



AITRC

**Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
Community Harvest System Hunt**

Regulations Book

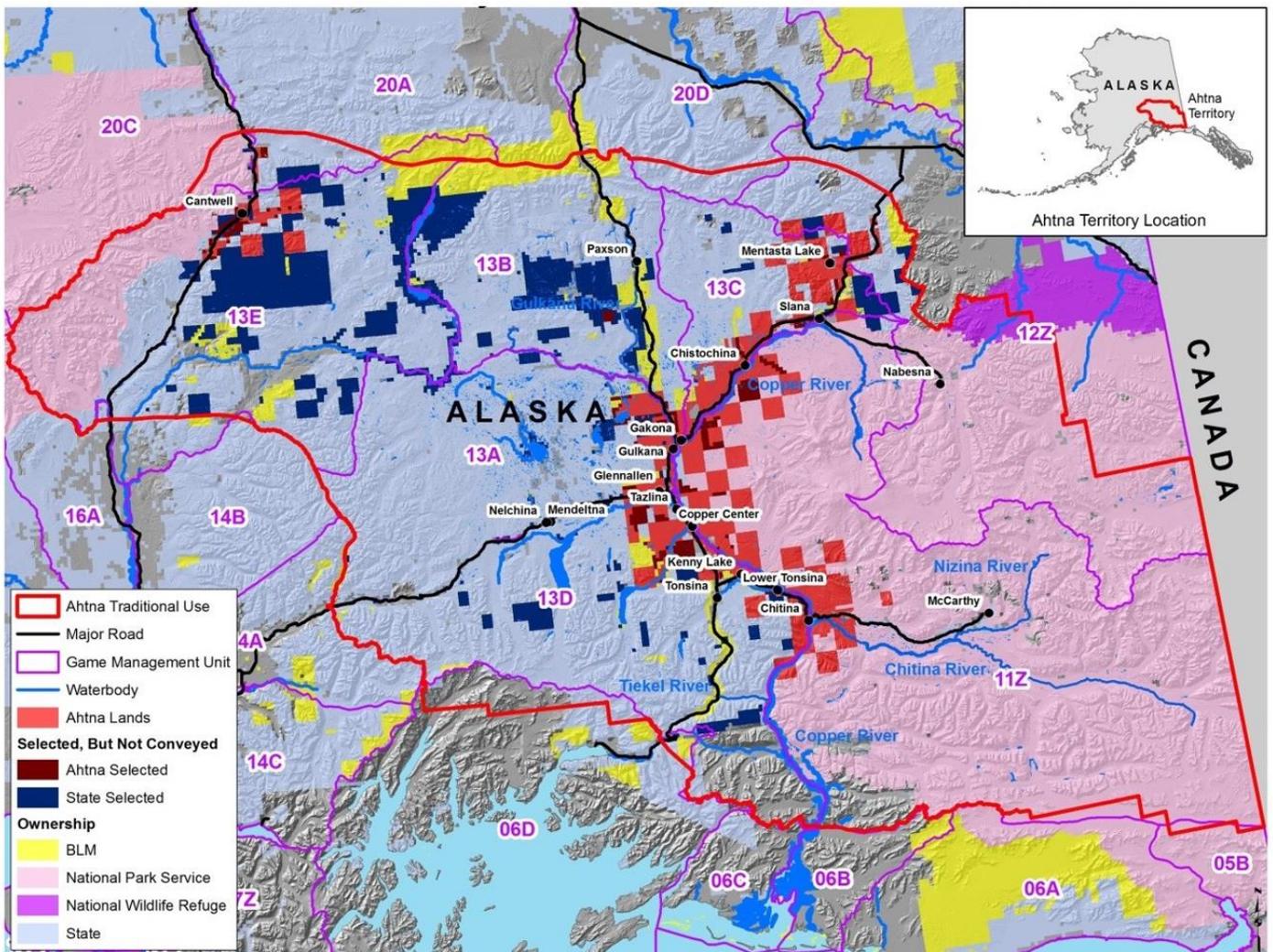
Effective July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

This regulation book can also be found on our website at ahtnatribal.org/harvest

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Ahtna Traditional Use Territory



Introduction

The Ahtna people have lived and been connected with the land for thousands of years. Their traditional use area extends from the foothills of Denali, south to the tops of the Chugach range, north to the Alaska range, east to the Canadian border. Spanning more than 46,875 square miles in the Interior of Alaska.

This book contains important information on this first-of-its-kind community harvest system hunt. These regulations are in effect from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 and apply only to moose and caribou on most federal lands within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory.

Carefully review the section that applies to your residency in which you receive your hunt registration. The salvaged and reporting requirements differ from other hunts under federal regulations.

History of AITRC Community Harvest System Hunt



(Department of Interior Deputy Secretary Connor and AITRC Chair Christopher Gene, November 29, 2016)

In 2016, the Department of Interior and AITRC membership entered into a Memorandum of Agreement that allowed AITRC to cooperatively manage wildlife on Federal lands within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory. Since 2017, AITRC worked with the Alaska Federal Subsistence Management program to develop a community harvest system for moose in Unit 11 and for moose and caribou in Units 12 and 13.

On January 27, 2021, the Federal Subsistence Board adopted and approved a community harvest system for moose and caribou for the eight Ahtna villages as outlined in that agreement.

Who Can Participate?

Federally qualified residents of Cantwell, Mentasta, Chistochina, Gakona, Gulkana, Copper Center, and Chitina census designated places (CDPs) are eligible to participate in the Community Harvest System but are not required to. Being a resident of one of these CDPs doesn't mean that you can hunt anywhere in Units 11, 12, and 13, as you must still meet existing customary and traditional use determination eligibility.

If you choose to participate in this hunt, you do not have to go to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the National Park Service (NPS) for your federal permits, but to one location at AITRC. Seasons and bag limits will be the same as other federally managed hunts in those units.

Federal Subsistence Regulations Books

For current Federal Subsistence hunt regulations go to:

doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/2018-2020_wildlife_regs_book_final_web.pdf

AITRC Community Harvest System Framework & FAQ's

1. Who is eligible to register in the AITRC-administered community harvest system?

All Federally qualified individuals whose primary residence is within any of the eight named communities – Cantwell, Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta Lake, and Tazlina – are eligible to register in the community harvest system. The only criteria for determining eligibility to register in the community harvest system are Federal qualification and the location of the applicant's primary permanent residence.

