

Appendix 1

Original Tolsona Community Corporation Letter

01/26/2024

To Wrangell-St Elias National Park Superintendent Ben Bobowski

Request for Inclusion of Tolsona, Alaska in the Subsistence Resident Zone

Background: Tolsona Alaska has been a named place for countless generations. The State of Alaska formally recognized Tolsona as a community beginning in the 1980s. The Federal Census first recognized Tolsona as a CDP (Census Designated Place) in the 2000 Census. The census counts and number of full time residents in Tolsona has remained very small over both the available census data and the historical counts from before that time. This community has a strong sense of local culture, an Alaska remote lifestyle, strong community ties through:

- Direct family
- Friends who develop ties as strong as family
- Reliance on others to survive in a difficult environment that lacks economic opportunities, jobs, and resources
- Shared resources and the shared efforts that are required to hunt, fish, and gather resources.

These resources include

- o Locally available resources
- o Resources from other AK Game Management Units to include 11, 12, and 13. These traditional resource areas include land that is now under National Park Service administration. These areas include both park and preserve areas.
- o Firewood
- o Lake fish and river fish food sources
- o Hunting food sources from all significant species
- o Etc.

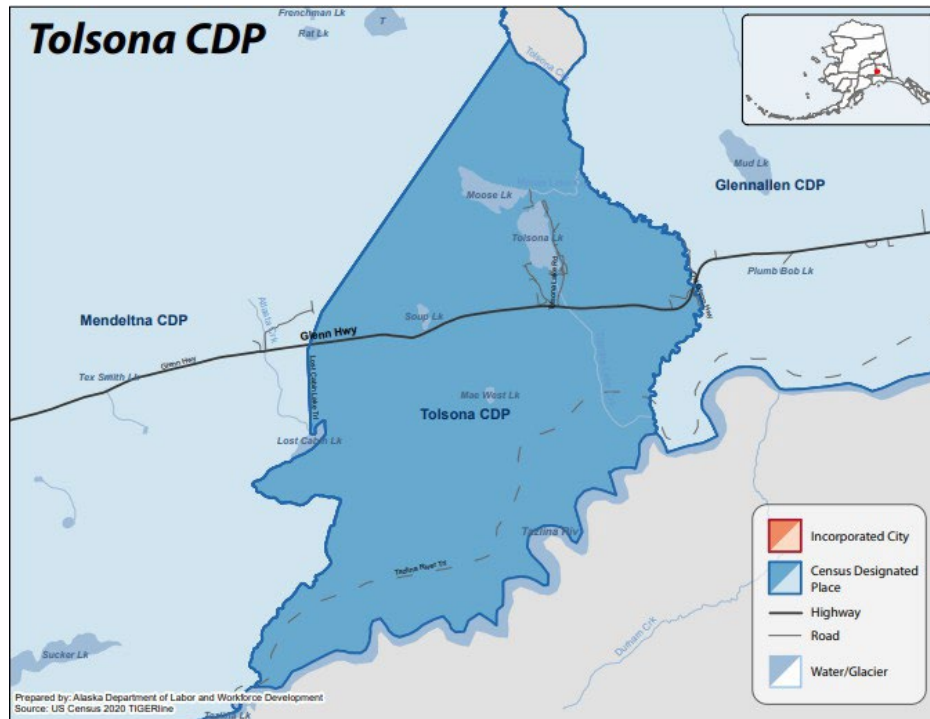
Tolsona has extremely strong ties to the community of Glennallen as do all other local communities. Tolsona has no grocery stores, post office, gas stations, medical services, or other services as commonly found in even a very small city or community. Residents of Tolsona continue to have strong family and friend ties to Glennallen and other nearby communities. We hunt, fish, gather, recreate, live, and help each other across communities.

