



TAKOTNA COMMUNITY PLAN

VILLAGE OF TAKOTNA
MILE 412 IDITAROD TRAIL
GENERAL DELIVERY
TAKOTNA, AK 99675

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OUR VISION:

*“to protect our community’s
heritage, culture, and values
while at the same time
encouraging the development
of new infrastructure and
economic growth for the
benefit of the community
and its families.”*

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND PARTICIPATION PROCESS

The community of Takotna, between January and June 2005, underwent a comprehensive economic and infrastructure planning process. A majority of the community residents as well as representatives from key community organizations, including the tribal council, the community association, and local school, were involved in the planning process. Because Takotna recognizes the need for and value of strong community planning, all residents were encouraged to participate in a community-wide planning session held January 19 and 20, 2005; school was closed and offices were shut down. Participation during the two day event was thoughtful, spirited and cooperative.

The community of Takotna participated in the planning process through phone interviews, email correspondence, work sessions and public meetings to provide direct input into the plan as it evolved. Through the public meeting process community participants reached consensus on a shared long-term vision for the community as well as their shared common values. These elements became the foundation from which community priorities and long-term goals were established. Throughout the planning process, Takotna residents and community leaders articulated that community development does not just happen, but requires planning and commitment to the development process. The community is in agreement that while many opportunities exist for the community their pursuit will require project education, ongoing analysis and planning, and a strong commitment from key community participants to remain involved throughout that process.

In this Takotna Community Plan, Takotna residents share their vision for the community's future. In arriving at this shared vision, Takotna residents underwent a planning process that first established agreed upon values; then identified overlying community needs; and, finally, outlined short and long term priorities to address needs and, ultimately, to fulfill the communities shared vision. As part of the process of establishing its vision, Takotna community participants reviewed their past history in order to establish a foundation to build upon. Likewise, the Takotna physical setting, economy, land use plans, existing facilities and infrastructure, local governing structures and regional, statewide entities were reviewed to fully understand community-wide resources available to Takotna in the pursuit of its vision.



COMMUNITY OF TAKOTNA VISION AND TRADITIONAL VALUES

The community of Takotna's vision is its purpose for existing. This vision gives direction to community leaders to decide where and what Takotna will be in the future. Community leaders will focus upon projects and activities that strengthen the community of Takotna's long-term ability to achieve this vision.

Takotna is a community of 78 located in Interior Alaska on the north bank of the Takotna River, 17 air miles west of McGrath in the Kilbuck-Kuskokwim Mountains. Takotna's community is comprised of friendly people living a healthy lifestyle in a place where the children can play and grow and the adults can play and work.

The Community of Takotna's vision: "to protect our community's heritage, culture, and values while at the same time encouraging the development of new infrastructure and economic growth for the benefit of the community and its families."

Traditional Values

Ideally, Takotna's residents would like to see measured and moderate population and economic growth that would occur as the population ages and enters the job force – to provide strong economic opportunity for future generations. However, for Takotna's residents economic opportunities must be pursued in harmony with the community's traditional values - both economic values and social values.

The community of Takotna, for example, has strong respect for its traditional place as a mining center – including both its historical gold rush history and its modern-day mining operations. Likewise, Takotna has a valued relationship to dog mushing – including its location on the historical Iditarod Trail and its inclusion as a checkpoint for the Iditarod Sled Dog Race and the Iron Dog snow machine race.

As indicated in the community vision, Takotna's residents hold strong family and community values. Support of family, education of children and care of needy and elderly residents are all important underlying values of the Takotna community.

It is important that any future growth and development of Takotna take place within the context of these very important traditional community values.

*"to protect
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encouraging
development
...benefiting
our
community
and
families"...*

COMMUNITY OF TAKOTNA STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES

The community of Takotna's resources, capabilities and core competencies are critical in creating a future. Often, there are more opportunities than a community can pursue. Knowledge of Takotna's strengths will help community leaders keep focused and see new opportunities for the community. A candid assessment of weaknesses will inject a dose of reality into the community planning.

Strengths

Takotna is a healthy, self-reliant community full of pride; with good leaders, skilled residents with varied job expertise, strong families made up of educated parents and smart kids, people who care about each other, and residents who are always willing to lend a helping hand and are committed to a strong future for their community.

In addition to its people – the role of education is an important element in the Takotna community. During its two planning sessions, the community of Takotna returned again and again to the theme of education and the important role it plays in the community. The importance of education is apparent in the community's mention of the “active community library”, the “strong, long-standing school” and the fact that “most students go on to college”. In addition, there is good guidance for the children both through the school and within the community itself. One reflection of this is the existence of no “drug or alcohol problems to speak of”.

Takotna's location is another strength - it is a “spacious”, “attractive place to be” and as some residents noted, it is the “best little checkpoint on the Iditarod Trail”!

Existing infrastructure within the community itself was also mentioned as a strength. The community has roads; electric power generation is dependable, although expensive; and, there is a potable, dependable source of water. The community has a variety of reliable buildings to house community services, including the community association, the health clinic, the tribal council and the school. Additional resources include heavy equipment available to attend to the variety of maintenance and construction tasks, a firehouse, a teen center and an airstrip.

And, of course, the residents themselves might be considered one of the most valuable resources with their wealth of education, skills and expertise.

The residents of Takotna believe that there is much to “like” about Takotna. Aspects most frequently mentioned by residents include quality of life items such as freedom, quietness, friendly people, nearness of friends and family, leadership,



and scenic location with wildlife and recreation opportunities. Additionally, residents rely upon the abundance of available activities, including fishing, trapping, hunting and camping. And, some residents mentioned they liked that the Iditarod and Iron Dog come through the community bringing people and excitement with the events.

Takotna residents are proud of the fact that their form of local government, a community association, works well for them and that residents are responsible for themselves and are basically self-policing. A source of community pride is the fact that they live in a community that values liberty and freedom.

Weaknesses

Conversely, residents of Takotna had no problem identifying the weaknesses of their small community. Residents identified the primary community weakness as - lack of jobs for the future. Additionally, there is community concern about maintaining vital infrastructure in the face of challenges presented by a remote location and rising costs.

Specific infrastructure issues identified include:

- on-going road maintenance
- water and sewer system
- cost of sustaining new infrastructure
- high fuel prices
- bridge maintenance
- lack of airport landing lights
- short airstrip

Some existing services within the community were identified as being “too small to meet community needs” such as the health clinic and the recreational center; while, other services are “inconsistent” such as mail delivery.

Community residents were basically unanimous in their belief that resolving these weaknesses would only strengthen their positive feelings about Takotna.



COMMUNITY OF TAKOTNA OPPORTUNITIES AND THREATS

There are major outside forces that will make a difference in whether or not the community of Takotna succeeds. These typically include the social, political, economic and technological forces that influence the community.

Opportunities

There are a number of opportunities from which residents believe Takotna could benefit. Future opportunities identified by the community focused on two interrelated general themes: education and economic development.

Educational opportunities include:

- UAF classes
- traditional camps/make Web pages
- annual traditional camp open to our region
- educational values to draw people in
- outside students/exchange students

Economic development opportunities include:

- lodge/hut
- special hiking trips (tour guides)
- activity type fair
- a Web page expressing - fish weir advantages
- winter events – ski
- cottage industries
- tourism

Threats

Threats to Takotna's future development were also identified by the community – threats that are out of the control of residents. They include governmental issues such as being forced into a borough, the school not being recognized as a community school, the lack of school district cooperation, and governmental regulations in general. Environmental issues included pollution and the impact of environmental activists. Financial concerns included rising fuel prices, unfunded mandates, strings attached to government money and inadequate funding for a new airstrip. Also mentioned as a threat was potential transportation of drugs and alcohol into the community.

