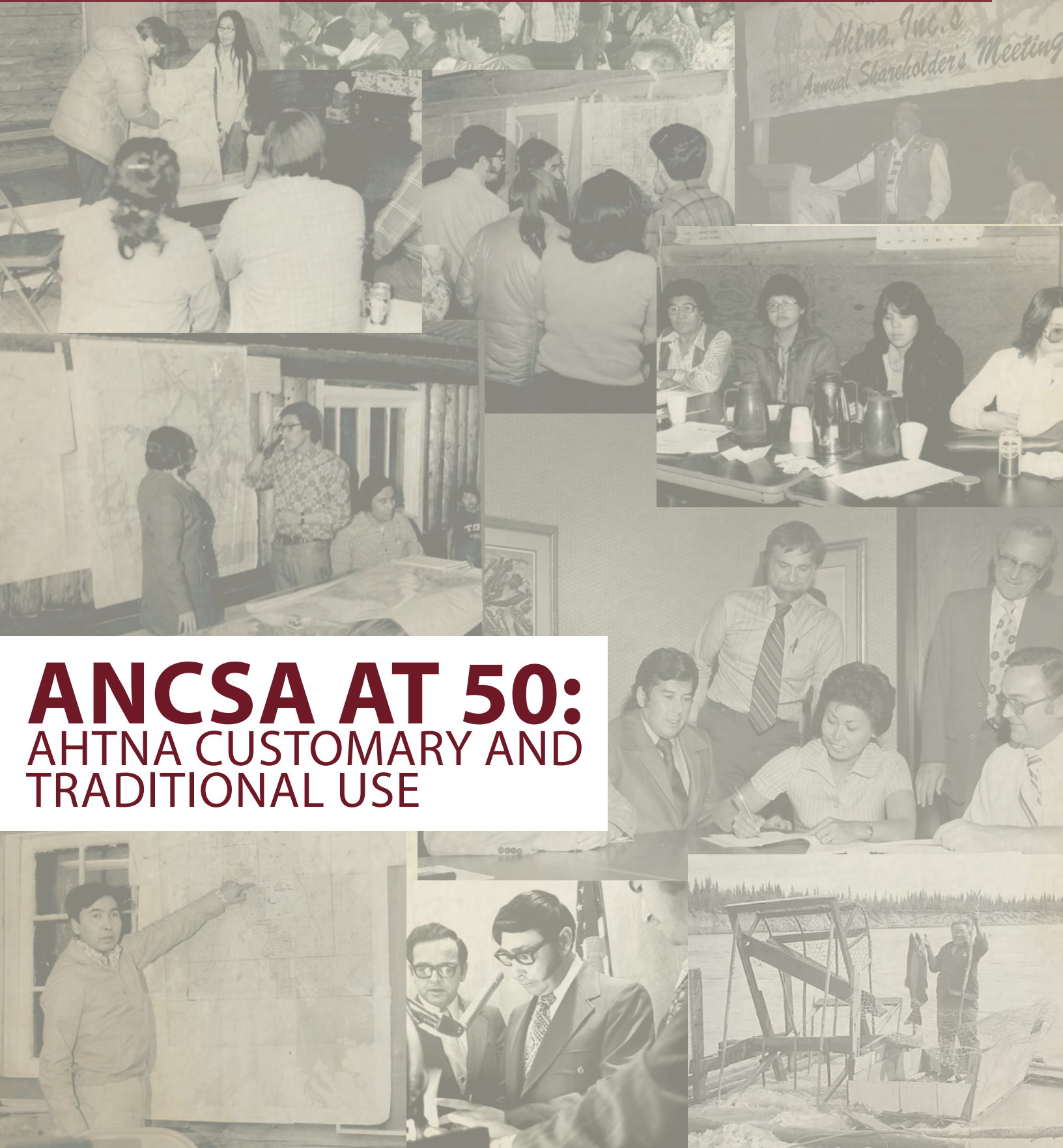


Ahtna Kansas

FALL 2021



ANCSA AT 50: AHTNA CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE



8

ANCSA at 50:
Ahtna Customary
and Traditional Use



10

Wildlife Projects
Update



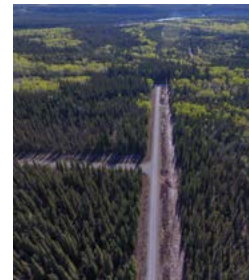
12

Eagle Trail Fuel
Spill Cleanup
Update



15

Shareholder
Spotlight:
Laborer/Operator
Matthew Jones



20

Tazlina Main
Electrical Power
Distribution
Project

- 1 President's Message
- 2 Chair's Message
- 3 CEO's Message
- 4 Ahtna Environmental Makes ENR Magazine's "2021 Top 200 Environmental Firms" While Meeting The Challenges Of A Global Pandemic
- 5 STAR Awards
- 5 Ahtna Ranks 14 on Top 49
- 6 Katie John Dredge Digs Up New Work

- 8 Our Land Sustains Us
- 11 Trails to Everywhere
- 11 Ahtna Plants: Tsaas, Indian potato
- 12 Eagle Trail Fuel Spill Cleanup Update
- 13 Lake Atna
- 14 Get Hired: Natural Resources
- 15 Ahtna Vocational Scholarship Program Highlight: Federico Salinas-Johns
- 16 Ve'dra Bechtel Works to Open New Doors for Shareholders

- 16 Shareholder-owned Businesses
- 17 Ahtna Shareholder Classes
- 18 Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship Program
- 19 MyAhtna Portal: Shareholder Submissions
- 19 Elder Birthdays
- 21 Condolences
- 21 Calendar of Events

Ahtna, Inc. and Ahtna Netiyé' Senior Management Team



Michelle Anderson
President, AI



Kathryn Martin
Senior VP, AI



Tom Maloney
CEO, AN



Roy J. Tansy Jr.
COO, AN



Matt Tisher
CFO & VP of Finance, AI



Joe Bovee
VP of Land &
Resources, AI



Douglas Miller
VP of Human
Resources, AI



Nicholas Ostrovsky
General Counsel, AI



Eric McLaurin
VP of Business
Development, AN

Ahtna Subsidiary Presidents



Craig O'Rourke
President, AGSC, ADB &
AMCC



Brenda Rebne
President, AFSL, APSI, AIIMI,
AISL, AKHI & ATSL



Vicky Dunlap
President, ASTS & ALL



Tim Finnigan
President, AES, AEI, AGL,
AEI & AITL



David O'Donnell
President, AC&PPC &
AAA Valley Gravel



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF THE ALASKA NATIVE CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT

Dear fellow shareholders,

We are happy to celebrate in this issue the 50th Anniversary of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), which was signed into law on December 18, 1971. The rescheduled Alaska Federation of Natives' (AFN) Convention will coincide with the anniversary month, and various events will be held celebrating the anniversary. Our Elders, Board and staff have been working to share the Ahtna people's story in relation to ANCSA; namely the ability to provide for our people by way of traditional hunting and fishing as our Elders did before us. You can read more beginning on page 8.

Throughout the pandemic, Ahtna's Board of Directors and leadership have worked together to ensure our shareholders and villages are supported. All eligible Ahtna shareholders financially harmed by the COVID-19 pandemic had the opportunity to apply online for assistance through the Ahtna COVID Reimbursement Program. Nearly 100% of the \$11.6 million in CARES Act funds Ahtna received was made available to shareholders through the program. Funds will go directly into shareholders' hands this month when payments are distributed. We are committed to using any remaining funds to benefit shareholders and our villages. We are so appreciative of everyone's patience while we worked to meet the increased demand on our Shareholder Services staff during the application period. The CARES funds we received must be expended before the end of the year, and our Board of Directors wanted to get payments out as soon as possible to assist our shareholders in need.

After a short period of bringing employees back to our Alaska offices this summer, we have transitioned back to remote work. With COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations and deaths on the rise in Alaska, we felt returning to remote work was the safest course. We will continue to remain flexible and adapt to changing circumstances. The limited personnel working in the offices have provided proof of vaccination and are following all safety mandates, such as wearing masks in common areas or where social distance cannot be maintained. While the offices remain closed to the public, staff is available to assist shareholders over the phone by calling the Glennallen or Anchorage front desks.

Ahtna's Shareholder Enrichment department is passionate about inspiring our youth by broadening their awareness of the many education and career paths in front of them. Ahtna had the pleasure of hosting the Copper River Native Association's Youth Employment Training Initiative (YETI) program in Anchorage and Glennallen this summer. The YETI program focuses on career-bound tribal members ages 14 to 24. Participants receive consistent mentorship and learn the skills that are vital to obtain and retain meaningful employment.

Our corporate and subsidiary management teams spent several hours with YETI participants explaining what Ahtna is, how it works, who we are, how we came to be, and what it took to get here. Our youth were very respectful, curious, and interested in what we shared, and they had time to ask us questions and tell us a little more about themselves. We closed by welcoming participants to stay in touch and follow up with any of us. Shareholder youth can look for this opportunity next year by visiting the CRNA website at www.crnative.org, and our Shareholder Enrichment Advocates will be available to assist with applications.


(Continued on page 2)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - Continued from page 1

After 15 wonderful years with the Ahtna family of companies, we will be saying farewell to Vicky Dunlap, President of Ahtna Support and Training Services, LLC and Ahtna Logistics, LLC. Her resignation is effective November 1st, which will allow time to ensure a smooth transition of leadership. Vicky was instrumental in growing Ahtna's national reach and helped define the company as an exceptional service provider. She played an active role in employee engagement at Ahtna and made it her mission to help enrich shareholders' lives through her work, including volunteering countless hours during special events that benefited shareholders. Thank you, Vicky, for your many professional contributions to Ahtna and for having such a kind and generous heart for your coworkers and our shareholders! We wish you great success in your next endeavor!

On behalf of our Board of Directors, please take every precaution to be safe, and remain healthy and virus-free! We care about you, and you are in our prayers.

Tsin'aen,



Michelle Anderson, President
Ahtna, Incorporated



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

PREPARING FOR THE CHANCE OF HARDER TIMES

Dear fellow shareholders,

Ahtna has fared very well through the pandemic, with record revenues and profits achieved in 2020. This allowed us to return record high dividend distributions to shareholders over the past year. These distributions came at a time when our shareholders needed them most; jobs have been lost, costs continue to increase, and people are stretched thin trying to balance the needs of work, family and self. Ahtna's Settlement Trust was put in place to allow Ahtna to pay stable, non-taxable dividends to shareholders in perpetuity, but we cannot count on record distributions being paid out every year. Dividend distributions should be received as a blessing, and not come to be expected.

