

Protecting Habitat and Traditional Use



ACES 2014
December 8, 2014

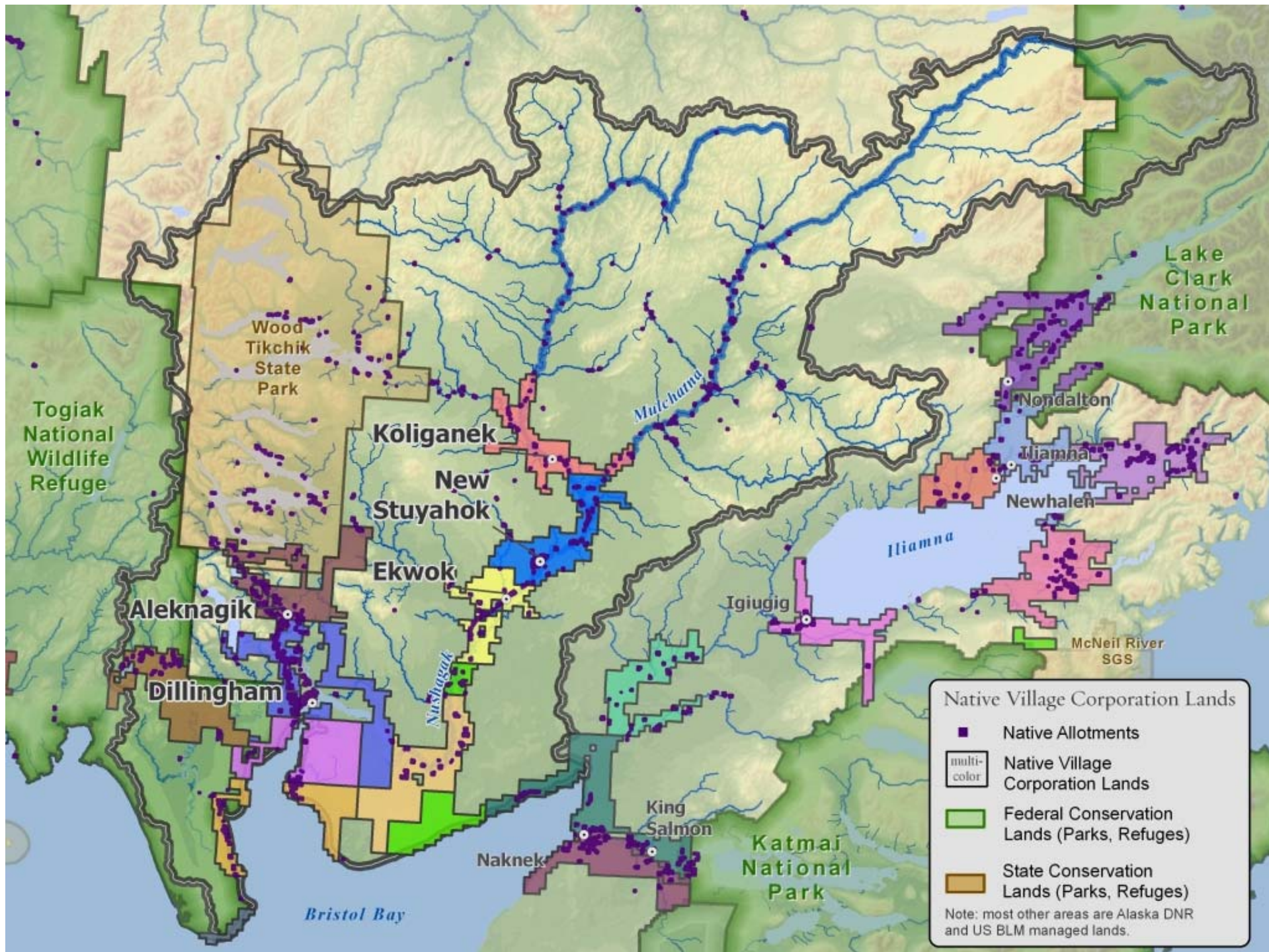
Susan Flensburg
Bristol Bay Native Association

