Bristol
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PUBLIC MEETING SUMMARY

Project: **BBNA WO30 A2K Study**

Bristol Project No: 32250060

Reference: Initial Public Meeting - Ekwok

Date of Meeting: October 7, 2025; ~4:00pm – ~7:00pm (Alaska Time)

Location of Meeting: MS Team Meeting or Teleconference.

Call in Information: **907-313-2185**; Conference ID: **445 552 150#**

Participants:

- Isaac Pearson, PE, Senior Civil Engineer, Bristol Engineering Services Company (Bristol)
- Brandon Shayan, Civil Engineer, Bristol
- Breena Hickey, Planner, Bristol *(virtual attendance)*
- Dan Breeden, Bristol Bay Native Association (BBNA) *(virtual attendance)*
- See sign-in sheet (Attachment A)

Meeting Notification:
A Flyer about the A2K Study and meeting information was developed and posted on September 15, 2025. See attachments section for the flyer.

Trip Summary:
Isaac and Brandon traveled from Anchorage to Ekwok on Tuesday, October 7. The meeting began at 4:00pm in the Ekwok school gym, see the photos of the meeting area in the attachments. Bristol gave a presentation. The Q&A and group discussion continued until 7:00pm.

Meeting Purpose:

- Present A2K Study to the public. Presentation slides, public meeting #1 handout / community survey, and handout maps were given to the public for the presentation meeting. See attachments section for the presentation slides, public meeting #1 handout / community survey, and handout map.
- Collect public feedback on the A2K Study.

Public Discussions:

1. Project Background / Information
    a. A detailed discussion was held regarding funding, major stakeholders, project need, project objectives, reinforcement of what exactly the study is and is not, project approach, and connectivity.
2. Public Involvement Overview

a. An evaluation of opportunities and threats was discussed with the public.
    i. Community Needs and Priorities
        1. Opportunities:
            a. Lower cost of living
            b. Easier access to health care
            c. Education – keep schools open
            d. Better Teachers
            e. Provide more employment opportunities
            f. Safer medical travel during bad weather
            g. Improve recycling
            h. Open areas to military presence
        2. Threats:
            a. Everything – bad factors coming into community, but already happens
        3. Other:
            a. Road to anchorage – opportunities for groceries
            b. Make land available for the children
            c. Monitor traffic in / out
            d. Toll station
            e. Look at fiber optic line to follow that path
            f. Copper / Nickel deposit would go to Ekwok then go to bay. This was in the 1960s's. Alaska Miners Association was the lead.
    ii. Cultural and Subsistence Considerations
        1. Opportunities:
            a. More access to berries / hunting – more places to access
            b. Provide access to cultural camps
            c. Learn more about nature
            d. Start new campsites for others
        2. Threats:
            a. Outside development
    iii. Environmental and Seasonal Factors
        1. Opportunities:
            a. Reduce scarring of lands from winter and summer travel over tundra
        2. Threats:
            a. Could impact wetland rivers
    iv. Economic and Social Impacts
        1. Opportunities
            a. Outside development
            b. Open up land for locals
            c. Housing development
            d. Local driven timber harvesting
            e. Gas, electric, and food will be more affordable
            f. More cars in the community
        2. Threats:

        a. Outside Development
    3. Threats:
        a. None mentioned
v. Road Design and Maintenance
    1. Opportunities:
        a. Gravel sales private
    2. Threats:
        a. Must maintain – cost money
        b. Erosion
        c. Permafrost

3. Community Input on Roadway
    a. Considerations for the public included geographic feasibility, environmental factors, cultural and historical resources, and community preferences.
4. Project Schedule / Next Steps
    a. A project schedule was given to the public to inform them of the next steps in the study.
5. Questions
    a. Any last-minute questions were answered, and comments were noted.