We must be prepared for harder times as we've seen with our fishing seasons. When the season is bountiful, we are able to share our fishwheel catch freely with Elders and those in need. But when the runs are slow, we must be more conservative and rely on our cache of resources. Being prepared with food put away from previous seasons sustains us and enables us to endure hard times. We must all wisely balance the use and conservation of resources available to us.

The Ahtna COVID Reimbursement Program funds being distributed in October are not a dividend. Federal law prohibits Ahtna from distributing these funds as a dividend to its shareholders. The law is very clear, and it requires that the funds be distributed and used to cover necessary expenditures arising from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

You can prepare for future dividend distributions by keeping your contact information updated in the MyAhtna shareholder portal and signing up for direct deposit. By choosing direct deposit, you'll receive funds a week or more earlier than a mailed check. To stay up to date on the latest Ahtna news and dividend announcements, please follow us on Facebook and sign up via the MyAhtna portal to receive email and text messages.

I would like to thank and recognize the Board and management for their foresight and commitment to Ahtna's mission of responsible economic growth for future generations of Ahtna people.

Tsin'aen,



Ken Johns, Chairman
Ahtna, Incorporated Board of Directors



CEO'S MESSAGE

CREATING SHAREHOLDER VALUE THROUGH CAPTURING NEW CONTRACTS

Greetings shareholders,

After a business travel hiatus, it has been good to get out and visit our project sites and reconnect face-to-face with staff outside Alaska. I recently traveled to Sacramento with Ahtna Netiyé' Chief Operating Officer (COO) Roy Tansy Jr. to view the last major concrete pour of the Travis Air Force Base (AFB) paving project. Based on our success with the project, Ahtna Design-Build, Inc. (ADB) has formed a mentor/protégé Joint Venture (JV) with subcontractor Southwest Concrete Paving Co. We met while there to discuss the JV pursuing other AFB paving projects throughout the country and have already been awarded a \$12.5M airfield paving project at Cannon AFB in New Mexico. We were also able to travel to our Monterey offices and spend time visiting with employees there.



Our 8(a) companies have been busy with the federal government fiscal year-end hunting season. As the end of the fiscal year approaches, the Department of Defense (DoD) and other federal agencies rush to spend the remainder of their budgets due to "use-it-or-lose-it" budget rules. Failure to use these budgets before the September 30 federal fiscal year end could cause Congress to decrease these budgets drastically for the following years.

Ahtna Construction & Primary Products Company (AC&PPC) has been awarded a new Alyeska Pipeline Service Company contract to perform line wide survey services. This will be a three-year contract with three option periods of three years each, and work will begin early next year. Geospatial methodologies will be used to monitor the integrity of various systems of the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS). Monitoring will be conducted at Alyeska's Pump Stations and Valdez Marine Terminal (VMT); along the 800-mile length of TAPS; and at related structures, camps, material sites, and other locations as needed. AC&PPC has partnered with Minnesota-based LW Survey Company for this effort. Founded in 1998, LW Survey Company has developed systems, processes and methods of managing data for more than 40,000 miles of linear projects.

Ahtna Government Services Corporation (AGSC) and its JV partner, Great Lakes Environmental, have been awarded a \$75 million Natomas Basin Sacramento River Levee Repair project. This project is through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in partnership with the California Central Valley Flood Protection Board, California Department of Water Resources and Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. The JV will be constructing 3.5 miles of levee improvements along the Garden Highway levee of the Sacramento River.

ADB has won a flurry of awards for earthquake repairs at California's Naval Air Weapons Station China Lakes. ADB has received 6 project awards for \$10 million to restore damaged buildings from the 2019 Ridgecrest earthquake, which affected a large region that 20 million people call home. This work is part of the Earthquake Recovery Program provided by Congress under an emergency appropriation.

AAA Valley Gravel, LLC will be performing work on the USACE Tanana Sill Groin Repair and China River Lakes Flood Control project near North Pole, with contract values ranging from \$5-9 million based on quantities needed. The scope of this project is to procure, transport and place up to 100,000 tons of rip rap from Panorama Mountain, near Cantwell, on the Tanana floodplain for erosion control.

The Ahtna family of companies is well poised to bid on work under the recently passed \$1 trillion infrastructure bill to rebuild the nation's deteriorating roads and bridges and fund new climate resilience and broadband initiatives. The bill represents the largest federal investment in infrastructure projects in more than a decade. Billions of dollars will be provided for roads, bridges and other transportation projects in Alaska, and millions of dollars will be used to help improve access to running water in tribal and Alaska Native communities.

We are building our infrastructure construction portfolio with Ahtna Infrastructure & Technologies, LLC's (AITL) work on the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Ketchikan facility. The project aims to construct a home port for the Fairweather, a NOAA research vessel that supports safe navigation and commerce. I visited Ketchikan for the ceremonial



The ceremonial groundbreaking at the NOAA Ketchikan facility.

groundbreaking in August and said a few words alongside federal, state and local officials under a crystal blue sky. Senator Dan Sullivan was in attendance, and we expressed our appreciation to him for the congressional delegation's commitment to the 20-years-in-the-making project.

It is a pleasure to report on the great work One Team, One Ahtna is doing to create shareholder value through the pursuit and capture of new contracts.

Thank you,

Tom Maloney, Chief Executive Officer
Ahtna Netiyé'



Back row (L to R): David Reynolds (Discovery Drilling), Mark Herbst (Total Safety), Darrin VanDehey (Discovery Drilling), Baley Lenhart (Ahtna), Lo Vahaakolo (Discovery Drilling), Greg Mamikunian (Ahtna), Mike Ebert (Ahtna), Andy Kirsch (Dakota Technologies), Shelly Williams (Mammoth Consulting)
Front row (L to R): Autumn Gould (Ahtna), Derek Dell (Discovery Drilling), Jamie Ginn (Ahtna), Jim Lang (Ahtna), Travis Shinabarger (Northern Land Use Research Alaska, LLC), Denis Dewane (Mammoth Consulting), Vivian Tokar (Ahtna)

AHTNA ENVIRONMENTAL MAKES ENR MAGAZINE'S "2021 TOP 200 ENVIRONMENTAL FIRMS" WHILE MEETING THE CHALLENGES OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BY LORI KROPIDLOWSKI, AEI'S BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT/MARKETING GROUP MANAGER

Ahtna Environmental, Inc. (AEI) has been recognized as one of the Engineering News Record (ENR) magazine's "2021 Top 200 Environmental Firms" in the nation. We well exceeded the \$18M environmental annual revenue threshold to rank at 189. This was while facing the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic that challenged project execution for both our clients and the Ahtna Group of Companies.

A few examples of meeting these unique challenges include Ahtna work for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Alaska District on both the Ogluiga Island FUDS Remedial Investigation and the Davis AFB Cantonment Area Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS) Removal Action Soil Load-Out projects led by Sr. Project Manager Vivian Tokar. In March and April 2020, as the initial COVID-19 state and local community mandates were implemented, the execution of remote project work in Alaska became much more complicated. One of Ahtna's main clients is the USACE Alaska District and the DoD's direction was to work within the COVID-19 mandates to execute scheduled work. In 2020 the City of Adak closed to non-residents to protect their population from the virus. This led Alaska Marine Lines (AML) to restrict non-employee passengers from their landing craft vessels. Both the Ogluiga Island and Davis AFB Cantonment Area FUDS projects had planned on using Adak as a logistical hub and catching a ride on AML to the remote portions of Adak and the uninhabited Ogluiga Island.

Ahtna's leadership team and our local subcontractors pulled together and developed a new logistical support plan capitalizing on our existing subcontract with Support Vessels of Alaska to provide personnel transport to both islands from Dutch Harbor. COVID-19 mitigation plans were developed for both projects and submitted to the State of Alaska. Our project staff quarantined for 14 days and reported temperatures and symptoms daily through an online portal prior to heading out to the project sites. Both crews completed their tasks; the Davis load out of the contaminated soil was completed quickly and efficiently in about a week and the Ogluiga team was gone for the month of May. In Alaska, with our short work season and resource constraints, it is not easy to delay projects for a year or even a month. Ahtna's creativity, our good relationships with our local vendors, and everyone's willingness to work together to safely ensure local project execution allowed for the USACE Alaska District to keep these two FUDS program sites on the path to final cleanup.

Another example of our meeting the pandemic challenge was Ahtna's Camp Parks Burn Pit Removal Action project located in Dublin, CA for the USACE Los Angeles (LA) District. Led by Construction Site Manager Sommer Carter, the team incorporated COVID-specific standard operating procedures, which required frequent updates to coincide with county, state, and federal health guidelines. The resulting plan contained strict protocols for all elements of the field work and required implementing additional decontamination, documentation, and tracking procedures. During a mid-project site tour with the USACE LA District personnel, Ahtna received comments from the tour group on the project's expanded safety operations and procedures which included "a model for COVID management" and "a highly organized excavation site."

As mobilization began in June 2020 and global coronavirus pandemic restrictions intensified, the Southwest Environmental (SWE) team acted quickly to design and rapidly implement COVID-specific field safety standard operating procedures, intensive social distance monitoring and sanitation maintenance, and real-time updates to coincide with Ahtna, federal, state, and county health guidelines. Ahtna completed the multi-depth precision removal action on time, under budget, and with zero safety incidents

AEI President Tim Finnigan said, "Making the 'ENR Top 200 Environmental Firms' list is a first for Ahtna and something to be proud of. We as a group have worked together to make Ahtna a well-known and respected name in the environmental industry. I personally want to thank all our staff for your hard work, attention to quality, and customer satisfaction. This is a great achievement."



The SWE Camp Parks Team (l to r): Junjian Pu, Connor Dunn, Sommer Carter, Ava Pridgeon, and Steve Korbay (not pictured: Allison Roush, Jessica Feduck, and Kristin Guthrie).

STAR AWARDS



Recent STAR Level 1 Award recipient:



Shey Hawks, Ahtna Construction & Primary Products Company, LLC

Shey Hawks, Operator, received a STAR Level 1 Award for spotting a potential hazard during equipment operation. Shey called for the side-dumps to momentarily stop as a mechanic was needed to assess and repair a loose boom pin that was observed during the warm-up and inspection on the R8600 excavator being used on the job. Her observation and knowledge prevented what could have been a massive incident potentially causing equipment damage, environmental damage and extreme danger to the excavator operator and side-dump drivers.