*Future
opportunity
...
education
&
economic
development
...*

COMMUNITY OF TAKOTNA CRITICAL ISSUES FOR THE FUTURE

The community of Takotna faces several critical issues, both short-term and long-term, that must be addressed by the community to ensure the future growth and viability of the community.

Current concerns of the community of Takotna include social, governmental, economical, educational and infrastructural. Socially, residents are concerned about drugs and alcohol in their community; and, they are worried about the community growing too large and over-stressing local resources.

Governmentally, residents are concerned about interferences on all levels including regionalization of federal services and being forced into an organized borough. Educationally, residents are concerned about the creation of a regional high school as well as the role of the school district within the community.

Economically, residents are concerned about their future, the existence of enough jobs for their educated young adults and the rising cost of energy. And, infrastructurally, residents are concerned about the overall health and condition of existing community infrastructure and buildings.

1-2 Years Critical Issues:

Residents identified critical issues for the next 1-2 years, which varied widely and included a desire for better regional governmental representation (including within MTNT, the school district and other regional organizations) and leadership development; infrastructure concerns including an airstrip, completion of ongoing projects, bridge and road maintenance and upgrades; and concern regarding Takotna's overall appearance, fuel prices and lack of a general retail store.

- High fuel prices
- BIA/DOT/Denali Commission projects (clinic, bulk fuel storage, landfill, electric power generation and distribution, bridge upgrades)
 - Scheduling, labor, coordinating, expertise
- STIP funding for bridge – Gold Creek
- Roads (Ophir Road, maintenance)
- Airstrip (FAA, DOTPF)
- General store
- Community appearance
- Leadership development
- Government representatives/better representation

Long-Term Issues:

In addition to the above short term issues, residents also identified critical issues for the long term, which varied somewhat and included the need for further airport improvements, road development, mining support services and expansion of educational opportunities.

- DOTPF – lease
 - “T” hangers/improvements
 - fuel pump and credit/debit card sales
- road (Ophir – Ruby)
- private school (interest of social service organizations to use Takotna infrastructure for residential school)
- mining (support services)



COMMUNITY OF TAKOTNA PLANNING GOALS AND PRIORITIES

The key elements of a community plan are its goals, priorities and actions that support the overall vision of the community. The vision expressed by the community of Takotna is “to protect our heritage, culture, and traditional values while at the same time encouraging the development of new infrastructure and economic growth for the benefit of the community and its families.”

Goals are general achievements that the community wishes to accomplish in the future. This section outlines the goals and priorities in support of continuing to build a strong community for the residents of Takotna.

The goals and priorities identified herein are not meant to be inclusive, but are representative of the most significantly reoccurring themes received from input of the community’s residents and organizations during the 2005 planning process.

Infrastructure Development Goal

The community of Takotna’s top priority is to finalize a variety of infrastructure projects currently underway and to ensure that the projects are operating in a sustainable manner. The long-term sustainability of its infrastructure is a top priority and concern for the residents of Takotna, who are very concerned that the community, and its residents, be able to afford to sustain and operate any new infrastructure placed into service within the community.

Goal 1: To complete on-going infrastructure projects and establish sustainable services and operations

- | |
|--|
| Objective 1.1 Health clinic - including operational plan |
| Objective 1.2 Takotna bulk fuel facility - including business operation plan |
| Objective 1.3 Electric utility upgrade - including business operating plan |
| Objective 1.4 Burn box at landfill |
| Objective 1.5 Landfill fencing |
| Objective 1.6 Library – building and collection |
| Objective 1.7 Water/wastewater system updates |
| Objective 1.8 Gold Creek bridge upgrades |
| Objective 1.9 Road maintenance |



Community Development Goal

The community of Takotna recognizes the need to thoughtfully plan for future land use and community development. There is a need to provide for airport expansion and improvements, community parks and recreational facilities, community roads and utilities and other vital community infrastructure. By continuing to prioritize community improvements in a systematic manner, the community of Takotna can ensure that funds are allocated properly and the community is logically developed.

Goal 2: Further develop Takotna's community infrastructure
**Objective 2.1 Upgrade airport facilities & services
**Objective 2.2 Improve community water & sewer
Objective 2.3 Improve community roads
**Objective 2.4 Expand and upgrade community parks and recreational facilities
Objective 2.5 Develop historical trails
Objective 2.6 Upgrade cemetery
Objective 2.7 Develop updated flood plan

** Priority Objective as of 2005



Economic Development Goal

Community residents, while practicing a rural lifestyle, recognize that they live in a modern world where a cash economy is a fact of life. Takotna residents wishing to work...can do so, but a concern for most Takotna residents is the need for jobs for the future. Jobs for the next generation of Takotna residents are critical – so anyone wishing to remain in the community is able to do so. The community has considered many economic opportunities including services to residents, and to travelers from other area communities and beyond; and, development of natural resources. A key element to the community's economic development planning is to pursue new opportunities while continuing to support traditional jobs and economic sectors. Traditional local job opportunities include:

- Education – teachers, aides, support services
- Mining – labor, transportation, support services
- Utilities – operators, administrators, support services
- Health Care – providers, aides, support services
- Council/Association – administrators, program/support services

Goal 3: To establish a variety of economic development projects to provide additional revenue, support existing and new job opportunities

Objective 3.1 Support traditional activities and job sectors

** Objective 3.2 Support tourism development strategies

Objective 3.3 Support cottage industry strategies

** Objective 3.4 Support development of a community store

** Priority Objective as of 2005



COMMUNITY OF TAKOTNA 2005 PRIORITY ACTION PLANS

During its 2005 planning session, Takotna's residents identified immediate priorities and actions for several of their objectives. The immediate 2005 community priorities are:

Objective 2.1 Upgrade airport facilities & services

Passenger Services

- welcome sign (population people, etc)
- waiting booth
- customer service road maintenance
- airport maintenance
- weather station, broadcast, automated

Equipment Upgrades

- longer runway for larger aircraft
- runway lighting
- "T" hangers
- 4 point tie-downs
- taxi service (4-wheeler and snow machine)
- AV gas pump that uses credit/debit cards

Objective 2.2 Improve community water & sewer

Water Treatment Plant and Septic System Upgrades

- inspection and upgrade of 7 existing septic tank systems
- installation of 5 new septic tank systems
- purchase septage haul trailer with pump
- build a septage monofill for septage disposal
- prepare Operations and Maintenance Manual for water treatment plant
- increase baffling classification to increase CT values for filtered surface water source

New Water Storage Tank and Piping System

- build 80,000 gallon water storage tank
- build heat-add system
- build arctic pipe circulating system



Objective 2.4 Support expansion and upgrade of community parks and recreational facilities

Parks

- picnic and bar-b-que facilities
- mini park (swim area, dock, swing rope, picnic area) at river

Sports/Athletics

- softball fields/running track
- hiking trails
- winter activities
 - ski slope
 - trails
 - ice skating

“Right-sized” Gym

- facility
 - bigger basketball court
 - bleachers
 - refreshment stand
 - mini workout room
 - girls and boys locker rooms with showers/bathroom
- equipment
- exercise classes
- cheerleader & mascot



Objective 3.2 Support tourism development strategies including:

Iditarod and related activities

Celebrations, festivals and Events

Tourism/visitor accommodations and services

Museum/arts and crafts/traditional and cultural activities

Objective 3.4 Support development of a community store, including:

Identify source of funding for inventory and fixtures

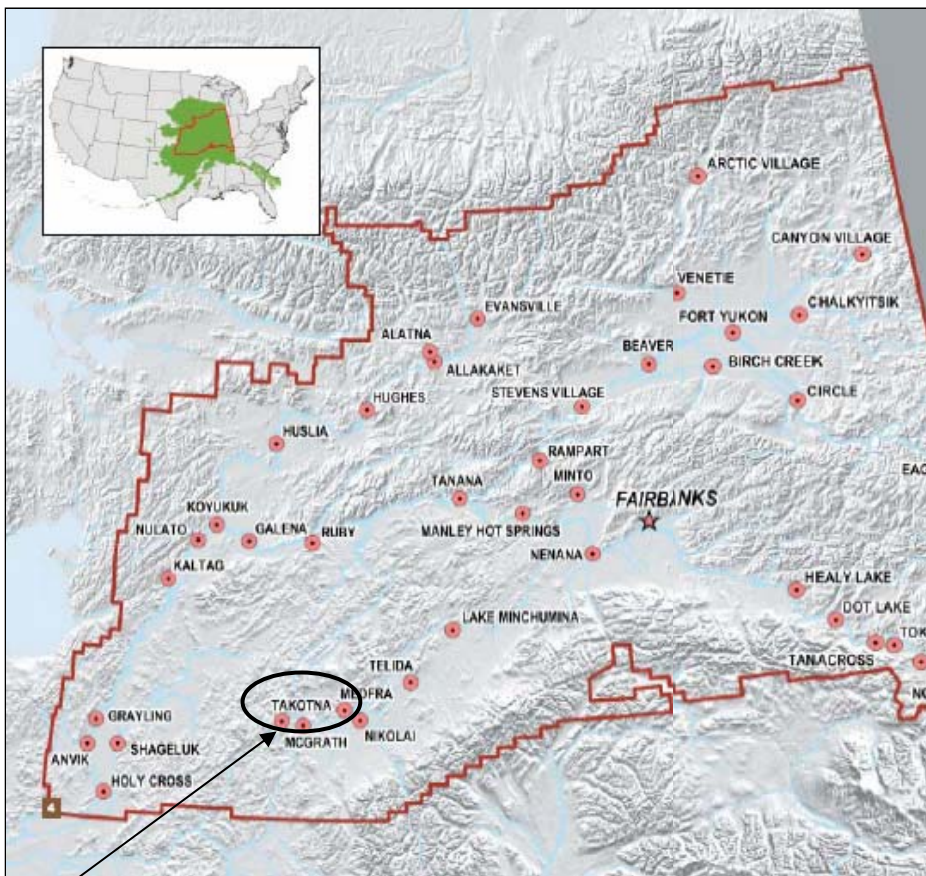
Develop business/operating plan

Develop store layout/stocking/etc plan

TAKOTNA LOCATION AND SIZE

Takotna is located in Interior Alaska on the north bank of the Takotna River in a broad scenic river valley, 17 air miles west of McGrath in the Kilbuck-Kuskokwim Mountains. Takotna is approximately 62.988610 degrees North Latitude and -156.06417 degrees West Longitude (Sec. 35, T034N, R036W, Seward Meridian) and is located in the Mt. McKinley Recording District. The area encompasses 23.5 square miles of land and 0.0 square miles of water.

INTERIOR ALASKA



(Map by: Will Putnam, Tanana Chiefs Conference, 2003)

Community of Takotna

TAKOTNA PHYSICAL SETTING

Takotna residents have a strong relationship with and respect for their natural environment. The following provides a review of Takotna's physical environment.

Soils and Geology

Soils in the area are generally well drained alluvial deposits of silt and sand. The vegetation in the area includes birch and spruce trees, alders and tall grasses. Underlying deposits are largely greywacke and shale, with wind deposits. Soils at higher elevations in the town are characterized as silty gravel derived from moderately weathered shale and siltstones. The soils at selected locations adjacent to the Takotna River consist of discontinuous gravel deposits placed by river meanders. A wind deposited silt caps all the underlying soils. Soils with underlying gravels are generally considered to be acceptable for septic leach fields. Silt layers near the surface are unsuitable for conventional septic systems due to low permeability.

Geography

A National Wetlands Inventory mapping has not been performed for the Takotna area, but aerial photos and site visits by the Takotna Airport Improvement Project team (February 2005) indicate that the general vicinity is dominated by forested and shrub scrub wetlands.

The Takotna River meanders within a valley floor dotted with oxbows and ponds, bordered by muskeg, black spruce bog, and boreal forest. Forests in better-drained areas of the lowlands include cottonwood, white spruce, birch and aspen. Black spruce grows in the more poorly drained soils that are underlain by permafrost. Vegetation common to the muskeg areas includes sedges, mosses, willow, dwarf birch and other low shrubs. A variety of mammals, birds and fish inhabit the predominantly boreal forest habitats near Takotna. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game publication *State of Alaska Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, and Sanctuaries* found that there are no State Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas or Sanctuaries in the vicinity of Takotna.

Physical Hazards

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reports that there is no floodplain mapping for Takotna. At one time, the Corps made a site visit and confirmed there is no flood hazard at the village.

No hazardous waste or materials sites have been identified in the area of Takotna.

“...
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Climate

Takotna has cold, continental climate. Summer temperatures average 42 to 80 degrees Fahrenheit, winter temperatures range from -42 to 0 degrees Fahrenheit. The Takotna River is generally ice free from June through October.

The average total precipitation for Takotna is approximately 16 inches per year, with the majority falling as rain during the period from July to October. Most snowfall occurs during the period from November to March, with an average annual accumulation of more than 75 inches.

Prevailing winds are from the north or northwest in the winter, becoming southerly in the summer. Overall mean wind speed is 4.2 knots.

Natural Resources

Takotna is located in the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, which is considered a geologic and mineral-rich region with great potential. Most of the prospects throughout this huge area in Alaska's Interior require more exploration and evaluation. Much of the area is under-explored due to the lack of access.

The numerous gold placer districts throughout this huge Census Area attest to the long mining history and mineral potential. The Innoko-Tolstoi District, located near Takotna, produced about 723,000 ounces and trace of tin, tungsten, platinum and mercury.

The Takotna River is a known anadromous fish stream. All waters that support anadromous fish species are considered Essential Fish Habitat by the National Marine Fisheries Service. Essential Fish Habitat is defined as "waters necessary to fish for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity" by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game has been investigating fish populations and reports that sculpin, whitefish, grayling, burbot, pike, sucker, lamprey and coho, chinook, and chum salmon are present in the Takotna River.



TAKOTNA HISTORY, CULTURE AND POPULATION

Community History

Takotna has been known as Berry Landing, Portage City, Takotna City, Takotna Station, and Tokotna. In 1908, merchants in Bethel hired Arthur Berry to bring supplies up the Takotna River and the village was founded at the farthest point on the river that Berry's small sternwheeler was able to reach. By 1912, the community had several stores that supplied miners and numerous gold discoveries in the region enabled the town to prosper. By 1919, there were several commercial companies, roadhouses, a post office, and about 50 houses. In 1921, the Alaska Road Commission improved the Takotna-Ophir road, and an airfield was constructed. In 1923, a radio station began broadcasting in Takotna and the town had its own newspaper, The Kusko Times. Low waters at times precluded the arrival of steamboats, so the Takotna-Sterling Landing road was constructed to the Kuskokwim River in 1930. During the 1930's, however, McGrath became the more dominant supply center and the Alaska Commercial Company store closed.



Culture

Takotna is a mixed population of non-Natives, Ingalik Athabascans and Eskimos. Approximately 42 percent of the population reports Alaska Native heritage or in combination with one or more races. Subsistence is a prevalent activity.

Population Trends and Projections

Historical population data for Takotna is provided below:

Population	
2004	62
2002	78
2000	50
1990	38
1980	48
1970	0
1960	40

Since the 1930s, Takotna's population has exhibited cyclical boom-bust trends consistent with economies tied to mining. Future population projections are expected to continue to be tied to the economies of mining and other local economic and job opportunities.

Community and Regional Organizations

- ***Takotna Tribal Council***

The Takotna Tribal Council is the Bureau of Indian Affairs recognized traditional Native council for the community of Takotna. Takotna Tribal Council owns and operates the community's water system and landfill, as well as the library and fish weir. The Takotna Tribal Council rents the local teen center building and owns the community's health clinic, which is operated by Southcentral Foundation. In 2005, the tribal council is undertaking planning to re-establish a local retail store within the community.