Attachments:

1. Sign in Sheet (2 pages)
2. Flyer (1 page)
3. Photos: Public Meeting Area (3 pages)
4. Presentation Slides (6 pages)
5. Public Meeting #1 Handout / Community Survey (2 pages)
6. Handout Map (1 page)

Ekwok, Alaska
BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study
Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Gift Card Recipients

Sign-In Sheet

	Name	Phone (optional)	Email (optional)
1.	Anna Akelkak		
2.	Mary Kawagley		none
3.	Christian Vanderpool		
4.	Jim Karasti		
5.	Jamie Karasti		
6.	Nevaeh Valdez		
7.	Mary Kaleak		
8.	Jeffrey Kaleak		
9.	William Kaleak		
10.	Margie Karasti		-
11.	[illegible]		
12.	Richard King		
13.	Vern Taylor		
14.	Sandra Stermer		
15.	Joyce Stermer		
16.	Brenda Romie		
17.	LoriDee Andujar-Romie		
18.	Christian Vanderpool JR		
19.	Sophie Kaleak		-
20.	Lorraine King		

Ekwok, Alaska
BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study
Tuesday, October 7, 2025

Sign-In Sheet

	Name	Phone (optional)	Email (optional)
21.	Loki Akelkok Sr		
22.	Pauline Akelkok		
23.	Quinn King		
24.	Alice Lkarasti		
25.	Emma Valdez		
26.	Julia Baehm		
27.	Jimmy Baehm		
28.	Jackson Baehm		
29.	James Baehm		
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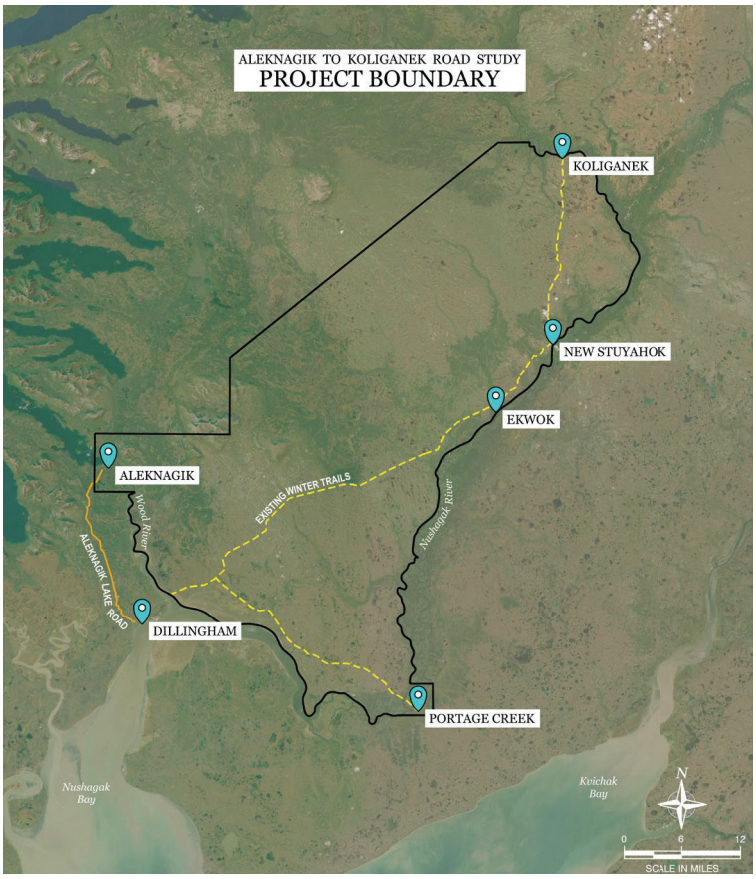
BBNA ALEKNAGIK TO KOLIGANEK ROAD FEASIBILITY STUDY

COMMUNITY MEETING



Tuesday,
October 7, 2025
4 PM

- **Ekwok School Gym**
- **Voice your opinions about the project**
- **Refreshments provided**
- **Door prizes**

For more information:
Isaac Pearson
(907) 743-9313
ipearson@bristol-companies.com

We are excited to announce the launch of the BBNA Aleknagik–Koliganek Road Feasibility Study, an early-stage project to evaluate the potential for developing a road connection between the communities of Aleknagik, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, Koliganek, and Portage Creek.

Come learn more about this project at the first round of community meetings. The project planners will be available for any questions and to receive feedback from the public. Refreshments and door prizes will be provided for those that attend. Invite your friends and family so the whole community is involved!