AHTNA RANKS 14 ON ALASKA BUSINESS MONTHLY'S TOP 49

Ahtna, Inc. moved up one spot from 2020 to rank #14 on the List of Top 49 Alaska Businesses of 2021. You can read more about this year's Top 49ers in the October issue of Alaska Business: digital.akbizmag.com/issue/october-2021.

14

AHTNA, INC.



PO Box 649, Glennallen, AK 99588
907-822-3476
ahtna.com
news@ahtna.net

Michelle Anderson, Pres.
Year Established in Alaska: 1972
Employees: 1,320/351 in Alaska
Services: Construction, engineering, environmental, facilities management, surveying, security, military training, janitorial, healthcare and medical records management, government contracting, land management, resource development, oil and gas pipeline services.

Ahtna

2020 Rank 15

Change in Revenue from 2019 29%

2020	\$336,752,052
2019	\$261,104,398
2018	\$284,400,000
2017	\$238,000,000
2016	\$217,700,000

Noteworthy Events: Ahtna has launched the HOPE (Helping Our People Excel) Shareholder Program with a primary goal of getting more shareholders employed and gaining work experience. Supporting education and professional development opportunities is an important aspect of the program.



KATIE JOHN DREDGE DIGS UP NEW WORK

In late 2019, Ahtna purchased marine dredging and heavy equipment assets from Cavache Dredging of Pompano Beach Florida. These assets included three dredging barges, several booster pumps, a tugboat and several work vessels, as well as earth-moving heavy equipment such as dozers, excavators, and loaders. The assets were assigned to Ahtna Marine & Construction Company, LLC (AMCC), which had recently been formed as a new subsidiary.

Throughout 2020 Ahtna successfully integrated the equipment assets and personnel from Cavache into AMCC. By year-end, the company was performing very well and was able to meet its annual budgeted financial targets. For 2021, AMCC increased its financial goals by over 70%. While AMCC began this year with just one project, by mid-year it was clear there were lots of good size dredging projects for various federal and local agencies that were perfect matches for AMCC's equipment and capabilities. AMCC also started a new joint venture relationship with J.F. Brennan, a well-known and highly experienced and successful marine construction company based in La Crosse, WI. In planning for upcoming opportunities, the only issue was whether there was enough capacity to perform all the work; therefore, in late spring, approval was granted by the Ahtna, Inc. Board of Directors to purchase a new high-capacity production dredge. The new dredge was aptly named the "Katie John" in recognition of the Ahtna Elder's work over the years in advocating for and securing customary and traditional practices and subsistence fishing rights.

With the added dredging capacity of the *Katie John*, AMCC aggressively bid several new dredging projects to be performed throughout the end of the year. These projects include the following new contracts, totaling over \$28 million, which will not only enable AMCC to exceed its goals for 2021 but provide solid backlog going into 2022:

- \$8M Bal Harbour Dredging for the Jacksonville US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- \$7.8M Palm Valley Dredging for the Jacksonville USACE
- \$4.3M St. Lucie County, Fort Pierce Inlet Dredging Project
- \$3M Winnapaug Pond Dredging (AMCC - J.F. Brennan JV project) for the New England USACE
- \$2.8M Blount Island Dredging for the Jacksonville USACE
- \$1.4M Earth Tec/Cemex Sand Mine Dredging (currently in progress) for Earth Tec Construction
- \$750K Vilano Boat Ramp Mechanical Dredging (currently in progress) for St. Johns County
- \$600K Port Everglades Dredging for the Port of Everglades

The *Katie John* has already performed well on the Earth Tec/Cemex Sand Mining project, and she is likely going to be used for the Blount Island and Palm Valley projects located in the Jacksonville area.

AMCC has benefitted significantly from Ahtna shareholder and shareholder descendent employee support. Shareholders Earl Bell and Freddie Christofferson assisted with projects in 2020, and Freddie along with Jeremy Stevens actively supported the dredging efforts in 2021. In addition, in just the last few months, AMCC has hired Zachariah Martin to assist with various in-office support functions. Zachariah gets along with everyone, works hard, and is learning fast.

AMCC's successful integration of an existing firm's assets and hiring of their employees has helped lead to rapid growth for AMCC. In many ways, AMCC is setting the model for how Ahtna can pursue and grow into other industries and business lines.





ANC CONSTRUCTION: STATEWIDE PROJECTS HIGHLIGHT UNIQUE EXPERTISE

BY ALEXANDRA KAY - ARTICLE EXCERPT COURTESY ALASKA BUSINESS. TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE VISIT: WWW.DIGITAL.AKBIZMAG.COM/ISSUE/SEPTEMBER-2021/ANC-CONSTRUCTION.

As Alaska Native regional, village, and urban corporations have grown and expanded since the early '70s, many have taken advantage of traditional knowledge of their lands to build a knowledge base that informs their endeavors across many industries. Particularly for construction projects, the ability of Alaska Native corporations to find local, quality workers and their long history with Alaska's weather and terrain allows them to successfully complete projects that other companies may not know exactly how to begin.

Additionally, Alaska Native corporations can find efficiencies by leveraging their lands—through quarries or other natural resources—to help project owners get projects done on time and on budget.

Ahtna Environmental

A subsidiary of Ahtna Incorporated, Ahtna Environmental specializes in projects with complex logistics and site conditions. One such project was the Atka Health Clinic design and construction. Atka, a city on a small Aleutian Island of the same name, had a population of just 61 at the 2010 Census, and its residents needed a healthcare provider.

While the original design/build bid took place in September of 2019, the 4,500-square-foot design came in at double Atka's available funding, so the city canceled the project. Determined to get Atka the clinic it needed, the design/build team of Ahtna Environmental, NorthForm Architecture, and PDC Engineers reached out to the city numerous times in order to come up with a plan that would fit its budget.

Working in good faith for more than a year, the design/build team was able to modify the project enough for it to come in within Atka's \$2.6 million baseline budget amount. The modification was a switch to a modular building rather than a stick-built structure, which reduces costs and better accommodates Alaska's short construction season and the freight schedule in and out of the remote island.

Completed at the end of July, the project certainly took advantage of Ahtna Engineering's expertise with complex logistics. Before construction began, the design/build team had to come up with a plan for placing the modular components of the building. While these would normally have been placed with a crane, doing this on Atka would have been prohibitively expensive because the crane that would only have been needed for two weeks would have sat on the island for eight to nine months due to shipping schedules.

Knowing they needed to be innovative, the Ahtna Engineering design/build team camped up with a plan to use a 988 loader to set the modular buildings in place. "We then worked with Coastal Transportation out of Seattle, who agreed to build a special ramp for the project capable of loading and off-loading heavy equipment in remote Alaska locations as long as we used them for shipping all project supplies," says Ahtna Environmental's Senior Program Manager Michael Selhay. A win/win for both companies, it provided Ahtna Environmental with a way to make equipment do more work and opened a new market for Coastal Transportation.

Another challenge was removing 3,000 yards of classified fill for the building site. Ahtna was told the fill was mined and available but discovered it hadn't been mined correctly for use, so the design/build team worked hand-in-hand with the city of Atka in order to remove the fill and minimize monetary damages to the city.

This year Ahtna Environmental also completed the replacement of a jet fuel pipeline at US Coast Guard Base Kodiak Site 3. A major shore installation of the Coast Guard, Base Kodiak sits on Kodiak Island about 250 miles southwest of Anchorage. In a 2018 project, Ahtna excavated and replaced the contaminated soil around a fuel pipeline that had been temporarily repaired more than a decade ago. Then in September 2020, the company was awarded the contract to replace the more than thirty-year-old fuel pipeline because of an EPA requirement.

Field work began on May 1, 2021 and required coordination between the EPA, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the Coast Guard, and Ahtna Environmental—as well as several subcontractors and consultants. "What could have been problematic with so many players actually went very smoothly," says Ahtna Senior Project Manager Justin Dunn. "High traffic patterns on base were problematic, but Ahtna solved the issue by turning the replacement into a phased program in order to allow for traffic access."

The project included the replacement of the fuel pipeline as well as paving and work in the fuel pump buildings on holding tanks and fuel pump systems. Ahtna Senior BD/Marketing Group Manager Lori Kropidowski attributes the smoothness and success of the project to the great communication skills of all involved parties.



ANCSA AT 50: AHTNA CUSTOMARY AND TRADITIONAL USE

BY KEN JOHNS, AHTNA, INCORPORATED CHAIRMAN

Since the Klondike Gold Rush of 1898, the Ahtna people have learned and applied new ways of managing the food and resources that sustained us for a millennium. In one lifetime, we went from being the only inhabitants of our region to co-managing the resources of our homeland alongside state and federal actors. With the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1971 and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980, new options for protecting our people's resources appeared, but these options were accompanied by challenges to preserving subsistence and traditional knowledge.

During World War II, highways were built providing access to the Copper River Basin. As a result of this and other development, Ahtna, Incorporated is the only Alaska Native regional corporation whose villages are all road accessible. At times, that accessibility has proven helpful, but it has meant increased traffic through our lands from non-indigenous residents and pressure on the area's limited fish and wildlife resources. We set out to solve this problem with the knowledge that securing our traditional food sources is an integral part of our culture. Subsistence is more than putting food on the table – it is who we are. Similarly, traditional knowledge is more than history; it is essential in maintaining the resources of our lands for future generations.

After the passage of ANCSA, Ahtna was entitled to 1.77 million acres. The question of how to manage resources was at the forefront of their minds as our Elders carefully selected our lands to sustain our traditional foods for future generations. Today, the remainder of our traditional homelands are accessible to state, federal, and private landowners, underscoring the need for a comprehensive resource management approach that recognizes the fundamental truth behind ANCSA: these lands were ours, and our knowledge is essential to sustaining them.

Today, we continue to work with state and federal authorities to fulfill the promise made by Congress, that our traditional hunting and fishing rights would be recognized. There has been progress and setbacks, but Ahtna is heartened by the growing recognition

in academic, political, and economic circles of the importance of traditional knowledge in sustainable resource management.

