



AIDEA Project Updates

**House Resources Committee
March 2, 2026**

**Charles Lampe, (Alaska National Wildlife Refuge / Kaktovik)
Emil Notti and Fred Bifelt (Ambler Access Project)
Randy Ruaro, Executive Director (AIDEA)**

Presentation to the House Resources Committee

Charles Lampe

On Behalf of

Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation

&

Native Village of Kaktovik



March 02, 2026





My name is Charles Lampe.

I am the current President of Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation (KIC). And this is Qaaktuġvik located on Barter Island.

I am also a member of the Native Village of Kaktovik (NVK) and have their permission to speak on their behalf today.

Thank you for allowing us to speak today on our continued support for Oil and Gas Leasing in the **HOMELANDS** of the Kaktovikmiut.

Our people the original stewards of these lands and we have lived here for thousands of years.

It is the Kaktovikmiut voices that needs to be heard with respect to what happens here.

Our History

- Our community has been continually been caught between federal actions that impact our ability to realize our visions of a vibrant and sustainable future.
- The 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) was supposed to allow our Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation (KIC) the economic freedoms to develop its lands to benefit our community.
- Quickly following ANCSA, the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) compromised KIC's ability to access and develop its lands by expanding the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and surrounding us.
- Kaktovik did not want to be an island in the middle of a Refuge but it happened anyway.

Kaktovik

- Our community is aligned on leasing in the Coastal Plain and our tribe works closely with Kaktovik Iñupiat Corporation on supporting oil and gas opportunities.
- We need a local economy and opportunities for our youth.
- As North Slope residents we are familiar with oil and gas – we understand the balance required between protections of OUR homelands and development.
- Development in our area can provide the economic freedoms that we were promised under ANSCA to allow our community to thrive.
- **We want to be partners with AIDEA and other future lessees to advance our community**



Kaktovik's Viewpoint

- The debate over opening ANWR to oil drilling gained national attention in 1980, when the Congress set aside **less than 8 percent** of the newly formed Refuge for potential oil and gas development.
 - These lands of ANWR became known as the 1002 Area, after Section 1002 of ANILCA.
 - Unstated in ANILCA is that these lands are home to the Kaktovikmiut.
- We will not give up on our rights as indigenous people and the federal government has an obligation to us through the laws of ANCSA and ANILCA.
- KIC needs the contracts, and our community needs the jobs that come with exploration. The operators of the leases need subsistence representatives, polar bear guards, cultural resource experts – this is what we can provide. These are important opportunities for our people.
- We understand that without a significant discovery these jobs could be ephemeral but people in Kaktovik need these opportunities to build resumes and to work with outside companies to grow their capabilities and capacities.
- We openly admit that oil is critical to our region. It is the tool that we used to bring us into modern society.



Modern Seismic Technology

Step 1 in Exploration

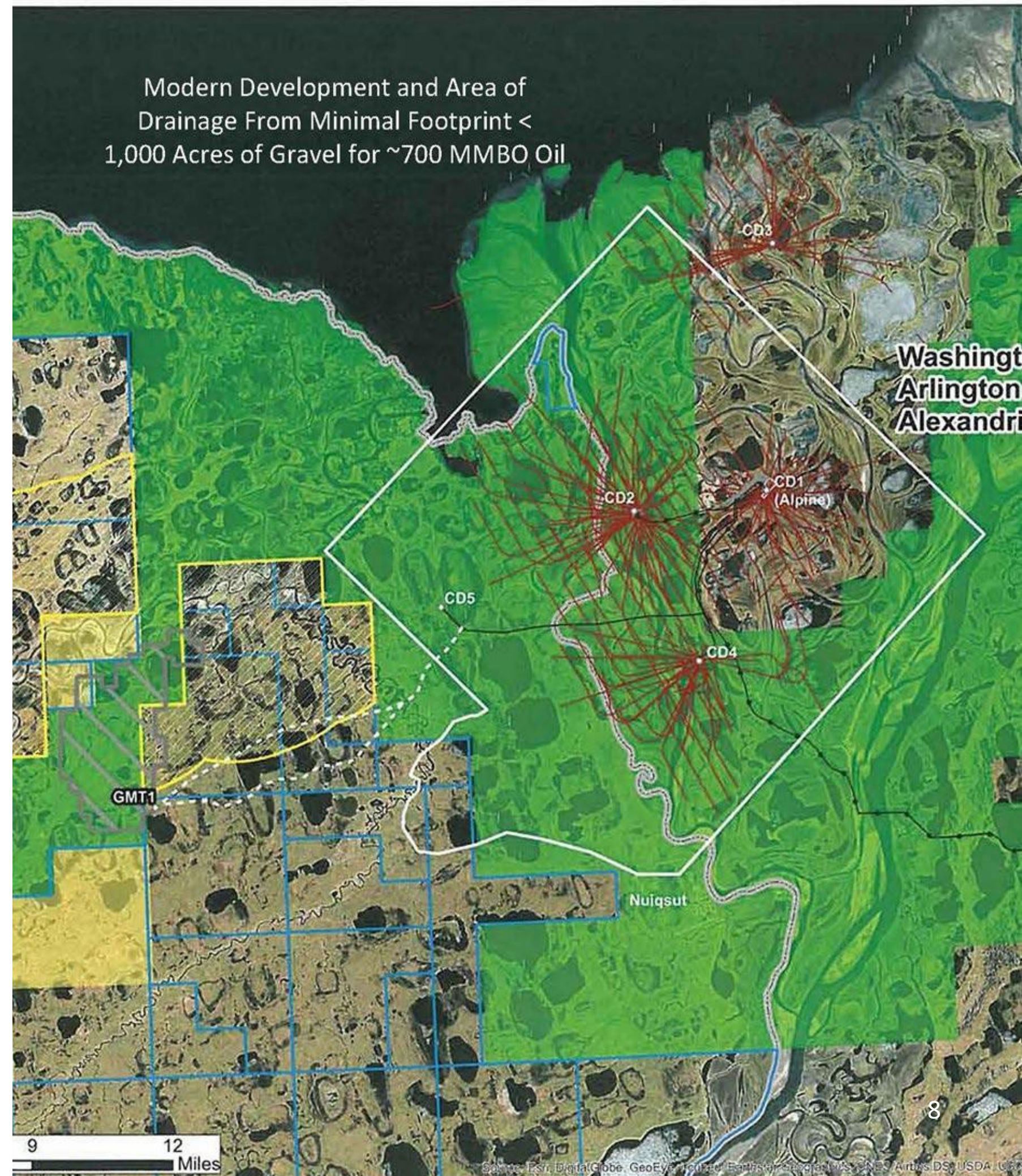
- There is a lot of fear about seismic acquisition
- North Slope seismic is conducted during the winter months using low-impact equipment that leaves no trace following 'green-up' of the tundra.
- KIC has been involved in several attempts to permit seismic in the Coastal Plain and feel its is important for this Committee to understand what low-impact seismic really means.
- In this image you can see the compressed snow pattern for the 3D seismic program in mid-June 2018.
- The same area is shown in August 2018.
- As you can see the compressed snow lines are not visible in August.
- This is due to the strict regulatory compliance of the seismic industry by the State of Alaska and the many years of analysis of the best available technology for low impact acquisition.