- ***Takotna Community Association***

On May 27, 1982, the Takotna Community Association was incorporated under the laws of the State of Alaska "for the promotion of social welfare pursuant to Section 501 (c) (4) of the Internal Revenue code". The Association operates primarily to further the common good and general welfare of all the people of the community by bringing about civic betterment and social improvements. The Association currently operates the local electric utility, the bulk fuel facilities and the local lodge.

- ***Tanana Chiefs Conference***

Tanana Chiefs Conference, the traditional tribal consortium of the 42 villages of Interior Alaska (including Takotna), is based on a belief in tribal self-determination and the need for regional Native unity. The history of the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) reflects the importance of balancing the traditional Native values with the modern demands facing indigenous peoples. TCC is a non-profit organization that works toward meeting the health and social service challenges for more than 10,000 Alaska Natives spread across a region of 235,000 square miles in Interior Alaska, including the Takotna Tribal Council.

- ***Southcentral Foundation***

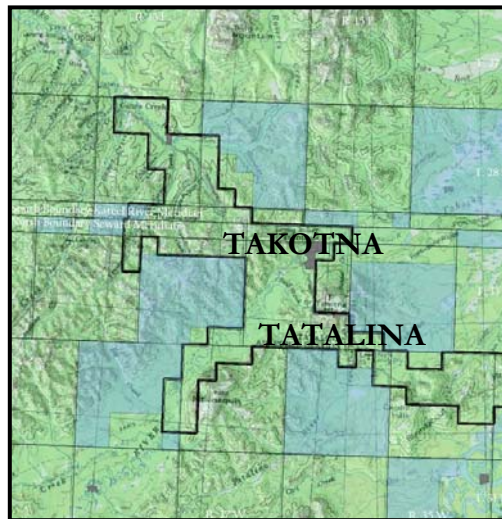
Southcentral Foundation is an Alaska Native-owned healthcare organization serving Alaska Native and American Indian people living in Anchorage, the Mat-Su Valley, and 60 rural villages in the Anchorage Service Unit. The Southcentral Foundation currently operates the village clinic in Takotna. Southcentral Foundation's vision is a Native community that enjoys physical, mental, emotional and spiritual wellness; its mission is to work together with the Native community to achieve wellness through health and related services. The organization has developed and implemented comprehensive health-related services to meet changing needs and to enhance culture and empower individuals and families to take charge of their lives.

*...the
Takotna
Tribal Council
is the Native
council...the
Takotna
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Association
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social
improvements...*

- ***Doyon, Ltd.***

The community of Takotna lies within the area of the Doyon, Ltd. Region. Doyon, Ltd. is one of the 13 Native regional for-profit corporations established by the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) that settled aboriginal land claims in the state. The lands surrounding Takotna are Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 14(c)3 lands. A total of 1,280 acres are held in trust by the State of Alaska for Takotna Village until it becomes a second-class city. As a stipulation of ANCSA, residents only have surface rights to the village land. Doyon, Ltd., the regional Native corporation, holds the subsurface rights on non-state lands, except for Native allotments.

Doyon Lands



(© Doyon, Ltd.)

- ***MTNT, Ltd.***

When the 13 Native regional for-profit corporations were established by the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), at the same time 200 village for-profit corporations were formed. Land owned by MTNT, Ltd., the village corporation for the villages of McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai and Telida, surrounds Takotna. MTNT, Ltd. has surface rights only.

TAKOTNA ECONOMY

Subsistence Resources

Takotna has a combined cash and subsistence economy. Most residents participate in subsistence activities, which provide many households with an important source of sustenance. Approximately 80 percent of residents are involved in subsistence activities. Moose and salmon are the primary meat sources and many residents garden during the summer.

Composition of Employment

Employment in the community is through the school district, post office, health clinic, local businesses and seasonal construction. According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are three residents who are private wage and salary workers and nine residents who are government workers. There are several current business licenses in Takotna: C-Gott Services; Gold Creek Native Store; Dick's General Services; J&D's Cash and Carry; and, the Takotna Community Association.

Unemployment and Seasonality of Employment

Gold mining and fur trapping are popular commercial activities in the area surrounding Takotna that provide residents with seasonal employment opportunities.

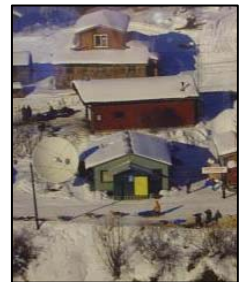
Takotna is on the Iditarod National Historic Trail and is also a checkpoint for the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. Each March, 1,100 miles of the trail comes to life during the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. Villages along the Iditarod trail make the news during the famous winter event, but few visitors actually observe the race from the Interior villages. Most spectators watch the race at its start in Anchorage and at its end in Nome. The Iditarod Sled Dog Race brings some visitors and race workers to Takotna every March and provides a few residents with seasonal hospitality employment opportunities.

Takotna had a number of large capital improvement projects in the last five years and has a number of projects scheduled to be constructed in the next few years. During construction, capital improvements bring cash into the economy. These projects have provided only limited opportunities for temporary seasonal employment in Takotna.

Current employment data for Takotna is provided below:

Employment Levels (2000 U.S. Census):

Total Potential Work Force (Age 16+)	29
Total Employment	12
Percent Unemployed	0.0%



Barriers to Economic Development

Takotna is located in Alaska's Interior, in the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, where rivers provide the primary transportation routes for residents. Only seven out of 41 communities in the area are connected to the Alaska road system – and, indeed Takotna is accessible only by water and air transportation. Takotna's lack of connection to the Alaska road system is a barrier to new economic development.

The Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area's economic base is small (approximately 12 percent of the total Alaska economy) and consists of commercial fishing, fish processing, timber, mining, oil and gas exploration, pipeline services, tourism, a small federal presence, fur trapping and Native arts. From 1995 to 1999, the economic base fell 47 percent due to mine closures, the end of an oil and gas project, the collapse in annual salmon runs, and cutbacks in federal government. The price of gold's volatility will continue the cyclical boom-bust trends consistent with economies tied to mining in Takotna.

Income Levels

Current income and poverty data for Takotna is provided below:

Income and Poverty Levels (2000 U.S. Census):	
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Per Capital Income	\$13,143
Median Household Income	\$14,583
Median Family Income	\$17,500
Persons in Poverty	6
Percent Below Poverty	16.2%

COMMUNITY FACILITIES AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Takotna has a solid base of community facilities and infrastructure upon which to expand and build. The following is a review of current community facilities and infrastructure assets:

Community Buildings

Community facilities include a K-12 school, a community building, a washeteria and shower facility, a post office and a gymnasium. Community buildings use individual wells or are connected to the public water system that runs through town from the water treatment plant/washeteria to the school. Wastewater treatment systems typically consist of septic tanks.

Housing

Forty-one houses in the Takotna area are suitable for occupation; with 20 of the houses currently occupied. All houses in the community are single family detached houses.

Library

The community of Takotna currently operates a small library with a modest material collection that is adequate for the community size. The library building and fixtures are marginal and in need of upgrades.

Cemetery

A cemetery is located just off the edge of the access road to the existing (old) airport. Two other gravesites of undetermined age and origin are reported to the east of the community. The only archaeological surveys in the area were for two Native allotments on the south side of the Takotna River about a mile west of town. Nothing was found as a result of these surveys.

Public Safety

Takotna does not have a village public safety officer. The Alaska State Troopers located in Bethel, Alaska are the nearest public safety officers.

Health Clinic

The Takotna Tribal Council owns the health clinic that is operated by the Southcentral Foundation. In 2005, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium paid for the design of a new health clinic in Takotna, funded by the Denali Commission, which is scheduled to be completed during the summer of 2006.