2. How is community residency determined?

Eligibility to participate in Federal subsistence harvest opportunities is based on the physical location of one's primary permanent residence. The most recent census designated place (CDP) boundaries drawn by the US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, will be used to determine community boundaries. Maps showing the location of these boundaries are available online (www.ahtnatribal.org/harvest) and at the AITRC office.

3. How do I register for the community harvest system?

Contact the community harvest system administrator, the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission, at (907) 822-4466 or harvest@ahtnatribal.org, or visit the office at Mile 187 Glenn Highway to register.

4. Am I required to register for the community harvest system if I live in one of the eligible communities?

No. Registration in the community harvest system is optional for Federally qualified residents of the eligible communities. You may register in the community harvest system for moose and/or caribou. You may choose either to register in the community harvest system or to participate in hunts under the regular Federal subsistence regulations applicable to those areas (see question 6).

5. If I register for the community harvest system, may I participate in other Federal subsistence hunts?

Yes. You may participate in Federal subsistence hunts that do not overlap with the species and units governed by the community harvest system for which you have registered.

6. What lands are included in the community harvest system?

The community harvest system applies to all Federal public lands open for subsistence uses in Units 11, 12 and 13, subject to restrictions in question 9. (The lands included in the community harvest system are the same lands that are included in a regular Federal subsistence hunt.)

7. What seasons apply to registrants in the community harvest system?

The seasons for the community harvest system are the same as those that apply to people hunting under the existing Federal regulations for those areas. Refer to the Federal subsistence regulations booklet for more details.

8. What is the community harvest quota for the AITRC-administered community harvest system?

The community harvest quota for the AITRC-administered community harvest system is the sum of individual harvest limits for the included species and hunt areas that otherwise would have been available to community harvest system registrants had they chosen to hunt under the regular Federal Subsistence hunting regulations.

9. If I register in the community harvest system, where am I allowed to hunt?

- Community harvest system registrants may only hunt on Federal public lands within Units 11, 12, and 13 where their community or area of permanent residence has a customary and traditional use determination established by the Federal Subsistence Board for the species to be harvested. Refer to the Federal subsistence regulations booklet for more details.
- Additionally, National Park Service regulations limit hunting on lands designated as National Parks (but not National Preserves) to people who live in resident zone communities, live within the National Park, or hold a subsistence eligibility permit issued pursuant to 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 13.440. This means that only residents of Cantwell may hunt in that portion of Unit 13E that falls within Denali National Park and only residents of Chistochina, Chitina, Copper Center, Gakona, Gulkana, Mentasta Lake, and Tazlina may hunt within Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

10. Is a hunting license required to register in the community harvest system?

Persons 18 years of age or older must hold a current State of Alaska resident hunting license in order to register for the community harvest system. A hunting license is not required for those less than 18 years old. Registrants 60 years of age and older or disabled veterans may have a permanent ID card issued by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game instead of an annual hunting license.

11. Are any other Federal or State registration permits or harvest tickets required?

No. Registrants in the community harvest system will receive a hunt registration and, if they choose to hunt, a harvest report from AITRC. Only the community harvest system registration and harvest report are required.

12. Can registrants in the community harvest system hunt for moose or caribou under State of Alaska regulations? And if so, do any special rules apply?

Registration in the community harvest system does not preclude someone from hunting moose or caribou under State of Alaska regulations; however, any moose or caribou harvested by community harvest system registrants under State regulations would count against the community harvest system quota. Community harvest system registrants who harvest a moose or caribou under State regulations must submit the required State harvest report to AITRC about the harvest under State regulations for inclusion in the harvest quota calculation within 5 days of harvest.

Moose and caribou harvests by community harvest system registrants under State of Alaska regulations count towards the community harvest quota because the community harvest quota is the sum of the individual harvest limits of community harvest system registrants and under 50 CFR 100.25(c)(1) Federal subsistence and State of Alaska harvest limits cannot be accumulated.

13. What are the responsibilities of registrants in the community harvest system?

Registrants must carry their individual hunt registration while hunting. A separate AITRC-issued harvest report form is required and must be in the hunter's possession for each animal harvested. When an animal is harvested, the date of harvest should be marked on the form before leaving the field. Registrants are required to submit harvest reports to AITRC on the form provided within 5 days of a successful harvest or within 15 days of the end of the season if unsuccessful.

14. How are eligibility questions and law enforcement concerns to be addressed?

If AITRC has questions about the eligibility of an applicant who provides the requested residency documentation or other concerns of a law enforcement nature, those questions and concerns shall immediately be forwarded to the Federal agency points of contact.

15. Can I register for the community harvest system if I have already been issued a Federal subsistence moose or caribou permit for lands within the community harvest system area?

Eligible hunters must choose each year between either (1) registering in the community harvest system for moose and/or caribou or (2) hunting for those species under the regular Federal subsistence regulations applicable to those areas.

Users who have already received permits for the regular 2020/2021 Federal subsistence hunts and have not yet harvested any animals under these permits but wish to register in the community harvest system, may turn the Federal permits in to the issuing agency or AITRC within two weeks after authorization of the community harvest system. Once the Federal permits have been turned in, the individual will then be eligible to register in the community harvest system.

16. Are designated hunters authorized within the community harvest system?

- No. Residents of communities operating under a community harvest system – whether or not they register for the community harvest system – may not designate someone else to harvest moose or caribou on their behalf under a Federal subsistence designated hunter permit. If a Federally qualified subsistence user who resides in a community operating under a community harvest system would like someone else to hunt on their behalf, they have the option of registering for the community harvest system.