Both state and federal governments use the word “subsistence” to define Alaska Native hunting, fishing, and gathering activities. Social scientists often refer to it as an economic process, but we do not define these activities solely in economic terms. Instead, we view them as all-encompassing cultural activities that are spiritual, social, political, and economic in nature, and prefer the language of customary and traditional use. For Elders who grew up living with the land, customary and traditional use is fundamental to their cultural identity and critical to their physical and psychological well-being. It is an indispensable asset in a region where full-time employment is scarce, incomes are low, and the cost of living is high.

It is important that we educate the next generation of leaders about the lessons of our past and their significance for the future. If we don't educate them about our history, how will they know what to fight for? A changing climate and shortened fish and game seasons make it difficult for our people to teach our traditional ways of hunting and fishing. We must look at the whole picture and work to ensure fish and wildlife resources have healthy populations that remain available for future generations. Our ancestors taught us to never waste food, treat animals with respect, not to be greedy, and only take what we need. Alaska Native traditional knowledge is now considered quantifiable in scientific terms; we know how to balance harvesting and when to stop hunting or fishing for both to thrive.

The Ahtna people are no strangers to working together and being united when faced with challenges or threats. For any strong culture, these are survival tactics. Over the years, we have worked respectfully and productively with our federal and state partners to manage these lands, and will continue to work cooperatively for resolutions that allow us to maintain our way of life, put traditional foods on the table and in freezers, and pass on our traditional ways.

OUR LAND SUSTAINS US

For thousands of years, the Ahtna people have been managing the land and natural resources across 26 million acres, an area about the size of the state of Ohio. Our ancestors were born biologists who carefully managed fish and wildlife for sustainability. The land and waters of the region once provided everything for the Ahtna people. Recently, western science is becoming more aware of the importance of Native, or indigenous, science as a means to gauge acceptable practices for fish, wildlife and plant harvesting. Essentially the Native knowledge has been used and proven to be so effective that renowned western scientists are utilizing Native American management systems across entire ecosystems.

“I have been in the land and natural resource field for nearly forty years and there isn't a day that goes by that myself, or staff, learn something new from the Ahtna people about how they managed the resources.”

– Joe Bovee, Ahtna, Inc. Vice President of Land and Resources

After the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), Ahtna, Incorporated received 1.55 million acres of land from an entitlement of 1.77 million acres; we still await conveyance of over 180,000 acres. Our land selections amounted to less than seven percent of our traditional homeland. Our Elders selected our ANCSA lands based primarily on hunting and fishing patterns. Their most important priority was ensuring we had access to traditional

foods so we could feed ourselves. ANCSA created Village Corporations for each of the eight remaining villages in the Ahtna region. However, in 1980 seven of the Village Corporations merged with Ahtna, Incorporated to pool their resources for efficiency with land management and development opportunities on Ahtna lands. Chitina Native Corporation is the only remaining independent ANCSA village corporation.

The goal of Ahtna's Land & Resources Department is to protect and responsibly develop land and resources for the benefit of Ahtna shareholders. Ahtna has wildlife biologists, foresters, natural resource technicians and full-time trespass enforcement on staff to optimally manage the land and resources for the primary purpose of protecting and developing the programs listed below. No other ANCSA landowner does this.

LAND USE

Today the Ahtna Land & Resources Department is as much about managing the users as it is about managing the land. Approximately 10,000 fisherman, 10,000 hunters and over 600,000 tourists visit the Ahtna region annually. Ahtna issues land use permits for recreational activities such as hiking, camping, fishing, and photography. Ahtna assists the public with legal navigation of the region with interpretive signage, map kiosks and pay stations, local natural resource technician patrols, and a mobile land app designed to provide users with the ability to check land ownership in the region.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Alaska is on the frontline of climate change. Scientists warn of rising temperatures and shifting weather patterns, causing oceans to rise and storms to become more intense. Our Elders, who possess a deep knowledge of our lands and waters accumulated over generations, warn us of the changes they are seeing in weather patterns and its effect on animal behavior. Later fish runs and shifts in migration patterns are two examples, but fishery openings/closings and hunting seasons are not being adjusted accordingly. Ahtna is working with other organizations and partners so these changes can be studied and quantified. When everything changes, regulatory laws and policy decisions must change too.

WILDLIFE PROJECTS

While the words management and stewardship are common terms used to describe relationships between humans and the natural world, the Ahtna people recognize that we are part of the natural world, placed in this region by a higher spiritual power - Nek'eltaeni. Ahtna values related to living from the land are based on a particular perspective about the relationship humans have with all living creatures. In the Ahtna tradition, animals and humans exist in a reciprocal relationship. Animals make the decision to sacrifice themselves to humans, but they do this only on the condition that humans treat them with respect. In short, the focus is on the human ability to manage their relationship with the animals.

Carnivore Stewardship

Ahtna is working with local agencies to better understand bear distribution and population levels within the Ahtna Traditional Use Territory. The Carnivore Stewardship Program uses cameras and hair snares to estimate bear counts. Results of DNA analysis for the 2020 season are currently pending but will tell us exactly how many bears visited the hair snares. This information will be used to formulate a rough population density across the Ahtna region. Results of DNA analysis and future bear studies will help determine more accurate bear density figures and population trends.

Moose Track Counts

Ahtna conducts annual winter moose track counts to help estimate moose densities on Ahtna land. We are planning to increase track counts to two sets per village area, capturing early and late winter to compare movement and help improve seasonal estimates. Ahtna conducts track counts annually to help determine population trends and areas in need of habitat improvement. Preliminary results show an increase in moose density in the 2020-2021 season across most areas.

Wolf Population

Aerial wolf surveys are being conducted to obtain estimates of current wolf populations and pack numbers in Game Management Unit (GMU) 11 to assist with proposed wolf collaring efforts. Aerial surveys are a relatively inexpensive method to estimate wolf populations but are only feasible when the appropriate snow conditions are met because surveys are conducted by flying a grid pattern and locating tracks and/or wolves. Results of aerial surveys are improved with the use of GPS collars, because they enable us to locate wolves and conduct surveys regardless of snow conditions, which in turn reduces the time spent searching for wolves. Collars will also enable us to determine the pack territories and areas of heavy wolf use in relation to moose and caribou.

Traditional Hunting Opportunities

Ahtna is working towards increasing traditional shareholder hunting opportunities throughout the region. A healthy and productive habitat is an essential part of this effort. Moose browse projects have been completed in four villages and a fifth is currently being planned. High-quality forage is also being cultivated at the moose browse locations in an effort to increase the numbers of moose in the area.

Two cabins have been erected to provide shareholders with shelter for hunting, customary and traditional use, and recreational opportunities. One of these cabins (Roy S. Ewan Cabin) was constructed in 2020 and is located on the upper Klawasi River trail system; the other is located on Middle Lake. In 2021, staff will be improving the existing Klawasi trail, improving the airstrip at the Roy S. Ewan Cabin, and extending the trail to a future cabin in the upper Sanford River area. Plans are being developed to construct a new bridge spanning the Kotsina River beginning in 2022-2023.

CULTURAL PRESERVATION

Everywhere you look in the Ahtna region, you see places where our ancestors fished, hunted, built caribou fences, ran traplines, camped, or lived in a village. Ahtna is keeping track of these special places by creating and maintaining an internal cultural places catalog—a listing of all known historic and cultural sites. The catalog will help Ahtna protect these important places and keep them in living memory.

In 2018, Ahtna published a history book (www.ahtna.com/book) and provided complimentary copies to every shareholder household. With remarkable openness, the book explains Ahtna Athabascan history and culture as shared by Elders. Underpinning their accounts is their devotion to the land and to each other.

The work of the Ahtna Land & Resources Department is focused on ensuring that the land will continue to sustain the Ahtna people and allow generation after generation to prosper.

(Continued on page 10)

OUR LAND SUSTAINS US - Continued from page 9

The September issue of Alaska Business included two articles focused on the 50th anniversary of ANCSA and feature comments from Ahtna, Inc. Chairman Ken Johns:

- **50 Years of ANCSA – ‘An experiment whose results are not fully realized’**

Ahtna, Incorporated Chairman Ken Johns, who was a senior in high school at the time ANCSA was passed, says the lands selection process for Ahtna—which ended up being more than 1 million acres of surface and subsurface rights—was a vital step in ensuring the economic and cultural wellbeing of the newly formed corporation’s shareholders.

Read the full article: <https://digital.akbizmag.com/issue/september-2021/50-years-of-ancsa>.

- **Alaska Native Corporations Terms and Tales – Specific Language Reflects Unique Origins and Goals**

Alaska Native Corporations (ANCs) were an entirely new way to resolve long-standing issues surrounding Indigenous land claims in the United States. With this unique solution came new terms, as well as new twists on common corporate words. Understanding the language of ANCs provides deeper insights into the organizations, their origins, and their goals.

Read the full article: <https://digital.akbizmag.com/issue/september-2021/alaska-native-corporations-terms-and-tales>.

- **Ahtna Voice of the Elders - ANCSA 50th Video:**

<https://vimeo.com/622708466>

LANDS SPOTLIGHT

WILDLIFE PROJECTS UPDATE

Carnivore Stewardship

In 2021, Land Department staff conducted the Carnivore Stewardship Program across Chistochina, Gakona and Kluti-Kaah lands. We again partnered with the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission (AITRC) and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to develop the protocol. A total of 13 hair snares were placed from June through early August, from which Land Department staff collected a total of 50 hair samples. In addition to the 28 hair snares, 13 cameras were placed at hair snare locations this season. There were only three pictures of brown bears, but we were able to capture 63 pictures of black bears. Based on the pictures we do have, we can obtain a relative estimate of three different brown bears and 12 different black bears.

Results of DNA analysis for the 2021 season are currently pending but will tell us exactly how many bears visited the hair snares. This information will be used to formulate a rough population density across the Ahtna region. Results of DNA analysis from 2018 through 2021 and future bear studies will help determine more accurate bear density figures and population trends. The 2022 Carnivore Stewardship Program will again collaborate with AITRC and the State of Alaska. Ahtna staff will continue to conduct work on Ahtna land while Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) and AITRC will conduct similar research on lands not owned by Ahtna to provide an overall estimate of bears in Game Management Unit (GMU) 13.