Posted: 9/15/2025

Check out the website for more information: A2KRoadStudy.com

Bristol Bay Native Association


EKWOK
WARRIORS
EXIT


HOME
PERIOD
GUEST
POSSESSION
SCORE
PLAYER-FOUL
SCORE
FOULS
MATCH
FOULS
WILLIAM 'SONNY' NELSON
EKWOK WARRIORS
EXIT


Welcome
BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek
Road Feasibility Study
Bristol
& SAFE
& KIND
& RESPECTFUL

Bristol Bay Native Association

BBNA A2K Road Feasibility Study Public Meeting #1
Ekwok, Alaska
Date 10/8/2025

Welcome

We are here to discuss:

BBNA Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study

We are:
Bristol Engineering Services Company, LLC
Isaac Pearson, P.E.
Brandon Shayan

Bristol
ENGINEERING SERVICES COMPANY, LLC

1

1

Presentation Overview

- Project Background / Information
- Public Involvement Overview
- Project Team
- What is Connectivity?
- Community Input on Roadway
  - Opportunities and Threats
  - Where Could a Road go?
- Project Schedule/Next Steps
- Questions



2

2

Project Champion and Funding

- Project Champion
  - Bristol Bay Native Association Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Development
- Funding Sources
  - Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Program, FY 2023
  - Denali Commission (DC)

U.S. Department of Transportation

DENALI COMMISSION
PARTNERING TO DEVELOP ALASKA'S BASIC INFRASTRUCTURE

3

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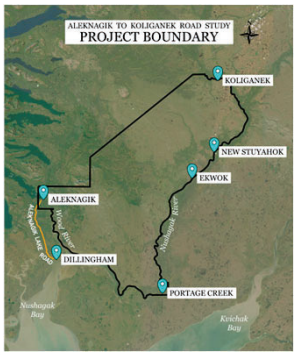
Primary Stakeholders

- Community of,
  - Aleknagik
  - Dillingham
  - Ekwok
  - Koliganek
  - New Stuyahok
  - Portage Creek



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Project Need

- Understand ways to reduce costs of delivering goods, services, and people
- Provide year-round all-weather access to communities to enhance public safety
- Provide information to communities about connectivity feasibility

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Project Objectives

- Understand communities' thoughts about road connections
- Evaluate cultural, environmental, economic, and social impacts of a road connection
- Evaluate the feasibility of road connections
- Develop a report that summarizes the findings

6

6

Project Do's and Do Not's

What This Study Does	What This Study Does NOT Do
Considers the possibility of road connections between Aleknagik, Portage Creek, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, and Koliganek.	Make decisions for communities.
Evaluates both pros and cons of the potential roads including economic, environmental, social, and cultural considerations.	Build roads.
Identifies if communities want road connections or not.	Solicit input from outside interests.
Helps communities make informed decisions about road connection planning.	Promote the Nuyakuk Hydroelectric Project.
Identifies potential road corridors based on community input and traditional local knowledge.	Promote mining or resource development.

7

7

Project Approach IP0

- Public Involvement
  - Initial Stakeholder Outreach / Website
  - Local Stakeholder / Public Meetings, Round #1 – before draft
  - Public Survey, Round #1
  - Local Stakeholder / Public Meetings, Round #2 – after draft
  - Public Survey, Round #2
  - Draft Review Regional Stakeholder Meeting
  - Draft Individual Stakeholder Coordination
  - Final-Draft Review Stakeholder Meeting
- Study Development (Draft, Final-draft, Final)
  - Cultural Resources / Environmental
  - Economic Analysis
  - Geotechnical
  - Land Status and Corridor Development

BH1

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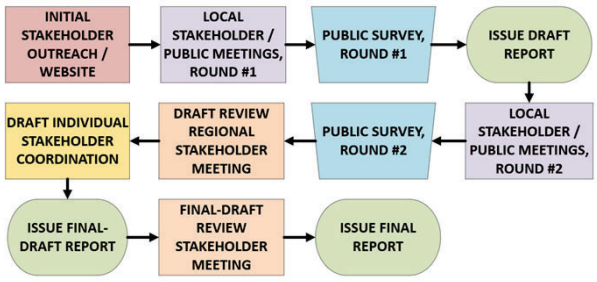
8

