



Integrating Traditional Ecological Knowledge with Modern Science for Salmon Conservation

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Chickaloon Village Traditional Council





Nay'dini'aa Na'Kayax

- **Nay'dini'aa Na'Kayax** – an Ahtna name meaning the “the river with the two logs across it”.
- Ahtna Athabascan Tribe that has occupied the area for at least the past 10,000 years.
- 1971 – ANCSA passed and in 1973 Tribal Elders re-established Chickaloon Village Traditional Council (CVTC) and gained federal recognition.

Historical Ecological Threats



Affected by large scale extraction including coal, copper, and gold mining, oil and gas drilling, logging, and highway and railroad construction.



Jonesville
Mine Airport



Traditional Values

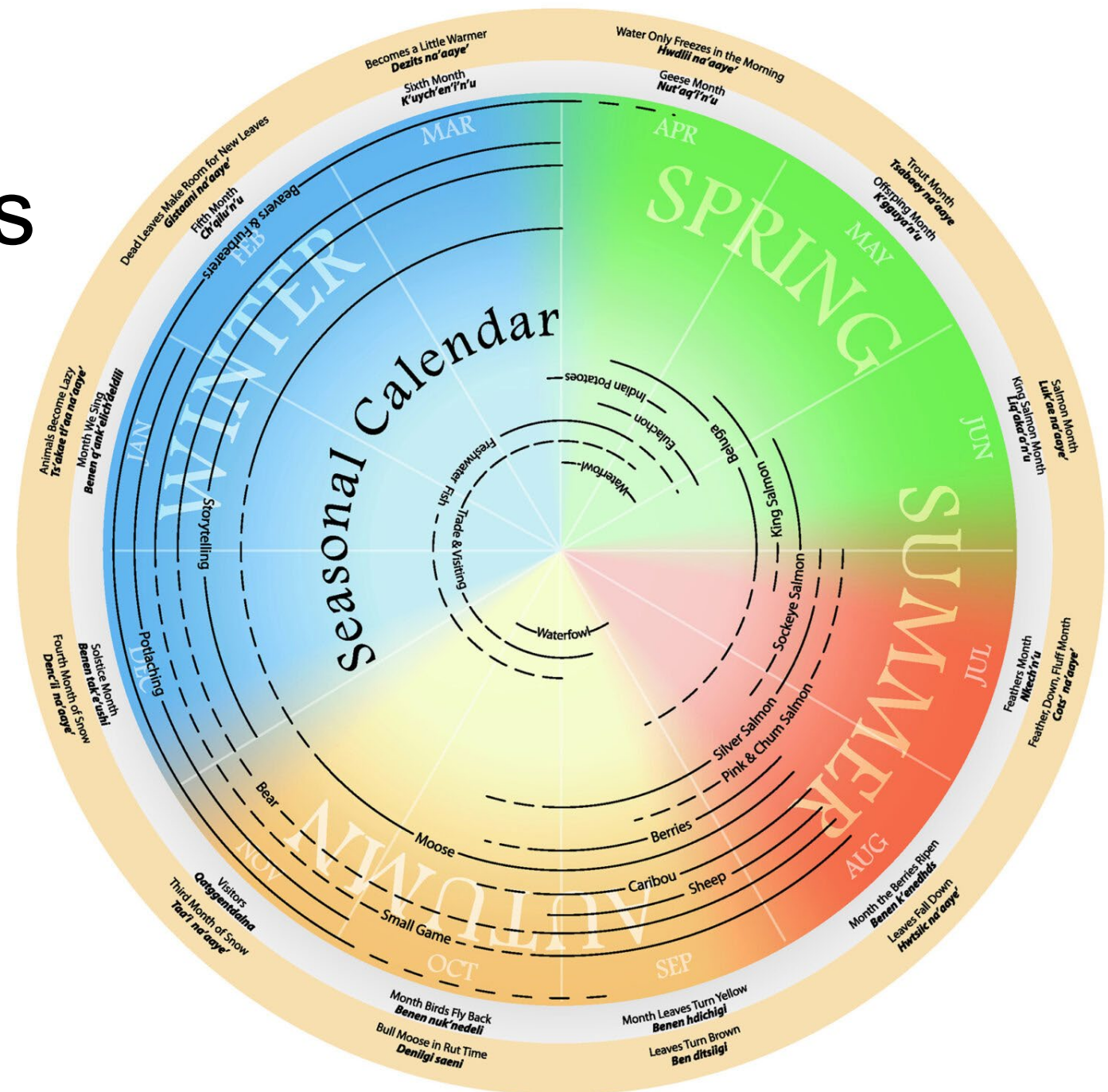
“The Earth is for all of us. Everything on the earth has a reason for being, all the animals, birds, plants, insects, even rocks have a reason to be. Humans were placed here as caretakers. It is our job to take care of our little brothers and sisters. Wherever we traveled, we left the area better than we found it.... The men hunted sheep and caribou...they used the whole animal; nothing went to waste. If people are respectful to other people, animals, the land, even, there will be less problems.”