School and Education

Takotna School is a K-12 grade school in the Iditarod Area School District. The district includes nine schools with approximately 405 students enrolled and 31 teachers employed. Takotna School approximately enrolls 16 students and employs 2 teachers.

Utilities

United Utilities, Inc. provides telephone service for local and in-state calls, while AT&T Alascom provides out-of-state long distance service.

Electric Power

The Takotna Community Association owns and operates the local electric power utility, which uses diesel generation. In 2005, the Alaska Energy Authority secured funding for the construction of a new electric power generation facility in Takotna, with startup funding of \$395,000 from the Denali Commission. The Rural Power System Upgrade Program will construct a new electric power generation facility in Takotna that will consist of four diesel engine generators, automated switchgear, fuel handling, and a step-up transformer bank. The proposed capacity of the Takotna facility will be 190 kW, using four generators. The new electric power generation facility is scheduled for construction the summer of 2005.

Fuel System

The Takotna Community Association also owns and operates the bulk fuel facilities located in Sterling Landing and Takotna. The Association stores and transfers fuel for a fee but does not retail fuel.

In 2003, the Alaska Energy Authority constructed a new bulk fuel facility in Sterling Landing, funded in the amount of \$961,534 by the Denali Commission. The new facility in Sterling Landing is located adjacent to the Kuskokwim River, 26 road miles southeast of Takotna. The Sterling Landing facility receives fuel by barge for short-term storage and transfer. The Sterling Landing facility contains four 125,000 gallon diesel tanks and one 25,000 gallon gasoline tank.

In 2005, the Alaska Energy Authority secured funding for the construction of a new bulk fuel facility in Takotna, with startup funding of \$1,000,000 from the Denali Commission. The Takotna facility will be located at the site of the existing tank farm near the washeteria and power plant. The Takotna facility will consist of a consolidated fuel storage facility and a secondary containment area for fuel transfer. The Takotna facility will contain four 25,000 gallon diesel tanks, one 25,000 gallon gasoline tank and a keyed-dispenser. The new bulk fuel facility is scheduled for construction during the summer of 2005.



Water and Sewer System

Water from Gold Creek is treated and hauled by residents from the washeteria. In 2002, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Village Safe Water, funded a recirculating water system to the school with lateral connections available to each lot along the route if the resident was willing to pay for the service. In 2003, Village Safe Water upgraded the water treatment system by replacing sand filters and micro filter. Most homes have running water and flush toilets. Community buildings use individual wells.

Honey bucket pits and individual septic tanks are used for sewage disposal. Takotna does not have a sewage lagoon at this time. While Village Safe Water has evaluated several development alternatives, including a community sewage lagoon and improvements to the washeteria and shower facility; it does not have plans to construct a new sewage lagoon at this time.

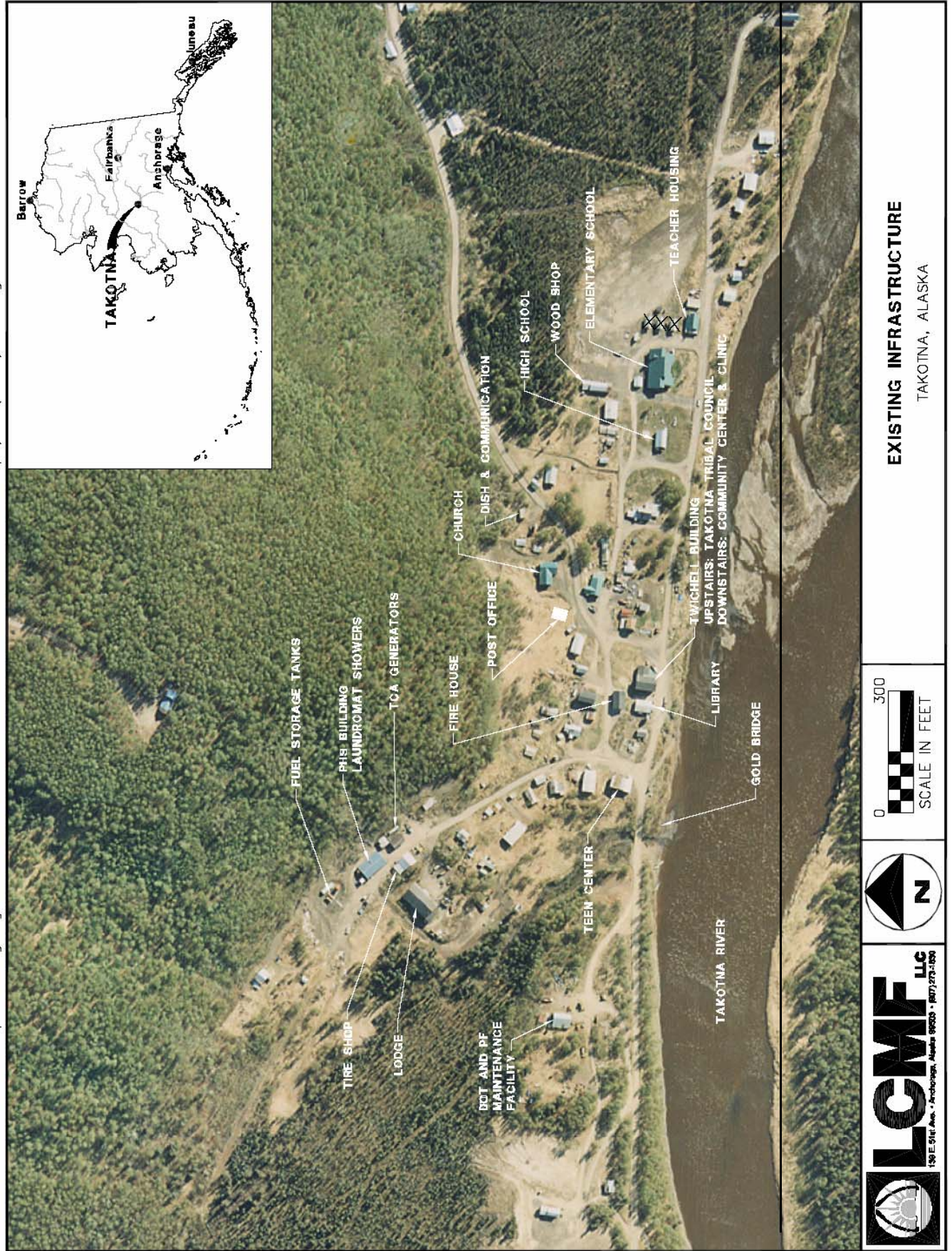
For FY2006, Village Safe Water has requested \$269,000 in federal and state funds for Takotna water treatment upgrades, septic system upgrades and new installations, and a septage haul trailer with pump and a septage monofill.

