

Huslia Comprehensive Community Development Plan



Prepared by:
Huslia Tribal Council
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HUSLIA COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN

Huslia, Alaska

Established July 1999

Huslia Tribal Council

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Introduction

Because of a need to bring about positive change within the village the Huslia Tribal Council applied for a grant through DCRA to have a VISTA volunteer develop a comprehensive community development plan for Huslia. From July of 1998 to July of 1999 the VISTA volunteer developed the plan.

The VISTA worker wrote a survey and surveyed a majority of the adult residents to determine community needs. From the results, community meetings, and past plans and priority lists, they devised this comprehensive plan.

**"We believe that the creation of a community development plan is the short-range solution to best establish our long-term goals."
Huslia Tribal Council**

Vision and Mission Statement

The main goal of our community is to ensure the survival of our community and the preservation of our traditional way of life. We vision our community as a desirable place to live where future members will want to come back to after schooling to work and raise families. To reach this goal we need to create a self sustaining economy and address issues in the areas of social, cultural, and infrastructure.

Community Profile

Currently, Huslia has a population of 280, of which 96 percent is Alaska Native. Our ancestors lived between the south fork of the Koyukuk River and the Kateel River. They had spring, summer, fall, and winter camps, and moved as the wild game migrated. In the summer many families would float on a raft to the Yukon to fish for salmon. The Koyukon often traded with the Kobuk River Eskimos. By 1843, Russian explorers had made contact with Athabascans approximately 50 miles down river from the current site. The Western Union Telegraph Company explored the River around 1867, and missionary activity increased after 1870. Cutoff Trading Post (also called Old Town) was established in the 1920s about 4 miles overland, or 16 river miles, from modern Huslia.

In 1949, the community moved to the present site because Cutoff flooded frequently and the ground was swampy. Huslia (originally spelled Huslee) was named after a local stream. Huslia had been used as a burial site since 1886, but by the time of the move, most of the old cemetery had been destroyed by erosion. In 1950, the first school was established, followed by a post office, airport and road construction in 1952. At this time, families began to live year-round at Huslia. In 1960, a health clinic was constructed, and in 1963, 29 individual hand-pumped water wells were installed. Running water and indoor plumbing arrived in 1974.

Geographical Location

The community of Huslia is located in the interior region of Alaska on the north bank of the Koyukuk River in the Koyukuk lowlands at approximately 65° 41' N Latitude, 156° 24' W Longitude. The town-site is situated approximately 70 miles north of Galena, and 260 miles west-northwest of Fairbanks. The area encompasses 16 sq. miles of land and 1 sq. miles of water.

Profile continued...

Government

Huslia was incorporated as a second-class city in 1969 and the Tribal Government was established in 1977. While the City of Huslia and the Tribal government are technically separate organizations, the small size and isolation of the community lead to a natural partnership. The City and Tribal Council cooperate fully in all efforts to improve the quality of life for residents.

Tribal Council:

The Huslia Tribal Council has been in existence since 1972 and has nearly 20 years experience in overseeing programs and services. Some of these are management of BIA self-governance funds, Indian Child Welfare Act grants, community based suicide prevention grants, summer youth employment programs, new directions and hazardous waste clean-up training. These programs benefit tribal members in many ways, including decreased unemployment, improved child welfare and an overall improvement in quality of life.

The council is made up of seven tribal members, each serving a three-year term. They are appointed in a democratic election, with staggered terms to minimize turnover. The officers of the council are made up of a First Chief, Second Chief and Secretary. The council meets the first Tuesday of each month. Tribal staff includes a tribal administrator, tribal family and youth specialist, community health aides, a village public safety officer, a home care provider, elder nutrition provider, and an environmental technician. The tribal staff administers child welfare services, tribal enrollment, direct employment, eye care, tribal work experience program, the elder nutrition program and others. The Tribal financial information is maintained in an automated spreadsheet application. All expenditures are accounted for with receipts. Financial transactions are entered promptly to ensure the budget is kept up to date and accurate. Financial reports are compiled monthly and quarterly and audits are done independently. The fiscal management system operates in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Employment

Most tribal members rely on seasonal employment for their income, such as fire fighting, commercial fishing, construction and school district employment. Year-round employment is available through the city, tribe, airlines and private business ventures. The community unemployment rate is currently 67.5%. Tribal members depend on subsistence activity, members hunt, fish and gather for a wide array of foods.

Currently there are 42 permanent/semi-permanent jobs available in Huslia: fifteen through the school, fifteen through the Tribal government, six through the City government, one through the federal government (Postmaster), and five from private businesses.

Infrastructure

Most houses are of log construction and newly constructed frame HUD homes, and are heated with wood and fuel oil. All public buildings are heated with fuel oil. Huslia has a power distribution system and a community water system. Members use leach fields for liquid waste disposal and burn combustible waste in 55 gallon burn barrels and at the community waste disposal area.

Today the community of Huslia boasts of a renovated K - 12 school which 79 students attend, and a head start program with 25 participants. The community has a VPSO, a community counselor, and health clinic which is staffed by three community health aides and a community health representative. Huslia has three locally owned general merchandise stores, a hardware store, and a newly established bakery. There are a water plant/washeteria, three churches, a community hall, a baseball field, and a basketball court. There is also telephone and television access in each household. There is daily flight service to Huslia offered by several airlines; in the summer barge service is available via the Koyukuk River. Aside from winter trails, accessible only by snow-mobile, there are no roads to Huslia.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Economy

A major goal of our village is to create a self-sustaining economy, which involves making Huslia's a business instead of a transfer economy. From a community economic development workshop held in Huslia it was discovered that 90% of the money coming into Huslia is from transfer funds from state and federal entities. The issue with a transfer economy is it makes our village dependent on another entity and subject to year to year funding decisions in which we have no say in deciding. It is our belief that as long as we are grant and entitlement funded, with money being continually imported and immediately exported, that our economy will never be sustainable and sovereignty will not be actualized.

Objective One: Improve Athabasca Cultural Journeys.

Help the tourism business through creating stronger cultural ties. Tourism will benefit our community in a number of ways. First of all, it will bring more money and employment opportunities here. It is a way to educate outsiders about rural Alaskan life. Our young people will also have a chance for learning our culture and use what they learned for possible future employment as guides.

Leading Entity: Athabasca manager

Actions:

- Develop a business plan.
- Create a central location for selling local arts & crafts.
- Start or improve Bed & Breakfast services.
- Establish a web page, which would advertise and inform perspective visitors about Huslia.
- Increase the number of available storytellers and compile oral history, etc.
- Create a village tour.
- Have monthly committee meetings.
- Inform the community of tourism activity.

Performance Indicators:

- Manager's monthly reports.
- Increased number of tourists per year.
- Business profits.

Status: Working on the business plan. Scheduled to have two families this fall.

Objective Two: Help perspective business owners start small businesses.

From a comprehensive study done of the residents in 1998 and 1999 fifty-five people indicated an interest in starting a small business. These businesses would help bring money from outside the community and help keep the money circulating longer in Huslia. While small businesses create wealth-accumulation opportunities, they also readily operate within culturally established values and add to a sense of community.

Leading Entity: Tribal Council and TCC **perspective:** Economic Development Corporation

Strategy continued, Economy...

Actions:

- Be available to help by giving advice and connecting perspective business owners with specific people, programs, and/or loans.
- Have small business material available for people to browse at their leisure.
- Write a grant to have professional counselors from the minority business development center at TCC to come to Huslia and help individuals by giving professional advice, helping them write a business plan, and, if necessary, helping those ready fill out for a business loan.

Performance Indicators:

- Helping start at least two new businesses, which will be in business at least three years.

Status: Waiting for reply from grant submitted to EDA Fisheries disaster grant.

Quality of Life

Create a comprehensive community support system that promotes wellness, preserves our unique traditional cultural history, and decreases social risks.

Culture

The ultimate goal of the Huslia Tribal Council is to ensure the survival of our community and the preservation of our traditional way of life. Unfortunately, our traditional beliefs, practices, and language are decreasing in the face of mainstream American lifestyle. With the medical, technological and educational advances of the past six decades, and especially the last two decades, it has become increasingly difficult to practice and maintain a traditional lifestyle. While it is unreasonable to hope to completely return to the ways of the past, the traditional beliefs of our ancestors must never be forgotten.

Objective One: Safeguard subsistence lifestyle.

Students/youth will learn subsistence skills/lifestyle at a cultural camp.

Leading Entity: Tribal council, group/committee members, TFYS

Actions:

- Advertise and hold an initial meeting.
- Start a committee to support the project.
- Find funding for the cultural camp.
- Set up program.

Performance Indicators:

- Committee organized.
- Youth are able to demonstrate subsistence skills and knowledge of our traditional lifestyle.

Status: Hold an initial meeting to start a cultural committee and to brainstorm ideas for the camp.

Strategy continued, Quality of Life...

Objective Two: Teach the Native Language.

Our elders predict that the fourth generation of tribal members from them will not grow up with first-hand knowledge of our language. From a community survey done of 79% of the adult residents (122 of 156 available adults) surveyed between November of 1998 and June of 1999, the main cultural priority was to ensure the survival of our native language.

Leading entity: Tribal Council, community members, and Tanana Chiefs Conference.

Actions:

- Have a community meeting to brainstorm language learning activities.
- Establish a Cultural Education committee
- Teach the language for two months (July 19 to September 6, 1999) for all interested members from funding through TCC's Mentor Apprenticeship program. Teachers will be Lorna Vent and Gertie Esmailka.
- Explore having written ordinances.
- Continue having a native language class taught to high school students.
- Explore teaching the language to under age five, thus the native language would be also considered a first language instead of a second.

Performance Indicators:

- A Cultural Education committee is established.
- Residents, other than those who had Athabascan as a first language, are fluent in the language.
- Increased use of the native language from people of all ages.

Status: Gertie Esmailka and Lorna Vent are currently teaching the language class.

Objective Three: Document the histories, traditional knowledge, wisdom, and value of our elders and craft makers.

The Huslia Tribal Council would like the opportunity to actively protect and preserve our remaining cultural resources. The most important and fragile of these resources are our elders, many of whom are in their seventies and eighties, and one of our elders in 94 years old. Thus, the need to document their oral histories, traditional knowledge, wisdom, and values while the opportunity exists is immense.

Leading Entity: Tribal Council, perspective grant-writer and Cultural Preservation specialist

Actions:

- Submit a grant for a Cultural Preservation Specialist to document the collect and document the information.
- Establish the Cultural Preservation program office and personnel.
- Document the histories, traditional knowledge, wisdom and values of our elders and craft-makers.
- Compile the information into the cultural biographies of our elders and craft-makers.
- Devise and implement a system to properly protect the collected information.
- Disseminate the cultural biographies of our elders and craft-makers to village members.

Performance Indicators:

Strategy continued, Quality of life...

- Will have tangible documents in the form of a written compilation of historical biographies, an audio series and a video documentary for present and future generations use.
- Cultural Preservation Specialist will hold a presentation for the youth at the end of the project date.

Social

Status: The former Tribal grant-writer submitted a grant to the National Park Service in January of 1999 for the Cultural Preservation Specialist, but the grant was denied and the grant-writer has since resigned. Thus, the tribal council is now waiting for a new grant writer or some able authority to resubmit the grant.

From the community wellness survey and community meetings people indicated that they would like to see more community involvement and for a community socialization area for youth and adult alike to meet. Currently there is no such place for members socialize. We need to create a strong support system for youth and families to improve community cohesiveness and to decrease community problems, such as alcohol and drug abuse, domestic and child abuse, and suicide.

Objective one: More community gatherings

There is a low amount of social gatherings and activities available. To prevent unhealthy social behavior, such as alcohol and drug abuse, and to increase community cohesiveness a goal of ours is to have more community gatherings.

