

KOYUKUK

Situation Description: There are three types of serious threats/impacts facing Koyukuk –erosion, flooding and fires. The entire village of Koyukuk lies within the floodplain of the Yukon River. Erosion occurs during anytime the river is open and specifically during high flow events on the Yukon River. These events happen throughout the year, including floods during spring breakup ice jam events; spring/ summer/fall significant rainfall events; wind and permafrost melt at Koyukuk and upstream. These floods are often severe, inundating a majority of the Village and sometimes requiring evacuation of citizens to other villages. These problems have been persistent and serious enough – often flood warnings provide only a 2 hour window to evacuate – that the community has begun planning efforts to relocate themselves to higher ground above the floodplain of the Yukon River upon nearby Koyukuk Mountain.

Overarching Problem: No definite timeline or authorities for erosion control and/or relocation makes it difficult to plan for needed erosion control projects and relocation. It’s difficult to coordinate and focus resources.

| What projects have or are being done to address imminent threat | Hurdles/problems or inadequacies of each project Other efforts/projects/communications needed | Needed information/data |
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| <p>Project 1: Suite of Emergency Plans and Training/Drills Emergency Operations, Community Evacuation, Hazard Mitigation Fire</p> <p>Agency Lead: DMVA/DHSEM; others along with leadership and coordination by the Koyukuk community.</p> <p>IAW Recommends Completion Date: ASAP – no later than 12/31/08. Work has already been started.</p> | <p>IAW Comments: The Suite of Emergency Plans is the most immediate, most near-term and cost effective mechanism to reduce the risk of loss to lives and property.</p> <p>Community will need technical assistance to complete this project.</p> <p>The State needs the federal agencies to provide the weather, tidal and horizontal and vertical control data mandated so the State can meet its FEMA, CZMA and other mandates.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Data for developing emergency and other community plans. (EM is familiar with the data needed.) - Horizontal and vertical control data for establishing plans for relocation and evacuation routes based on what flood levels have historically happened. - Weather observation stations should be established and tied into the current, closest data collection sites for monitoring weather-related storm data whether from ice jams, seasonal river rise, storms, storm surges or floods. -A template to develop plan is available on DMVA/DHSEM’s website - YRITC Model may be useful too - Integrate with Western Communities Evacuation Plan |

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| <p>Project 2: Community needs to review Corps Recommendations Report that was recently provided to Koyukuk community.</p> <p>Lead: Koyukuk Tribe</p> <p>Others involved: Corps for clarification and Q&A. A representative of the IAW was also requested to attend.</p> <p>IAW Recommendation: Tribal Council, City, Village Corporation, local School District and Corps schedule a date for this meeting within next 2 months. (possibly with IAW representative)</p> | | |
| <p>Project 3: Koyukuk Emergency Shelter Conceptual Design</p> <p>Lead: Koyukuk Tribal Council</p> <p>Others involved: Various</p> <p>Completion date: Meeting between Koyukuk community and Corps will help to identify this.</p> | <p>IAW Comments: Recommended actions/next steps for the Shelter have been provided to the Community by the Corps in the report identified in Project 2. If Koyukuk wants to move forward with the Corps recommendation, then studies (geological, etc.) need to be conducted to ensure the selected site is satisfactory. (see Evacuation Road).</p> <p>A project cooperation agreement will need to be signed between the community and the Corps. Recent experience with similar projects shows this is not a significant effort.</p> <p>A clear process for site assessment, etc. along with a funding strategy will need to be developed.</p> <p>Permitting and environmental coordination is ongoing. No significant issues have arisen for ESA, wetlands, or SHPO, though coordination will continue.</p> | |

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| <p>Project 4: Evacuation Road Design and Construction to upgrade out of floodplain</p> <p>Current Road only to Rock Quarry beyond Airport</p> | <p>IAW Comments: The current adequacy of the Evacuation Road is unclear. Need to clarify with DOT/PF crew, who was in the community in 2006 when flood hit, if road needs to be elevated.</p> <p>Tribal Administrator believes that riprap along the lower part of the road near the river is all that's needed. Portions of the airport were done in 2006.</p> <p>IAW Recommendations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through inter-agency and local coordination identify cost savings by aligning timing of projects requiring heavy equipment. - State should establish a fund to ensure match is available to attract federal funds for Alaska projects. - Find/develop Western Alaska rock source to reduce costs - Local coordinator is needed to assist with planning efforts and project alignment. | <p>Need data on adequacy of road during flood – is it useable for evacuation purposes?</p> |
| <p>Project 5: Community Relocation Plan</p> <p>Lead: Koyukuk</p> <p>Completion date: Date can't be determined until funding source identified/authorized</p> | <p>Koyukuk- Tribe, City, School and Village Corp need to form local planning committee – soon/ASAP. If funding for a Relocation Planning effort is to be acquired, then local planning committee needs to request funds/assistance.</p> <p>Community will need technical assistance from DCCED and others.</p> <p>Funding will be needed to hire a contractor to work with the community and develop the plan.</p> | <p>A “how to” guide (or recipe) for all the ingredients and steps needed to develop a relocation plan needs to be detailed.</p> <p>IAW Recommendation: Based on the Newtok Planning Group's experience, document and provide/orient other communities and agency efforts about how to plan and conduct a successful relocation effort.</p> |