Nushagak River Watershed Traditional Use Area Conservation Plan

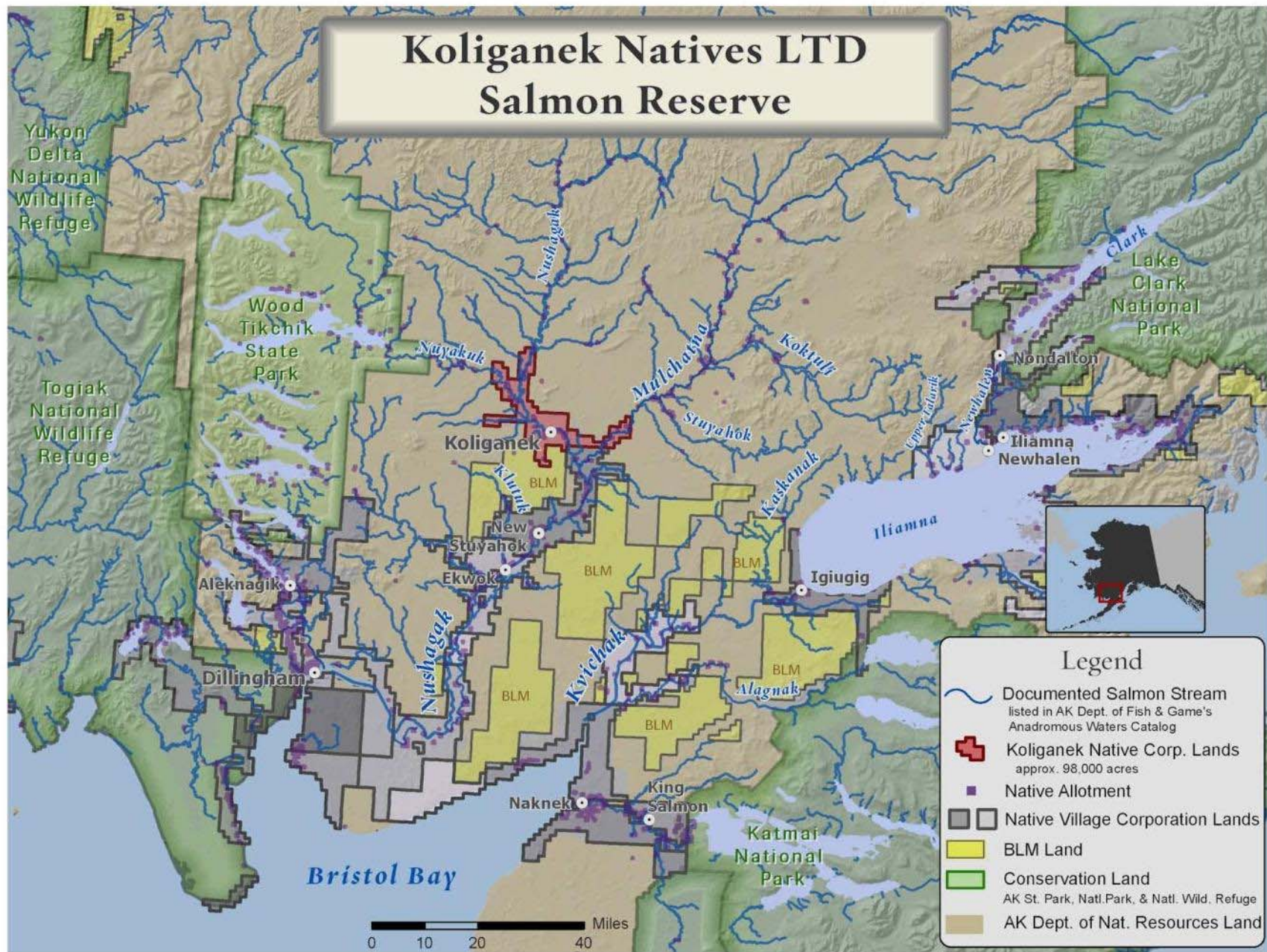


Nushagak-Mulchatna Watershed Council
November, 2007

- Nushagak Mulchatna Watershed Council – formed 1998
- Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust – formed 2000
- TUACP - adopted 2007 and updated in 2012
- [YouTube](#)



Koliganek Natives LTD Salmon Reserve



PARTNERSHIP OF PROTECTION

Koliganek creates wild fish reserve

*Village corporation joins
with Nature Conservancy*

BAY TIMES STAFF
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The board of directors for Koliganek Natives Ltd., the village corporation established for the Native people of Koliganek under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, recently designated all of its land holdings as a reserve for wild salmon.

Koliganek owns 92,000 acres of land in the Nushagak River watershed.

The reserve is a temporary designation pending the completion of a corporate land planning process that will assess the habitat and subsistence value of each section of corporate land, a news release said.

The temporary designation establishes guidelines to govern land management while the corporation assesses habitat. The Nature Conservancy in Alaska and the Nushagak-Mulchatna/Wood-Tikchik Land Trust are assisting the corporation.

The process began in 2005 when the village of Koliganek participated in the development of a traditional-use area conservation plan for the Nushagak River watershed. The plan, published by the Nushagak-Mulchatna Watershed Council and the Nature Conservancy in 2007, reflects a regionwide approach to protecting subsis-



CLARK JAMES MISHLER / COURTESY PHOTO

Herman Nelson, left, and Elia Ishnook discuss a map of Koliganek Natives Ltd. land holdings during a meeting in Koliganek.

tence resources.

Residents and elders selected by the village helped gather information about traditional uses and place names for the region. The information they provided was used to develop maps of areas on corporate lands that were identified by participants as important for subsistence and for the species upon which people depend. This data-

base of traditional knowledge will be combined with other resource databases to provide Koliganek with a useful planning tool.

"Salmon are the most important species for our people, and we know that our corporation lands have habitat that is important for salmon and for the other fish and animals that we eat," said Koliganek board

president Herman Nelson. "We need to know the important places and put them on a map so that we can make future decisions about our land with that knowledge. This will take time, so in the meantime the village corporation board asked the Nature Conservancy to help us develop guidelines to follow while we are looking at our lands and making the maps we need. Most of the guidelines are really things we already do, but we wanted to put them into writing so that other landowners in the watershed know what we are doing."

Tim Troll, the Southwest Alaska program director for the Nature Conservancy in Alaska, is helping Koliganek with the project.

"The Salmon reserve that Koliganek Natives established on its lands, albeit temporary for now, is an important step in trying to prevent the legal partition of land that has occurred in the Nushagak watershed over the last 40 years from resulting in habitat fragmentation," Troll said. "All landowners in the watershed — village corporations, regional corporations, the state and federal government — have to plan together if what happened to salmon in the Lower 48 is to be avoided on the Nushagak. The important and hopefully groundbreaking step that Koliganek is taking here is a statement that they are not going to ask others to do on their lands what Koliganek is not also willing to do on its own lands."

Guiding Principles

KOLIGANEK NATIVES LTD SALMON RESERVE

INTERIM GUIDING PRINCIPLES

WHEREAS: Koliganek Natives Ltd, (KNL) is the ANCSA village corporation established for the Native people of Koliganek, Alaska.

WHEREAS: KNL has entered into an Memorandum of Understanding with the Nushagak-Mulchagua / Woon-Tikahik Land Trust and the Native Conservancy in Alaska to prepare a conservation land management plan that identifies and maps important cultural and subsistence sites and important salmon habitat on its lands for the purpose of guiding future development.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That KNL adopts the following land management guidelines as temporary measures to protect cultural and subsistence sites and salmon habitat for three years from the date of this resolution or until the conservation land management plan is complete, whichever occurs sooner:

1. A 100 foot riparian setback for habitat protection is designated for all salmon bearing waters on KNL lands. The following activities, with the exception of activities specifically provided for herein, are prohibited within the riparian setback: major land or vegetation clearing, excavation, filling, building construction, or any other activity that may cause significant erosion or damage to riparian habitat or water resources.