Project Approach



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Project Approach

- Study Development (Draft, Final-draft, Final)
  - Cultural Resources / Environmental
  - Economic Analysis
  - Geotechnical
  - Land Status and Corridor Development

10

10

Public Involvement Overview

- Purpose of Public Engagement
  - Ensure transparency, inclusivity, and collaboration throughout the study
  - Gather local insights to inform reporting
- Engagement Tools
  - Project Website: Project updates, meeting materials, contact information
  - Public Surveys: To gather broad input
  - In-Person & Virtual Meetings: Local and regional reach
  - Target Outreach: For key stakeholders and communities

11

11

Public Involvement Overview

- Engagement Activities

Activity	Timeline	Status
Project Website Launch	Summer 2025	Complete
Initial Stakeholder Outreach	Summer 2025	Complete
Public & Stakeholder Meetings – Round 1	Fall 2025	In Progress
Public & Stakeholder Meetings – Round 2	April 2026	Planned
Individual Stakeholder Coordination	Ongoing	In Progress

- Your Voice Matters
  - We invite the community to participate, ask questions, and stay engaged.

12

12

Project Team

- Agnew::Beck
  - Economic Analysis
  - Public Involvement
- Bristol
  - Land Status Mapping
  - Public Involvement
  - Analysis and Reporting
  - Project Management
- Midnight Sun Environmental
  - Environment Analysis
- Shannon & Wilson
  - Geotechnical Reporting
- True North
  - Cultural Resources Report

13

13



14

14

What is Connectivity?

- Movement of people, goods and services
- Current Connectivity in Study Area
  - Air
  - Land
  - Water
- Cost, Seasons, and Weather are limitations for current modes of travel
- Let's evaluate Connectivity with less barriers…

15

15

Barrier Reduction Strategies

- **What will improve accessibility and/or reduce cost?**
- Air Travel
  - Runway Improvements including instrument approach.
- Water Travel
  - Waterway maintenance programs for safety and water levels.
  - More freight movement options.
- Over Land Travel
  - Winter trail improvements / ice roads.
  - Permanent roadway. Let's talk about this!

16

16

Considerations for Permanent Roadways

- Community Needs & Priorities
- Cultural & Subsistence Considerations
- Environmental & Season Factors
- Economic & Social Impacts
- Logistics & Access
- Governance & Decision Making
- Road Design & Maintenance

17

17

Evaluation of Opportunities and Threats

- As a group let's discuss.
- Think of a road of either to neighboring communities or the hub.
- **Opportunities:**
  What good things could a road bring in the future?
- **Threats:**
  What risks could come with a road, or from outside forces?"

18

18

Community Needs & Priorities

- Lower cost of living
- Education keep school open.
- Better teachers
- Provide more employment opportunities
- Safer medical travel during bad weather
- Improve recycling
- Open areas military presence.

Threats

- Bad actors coming into community, but already happens.

Other

- Road to Anchorage
- Make land available for the children
- Monitor traffic in/out
- Toll station?

19

19

Cultural & Subsistence Considerations

- Could expand hunting area.
- Provide access to cultural camps.
- Learn more about nature.
- Start new campsites for others

Threats

- xx

berries

20

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Environmental & Seasonal Factors

Opportunities

- Reduce scaring of lands from winter and summer travel over tundra

Threats

- Could impact wetlands rivers

21

21

Economic & Social Impacts

Opportunities

- Outside development
- Open up land for locals
- Housing development.
- Local driven timber harvesting.
- Gas, electricity, food will be more affordable.
- More cars in the community.

Threats

- Outside development

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Logistics & Access

Opportunities

- xx

Threats

- xx

23

23

Governance & Decision-Making

Opportunities

- xx

Threats

- xx

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24

Road Design & Maintenance

Opportunities

- Gravel sales on private.

Threats

- Have to maintain, cost money.
- Erosion
- Permafrost

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26

Where Could a Road Go?

