

NIXON PENS BILL INTO LAW Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

"I Want You To Be The
First To Know..."



Last Abrogates Native
Claims To Lands

NAEP
May 13, 2026

Contaminated ANCSA Lands



What we are going to cover today

- ANCSA Background
- What ANCSA Did
- ANCSA Contaminated Lands Assistance Program formation
- EPA Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program
- ADEC Contaminated ANCSA Lands Verification Program
- ANTHC Contaminated ANCSA Lands Technical Assistance Program

Brief Background

Time
Immemorial



1867
Treaty of
Cession



1959
Statehood



1966
Land Freeze

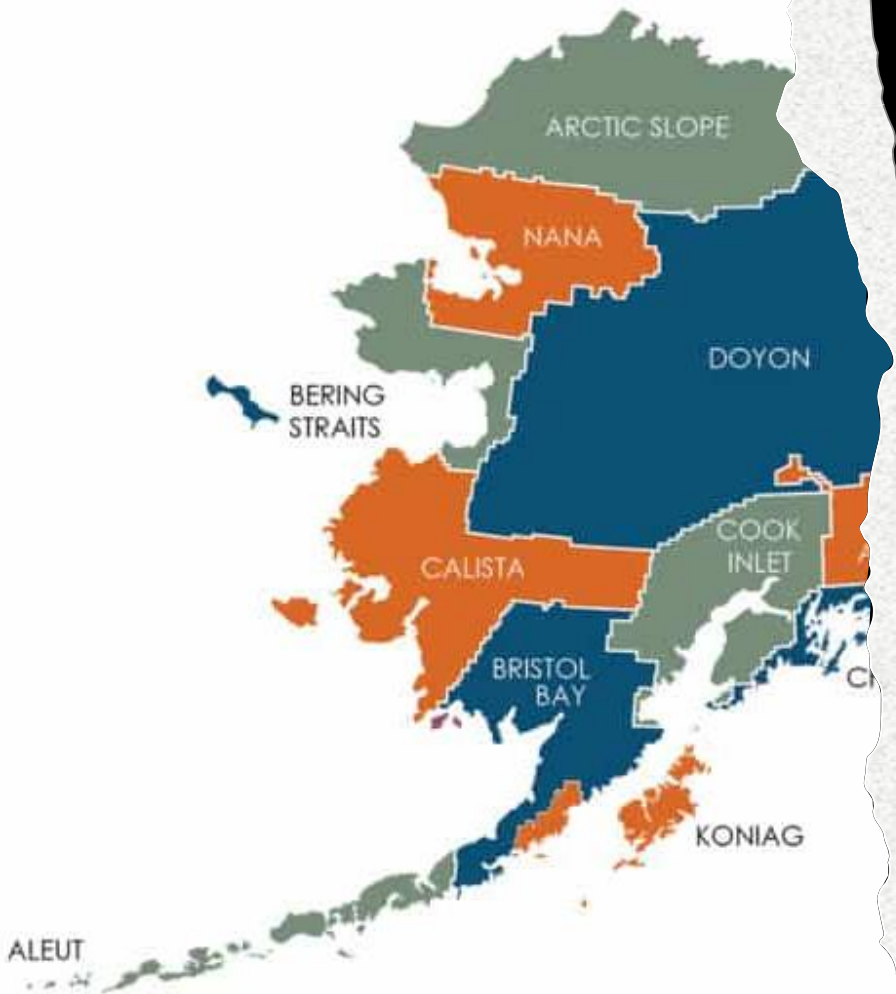


1971
ANCSA
becomes Law



ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM

What it Did

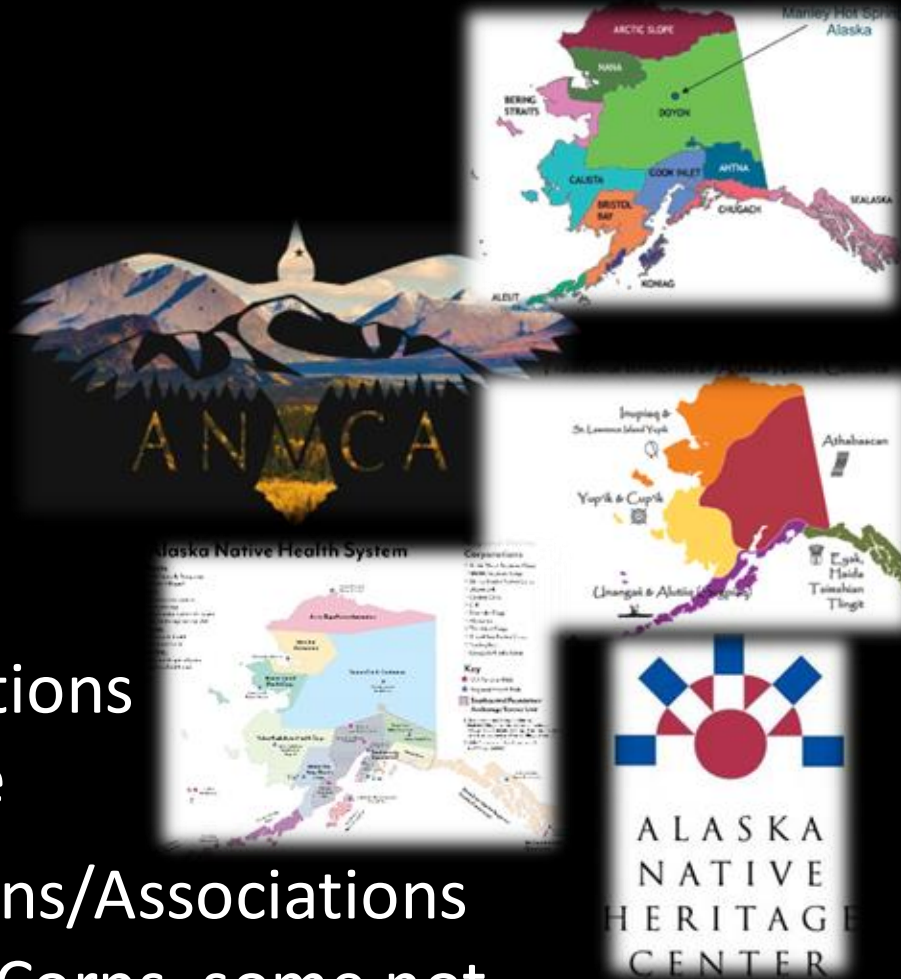


- Settled all aboriginal land claims going back to 1867
- Gave \$962.5 million
- Created 12 Alaska Native Regional Corporations*
- Created over 200 Alaska Native Village Corporations
- Promised 44 million acres to the Alaska Native Corporations



What Alaska Native entities exist?

- Alaska Native Regional Corporations
 - ANCSA created, for-profit
- Alaska Native Village Corporations
 - ANCSA created, for-profit
- Alaska Native Tribes
 - Sovereign Tribal Governments
- Alaska Native Tribal Health Organizations
 - Manage Alaska Native Healthcare
- Alaska Native Non-profit Organizations/Associations
 - Some related to ANCSA Regional Corps, some not



Unique Aspects of ANCSA

- Split estates