6. Intermittent flow reservations protecting water levels necessary to protect salmon must be filed under Alaska law before any hard rock or mineral mining can occur on any KNL lands where such activities may adversely affect salmon bearing waterbodies;
7. The commercial harvest of trees shall not be allowed within 300 feet of the bank of a salmon bearing waterbody. This restriction does not apply to the local harvest of wood for personal use.
8. Fuel storage or storage of hazardous substances within the 100 foot riparian setback shall have proper containment and otherwise comply with all federal and state regulations.
9. KNL lands shall not be used for the construction of dams or other artificial measures that may result in obstruction of salmon passage.
10. A shareholder or descendant of a shareholder of any ANCSA village corporation within Bristol Bay Native Corporation region may, without charges, have permission to hunt, fish, collect edible and medicinal plants, or otherwise respectfully use KNL lands provided the same privileges are extended to shareholders of Koliganek Natives, LTD.

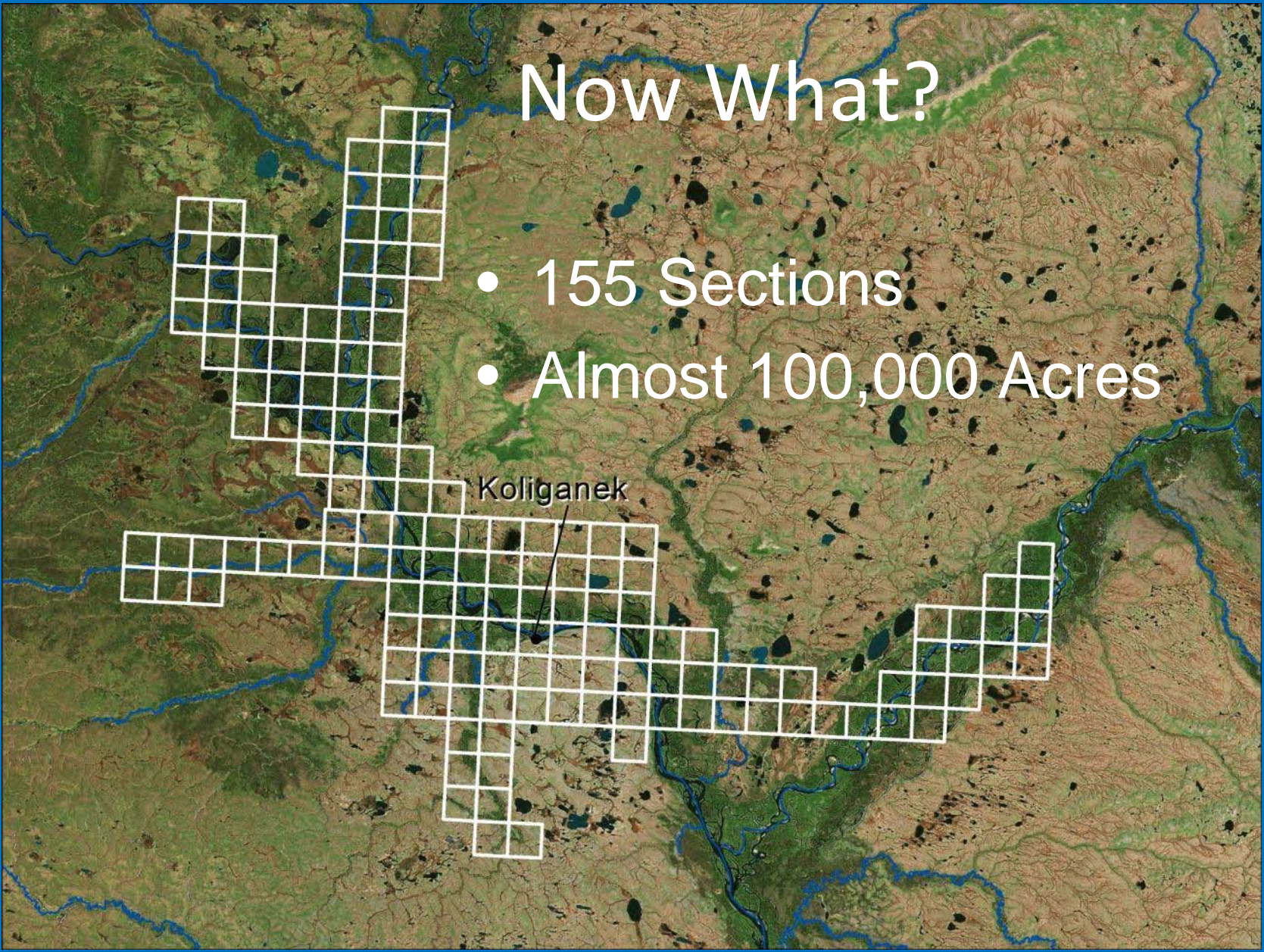
ADOPTED this 7 day of July, 2021 by the Board of Directors

100 foot riparian setback for habitat protection is designated for all salmon bearing waters on KNL lands.

Now What?

- 155 Sections
- Almost 100,000 Acres

Koliganek

An aerial photograph of a river valley, likely the Koliganek River valley, showing a winding river and surrounding terrain. A white grid is overlaid on the map, delineating 155 sections. The grid is irregular, following the valley's shape. A label 'Koliganek' with a pointer indicates a specific location within the grid.

Planning = Traditional Knowledge

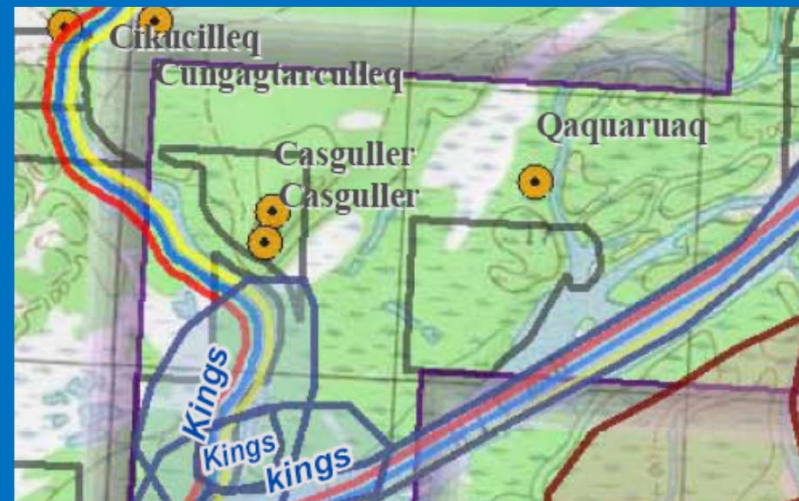


Digitize Traditional Knowledge

Nushagak River Watershed Traditional Use Area Conservation Plan



Nushagak-Mulchatna Watershed Council
November, 2007



Ekwok Area King, Red, and Silver Salmon

Traditional Ecological Knowledge
(Yupik name, English Translation,
Species, Lifestage)