-Katherine Wickersham Wade

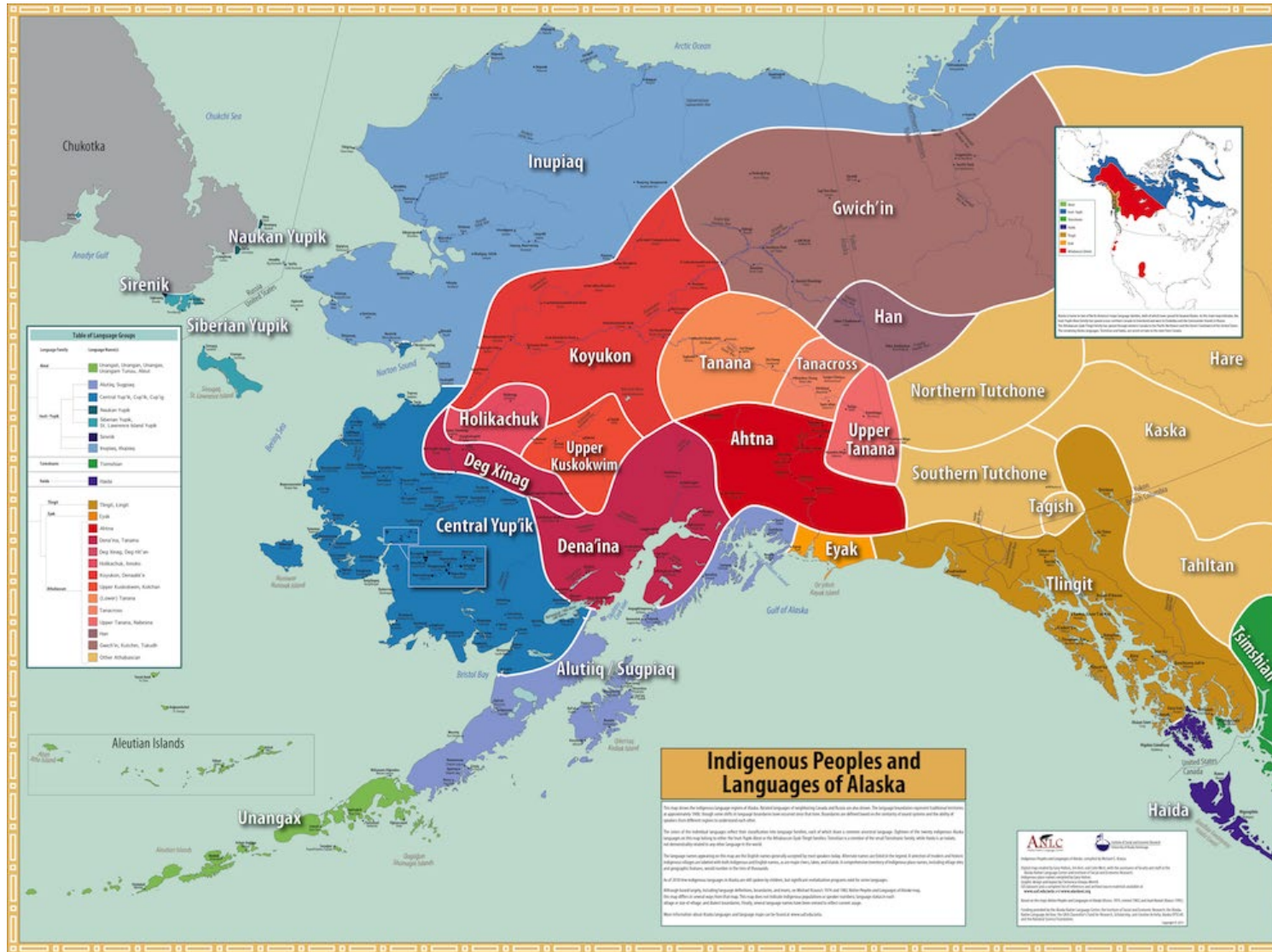


Traditional Knowledge Systems

- Detailed knowledge of salmon runs, species, distribution, history, timing of runs and behavior.
- Strategies to control when and where the harvest of salmon took place, the amount harvested, and the size and condition of fish when caught
- Conservative approach is meant for sustained yield.



Atnakenaege' Ahtna Language



- Ahtna language is empirical evidence.
- Elaborate vocabulary revealing expensive and specific knowledge of salmon ecology, life stages, and anatomy.
- Names for specific runs of salmon distinguishing stocks.

Bac'its'aadi, Little Salmon King

- **Yenida'a** , *long time ago*, stories or legends of the past, when animals and people could talk to each other
- The Salmon Boy story teaches us how to restore balance with our salmon more-than-relatives



Environmental Stewardship Programs

- **Fish Passage Projects** - Restores streams to support salmon and other aquatic life.
- **Watershed Research** - Monitors water quality and investigates impacts on habitats.
- **Climate Resiliency** - Promotes adaptation strategies and addresses climate change effects.
- **Environmental Tribal Response** - Handles hazardous substances and pollution prevention.



Teaching the next generation

- **Oral Traditions:** stories that carry cultural, moral, and practical lessons.
- **Observation and Participation:** emphasize learning through observing elders and community members at work.
- **Language:** teaching the Ahtna language is integral to maintaining their cultural identity.
- **Hands-On Learning:** *younger members might assist in setting fish traps, and handling salmon respectfully.*





Tsin'aen
“Thank you”