*(50 CFR 100.25(e) "Hunting by designated harvest permit. If you are a Federally qualified subsistence user (recipient), you may designate another Federally qualified subsistence user to take deer, moose, and caribou, and in Units 1-5 goats, on your behalf **unless you are a member of a community operating under a community harvest system** or unless unit-specific regulations in §100.26 preclude or modify the use of the designated hunter system or allow the harvest of additional species by a designated hunter" (emphasis added).*

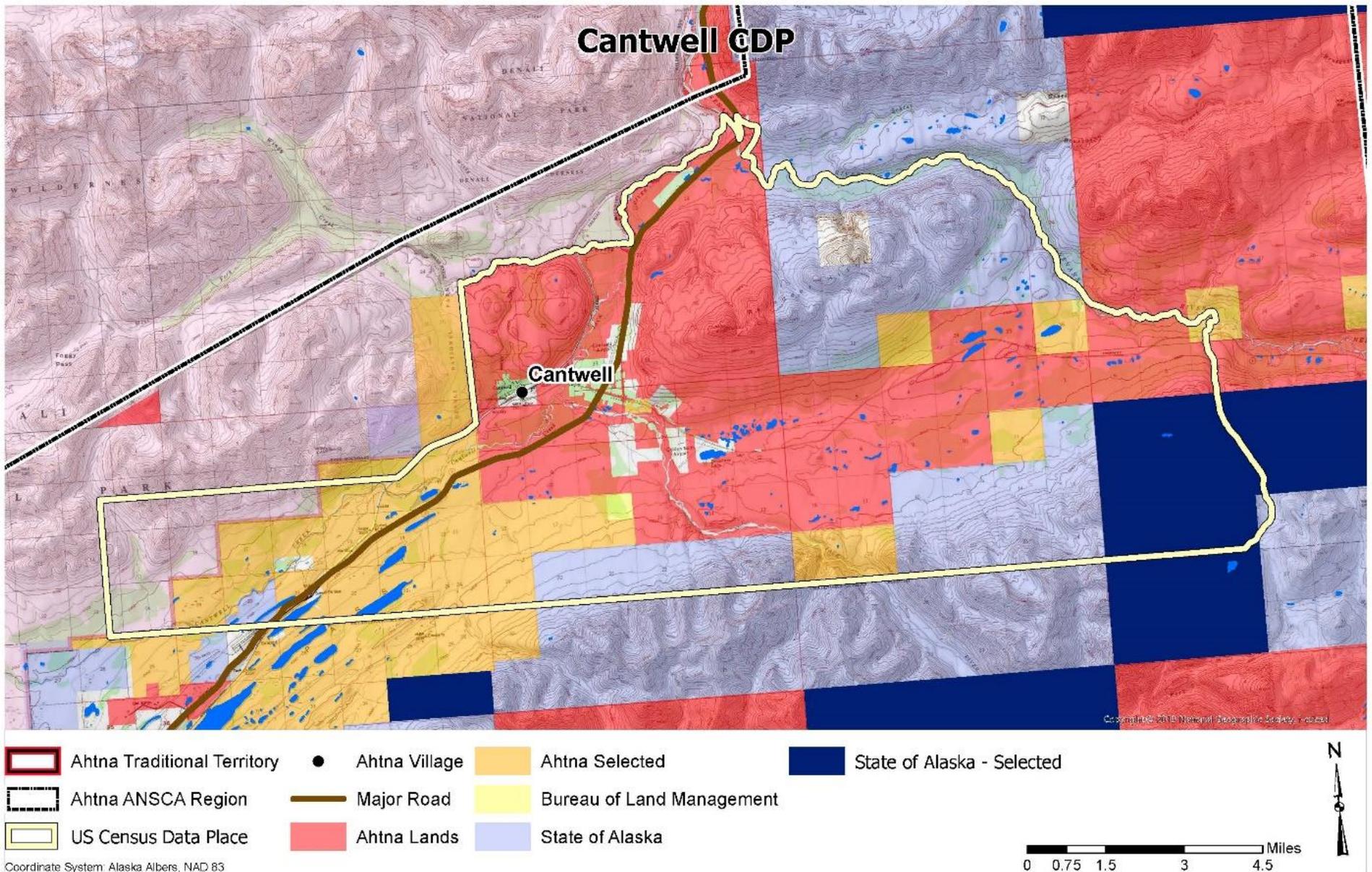
- Residents of communities operating under a community harvest system may serve as a Federal designated hunter for a Federally qualified subsistence hunter who lives in a community that is not operating under a community harvest system, subject to applicable regulatory requirements.

17. Are there any rules that I need to know about access when participating in the community harvest system?

Agency specific access rules apply to community harvest system registrants. Hunters planning to use off-road vehicles (ORVs) including all-terrain vehicles (ATVs), tracked vehicles, and "side-by-sides" as well as aircraft should contact the appropriate land manager for information about allowed means of subsistence access.

