

Collaboration in the Chigniks:

Creating Shared Resiliency through the Chignik Subregional Watershed Plan



**Presentation at the Bristol Bay Leadership Forum
December 7, 2023**

Introductions and Purpose

The Project Team



Jeanette Carlson
Environmental Coordinator
Chignik Bay Tribal Council

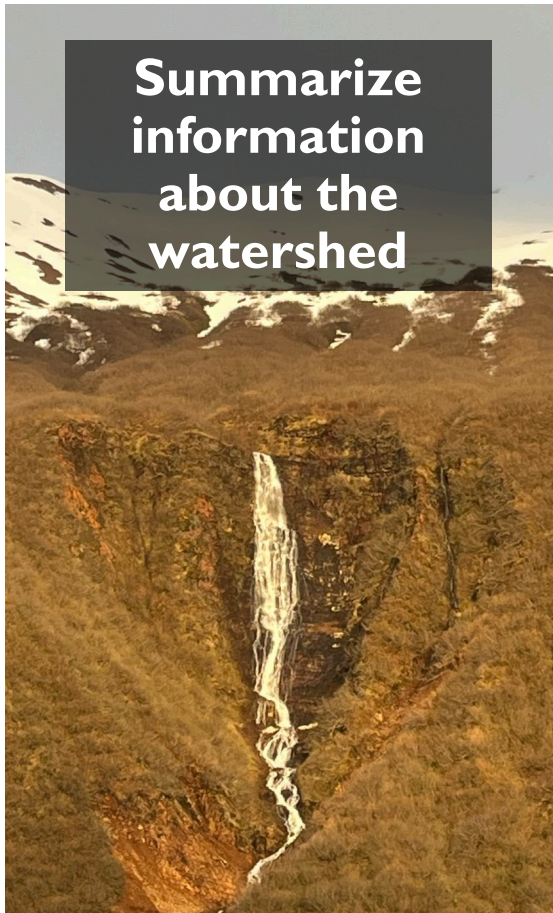


Sue Flensburg
Chignik Bay Tribal Council Advisor
Flensburg Consulting

*With project support from
Agnew::Beck
Consulting*

This project has been funded in part by a Department of Environmental Conservation Alaska Clean Water Actions (ACWA) grant with support from the U.S. EPA.

Project Purpose; the plan will...



What a Watershed Plan Does/Does Not Do

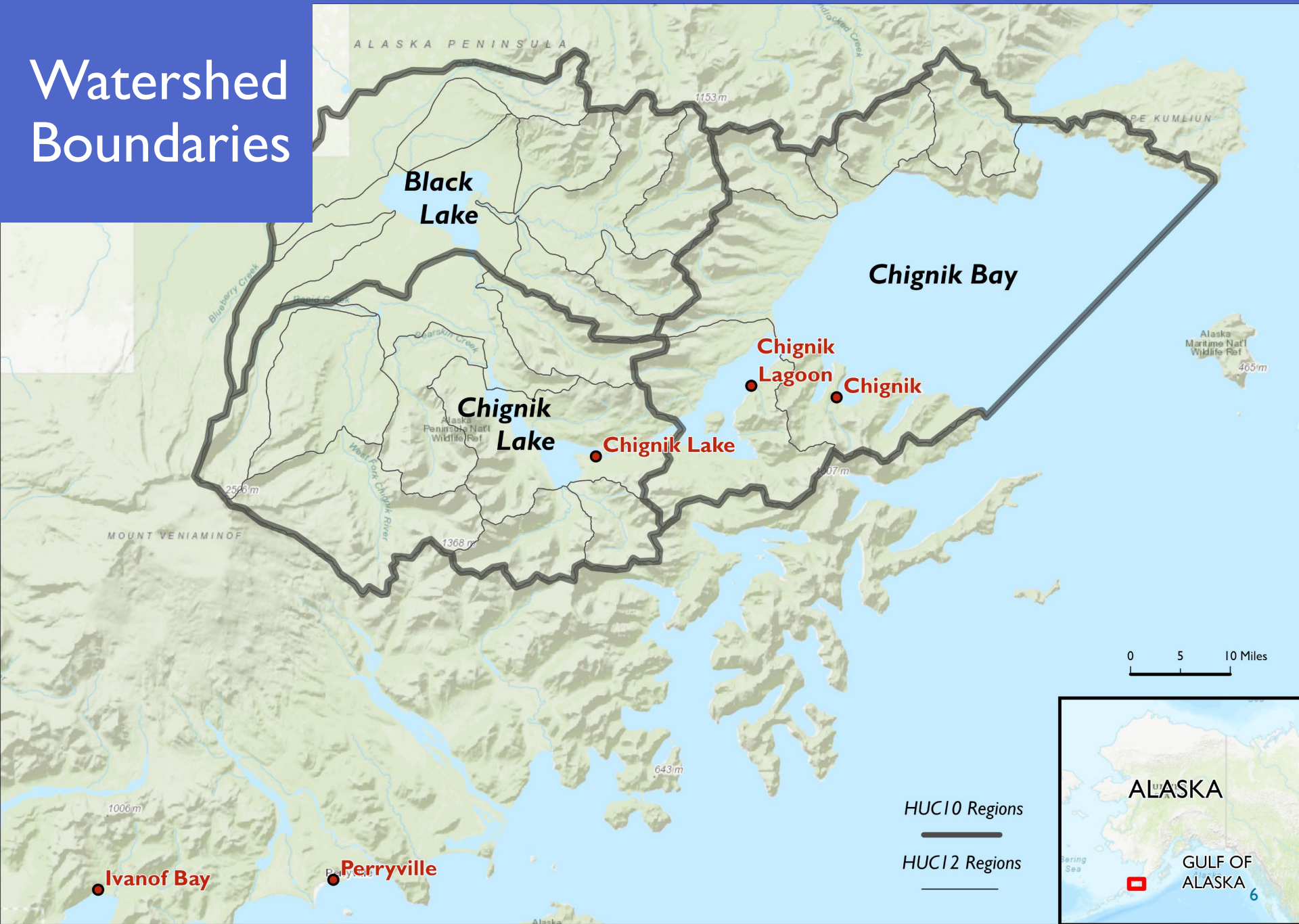
Does:

- ✓ Brings together information and people
- ✓ Identify options for reducing pollution and promoting water quality, while supporting economic development (commercial fishing, subsistence, ecotourism)

Does Not:

- Include field work or other primary data collection
- Involve extensive technical details or engineering

Watershed Boundaries



Our Kickoff: Chignik Regional Climate Resiliency Symposium

2022 and 2023 Symposiums



CHIGNIK REGIONAL CLIMATE RESILIENCY SYMPOSIUM

Please join us for presentations and discussions on important topics that affect our region! We'll be serving coffee and refreshments throughout the days, along with sandwiches for lunch, with potlucks to follow in the evenings.

WHERE:

Chignik Bay Community Hall
Sign up for door prizes!

WHEN:

June 4th: 8:30 - 5:30

Ham and Turkey Potluck at 6:00pm

June 5th: 8:30 - 4:00

BBQ Potluck at 6:00 pm

Bring a dish for the potlucks if you wish!

For more info or to request a zoom link, please contact
jeanettecarlson749@gmail.com

A special thank you to the Paul G. Allen Family Foundation!

June 4th

Welcome and overview with **Jeanette "Chickie" Carlson** - Chignik Bay Tribal Council Environmental Coordinator

New Chignik Subregion research projects with **Chris Maio and team** - UAF Arctic Coastal Geo Science Lab

Projects update from **George Anderson** - Chignik Intertribal Coalition and **Chuck McCallum** - Chignik Regional Aquaculture Association

Chignik Subregion Map Project Planning with **Marcus Geist** - Artesian Knowledge LLC

June 5th

Green Star Program Environmental Assessment with **Joy Britt** - Alaska Forum on Environmental Programs Director

Final Draft of Chignik Bay Climate Resiliency Action Plan with **Isaac Pearson** - Bristol Engineering Services



Symposium



“Everyone is a stakeholder of the watershed and needs to be proud of it, own it, and care for it.”

“We got the ball moving, now let’s not let it stop. We want to keep our communities alive.”



Thank you to the following organizations for supporting the Symposium:

- Paul G. Allen Foundation/VULCAN
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Alaska Clean Water Actions
- Alaska Forum on the Environment’s Greenstar Program
- Bureau of Indian Affairs Tribal Climate Resilience Program
- Chignik Bay Tribal Council
- Chignik Intertribal Coalition
- Environmental Protection Agency Indian Environmental General Assistance Program

Key Takeaways from 2023 Symposium

- Now is a **critical time to plan for the region's future** given the uncertainty of fisheries and population loss.
- The Chignik region has **energized leadership** who are taking charge, even as state and federal partners are slow to respond to the fisheries disaster.
- Research must **be informed by traditional knowledge**. Researchers working in the region should collaborate with one another and the community, through forums like the Symposium.
- **Tourism is a growing opportunity**; many cruise ships are visiting Chignik Bay in summer 2023.

Actions Following 2023 Symposium



- ← Multiple cruise ships
- Collaboration with research partners
- Trail brushing to clear local hiking trails



Actions Following 2023 Symposium



- ← Regional backhaul
- Clean up events, including demolishing old houses
- Met with Trident to discuss transfer of ownership of facilities ↓



An aerial photograph of a coastal town and harbor. The town is situated on a peninsula with a large harbor. In the background, there are mountains with patches of snow. The sky is blue with some clouds. The text is overlaid on a semi-transparent blue rectangle in the center of the image.

