

# ADAPT Y-K Delta

## CONSERVATION AND CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION STRATEGIES

Climate change is affecting the Yukon-Kuskokwim (Y-K) Delta, from fish and wildlife habitats, to access to subsistence foods, to the stability of the ground under roads, runways and buildings. These changes are likely to continue and intensify. This project is designed to help build resilience for Y-K Delta resources and the people who depend on them by organizing a regionally-driven group of tribal and community leaders, regional organizations, individuals, researchers and public resource managers to develop practical adaptation strategies.

## HOW CAN YOU BE A PART OF THIS PROJECT?

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To learn more about and/or contribute directly to the process, please contact:

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As the project gets going, we will provide a website where you can learn more and keep up to date on the project. Thank you for your interest!

**Please join us as we work to help the Y-K Delta respond and adapt to climate change.**

## PROJECT OUTCOMES WE ARE WORKING TOWARD

### A Better Understanding and Focus on Actionable Strategies

Working with tribal and community organizations, public agencies and other regional stakeholders, this project will take a collaborative approach to identify and address environmental changes affecting people, cultural and natural resources in the Y-K Delta region. The project's geographic boundaries are expected to be similar to the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge.

#### Project objectives include:

- Identify locally important priority resources to be the project focus (examples listed at right).
- Identify threats and opportunities affecting these resources.
- Develop strategies that set out practical steps to conserve and enhance these resources in future.

### Emerging Regional Natural and Cultural Resource Focus Topics

Early in this process, the Steering Committee will identify 4-6 resources that are important to local life. By narrowing the focus, we can better understand specific threats and opportunities, and develop more detailed, practical strategies to sustain those resources. Examples of resource candidates are listed below and will be revised with the Steering Committee.

#### Example Resource Candidates:

- Salmon
- Moose and caribou
- Cultural resources/sites
- Housing, transportation routes, infrastructure
- Waterfowl and shorebird habitats

## WHO WILL BE INVOLVED?

### A Focus on Partnerships

The process will be driven by local voices within the Y-K Delta, including tribal and community organizations working in partnership with federal and state agencies. Two teams are being formed:

- **Steering Committee** provides overall project direction and implementation.
- **Advisory Committee** provides expertise and inputs along the way.

Project support will be provided by Agnew Beck Consulting, Nautilus Impact Investing, and Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative (LCC) staff. The Western Alaska LCC is the primary funder of this project, which builds from the recent Western Arctic Alaska Coastal Climate Change Resilience project (learn more at [www.adaptalaska.org](http://www.adaptalaska.org)).

## WHAT IS THE PROCESS?

### Scientists and Indigenous Knowledge Experts Working Together

This regionally-driven project will start with meetings with Steering Committee meetings in the first half of 2018. A community workshop will be held in Bethel in Fall 2018. The process will follow the 'Open Standards for Conservation/Healthy Country' approach, which brings together traditional knowledge experts and scientists to produce actionable results.

#### Examples of projects using this approach include:

Chena River Watershed Resource Action Plan: <http://www.tvwatershed.org/>

Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership Plan: [http://www.kenafishpartnership.org/?page\\_id=303](http://www.kenafishpartnership.org/?page_id=303)

Other projects around the globe: <http://cmp-openstandards.org/>

SPRING 2018

Regional Workshop

Steering Committee

Steering Committee

Steering Committee

FALL 2018