King Salmon



Red Salmon



Silver Salmon



Traditional Location

Anadromous Waters Catalog
ADF&G - 2006



King Salmon



Red Salmon



Silver



Native Allotments
BLM

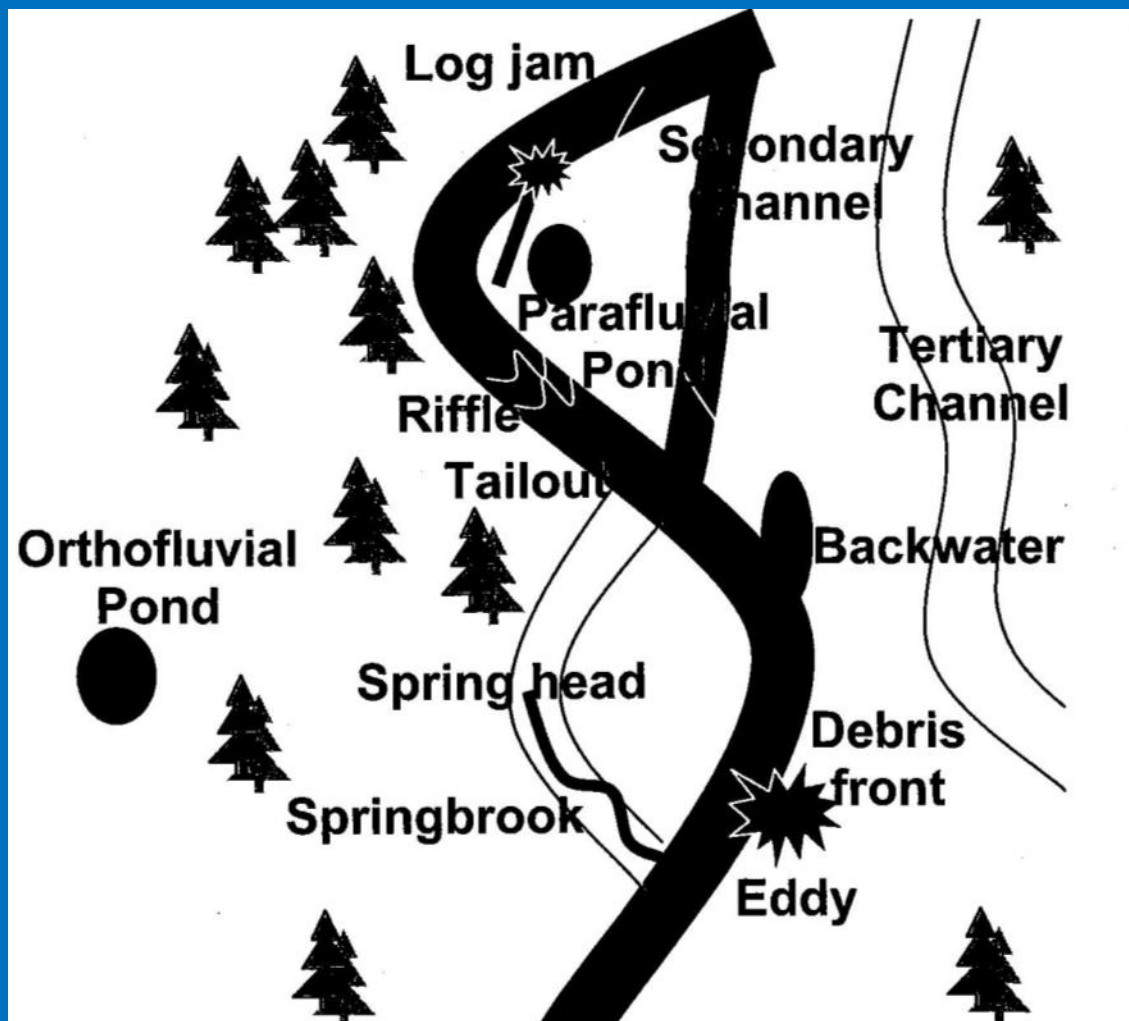


Village Lands Boundary
Bristol Bay Native Corp.

Yupik_Name	Translation	Salmon	Lifestage
Vegtuli		Red, Silver	
Qelutvak		Chum, King, Red, Silver	
Qecikluk		Red	Spawn
Qarvik		Red	Spawn
Qamanek	place lacking current or wind	Red	Fall
Qakiyartuliar		Silver	Spawn
Qakiyarculek		Silver	
Qakiyarculek	place to harvest coho	Red, Silver	
Penaryalkaar		Chum	Spawn

