Village Corporation lands)*





# Archaeological Investigation

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- *Coordination was maintained with the Recreation and Subsistence/Traditional Knowledge teams to share data, which is also expected to shed new light on certain aspects of the archaeological record.*
- *Coordination with the Geology team also led to collaborative tephra sampling methods and geochemical analysis (results scheduled for 2014).*



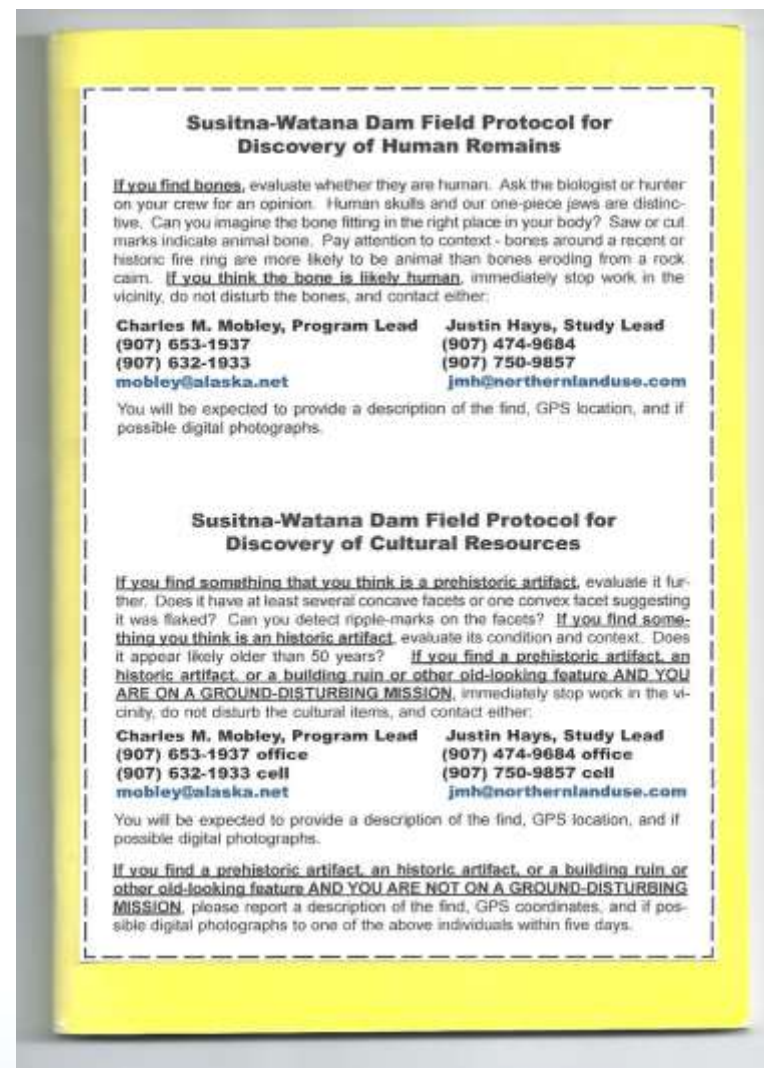
## ***Unanticipated Discovery Protocol & Training***

- *The Unanticipated Discovery Protocol developed in 2012 was applied in 2013.*
- *Susitna-Watana study teams for multiple resource areas have received the Unanticipated Discovery Protocol training.*
  - *The Protocol and a one-page field guide were distributed to AEA's contractors with instructions for field personnel to consult them.*
  - *Camp trainings at Stephan Lake Lodge, Gracious House, Alpine Creek Lodge, and Talkeetna addressed field personnel face-to-face and allowed further distribution of the one-page field guide.*
  - *A copy of the Unanticipated Discovery Protocol was posted in the briefing room of each field camp.*
  - *As contracted field personnel dispersed to specialized field stations, making face-to-face training unwieldy, a telephonic approach was taken. Steps were taken to develop a training video for all personnel.*



# Archaeological Investigations

A one-page field guide was prepared to accompany the Unanticipated Discoveries Plan.



# Archaeological Investigation - Variances

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- None, however the studies have been somewhat constrained by lack of access to Cook Inlet Region Village Corporation lands in 2013

# Ahtna Ethnogeography Investigation <sup>18</sup>

## ***Logistics***

- *An elders conference was held in Cantwell in March, 2013.*
- *Interviews in Gulkana and Cantwell were conducted from July 8 to August 20, 2013.*
- *Archival oral history research was conducted from February 1 to the present in Anchorage and Fairbanks.*





# Ahtna Ethnogeography Investigation <sup>19</sup>

## **Results**

- *Contemporary land use interviews were conducted with 18 Ahtna elders.*
- *25 interview tapes from BIA, BLM and other sources were transcribed.*
- *31 Ahtna language narratives were translated, with some remaining proofreading to be done.*
- *The existing Ahtna place name GIS data-base was updated with new information.*



# Ahtna Ethnogeography Investigation <sup>20</sup>

## ***Results***

- *All Western Ahtna place names were transferred to a project atlas.*
- *Coordination was maintained with the Subsistence/Traditional Knowledge team to share certain data.*
- *Contemporary harvest areas were mapped in detail and compiled with similar data from ADF&G Division of Subsistence, and place names data from the Alaska Native Language Center, to demonstrate continued land use over time.*



# Ahtna Ethnogeography Investigation <sup>21</sup>

## ***Insights from the Ethnogeography Investigation***

- *Tribal officials in the Ahtna region have expressed a desire to respect the Cantwell Ahtna band's traditional territory in regard to participation in the Susitna Project.*