Leading entity: Initially: City and Tribal council,
Continuously: Community social committee, community members.

Actions:

- Establish a social wellness committee.
- Inform the community and gather volunteers.
- Find funding for programs.
- Have monthly meetings to discuss perspective activities.
- Work with younger children and those not yet involved.

Performance Indicators:

- More activities available for people of all ages.
- Increased number of people attending activities, measurable from sign in sheets.

Status: Need to establish a social wellness committee.

Objective two: Re-open the recreation center.

We have a recreation center, which was open to the public on a limited basis from funding through a suicide prevention grant, but the Tribal council has not applied for the grant since 1996, thus we have lost the social benefits and the building has not been used since.

Leading entity: City and Tribal council and community members.

Actions:

- Apply for funding to hire a suicide prevention worker and to pay for utilities for the building.
- Have a meeting to brainstorm ideas for ways to keep the recreation center open year round and self-

Strategy continued, Quality of Life...

Performance Indicators:

- Recreation Center is open and self-sustaining.

Status: Need to have a community meeting to discuss re-opening the recreation center.

Infrastructure

Objective One: Relocate the waste disposal area.

Relocate the waste disposal area to meet FAA approval in order to relocate the new airport cite.

Leading Entity: City and Village councils

Actions:

- Apply for funding with Village Safe Water.
- Write a master plan.
- City council, Koyitlotsina and the Village council work together on finding an acceptable cite.
- Apply for a State permit with the Department of Environmental Conservation.
- Hire temporary workers to build a new waste area and relocate the waste.

Performance Indicators:

- Waste disposal area relocated.

Status: City administrator is waiting until October, 1999 to apply for funding.

Objective Two: Relocate the airport.

Relocate the airport to provide room for expansion of our growing village and for our new water treatment plant and to protect members from accidents.

Leading Entity: City and Village councils and K'oyit'ots'ina corporation.

Actions:

- Relocate the waste disposal area.
- Get FAA approval.
- Select cite and find funding.
- Write a master plan.

Performance Indicators:

- FAA approval
- Airport relocated

Status: Waiting for waste disposal area to be relocated, but the project is currently up for bid for construction.

Objective Three: Create a new water plant and laundry-mat facility.

The current water facility is 25 years old. In 1998 24 new HUD homes were added to the water system. The water plant is not equipped to handle the current load. Our village is growing at a rate of 40 people every 10 years, and there is a shortage of houses to accommodate this growth. In 1999 alone there are five homes being built, which will need to be added to the water system. From a survey done of 122 of the 155 adult residents, 64

Strategy continued, Infrastructure...

people rated the water plant poor, 38 people rated it as good, 7 said unknown, and 2 considered it excellent. The water plant is too small, too old, and the water is rusty. In early spring and during heavy rains the walls in the laundry area leak, creating a large puddle on the floor. The bathroom sink doesn't work and even with daily cleaning there remains a moldy smell through-out the building.

Leading Entity: City and Village councils and Derek Garcia with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium.

Actions:

- Write a master plan.
- Apply for funding.
- Find an acceptable cite.
- Build the water facility.

Performance Indicators:

- New water plant and laundry-mat is built.
- Water pressure and quality improves.

Status: Derek Garcia is working on the master plan.

Issues for Future Strategies:

1. New Health Clinic
2. Upgrade school and school water/sewer and boilers
3. Daycare Program
4. Renovate Community Building
5. Extend the Longlake Road
6. Resurface in town roads for dust abatement
7. Build storage for Tourism Project

Appendix

A. Community Wellness Survey Results

November 1998-June 1999

Number of Family members in the household surveyed?

# of people	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
# of houses	23	15	13	15	7	2	3		1		1

Female	65 & Over	9	Education levels completed:	10	None
	51-64	6			10
	35-50	28			1
	18-34	20			5
	0-17	56			102
					16
					33
					17
					3
					10
					48
					17
					27
					5
					22

Male	65 & Over	9	Current status:	10	Student
	51-64	13			Employed
	35-50	24			Unemployed
	18-34	27			Under-employed
	0-17	48			Not seeking work
					Retired

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

What was it like in the past--good and bad?

Response from people:

65 & Over We lived in camps year round. Peaceful. We came together for Christmas and everybody was excited. There were no decorations, nothing too good, but we were excited about being together. Store would support the whole town. Not much teeth decay. Country was alive with animals--now we have to go for days for trapping. There were mainly rabbits, no moose or caribou. People worked together and shared. Washed clothes with a wash board. "Long ago was better. Easier living now, but before it was good to work" (18A). No drink, smoke, or drugs, just food.

"Babies use to die like nothing" (1). Lots of death from diseases, not from accidents and suicides. Hard to get planes here in 40s and 50s and it was hard to go to Tanana for medical care. Eisenhower was not good to us in the 40s and 50s. In the 60s kids started drinking and smoking. I had no family, only a mother, so I had to get married off early. People went hungry. At Cut-off there was no school and men worked away from families.

Wasn't much extra and kids had worn out, patched clothes. Kids worked. Women worked lots too; they made everything and got little from the store. We used all fur clothes--hair inside and out. Kids obeyed parents and didn't forget anything. We snared ptarmigan, made net & hooks (it wasn't hard to make fishnet) got ice for water, washed diapers, and at nights we sewed and worked on skins, there wasn't much story telling. Fished on the Yukon in the summer and came up the Koyukuk in August for fall and winter camp. In January we went to upper cabins for beaver trapping. We followed the food--everybody had their own spot. Stayed in tent insulated with moss and heated with a yukon stove. No moose until in the 1930s. Had dog teams year round. "Use to trap in 40-50 below weather. My mom cut fish up to the time I was born. Last time we lived in spring camp was 1952. There was lots of chicken, ptarmigan and rabbit" (17B).

Before there was not much stuff to trade. We had good trapping and it was the only way to make a living. Have to pay for everything with money now, while there was no money before. \$20 now is equal to \$1 then. We were able to buy staples and we had lots of meat. Made enough money to pay credit and buy more supplies. In 1940s people started working for wages. Agree to food stamp now, land is too small. Money use to really stretch--30 gallons of gas lasted all summer. There were no bills and we paid with cash. We now have energy assistance and social security. In 1960 I started selling sewing--boots for \$30. "Had to work hard for my money, now money just comes in free" (56A&B).

51-64 "We are losing our culture. People say we have to hang on to our culture, but eventually we're going to lose it. Culture means nothing without our Athabaskan language. We never speak our language with our kids" (5B). People use to be out more camping. People were happier before, there was a spring in their step, they'd say hello, now people avoid one another. Snow mobiles came in '68 or '69. We worked for what we had and appreciate time to play--we didn't need booze to play. There was no

Appendix A continued: Survey results— history...

chainsaw, lights, or machines. Planes came once a month.

There were less health services and not many schools in rural areas. It was good to get a school. Parents didn't know English and people just stayed in camps. I went to Edgcombe from 1958-60. Now people need certification or schooling to work. "Desks had pen and ink, now they have computers. Before Alaska became a state in 1959 we had territorial schools where teachers and preachers offered services, like helping with paperwork and medical help" (20). Not much employment. Parents played pan and left kid's alone. In the 60s and 70s--after land claims--bad things started happening, mostly due to alcohol. Lots of incest and rape. Men would threaten and force girls and women. In 80s TV came and everybody stopped visiting.

The main source of income was from fur or wood and seasonal jobs. Cut and hauled wood for the store. "When I was growing up, we stayed in camp most of the time. We lived off the land, from the main meat dish to our dessert (assorted berries). In the fall our family used to get supplies for the winter, when they know they will get fur to sell for that winter" (5B). Education is most important now for getting jobs; before we worked for wages and cash. Money went further. I bought my house for \$803. More work for per dollar.

35-50 There were many good things and bad about the past. Compared with today, before we had more representation in Juneau concerning subsistence and fish & game. People lived life to its fullest without complaint or written law. There were big families--no one had just one child. Families did things together and people got along. It was good going camping and hunting with parents. We visited more before, which changed in the 70s. "People use to be outside a lot back in the 60's and 70's" (21A). High level of participation in community and cultural events. Stayed in camps more during summers and winters. Always something to do, nothing was boring, not even work. It was easier growing up with less. Some good things were camping, bible school, having a year round preacher, the movie theater, and feeling loved and cared for. People hardly got sick. Men were more responsible for families--trapping, hunting, wood gathering.

Stopped moving from camp to camp in the mid-60s. "I grew up sliding down on cardboard--after packing water, cutting wood, and hauling wood with dogs" (10A). We were always told while we were growing up to be quiet, now we need to learn communication skills. People used to go out hunting all the time, just to go out--now they don't. Growing up we had more discipline and elders talked up. There was no suicide before, the first one was Lucian Sam in 1962 from drinking. Long ago the elders were looked up to and held meetings to resolve village problems.

Some negative things about before include...TV coming to the village, sitting idle & gossiping. Accepting verbal, physical, and sexual abuse as "a way of life." The loss of our river bank and the dust. Suicide. Poverty. No sewer or water. No jobs. Mosquitoes & gnats. Health of family members. Dumping slop and dead dogs over the bank. Small houses. Jail. Death due to unclean water. Plane load of booze. There was much more drinking before. No-one told us cultural stories and we were suppose to look up to our elders, but no one listened to us.

Before it was tougher, no programs or projects like construction, only fire fighting. Now there's TWEP and jobs from other sources. People used things to gain recognition or respect. It was 25 cents for a candy bar, but money was harder to get. Money wasn't important for us kids. People traded wood and food for other items like a fur hats or boots. Less bills. We could buy more because things were cheaper. It's hard to get jobs and more people are on assistance. People helped one another more. It's still hard to get cash. I hear in the old days the store gave "bingos"--wooden tokens in lieu of cash--that would be good for us. Today there's more bills, but better living. Higher wages now. Before only low paying jobs were available, because we didn't have the education for other jobs. Men went to the mining camps, while women sewed. Most men went away for work. Economy based on credit and trade. It's harder to get funding now. There's more medical travel now.

18-34 Before it was good because...there were more community gatherings and everyone worked together. Closer family ties. Young people helped and respected elders--people were kind. Elders cared for young people and they worked hard. Baseball/basketball tournaments. Hanging out with friends, driving around, school, and traveling. The hunting was excellent. More cultural aspects--trapping and hunting were taught to youth. We tried harder in school and there weren't many drop-outs. No city type crimes. Going to fish camp in the summers and on dog sled rides with my uncles. Living was less materialistic. All the good potlatches.

Before it was bad because...of alcohol and fighting. Lack of social services available. Not much events happening. Losing people. Having little parental support. More verbal abuse. Double standards for men and women. Less water and electricity. Less youth involved in cultural and community events. Not many jobs. Less business, i.e. airlines--planes came only a few times a week. Less awareness and outreach regarding social problems, like child protection. Students being sent away for school.

Community volunteer efforts before. Basically money. I thought money was always there, but now it comes as a shock. Went further then, use to go fire fighting more. More trading--food for fur. Mainly no difference. Didn't care about money, I'm more stressed over it now. Got less income before. My family use to make more money, but now we don't. There's less jobs and now you need a degree or some kind of training. Get more money now with Medicaid. As a child I had less money than kids now. Merchandise is more expensive. Not much money until pipeline days. It's just expensive living here. No bank accounts--

Appendix A continued: Survey results-- history...

everything was cash.

How is today different?

Today it's... "Completely different in all aspects: electricity, water, sewer, clothes, transportation--we use to stay in camp all summer. Even the younger generation is different. They're more idle, then want something, bored all the time. When we were growing up we created our fun" (21A). Kids don't seem to respect parents, teachers, nor elders. There's better hygiene and more entertainment. The housing is better. It's laid back here, there is the feeling that "when-ever is good". Better access to medical care. More programs and public services offered. Men and women are treated equally. Elders are taken care of, and not put in old folks homes. Child care has improved, because there's less alcohol and child abuse. "(There's) more awareness and talking out in the open than when I grew up. Smaller kids aren't afraid to say what's hurting them, but teenagers are. These are excellent changes and shows that all the work everyone is doing whether it's together or individual is working" (7A). Everyone knows about sexual and child abuse.