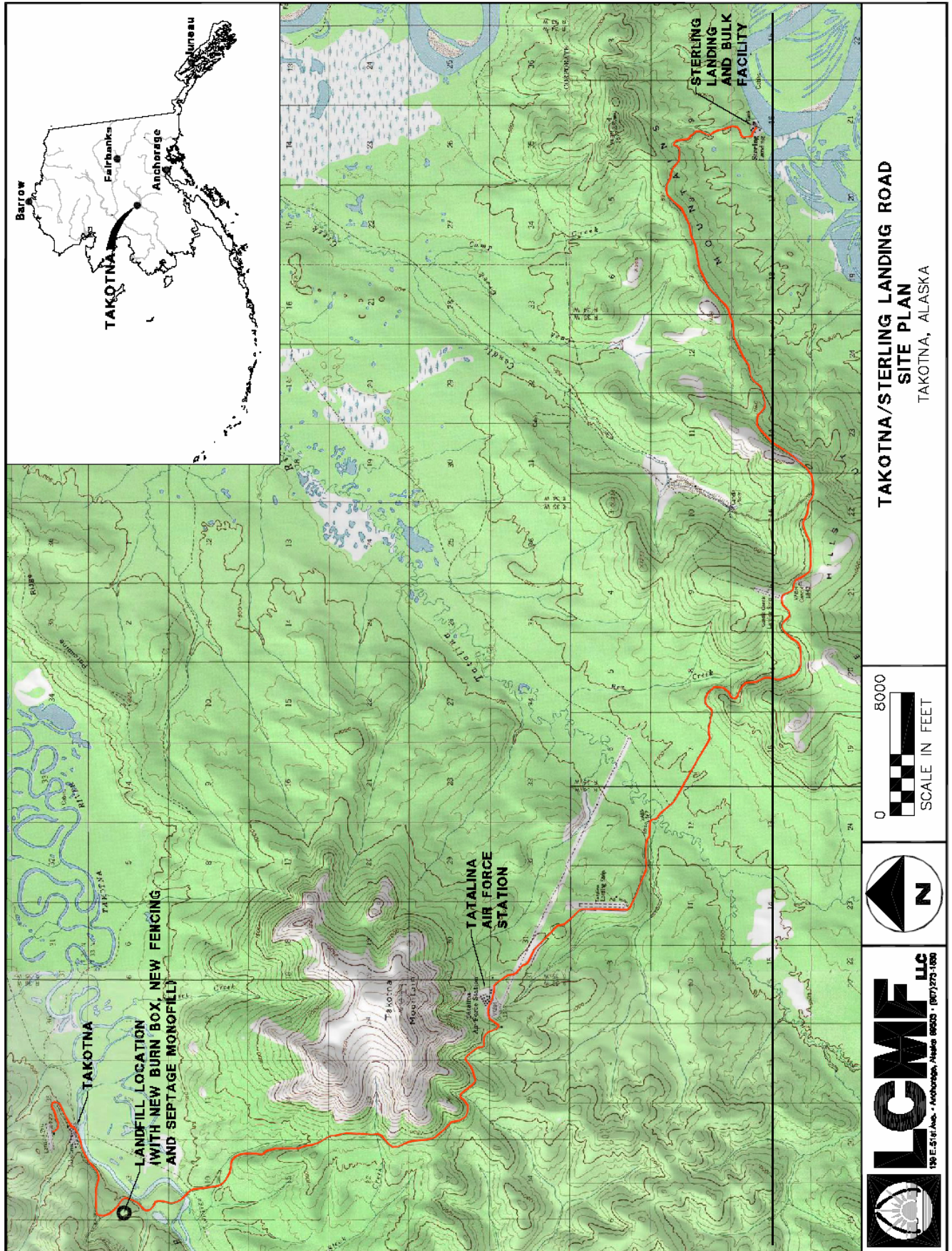
Solid Waste Disposal Systems

The existing landfill is approximately 2.4 miles west of town near the Takotna River Bridge. In 2005, the Takotna Tribal Council proposed to the Denali Commission to put an intermediate cap on the existing landfill and continue to use the landfill. The Takotna Tribal Council also proposed to build a burn box utilizing some recycled steel from old bulk fuel tanks and to build a new fence around the landfill. The Denali Commission initially funded \$52,500 for the new burn box.

Existing Infrastructure Maps

Following are two maps that detail the current Takotna infrastructure:





TRANSPORTATION

Regional Transportation

Five of Alaska's 10 largest rivers are tributaries of the Yukon River. These rivers provide important transportation routes for Interior Alaska residents and serve as ice roads in the winter. Area communities rely on river barge services for most of their freight and bulk fuel needs. During the summer and early fall, barges bring fuel, construction materials and large consumer goods to the region. Air transportation between Fairbanks and Anchorage and Interior communities is vital for year-round access. Galena and McGrath serve as air hubs or gateways within the Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area - McGrath serves as Takotna's air hub.

Local Transportation

Access to Takotna is by air or water. There is a state owned 1,717' long by 65' wide gravel airstrip, and a 3,800' gravel runway at Tatalina Air Force Station, 10 miles southeast of the village. River barge cargo is offloaded at Sterling Landing, 24 miles southeast of the village. The community has 80 miles of local roads that connect with Tatalina AFS, Sterling Landing and existing mines. A winter trail is marked to McGrath, 20 miles west of the village. Takotna is a check point for the Iditarod Sled Dog Race.

For FY2006, the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), has requested \$12.6 million for the construction of a new airport that will be relocated 0.9 miles east of the village. The new runway design is aligned parallel to the Takotna River valley. Construction of a new access road to link the community with the airport would be built that would open access for future community development.



(Photo: Shelly Szepanski)

LAND USE

Existing Land Use

Community facilities include a K-12 school, a community building, a washeteria and shower facility, a post office and a gymnasium. More than 80 miles of old roads connect Takotna with Tatalina, Sterling Landing and area mines.

Subsistence hunting and fishing are common activities in the area surrounding Takotna. Roads and trails are used by wheeled vehicles in the summer and by snow machines in the winter. Gold mining and fur trapping are popular commercial activities in the area surrounding Takotna.

Land Status/Land Tenure

The lands surrounding Takotna are Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 14(c)3 lands. A total of 1,280 acres are held in trust by the State of Alaska for Takotna Village until it becomes a second-class city; currently, the Takotna Community Association is the recognized appropriate entity. As a stipulation of ANCSA, residents only have surface rights to the village land.

Land owned by MTNT, Ltd., the village corporation for the villages of McGrath, Takotna, Nikolai and Telida, surrounds Takotna. MTNT, Ltd. also has surface rights only. Doyon, Ltd., the regional Native corporation, holds the subsurface rights on non-state lands, except for Native allotments. Four Native allotments have been surveyed and conveyed to the allottees. These allotments are located on the south bank of the Takotna River in an area directly across from the village.

A section of the Iditarod National Historic Trail runs near Takotna. No other publicly owned park, recreation area or wildlife refuge land is in the vicinity of Takotna. The Iditarod National Historic Trail is protected by several easements owned by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). These easements are a 25-foot trail easement, 50-foot trail easement, 60-foot road easement and 1-acre bridge site located on the south bank of the Takotna River at the Takotna River Bridge.