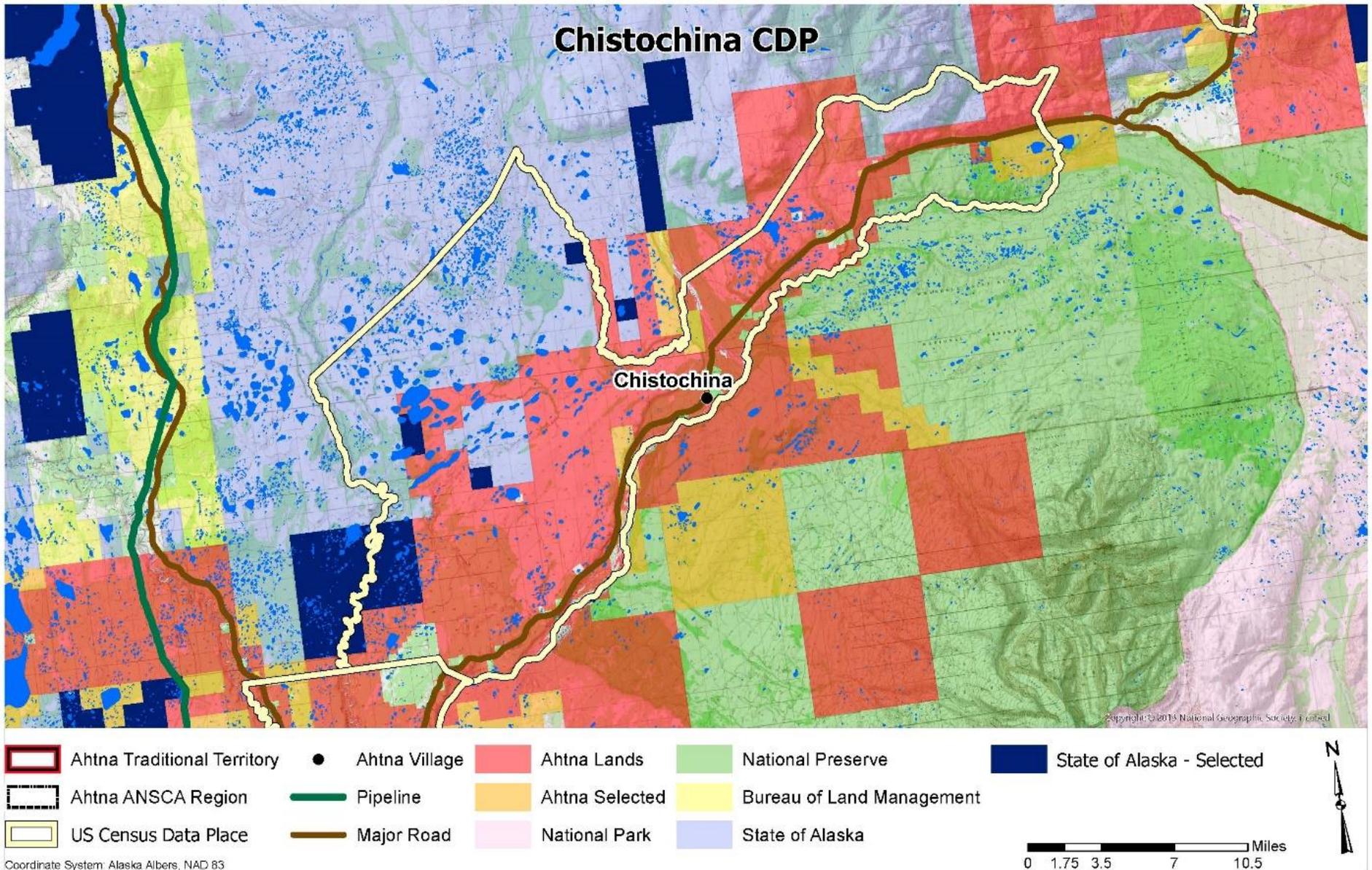
**Please be respectful of private property
and obtain the landowner's permission
prior to entering
or crossing their lands.**

Residency Maps – Census Designated Places (CDP) on the following pages.



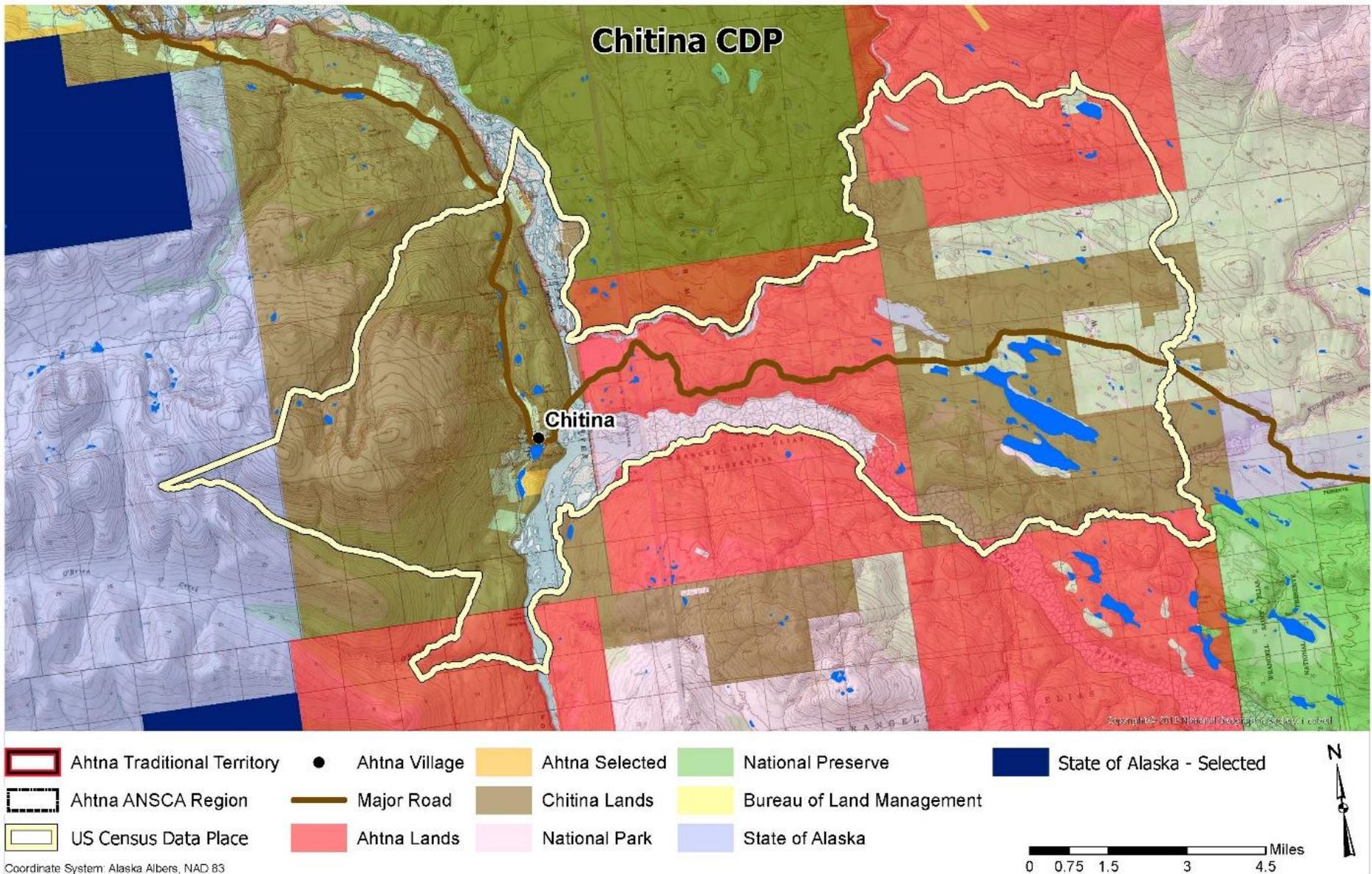
Cantwell, Alaska

Federally qualified residents who live within the Cantwell CDP may participate in AITRC's Community Harvest System for moose and Nelchina caribou hunts within GMU 13 on BLM lands. Federally qualified residents who live within the 3-miles of the Cantwell Post Office may hunt on GMU 13 lands that fall within the Denali National Park. These participants must abide by the NPS rules for access.



