

Initial Study Report Meeting

Study 14.5 Subsistence Resources

October 22, 2014



Study 14.5 Objectives

- Document whether and, if so, the extent to which communities within the Susitna River watershed, as well as communities outside the Susitna River watershed that have subsistence use areas in the watershed, **use areas that are within the Project area for subsistence harvests**
- Document whether and, if so, the extent to which communities within the Susitna River watershed, as well as communities outside the Susitna River watershed that have subsistence use areas in the watershed, **use Project area lands to access other lands or waters for subsistence harvest**
- Document whether and, if so, the extent to which communities within the Susitna River watershed, as well as communities outside the Susitna River watershed that have subsistence use areas in the watershed, **use resources that migrate through the Project area and are harvested in other areas**
- Collect and document **traditional and local knowledge** of communities within the Susitna River watershed, or those that have subsistence use areas within the watershed, to assist in assessing the potential impacts of construction and operation of the proposed Project on subsistence harvest and use. This information will be directly shared with the program leads for other resources, as appropriate
- Evaluate Project development plans to identify likely sources of potential impacts on identified subsistence uses
- Provide the necessary information needed to support preparation of an **ANILCA 810 evaluation**

Study 14.5 Components

- **Compilation of Existing Data** (ISR Part A, Section 4.1; pg 3)
- **Household Harvest Surveys** (ISR Part A, Section 4.2; pg 9)
- **Household Harvest Surveys in State-Designated Nonsubsistence Areas** (ISR Part A, Section 4.3; pg 10)
- **Traditional and Local Knowledge Interviews** (ISR Part A, Section 4.4; pg 10)

Study 14.5 Variances

- One additional community, Knik, was selected for Traditional and Local Knowledge workshops (RSP Section 14.5.4.5)

Study 14.5 Summary of Results in ISR (ISR Study 14.5, Part A – Section 5)

- The study team reviewed and compiled existing data for all 37 identified study communities, completed household harvest surveys in 10 study communities, and conducted a total of 28 traditional and local knowledge workshops in seven communities.
- Pertinent data from traditional and local knowledge workshops have been shared with the study teams for the Cultural Resources Study (Study 13.5) and Health Impact Assessment Study (Study 15.8) for follow-up.
- Overall, the combination of study methods and resulting data have created a comprehensive baseline of subsistence harvest and use information for the Susitna River watershed and Project area.

Study 14.5 Summary of Results Since the ISR

Household Harvest Surveys were completed in the following communities in February and March 2014:

- Copperville
- Glennallen
- Gulkana
- Lake Louise
- Mendeltna
- Nabesna
- Nelchina
- Paxon
- Tazlina
- Tolsona
- Tonsina

AEA Proposed Modifications to Study 14.5 in ISR (ISR Study 14.5, Part C – Section 7.1.2)

- As described in Section 4.4.7 of this ISR, AEA implemented a variance in 2013 to include the Knik Tribe, a federally recognized tribe with ties to the Susitna River watershed, in traditional and local knowledge interviews. AEA will continue to implement this method as a Study Plan modification in 2015.

Steps to Complete Study 14.5 (ISR Study 14.5, Part C – Section 7.1)

To complete this study, AEA will implement the methods in the Study Plan except as described in Sections 7.1.1 and 7.1.2. These activities include:

- Scheduling and conducting traditional and local knowledge workshops with the Chickaloon Traditional Village Council and Knik Tribal Councils (RSP Section 14.5.4.5)
- Conducting subsistence mapping interviews in selected study communities to document last 10-year subsistence use areas as well as related baseline indicators (RSP Section 14.5.4.4). Eight communities (Cantwell, Chase, Healy, Talkeetna, Lake Louise, McKinley Park, Trapper Creek, and Petersville) were identified in the Study Plan for possible inclusion in the subsistence mapping studies due to their proximity to the Project. Five of these communities (Cantwell, Chase, Healy, Lake Louise, and McKinley Park) have documented subsistence use area data showing use of the Project area and Trapper Creek's use areas are within the Susitna River watershed. Available use area data for these four communities are all at least 10 years old. For the remaining communities of Talkeetna and Petersville, subsistence use area data are not available. The study team will refine the list of identified subsistence mapping communities based on additional information (e.g., consultation with communities and agencies, adequacy of existing data, need for updated data, or suitability of community for subsistence mapping efforts)

Licensing Participants Proposed Modifications to Study 14.5?

- Agencies
- CIRWG members and Ahtna
- Public