200 400
Meters

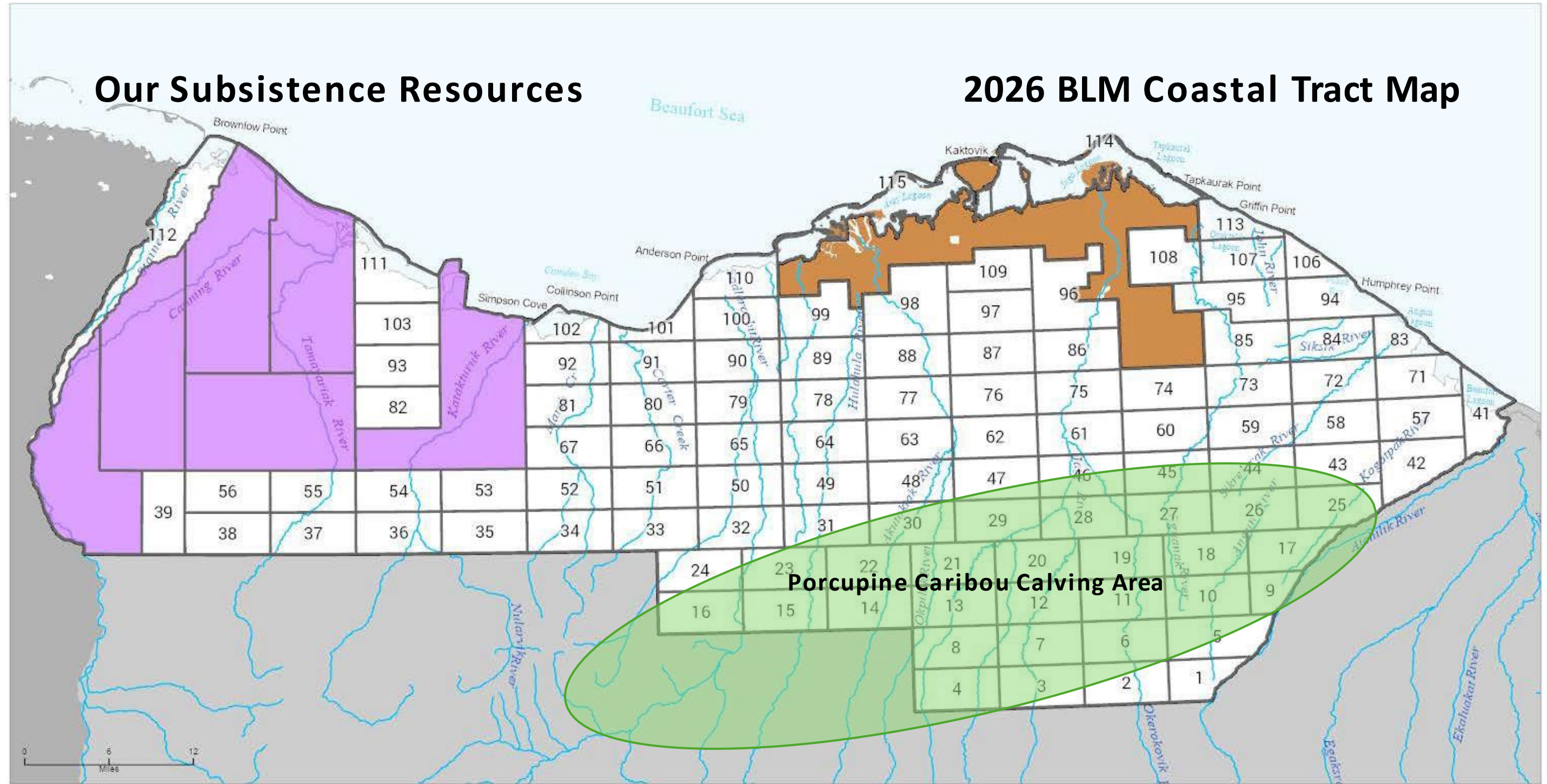
Our Knowledge and Impact to Mitigations

- We, Iñupiat, have been active participants in developing sound environmental standards with the oil industry on the North Slope since the discovery of Prudhoe Bay.
- We have been instrumental in campaigning for gravel reduction across the North Slope.
- In fact, our region can access more resource from the smallest gravel footprint compared to any other State in the country, including New Mexico.
- The gravel footprint continues to shrink and as an example the Nanushuk Development Project, on State lands, plans to access 700 million barrels of recoverable oil with a gravel footprint of 254 acres of gravel (Nanushuk Development EIS).
- Also know that more gravel can have a countervailing impact to the environment by providing critical insect relief areas for caribou.
- Allow caribou access to the gravel infrastructure is important and critical to the animals.



Our Subsistence Resources

2026 BLM Coastal Tract Map



Porcupine Caribou Calving Area

-  Available Tracts for Nominations
-  Current Leases
-  Excluded from Public Law 115-97 Coastal Plain or outside the BLM's oil and gas leasing authority
-  Coastal Plain Supplemental EIS boundary



No warranty is made by the Bureau of Land Management as to the accuracy, reliability, or completeness of these data for individual or aggregate use with other data. Original data were compiled from various sources. This information may not meet National Map Accuracy Standards. This product was developed through digital means and may be updated without notification.

Print Date: 01/08/2026



Our Promise

- As an integral part of the Coastal Plain landscape, we will continue to be good stewards of the land as our ancestors were.
- The land is “sacred” to us because it is our ancestors who are buried here, our children who are born here.
- It’s natural resources and what they provide have sustained us for millennia and will continue to provide for us well into the future.
- **Our forefathers have always considered all resources as ours including the resources beneath the surface of the lands we have walked on for thousands of years.**
- The Kaktovikmiut will continue to remain on these lands and will continue to get our sustenance from them for thousands of years to come.
- We celebrate our past, our present, and our future.