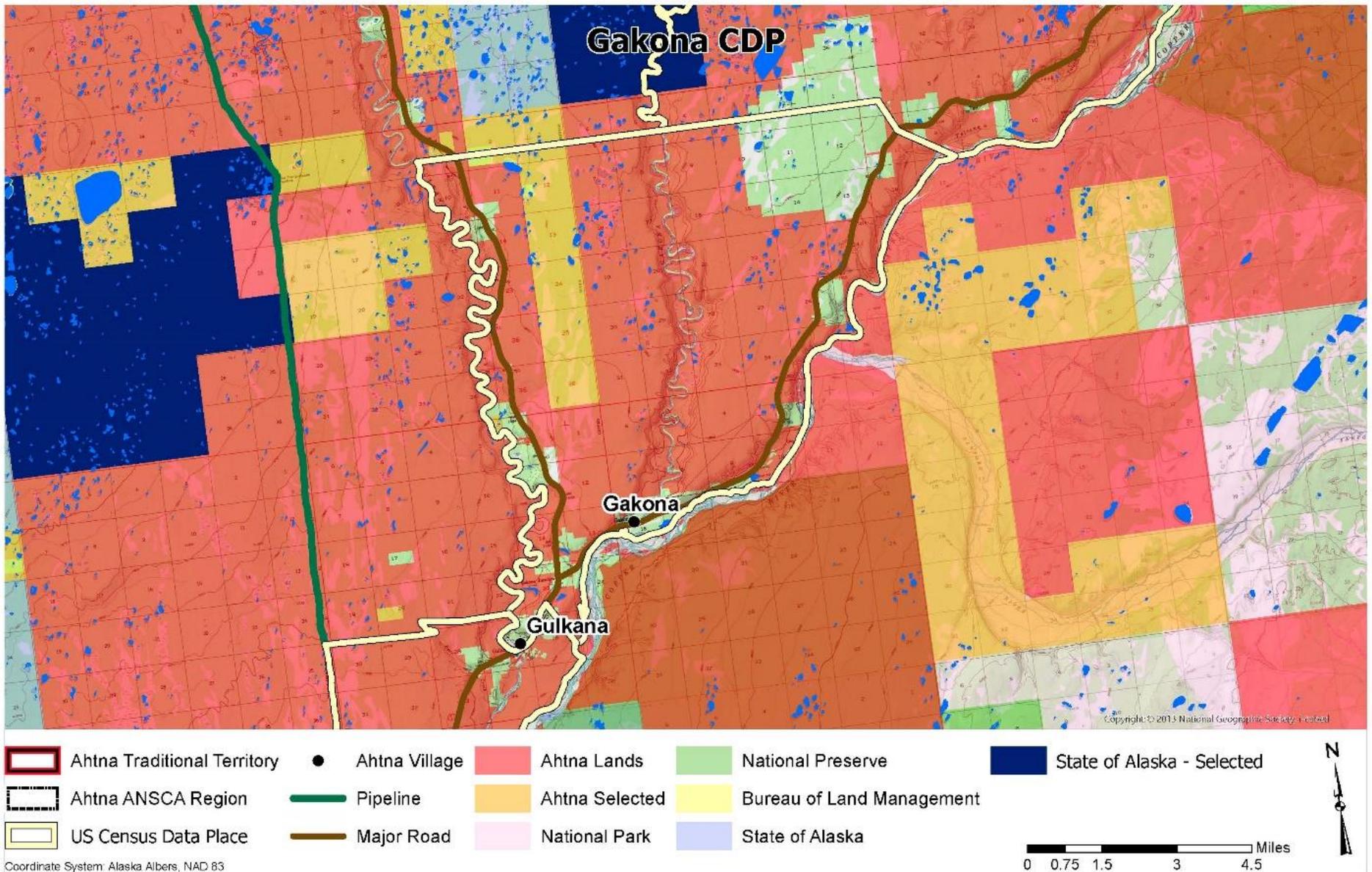
Chistochina, Alaska

Federally qualified residents who live within the Chistochina CDP may participate in AITRC's Community Harvest System for moose within GMU 11, 12, & 13 on BLM, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Tetlin Refuge lands and for Nelchina Caribou in GMU 13 and portions of GMU12. These participants must abide by the NPS rules for access within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.



