

COMMUNITY SUSTAINABILITY PROFILE: ALAKANUK

Location: Part of the Lower Yukon Subregion. Located at the east entrance of Alakanuk Pass, the major southern channel of the Yukon River, 15 mi from the Bering Sea. Part of the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. It lies 162 air miles northwest of Bethel. It is the longest village on the lower Yukon. Approximately 25 homes are threatened by erosion.

Language: Central Yup'ik

Historical Setting: Alakanuk is a Yup'ik word meaning "wrong way," aptly applied to a village on this maze of watercourses. It was originally settled by a Yup'ik shaman named Anguksuar and his family. A Catholic mission school was built near the village. A post office was established in 1946.

Climate: Alakanuk falls within the transitional climate zone, characterized by tundra interspersed with boreal forests, and weather patterns of long, cold winters and shorter, warm summers. Heavy winds are frequent during the fall and winter.

Access: Air service is available year-round. Fishing boats, skiffs, snow machines, and ATVs are used by residents for local travel. The Yukon River is used as an ice road during freeze-up, from November through May. The current dock is area subject to erosion. Barges deliver goods during the summer months via the Yukon River.

Cultural Resources: Alakanuk is a Yup'ik Eskimo village active in commercial fishing and subsistence. The importation, sale and possession of alcohol is banned.

Local Contacts

Village Corporation: Alakanuk Native Corporation **Email:** aunknative_corp148@yahoo.com **Phone:** 907-238-3117

City: City of Alakanuk **Email:** cityofauk@yahoo.com **Phone:** 907-238-3313

Tribal: Village of Alakanuk **Email:** commchief8450@yahoo.com **Phone:** 907-238-3419

Demographics / Housing

Poverty Rate	22.4%	2000	2010	Percent of Residents Employed	74.59%
Total Population		652	677	Median Household Income	\$33,750
Median Age of Total Population		21	27	Denali Commission Distressed Community	Yes
Average Household Size		5	5	Percentage of Native Alaskans	94.98%
Housing Units	186 total, 160 occupied, 3-4 vacant, 8 at risk from erosion, AVCP Regional Housing Authority				

Energy

Owner	Description	Notes	Economic Factors
AVEC	Electrical Power Plant owned and operated by AVEC, PCE subsidized	3 Diesel Generators. Heat recovery is utilized. Periodic tank farm flooding; Intertie with Emmonak completed in 2011; tieline planned.	1 operator, 1 alternate

Bulk Fuel

Owner/Operator	Fuel Provider	Storage Capacity	
City	Ruby or Vitas	40,000 Heating Oil, 2,000 Gasoline	
		Would like to increase capacity	
Native Corp.	Yukon Fisheries Development Assn.	150,000 Heating Oil, 150,000 Gasoline	

Water & Sanitation

Owner/Operator	System Type	Number of served	Notes	Economic Factors
City of Alakanuk	Surface source, circulating system	145 connections	Energy Audit completed	2-6 employees

Health

Owner/Operator	Description	Notes	Economic Factors
Tribe/YKHC	Health Clinic	No improvements scheduled.	4 employees

Education

Owner/Operator	Description	Number of Students	Economic Factors
LYSD	K-12 School and Head Start	215 (17 teachers)	28 employees

Transportation

		Notes	
Air Access	Gravel airport, fair condition	General aviation airport	
Boat / Barge Access	Dock at risk from erosion	Fuel, Goods, Materials	

Landfill

Owner/Operator	Description	Notes	
City of Alakanuk	Permitted, Class III	Improper burn, lack of management.	