"Life now is a lot easier and a big benefit for us, because we can focus on more important things, like our kids education" (25A). Education is better now, because teachers can't spank or hit students. Although, it seems like kids don't care about school and culture, just basketball. School wise, there's more traveling, choices, and equipment, like computers. Before it was only the three R's. Kids need an education now. We were encouraged to start working at an early age, while today school is the main focus. I went to Mt. Edgumbe in the 1960s and the village felt small afterward, it was a culture shock. People read more now. There are more people going to school and with college degrees.

Today it's bad because...there's too much gossip--out to make people look bad. Grudges are held for too long. Kids are not as disciplined and get away with more now. People are against something, but they do it too. People wear Nike shoes in 40 below weather. We have to go by written rules not made by us. Things that men used to do are now done by women or appliances. Now we live with the outside world too much through the TV. There's problems with abuse, drugs, neglect, and alcohol. There's not as much parents and children doing things together. We are getting too big now, separated. There's less fish, more people. There's more dust.

What do you enjoy doing here in Huslia?

People said

33 Hunting			
24 Visit/socialize			
18 Rides, see the country			
16 Fishing	4 Helping others	1 Get grass for dogs	1 Smoke weed
14 Community gatherings	3 Stay home	1 Work outdoors	1 Meet the planes
14 Walks	3 Wood working--sleds	1 Giving--food, advice, etc.	1 Care for family and home
13 Trapping	3 Carnivals	1 Knit	1 Work for construction
12 Basketball	3 Dog races	1 Climb mountains	1 Parties
11 Drive around	3 Teach traditional crafts	1 Play cards	1 Village games
11 Get wood	3 Gardening	1 Gamble	1 Fire fighting
10 Camping	2 Traveling by snow mobile	1 Take college courses	1 Watch softball games
9 Be with family	2 Run dogs	1 Exercise	1 Cooking for elders
8 Sewing	2 Pan	1 Tribal council	
8 Watch activities at school	2 Gym nights	1 4th of July	
7 Bingo	2 Photography	1 Involved with fish & wildlife	
6 Bible study/prayer service	2 Live traditional lifestyle	1 Watch movies	
6 Picnics	2 Build birch sleds	1 Family trips	
6 Work	2 Work with children & families	1 Berry picking	
6 Softball	2 New years	1 Make dry meat	
6 Help/visit elders	2 Help kids get an education	1 Tan moose skin	
5 Be outdoors	2 Eat native food	1 Haul water	
5 Sports	2 Work around the house	1 Do artwork	
5 Storytelling	2 Snowshoe	1 Relax	
5 Watch TV	2 Skiing	1 Help kids	
4 Read	1 Meetings	1 Enjoying my new house	
Visioning for the next 10 years	1 Tournaments	1 Take kids out	
1. More positive leadership	1 Explore	1 Build a new house	
	1 Buy wood and put it away	1 Keeping trails open	

Appendix A continued: Survey results-- priority areas...

in our men.

2. A shift in attitudes from "This is our problem, we need someone to come and fix it" to "This is our problem, how can we fix it?"
3. Preserve Huslia through self-economies.
4. Having people come back after school to work and have a family.
5. Financial independence for people here.
6. People volunteering and doing things that they expect other people to do for them.
7. No cases of child abuse or child sexual abuse.
8. The best management possible of our natural resources, also any and all environmental concerns taken care of.
9. More activities for kids and others here.

PRIORITY AREAS

What do you feel is a priority in these areas?

__ People said __

Culture:

- 63 Teach language.
- 23 become culturally literate--hunting, sewing, trapping, dancing, singing.
- 18 Safeguard subsistence.
- 6 Teach history through storytelling.
- 6 Pass on values and traditions.
- 5 Bring back Indian lifestyle--going to camp.
- 5 Close the culture/language gap between elders and youth.
- 3 Put elders on tape/video/book.
- 2 Learn through elders (Grandma Mary, Little Sophie).
- 2 Use our native medicines.
- 1 Traditions and beliefs are solid, something to believe in and grow from.
- 1 Teach young the old ways for mind and body.
- 1 Losing because people not trying to learn.
- 1 Understand our own to understand others.
- 1 4th generation from elders will not grow up with our native language.
- 1 "Kid's will learn from parents and grandparents, (I) want to learn from them" (19).
- 1 Mark old pictures.
- 1 Making crafts and tools.
- 1 Take kids out.
- 1 Get kids interested in hunting.
- 1 Keep up dog mushing.
- 1 Build houses on allotments to start teaching camp life-style.
- 1 Parents should take kids out once a week, even walks.
- 1 Potlatches.
- 1 Teaching young people beliefs about working hard and being compassionate toward others who have less.
- 1 People should go to camp for summers and come back for school.

Education:

- 49 Better high school education
- 7 More adult involvement in education
- 5 Keep students in school--more reason to suspend
- 4 In general
- 4 Teach native traditions also--Bring in elders. Have on going cultural units.
- 4 Kids learn instead of getting pushed through system
- 4 Lower drop-out rate
- 4 More teachers
- 2 Help teachers teach, support them
- 2 More facilities
- 2 Knowledge of computers
- 2 Help drop-outs graduate--GED classes
- 2 Better technology in school--more computer training
- 1 More classes so that a student doesn't have to take correspondence

Appendix A continued: Survey results— priority areas...

- 1 Teachers who are also knowledgeable in our culture
- 1 Help teachers take control of school again.
- 1 PTA organization
- 1 More money (from forum and private sources) for students to travel
- 1 Participation in school events--monitor child's progress
- 1 Spend less on traveling
- 1 School credit for working around town (vocational)
- 1 More respect between teachers and students
- 1 Prepare students to seek higher education
- 1 More competition in state events, like running
- 41 People with some type of trade or college degree
- 21 People with a high school diploma
- 19 Helping people get higher education--vocational and college
 - 7 In general
 - 7 Start scholarship fund
 - 2 Teach students woodworking--home, sled, and boat building
 - 1 Grant to hire students in villages--vocational education and experience
 - 1 Tribal council assume higher education for younger generation
 - 1 Focus more on vocational education
- 15 Parenting classes
- 4 Get students involved/interested
- 3 Have kids appreciate education (High school or Higher)
- 3 Start vocational school early
- 3 Teach young people how to survive in both city and village
- 2 Mentally discipline students when their young--goals, study skills
- 1 Kids reading & writing by 1st grade--can't progress if can't read.
- 1 Have someone read to students in the summer
- 1 Education on various public programs
- 1 Teach children about other tribes--successes and failures
- 1 More training in schools by health aides
- 1 Adult education
- 1 Driver's education
- 1 People know importance of education
- 1 Arts & Crafts cooperative (have manager and 25% goes to cooperative)
 - Workshops--sewing, knitting, tanning, cloth working, expand skills
 - Travel for manager to shows
 - Tanning skins & reselling
- 1 Start a trade school here
- 1 Computers in every home--phone companies should get involved.

Economy:

- 46 More jobs
- 9 Have more people come back after school to work and raise families.
- 8 Athabasca improvement
- 6 Have current store lower inflated prices
- 5 Get people off welfare
- 5 Have jobs to address needs--wood-cutting
- 5 Promote self-employment
- 4 More businesses
- 3 City or Tribal office have business for more jobs
- 3 Jobs that are permanent
- 2 Jobs through grants
- 2 Jobs for those who will accept the responsibility
- 2 People working or in school or armed forces
- 2 People see possibilities for self-employment
- 2 Keep money circulating in town longer

Appendix A continued: Survey results— priority areas...

- 2 More grants & funding for developing community
- 2 Drop climbing food, fuel, & electric prices--bulk order to drop prices
- 1 More part-time, flexible schedule jobs so people can still keep traditions
- 1 Jobs all summer
- 1 Start vocational projects that evolve into jobs
- 1 More journey men training
- 1 Stable economy
- 1 Cottage industries--one person per service
- 1 Research natural resources
- 1 Have small business training
- 1 Have Gas & Oil make a profit
- 1 More competition in stores to create reasonable prices

Government:

- 4 Equal employment for all residents--not based on political power, race, or age
- 3 638 contracting
- 2 More correctional action against illegal activities
- 2 City and Tribal work together for the betterment of our community
- 1 getting tribal government organizing a sub-regional type of non-profit government.
- 1 Establish our own governmental system and not rely on other governing powers for leadership.
- 1 Be self-sufficient
- 1 More community meetings to set ourselves straight for future generations.
- 1 Tribal government/Wildlife biologist
- 1 Can we get a different contract with AVEC to try get our own plant?
- 1 Train person from here for land management
- 1 Less political arguing
- 1 Native preference
- 1 More communication with other villages
- 1 Ethical code for those in public positions
- 1 Have a community planning committee
- 1 Directly receive IHS money
- 1 Manage our own lands
- 1 Develop a strong foundation from which to build on
 - A. recognize Huslia as one community with one vision
 - B. Set goals and make plans to accomplish them

Health:

- 5 Improved elder care
- 3 More than one counselor
- 3 Sex education--protection, birth control,
- 2 Water and Sewer for every home
- 2 Dental and eye care
- 2 Have Doctor come here
- 1 Take care of self while young. Injuries come back when older.
- 1 Get lots of exercise, rest, and work.
- 1 Protecting unborn babies
- 1 Improve sanitary conditions
- 1 Better mental health services
- 1 Less STD's
- 1 Promote monogamous relationships
- 1 Possibly outside counselor
- 1 Better contacts with outside help
- 1 Better care from doctors
- 1 More training for residents, such as CPR
- 1 Have all babies immunized

What should be our first priority overall?

Appendix A continued:

Survey results— priority areas & young people

	1st Priority	2nd Priority	3rd Priority	4th Priority	5th Priority
Preserving Culture	58	27	24	4	1
Investing in Higher Ed	40	36	31	4	
Creating Jobs	27	36	44	4	
Expanding businesses	3	2	2	10	1
Jobs for students					1
Education		1			
Assess our resources	1				
Youth activities				1	
Establish true self-governance	1				
Make people healthy	1				
Natural resources, environment	1				

YOUNG PEOPLE

Where should our kids go to school and why?

74 people said at the local high school.

Right at home, connected to land. "We need to give our kids the best possible education right here at home, because too soon they'll have to go out into the outside for further education. They need to build a stable home environment before leaving home" (25A). They should learn our culture, then travel and experience other places. Have whole life to get away. Families should be together anyway--parents are important for the teaching process. May be negatively influenced if move away--help to be around elders & others. Less money for traveling. "Students who go away for schooling also leave their culture behind. This may be why we are slowly losing our culture, especially language" (48B). "Personally, I think people send their kids away to school because ours isn't good enough, but if they volunteer and were totally involved in their kids lives, then they might not see the need to send them away to become better" (7A).

28 people said a statewide boarding school--like Mt. Edgecumbe.

More facilities, teachers, shop training, and activities. Isolated, stricter, teaches responsibility and independence. Gives a taste of college. Keeps students from drugs and alcohol. Can be with peers. Offers an excellent after-school study support system. 5 people said school in a larger community.

4 people said a boarding school in the area--like the Galena Charter school.

3 people said it's the student's choice. As long as they get jobs.

We would like our young people to have these skills or knowledge:

People said

22 Know how to live here

13 Know our culture

13 Can make a living

12 Communication skills

11 Responsible

11 Respectful

8 Goals

8 Work ethic

6 Parenting skills

5 Know how to live elsewhere

5 Disciplined

5 Problem solving skills

4 Independent

4 Good self-esteem

4 Survival skills

4 Money management skills

3 Honest

Where do you think

will live as adults?

people said

61 State

over, some places are worst.

