

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Named Recipients (AS 37.05.316)****Grant Recipient: AHTNA, Inc.****Federal Tax ID: 92-0042242****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

AHTNA, Inc. - Gulkana Village- Land Exchange

State Funding Requested: \$300,000**House District: Statewide (1-40)**

Future Funding May Be Requested

Brief Project Description:

Funding for a land exchange between the State of Alaska and Ahtna, Inc. to protect gravesites in Old Gulkana Village in accordance with a DNR-Office of History and Archaeology report (GUL-00111, Report No. 83).

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$300,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$0)
FY2013 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$300,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

Funding for a land exchange between the State of Alaska and Ahtna, Inc. to protect gravesites in Old Gulkana Village in accordance with a DNR-Office of History and Archaeology report (GUL-00111, Report No. 83).

Project Timeline:

FY13

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

Ahtna Inc

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Michelle Anderson
Title:	President
Address:	Box 649 Glenallen, Alaska 99588
Phone Number:	(907)822-3476
Email:	n/a

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

State of Alaska-Ahtna, Inc. Land Trade

Land Trade Location: Section 27, 6 North, Range 1 West, Portion of Tract G, Copper River Meridian, Alaska, containing 12.86 acres, more or less. Maps attached.

Ahtna, Inc. P.O. Box 649 Glennallen, AK. 99588

Tax I.D. #92-0042242

Funding Request: \$300,000.00

Background: In 1913 the U.S. Government improved an existing Indian trail (Richardson Highway) and constructed a bridge across the Gulkana River within the traditional Native Village of Gulkana. In 1929 the Gulkana Bridge was realigned adjacent to the previous location. In 1943 the U.S. Army realigned a portion of the Richardson Highway to access a new bridge crossing bisecting the Native Village of Gulkana. Shortly after 1943 the native residents of Gulkana began to relocate to the north side of the Gulkana River to the current Gulkana Village location.

In 1972 the Native Village of Gulkana and the Gulkana Federal Townsite Trustee quit claim deeded a portion of the traditional Native Village of Gulkana to the State of Alaska. In 1974 the State of Alaska realigned the Richardson Highway to its current location abandoning the previous highway alignments. The area between the 1943 and 1913-1929 Gulkana River bridge sites became semi-developed for a parking, camping and boat launch area to access the Gulkana River.

In September 2000 the Alaska Department of Natural Resources-Office of History and Archaeology-Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation conducted a Report of the Old Gulkana Village (GUL-0011) Report No. 83. The Report identified numerous graves, cache pits, cemetery and structural debris. The Report concluded that developing the site into a modern wayside would “dramatically change the appearance of the site and inflame local opinion” and “likely result in in additional vandalism” of the grave sites. After the Report was published and through three administrations, Ahtna and the State of Alaska have identified various sites to be considered for trade however, due to public and tribal support and funding the land trade never materialized.

Ahtna, Inc. has requested a land trade of approximately 12.86 acres for land on the opposite (north) side of the Richardson Highway in exchange for the Old Gulkana Village site. The Old Gulkana Village (GUL-0011) Report No. 83 identified “no cultural resources were found on the north side of the Richardson Highway. Construction of a wayside north of the highway would steer visitors away from the culturally sensitive area on the south side of the highway and help minimize impacts to cultural resources in the Old Gulkana Village Historic District”.

Conclusion: Since 2001 long-term discussion and negotiations between the State of Alaska, Native Village of Gulkana and Ahtna, Inc. an agreement was reached to relocate the current parking, camping and boat launch area to the north side of the Richardson Highway. A budget of \$300,000.00 is requested to develop a new site, including access road, parking area and boat launch on the north side of the Richardson Highway to finalize the land trade.

Site Development Proposal: Attached to this document please find EXHIBIT A, EXHIBIT B and Old Village Site, i.e. Historic Gulkana Village, maps. The red colored portions within EXHIBIT A and EXHIBIT B identify Ahtna ownership.

EXHIBIT A identifies the Old Gulkana Village with current ownership by the State of Alaska of 12.86 acres.

EXHIBIT B identifies the Ahtna land proposed to be traded, which includes a 60' wide easement for a total of 13 acres.

Ahtna will be developing the 60' wide easement and new boat launch and parking area with anticipated completion by September 1, 2012. Ahtna will acquire the necessary permits from the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (ADOT&PF), Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC).

The easement and boat launch and parking area will be of similar size, design and shape as the current site owned by the State of Alaska south of the Richardson Highway. Ahtna will utilize Best Management Practices established by the State of Alaska during the design and construction phases. A preliminary site development plan will be submitted to the State prior to construction for review and approval.

After the new site has been constructed Ahtna will transfer the property, including the access route to the State of Alaska in exchange for clear title to the Old Gulkana Village site.



April 10, 2012

Sent VIA Email representative_alan_dick@legis.state.ak.us

Representative Alan Dick
Alaska Legislature, House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 114
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Dick:

On behalf of Ahtna, Inc. please find attached information regarding a proposed land trade between the State of Alaska and Ahtna for the historic Native Village of Gulkana land trade.

As identified in the State of Alaska-Ahtna, Inc. Land Trade document, the significant importance of this request is to satisfy the few remaining Gulkana Village elders who were born in the historic Gulkana Village and to secure the intact gravesites remaining on the property.

Through numerous years of dialogue and negotiation with the State of Alaska we believe we have exhausted all other means of transfer of the properties to this point.

We would appreciate your full and total commitment to assist Ahtna and the Native Village of Gulkana with the land trade through a \$300,000 budget request to proceed in this legislative session.