 - Surface Estate – Village Corporations
 - Subsurface estate – Regional Corporations
- Land “Selection”
 - Village Corporations – land in and around village
 - Regional Corporations – subsurface of Village selections and surface and subsurface of lands around villages
- Land bank protections
 - Cannot be taxed
 - Cannot have liens placed
 - Sale cannot be forced
 - Not subject to adverse possession
- Did not address Alaska Native Tribes



Exceptions

- The Former Reservations
 - 25 reservations at the time of ANCSA
 - 24 chose to revoke reservation status
- St. Lawrence Island
 - Gambell and Savoonga
 - One Village Corporation
 - One Tribal government
- Bering Straits Native Corporation
 - 1986 bankruptcy
- Mergers and demergers
 - Some village corporations merged and demerged





Other Considerations

- Different federal laws define “Tribe” differently
 - 42 USC 9601 (CERCLA)
 - 25 USC 5304 (ISDEAA)
 - 25 USC 5130 (IRA)
 - 25 USC 1301 (ICRA)
 - 25 USC 1903 (ICWA)
- Differing laws may include or exclude Tribes
 - CERCLA (42 USC 9601(21) v. Alaska State Law (AS 46.03.900(18))

TL;DR: Words Matter

Contaminated ANCSA Lands

- 44 million acres of land
- Some transferred contaminated
- Contaminated Site liability is strict, joint and several
- Landowner can be held liable for contamination regardless of fault
- ANCs – liable for Contaminated ANCSA Lands
- 2018 BUILD Act
- 2023 - Contaminated ANCSA Lands Program Establishment



EPA Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program.