1 Christians

1 Job skills

1 Can hold a job

2 Basic health knowledge

2 Hunt

2 Interested in/value life

2 Can read and write

3 Building skills

2 CPR & ETT

2 Helpful

2 Hands on employment

2 Electric skills with appliances

3 Alcohol and Drug free

3 Can care for a home

3 Happy

3 Paperwork--applications, resume

3 Friendly

1 Have easier time finding a home

1 Willing to experience new places

1 Proud natives

1 Care for self

1 Study skills

1 Reliable

1 Stays in shape

1 Patience

1 Express & deal with feelings

1 Morals

1 Life long learners

1 Non-violent with family

1 Drug free and no alcohol addiction

our young people

Kids spoiled all

More job opportu-

Appendix A continued: Survey results— young people, tribal court and land...

nities. Can still keep close ties. Our young people have skills enabling them to live in the city--especially with higher education. We are training students for jobs that aren't here. Hard to stay here with no jobs and married.

- 24 Village Home is where the heart is.
- 22 Wherever It's their choice, wherever they're happy, get work.
- 7 Village/State Because of jobs, some don't have skills to work elsewhere and some don't want to move.
- 3 Out of Alaska Most of the young people I talk to can't wait to leave here.

Where would you like them to live?

__people said__

- 58 Village We're in paradise, sometimes we don't realize it. "Everyone dreams of a Utopia, and I truly believe it could happen here in Alaska" (61). We can live off the land. We can learn family values, culture, and from elders in our small community. So we can improve our self-governance to take control of our lives and jobs. To expand population so that we don't die as a community. In city they'll be busier and more easily distracted. Good to live here if they have a job, if not may have problems like drinking, drugs, low self esteem, and suicide.
- 38 Wherever Where they're educationally challenged. "Where they are comfortable, because they need to explore, grow mentally and spiritually, and meet their goals in life" (10B). Family is important, however, the technology is not here and students need to experience more. What is important is that young people strive to become productive members of the community they choose.
- 10 State More jobs than only in village.
- 1 Village/State To keep the culture going and have jobs.

Should we have a TRIBAL COURT?

__People said__

85 Yes. To insure our children will be taken care of. Things connected here in the village. May cause hard feelings, but it's time to get used to the idea. People are scared of hurting feelings. "Would allow tribes to take control of the decisions regarding the members instead of having outsiders make decisions on what direction to turn our lives" (6A). "Too many people getting records through the state system over things that could be handled here" (10A). Sometimes the courts are too harsh. The tribal court has more power than the Alaska state here. Concerning smaller issues, like under-aged drug and alcohol abuse or child neglect, they would be able to enforce and punish faster and better than the state. It's one more way of empowering our village. It will help us understand instead of blame others. "The court system is 40% native, because with courts now it's about money and there's prejudice. I'd rather have peers judge" (42). Good for youth to learn discipline from elders. If do courts have restitution--pay back for vandalism & stay in jail here. More input, the better people are served.

It'd work if we had the right people in it and if the majority supported it. Make sure there are no biases. It's very important that the members of the court are drug & alcohol free and positive role models. They should be appointed. Would like it to be run by elders.

19 No. People can't agree. Too much politics here already. We have a good system already, it makes the offender wiser up. "Not at this time, I don't think we have anyone here that would look at facts and be totally fair" (26A). Support service will never be there to make sure the ruling will be carried out, either financially or physically. "It's a known fact that people who are related tend to be too lenient on each other. Check out curfew and boot-legging rate. Who turns in each other? Hardly anyone" (64A).

7 Undecided It could work if the tribal council didn't have to sit as judges, it creates too much stress for council members. Would like to know more.

LAND

What should we do with our land?

Yes	No	No Comment		Yes	
114		2	Subsistence		
77	16	6	Manage moose & berry		
1			Berry		
	1		Moose		
78	17	7	Leave majority alone		
75	19	5	House lots	3	Protect land and resources
17	76	6	Harvest timber for sale	2	Preserve while allow tourism
			1st	1	Boat touring
			2nd	1	Lease it
			3rd	1	Programs & recreation in the Athabascan lifestyle
			4th	1	Build cabins on allotments
No Priority					
Preserve majority for subsistence	96	7	3		
Guided hunting, fishing & tourism	8	32	30	4	

Appendix A continued:

Survey results-- land & business...

21					
Develop & market resources	4	29	34	4	23
Preserve while allow tourism	2				
Protect land and resources	1	2	1		
Boat touring			1		
Lease it	1				
Recreation in Athabaskan lifestyle	1				
Build cabins on allotments				1	

BUSINESS

Do you have an idea for your own business?

People said	
57	Yes
47	No
6	Has business

People said they would like to own a business

6 Bed & Breakfast		
4 Arts & crafts		
3 Carving		
3 Pool hall	1 Community boat touring	1 Beauty salon
3 Clothing store	1 Second hand store	1 Pottery
2 Restaurant	1 Crafts for export shop	1 Shop
1 Gas/oil business	1 Fly fishing guide	1 Touring
1 Working w/electronic equipment	1 Outfitters store	1 Bead supplier
	1 Involving teens	1 Tax/business services
	1 Coffee shop	1 Pike fishing net
	1 Firearm business	

People said they'd need

19 Money	
15 Skills (computer, bookkeeping, taxes)	
15 Education (English, accounting, business mgnt)	
4 Supplies	
4 Facility	2 Business license
3 Support	1 Electronic equipment
3 Low interest loan	1 Boat Captain's license
	1 Advisor
	1 Apprenticeship--carving
	1 Contacts

People said obstacles they'd encounter are

1 Government red tape
1 Fairbanks too costly and far
1 No connections to resources and sources for resale
1 Cost of supplies into village and cost of production
1 This in not my land
1 Convicted felon

Would you like to see more privately owned businesses?

98	Yes	You're in it for yourself, so would take better care of it. As long as there is equal hire. "But not to make a big profit out of it like some of our already owned businesses that are draining us" (8A). "Yes. Everything we need comes from the urban areas and if we could buy whatever we need here in the village, then the currency would stay here" (61). Shops all over the interior.
11	No	
2	Unknown	

What type of business would you like to see here?

- Air service
- Restaurant

**Appendix A continued: Survey results--
business...**

Hardware store	4-wheelers mechanic	Lumber	Bead store
Bakery	Pool hall	Bed & breakfast	Coffee shop
Mechanics/welding/wood shop	Grocery store	Arts & Crafts store	Cable service
Furniture store	Driver's education teacher	Taxi	Athletics club
Gun store	Wood cutting	Pizza parlor	Laundry-mat
	Parts store	Cottage industries	
	Retail	24 hour stores	

What advantages does our village have?

People said

13 Human resources	3 Unity	1 The wilderness	1 Have language speakers
12 Friendly	3 Hunting	1 No liquor store	1 Own own homes
11 Good land/water area	2 Tribal services	1 Involved in school	1 We encourage youth
11 Community health	2 Culture & traditions	1 Better law enforcement	1 Native decision makers
10 Water and Sewer	2 Arts & Crafts skills	1 Berry harvest	1 Elders
6 Isolated	2 Not as much drinking	1 Clean town	1 House logs
5 Moose population	1 Tourism	1 Good stores	1 Less people
4 Storytelling			

Would you like to see more community owned businesses?

People said

87 Yes Get people off welfare & get community going. If through IHS may not be taxed.

- Little store & gas station up town
- Locally owned airlines
- Dinner house
- Tribe/city sponsor boat & snow-go racers
- Swimming pool/ice rink
- Tourism--boats
- Snack bar
- Gathering place
- Coffee shop near airport
- Elders van
- Trash hauling
- Pool hall
- Export crafts/products-tourist shop
- Hunting and fishing store
- Arts & crafts store
- Harvest timber for local sale
- Elder's home
- Daycare center
- Clothing store
- River barge
- Bead store

12 No "Politics and consensus management doesn't work with business--Athabasca is a perfect example. But a small hotel-restaurant that is community owned could work" (22B). "No. There will be too much chiefs and not enough Indians" (67). Private owned is better, the person would care more for their business.

7 Unsure

If the community does enter business, should profit be the primary goal?

People said

39 Yes Always try to double profit, create jobs, profit for future generations, for the first couple of years, it's necessary and can be put back into the community. Would have to employ people. "Profit should be the goal of any business, but people need to be aware of negative effects through feasibility studies done prior to entering a business" (22A). "Yes. Otherwise it would go broke and ultimately be a waste of time" (22B).

38 No Service more important, prevent monopoly, just be supporting government, more activities for young people, bring down prices. "No, profit should be a secondary goal, our primary goal should be to provide an economy for our growing village and to provide jobs" (25D). Rather choose preservation of culture.

8 Equal goals--service & profit. At first to expand business, but then we should try and get profit from outside the village. "Yes and no. Yes, so it can survive, but no because it's outrageous that people order from out of town" (26A).

6 Unknown

1 If profit is used for the well being of the village.

How do you feel about tourism?

People said

Appendix A continued: Survey results-- business & social needs...

- 70 **Support** We can talk to people from other places and let others see our way of life. The end of August we can do boat touring. In the winter we can take them for rides and bring them to camps. Need community involvement. Would bring in needed cash income with the fewest adverse effects. Athabasca is doing good, because tourists aren't coming in bunches, therefore they aren't polluting the air, water, or land. Don't want to meet any outlaws. Opens door for other types of employment. Could even use students--double benefits. Need more support of clients and targeting of clients. It's good to educate urban folks about our rural issues.
- 20 **Non-support** Only tourists benefit from it. Too much outsiders.
- 15 **Conditional support**
 - 2 As long as they don't live here.
 - 2 Limited, as long as it benefits the community. It would also inform more people about Huslia.
 - 9 If good management.
 - 2 If locally run.
- 6 **Undecided** Needs good management, a plan, and town meetings. It's profit, but I would like to see it controlled and not swamped with people "watching your every move." Need better advertising.

How do you feel about guided hunting?

- People said
- 65 **Non-support** It divides the village. It's no longer in community's control. We need to protect the moose population, we don't have money to compete. "Guided hunting is giving the OK to non-residents to kill and make money off our land and resources--we really need to lose the business" (8A). If fish don't come back we will overwork the moose population. Waste too much meat just for the hunt. Guided hunting genetically alters our moose population, by taking the "best" moose, hunters are leaving the weak moose to breed, which will make weak offspring. "They are exploiting our lands. When our ecosystem is in ruins and it isn't worth much you'll see. Using the land for personal profit is against Indian beliefs, taking what you need is the way it was, the way it should always be" (25D). Injure future moose population because of selective killing. Have to be controlled by government, not limited enough otherwise.
 - 37 **Conditional support**
 - 12 If meat is not wasted
 - 12 If it's locally run with local guides
 - 3 If managed properly
 - 1 If the people get the moose and leave the meat. They should pay to leave the meat what it would cost to fly it out.
 - 1 For bears to increase moose population, but not for moose killing
 - 1 I'm for Virgil Umphenour--he employs 11 locals and works by the book. He also has lawyers and money.
 - 1 As long as we make money
 - 6 If limited
 - 11 **Support** Virgil Umphenour doesn't have to come here for business, we can do it. Now we need better monitoring of hunters through more trips to town and by stopping individual hunters from only taking the horns. "It's OK. They give the meat away and people make money off it" (18A). It generates capital through gas, retail, and buying of traditional crafts. Moose will be shot anyway. Need to get Fish & Game people to patrol more unauthorized hunters. Authorized guides did patrolling.
 - 10 **Undecided** Don't know how long moose will last. Need more control first, patrolling, too much meat and supplies left behind. Need joint understanding between village and guides--waste of meat needs to stop. We need less hunters and better controlling, so that future harvests are not damaged. Have people here be guides.