Quyanaqpak



Randy Ruaro, AIDEA Executive Director

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) Section 1002 Area Leases



SECTION 1002 AREA OIL AND GAS LEASES

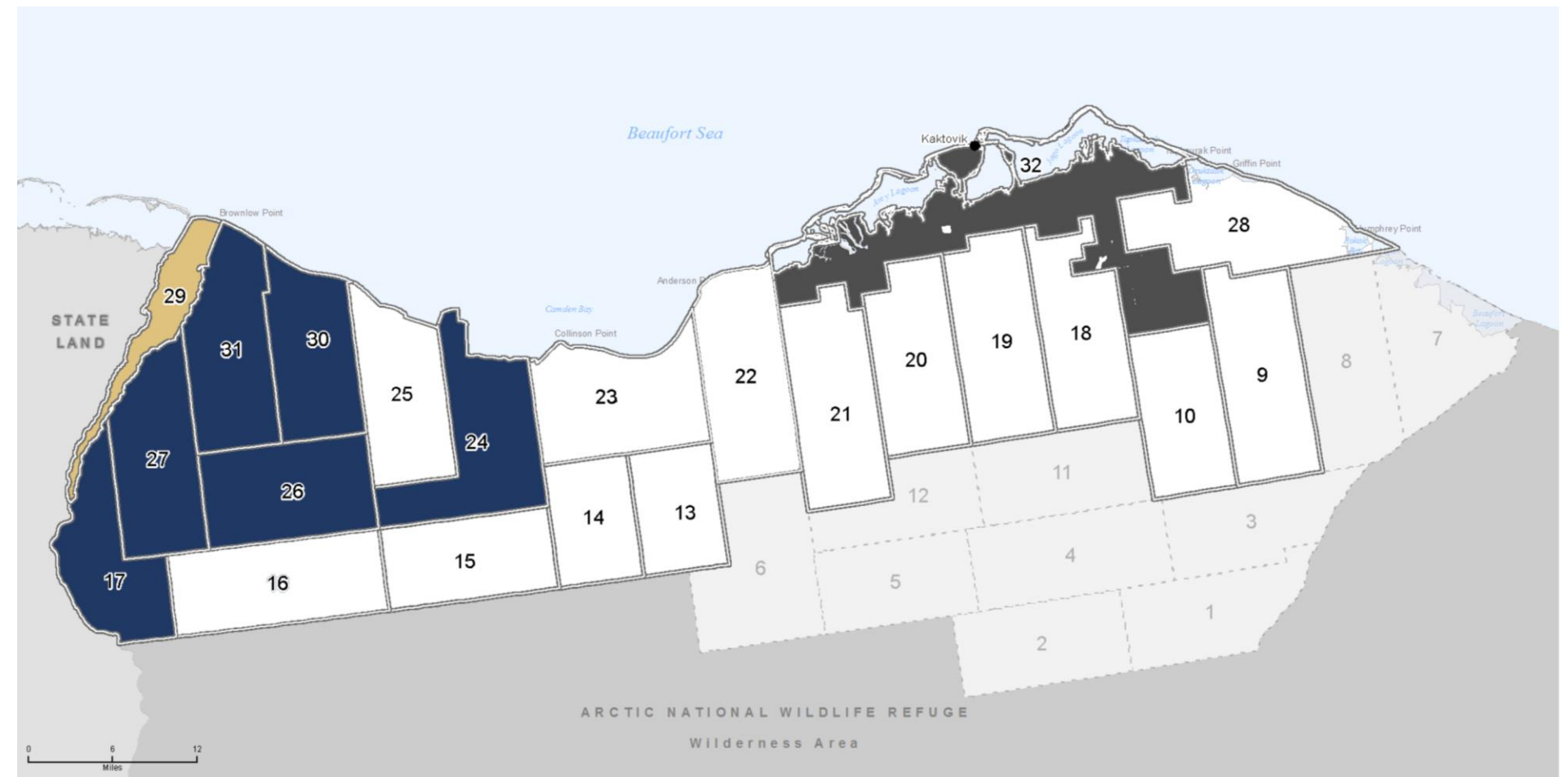
In 2017, Congress passed the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act," which directed the Department of the Interior (DOI) to establish and manage a competitive oil and gas leasing program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). The Coastal Plain, often referred to as the 1002 Area, comprises 1.56 million acres within the 19.64 million-acre ANWR. AIDEA's leases cover 365,775 acres, legally acquired in January 2021.

Development of the 1002 Coastal Plain holds significant potential for economic growth. According to the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), leasing and development could generate billions of dollars in revenue for local, state, and federal governments while creating thousands of jobs.

March 25, 2025 - Federal District Court Judge Gleason **rules in favor of AIDEA in the case against the United States Department of Interior for wrongfully canceling its leases** in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

"Today's ruling is about so much more than reinstating illegally canceled leases in ANWR; it is about upholding the rule of law in our country," said Governor Mike Dunleavy.

"A rogue federal agency under the Biden administration should never have had the power to cancel legally obtained leases. Now the leasing program can move forward and could result in more safe, secure energy production right here in Alaska. President Trump was right on ANWR as well."



Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) Section 1002 Area Leases



Estimated Revenues & Jobs

Government Revenues (in Millions of 2017 Dollars)	Annual Average	Total
North Slope Borough property taxes	\$49	\$1,119
State of Alaska royalties	\$782	\$15,648
State of Alaska taxes	\$1,220	\$24,425
Federal royalties	\$782	\$15,648
Federal taxes	\$673	\$13,459

Source: Northern Economics, Inc. 2023 estimate.

- ★ Estimated annual tax and royalty revenue for the state of roughly \$2 billion
- ★ Recoverable oil on AIDEA leases has an estimated volume of 4 to 6 billion barrels

Effects	Jobs (average number of part-time and full-time jobs)	Annual Average	Peak
Direct	Exploration	250	650
	Development	2,260	3,300
	Production	770	1,200
Indirect	Exploration	130	390
	Development	1,720	2,500
	Production	1,020	1,600

Source: Northern Economics, Inc. 2023 estimates based on IMPLAN 2021 data year and assumptions listed in Section 3.4.10 Economy of the Supplemental EIS for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

After the reconciliation bill became law in 2025, Alaska's share of royalties in ANWR after 2033 increases to 70% of the total royalties from 50%.