Save the Date:
2024 Chignik Symposium!
June 6-8th, 2024

What is Included and We're Learning

What topics are most important for us to take action on, related to the watershed and climate change? *(from 2023 Symposium)*

**Solid waste and
creek cleanup**

Food sovereignty

Communications

**Economic
development;
diversification**

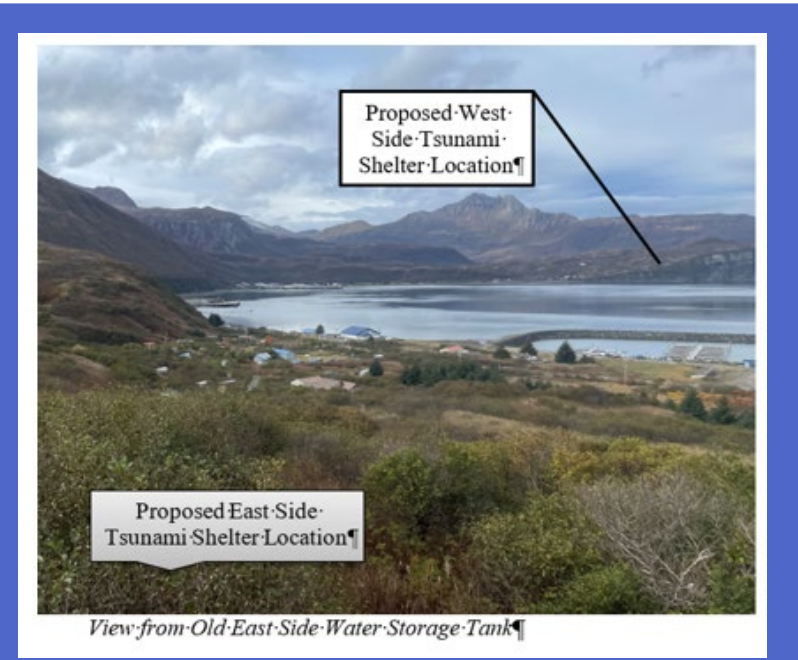
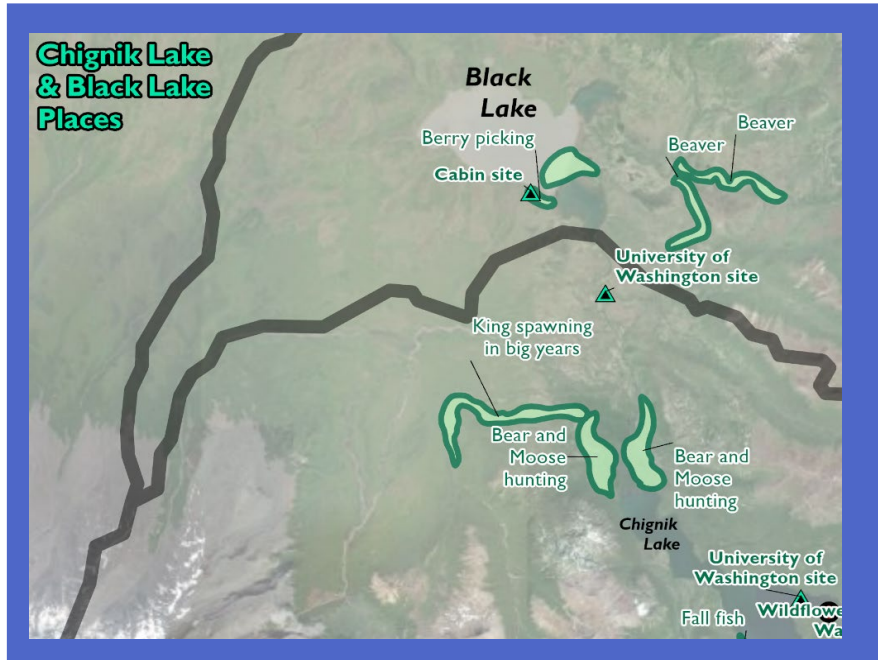
**Prioritization of
local data and
traditional
knowledge**

Hazard mitigation

**Stopping
population
outmigration**

Representation

Sampling of Projects Underway in the Chigniks



Chignik Conservation Planning

Funded by a 2021 EPA Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (IGAP) grant, the Southwest Alaska Fish Habitat Partnership, and the Chignik Bay Tribal Council