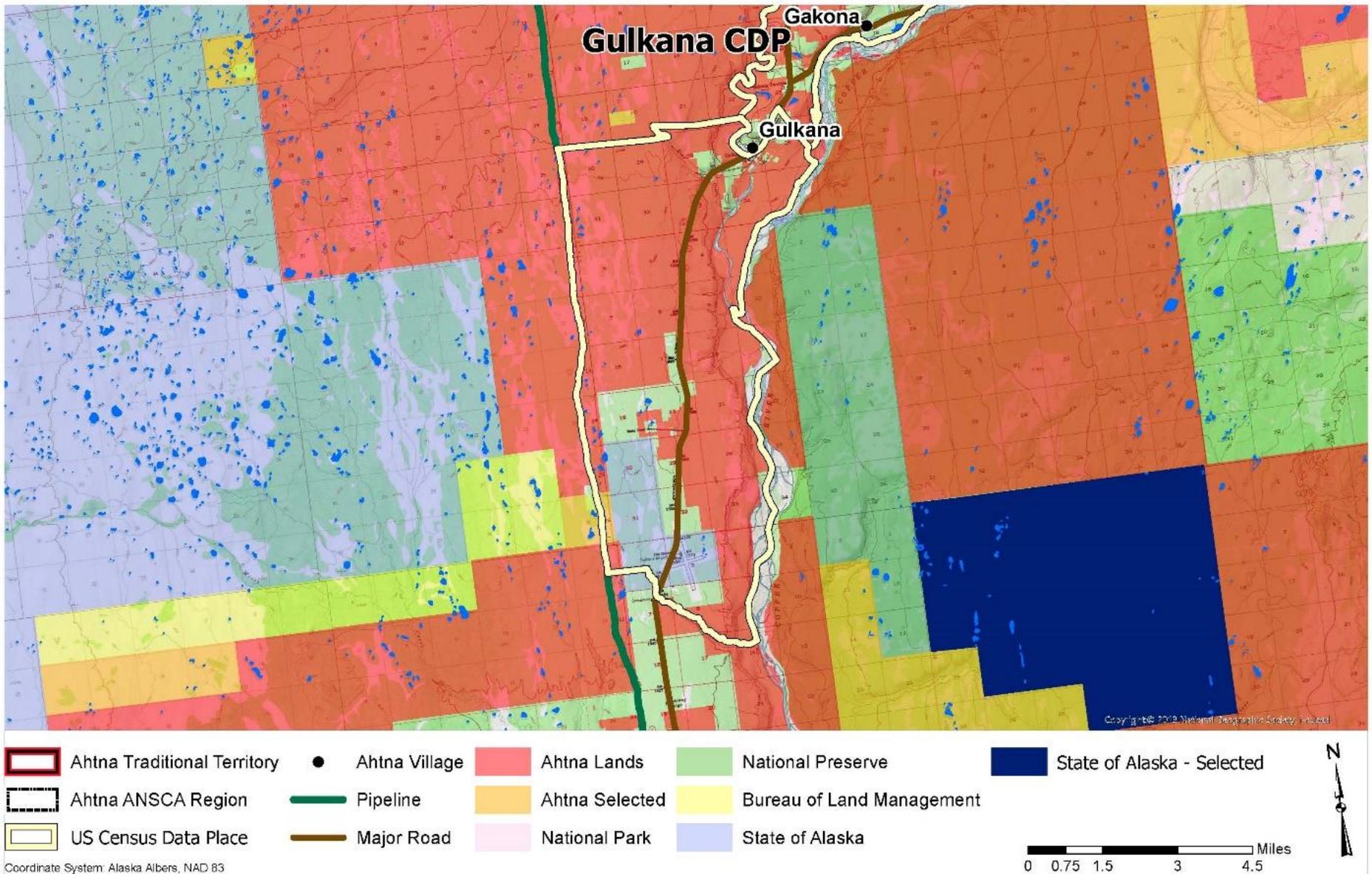
Chitina, Alaska

Federally qualified residents who live within the Chitina CDP may participate in AITRC's Community Harvest System for moose within GMU 11, 12, & 13 on BLM and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park lands and for Nelchina Caribou in GMU 13 and portions of GMU12. These participants must abide by the NPS rules for access within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.



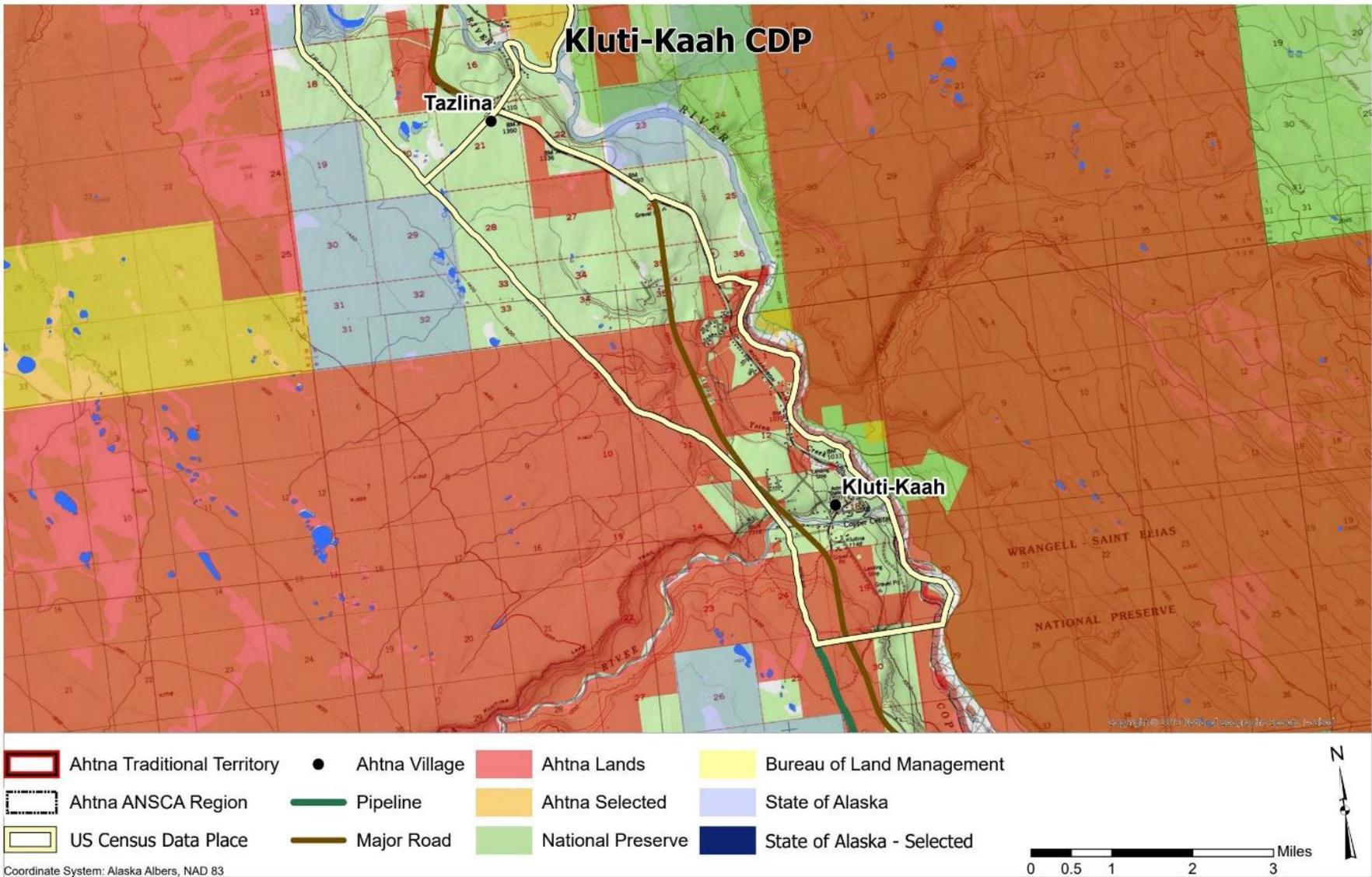
Gakona, Alaska

Federally qualified residents who live within the Gakona CDP may participate in AITRC's Community Harvest System for moose within GMU 11, 12, & 13 on BLM and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park lands and for Nelchina Caribou in GMU 13 and portions of GMU12. These participants must abide by the NPS rules for access within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.