2022 Census Data:

- This census shows 42 total residents to include the following listed races:
 - o Alaska native
 - o Black
 - o White
 - o Other
- This census shows both Hispanic and non-Hispanic ethnicity

Tolsona CDP (Census Designated Place) Boundary Map

- This map is used by the Federal Census and for some State of Alaska purposes. The TCC (Tolsona Community Corporation) is currently working with the State of Alaska to resolve issues with the map boundaries. The AK State DOT highway signs and the Tolsona boundaries shown within the TCC charter show a slightly larger boundary than the CDP map shown below:



From a survey conducted by Matt Warnick in January 2024 the following fish and terrestrial animals show very strong customary and traditional use within Tolsona. These food resources had been traditionally collected within the listed areas. Depending on the year and the number of residents, 20- 70% of residents make use of subsistence resources. This use is strongly engrained in and important to the community of and culture of Tolsona. Resources are shared among the community, with friends within the community, and with family. As a remote roadside community, the social, economic, nutritional, and cultural ties to these resources are not just required for survival but are also tied to the identity of our residents. Without the continued use of these resources, the Tolsona community will lose a key part of their identity and also their ties to the surrounding communities.

This request is for the National Park Service administration to affirm these continued subsistence rights and uses of: black bear, brown bear, goat, moose, sheep, and fish on all available federal subsistence land in GMU’s 11 and 12 for the Tolsona Resident Zone.

The testimony below shows the significant customary, traditional, and continuous use across generations of these subsistence resources by Tolsona residents:

- John W.¹ and Marcy W were friends with O. A. Nelson who owned the Chitina Hotel and local store to serve the Kennecott mine area. They hunted and fished jointly along the railroad tracks leading from Chitina toward McCarthy.
 - o Fished in the O'brien Creek (south of the Chitina Bridge) area in the years 1948 - 1969
 - o Hunted in the McCarthy Road park and preserve areas for moose, black bear, brown bear, sheep, and goat in the years 1946 - 1969
 - o Reported by Clare W J, daughter of John and Marcy W, who recalls filling large galvanized wash tubs full of salmon on many fishing trips.
- Willard A B often joined John and Marcy W, Clare W J (as a child) and other family and friends to jointly dip net salmon from the Copper River.
 - o Fished in the O'brien Creek (south of the Chitina Bridge) area in the years 1954 - 1970. There was only one small grocery store in Glennallen and the entire W and B Families relied on these Copper River salmon as a primary food source.
 - o Reported by Clare W J, granddaughter of Willard B.
- Wilfred C B
 - o Fished in the O'brien Creek (south of the Chitina Bridge) area in the years 1954 - 1965.
 - o Hunted in the O'brien Creek area for moose, black bear
 - o Reported by Clare W J, niece of Wilfred B.
- Clare W J, born and raised at Atlasta House, Tolsona, Alaska, participated in annual family fishing and hunting trips as a child and continued the family subsistence traditions to this day
 - o Fished in the O'brien Creek (south of the Chitina Bridge) area in the years 1960 – 1982
 - o Hunted in the McCarthy Road park and preserve areas for moose, black bear in the years 1971 - 1980.
 - o This testimony was collected directly from Clare W J.
- Gene W.
 - o Fished in the O'brien Creek (south of the Chitina Bridge) area in the years 1970-1982
 - o Hunted in the McCarthy Road park and preserve areas for moose, black bear, brown bear, sheep, and goat in the years 1976 - 1982
 - o Gene worked as a registered assistant guide for Frank Pease in the years 1977 - 1980 assisting numerous moose and sheep hunters including Mr. Fonk for moose; Mr. Hotter, Mr. Wenger with sheep; Mr. Thomas with sheep and numerous other clients.
 - o Hunted in the Nabesna Road park and preserve areas for moose, black bear, sheep in the years 1976 - 1982
 - o This testimony was collected directly from Clare W J, the sister of Gene W.
- Ken and Evelyn B
 - o Ken and Evelyn operated a guide service within the now park area.
 - o They hunted for nutritional use in the national park and preserve areas in the years 1966 through 1991 for both them and their daughters Holly and Bebe
 - o Hunted multiple species to include sheep, moose, and brown bear
 - o Fished in the area south of the Chitina bridge in the same years
 - o This testimony was collected by Matt W from Evelyn B during a phone call
- Don W
 - o Fished in the Obrien Creek (south of the Chitina Bridge) area in the years 1976-1978

¹ Last names omitted to protect the privacy of named individuals.