ANTHC Contaminated ANCSA Lands

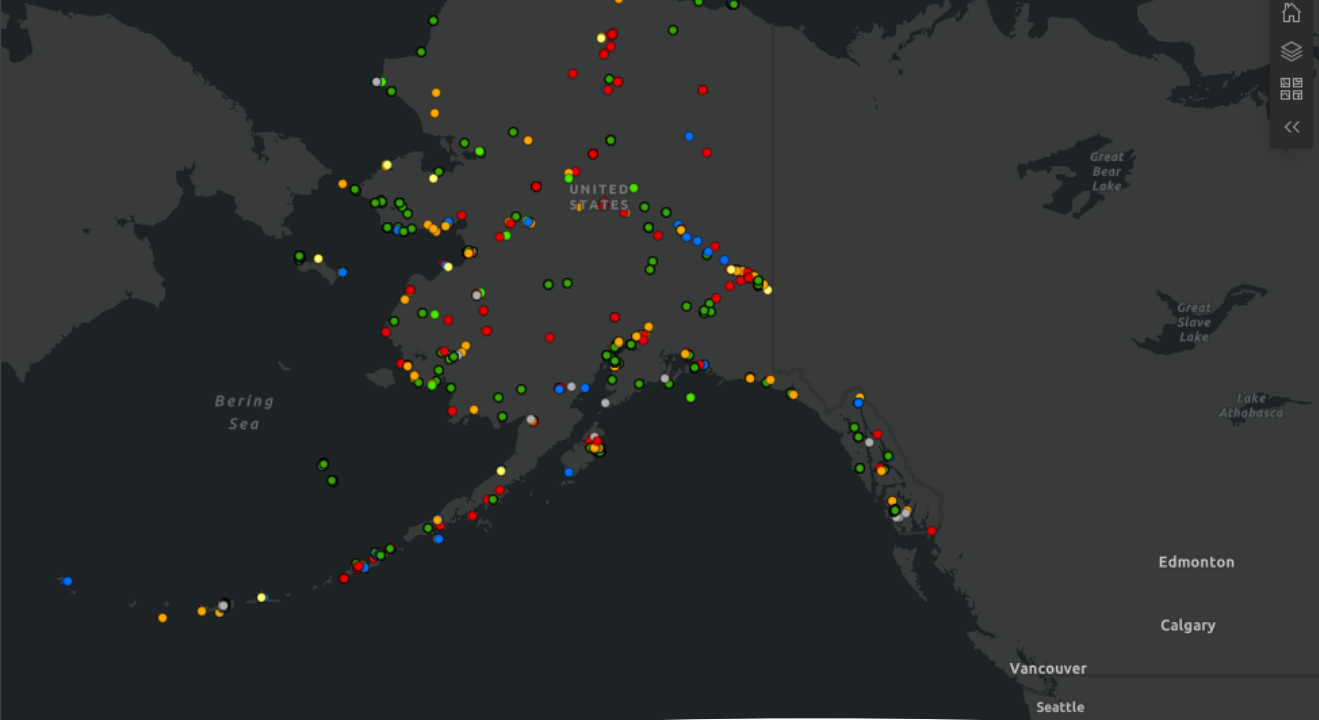


ALASKA NATIVE
TRIBAL HEALTH
CONSORTIUM

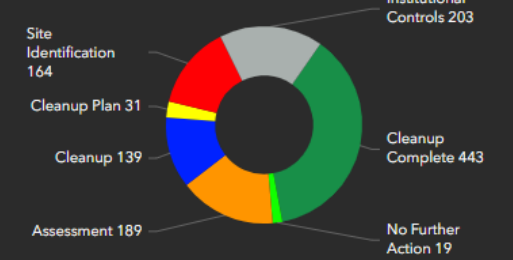


EPA's Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program

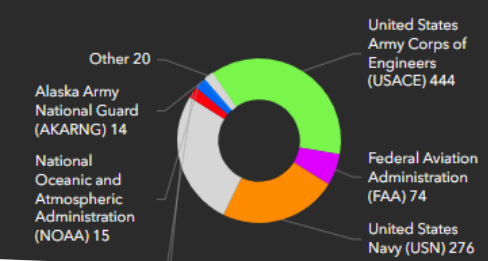
March 2026



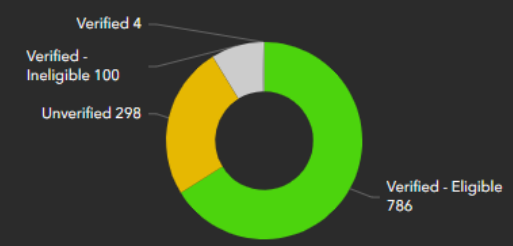
1,188 Sites



Cleanup Agency



Site Verification Status



Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program

Purpose:

The Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was enacted in 1971 to settle aboriginal claims to public lands through the conveyance of 46 million acres of land to Alaska Native regional and village corporations, and the transfer of one billion dollars from state and federal governments as compensation for remaining claims.

The conveyance process did not include screening for contaminated sites.

Congress appropriated funding for EPA to establish the Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program to assist Tribal entities in Alaska with addressing contamination on lands conveyed pursuant to ANCSA.



