

Northwest Arctic Borough

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Community Survey Summary Comprehensive Plan



**Research Steering Committee Meeting
February 19, 2014**

Community Survey



- Purpose

- Determine community research needs
- Obtain quotes for subsistence mapping project atlas

- Methods

- Written survey distributed to 11 tribal councils for distribution to community members
 - Responders paid \$75 for completed survey
- Borough staff conducted in-person interviews wit

Participating Communities



- Kivalina – 14
- Noatak – 16
- Ambler – 12
- Noorvik – 10
- Kobuk - 9
- Buckland – 9
- Kotzebue – 4
- Shungnak – 3
- Kiana – 1
- Deering – 0
- Selawik - 0

1.1 What does subsistence mean to you?

- Responses not categorized. Some key concepts:
 - Gather food
 - Living off the land
 - Life
 - Teaching young about culture
 - Survival
 - Way of life
 - Provide for your family
 - Independence
 - Fun
 - No more Top Ramen



1.2 How important is subsistence to you/your community?

- Food (30 responses)
- Way of Life (14 responses)
- Economic (6 responses)
- Survival (4 responses)
- Other (27 responses)

1.3 Do you participate in subsistence as much as you would like?

- No (37 responses)
 - Fuel costs too much
 - No transportation
 - Work
 - Elder
 - Raising children
- Yes (34 responses)



1.4 What are some of your most memorable subsistence experiences?

- Did not categorize
 - Experience as a young person being taught by family
 - Observing natural processes
 - Camping
 - Ice fishing and drinking hot tea on the ice
 - Catching 249 trout in one day
 - Running out of gas and walking home in the dark in bear country
 - The ones that almost take me and my crew down with them under the ocean

1.5 What are the biggest threats to subsistence way of life?

- Sport Hunting/Outsiders (23 responses)
- Climate Change/Weather (21 responses)
- Expenses (9 responses)
- Government Regulations (8 responses)
- Mining (7 responses)
- Roads (5 responses)
- Oil and Gas (5 responses)
- Not teaching young how to subsist (4 responses)
- Air Traffic (4 responses)

1.6 What helps keep the subsistence way of life strong?

- Educating Young (44 responses)
- Culture/Tradition (8 responses)
- Conducting Subsistence (8 responses)
- Expenses (4)
 - Price of food at store
- Other (12)
 - Natives fighting together to keep our way of life

1.7 What should outsiders know about subsistence?

- Understanding Subsistence/Culture (31 responses)
- Impacts of Sport Hunting (18 responses)
- Local Values (5)
- Impacts of Tourism (3)
- Other (17)

1.8 What's the 3 most traditional foods harvested by your community?

- Caribou (68 responses)
- Fish (64 responses)
- Berries (24 responses)
- Moose (19 responses)
- Seal (19 responses)
- Waterfowl/Birds (13 responses)
- Bear (4 responses)
- Whale (3 responses)
- Greens (3 responses)

2.1 Is the ecosystem in the Borough healthy/stable?

- Yes (29 responses)
- Yes – with qualifications (14 responses)
- No (14 responses)
- Don't Know (9 responses)
- Guess so (4 responses)
- Other (5 responses)

2.2 What contributes to a healthy ecosystem?

- Reducing Trash (27 responses)
- People (12 responses)
- Pollution Prevention (6 responses)
- Traditional Values (4 responses)
 - Taking only what you need
- Leaving it Alone (3 responses)
- Management (2 responses)
- Other (21 responses)

2.3 What makes an ecosystem unhealthy?

- Trash (27 responses)
- Pollution (12 responses)
- Hunting (10 responses)
- Mining (7 responses)
- Development (3 responses)
- Oil and Gas (3 responses)
- Climate/Weather (5 responses)
- Other (24 responses)



2.4 What do caribou, ugruk, etc. need to have a healthy existence?

- Healthy, Clean Environment (33 responses)
- Animal Factors (17 responses)
 - Food
 - Migration
- Pollution Prevention (9 responses)
- Hunting/Sport Hunting (8 responses)
- Trash (4 responses)
- Development (3 responses)
- Predators (2 responses)