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) Section 1002 Area Leases

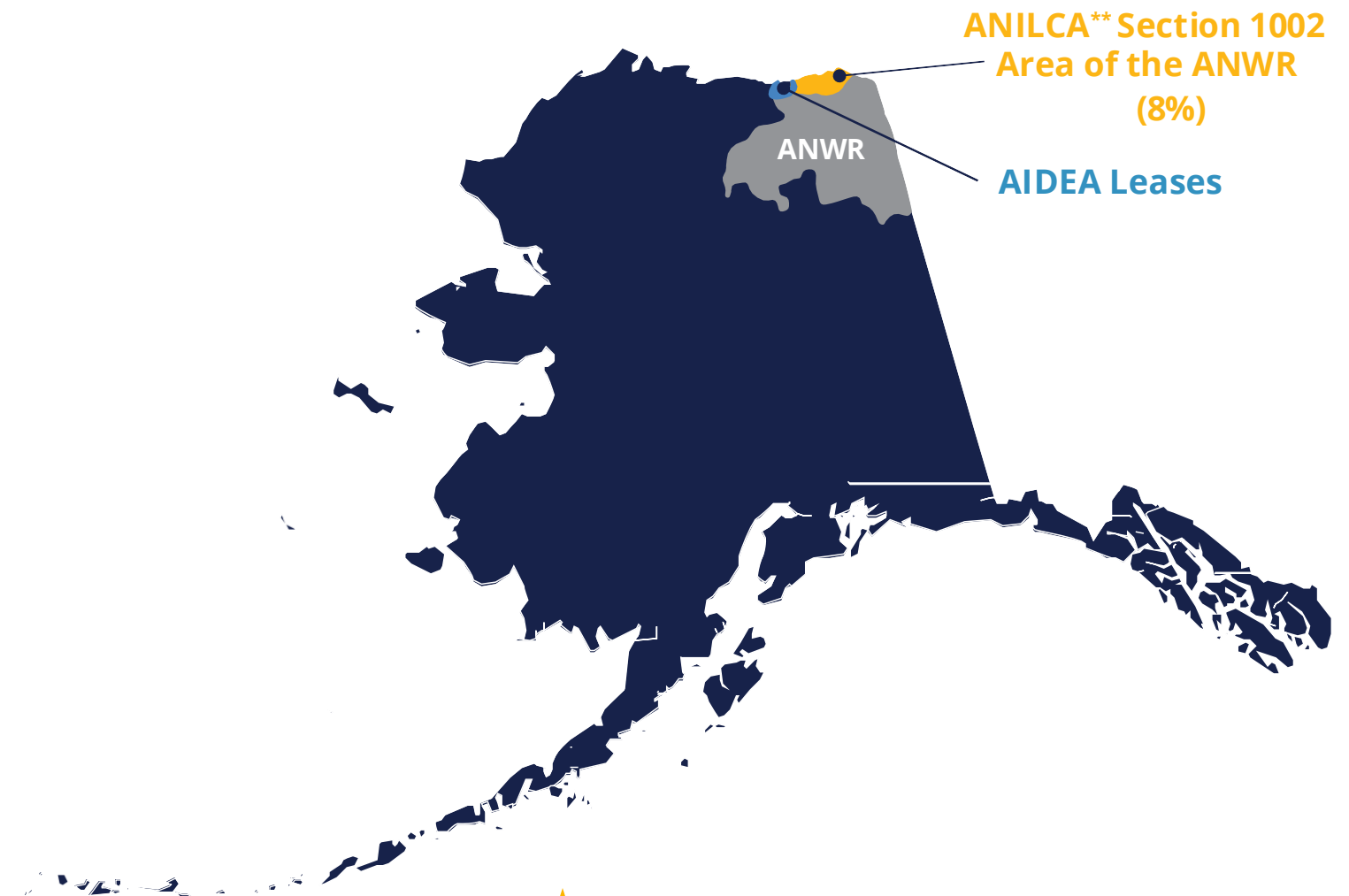
★ ESTIMATED STATE ANNUAL TAX AND ROYALTY REVENUE \$2,002,000,000

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Table C-8 of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement, Volume 3t. (Source: Northern Economics, Inc. 2023 estimates based on IMPLAN 2021 data year and assumptions listed in Section 3.4.10 Economy of the Supplemental EIS for the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program.)



★ RECOVERABLE OIL ON AIDEA
LEASES HAS AN ESTIMATED
VOLUME OF 4 TO 6 BILLION
BARRELS

Emil Notti and Fred Bifelt on the Ambler Access Project

Huslia Community

Huslia is an Athabascan village located on the north bank of the Koyukuk River, about 170 river miles northwest of Galena and 290 air miles west of Fairbanks. It lies within the Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge. It would be 92 miles from the proposed Ambler Access Road.

Huslia, Alaska:

- Population in 2023: 136
- Median age: 23.4 years
- Average Household Income: \$59,167

Source: <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/huslia-ak/>



[Community Sustainability with the Ambler Road Video](#)

Hughes Community

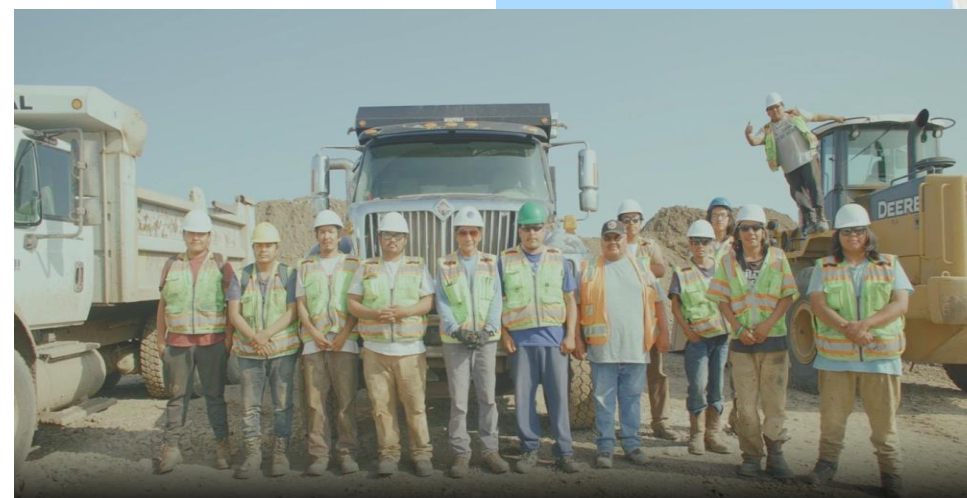
Hughes is a Koyukon Athabascan village located on a 500-foot bluff on the east bank of the Koyukuk River, about 115 air miles northeast of Galena and 210 air miles northwest of Fairbanks. It would be 68 miles from the proposed Ambler Access Road.

Traditional ways of life persist — potlatches and dog races attract visitors from surrounding river villages.

Hughes, Alaska:

- Population in 2025: 80
- Median age: 70.2 years
- Average Household Income: \$25,763

[Source: Hughes, AK | Data USA](#)



[Hughes Community Supports Ambler Video](#)

Allakaket Community

Allakaket is on the south bank of the Koyukuk River, southwest of its junction with the Alatna River, approximately 190 air miles northwest of Fairbanks and 57 miles upriver from Hughes. It would be 34 miles from the proposed Ambler Access Road.

Also of note, the village of Alatna is located directly across the river.