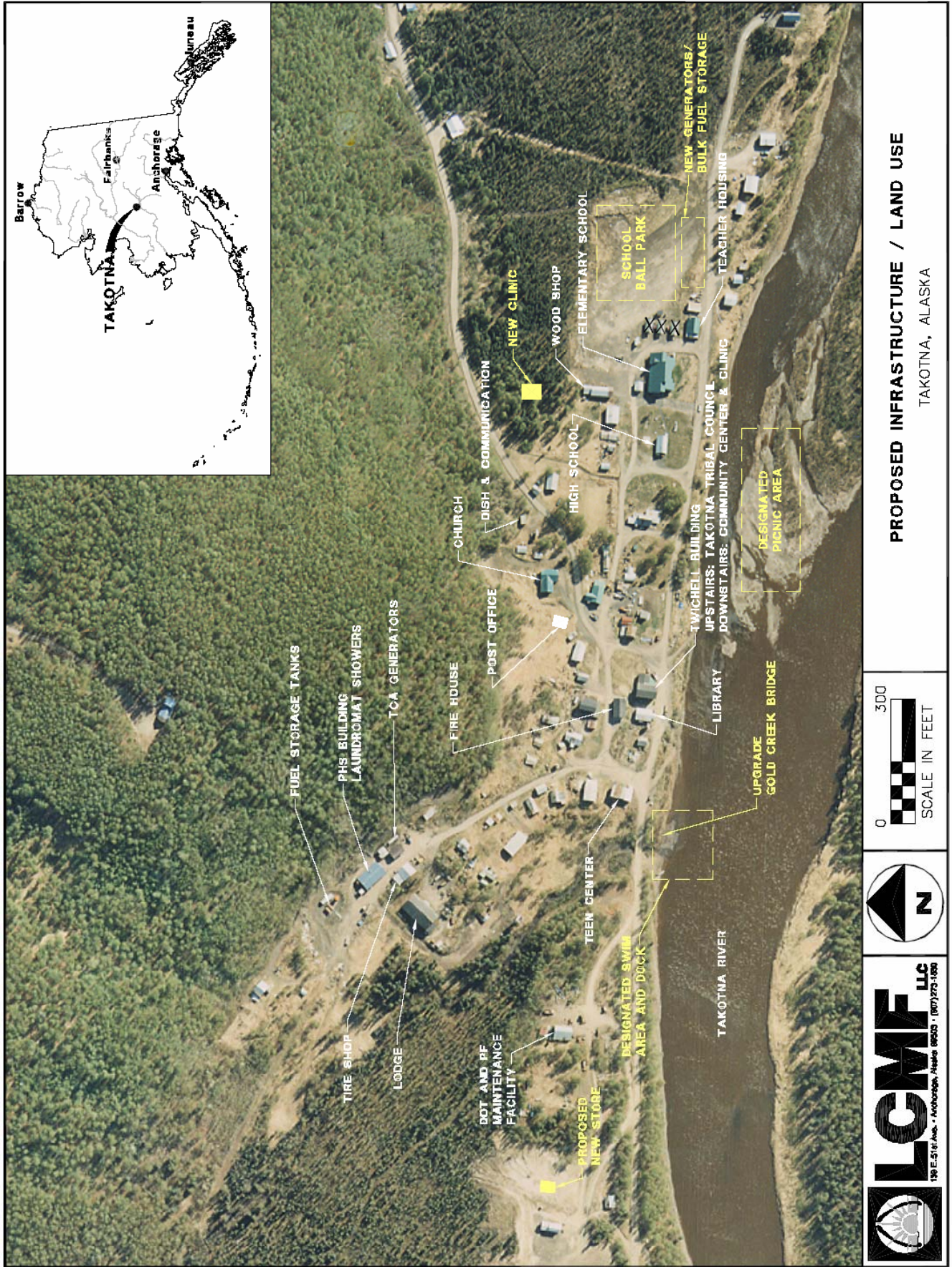
The existing airport site and the new airport site are under jurisdiction of the federal Department of Interior for the benefit of the Territory of Alaska, Department of Aviation. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities operates Takotna airport.

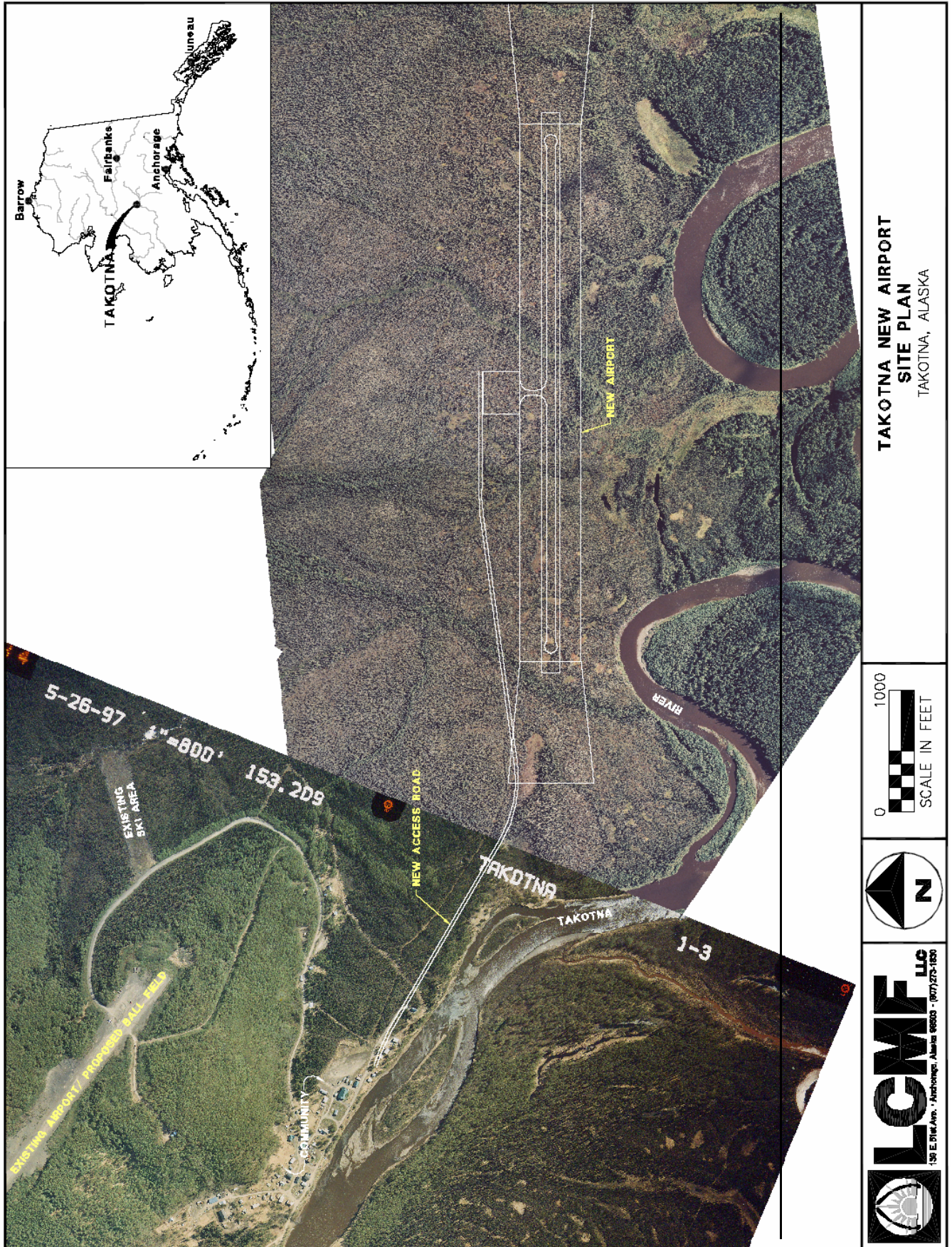
The Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Division of Mining, Land and Water, has identified several rights-of-way in the vicinity of Takotna. The rights-of-way easements are as follows:

- **McGrath-Takotna Winter Trail** starts from the west bank of the junction of the Takotna and Kuskokwim rivers at McGrath. This 18-mile trail heads west, crossing Candle Creek and the Tatalina and Takotna Rivers to arrive in the community of Takotna. Constructed in 1923 by the Alaska Road Commission, the trail formed part of the mail route from Nenana to Flat.
- **Takotna-Flat Winter Trail Via Moore Creek** starts from the old Takotna airport and ends near the junction of Bonanza and Prince Creeks, at the Prince Creek Trail. This 93-mile route heads south along the Takotna River, Fourth of July Creek, Moore Creek and Bonanza Creek. This was a winter mail trail, passable by dog team, during the early days of the Iditarod-Flat mining district.
- **Takotna-Nixon Fork Trail** is a 14.5-mile route connecting the community of Takotna with McGrath and Medfra. From the early 1900s to the present, this trail has been used for hauling freight and people between these communities.
- **Takotna-Nixon Fork Trail** extends east from Takotna along Porcupine Ridge roughly 15 miles to where the Nixon Fork empties into the Takotna River. Constructed by the Alaska Road Commission in 1923, this trail was traveled by packhorses in summer and sleds in winter, to transport freight from the Nixon Fork to Takotna.
- **Takotna-Twin Peaks Trail** is roughly 123 miles long. This trail runs northwest from Takotna and bends north near the headwaters of Canadian Creek. It continues north along ridge tops, passing east of Robert Creek and paralleling it to the east, then traveling north and northeast over the northern slopes of the Cloudy Mountains to the terminus at Twin Peaks. Historically a summer packhorse trail, the trail gave prospectors in the district access to their mines.