SOCIAL NEEDS

Problems/Issues		
<u>People said was an issue</u>		
52 Alcohol abuse	6 Depression	2 Drinking & Driving
41 Drug abuse	6 Speeding	1 STD's
16 Suicide	5 Neglect	1 School Attendance
10 Bootlegging	3 TV	1 Factionalism--family feuds
10 Alcohol availability to youth	3 Drug dealing	1 Spread of AIDS and STDs
8 Gossip	3 Child abuse	1 Murders
7 Domestic assault	2 Unemployment	1 Young men in jail

"I do believe we have no control over some of the corruptive things that come into our lives.

Appendix A continued: Survey results— social needs...

After all, it is each one of us at fault if any one of us falls" (61).

What do you feel needs to happen here?

People said

- | | |
|--|---|
| 62 More community gatherings/activities | 3 Counselor from outside |
| 27 Activities for young people | 2 Supporting service providers |
| 14 More communication--less grudges, judgments | 2 Building of self-esteem (especially men) |
| 8 Activities involving elders | 2 Clubs or activities for all ages |
| 8 More youth supervision/discipline--monthly status meetings, educate them, do community service, pay fines. | 2 Activities joining elders and youth |
| 7 Visit more | 2 Having healthy homes |
| 7 People supporting each other more | 2 Responsible, active parents |
| 6 More counseling--for kids on alcohol education and for people with problems | 1 Taking care of kids |
| 6 Workshops on all issues--good & bad | 1 Have kids appreciate being young |
| 5 Enforce curfew | 1 Walk and exercise together |
| 5 Getting along at gatherings, accomplishing something | 1 "Walking your talk" less hypocrisy |
| 5 Open about the sexual abuse that occurred before | 1 Meet with youth and help them with their problems |
| 5 More gatherings for adults | 1 Be open with teens on sexual feelings & awareness |
| 4 Activities without drugs or alcohol | 1 Learn forgiveness of self and others |
| 4 Getting people involved--parents especially | 1 Protection of elders |
| 3 Problem solving for alcohol abuse | 1 Help dispel peer pressure |
| 3 Activities & workshops for men (on relationships, parenting, etc....) | 1 Getting young men motivated |
| 3 Communication skills | 1 Gambling (pan) needs to be monitored |
| 3 Rebuild community trust | 1 A survey with young people to get their input |

Gatherings/Activities/Services

- Anything to bring people together
- Drug and alcohol free events
- Adult gatherings--men, women.
- Talking circles
- Teen meetings
- Bible study
- Anything involving humor
- Gatherings focused on learning--mind stimulating
- Old time activities
- Races
- Open recreation center
- More casino nights
- Bear parties, tea parties for women
- Games--hide & seek, football, capture flag
- Storytelling
- Cultural learning activities--putting in fish net, singing & dancing, potlatches, woodworking
- Violin dances & classes--square dancing
- B-ball games
- Church
- Sewing, how to build things--sleds, boats.
- More gym
- Tennis
- Skiing
- Summertime basketball tournaments
- Dances
- Trips to hot-springs
- Camping trips (HS)
- Talent night
- Library open time at school
- Game nights--board game, etc..
- Picnics
- More gatherings during the holidays
- All-hands
- Hunting together
- Monthly cover dish for birthdays
- Fun activities
- Exercise classes and weight training for adults
- Banquets for college graduates and those out of the armed forces
- Family recreation center
- Teach children to play instruments
- Project for volunteers to build something--playground or park
- Activities without gambling, drugs, or alcohol
- Reward banquets
- Mothers/Fathers banquet or picnic
- Sewing club
- Teach people how to run in snowshoes
- Family night at the gym
- Sliding down for community
- Movies on weekends

Appendix A continued:

Survey results— social needs & facilities...

- Contests-dancing
- Weekend games
- Time & money management training
- Spirit Camp

- Berry picking
- Kid's bingo with good prizes
- Craft making
- Carnivals

Suicide prevention Ideas

- Talk to the person, even one nice word
- Slow down on abuses
- Healthy drug and alcohol free events
- Spirit camps
- Big brother-big sister program
- New directions
- Young men talking circle-get men to open up
- Bible camp, believe in lord
- Not sending young people away
- Have AA meetings, but for Suicide Prevention
- Have 24 hour crisis line
- Address drug and alcohol abuse
- Counseling for both men and women
- Heart to heart talk with person--ourselves for that matter
- Activities for youth (preferably in recreation center)
- Anything
- Family, school, & social service teamwork
- Work with agencies with programs
- Have one emergency phone number
- Develop self worth through hands on programs
- Mentoring, requiring 1 on 1 or small groups
- Putting elders and kids together doing daily activities (youth learn values through example)
- Keep people working
- Start with people young
- Get the whole community involved
- Not comparing self as youth with young people today
- Storytelling
- Anti-depressants with counseling out of town
- Family of the suicidal person work together
- Programs involving the family on a more personal level
- Let people know how important they are
- Detoxification
- Group therapy
- Work with children of broken homes
- Task force
- Pamphlets, educating
- Send kids to different parts of the world to show them there's more to life
- Survival camp

FACILITIES

Do you think we need a:

Bigger clinic

- | | | |
|----|--------|--|
| 62 | yes | We have a large community. Sometimes it's too busy & no place to sit. Have doctors come here. Thin walls-no privacy. Include hospital beds, a room for visiting dentist and optometrist, an emergency room, and more training on serious injuries. |
| 17 | no | Health aides do well to keep up with latest methods. |
| 1 | unsure | |

Appendix A continued: Survey results— facilities...

New clinic

- 47 yes It's old. There's more workers and little space. May need another health aide later. Have more modern, life saving equipment. Have doctor visit more often. Have rest room and supplies separate. It's too costly to operate now. Could make a good jail. Need more private exam rooms. Sewer & water freeze.
- 16 no
- 2 unsure

Do you think we need a safe house?

- people said
- 94 yes should fix up old houses. Can also use as lodgings for profit. Also place for D/A free events. Everyone needs one some time. Have crisis line, VPSO 24 hour call, and someone to supervise the house and cases, have rules. "When there's drinking, the kids should be taken out of the home, because kids learn what they live" (25A). (We'll have part of the old Tribal office building for this)
- 8 no may not be safe, everyone knows. Don't think it would be feasible. Good friends everywhere.
- 5 unsure Lots of families supply this service already.

Do you think we need a public library?

- people said
- 88 yes People have books to donate. Place to get away and study. More variety. Shirley E. knows how to write grant for library. Computers. Good for summers. School library too juvenile. Could leave books in laundry mat. Specialize in native books. Elders who can't read so well can improve reading skills. Can have study time and storytelling times for youth. If it's combination library and cultural center. Nice to have encyclopedia and globe. Can start book club. Would like internet.
- 16 no School's adequate. Can get books from Fairbanks. Enlarge the school library--add more computers. Set up exchange system. It may get vandalized.
- 2 maybe The school gives access to us already. If we develop everything else first.

Do you think we need an activity building? What type of activities?

- people said
- 80 yes Crafts, games, relax, exercise, daycare, gym, pool, bowling alley, skating rink. Cultural school--tan hides, make birch sleds, wood working classes, carving, sewing, building snow-shoes. Suicide prevention, computers, volley ball, ping-pong, classes, TV, selling sports equipment, storytelling, weightlifting, darts, board games, pan, books, sauna, exercise equipment, career center, counseling center, fund raising, teaching how to prepare traditional foods, large enough for memorial potlatches.
- 7 no Although we do need a bigger dance hall.

Would you like to see more roads outside the village?

- people said
- 61 yes It'll create jobs. For tourists also. As long as they don't push in to adjacent land owners like state--they might extend.
- 9 Willow lake
- 5 hunting areas
- 3 to berry picking areas
- 2 extend end of road
- 2 Bear mountain
- 2 Clay bluff
- 2 extend recreation road
- 2 new direction
- 1 road along river to camps
- 1 sand bar
- 1 to lakes
- 1 Steve Attla's camp
- 1 along race track slough
- 1 walking trails
- 42 no Is there a map of the ones we have? This would invite trouble.

Would you like to see a road connecting our village to others?

- people said
- 90 no There are trails, improve those--even add shelter cabins. Nice being secluded, bigger problems may result--drugs & alcohol. Another access for outside hunters. Airplanes are good enough. Look at Minto. It will bring strangers here. More chance of accidents and deaths. Destroy land and animals. Have to build bridges. No way to regulate. State can connect. No roads is what makes Huslia special. Cost too much.
- 9 yes 2 Hughes, 1 Galena. Easier to travel, be connected, to visit & shop.
- 4 Maybe Hughes--no other. Anything to reduce importation costs.

Appendix A continued: Survey results— facilities...**How do you feel about the current facilities?****City office**

- 79 good Not enough couches, have separate offices, move post office. Will be better when VPSO and post office is moved. Put trophies behind glass (less dust).
 15 poor Too small. Shouldn't have jail there.
 12 excellent
 6 unknown

Hall

- 55 poor Too small. Would like kitchen, another stove or monitor & indoor bathroom, super insulated, more lights, safer porch, better wiring, better floor, and clean floor and coffee area.
 50 good Fix floor & walls are spreading. Bigger.
 9 excellent
 1 unknown

Water plant

- 64 poor Old, small, fix sewer lines--rust, freezes. Would like water & sewer in every home. Need worker who takes their job seriously (answers phone and removes quarters regularly), and knows how to fix the quality of water—it's yellow.
 too
 38 good
 7 unknown
 2 excellent

Laundry-mat

- 71 poor Town is getting bigger and it's old. It needs dryers, more washers and bathrooms, some-one to monitor, more space, proper showers, and a better location. Make it more modern.
 33 good More machines and even dryers.
 7 unknown
 2 excellent

Gas station

- 71 good small building, needs better pumps, bathroom, fence it in.
 21 excellent
 11 poor might make money if privately owned. Need a storage building. Check building is small and needs better ventilation.
 10 unknown

In-town roads

- 78 poor too sandy, dusty, bumpy, too many roads around town--cut some off, need winter speed bumps. Dust causes health problems, need water truck. Use old airport gravel to pave the roads.
 25 good rough but make people drive slow.
 2 excellent

Out-town roads

- 53 poor grate roads. People aware that driving off road destroys vegetation. Some spots dangerous, put up lights or reflectors, cut down trees & brush. Bumpy. Narrow. Short.
 40 good
 6 excellent
 3 unknown

What other buildings and roads would you like to see here?**People said**

- 30 Recreation center--up-to-date, pool table, stereo
 16 New airport--squeezed in.
 11 Elders home
 9 Elder bus--handicap ramp, on call driver
 8 Fix up old houses--weatherize
 7 More homes for those who need them
 6 Elders center
 6 Shop--mechanics, wood
 3 Daycare center
 6 Pool hall w/snack bar--a place to go
 5 Heated rest area at the Air field
 4 Cultural building
 4 Museum
 4 movie hall
 3 Bed & Breakfast
 3 Renovate old hall
 3 Improve baseball field

Appendix A continued:

Survey results— facilities & other...