Scientific Understanding of Salmon Habitat

University of Montana Riverscape Analysis



Scoring Criteria

Main Channel

Secondary Channel

Tertiary Channel

Cutbank into trees

Wetlands

Spring head

Spring brook

Eddy

Back water

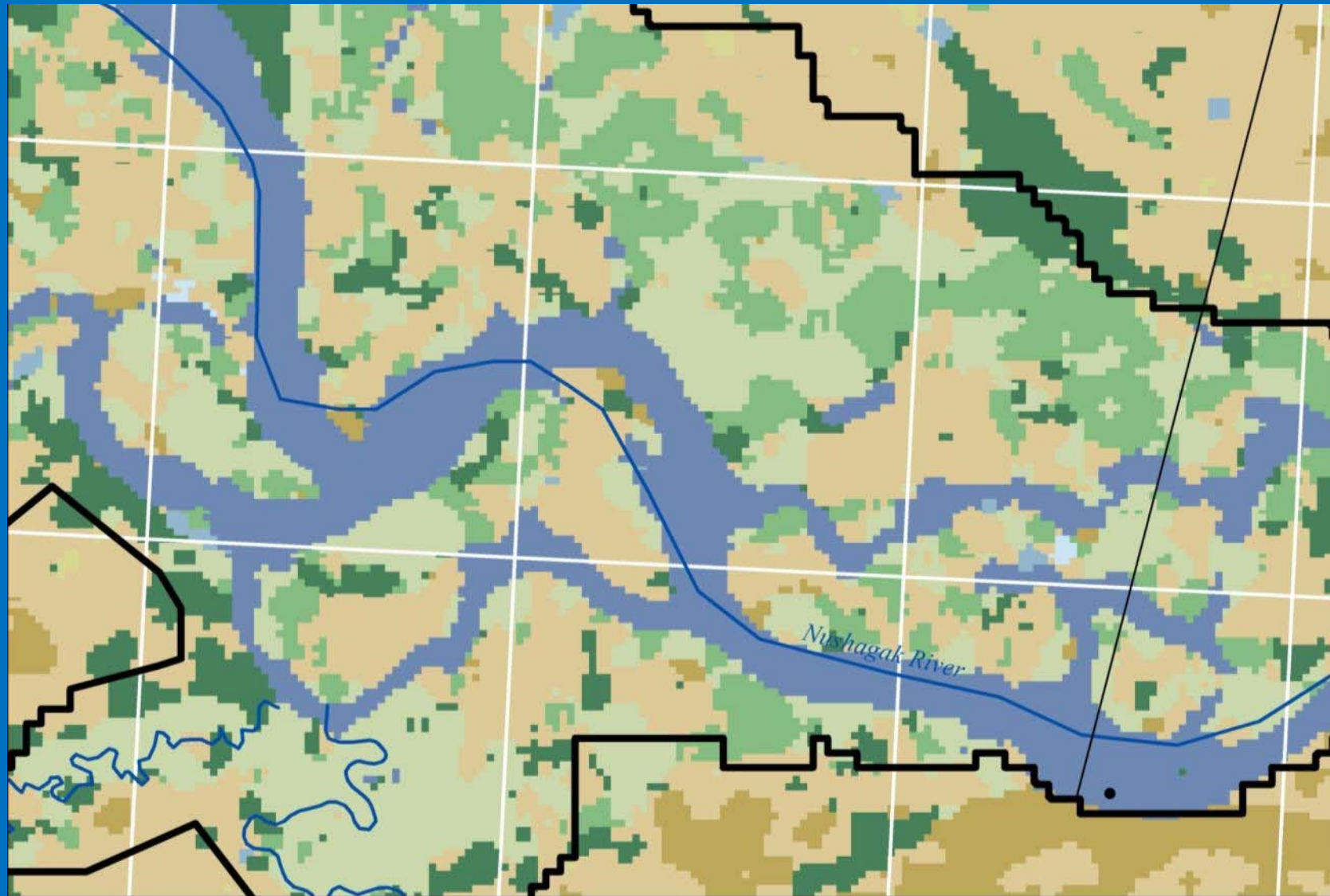
Confluence w/
tributary

Island

River Complexity - example



Wetlands and Floodplain



Scoring Formula

River Features

- Backwater
- Channels
- Confluence
- Eddy
- Island



Traditional Knowledge

- Villages
- Fishing
- Hunting
- Historic Sites



Wetlands

- percentage



Floodplain

- percentage



Scored Sections

- Very High
- High
- Medium
- Low

Section Scoring based on 15 Criteria



Very High - Land is critical for protecting subsistence, habitat or cultural site; no development



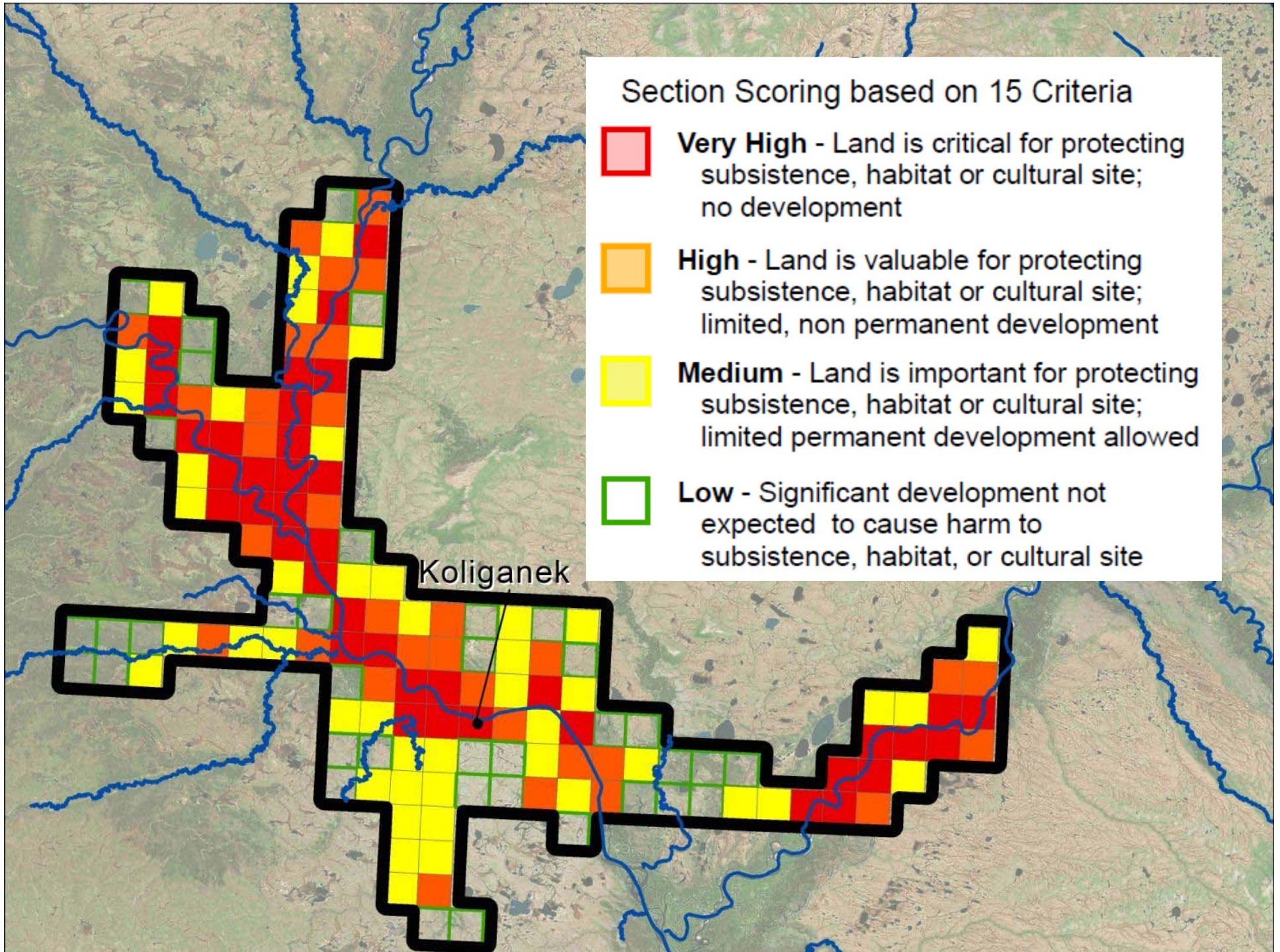
High - Land is valuable for protecting subsistence, habitat or cultural site; limited, non permanent development