# Ahtna Ethnogeography Investigation

## *Insights from the Ethnogeography Investigation*

- *The data show that the study area was the traditional territory of the **Hwtsaay Hwt'aene** ('small timber people'), also known as the Western Ahtna.*
- *The data show that the study area continues to be the traditional territory of the **Hwtsaay Hwt'aene**, whose descendants live in the community of Cantwell.*



# Ahtna Ethnogeography Investigation

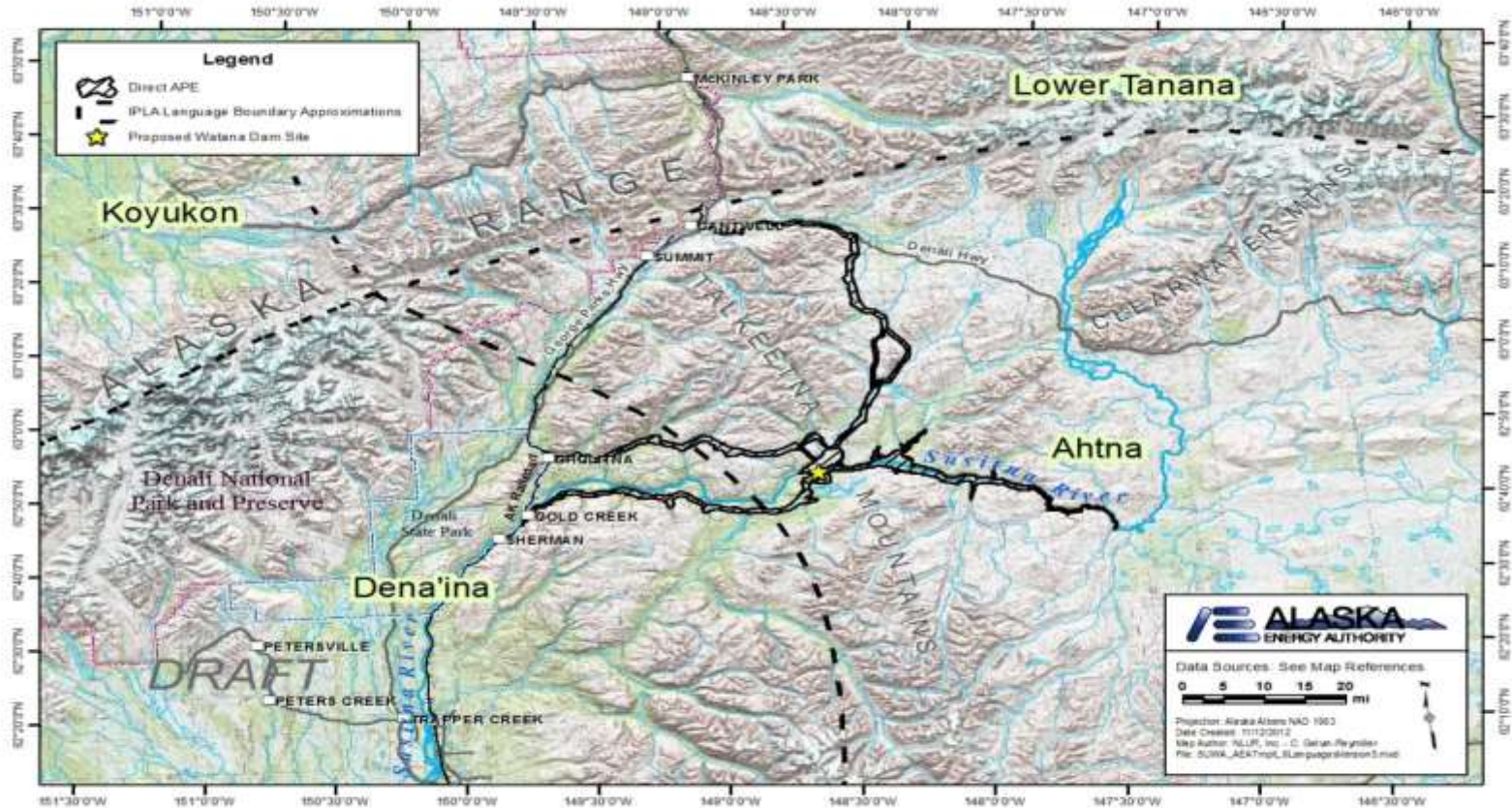
## *Insights from the Ethnogeography Investigation*

- *The data show descendants of the **Hwtsaay Hwt'aene** have a strong attachment to their traditional territory.*
- *This attachment is demonstrated through the traditional pursuits of hunting, fishing, and gathering, and through people's knowledge of the land.*





# Ahtna Ethnogeography Investigation 24



# Ethnogeography Investigation– Variances

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- None

# Cultural Resources – Next Steps

- *Archaeological Investigation*
  - *Complete analysis and prepare Initial Study Report (ISR).*
- *Ahtna Ethnogeography Investigation*
  - *Complete analysis and prepare ISR.*
  - *Arrange second Ahtna elders meeting.*
- *Dena'ina Ethnogeography Investigation*
  - *2014*
- *Paleoenvironmental Investigation*
  - *continued planning to be reported in ISR*



# Facilities Survey

- *An archaeological survey was conducted prior to installation of a seismic station on Deadman Mountain, resulting in no cultural resources observed and leading to a determination of no historic properties affected.*
- *No other surveys were needed in 2013.*

# RSP 13.6 Paleontological Resources

- *Current planning for the 2014 paleontological investigation will be reported in the ISR.*