- 3 Water truck
- 2 New land fill
- 2 Grow back birch & spruce trees around town
--PHS should do rehabilitation.
- 2 Fix Richard spring camp--better road,
build shelter, clear brush
- 2 Community gym
- 2 Recycling center
- 2 Cable TV for everyone
- 2 Fix the bank
- 1 Tourism building
- 1 Educate on trash disposal
- 1 Renovate city shop--add heat
- 1 Move city shop to the industrial area
- 1 A gazebo where the old light plant was
- 1 Better docking/boat launching area
- 1 Fish & Wildlife office owned by Tribal council
- 1 Move recreation center closer to town
- 1 Develop Environmental programs
- 1 Have about 3 VPSOs
- 1 More support for sports travel and tournaments
- 1 Attend to current heavy equipment
- 1 Orienteering course
- 1 Search & Rescue team with training
- 1 Airplane pilot training
- 1 Boat Safety training
- 1 Elders translator

- 1 Improve dump
- 1 Have practical technical services...repair, etc...
- 1 Sidewalk
- 1 Separate jail and city office
- 1 Camp areas
- 1 Ambulance
- 1 Houses to rent--for people or businesses
- 1 Search & rescue building
- 1 Computers in every house
- 1 Fish & Game check station
- 1 Certified nurse or train one of the health aides
- 1 Tear down old buildings
- 1 An "Old Minto" for the Koyukuk river
- 1 New school
- 1 Fire prevention plan
- 1 Drug & Alcohol treatment center
- 1 Mental health building
- 1 School bus
- 1 More gardening
- 1 Post office has its own building
- 1 Create internet resources
- 1 Car/truck rentals
- 1 Fire Station
- 1 Move big equipment to safe, enclosed spot
- 1 Place to clean old oil out of machines to prevent spills.
 - A. Create a plan
 - B. Find the money for the plan
 - C. Do it

OTHER

What should be our first priority?

	1st Priority	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th
Cultural Education	38	26	19	10	7		
Formal Education	29	28	21	12	6	6	
H&S wellness	27	21	28	19	4	3	
Land Issues	18	8	16	26	16	10	
Infrastructure	6	5	3	12	27	42	
Economy	3	11	10	13	26	31	1
Build non-polluting environment						1	
Take care of elders							1
True self-governance	1						

Why live here?

Because it's our home, this is paradise. We are socially healthy. We can learn our culture. Not as much drinking as other places. It's comfortable. Raised here. Because of the close relationships and family. It also has a better job environment and education for the jobs available here. Quiet--away from a hectic lifestyle. I own my own house and have a job. It's better than the city, because you need less money and can live off the land. No smog!

"If we don't, natives are history!" (10A).

"Because it is a beautiful place to raise children" (12A).

"(There's) nothing to live here for, but some people like living here while some don't" (18A).

"Us old-timer's have to live here, but the new generations should get educated and a good job so that they can live anywhere they want" (18B).

"I've been almost all over the world and Huslia is the best place for me" (21A).

"Going to the city is good once in a while, but to live there would be out of the question for some of us, especially the elders. I plan to remain in the village forever. Kids grow up too fast in the city and lots of them bring negative things back to the vil-

Strategy continued, Infrastructure...

lage" (25A).

"I love the village lifestyle. It's a relaxing atmosphere. I have lived in a large city outside for four years and I do not wish to ever live in a large city again. I intend to enjoy my life here in Huslia. It's nice to have around people you know and can trust. It's safe (most of the time) to leave your door unlocked" (48B).

"I've lived here longer than any place else in my 48 years. This is home. It's safe, I know the dangers. I know who to trust. I want to always have a home here, even if I establish a home elsewhere" (36).

"Even if it means living without certain things, Id's still live in the village. My native tradition is more important to me than anything the city has to offer" (42).

"I love village life. I enjoy traveling all over as long as I know I can come back to village life. I plan to retire here, travel a bit, but use Huslia as home base" (63).

"Fairbanks or a big city has too much drugs and booze. Here in Huslia we have more freedom and land to run around" (54A).

"For now it's OK, it's like a base camp for me" (62B).

What are your long term goals?

People said

- | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| 74 Live here | 5 Live elsewhere | 1 Learn about land and people |
| 13 Raise children here | 4 Join the armed forces | 1 Preach the bible |
| 12 Go to school | 3 Have a family | 1 Become a grade school teacher |
| 12 Start a business/self-employed | 2 Be around family | 1 Live a vibrant & healthy life |
| 8 Make a positive effect | 2 Unknown | 1 Live to be 150 |
| 8 Work here | 1 Become a millionaire | 1 Work in a challenging field |
| 7 Preserve lifestyle and culture | 1 Get a job and support my son | 1 Live long & prosperous |
| 7 Help get our kids get educated | 1 Instill learning values with my kids | 1 Build a dome cabin on my own lot |

What is your role here in the village?

people said

- | | | | |
|------------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 20 Role model | 3 Create a safe & healthy environment | 1 Teach the ways of the mountains | 1 Smoker |
| 13 Help others | 3 To assist and enlighten | 1 Spiritual advisor | 1 Tribal council member |
| 9 Elder | 3 Young people's friend | 1 Gives advice | 1 Help with tribal issues |
| 8 Educator | 2 Work w/parents of small children | 1 Busybody | 1 From Huslia |
| 6 Good parent | 2 Protect & serve | 1 Godfather | 1 Young adult |
| 5 Worker | 2 Motivator | 1 Storyteller | 1 Performer |
| 4 Keep to myself | 2 Active in sports | 1 Trapper & hunter | 1 Carver |
| 3 Help elders | 2 Friend | 1 Foster grandparent | 1 Counselor |
| 3 Leader | 1 Kick out bootleggers | 1 Woodworker | 1 Health care provider |
| | | 1 Another bump on the log | 3 Unknown |

Would you like to help with community planning?

People said

- | | |
|----|-----|
| 90 | Yes |
| 10 | No |

Is there anything you would like to add that has not been addressed?

Person said

- 1 Would like to have research done on:
 - Veterans--rank, type, medals, specialization, years served.
 - College graduates--attended, type of degree, job now.
- 1 Teach our young people to respect our elders and even the elders to respect our people.
- 1 Spiritual questions--what church or group we go to and why.
- 1 We need to prepare for the Y2000 computer bug
- 1 "We are entering an age where we are going to have more free time to fully enjoy the environment here in the Arctic" (61).
- 1 "Huslia is a strong community. We are on the right road to recovering some community strengths" (63).
- 1 How do we keep our college graduates in the village?

Appendix A continued:

Survey results— other...

Total:		Did Survey	Didn't Survey	Enrolled in tribe	Not enrolled	Native	Caucasian
Adults	155	122	33	132	23	--	--
All Members	274	240	34	--	--	257	17

Appendix B: Small Business list

On the survey a number of people noted an interest in starting their own business. Those people are listed below and the list can be used when scheduling small business training in Huslia.

NAME	BUSINESS	NEEDS	SPECIFIC TRAINING
1 Rocky Peters	Restaurant	\$, skills, information	
2 Francis Esmailka	Restaurant		
3 Kathleen Sam	B&B or Restaurant		
4 Valerie Sam	Bed & Breakfast	\$	
5 Eleanor Sam	Bed & Breakfast	training	accounting
6 Ava Vent	Bed & Breakfast		
7 Speedy Sam	Bed & Breakfast		
8 Cesa Sam	Bed & Breakfast		
9 Jeneva Sam	Coffee shop		
10 Beverly Sam	Cooking		
11 Wilson Sam		training	
12 Rosie Edwin		\$,training	computers
13 Terri Edwin		\$,supplies, support	
14 Brenda Ernst			cost-supply/production
15 Fred L. Bifelt		training	accounting
16 Tom & Darlene Henry			
17 Hudson Sam Jr.			
18 Benny Attla			
19 Sharon Jimmy			
20 Tony Sam Jr.			
21 Chris Simon			
22 David F. Vent			
23 Sue Vent		\$,training	small business management, computers
24 Donovan Williams			
25 Darrell Sam	Pool hall	license	
26 William Sommer	Pool hall		
27 Elsie Vent	Pool hall	training, starting	accounting
28 Agnes Dayton	Involving teens		
29 Shirley Esmailka	Clothing store		

Appendix B continued: Small Business llist...

30	Farmer Vent	Clothing store	\$.starting	
31	Nathan Vent	Clothing store		
32	Karen Esmailka	Outfitters		
33	Rudy Sommer	Boat touring	license	
34	Warner Vent Sr.	Touring		
35	Vina Bilow	Thrift store		
36	Audrey Bifelt	Craft export	training	small business management, computers
37	Elvis Sam	cottage industry		
38	Leon Nollner	Carving		
39	William Derendoff	Carving	tools, contacts	
40	Jeff Sam	Carving		
41	Michelle Bifelt	Pottery		
42	George Yaska Sr.	Woodworking		
43	Charlotte Bifelt	Arts & Crafts		
44	Alberta Vent	Arts & Crafts	backing	
45	Tina Sam	Arts & Crafts		
46	Hudson Sam Sr.	Firearms		
47	Sophie Peters	Salon		
48	Darrell Vent Sr.	Electronic equip.	equipment	
49	Peter Mark Jr.	Snow-go shop		
50	Robert Farmer	Shop		
51	Donald Weter	Mechanics shop		
52	Leonard Sam	Gas & Oil bus.	4, training	management
53	Orville Huntington	Consultant		
54	Sharon Strict	Bead supplier,B & B, Shoeshoe / mushing touring		
55	Grady Revis	W/Resources--pike fishing net		

2.0 COMMUNITY DATA

Background information on Huslia's history, physical and environmental features, and land status is presented in this section. Sources for this section include the *Feasibility Study for Wastewater Collection and Disposal*" (CRW, 1990) and the Alaska Community Database Online web site (Alaska Department of Community and Economic Development [DCED], 2000).

2.1 LOCATION

Huslia is located on the northwest bank of the Koyukuk River about 160 miles upriver from the Village of Koyukuk (Figure 2-1). The community is about 170 river miles and 70 air miles north by northeast from Galena and 280 air miles west by northwest from Fairbanks. Latitude and longitude are 65° 35' N and 156° 30' W. Huslia is situated in T3N and T4N, R12E, Kateel River Meridian.

2.2 HISTORY AND ECONOMY

Huslia is an Athabascan community. Historically, the Koyukon Athabascans lived between the south fork of the Koyukuk and the Kateel rivers. They had seasonal camps to follow fish and game and traveled between the Yukon and the Kobuk rivers. Contact with Russian explorers occurred in the 1840s, and missionaries arrived in the 1870s. The Cutoff Trading Post, also known as Old Town, was established in the 1920s about 4 miles overland or 16 river miles upstream from modern Huslia. In the early 1950s, the community moved to the present site, and a school, post office, and airport were established.



Huslia residents depend on both subsistence activities and cash incomes for their livelihoods. Subsistence food harvesting is practiced by most residents with salmon, whitefish, moose, bear, caribou, small game, waterfowl, and berries as important food sources. The school and local government provide most of the income to residents. Employers include the City of Huslia, Yukon/Koyukuk School District, the health clinic, various air services, stores, tribal employment, and the U.S. Postal Service. Seasonal employment includes construction activities and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) fire-fighting positions.



2.3 CLIMATE

Huslia is located near the Arctic Circle in Interior Alaska. The area has a continental climate with long, cold winters; short hot summers; and relatively light precipitation. The prevailing winds are from the north and are generally light.

There is no record of a weather station at Huslia. The following environmental data for the Huslia area are from the Environmental Atlas of Alaska (Hartman and Johnson, 1984):

Mean annual precipitation, inches	15
Mean annual snowfall, inches	60
Mean annual temperature, degrees F	25
Thawing index, degree days	2,500
Freezing index, degree days	6,000
Design freezing index (1 year in 10)	7,300

The thawing index, or degree days above freezing, is a measure of thawing that occurs in a year. The freezing index, or degree days below freezing, can be used to calculate the depth of ground freezing during the winter and the thickness of ice formation on a lake. Freezing index for design purpose is the most severe freezing index in the most recent 10-year period.

2.4 HYDROGEOLOGY

Huslia is located in the Koyukuk Flats, an area of extensive lowlands generally centered around the junction of the Yukon and Koyukuk rivers. The area is characterized by flat floodplains, marshes, sinks, thaw lakes, meandering streams, and muskeg-type vegetation. The area is composed of generally well-sorted floodplain, terrace, and alluvial fan deposits. Figure 2-2 is a topographical relief map that shows the elevation changes and generalized surface water drainage patterns.