Allakaket, Alaska:

- Incorporated in 1975
- Population in 2020: 177
- Median Household Income: \$25,000
- Unorganized Borough



[Video of P.J. Simon, Chief of the Allakaket Tribe](#)

www.tananachiefs.org/about/communities/allakaket/

Shungnak Community

Shungnak, on the west bank of the Kobuk River, was originally located 10 miles further upstream at Kobuk until river erosion and flooding forced the village to relocate. It would be 15 miles from the proposed Ambler Access Road.

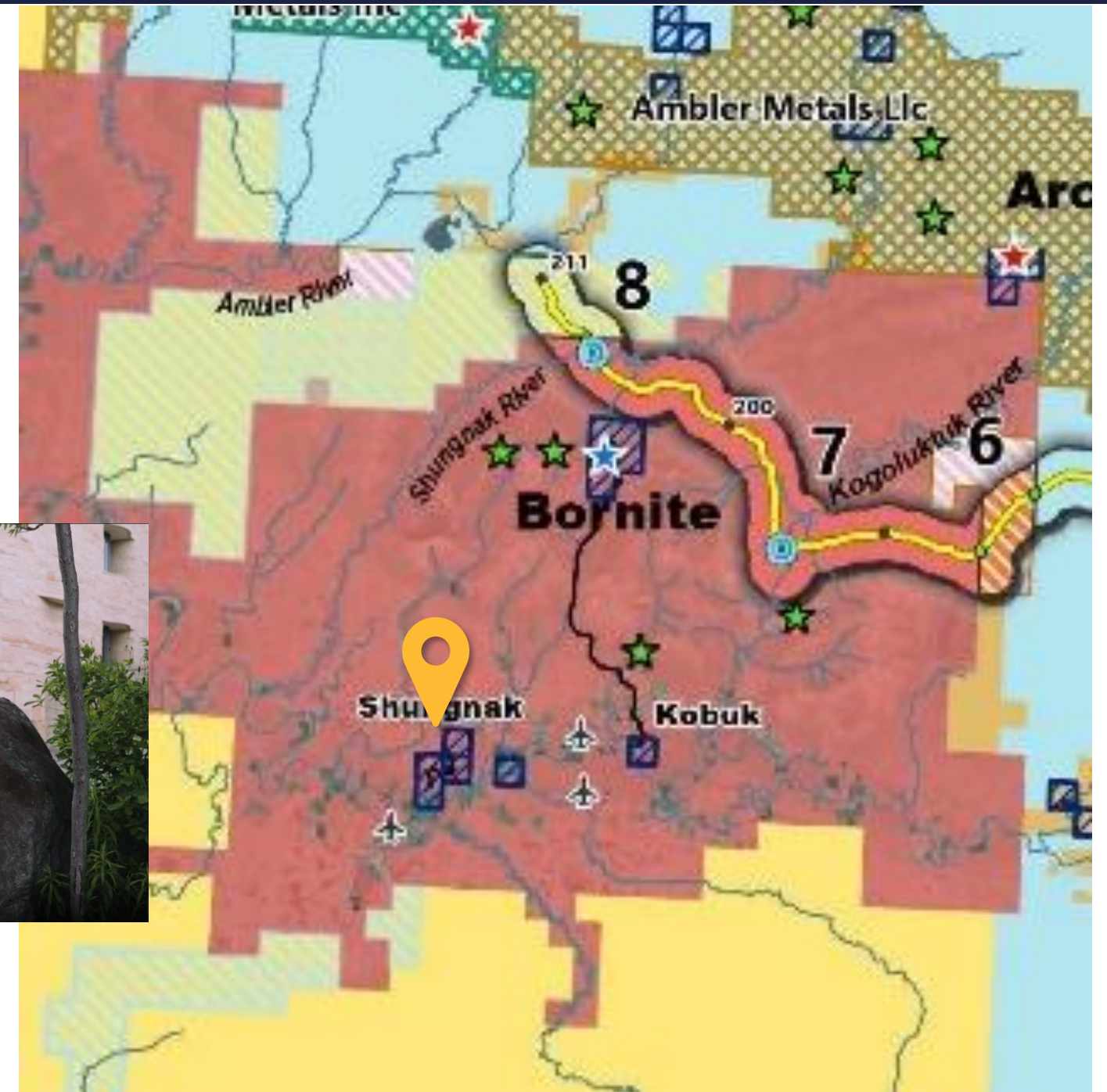
Issingnak is the Iñupiat word for jade, which is found throughout the neighboring hills. Shungnak is an Iñupiat village where subsistence is an important part of the economy.

Native Village of Shungnak:

- Incorporated in 1967
- Population in 2020: 272
- Median Household Income: \$76,667
- In the Northwest Arctic Borough



[Video of Fred Sun, Chief of the Native Village of Shungnak](#)



Source: www.nwabor.org/village/shungnak/

Subsistence Advisory Committee Members

A major commitment AIDEA made as part of the 2020 Joint Record Of Decision is the creation of a Subsistence Advisory Committee (“SAC”), formed to allow AIDEA to consult directly and regularly with affected subsistence communities located on the Ambler Road route.

AIDEA has the responsibility to protect the fish, wildlife, and all customary and traditional practices, also known as subsistence resources. AIDEA designates the SAC as the primary entity with oversight authority for the commitments to protect subsistence resources by AIDEA along the entire 211-mile road.



[Ambler Access Project Subsistence Advisory Committee Video](#)

The current members of the SAC are:

- ★ Fred Bifelt (Co-Chair), Huslia
- ★ Larry Westlake, Sr. (Co-Chair), Kiana
- ★ Gordan Bergman, Allakaket
- ★ Morgan Johnson, Ambler
- ★ Hugh Bifelt, Hughes
- ★ Henry Horner, Kobuk
- ★ Wilbur Howarth, Noorvik
- ★ Nellie Griest, Shungnak
- ★ Andy Baker, Kotzebue
- ★ Stanley Ned, Fairbanks
- ★ William “Billy” Bernhardt, Kobuk
- ★ Fred Sun, Sr., Shungnak
- ★ Speedy Sam, Huslia
- ★ Thelma Nicholia, Hughes