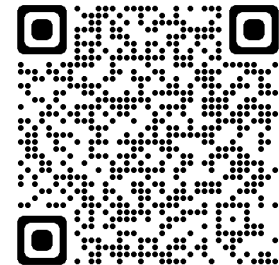
Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program

Grants Guidance Available!

Eligibility, requirements, and application process

- ✓ Non-competitive funding for site assessment, clean up, and community engagement.
- ✓ Rolling requests accepted from Alaska Native Corporations, federally recognized Tribes, Tribal Consortia, non-profit organizations or associations.
- ✓ Up to \$3M per project for 5-year project period.
- ✓ No matching funds required.
- ✓ Multiple projects may be requested per applicant.
- ✓ Lands conveyed pursuant to ANCSA - contaminated with petroleum, hazardous substances, and pollutants.
- ✓ Sites must be on EPA's [Contaminated ANCSA Sites Inventory](https://www.epa.gov/r10-tribal/contamination-ancsa-conveyed-lands#grants).
- ✓ Applicant owns the land or has access agreement with owner.

<https://www.epa.gov/r10-tribal/contamination-ancsa-conveyed-lands#grants>

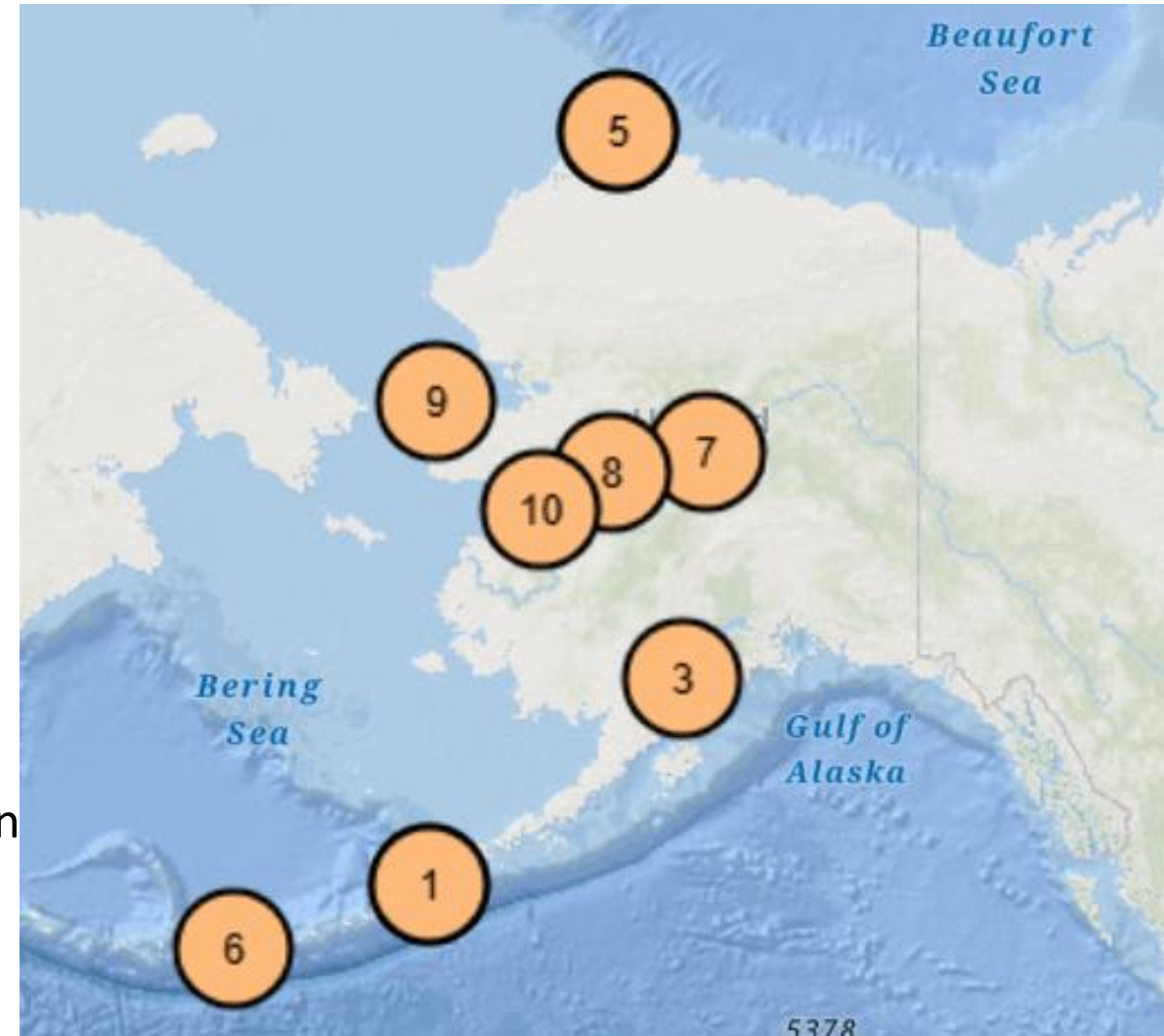


Active Projects

Cooperative Agreements

1. Ounalashka Corp. (OC) – WWII PCB Cleanup
2. OC – CMA Barge Dock Phase II Assessment
3. Tyonek Native Corp. – Iniskin Drum Removal
4. Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation (UIC) – NARL Old Powerhouse Assessment