Future Land Use/Land Use Plan

Takotna's future land use needs will be dictated by planning decisions and the progress of infrastructure and economic development projects. Significant decisions regarding the location of the airport, the timing of the development of water and wastewater infrastructure improvements, and development of new recreational and economic opportunities and how these plans may increase Takotna's population will determine future land use needs and plans. Following are community maps indicating the current vision for future land use needs and planning:





PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

Adoption of the Plan

By signing a joint resolution, the Takotna Tribal Council and the Takotna Community Association have expressed their support of the Takotna Community Plan. A copy of this joint resolution can be located in Appendix D.

Plan Review Process

The Takotna Tribal Council and the Takotna Community Association will hold an annual community planning meeting, each January, to share with the community the progress and results of any projects undertaken during the past year and to identify the community's infrastructure, economic development and planning priorities for the upcoming year. The annual community meeting will provide residents with an opportunity to share their views on the implementation of the community plan and to participate in its continued development and revisions.



APPENDIX A

TAKOTNA PROJECT SCOPING

TAKOTNA INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT SCOPING

Project Description	Studies/Plans/ Designs	Estimated Costs	Lead Agency	✓	Funding Year	Responsible for Op./Maint.
Airport Relocation and Upgrade	Study	\$86,242	FAA	✓	FY1999	DOTPF
	Study	\$249,462	FAA	✓	FY2000	
	Design	\$5,855,000	DOTPF	✓	FY2003	
	Construction	\$12,631,579	FAA	✓	FY2006	
Bulk Fuel Facility Phase 1 – Sterling Landing Tank Farm	Design	\$22,727	AEA	✓	FY1999	Association
	Final Design	\$182,106	AEA	✓	FY2002	
	Construction	\$961,534	AEA	✓	FY2003	
Bulk Fuel Facility Phase 2 – Takotna Tank Farm	Final Design	\$1,000,000+	AEA	✓	FY	Association
	Construction		AEA	✓	FY	
Electric Utility Upgrade	Design	\$395,000+	AEA	✓	FY2003	Association
	Construction		AEA	✓	FY2006	
Water and Sewer Phase 3 – Provide water and sewer services and plumbing to 7 homes	Construction	\$269,000	DEC/VSW		FY2006	Council
Water and Sewer Phase 4 – Permitted solid waste disposal site, close old site and prepare solid waste management plan	Construction	\$574,909	DEC/VSW		FY????	Council
Gold Creek Bridge Project	Study	\$32,500	BIA	✓	FY2002	
	Design	\$45,000	BIA	✓	FY2003/04	
	Design	\$35,000	BIA	✓	FY2004/05	
	Construction	\$200,000	BIA	✓	FY2004	
Health Clinic	Final Design	\$100,200	ANTHC	✓		Council Southcentral Foundation
	Construction			✓		
New Dump Truck/Repairs		\$28,406	DCED	✓	FY2005	Association
Master Planning	Community Plan	\$25,600	DCED	✓	FY2005	Association

(Note: “✓” indicated funding secure in full or partially)

APPENDIX B

TAKOTNA PLANNING MEETINGS
PARTICIPANTS

JANUARY 2005 TAKOTNA PLANNING MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Ray Benson
Ana Edison
Mike Edison
Dorothy Fotheringham
Jessie Fox
LJ Fox
Laura Fox
Theresa Fox
Amanda Goods
Clinton Goods
Lynn Goods
Ryan Goods
Tyler Goods
Chuck Gottschalk
Tove Haagensen
Nell Huffman
Kim Levato
Mary Marcoe
Allen Mwarey
Kaden Mwarey
Dick Newton
Greg Newton
Jan Newton
Amanda Paxton
Sabrina Paxton
Alfred Perkins
Robert Perkins
Rosalie Perkins
Jacque Terhune
Misty Wachter
Richie Wachter
Jeremy Wilson



APPENDIX C

LIST OF RESOURCES

LIST OF RESOURCES

Alaska Energy Authority, Business Operating Plan of the Takotna Bulk Fuel Storage Project, Updated: October 22, 2004.

Alaska Energy Authority, Business Operating Plan of the Takotna Community Association Electric Utility, October 22, 2004.

Alaska Energy Authority, Business Operating Plan of the Takotna Bulk Fuel Storage Project, May 30, 2003.

Doyon, Limited, Lands & Natural Resources, website 2000.

Indian Reservation Roads Transportation Improvement Program, Federal Lands Highway Program, 23 USC 204, August 27, 2003.

Southcentral Foundation, History & Services, website 2005.

State of Alaska, Department Commerce, Community & Economic Development, Division of Community Advocacy, Takotna Detailed Community Information.

State of Alaska, Department Commerce, Community & Economic Development, Division of Community Advocacy, Takotna RAPIDS: Rural Alaska Project Identification and Delivery System.

State of Alaska, Department Commerce, Community & Economic Development, Division of Community Advocacy, Takotna Community Funding Database.

State of Alaska, Department Commerce, Community & Economic Development, Division of Community Advocacy, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area: Economic Overview, Energy, Minerals, Subsistence, Tourism, Transportation, Utilities, December 28, 2004.

State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation, Village Safe Water, Takotna, Alaska, Community Water, Sewer and Solid Waste Upgrade Feasibility Study, October 2001.

State of Alaska, Department of Environmental Conservation, Village Safe Water, Takotna Water Treatment Plant and Septic System Upgrades, FY06 Governor's Capital Budget, December 14, 2004.

State of Alaska, Department of Labor & Workforce Development, Division of Research & Analysis, Regional Profile, Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area, Employment and Wages, Population and Census Data.

State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Takotna Airport Draft Environmental Assessment and Draft Section 4(f) Evaluation, February 2005.

State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Draft FFY02-07 Rural Airport System, AIP Spending Plan, October 4, 2004.

State of Alaska, Department of Transportation and Public Facilities, Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Transportation Plan Summary, March 2002.

Tanana Chiefs Conference, Natural & Cultural Resources, website 2003.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Alaska District, Flood Hazard Data: Takotna, December 28, 2004.

APPENDIX D

COMMUNITY RESOLUTION ADOPTING PLAN

RESOLUTION

06-05-2

A Resolution by the Takotna Tribal Council (hereinafter Council) and the Takotna Community Association (hereinafter Association) adopting the Takotna Community Plan.

WHEREAS, State and Federal funding agencies are now requiring that all grant applicants have a Community Plan in order to be considered for funding, and

WHEREAS, the Council and the Association have worked together to develop a process to create and implement infrastructure and economic development projects and or provide services for community members in Takotna, Alaska, and

WHEREAS, both organizations are local communities entities, whose main goal is to further the infrastructure, economic and social development for the benefit of Takotna community members, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Council and the Association, wish to adopt the Takotna Community Plan, to be used as a tool to enhance infrastructure, economic and social development within the community of Takotna.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this plan once utilized, can and will be updated as needed, upon approval of both parties.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, members of the Council and the Association will meet each year to review the plans progress, discuss grant requests and update members on development plans to meet the needs of the community of Takotna.

The Takotna Community Plan has been reviewed, and agreed upon by the following parties:

for the Takotna Tribal Council

<u>Vera Lynn Goods, 1st chief</u>	<u>8-9-05</u>
(Signature)	(Date)
<u>VERA LYNN GOODS, 1ST</u>	<u>1st Chief.</u>
(Name Printed)	(Title)

for the Takotna Community Association

<u>Dick Newton</u>	<u>8-9-05</u>
(Signature)	(Date)
<u>Dick Newton</u>	<u>Chairman</u>
(Name Printed)	(Title)