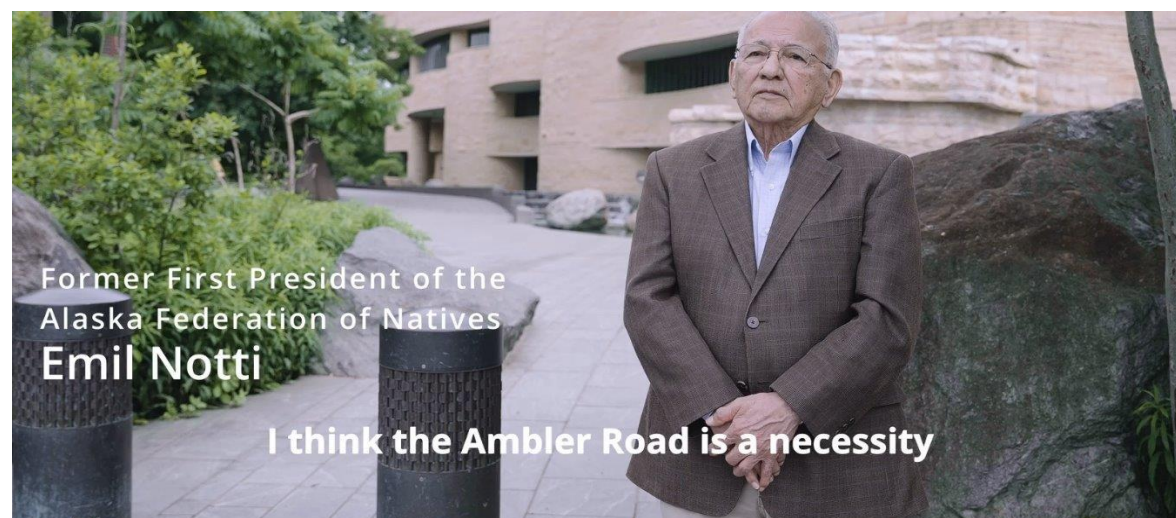
SAC Advisors:

- ★ P.J. Simon, Allakaket
- ★ Ray Woods (Advisor), Gates of the Arctic, National Park Subsistence Commission (National Park Service Permit)

Workforce Development Working Group

A working group addressing workforce development was formed based on feedback received from the Subsistence Advisory Working Group. The Ambler Access Project is expected to create thousands of new jobs; it is essential that those in rural Alaskan communities have the training and education needed to access these new job and career opportunities.

The Working Group will help the project's leadership identify job and career pathways including needs for training and development resources. The Workforce Development Working Group met for the first time in Anchorage on January 12, 2022.



[Video of Emil Notti on the importance of jobs to support a subsistence way of life](#)

The current members of the Workforce Development Group are:

- ★ Fred Bifelt (Co-Chair), Huslia
- ★ Larry Westlake, Sr. (Co-Chair), Kiana
- ★ Stanley Ned, Fairbanks
- ★ Gordan Bergman, Allakaket
- ★ Morgan Johnson, Ambler
- ★ Hugh Bifelt, Hughes
- ★ Henry Horner, Kobuk
- ★ Wilbur Howarth, Noorvik
- ★ Nellie Griest, Shungnak
- ★ Andy Baker, Kotzebue
- ★ Ambler Metals
- ★ Raymond Woods, Gates of the Arctic, National Park Subsistence Commission

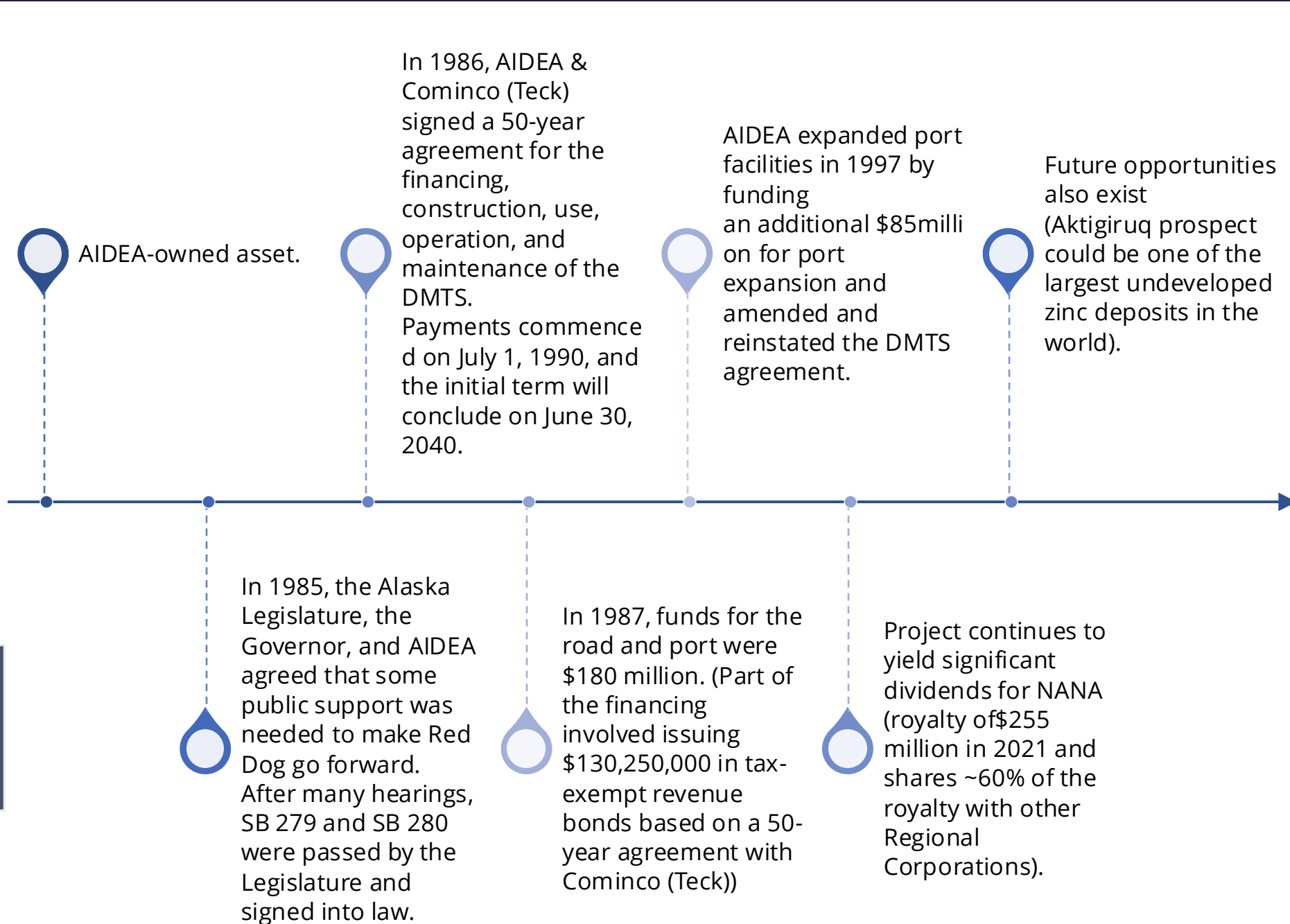
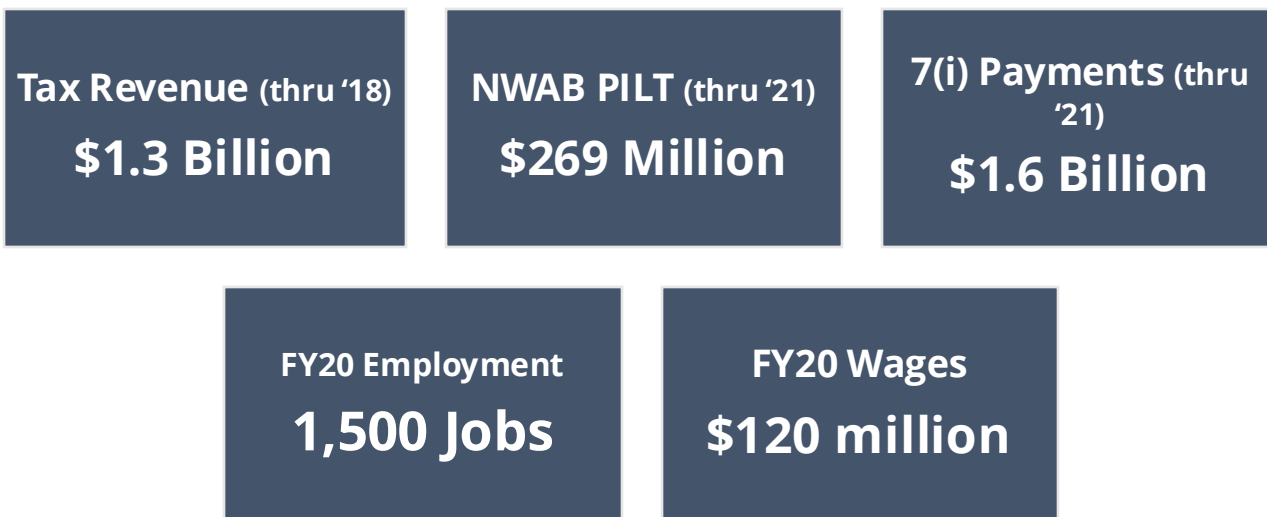
Randy Ruaro, AIDEA Executive Director