Log Landing Rehabilitation

In the summer of 2020, Ahtna Land Department staff cleared wood chips from two, 2 ½ - acre log landings in Kluti-Kaah and Tazlina and planted willow stakes the following spring to promote the growth of moose forage. Approximately 150 willow trees were planted at each site. In addition to the log landing rehabilitation sites, leftover willows were planted at a site near the Edgerton Highway to create a willow nursery to maintain stocks for future willow planting. Results of the first year suggested an 80% survival rate following the emergence of the planted trees. As temperatures in the region increased and precipitation levels decreased, survival rates dropped to 25%.

During the fall of 2021, Land Department staff are working towards cleaning up an additional five log landings for willow planting in the spring of 2022. The remaining log landings will be cleared over the summer and fall of 2022 for spring planting in 2023.

Moose Track Counts

In the winter of 2019-2020, moose track counts were conducted in the areas of Tazlina, Gulkana, Gakona and Kluti-Kaah and were used to help estimate winter moose densities on Ahtna land. The track counts occurred on 62 miles of trail between the four village areas. A total of 43 sets of moose tracks were recorded during the effort, and results suggest there are approximately 0.75 moose per square mile in the overall survey area. The Tazlina portion of the survey area appeared to be the most productive with one moose per square mile, while just under one moose per mile was found in the Gakona area. No moose were witnessed during the moose track counts.

During the winter of 2020-2021, the second year of track counts were conducted in the same areas as the previous winter. Trail length was increased from 62 miles to 73 miles to broaden the scope of the study area. We also increased track counts to two sets per village area to capture early and late winter data to compare movement and help improve seasonal estimates. We saw 49 sets of moose tracks and witnessed 7 total moose on the trails (3 bulls, 2 cows, 1 cow/calf pair). Preliminary results show an increased density of 1.2 moose per square mile and moose activity has increased in all areas except for Kluti-Kaah. The Land Department will continue conducting track counts over the winter of 2021-2022 to help determine population trends and areas in need of habitat improvement.

TRAILS TO EVERYWHERE

The Ahtna people have called the Copper River region home for thousands of years. Geographical and cultural site place names have identified every river, stream, mountain, subsistence camp, spiritual and other site with an Ahtna name. To reach all of these named sites, the Ahtna Elders had a vast and extensive trail network throughout the region.

Over the past 5-6 years the Land Department has been piecing together the Ahtna trail system, utilizing historical maps from the late 1700's and early-to-mid 1800's, Ahtna Elder oral history recordings, existing local knowledge and other research material.



Klawasi Trail through the 1980 burn area.

Currently there are over 2,000 miles of Ahtna trails identified by type of use, e.g. seasonal subsistence patterns (hunting, fishing, gathering, trapping) and commercial trade, both in-region trade and trade routes to other parts of the State and present-day Canada. Many more trails have yet to be identified and mapped.

One of the many subsistence trails reached the Upper Klawasi River and portions of Mount Drum area, primarily as a hunting and trapping trail. In 2019 the Native Village of Kluti-Kaah was contracted to re-construct portions of the trail to the traditional hunting and trapping grounds. In 2021 the trail was completed with five new ATV log bridges and 20 miles of brushed and hardened trail located on private Ahtna lands. The Klawasi Trail now accesses the Roy S. Ewan subsistence cabin and airstrip, and users can reach the Chelle Lake and Upper Sanford River drainages 10 miles further to the north.



One of the five ATV log bridges.

AHTNA PLANTS: TSAAS, INDIAN POTATO

Tsaas, Indian potato, is the most important plant food of the Ahtna other than berries.

- Dig in fall and late spring when they are juicy and tender. Preserve in animal stomach with grease for winter.
- Girls and boys are not supposed to eat tsaas in the first year of puberty, or else their teeth will chip as they get older.
- Survival tip: Mice store wild potatoes in winter. Lots of tracks show where potatoes may be stored. Always leave a gift for mice in exchange for the roots. Leaving things like cotton or cloth where you dig is good material to help them with their nest. Beware of eating other items they may have stored that could be poisonous.
- Must be able to distinguish between Wild Sweet Pea and Indian potato. Wild Sweet Peas have rounded leaves and wild potato has sharper pointed leaves, consisting of 15-20 leaflets which are veined. The tops are smooth, and the bottoms are fuzzy. The flowers of a tsaas are rose-purple at the tip of the flowering stem and pale at the stem's base. The flowers and leaves of tsaas are poisonous, only eat the root.

How to prepare:

1. Cut into 1 to 3 inch pieces and store in oil
2. Leave whole if storing in barrels or a bucket
3. To dry, spread onto a screen evenly and rotate often
4. Hard on stomach if eaten raw. Roast in coals, fry or boil. Juice from boiling drunk as tea. Can add sugar to the water when boiling.
5. In winter, build a fire on top of the snow where you see the tops sticking out. Dig the warmed soil to find potatoes.
6. Dry roots can be pounded into flour and added to soup
7. Dip the roots in fish oil, bear grease, seal oil or any other preferred oil



A bypass trail constructed by the cleanup crew.

EAGLE TRAIL FUEL SPILL CLEANUP UPDATE

On September 10, 2019, Ahtna Natural Resource Technicians were alerted to a seemingly abandoned fuel tank on the Eagle Trail, northwest of the Native Village of Mentasta. Upon further investigation, it was discovered that the tank was leaking and had already discharged an unknown amount of fuel to the surrounding environment. There had also been an obvious attempt to cover up the discharged fuel with heavy equipment and available soil. After learning of the fuel spill, the Ahtna, Inc. Land Department immediately contacted the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the United States Coast Guard for assistance with locating the responsible party and cleanup of the fuel site.

The entity responsible for the fuel spill was identified as Petra Resources, LLC (Petra), a small gold mining operation with a state mining claim that is reached using the Eagle Trail. The Eagle Trail is a BLM managed 17(b) easement, allowing travel over private lands to access public lands. Petra accepted responsibility for the spill and vowed to clean up the fuel and reclaim the area to its original condition. As soon as Petra made the commitment to clean up the spill, they immediately began to disclaim responsibility by blaming Mentasta residents for vandalizing the tank and causing the spill and claiming that only 10 gallons were released into the environment. Fortunately, the ADEC ignored those claims, choosing instead to focus on Petra as the only culprit.

Beyond the obvious consequences of the release of fuel into the environment, the spill on the Eagle Trail occurred in a precarious location. Bone Creek is an anadromous salmon stream located just to the east and south of the spill site. Fish Creek is another anadromous salmon stream located to the north of the spill site. Fuel entering either of these streams could have potentially disastrous consequences for spawning salmon and other aquatic species residing in the creeks. Additionally, the water sources in the area bear a high-level of health and cultural importance for Mentasta residents, who draw their drinking water from them.

The cleanup of the site began in earnest on October 2, 2019. Nortech, Inc. (Nortech) was hired by Petra to lead the project and develop a work plan. Big Dream Transport was also contracted to excavate and haul out the contaminated material. Work was progressing as planned until excavators took fill from a Native allotment instead of the area assigned for fill extraction. In response, Petra accepted responsibility for the error and promised to reclaim the site to its original condition or financially compensate the owner of the Native allotment. As work continued into October, weather conditions began to deteriorate rapidly in the area, and Eagle Trail was being heavily damaged from the equipment. Consequently, all

parties agreed to temporarily postpone work for the safety of those involved in the cleanup and the declining condition of the trail. Work was set to resume as soon as the ground had frozen enough to allow equipment to use the trail. Ahtna learned that work had been called off on January 5, 2020, and no work had been completed between October and January.

The challenges to complete the cleanup increased dramatically in 2020 when COVID-19 restrictions affected all parties. Petra stopped communicating with Nortech, its own third-party consultant. At the same time, ADEC was experiencing staff turnover and was no longer in communication with Ahtna. When communication between Nortech and Petra resumed, Nortech informed Ahtna no work had been conducted all summer. Ahtna responded by setting a date of September 9, 2020, to finish the cleanup or Petra would be faced with legal action. The deadline came and went with no communication from either Petra or Nortech.

After a year of frustration and a meeting with the Mentasta Successor Village Organization (SVO), Ahtna reached out to the Governor's Office to discuss the lack of involvement, response and communication with the ADEC regarding the fuel spill. Shortly after that discussion, Ahtna management and the Legal department met with ADEC staff and their legal representative, Big Dreams Transport, and the Department of Natural Resources. Results of the meetings were largely unsatisfactory to Ahtna; the only potentially positive outcome was the establishment of an official ADEC deadline of September 30, 2021.

Unfortunately, the September 30 deadline was not met by Petra, and Ahtna will have to take responsibility for the cleanup. Staff from the Land Department and Ahtna Global, LLC visited the site in August to assess the cleanup. As of that site visit, 170 yards of contaminated soil remains to be extracted. Land Department staff is partnering with Ahtna Global to plan for and extract the contaminated soils. Groundwater assessments will also be utilized to test for the presence of contaminants. The entire project is expected to be completed by the end of 2021, pending equipment availability.



The cleanup effort in 2019.

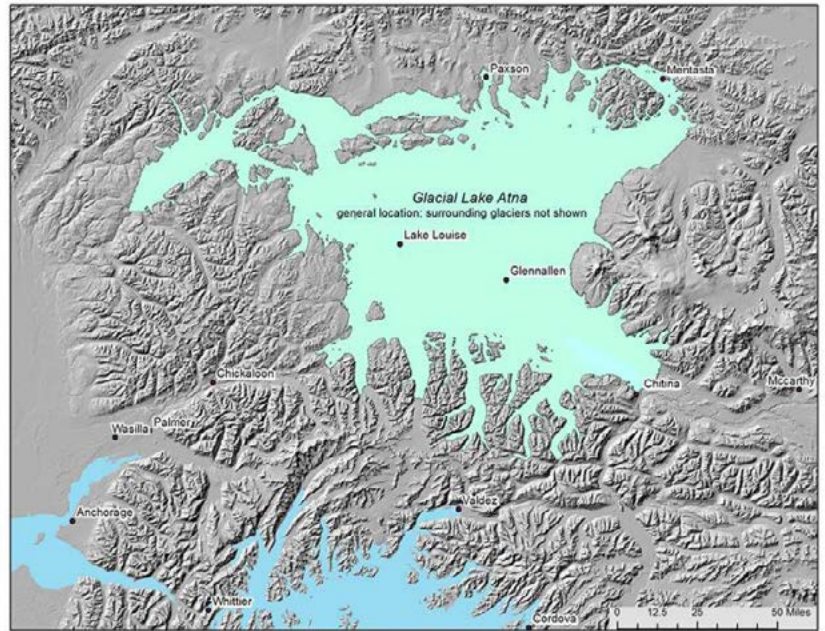
LAKE ATNA

Researchers have long recognized that, at one time, vast inland lakes existed in what is now Ahtna country, formed by glaciers during the ice ages. There have been at least five significant ice ages in Earth's history, with approximately a dozen epochs of advancing glaciers alternating with warmer periods when the ice melted and retreated. In the Copper River/Susitna River basins, advancing glaciers periodically blocked the river drainages near the mouth of the Chitina River, the middle Susitna River Valley at Devils Canyon, in the upper Matanuska Valley at Tahneta Pass, and in the Alaska Range at Mentasta Pass. Approximately 58,600 years ago, these blockages resulted in the formation of massive, long-lived glacial lakes, referred to as Glacial Lake Susitna and Glacial Lake Atna.