Unconsolidated deposits of sand, silt, and clay underlie Huslia. According to geologic investigations performed by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) (Patton, 1966), the soils in the immediate area of the city consist of modified eolian (wind-blown) sand deposits. Patterns of elongated dunes are visible from aerial photographs in the area southeast of the existing runway. These dune deposits consist of relatively well-sorted fine- to medium-grained sand with some silt but little gravel or clay.

Adjacent to and underlying the eolian deposits are older floodplain deposits consisting of reworked eolian sand and micaceous silt and clay. The floodplain deposits are visible in aerial photographs as arcuate (curved like a bow) sandbars; abandoned channels; and oxbow (U-shaped) lakes to the north, west (across the Koyukuk River), and southeast of the community adjacent to the river. The floodplain deposits were formed as the Koyukuk River meanders across the area and erodes and redeposits the existing unconsolidated material.

Bedrock is not exposed in the vicinity of Huslia although exposures located approximately 7 miles to the south consist of andesitic volcanic rocks of Jurassic or Cretaceous age. These rocks probably underlie the floodplain deposits at depths greater than 250 feet. Permafrost is reported in the regional area but not in the immediate vicinity of Huslia.

2.5 SOIL CONDITIONS AND BORROW SOURCES

Most of the townsite is located on a sandy, silty bench about 20 feet above summer river water levels. Soils are classified from silty sands to sandy silts and extend about 200 feet down to clay. Clay lenses intersperse the generally sandy matrix.

Frost level is estimated to penetrate 7.5 to 8 feet in the permafrost-free sand bench on which the village is located. A low-lying area just west of the village contains permafrost and has an active layer of 2 to 3 feet.

The borrow source for the construction of the old airport was from a gravel bar in the Koyukuk River about 10 air miles (22 river miles) upstream from Huslia. For the new airport, in-situ silty-sandy material was used in a cut-and-fill operation to construct the sub-base. The surfacing material for the new airport was blasted from volcanic bedrock ridges (consisting of basalt, andesite, and tuff) located 12 miles south of Huslia near Roundabout Mountain; the material was hauled on a winter haul road, was stockpiled, and will be crushed to produce a gradation suitable for the runway surface. According to the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF), this site holds much rock resource for future material acquisition.

2.6 FLOOD, EROSION, AND EARTHQUAKE HAZARDS

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Floodplain Management Services, indicates that flood hazard is low at the townsite (USACE, 1993). High water in the Koyukuk occurs during spring breakup, but the location of the community on the sandy, silty bench is generally high enough to escape flooding. In the spring of 1989, high water topped the old lagoon and washed out its westerly side. The Alaskan Communities Flood Hazard Data (USACE, 2000) indicates that a floodplain information report has not been prepared for Huslia.

Erosion is a serious problem in Huslia. Past erosion control and bank stabilization efforts have been largely unsuccessful. Several homes that were near the riverbank have been relocated due to continuing erosion.

Erosion, however, has not been consistent; therefore, it is difficult to predict future erosion lines. Three studies have included estimates of erosion rates.

- The primary project summary from the 1962 Public Health Service (PHS) project (USPHS, 1964) stated, "The riverbank is eroding at a rate of about 50 feet each year, and represents a serious erosion problem that might respond to river control."
- The 1973 PHS project summary (USPHS, 1980) stated, "The City has faced problems of bank erosion in the past and several houses have been relocated due to the erosion activities of the river. Within the past six years, however, the riverbank erosion has decreased because of the deposition of a sandbar in front of the City."
- A 1990 wastewater collection and disposal feasibility study (CRW, 1990) depicted an estimated erosion line on maps of alternatives. No details were provided on how the line was estimated.

Figure 2-3 shows the past, present, and predicted riverbank lines and the 1990 CRW estimated erosion line. The location of the predicted riverbank line was estimated based on an average of 10-foot per year erosion rate. Natural progression of the river bed alignment is highly unpredictable; therefore, all projections are merely speculative. However, development in the erosion zone should still be avoided due to the potential loss.

Huslia is in Seismic Hazard Zone 3 (Uniform Building Code, 1997). Earthquakes greater than a magnitude 6 are possible in this zone and could cause major structural damage.

2.7 ACCESS

There are no roads to Huslia, and access is limited to air and river. The community's existing 3,800-foot gravel runway is equipped with navigational lights that are aligned northeast/southwest. The runway is adequate for most aircraft of small and medium size. Scheduled flights are available from Fairbanks, and charter flights are available from Galena and Tanana as well as Fairbanks. DOT&PF is replacing the existing runway with a new gravel 4,000-foot airport runway. The nearly complete runway, however, cannot be opened until the existing solid waste site, in proximity to the new runway, is relocated to meet FAA separation distance standards. Yutana Barge Lines provides barge service from Nenana in the spring and the fall.

There are more than 20 miles of sand/gravel roads and trails in and around Huslia. All-terrain vehicles, snowmachines, and small boats are the primary means of transportation in the local area. The existing roadway layout in Huslia is somewhat irregular. The unnamed gravel roads have not been designed or constructed to a standard service level.

The Huslia Tribal Council has applied for a FY 2002 grant from the federal Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to pay for roadwork; the grant, if received, would also pay for dust control measures and construction of the new airport road. The TCC's Planning and Development Department expects to prepare an economic development plan for 39 communities within Interior Alaska, including Huslia. The plan will address existing community facilities and needs including roadway needs for communities requesting BIA and DOT&PF funding.

2.8 HOUSING, AND COMMERCIAL AND PUBLIC FACILITIES

There are 116 housing units in Huslia, 93 of which are occupied and 23 are vacant or seasonally vacant. The percentage of occupied residences having piped water and sewer service is 77 percent. Table 2-1 is a complete list of the residential and non-residential units in Huslia. Table 2-2 summarizes this list. Figures 2-4 and 2-5 show buildings and residences in Huslia with the homeowner and house number denoted.

There are a total of 21 non-residential units in Huslia. The public facilities include the water treatment plant, high school and elementary school, health clinic, city office, tribal council community building, library/vocational education, Head Start, Post Office, State of Alaska garage/warehouse, and Catholic church. Commercial buildings include R&M Mercantile and

2.10 PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION

Huslia was incorporated as a second class city in 1969. The City functions under a City Council and Mayor form of government. The Yukon/Koyukuk School District operates the Jimmy Huntington School (preschool through 12) in Huslia.

The following information provides the roles of the different administrative bodies and agencies in Huslia and their contact information.

2.10.1 City of Huslia

The City Council consists of seven elected members. The mayor, vice-mayor, and secretary are elected by and from the council. The City operates and maintains the electrical power system, washeteria, water and sewer systems, solid waste site, public roads, and community building. It also provides services for public safety, public improvements, planning, and culture-recreation.

Contact: Elsie Vent, City Administrator
City of Huslia
P.O. Box 10
Huslia, AK 99746
Phone: (907) 829-2266

2.10.2 Huslia Tribal Council

The Huslia Tribal Council is a recognized tribe within the State of Alaska. The Huslia Tribal Council consists of seven elected members. The First Chief and Second Chief are elected by and from the council. The Huslia Tribal Council is a nonprofit organization that maintains the following community and social service programs: Education and Employment, Tribal Family and Youth Services, the Teen Center, and the Elder's Nutrition Center.

The Huslia Tribal Council is involved in securing community grants and program assistance through the ANTHC/IHS self-governance compacting program and through the Tanana Chiefs Conference. Currently, the Huslia Tribal Council is operating the Huslia Environmental Program under a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region 10, which facilitates a waste management safety program for the landfill. The Huslia Tribal Council has recently applied for a 2002 BIA road improvements grant for dust control and other road improvements to the new airport. The Huslia Tribal Council also applied for an Alaska Native Association (ANA) grant for a new health clinic and multipurpose building to be located at the existing airport after it is no longer in service.

Contact: *William Devendoff*
~~Jackie Wholecheese~~, First Chief
~~Lorraine Vent~~, Tribal Administrator
Huslia Tribal Council
P.O. Box 70
Huslia, AK 99746
Phone: (907) 829-2294

2.11 LAND STATUS

Land status information for this Master Plan was researched through various agencies including the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, the State Recorder's office, the Interior Regional Housing Authority, the Village Corporation, and the BLM. Individual land title ownership research was not conducted for this plan; instead, land status information reported in this plan was researched through community-wide planning efforts and may not be the most current available information.

The various land owners in Huslia include Doyon, Ltd. (the regional corporation), the Village Corporation, the City, the State of Alaska, and private land owners. The Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge surrounds the community; however, Huslia is excluded from the refuge and from management control. The City of Huslia is not within the Alaska Coastal Zone or any local coastal zone district. Figure 2-8 is the land status map of Huslia as indicated by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) 14 (c) boundary map for the BLM, further described below. Additional land status information is included in Appendix A.

2.11.1 ANCSA 14(c)

ANCSA became Public Law 92-203 by action of the 92nd Congress on December 18, 1971. ANCSA established a federal government-Native Alaskan relationship to recognize widespread traditional lands of the Alaska Native people and their rights to inherited ownership. Each Village Corporation receives an Interim Conveyance until such time that the selected lands are surveyed, and then a patent will be issued from the BLM (USDOI, 1992). ANCSA also recognizes land reconveyance to individuals [14(c)(1)] and nonprofit groups [14(c)(2)] and community functions and/or land needs for municipalities [14(c)(3)] and airport activities [14(c)(4)]. On September 29, 1983, the surface estate land rights in Huslia (excluding tract Survey No. 4211) were transferred from the BLM to the Village Corporation, K'oyitlots'ina Limited (K'oyitlots'ina); and the subsurface estate rights to the Regional Corporation, Doyon Limited (Doyon).

A Registered Land Surveyor executed the Huslia ANCSA 14(c) survey for the TCC on August 24 through September 13, 2000. The survey was approved and land title was transferred. The transfer was recorded November 2, 2001 in Nulato, the local recording district. The survey information is included in Appendix A.

Contact: Bureau of Land Management
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, AK 99513
Phone: (907) 271-5606

2.11.2 K'oyitlots'ina, Limited

The Village Corporation, K'oyitlots'ina, has jurisdictional interests that include four villages: Allakaket, Alatna, Hughes, and Huslia. K'oyitlots'ina is the major surface land rights holder for the four villages. Siting of any new infrastructure on existing Village Corporation land requires an agreement or deed transaction from the Village Corporation.

Contact: K'oyitlots'ina, Limited
1603 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99709
Phone: (907) 452-8119

2.11.3 Doyon, Limited

Huslia's Regional Native Corporation is Doyon. Doyon has subsurface land rights on all lands within Huslia. Subsurface activities conducted on Huslia lands such as extraction of borrow source and gravel material must be coordinated with Doyon.

Contact: Doyon, Limited
201 1st Avenue
Fairbanks, AK
Phone: (907) 459-2000

2.11.4 Interior Regional Housing Authority

The Interior Regional Housing Authority (IRHA) completed the construction of 24 houses in Huslia in 1998 under the terms of a land lease agreement with K'oyitlots'ina and the homebuyer. Individual parcels in the town area and a subdivision north of the airport runway were staked and surveyed in 1994 for IRHA housing development. However, these plats, which are named "Parcels 1 through 18" and "Parcel F Subdivision", were never recorded in the Nulato Recording District; therefore, it appears that the ANCSA 14(c) survey will supersede these lots.

The current program that IRHA uses to assist in housing improvements or developments is called the Tribal Equity Assistance Mortgage program. This program is a self-help program, and individuals who are seeking low-rate mortgages must initiate assistance from IRHA. At this time, IRHA does not have any housing development plans for Huslia.