DeLong Mountain Transportation System (DMTS) Red Dog Mine (Northwest Arctic Borough)

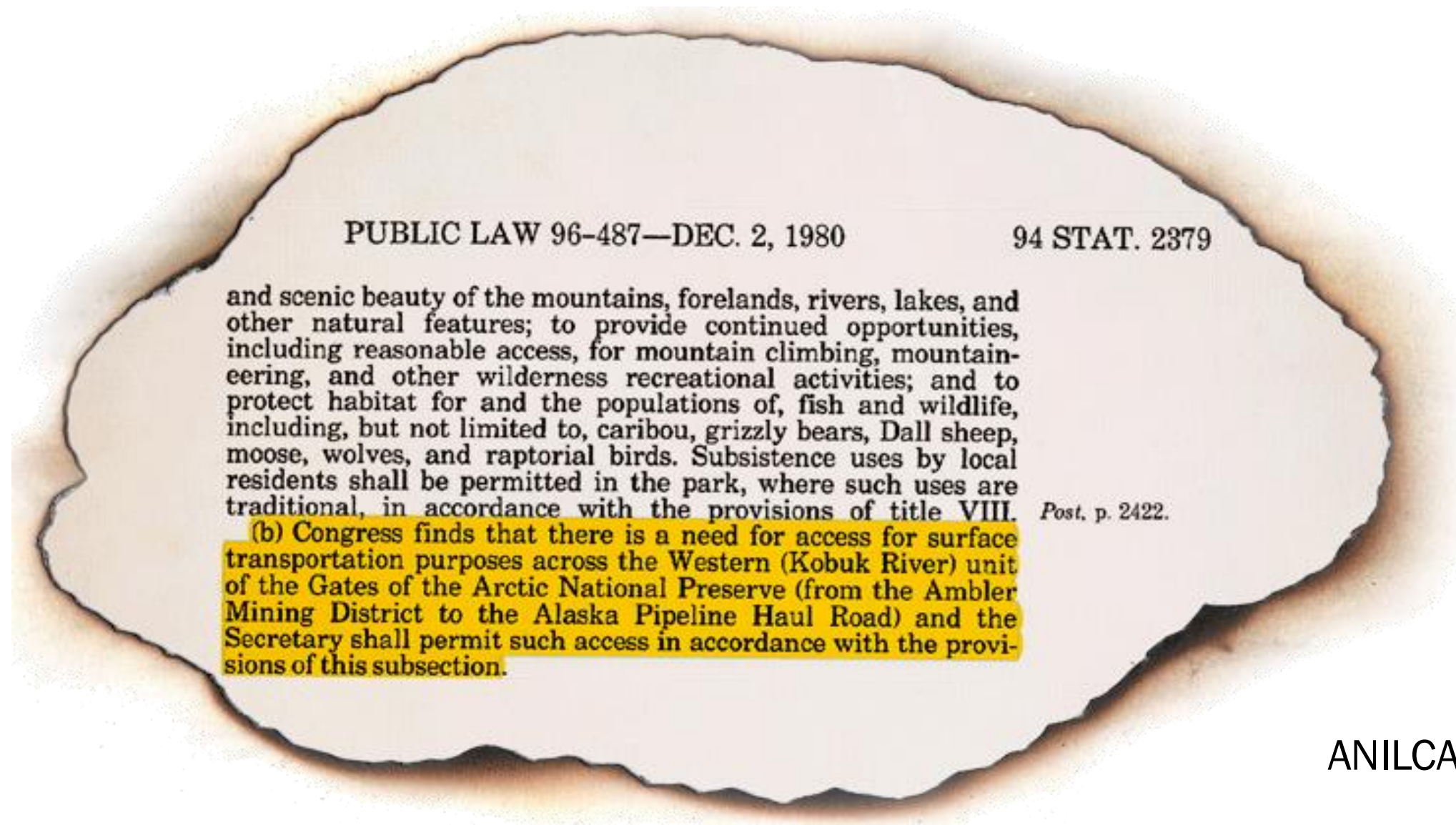


AIDEA's Return on Investment: \$296 Million

Benefits from AIDEA's Investment to the State and NWAB Economy

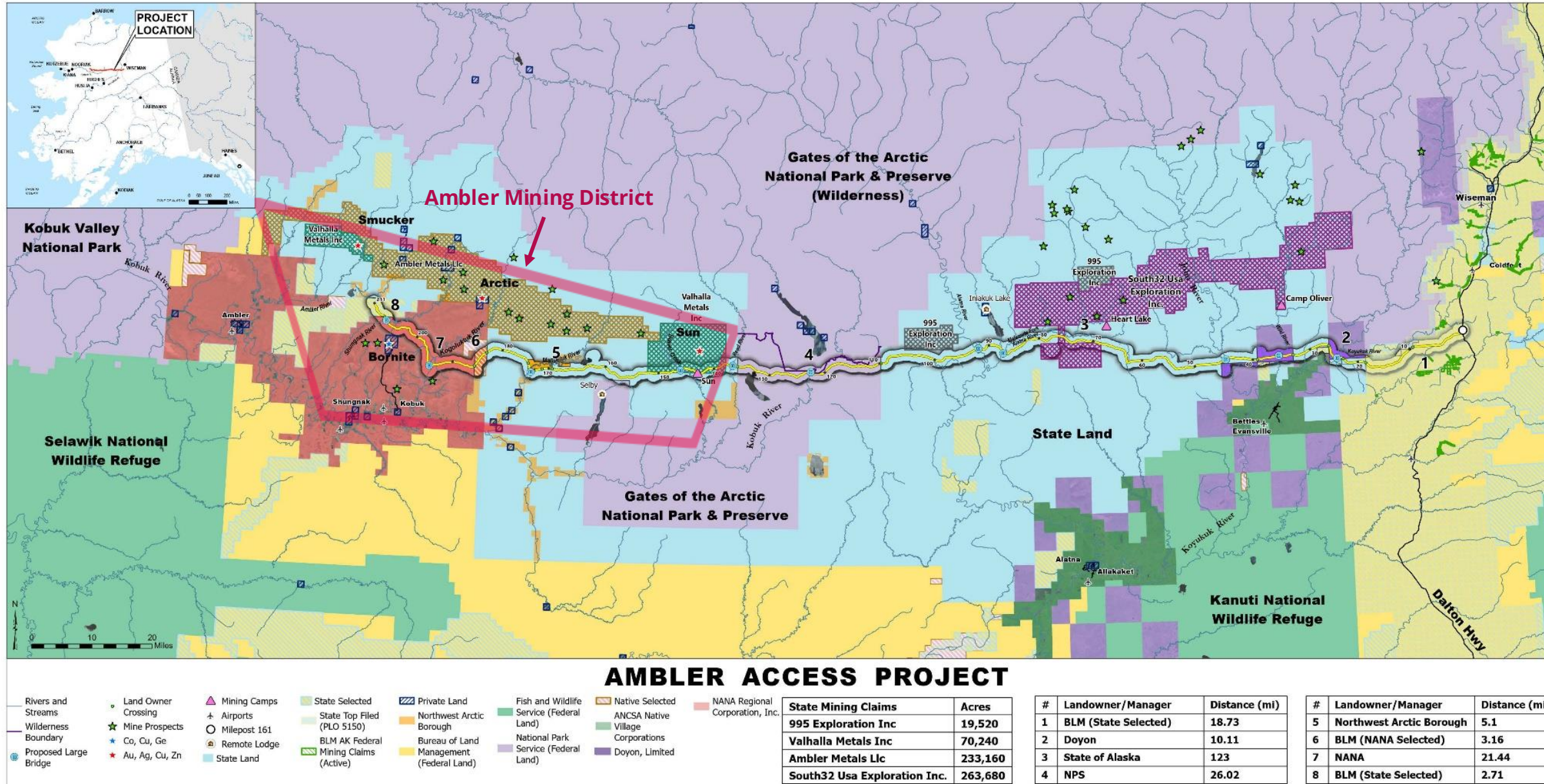


ANILCA Provision For Ambler Mining District Access



ANILCA, Section 201(4)(b)

Ambler Access Project Community Resolutions of Support



ESTIMATED TOTAL TAX AND ROYALTY REVENUE
\$1,144,785,127

This 211-mile road project will provide access to almost 600,000 acres of active State mining claims.

Starting from the Dalton Highway, it would stretch east towards the Ambler Mining District.

Ambler Access Project

Potential Benefits

🏗️ Mine Construction Impact

2,777 direct jobs → \$286M in annual wages
2,034 indirect & induced jobs → \$108M in annual wages

⚒️ Mining Operations

495 direct jobs → \$72M in annual wages
3,436 indirect & induced jobs → \$228M in annual wages

🛣️ Road Construction & Operations

360 direct jobs annually → Average over construction period
Up to 81 direct jobs per year → Operations & maintenance over road lifespan

💰 Government Revenue Generation

\$393M — Mining license tax revenues
\$524M — Corporate income taxes
\$214M — Production royalties
\$13M — Claim rents

Source: UAA.CED (Page 17) 2019



Social and Health Benefits of Jobs and Community Access

Jobs and access to communities have positive social and health benefits, particularly in rural Alaska communities.

- “Suicide prevention researchers working in rural Alaska Native villages offer a number of recommendations for intervention, including enhanced occupational and educational opportunities to alleviate poverty, greater access to mental health treatment services, ...”
- “Inadequate opportunities for socioeconomic advancement were seen as major contributors to suicide, especially among Alaska Native men. ...” (Alaska Native men 400% higher suicide rate than national average)