Sincerest Regards,

Michelle Anderson
President



February 27, 2012

Sent Via Email: senator_albert_kookesh@legis.state.ak.us

Senator Albert Kookesh
State Capitol Room 11
Juneau, AK. 99801

Re: State of Alaska-Ahtna-Historic Native Village of Gulkana Land Trade

Dear Senator Kookesh:

On behalf of Ahtna, Inc. please find attached information regarding a proposed land trade between the State of Alaska and Ahtna for the Historic Native Village of Gulkana land trade.

As identified in the State of Alaska-Ahtna, Inc. Land Trade document, the significant importance of this request is to satisfy the few remaining Gulkana Village elders who were born in the Historic Gulkana Village and to secure the intact gravesites remaining on the property.

Through numerous years of dialogue and negotiation with the State of Alaska we believe we have exhausted all other means of transfer of the properties to this point.

We would appreciate your full and total commitment to assist Ahtna and the Native Village of Gulkana with the land trade through a \$300,000 budget request to proceed in this legislative session.

Sincerest Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle Anderson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Michelle Anderson
President

1:15,000

Ahtna Lands around Tract G (C06N01W)

EXHIBIT A



Gulkana River

27

127

26

Dump Site
25.84 acres

(10)

(10)

Richardson Hwy

(12.86)

34

35

- Tract G (state owned portion)
- Ahtna (acres)
- Private Property
- Village Selected
- Section
- Milepost

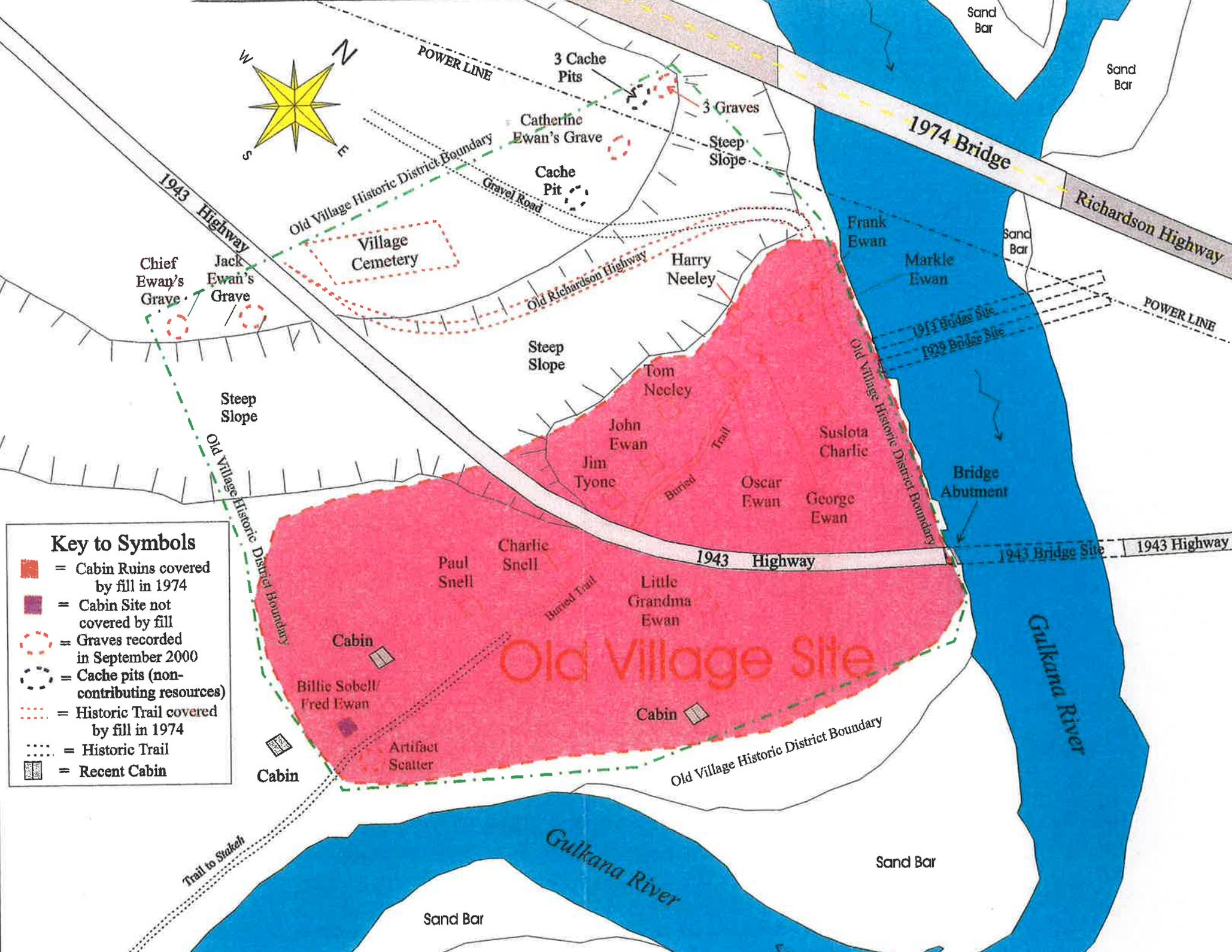
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Ahtna Lands around Tract G (C06N01W)

EXHIBIT B



- | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|
|  Ahtna (acres) |  Material Site |  Section |  New Site (13 acres) |
|  Village Selected |  Other Ownership |  Tract G (state owned portion) |  Easement (60') |



Key to Symbols

- = Cabin Ruins covered by fill in 1974
- = Cabin Site not covered by fill
- = Graves recorded in September 2000
- = Cache pits (non-contributing resources)
- = Historic Trail covered by fill in 1974
- = Historic Trail
- = Recent Cabin