Contact: Interior Regional Housing Authority
828 27th Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701-6918
Phone: (907) 452-8315

2.12 AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH AND MAPPING

Available aerial photography and mapping was used in preparation of this Master Plan. The following list includes the most recent information available for Huslia:

- AeroMap U.S., Inc. (AeroMap) aerial photography of Huslia (1996)
- AeroMap for Arctic Slope Consulting Group (ASCG), Inc., topography with 2-foot contour intervals (produced from 1996 aerial photography)
- AVEC, electric power plant and utilities (1999)
- BLM, ANCSA 14(c) Reconveyance Property Map (2001)

- USGS Topography Map of the Kateel River Quadrangle (Section C-5)
- USGS Regional Geology Map of the Kateel River Quadrangle, Alaska (1966)
- USGS Reconnaissance Geology Map of the Kateel River Quadrangle, Alaska (1957)

All of these maps, except for those produced by AeroMap, are public information. The photography and topography should be purchased from AeroMap.

Most of Huslia's existing development, including the airports, trails, and landfill, is included within coverage of the topography mapping by AeroMap. This topography map contains most of the coverage for future anticipated development within the design period of the Master Plan and should be suitable for future design work presented in the plan. However, the proposed location of the new landfill site (located south of the new airport runway) is not included in this map; therefore, further mapping will be required for the landfill design work. Photogrammetry mapping using the 1996 aerial photo for producing 2-foot contour intervals would be suitable for the new landfill design. Also, updating the aerial photography would be useful for to measure riverbank erosion since 1996.

3.0 PLANNING CRITERIA AND COMMUNITY INPUT

The conditions and assumptions used to analyze and compare options for water, wastewater, and solid waste improvements are described in this section.

3.1 PLANNING PERIOD

This Master Plan will consider a 20-year planning period, from 2001 to 2021.

3.2 PAST AND FUTURE POPULATION TRENDS

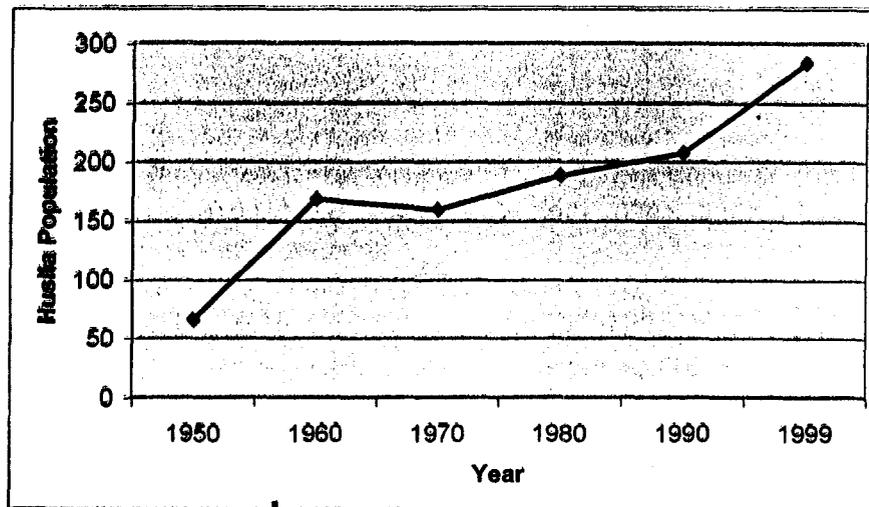
The population of Huslia has fluctuated somewhat over the years, but has generally grown fairly steadily, as shown by Table 3-1 and Figure 3-1, which are derived from U.S. Census Bureau data.

Table 3-1 Population History

Year	Huslia Population
1950	65
1960	168
1970	159
1980	188
1990	207
1999	283

Growth has been fairly steady since the 1980 census reported 188 persons in Huslia (Figure 3-1). The 1999 population of 283 persons in Huslia in 1999 represents slightly over 2 percent annual growth since 1980.

Figure 3-1 Historical Population



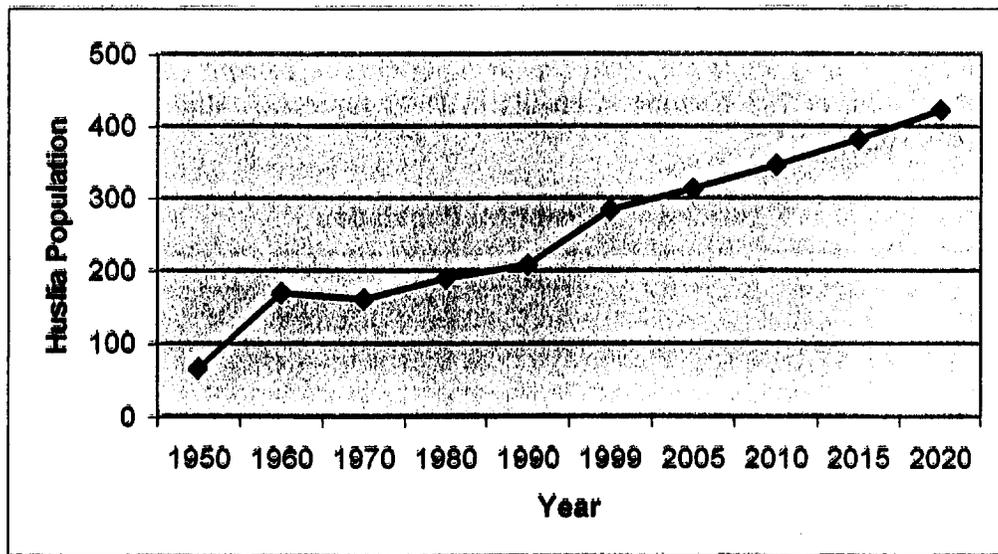
3.3 FUTURE POPULATION FORECASTS

The annual growth rate of 2 percent will be used to project future population levels. The actual population in the future will depend on economic conditions, particularly the availability of employment, but a steady growth rate based on the trend from the recent past is a reasonable approximation. Table 3-2 and Figure 3-2 show the projected population growth for Huslia over the next 20 years.

Table 3-2 Population Projection

Year	Population	Source
1950	65	Historical
1960	168	Historical
1970	159	Historical
1980	188	Historical
1990	207	Historical
1999	283	Historical
2005	312	Projected at 2% annual growth
2010	345	Projected at 2% annual growth
2015	381	Projected at 2% annual growth
2020	421	Projected at 2% annual growth

Figure 3-2 Projected Population



3.4 CURRENT AND PROJECTED WATER DEMANDS

During the December 2000 community visit, water meter records for the period of June through October, a period of 136 days, were examined. The "well water meter," located between the

greensand filter and the potable water storage tank, records all of the water pumped from the well with the exception of the water "drained to waste" at the end of the filter backwash cycle. This number reflects the quantity of water that is treated. The well water meter readings indicate that 14,365 gallons per day are treated. Based on the current population of 283 persons, this means that approximately 51 gallons of water requiring treatment are generated per person per day.

The meter, which is located between the pressure tank and the entrance to the two distribution loops, records all of the water that enters the circulating water distribution system. The water meter readings indicate 13,879 gallons per day are used from the water system, or 49 gallons per person per day.

The difference between treated and consumed water values of 486 gallons per day should account for the treated water used for backwashing the filter and all water used at the washeteria. This value is somewhat lower than expected. The filter is backwashed at approximately 90 gpm for 20 to 30 minutes once or twice a day. Assuming the average of these values, 2,250 gallons would be used for backwash daily.

The most likely explanation is that one or both of the water meters are not accurate. The calculated water consumption value of 49 gallons per person per day is, however, a reasonable number. For comparison, the Cold Regions Utilities Monograph (ASCE, 1996) suggests 60 gallons per person per day as a design value for piped water and sewer systems.

For planning purposes, 60 gallons per person per day was used as the design criteria water demand with an additional 10 percent allowance for filter backwashing.

Applying the 20-year projected population of 421 persons, the design future water consumption demand (year 2021) is 25,260 gallons per day, and the design water production rate, including backwash water, is 28,000 gallons per day. This is equal to approximately a 20-gpm water treatment rate over 23 hours per day. Future demand predictions are based on the assumption that all houses will be served by the City water and sewer system. The demand will be lower if the population growth rate is less than predicted or if houses remain unserved by the City system.

3.5 CURRENT AND PROJECTED WASTEWATER GENERATION

Wastewater volume in Huslia is closely related to water demand. Currently, the backwash water and other water used in the washeteria enter the wastewater collection system. The only difference between the quantities of water used and wastewater collected would be:

- Leaks in the water distribution system.
- Piped water that did not go into the collection system.
- Water from other sources, such as rainwater, that did go into the collection system.

Assuming that the groundwater infiltration or wastewater losses through the pipe and manholes are minor, the current wastewater generation should be close to the 14,000 gallons per day of water use as described in the previous section. It is expected that the design future wastewater generation will be 28,000 gallons per day.

3.6 COMMUNITY SURVEY

A questionnaire for a community survey was developed for collecting viewpoints on sanitation issues from residents of Huslia. The purpose of the study was to poll residents of their opinion regarding water, wastewater, and solid waste facilities to identify and address the community concerns and desires for planning guidance for the Master Plan.

Dorothy Yatin, as community representative, conducted the door-to-door survey that started February 2001. A total of 60 surveys were completed for the project. Although not all residents were available to comment on the survey, the 60 surveys, representing 36 percent of the population 18 years and older, provide a reasonably good reflection of the community public opinion.

The survey was used to determine:

- Population information (age and number of people in household)
- Utility expenses
- Drinking water usage
- Opinion on water quality
- Domestic wastewater and solid waste disposal
- Washeteria usage
- Local input on public health issues
- Opinion on future sanitation improvements and priorities
- Opinion on affordability and preferred payment methods

3.6.1 Significant Findings of Survey

According to the survey, the most important community sanitation issue facing Huslia is water supply and distribution, followed closely by the collection and disposal of sewage. Of the surveys received, 85 percent of households have piped water and sewer service. The rest of households rely on either self-hauling water from the washeteria watering point, collecting rainwater, or melting snow. Fifteen (15) percent of households are not connected to the sewer system and have either pit privies or are connected to a septic system for wastewater disposal.

Most residents remarked that the most-needed sanitation improvement in Huslia is to improve drinking water quality, followed by building a new washeteria. The residents ranked equal priority on relocating the existing solid waste site, extending piped water and sewer systems, and developing a back-up water source as a third priority. The need for water and sewer main extensions ranked last likely due to the large percentage (85 percent) already on the City system. Households not on the system ranked water quality improvements as their first priority concern. Many residents expressed their dissatisfaction over drinking water quality. They expressed concerns about the taste and odor problems, which may be causing higher than normal incidence of stomachaches, diarrhea, and skin rashes. The water is also staining fixtures and laundry.

Survey results show that all residents are in favor of a new WTP and washeteria building, including laundry amenities such as dryers (which are not available in the current washeteria). The wastewater lagoon was cited by most residents as being too close to town, homes, and to berry-picking areas. The location was less objectionable to residents living further away from the site. For solid waste disposal, residents both self-haul garbage to the solid waste site and use burn barrels. Ninety-four (94) percent surveyed support the proposed location for the new landfill and 79 percent are in favor of an organized solid waste collection service. Although some are open to paying for solid waste collection, about a fifth of those surveyed feel that the service should be free of charge.

Finally, most residents pay over \$500 for monthly utility bills that include significantly high fuel oil and electricity costs. Most remarked that the current rate of \$75 per month for water and sewer service is as much as they would be able to afford if the facilities are improved; and some cannot even afford the current rate. Some would support paying more for water and sewer services if the facilities were upgraded. The summary of results from the survey questionnaire as well as comments provided by the individuals surveyed can be found in Appendix B.