- “Many Alaska Native communities are off the road system and often lack local providers for counseling or psychiatry services, requiring community members to travel by airplane to a distant location in order to see a physician or counselor. ... These barriers prevent people in crisis from receiving the help they need at the time they most need it.”

Citing: [Beliefs about Causal Factors for Suicide in Rural Alaska Native Communities and Recommendations for Prevention, Transcult Psychiatry, 2022 February; 59\(1\): 78-92. Doi: 10.1177/1363461520963869](#)

Average Life Span in Alaska's North Slope Borough



“Data has quantified the impact of modern, essential services on our communities. Today, North Slope residents can expect to live to an average of 77 years – a tremendous increase from just 34 years in 1969 before the formation of the NSB.”

- Josiah Paktokak, North Slope Borough Mayor

Citing's:

[On Oil & Gas, U.S. Department of the Interior Blindsided the North Slope Borough](#) - Josiah Patkotak | May 14, 2024

[Alaska sees the most dramatic increases in life expectancy in the nation, new study says](#) - Michelle Theriault Boots | May 9, 2017

[The Association Between Income and Life Expectancy in the United States, 2001–2014: Association Between Income and Life Expectancy in the United States – PMC](#) | May 13, 2016

[The Growing Inequality in Life Expectancy Among Americans](#) - KFF Health News | January 22, 2025

[Ten Americas: a systematic analysis of life expectancy disparities in the USA](#) - The Lancet | December 7, 2024

"If not resource development, then what?"

-Fred Sun, Tribal President of the Native Village of Shungnak



INVESTING IN ALASKANS



Watch this informative video:
<https://bit.ly/AAPthanWhat>



Questions?

Thank You

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