The process was dynamic. Glaciers advanced and retreated and, as they did, the levels of the lakes repeatedly rose and fell. Evidence suggests that Lake Susitna rose from its beginning in the Susitna River Basin to fill both the Susitna and Copper River valleys with one great waterbody. Later it drained and split into eastern Glacial Lake Atna and western Glacial Lake Susitna. With the most recent glacial advance, Glacial Lake Susitna's levels again increased, merging and overtaking Lake Atna. At this point, the lake is referred to by both names although Glacial Lake Atna is currently preferred.

During periods of glacier retreat, ice at times blocked the narrow outlets. Sometimes these dams failed catastrophically, causing great floods. Glacial Lake Atna burst through ice dams at Mentasta Pass at least two times, forming delta outwash beds stretching downstream from the Pass into the upper Tanana River. Some researchers think that Glacial Lake Susitna at one time burst down the Matanuska Valley at Tahneta Pass, leaving grooved and scour-marked hills and a series of parallel dunes west of Wasilla near the far end of its passage. Its final draining could have happened either through Devils Canyon on the Susitna River or southwest of the present-day Stephan Lake. The last waters of Glacial Lake Atna likely drained down the Copper River and south into the Pacific Ocean about 10,000 years ago, leaving behind remnants including Tazlina Lake, Klutina Lake, and Tonsina Lake.

Recently, archeologists at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park, in cooperation with Ahtna, Inc., completed a 4-year study which identified projected Lake Atna shorelines in and around the Park, and surveyed those features for evidence of human activity. The highest-probability areas turned out to be a series of exposed ridge systems which roughly circle the south and west flanks of Mount Drum and Mount Wrangell and the north and west flanks of Mount



Sanford. These ridges, located on or near projected Lake Atna shorelines, were in place before the formation of Lake Atna, and would have offered the best paths of travel for people following large game or circumnavigating the lake for other purposes. The ridge systems also form a direct path to higher-elevation areas ideal for upland hunting activities. It is likely that these ridge systems would have served as a travel corridor even after lake levels went down. Significantly, Ahtna oral history documents a well-used trail in the same vicinity, Taghael Dze' Tene (the trail to Taral). The project identified 69 individual archeological sites. Most of them consisted of stone tools and tool-making debris. One of the sites, located in the northern Copper River Basin near the northeastern boundary of Lake Atna, yielded a buried hearth feature which dated to 11,324-12,188 years ago.

Continued excavation at the site, lead by researchers at Texas A&M University, uncovered an older hearth feature which dated to approximately 13,000 years ago. The site has since been formally named Nataef Na', the traditional Ahtna place name for Tanada Creek, which runs adjacent to the site.

Many interesting things will be learned from this project as researchers study the findings and compare them with other evidence. One conclusion already drawn is that a reliably dated archeological site situated on a Lake Atna shoreline provides firm evidence that the level of Lake Atna was at or below the 777-meter shoreline level when it was occupied approximately 12,000 years ago. That in turn strengthens the developing time chronology of ancient Lake Atna.

Sources:

- Archaeology on the Shores of Ancient Lake Atna: The Excavation of NAB-00533 with John T. White, Texas A&M University February 2021. <http://www.wise-edu.org/science-lecture-series.html>.
- Geoarchaeology of Glacial Lakes Susitna and Atna. Smith, Gerard. 2019. Late Quaternary mega-floods from Glacial Lake Atna, Southcentral Alaska. Wiedmer, M., et al. 2010.
- Archaeology on the Shores of Ancient Lake Atna with Lee Reininghaus, Wrangell-St. Elias National Park February 2021. <http://www.wise-edu.org/science-lecture-series.html>.
- Tall'ahwt'aenn Nenn': Headwaters People's Country. Kari, James, transcriber and editor. 1986. Alaska Native Language Center, University of Alaska Fairbanks.



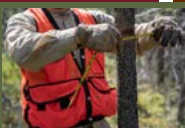



GET HIRED: NATURAL RESOURCES

The mission of the Ahtna Land & Resources Department is to protect and preserve Ahtna lands and resources for future generations of the Ahtna people. The Land Department has grown in recent years and with that growth is able to offer varied natural resource career opportunities. Natural resource jobs involve research, education, management, use, and conservation of different natural resources, including water, land, plants, soil, and animals.

Many people choose a natural resource job because it supports a passion for wildlife, the outdoors, recreation, and working with people. There are office environment positions for those that prefer to work inside, but employees are encouraged to get out and explore all that the region has to offer. Flexible work schedules are available, with seasonal and year-round opportunities. The Land Department offers a wide variety of positions with some examples listed below. All current Ahtna job openings are posted on the Ahtna website at www.ahtna.com/careers.

- Vice President, Land and Resources
- Manager, Land and Resources
- Special Projects Manager
- Forester
- Wildlife Biologist
- Land and Resources Specialist
- Natural Resource Technician
- Deputy Trespass Enforcement Specialist
- Seasonal Cultural Resources Technician
- Seasonal Wildlife/Forestry Technician
- Seasonal Trespass Enforcement Technician/Special Projects Laborer
- Land Department On-Call Laborer
- Campground Host

If you're considering an education or career in natural resources, reach out to Shareholder Enrichment to learn more about programs and financial assistance available.

JOB TITLE	MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS	EXPERIENCE
 FORESTER 	<p>Bachelor's degree in Forestry or related field</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Experience may be substituted for education on a 1:1 basis <p>Ability to pass / complete the following position requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Federal background check - Firearms safety course - Bear guard security course - Wilderness first aid course - Obtain certification for Forestry within six (6) months from The Society of American Foresters (AFS) - Obtain Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) pilot license within one (1) year <p>Knowledge of ANCSA, ANILCA, Ahtna Regional Corporation</p> <p>Minimum age: 21</p> <p>Certification in firearms training or ability to obtain certification within two (2) months of hire.</p>	<p>LEVEL - I</p> <p>A minimum of one (1) year of progressively responsible work experience that demonstrate ability to meet core competency requirements.</p> <p>LEVEL - II</p> <p>A minimum of three (3) years of progressively responsible work experience that demonstrate ability to meet core competency requirements.</p> <p>LEVEL - III</p> <p>A minimum of five (5) years of progressively responsible work experience that demonstrate ability to meet core competency requirements.</p> <p>Proficient in Geographic Information System (GIS) data entry, integration and manipulation including experience with ESRI products such as ArcMap 10.5.</p>
 NATURAL RESOURCE TECHNICIAN 	<p>LEVEL - I Associates degree (or extensive field experience) in Forestry, Wildlife, Natural Resources or related fields, or combination of work experience and education.</p> <p>LEVEL - II Bachelor's degree (or extensive field experience) in Forestry, Wildlife, Natural Resources or related fields, or combination of work experience and education.</p> <p>Capable in Geographic Information System (GIS) data entry, integration and manipulation including experience with ESRI products such as ArcMap 10.5.</p> <p>LEVEL - III Bachelor's degree (or extensive field experience) in Forestry, Wildlife, Natural Resources or related fields, or combination of work experience and education.</p> <p>Proficient in Geographic Information System (GIS) data entry, integration and manipulation including experience with ESRI products such as ArcMap 10.5.</p> <p>FOR LEVELS I, II, III Minimum age 21</p> <p>Certification in firearms training or ability to obtain certification within two (2) months of hire.</p>	<p>The Forester and Natural Resource Technician positions both require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong knowledge of Microsoft Office Suite including Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Outlook Valid Driver's License with clean driving record Ability to pass a pre-employment screening including a drug test <p>LEVEL - I</p> <p>A minimum of one (1) years of progressively responsible work experience that demonstrate ability to meet core competency requirements.</p> <p>LEVEL - II</p> <p>A minimum of three (3) years of progressively responsible work experience that demonstrate ability to meet core competency requirements.</p> <p>LEVEL - III</p> <p>A minimum of five (5) years of progressively responsible work experience that demonstrate ability to meet core competency requirements.</p>

SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

HOPE: HELPING OUR PEOPLE EXCEL

AHTNA VOCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT: **FEDERICO SALINAS-JOHNS**

Federico Salinas-Johns grew up in Copper Center and is a member of the Udzisyu (Caribou) clan. His mother was the late Vickie Johns, and his grandparents were the late Ahtna Traditional Chief Harry Johns Sr. and Ruth Johns.

Federico reached out to Shareholder Enrichment to inquire about furthering his career. We assisted him with the Vocational Scholarship and Career Assistance applications and were able to help him with the tuition and fees associated with attending Northern Industrial Training (NIT) in Palmer. NIT offers training in construction equipment, welding, truck driving and safety. Federico was looking to change careers to something he enjoys and his goal is to join the union and secure work after completion of his program. His advice to other shareholders who may be interested in the program is to “stick with it.” You get better over time he says. “Start slow and smooth, speed comes in time.”

Federico has spent the last five years working for Ahtna Construction & Primary Products Company, LLC as a load operator on the Trans Alaska Pipeline. He says running the equipment is a lot of fun, but you have to be prepared for varied conditions as there are times you must work in inclement weather and rough terrain. Federico credits many people with inspiring him to become an operator. “My supervisors and the crew have always supported me and showed me tricks of the trade to give me an advantage in my career. They have taught me the right way, and the safest way, to get the job done,” he says.

Federico lives in Anchorage and enjoys spending time with his family in his free time.

Ahtna Vocational Scholarship Program

The Ahtna Vocational Scholarship Program funds Ahtna shareholders to assist in meeting their educational goals. The priority of the Ahtna Vocational Scholarship is to support direct educational expenses. Apply online today at www.ahtna.com/vocational.



SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT: **LABORER/OPERATOR MATTHEW JONES**

Matthew Jones grew up in the Copper River Basin, but has temporarily relocated to Tulsa, Oklahoma to work on a project there for Ahtna Construction & Primary Products Company, LLC (ACPPC). Matthew's duties as a laborer/operator involve groundwork and running heavy equipment. Matthew credits Ahtna with helping him progress his career and giving him a chance to learn new skills. At age 19, Ahtna helped put Matthew through a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) training course, which he says jumpstarted his career path.

Matthew would like to learn more about the management side of construction, such as reading design plans, survey stakes, and setting and checking grade/elevation. He is eager to learn as much as he can at a young age to help him with his future goals, and so he can pass that knowledge on to others someday. His advice to shareholders interested in the field is to get started as early as you can, and always be willing to learn and try new things.

Matthew's parents are Anita and Jeremiah Jones and he's a member of the Raven (Saghani) moiety. In his free time he enjoys relaxing, working out, and spending time with family and friends.



Matthew Jones with ACPPC President Dave O'Donnell.



SHAREHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

VE'DRA BECHTOL WORKS TO OPEN NEW DOORS FOR SHAREHOLDERS



Shareholder employee Ve'dra Bechtol's career with Ahtna began 20 years ago when she was hired as a janitor. She is now a Benefits Analyst III in the Human Resources department and oversees the Anchorage front desk staff as part of her development plan. "Back when I started with Ahtna, there were little to no development or mentor plans," she said.

Ve'dra believes the front desk can be an excellent entry position for shareholders who, like her when she started, have little to no experience. It's a way to get your foot in the door, and Ve'dra wants to help open new doors for shareholders. She hopes to mentor her employees and create development and training programs to help them move into the positions that most interest them. Her advice to shareholders interested in working at the front desk is to, "Show up, work hard and say yes to any opportunity that comes your way." There are two position levels at the front desk. The first is entry level and requires telephone and customer service skills. The second is the administrative assistant position, which requires one year experience.

The goal is for the receptionist to be promoted to the administrative assistant position in 1-2 years. Then, after gaining experience, hopefully the employee will find a position they are interested in within the Ahtna family of companies.

"This last year I have seen a major push within Ahtna to develop shareholder employees, which is so very exciting! I have weekly mentoring meetings with my supervisor. Doug Miller, Ahtna's Vice President of Human Resources, has been wonderful in guiding me through the process for my new supervisor role. I have also been able to take advantage of the employee education program that assists with my tuition." Ve'dra recently obtained her associate degree and is now working on her bachelor degree at Wayland Baptist University, which she hopes to complete this year.

"I have worked with Ve'dra for over five years, and in that time I have seen her grow as a person and employee. She is always looking for ways to streamline processes to make things run smoothly in our department. She is very excited about working with the front desk employees, and I believe she is doing a great job at mentoring them," said Ve'dra's supervisor Joanne Hanscom.

Management recommends getting on Ahtna's on-call list to get your foot in the door for the front desk and other positions, as opportunities come up throughout the year. To be added to the on-call list, simply email or call our Shareholder Enrichment staff: 907-822-3476 (Glennallen), 907-868-8250 (Anchorage) or shenrichment@ahntna.net.

SHAREHOLDER-OWNED BUSINESSES

We encourage support of Ahtna shareholder-owned businesses by highlighting their products and services in the Kanas and on the Ahtna website. Shareholders can take advantage of this free promotion for their business by completing a short online form at www.ahntna.com/shareholders/shareholder-businesses.

Donna's Cleaning Service

Offers house and apartment cleaning services in the Seaside, CA area.

Owner: Donna Cooper

Phone: (831) 383-0624

Email: donnacooper831@gmail.com

Mailing Address:

PO Box 369

Seaside, California 93955



SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES

AHTNA SHAREHOLDER CLASSES:

CLASS A-1 SHARES

(a/k/a Class A, Series 1)

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in both the Ahtna Region and in one of the Village Corporations in the Region.

Class A-1 shares are inheritable and may be gifted.

CLASS A-2 SHARES

(a/k/a Class A, Series 2)

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in the Ahtna Region but not enrolled in one of the Village Corporations in the Region. Holders of Class A-2 shares are also referred to as "at-large" shareholders.

Class A-2 shares are inheritable and may be gifted.

CLASS C SHARES

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Cantwell Yedatene Na Corporation. Shares of Cantwell Yedatene Na Corporation were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class C shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class C shares are inheritable and may be gifted.

CLASS D SHARES

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Cheesh-Na, Incorporated. Shares of Cheesh-Na, Incorporated were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class D shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class D shares are inheritable and may be gifted.

CLASS F SHARES

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Gakona Corporation. Shares of Gakona Corporation were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class F shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class F shares are inheritable and may be gifted.

CLASS G SHARES

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Kluti-Kaah Corporation. Shares of Kluti-Kaah Corporation were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class G shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class G shares are inheritable and may be gifted.

CLASS H SHARES

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Mentasta, Incorporated. Shares of Mentasta, Incorporated were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class H shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class H shares are inheritable and may be gifted.

CLASS I SHARES

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Sta-Keh Corporation. Shares of Sta-Keh Corporation were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class I shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class I shares are inheritable and may be gifted.

CLASS J SHARES

100 shares to each Alaska Native born on or before December 18, 1971, who was enrolled in Tazlina, Incorporated. Shares of Tazlina, Incorporated were converted into an equal number of Ahtna Class J shares when the Village Corporation was merged into Ahtna.

Class J shares are inheritable and may be gifted.

CLASS L SHARES

100 shares to each Alaska Native born after December 18, 1971, who is one-quarter or more Alaska Native, a U.S. citizen, and a descendant of an original Ahtna shareholder. 30 shares are issued at birth and an additional 70 shares are issued when the shareholder reaches 18 years of age and graduates from high school, or reaches 21 years of age without graduating.

Class L shares are life estate and may not be inherited or gifted.

SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES

DON'T FORGET TO APPLY:

WALTER CHARLEY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship program assists Ahtna shareholders with meeting their educational goals by funding full and part-time students.

SPRING SEMESTER

Applications will be accepted online for the Spring semester from **Nov. 15-Dec. 15** at: www.ahtna.com/scholarship.

Spring Application Period	Spring Application Deadline	Spring Supplemental Information Deadline
November 15 – December 15	December 15	January 5

FALL SEMESTER

Applications will be accepted online for the Fall semester from **June 15-July 15** at: www.ahtna.com/scholarship.

Fall Application Period	Fall Application Deadline	Fall Supplemental Information Deadline
June 15 – July 15	July 15	August 5

Check the website for the latest information. Any questions can be directed to Tracy Parent, Shareholder Enrichment Coordinator, at (907) 868-8250 or scholarship@ahtna.net.

Scholarship Award per Application Period: *

Undergraduate		Graduate	
Part-Time	Full-Time	Part-Time	Full-Time
Up to \$2,000	Up to \$4,000	Up to \$3,000	Up to \$6,000

* All awards are subject to available funding and the number of eligible applicants at each deadline.



SHAREHOLDER SERVICES UPDATES

MyAhtna Portal: Shareholder Submission

One of the many perks and benefits of registering with the MyAhtna portal is you can submit news for the Kanas. Visit MyAhtna.com.



Frankie Jane Chilligan at Eklutna Culture Camp
Submitted by [Francesca Stevens-McConkey](#)

This is Frankie Jane Chilligan (born September 2020), at Eklutna Culture Camp, Friday, August 6, 2021. She is the daughter of shareholder Francesca Stevens-McConkey and Jason Chilligan of Eklutna, and the granddaughter of Anne Stevens, Chitina Native Corporation president and Frank McConkey of Copper Center, Shirley Craig of Carlson Creek and Houston Sanford of Mentasta. Frankie is in the middle of a replica of a cache being built.



Fall Berry Picking
Submitted by shareholder [Sandy Koyukuk](#)

MyAhtna.com

ELDER BIRTHDAYS

Wishing all of our Elders a birthday filled with happiness and a year filled with joy. Happy Birthday from the Ahtna Board of Directors and staff!

July

Barry Dunlop Sr
Billy Williams Jr
Carl Pete
Catherine Lincoln
Chaille Yasuda
Charles Smelcer
Christine Craig
Dianne Fier-Navratil
Dorothy Locke
Edward Billum
Elizabeth Kruzick
Frank Mcconkey
Franklin Jordan
Helga Wiebe
Jenny Sanford
Lemmie Charley
Leona Blankenship
Lorraine Nicklie
Lucille Thomas
Lucille Lincoln
Marlene Macy
Mary Gober
Patricia Cronin
Richard Miller
Roberta Neeley

Sharon Tyone
Vivian Greybear
Wayne Bell

August

Ada Wilson
Annie Nelson
Arlene Moberg
Barbara Fier
Bradley Sinyon
Carolyn Craig
Charles Craig
Dale Myers
Darlene Stemp
David Nicklie
Elizabeth Orczewska
Eveline Frank
Irene Davis
Josephine Puff
Joyce Clark
Margaret Horton
Michael Routt
Mildred Thomas
Perry Mendenhall
Richard Wheelles
Ronald Craig

William Major
Wilson Justin

September

Annie John
Christine Duke
Jean George
Laura Hobson
Linda Jenkins-Nephew
Martin Finnesand
Myra Wilson
Roy Turner Jr
Shirley Collins
Susan Jones
Victor Fleury

October

Betty Wyant
Beverly Harris
Cheryl Lee
Darlene Peters
Dorothy Blair
Gladys Lord
Gloria Stickwan
Gloria Cook
James Pennington

John Kindgren Sr
Joseph Peterson Jr
Laura Andrews
Lena Craig
Linda Walsh
Linda Kline
Lorraine Dummmler
Lorraine Gordon
Lynn Ashkettle
Michael Carter
Nicholas Jackson
Ramona Christensen
Sharon Faverty

November

Arnold Hawkins Sr
Debra Hoehne
Donald Mac Arthur Jr
Donna Coughlin
Donna Galbreath
Eleanor Dementi
Elsie Agibinik
Faye Ewan
Freddy Nicolai Sr
Gillam Joe
James Wheelles