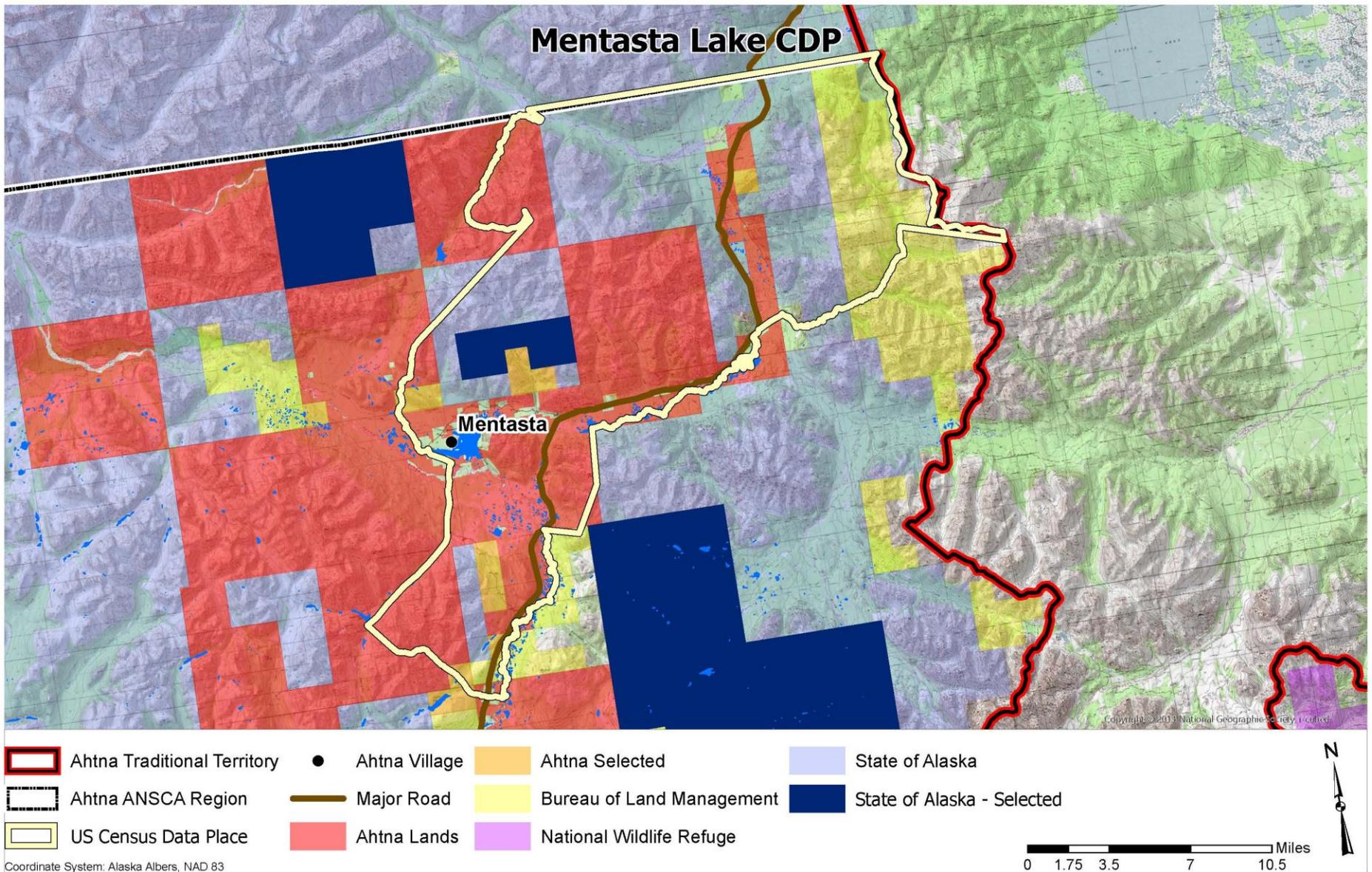
Gulkana, Alaska

Federally qualified residents who live within the Gulkana CDP may participate in AITRC's Community Harvest System for moose within GMU 11, 12, & 13 on BLM and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park lands and for Nelchina Caribou in GMU 13 and portions of GMU12. These participants must abide by the NPS rules for access within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.