2.5 How have animal populations changed in your lifetime?

- Yes (78 responses)
 - Migration changes
 - Decline in rabbits
 - Salmon changing color earlier
 - Animals more hard to find
 - No more beluga
 - Climate change
- No Change (5 responses)

2.6 What concerns do you have about the local environment or animal populations?

- Hunting/Sport Hunting (11 responses)
- Decrease in Animals (10 responses)
- Climate Change/Weather (10 responses)
- Predators (8 responses)
- Oil and Gas/Mining (7 responses)
- Pollution (7 responses)
- None/Not Much (6 responses)
- Trash (4 responses)
- Regulation (3 responses)
- Wildfires (3 responses)

2.7 What do you want to know about animals or the ecosystem?

- Nothing (21 responses)
- Land Mammals (9 responses)
- Migration (7 responses)
- General Information (7 responses)
- Fish (4 responses)
- Communication (3 responses)
- Contaminants (2 responses)
- Climate (2 responses)

2.8 What does climate change mean to you?

- Weather Changes (18 responses)
- Impacts to Animals and Plants (17 responses)
- Adaptation (11 responses)
- Not Much Change (2 responses)
- Other (25 responses)

2.9 What effects have you seen from the weather/climate in your lifetime?

- Weather Changes (22 responses)
- Altered Subsistence Practices (12 responses)
- Changing Species/Health of Species (12)
- Erosion/Shallow Rivers (10 responses)
- Changes in Migration (10 responses)
- Sea Ice Changes (3 responses)
- Changes in Berries (3 responses)
- Reduced animal populations (3 responses)

3.1 What do you think of development that has happened or planned?

- OK/Development Needed (25 responses)
- Don't Know (17 responses)
- Communication (9 responses)
- Mining (4 responses)
- Oil and Gas (2 responses)
- Sport Hunting (2 responses)
- Other (14 responses)

3.2 How has/could development benefit Borough residents?

- Local Jobs (20 responses)
- Don't Know (6 responses)
- Communication (4 responses)
- Local Infrastructure (4 responses)
- Lower Costs (3 responses)
- Won't benefit (2 responses)
- Other (35 responses)

3.3 how has/could development negatively impact Borough residents?

- Impacts to Animals (14 responses)
- Don't Know (8 responses)
- No Impact Observed (8 responses)
- Impacts to Subsistence (8 responses)
- Jobs (7 responses)
- Impacts from Outsiders (4 responses)
- Trash (3 responses)
- Contamination (3 responses)
- Sport Hunting (2 response)
- Roads (2 responses)
- Other (19 responses)

3.4 Can development happen responsibly.

- Yes (47 responses)
- Yes and No (4 responses)
- Not Sure (3 responses)
- No (3 responses)
- Other (4 responses)

3.5 What needs to be done to develop responsibly?

- Research and Monitoring (15 responses)
- Communication (13 responses)
- Planning/Management (6 responses)
- Education (6 responses)
- Don't Know (4 responses)
- No Changes Needed (3 responses)
- Sport Hunting (2 responses)

3.6 What other information would you like about development?

- More communication (15 responses)
- Research (6 responses)
- Jobs (5 responses)
- Nothing (5 responses)
- Don't Know (3 responses)
- Pollution (3 responses)
- Other (24 responses)

M1: What's the best way to inform you about subsistence/ecosystem/development?

- Meetings/Village Visits (35 responses)
- Newsletters (22 responses)
- Flyers (9 responses)
- Radio (6 responses)
- Emails (5 responses)
- Internet (5 responses)
- Facebook (4 responses)
- Publications (4 responses)
- Mailings (3 responses)

M2. How can we learn from you about our ecosystem/development?

- Observe locals (27 responses)
- Communication/Meetings (12 responses)
- Surveys/Questionnaires (11 responses)
- Don't Know (2 responses)
- Research (2 responses)
- Other (14 responses)
 - “I don't think you could”