5. UIC – Building 360, Wing L-200 – Ilisagvik College Asbestos Abatement
6. The Aleut Corp. - Adak Public Works Building Asbestos monofil
7. Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council – Tanana Community Hall Contaminated Soils and Timbers Cleanup
8. YRITWC – Galena BIA School Assessment and Demolition
9. Kawerak – Shishmaref Shoreline Tar Barrels Removal
10. Native Village of Unalakleet – Old Pit Vault Cleanup
11. Kawerak – Elim Old City Shop Landfill/ Elim Old AVEC Tank Farm

[EPA Story Map](#)



Contaminated ANCSA Lands Assistance Program

EPA Region 10 Contacts

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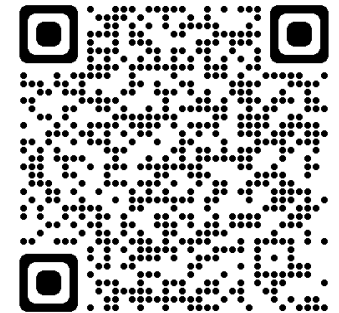
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Website: <https://www.epa.gov/r10-tribal/contamination-ancsa-conveyed-lands>

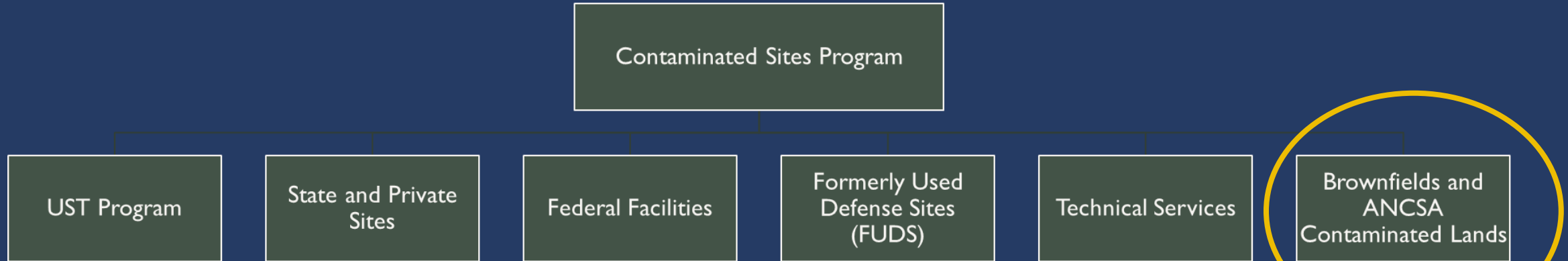
DEC ANCSA Contaminated Lands Verification Program

May 13, 2026

Lizzy Buckingham, DEC Contaminated Sites Program
Southeast Environmental Tribal Environmental Forum



Who are we?



Marc Thomas (Juneau)



Shonda Oderkirk (Fairbanks)



Julie Fix (Juneau)



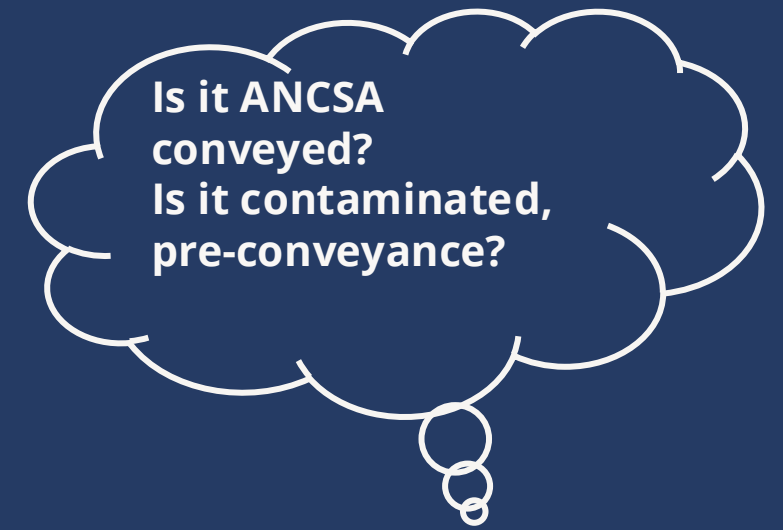
Lizzy Buckingham (Anchorage)