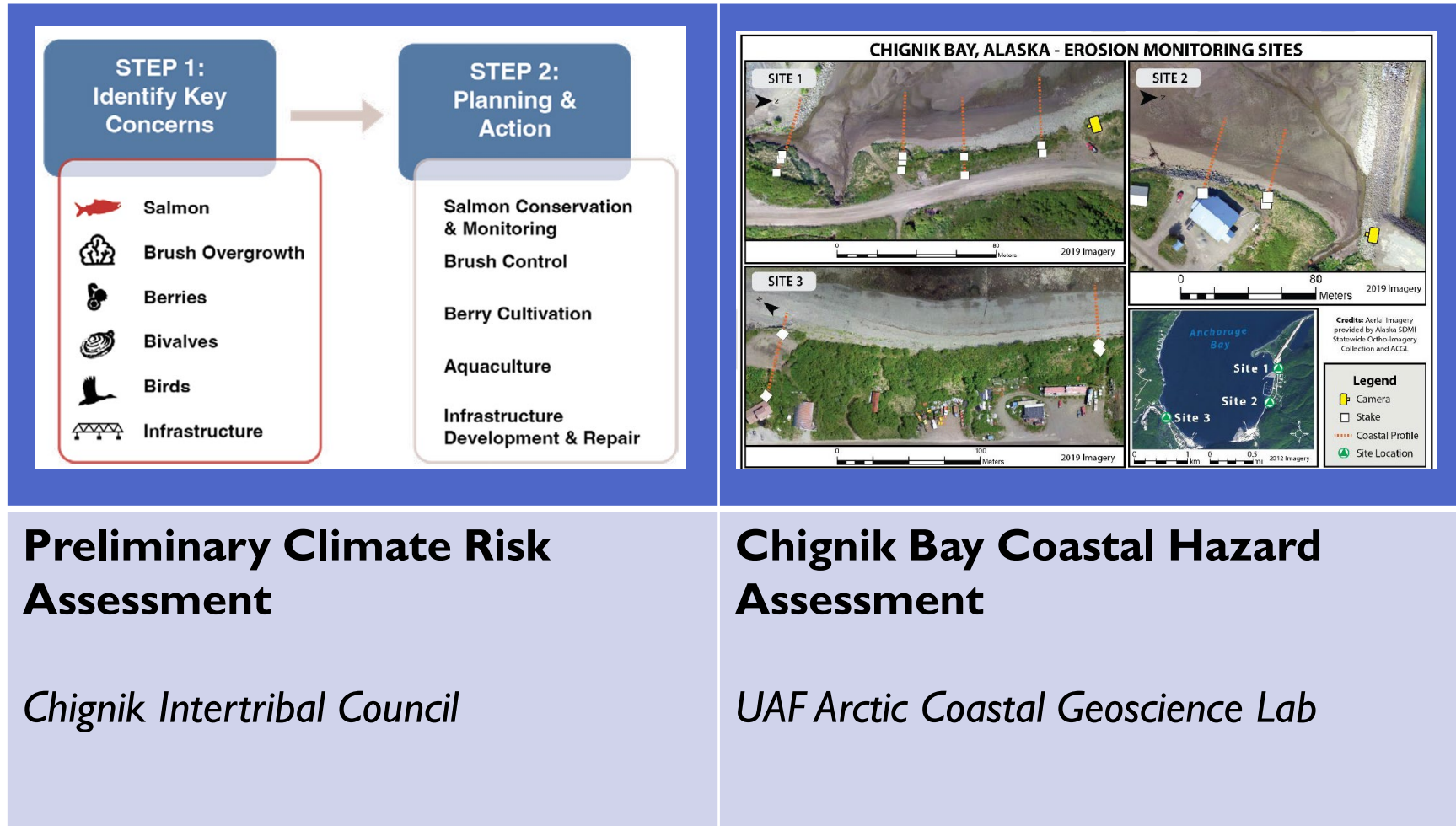
Climate Resiliency Action Plan

(priority projects: Indian Creek Bridge Rehab, Tsunami Shelters, Electric Distribution Upgrades)

Chignik Bay Tribal Council

Learn more at chignikwatershed.com

Sampling of Projects Underway in the Chigniks



Preliminary Climate Risk Assessment

Chignik Intertribal Council

Chignik Bay Coastal Hazard Assessment

UAF Arctic Coastal Geoscience Lab

Learn more at chignikwatershed.com

Potential Water Quality Threats in the Subregion



Climate change impacts



Bacterial or chemical contamination



Erosion and sedimentation



Stormwater runoff



Oil and fuel spills



Volcanic ash



Mining impacts

Next Steps and Ways to Get Involved

Ways to Get Involved

- Attend our breakout session tomorrow!
(2:15 – 2:45 pm)
- Visit our website for other opportunities to get involved, learn more, and share your comments:

<https://chignikwatershed.com/>

- Attend the 2024 Symposium

Questions?



Thank you!

Jeanette Carlson

Chignik Bay Environmental
Coordinator

jeanettecarlson749@gmail.com

907-749-4019

Molly Mylius

Consultant Project Manager

molly@agnewbeck.com

907-782-8787



Website:

chignikwatershed.com