- Hunted in the McCarthy Road park and preserve areas for moose, black bear, brown bear, sheep, and goat in the years 1998-2003
- Hunted in the Nabesna Road park and preserve areas for moose, black bear, and brown bear in the years 2008-2010
- This testimony was collected by Matt W from Don W during a phone call
- Matt W
 - Dip netted (federal) in the Obrien Creek (south of the Chitina Bridge) area in the years 2020-2023
 - Hunted in the McCarthy Road park area for moose in the years 2021 and 2022 and in the preserve area in the year 2023.
 - This testimony was provided directly from Matt W
- Jason S
 - Hunted in the park area for moose in the years 2021 and 2022
 - Dip netted (federal) in the Obrien Creek (south of the Chitina Bridge) area in the years 2021-2023
 - This testimony was collected directly from Jason S
- Steve W
 - Dip netted (federal) in the Obrien Creek (south of the Chitina Bridge) area in 2021
 - This testimony was collected directly from Steve
- Testimony from other residents is potentially available but not collected at this time.

Thank you for bringing this to the attention of the Subsistence Board and the Park Superintendent.

On behalf of the Tolsona Community Corporation,

Jason Somerville
President of TCC

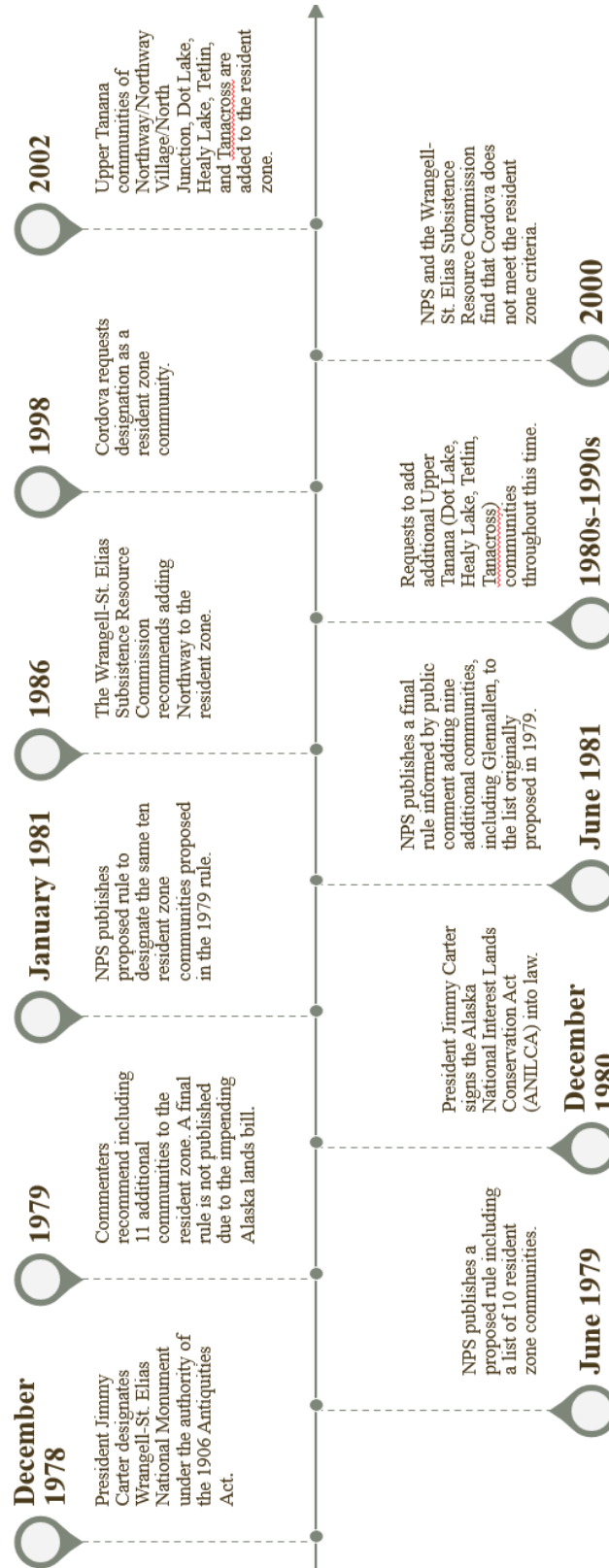
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jason Somerville', written over a dashed horizontal line.

Appendix 2
 Map of Glenn Highway – Mendeltna to Glennallen



Appendix 3

Timeline of Wrangell-St. Elias Resident Zone



Appendix 4

Timeline of Tolsona Resident Zone Requests