- Things to consider:
  - Geographic feasibility
    - Terrain challenges (mountains, rivers, wetlands, permafrost)
    - Accessibility in all seasons
  - Environmental Factors
    - Sensitive ecosystems, wildlife corridors, fisheries
    - Subsistence resource areas
  - Cultural and Historical Resources
    - Sites of cultural or historical importance
  - Community Preferences
    - Connections people would find useful
    - Proximity of road to the townsite

27

27

Where Could a Road Go?

- We want to hear from you!
  - If a road were considered, where would you want it to go, or not go?
  - Where should be avoided?
- Let's mark up some maps!!!
- Also, Let's do some surveys!!!

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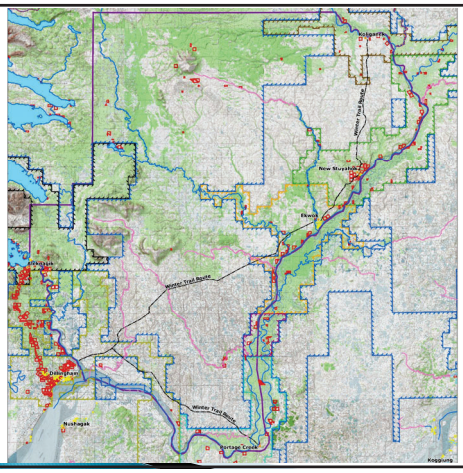

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29

Project Schedule / Next Steps

- Draft A2K Study February / March 2026
- Public Meeting Round #2 April 2026
- Final Draft A2K Study August 2026
- Final A2K Study December 2026

Check out the website:
A2KRoadStudy.com

30

30

Questions or Comments?

31

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Thank you for your participation!

Bristol Bay Native Association

33

33

Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study

Public Meeting #1

Welcome and Thank You!

Thank you for attending the public meeting for the Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study (A2K Study). This is an early-stage planning project that evaluates the potential for developing road connections between the communities of Aleknagik, Portage Creek, Ekwok, New Stuyahok, and Koliganek.

What Is This Study About?

The A2K Study aims to:

- Gather input from local residents, tribes, and stakeholders;
- Understand possible impacts on social, cultural, and environmental values;
- Analize potential economic opportunities;
- Evaluate possible routes between the communities;
- Summarize findings in a comprehensive report.

🚫 **Important Note:** This study does not propose road construction at this stage. Its purpose is to understand community interest and determine whether a road project could be feasible in the future.

We Want To Hear From You!

Your input is vital to this study. Please share your thoughts throughout online public survey:

More information about the survey on the back of this handout.

Stay Connected

For updates, meeting notices, and study documents, please visit the project website:

www.A2KRoadStudy.com

Aleknagik to Koliganek Road Feasibility Study

Community Survey

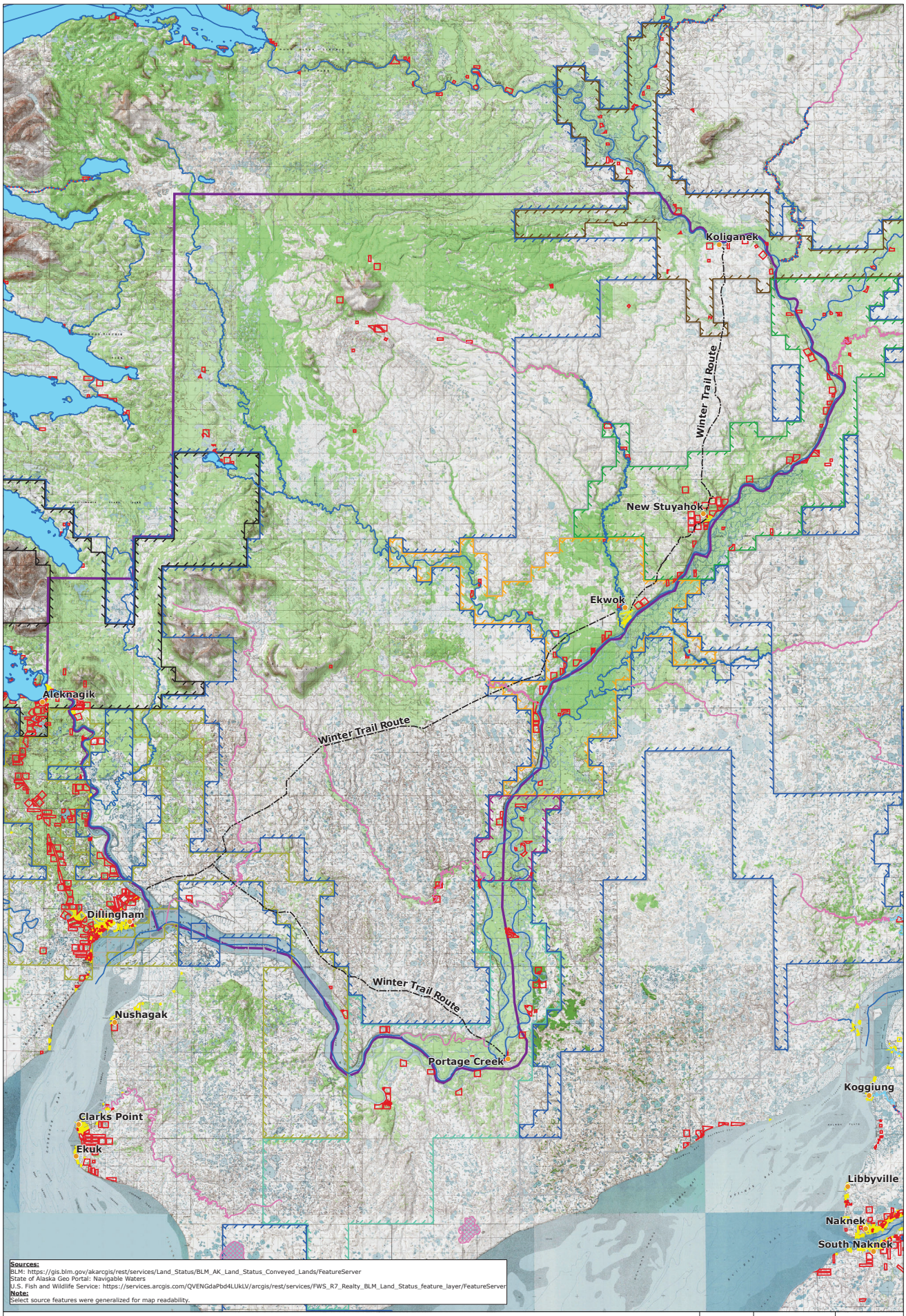
The goal of this survey is to collect feedback around the potential impacts on the cost of living, quality of life, regional travel patterns, and subsistence activities from the people living in the communities that could potentially be affected by future road connections. This survey will also help gauge community interest and document community concerns around future road connections.

Survey respondents will be eligible to be entered into a drawing for an Apple iPad.

Visit the project website to access the survey and for more information on the study:
A2KRoadStudy.com

BBNA is committed to ensuring that this study reflects the voices and priorities of our member Tribal communities, with a focus on cultural respect, economic opportunity, and community-driven decision-making.

Bristol Bay Native Association



Sources:
BLM: https://gis.blm.gov/akarcgis/rest/services/Land_Status/BLM_AK_Land_Status_Conveyed_Lands/FeatureServer
State of Alaska Geo Portal: Navigable Waters
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: https://services.arcgis.com/QVENGdaPbd4LUkLV/arcgis/rest/services/FWS_R7_Realty_BLM_Land_Status_feature_layer/FeatureServer
Note:
Select source features were generalized for map readability.

Legend

- City
- Navigable
- Conflict
- Unknown
- Tidal Influence
- Winter Trail
- Navigable
- Unknown
- BLM AK Native Allotment Conveyed Land
- BLM AK Private Conveyed Land
- Aleknagik
- BBNC (Other)
- Dillingham
- Ekwok
- Koliganek
- New Stuyahok
- Portage Creek
- Select State Land
- BLM's Land Status of Alaska (3/9/2017)
- Study Boundary

Bristol Bay Native Association

DATUM: NAD83
PROJECTION: SP AK Z6 FT
DATE: 10/3/2025

0 1.5 3 Miles

Key Map