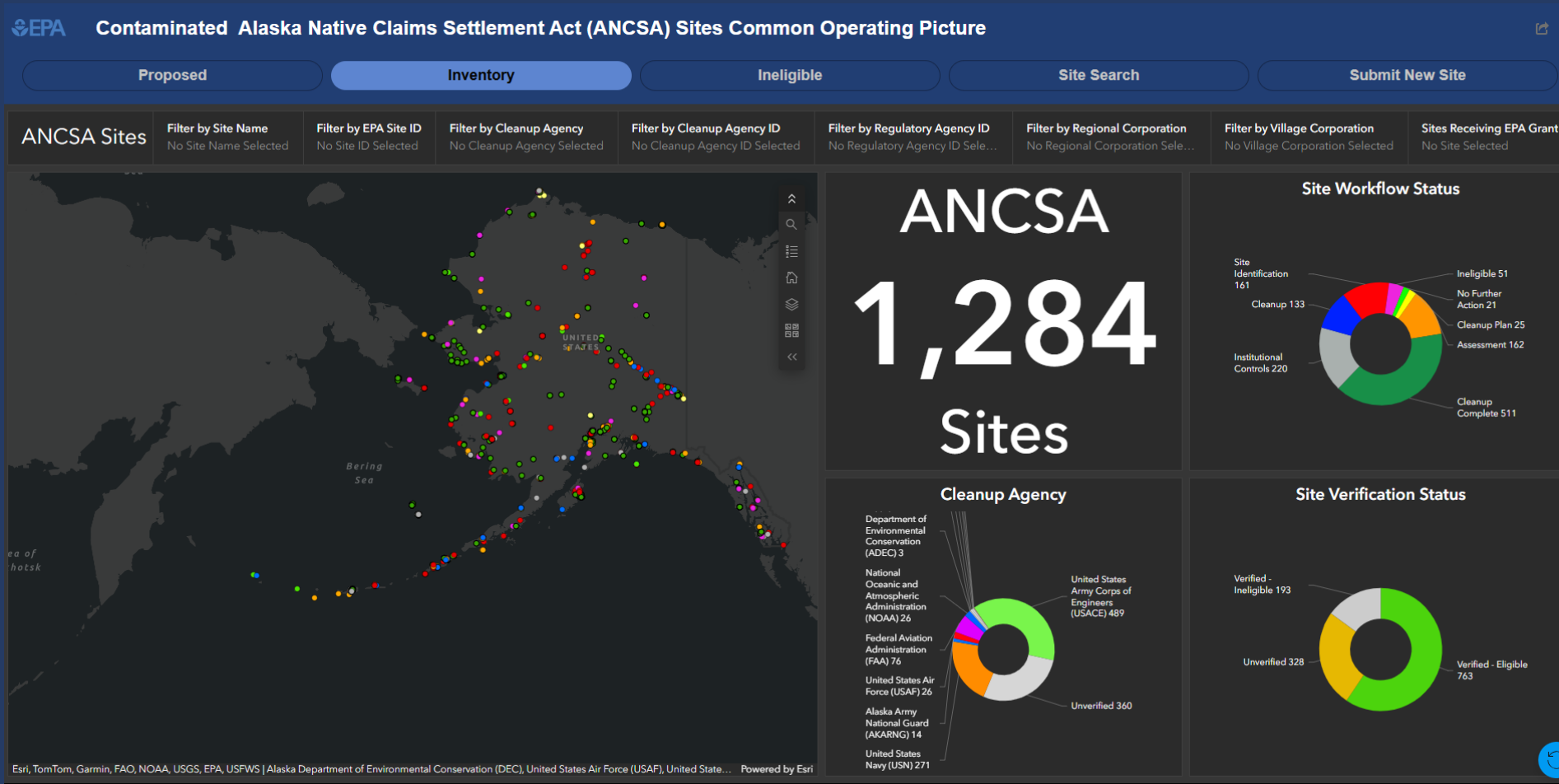
Eligibility Requirements

1. Site is on ANCSA conveyed land
2. Site has confirmed contamination prior to conveyance
3. Site is verified eligible on the Contaminated ANCSA Site Common Operating Picture (EPA Inventory)

Disclaimer: these statutory requirements are for EPA's ANCSA Contaminated Lands Assistance Program. If a site is suspected to meet these requirements, but not confirmed to, DEC can conduct work on the site.