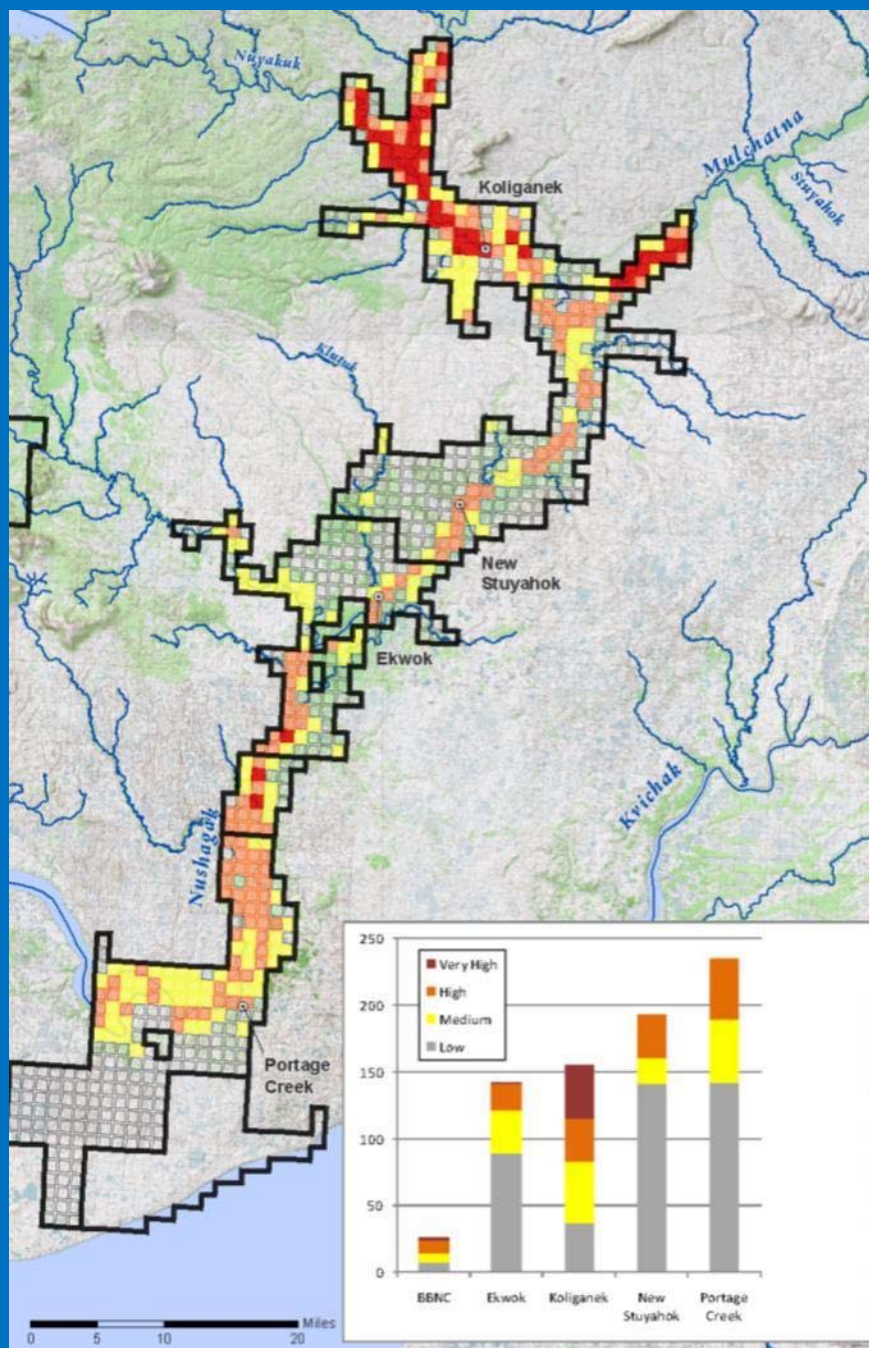


Medium - Land is important for protecting subsistence, habitat or cultural site; limited permanent development allowed