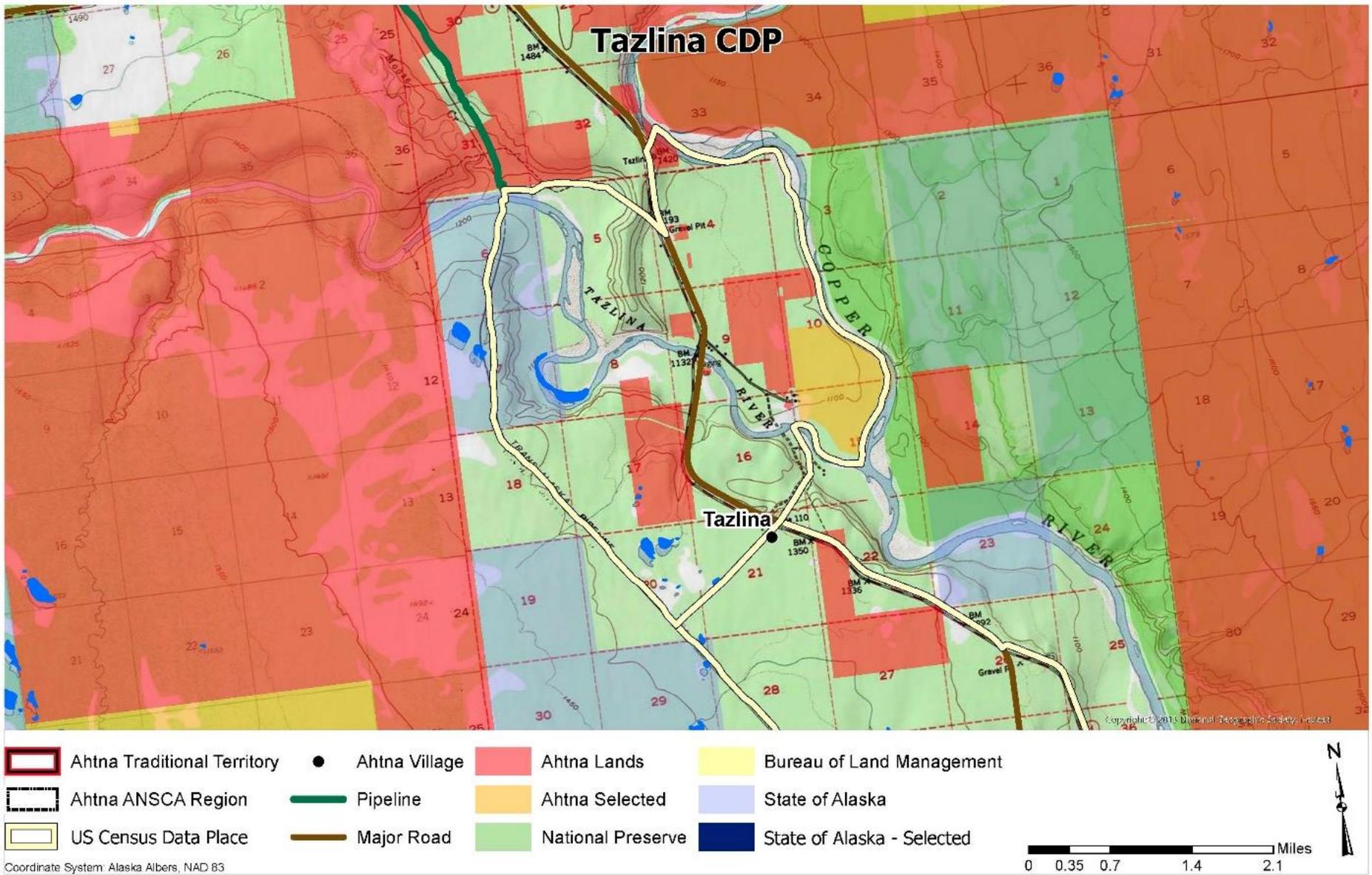
Copper Center, Alaska

Federally qualified subsistence users who live within the Copper Center CDP may participate in AITRC's Community Harvest System for moose within GMU 11, 12 remainder, & 13 on BLM federal public lands designated for federal subsistence and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve lands and for Nelchina Caribou in GMU 13. These participants must abide by the NPS rules for access within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.



Mentasta, Alaska

Federally qualified residents who live within the Mentasta CDP may participate in AITRC's Community Harvest System for moose within GMU 11, 12, & 13 on BLM, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, and Tetlin Refuge lands and for Nelchina Caribou in GMU 13 and portions of GMU12. These participants must abide by the NPS rules for access within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.



Tazlina, Alaska

Federally qualified residents who live within the Tazlina CDP may participate in AITRC's Community Harvest System for moose within GMU 11, 12, & 13 on BLM and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park lands and for Nelchina Caribou in GMU 13 and portions of GMU12. These participants must abide by the NPS rules for access within the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.

Subsistence Taking of Caribou & Moose

See the Federal Subsistence Wildlife Regulations for rules and maps, in addition to maps provided by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

The Community Harvest System Hunt follows all federal subsistence hunt provisions. You must have the Harvest Ticket in your possession while hunting and until you deliver your animal to the place of processing.

Upon taking of a Moose or Caribou, validate your Harvest Ticket by cutting out the month and day of kill before leaving the field.

Salvage requirements:

- Head, front & hindquarters, knees, hocks, neck, ribs, brisket, backbone – tenderloin & backstrap
- Meat of the moose or caribou must stay attached to the bone until it is out of the field and processed. This is to keep the meat fresher and to follow the Ahtna's traditional ways.

After the Hunt & Reporting Requirements

- Successful hunters – report in person, by phone, or by mail within 5 days of kill.
- Unsuccessful or didn't hunt report, by phone, in person or by mail within 15 days of close of season

The Ahtna Peoples' Traditional Ways

- Hunters give their first kill to elders, and you will be a blessed hunter in the future
- Share your harvest
- Use every part you can – including heart, liver, kidneys, fat, bones, & hide
- Thank the animal and the Creator, this animal gave their life for you

Being Good Stewards of the Land

We must take care of the land we hunt and gather on. We encourage the following values:

- Only take what you need
- Pack it in, pack it out – do not leave trash or waste behind
- To protect wildlife habitat, use existing trails as much as possible
- If we take care of it, it will take care of us

Liability Statement

AITRC is providing these maps as a service to the community and by permission of Bureau of Land Management and without any claim of authorship, editorial control, or responsibility. AITRC has no opinion on the accuracy or completeness of the maps, and cannot vouch for them. You should use these maps to make your hunting plan, but before actually hunting on any of the identified land you should verify land ownership, your right to hunt on the land, and the land's inclusion in the hunt area. Use provided maps at your own risk!

Please Read Before Proceeding:

- **NOTICE:** Permit hunt area maps included on this page are graphic representations of the hunt area descriptions. Inclusion on this page does NOT necessarily imply the hunt is being held or that it is available for drawing/registration/Tier II application. See appropriate Federal Hunt Regulations for current season dates and restrictions.
- Although extensive effort has been made to produce error free and complete data, all geographic information has limitations due to the scale, resolution, date and interpretation of the original source materials.
- You should consult available data documentation for these particular data to determine their limitations and the precision to which they depict distance, direction, location or other geographic characteristics.
- These data and regulations may be subject to periodic change without prior notification.
- No Warranty: These data are provided as is, without any warranty whatsoever, including but not limited to any warranty as to their performance, merchantability, or fitness for any particular purpose.
- AITRC is not responsible for any interpretation or conclusions based on these data made by those who acquire or use it.
- AITRC shall not be liable for any direct, indirect, special, incidental, compensatory or consequential damages or third party claims resulting from the use of these regulations and data, even if the AITRC has been advised of the possibility of such potential loss or damage.

Contact Us:

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We wish you a safe and successful year!