DEC's Role: Verifying the Inventory



<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/51479962643a49368433f43204d493e3>

DEC's Role: Verifying the Inventory



Identification

Manual review of the EPA inventory
CS Database
Community knowledge



Step 1: Background Research

ANCSA conveyance, property research
History of contamination: sampling data,
community knowledge, historical photos, news
articles



Step 2: Location and Contamination Confirmation

DEC or DEC hired contractors

Step 2: Site Visits

- Collaboration with landowners, EPA, and ANTHC
- On the ground, current status, assist with planning
- Drones



DEC Coordinated Sampling

DEC or DEC hired consultants can do sampling! Soil, groundwater, surface water, field screening, and Hazardous Building Material Surveys!



Outreach

- Roadshows, events, conferences
- Regional/local environmental summits
- Presentations
- Spread the word!





Verification Case Studies: Icy Bay & Yakataga Sites

- Collaboration with Chugach Alaska Corporation
- Sampling and Analysis Plan
- Trip coordination: July 2024
- Site visit and sampling
- 2025 & 2026 consultant site visits and sampling

Crossover with Brownfields: Tok Old School

- State and Tribal Response Funds (DBAC) in 2023 for Phase I report
- DEC site visit in August 2024
- STRP funds Fall 2024 to contract Hazardous Building Material survey
- Abbreviated Preliminary Assessment (APA), EPA verified, ANC applying for a cooperative agreement



 **EPA - Region 10 Brownfields Site Eligibility Worksheet**
(Updated: 12/5/17)

This worksheet is intended for EPA Region 10 Brownfields Cooperative Agreement recipients (referred to as "grantees") as an aid for determining site eligibility. Brownfields funding can only be used on sites that meet the definition of a Brownfield. While this worksheet outlines many factors to be considered in determining eligibility, it does not capture all requirements. As an optional aid, grantees may submit the completed form to their EPA Brownfields Project Officer. EPA will review the determination and may require additional information. You may contact your Project Officer if you have any questions.

Grantee name: _____ Date submitted to EPA: _____
ADSC: _____ Grant #: _____
RP - 00126100 Date of proposed work: _____

Grant type:
 Assessment Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund State & Tribal Response Program

Activity requested:
 Phase I Phase II ABCA Cleanup Other

Explain if other: _____

Known or Suspected Contaminant(s):
 Hazardous Substance(s) Petroleum Commingled
If the site has both hazardous substances and petroleum contamination that is commingled (i.e. not easily distinguishable), select the "commingled" box as well as the predominant contaminants. If the contamination is in distinguishable areas, then select both types of contamination.

Section A - Basic Site Information
Please attach a map of the site to assist with the determination.

A.1) Property Name:
Old Tok School

A.2) Property Address:
W 1st Ave.

A.3) City: _____ State: AK Zip Code: 99780
Tok

A.4) Cross street if applicable:
W 1st St.

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Current Cooperative Agreements with EPA

- Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation – Powerhouse and College Wing, Building 360
- Tyonek Native Corporation – Iniskin Peninsula Drum Site
- Ounalashka Corporation – Building 551, CMA Dock Site
- Kawerak, Incorporated – Shishmaref Shoreline Tar Barrels Site
- Native Village of Unalakleet – Former Vault Site
- Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council – Tanana Community Hall, Galena BIA School
- Aleut Corporation – Public Works Building T1470 Monofill



Site Management



- Once a site has received funding, we work with EPA and the landowner to oversee the site characterization and cleanup
- Review and approvals of work plans and reports
- Sites must follow DEC's site characterization and cleanup process

Questions?