John Billum III
John Craig
Kenneth Johns
Leona Johns
Linda Liles
Lori Waisanen
Maggie Oliver
Marian White
Marlene Johnson
Reina Kangas
Roxy Venner
Roy Ewan
Sandra Crider
Sharon Soule
Violet Fichter

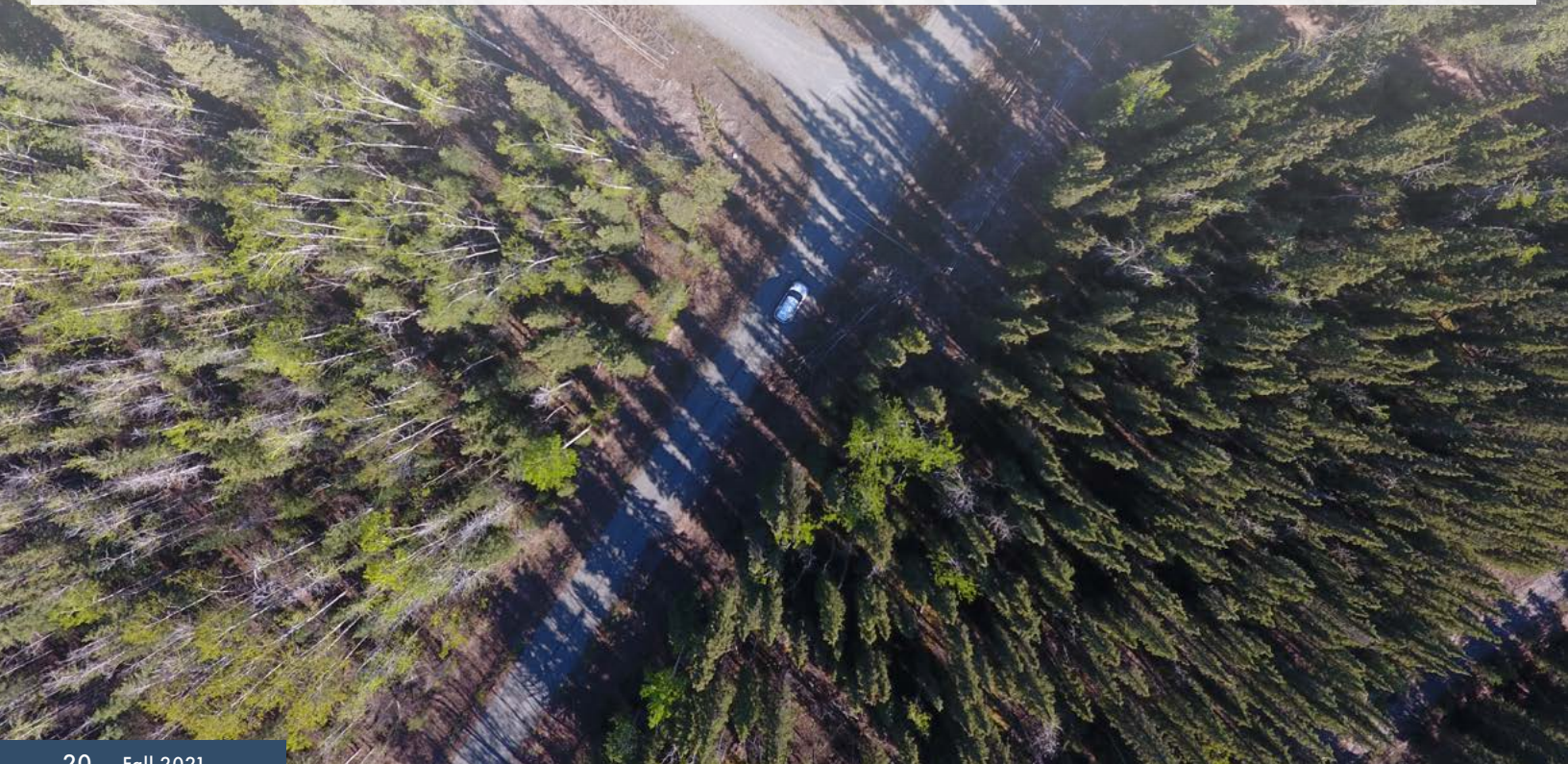
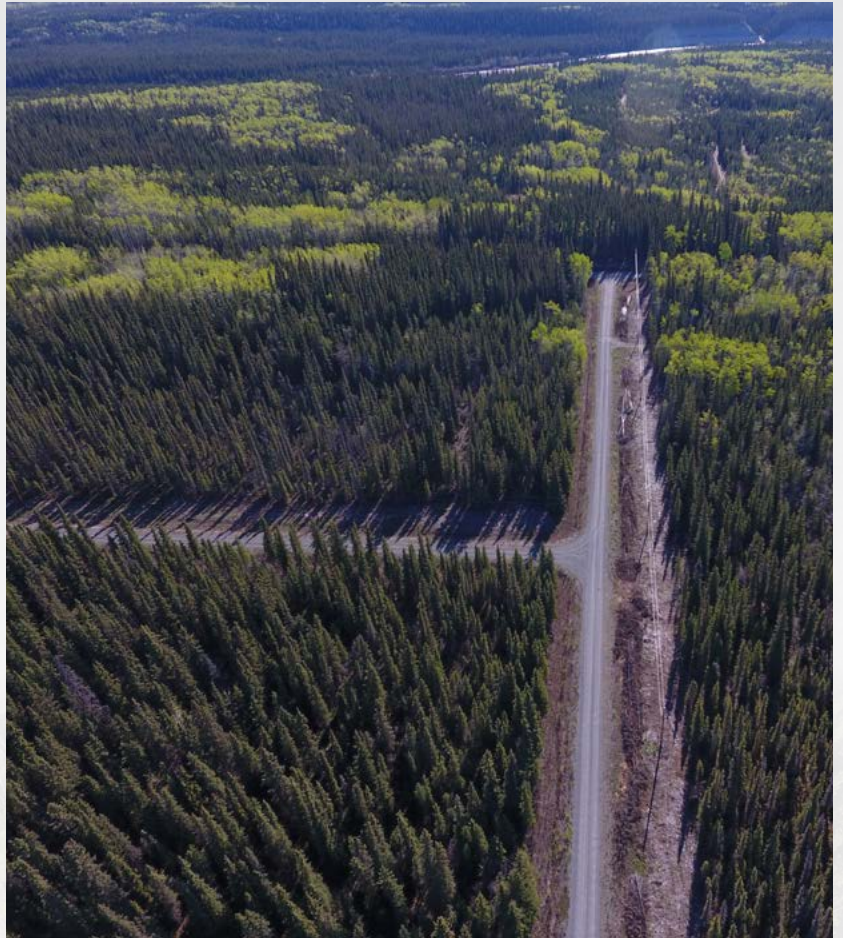
December

Alma George
Arlene Tibbits
Arnold Lincoln
Carol Holt
Christopher Gene
Donald Johns
Elsie Nicklie
Eva John
Evelyn Nicolai

Faye Sarren
Glenn Edwards
Godfrey Nicolai
James Wheelles
Jeanette Williams
Laura Sweet
Lillian Holley
Mable Murphy
Margaret Bell
Mary George
Mary Davis
Michael Voyles
Myra Starkloff
Priscilla Mahle
Roberta Kuschel
Rose Hamilton
Samuel Kristian
Sandy Moore

TAZLINA MAIN ELECTRICAL POWER DISTRIBUTION PROJECT

In 2018, the Copper River Basin Regional Housing Authority (CRBRHA) conducted a region-wide Housing Needs Assessment. Based on information gathered from the Assessment, there was significant interest from Tribal members who had land through Ahtna's Merger Land Use Program (MLUP) to build their own home. One of the barriers identified was the cost to establish electrical power distribution to individual homesites. The CRBRHA secured \$413,000 of federal and state funding and partnered with the Native Village of Tazlina to provide the labor for the Fire Fuels Crew to cut down the trees within the prescribed easement for placement of the power poles. CRBRHA contracted with Copper Valley Electric Cooperative to install 61 power poles and transmission lines to serve 20 home sites. The Native Village of Tazlina was also able to gather 200 cords of wood that was later used to heat the Tazlina Community Hall and Tribal offices through their wood boiler system.



CONDOLENCES

In loving memory of our shareholders who have passed

Archie Nicklie
Clarence Smelcer Sr.
David L. Kanipe Jr.
Edith H. Gaskins
Erickson C. Sanford Jr.

Kenneth L. Ewan
Linda M. Goodlataw
Veronika L. Billum
Zoey R. Nollner

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

📺 = video conference between Anchorage & Glennallen

*Due to COVID-19, the below events are subject to change or cancellation.
Please check the website at www.ahtna.com/events for the most current information.*

NOVEMBER

Nov 1	Audit & Finance Committee, 9 am	Nov 11	Veteran's Day (Ahtna offices closed)	Nov 25-26	Thanksgiving (Ahtna offices closed)
Nov 1	Land Committee, 1 pm	Nov 15	Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship Application Period Opens (Spring)		

DECEMBER

Dec 8-9	Budget Workshop, 8:30 am	Dec 13-15	AFN Convention	Dec 24	Christmas Holiday Observed (Ahtna offices closed)
Dec 10	AI Board / AN Executive Committee Meetings, 9 am	Dec 15	Walter Charley Memorial Scholarship Application Period Closes (Spring)	Dec 31	New Year's Day Holiday Observed (Ahtna offices closed)



110 W 38TH Avenue, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID
ANCHORAGE, AK
PERMIT NO. 358

RETURN ADDRESS REQUESTED



*Fall Berry Picking
Submitted by shareholder Sandy Koyukuk*



Ahtna, Inc. Board of Directors



Ken Johns
Chair



Karen Linnell
Vice Chair



Cecil Sanford
Secretary



Linda Pete
Treasurer



Nicholas Jackson



Lucille Lincoln



John E. Craig



Dorothy Shinn



Genevieve John



Shawn Sanford



Grant Rebne



Jason Hart



John Dye

Corporate Headquarters

PO Box 649
Glennallen, AK 99588
Phone: (907) 822-3476 | Fax: (907) 822-3495
Toll Free: 1-866-475-0420

Anchorage Office

110 W. 38th Avenue, Suite 100
Anchorage, AK 99503
Phone: (907) 868-8250 | Fax: (907) 868-8285
Toll Free: 1-888-562-5316

FCS LOGO HERE

Read more in the eKanas at ahtna.com/kanas