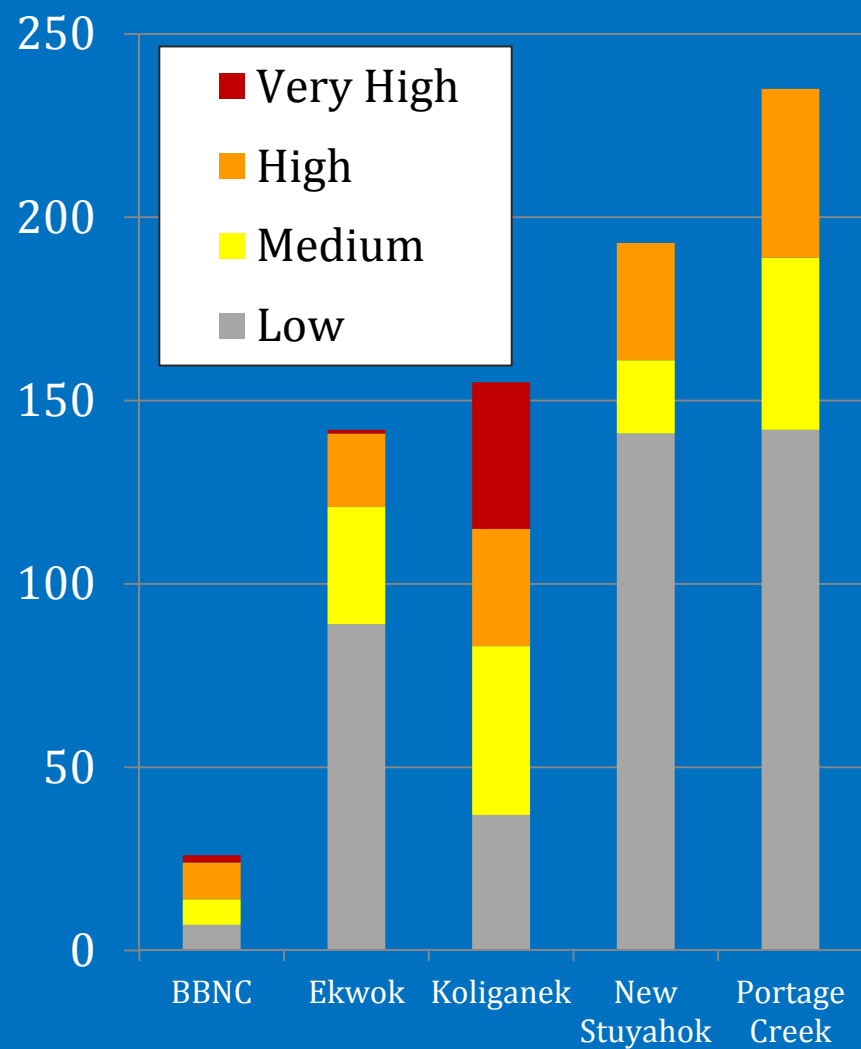


Low - Significant development not expected to cause harm to subsistence, habitat, or cultural site





Scoring

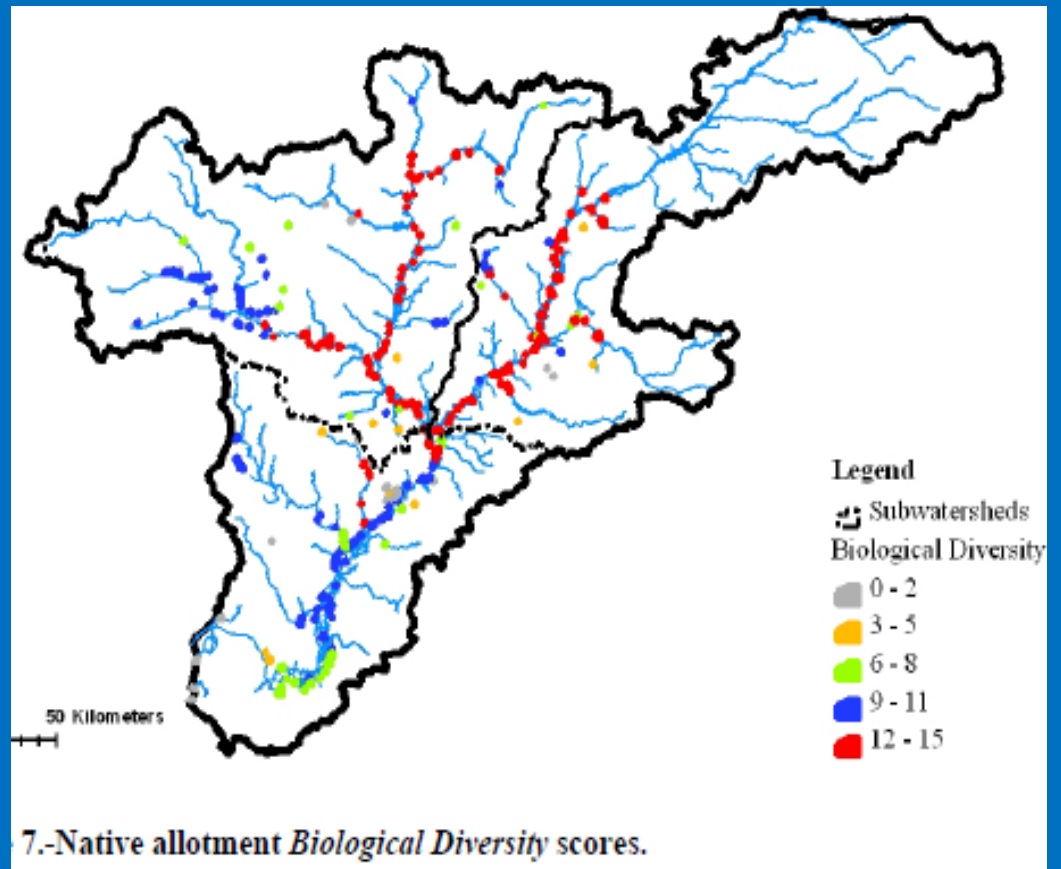


Native Allotment Prioritization

Nushagak—Mulchatna Watershed Native Allotment Evaluation: A Report to the Nushagak—Mulchatna Wood—Tikchik Land Trust and The Nature Conservancy in Alaska