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DEC.ANCSAcleanup@alaska.gov



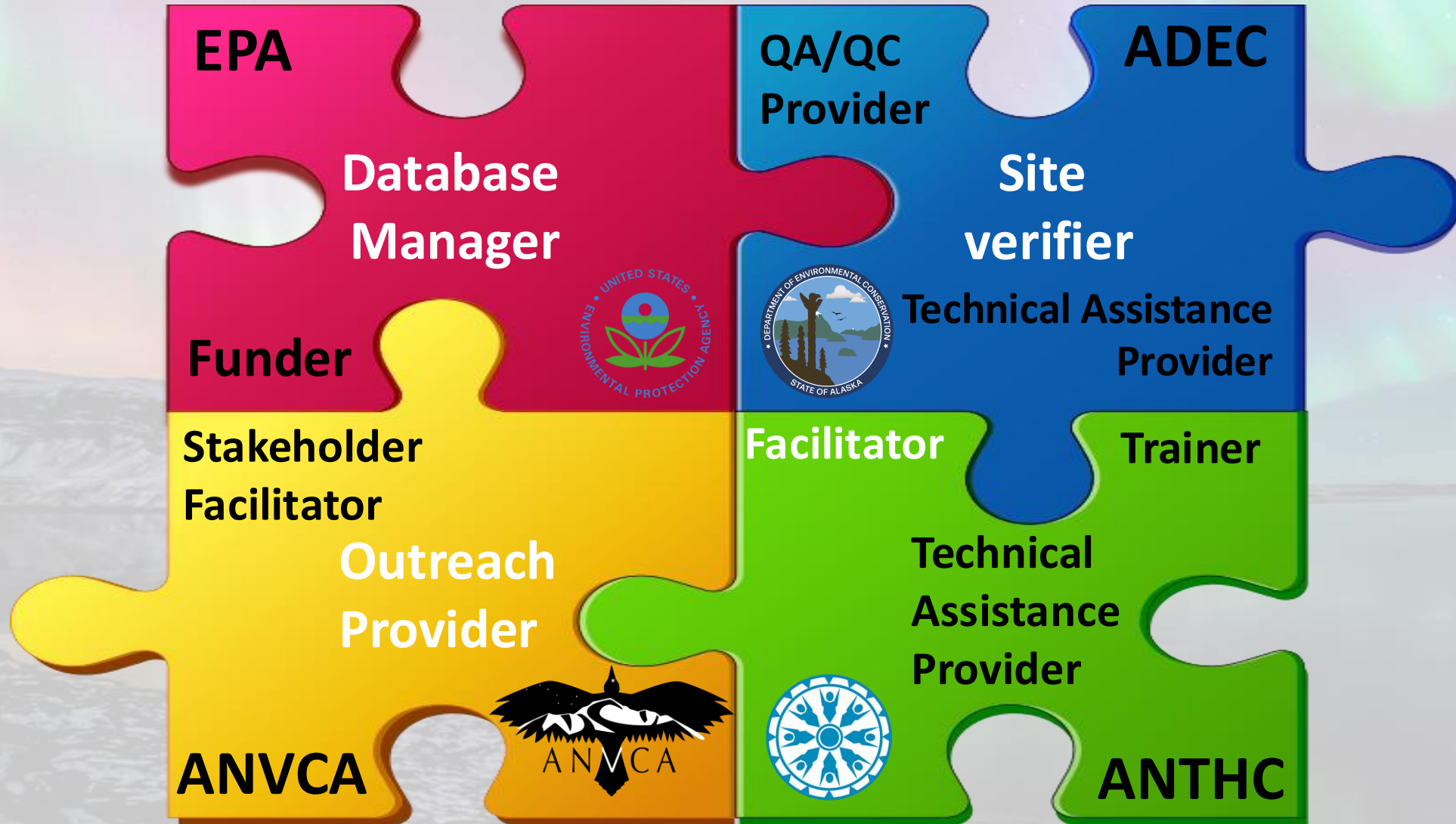


ANTHC

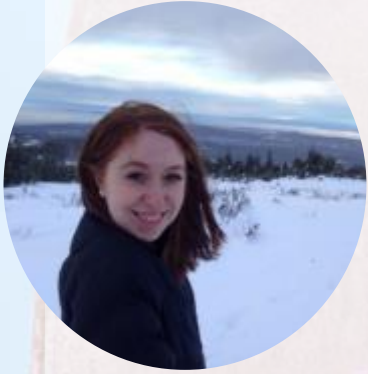
Contaminated ANCSA Lands

Lisa Griswold

Contaminated ANCSA Lands Program Agency Role Overview



Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium



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Contaminated ANCSA Lands

Technical Assistance Menu

Classroom Training **\$0.00**

- ANCSA 101
- Two-Day ANCSA Training
- Brownfields 101
- Funding Resources Roundtable



Site Visits **\$0.00**

- Site Interviews
- On-Site Documentation
- Data Collection
- Community Engagement



Application Assistance **\$0.00**

- Proposal Prep.
- Application Guidance
- Documentation Review
- Feedback & Editing



Desktop Research **\$0.00**

- Historical Records
- Satellite Imagery
- Environmental Reports
- Regulatory Databases



Funding Evaluation **\$0.00**

- Eligibility Assessment
- Funding Source Identification
- Long-Term Funding Planning
- Strategic Recommendations



Community Visits **\$0.00**

- On-Site Workshops
- Community Visioning
- Collaboration & Networking
- Engagement Events



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Program Contact Information & Links

Program Website →

<https://www.epa.gov/r10-tribal/contamination-ancsa-conveyed-lands>



Contaminated Sites Inventory →

ancsainventory@epa.gov



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THANK YOU