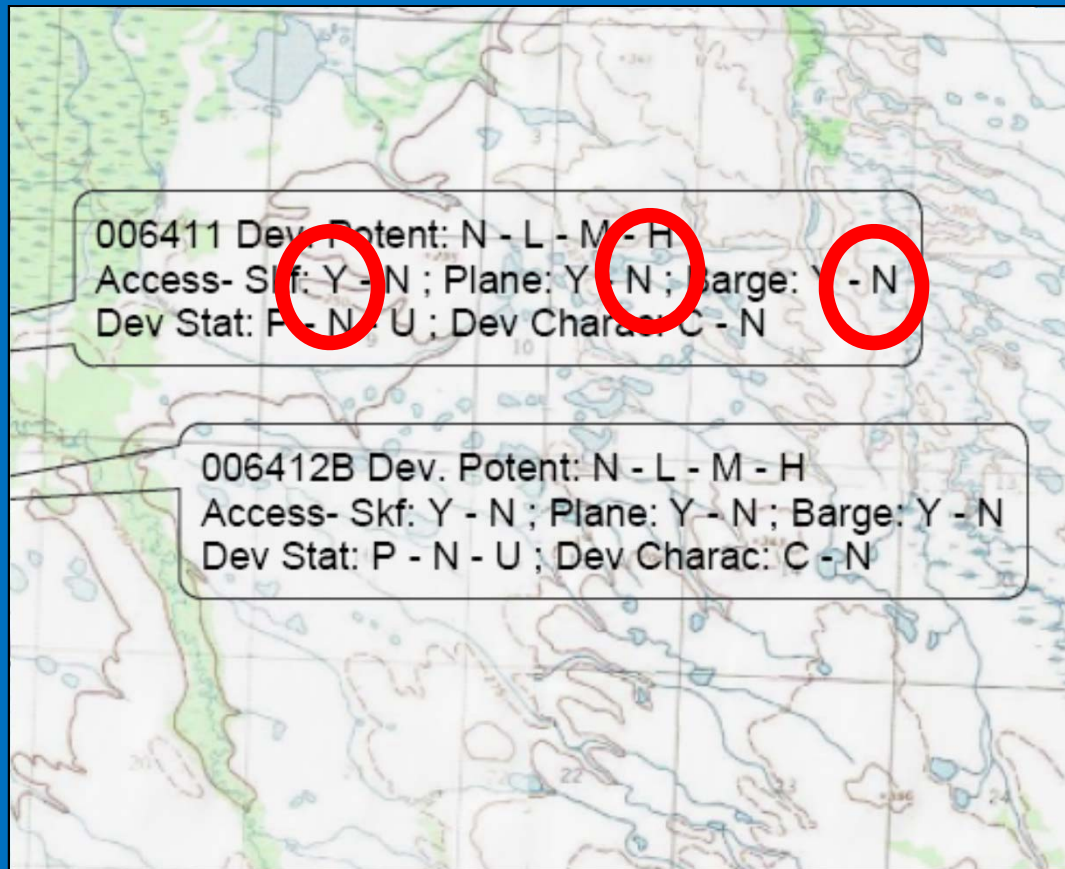


Michael Wiedner, Malma Consulting
December 2007



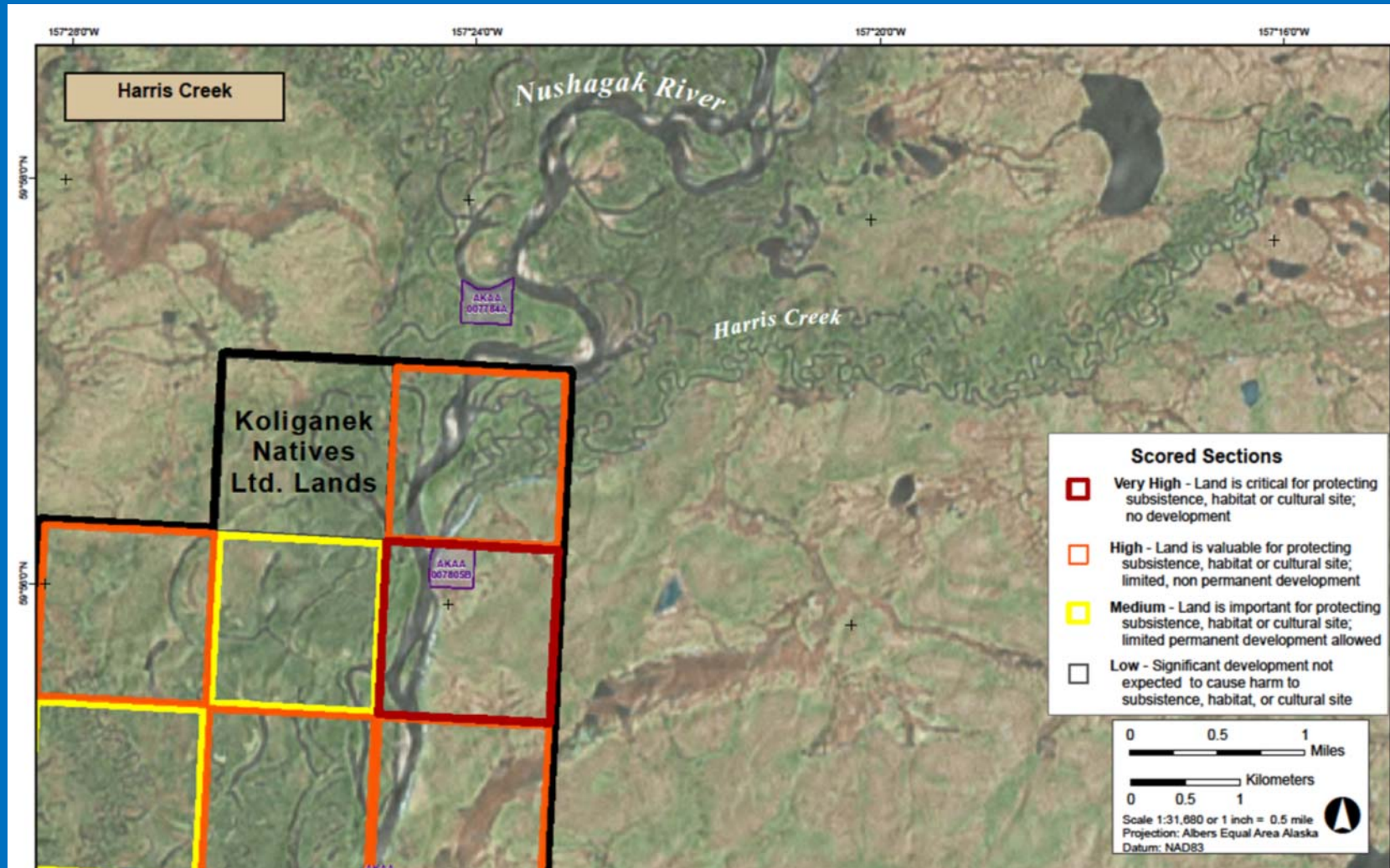
Native Allotment Prioritization

Places



- Evaluated 300+ Native Allotments
- Collected attributes on paper maps
- Created and printed value domains

Land Exchange – Allotment within Village Corporation Lands



Questions?



- KNL President and BBHLT Chair signed land exchange agreement on December 4, 2014

- Community Empowerment

<http://www.bristolbaylandtrust.org/videos/>

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