



Federal Subsistence Board Fact Sheet



U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Park Service
Bureau of Indian Affairs

Forest Service

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Fisheries Temporary Special Action Requests FSA22-01/02/03/04: Yukon River Chinook, Summer and Fall Chum Salmon Fisheries

Background: The Yukon River drainage is the largest in the state of Alaska and provides residents from over 60 communities with fishery resources, including Chinook and summer and fall Chum Salmon, for subsistence purposes. Over the last several years, moderate to severe restrictions on subsistence harvest have been put in place to conserve Chinook and summer and fall Chum Salmon. These restrictions have impacted subsistence uses throughout the Yukon River drainage.

Question 1: What is a temporary special action and how long will it last?

Answer: A temporary special action is a regulatory change made outside of the normal regulatory cycle to modify harvest limits, seasons, methods or means when unusual situations arise, such as significant changes in fish or wildlife abundance. There must be public notice and a public hearing before the Board can act on a temporary special action request. The Board must also consult with the State of Alaska and the Regional Advisory Council Chairs of the affected Regions prior to acting on a temporary special action request. The Board is also seeking recommendations from the affected Regional Advisory Councils on the proposed temporary action as part of the Councils' regularly scheduled winter 2022 meetings. A temporary special action typically extends longer than 60 days but may not exceed one regulatory cycle. Permanent changes to Federal subsistence fisheries regulations must be made using the normal two-year regulatory process, which commences in early 2022.

Question 2: What is included in these requests?

Answer: These special action requests ask that the Federal Subsistence Board:

- Assume management of Yukon River Chinook and summer and fall Chum Salmon throughout the 2022 season
- Close Federal public waters of the Yukon River drainage to the harvest of Chinook and summer and fall Chum Salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users from June 1 through September 30
- Further reduce the pool of eligible harvesters based on the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) Section 804 Subsistence User Prioritization analysis

Question 3: How can the public comment on these specific special action requests?

Answer: Two public hearings to receive public testimony by teleconference have been scheduled on Tuesday March 29, from 3 pm to 6 pm, and Thursday March 31, from 6 pm to 9 pm (Teleconference

number: 1-888-455-9312 Participant code: 6479856). The public will be asked to comment on the following issues at the public hearing:

- a) Should Federal public waters be closed to the harvest of Chinook and summer and fall Chum Salmon except by Federally qualified subsistence users? [See Questions 4, 5, and 6 below]
- b) Should there be a further reduction in the pool of Federally qualified subsistence users who would be eligible to harvest Chinook and summer and fall Chum Salmon? [See Question 7, below]
- c) Are the start and end dates for the closure (June 1 through September 30, 2022) appropriate dates for these special actions?
- d) Are there any other comments or issues that may help the Board make its decision on these special action requests?

Public testimony on these special action requests will be forwarded to the Federal Subsistence Board for consideration.

Additionally, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Western Interior Alaska, Eastern Interior Alaska, and Seward Peninsula Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils will consider these special action requests at their winter 2022 meetings. Council chairs may ask for public comment.

Question 4: What Federal public waters would be affected by these special action requests?

Answer: For purposes of this discussion, the phrase “Federal public waters” is defined as those waters described under 50 CFR 100.3 and include all navigable and non-navigable waters located within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of the Arctic, Innoko, Kanuti, Koyukuk, Nowitna, Tetlin, Yukon Delta, and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuges, Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve, the Steese National Conservation Area, the White Mountains National Recreation Area, and those segments of the National Wild and Scenic River system located outside the boundaries of Federal conservation units (portions of Beaver and Birch Creeks and the Delta and Fortymile Rivers). Additionally, waters that are within and adjacent to the exterior boundaries of Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve are within Federal jurisdiction for purposes of Federal subsistence fisheries management. Federal public waters include Yukon commercial fishing Districts Y1, Y2, and Y3 up to Paimiut, parts of Subdistricts 4A and 4C, and most of Subdistrict 5D (see **Figures**).

Question 5: Who are Federally qualified subsistence users affected by these special action requests?

Answer: Federally qualified subsistence users are permanent residents of a rural area or community that has a Federally recognized customary and traditional use determination for that resource. For fall Chum Salmon, Federally qualified subsistence users are permanent rural residents of the Yukon River drainage and Stebbins, Chevak, Hooper Bay, and Scammon Bay, which are situated outside of the drainage (this excludes residents of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, which is a Nonrural Area). This includes over 60 communities (see **Table**). For all other salmon except fall Chum Salmon, Federally qualified subsistence users are permanent rural residents of the Yukon River drainage and Stebbins (this excludes residents of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, which is a Nonrural Area).

Question 6: How will non-Federally qualified users be affected?

Answer: Non-Federally qualified users would not be allowed to take Chinook and summer and fall Chum Salmon in Federal public waters of the Yukon River drainage at any time from June 1 to September 30,

2022. In Federal regulations, taking or take means to fish, pursue, hunt, shoot, trap, net, capture, collect, kill, harm, or attempt to engage in any such conduct (see 50 CFR 100.25(a)).

Question 7: What is an ANILCA Section 804 Subsistence User Prioritization?

Answer: The Federal Subsistence Board can use an ANILCA Section 804 analysis to establish a priority among Federally qualified subsistence users whenever it is necessary to restrict the subsistence taking of fish and wildlife on Federal public lands. The reasons for establishing priority among Federally qualified subsistence users include protecting the viability of fish and wildlife populations and continuing subsistence uses. The priority shall be implemented based on the application of the following three criteria in Section 804 of ANILCA: (1) customary and direct dependence upon the populations as the mainstay of livelihood, (2) local residency, and (3) the availability of alternative resources. Based on these three criteria, the Board may reduce the pool of Federally qualified subsistence users who are eligible to take Chinook and summer and fall Chum Salmon on Federal public waters of the Yukon River drainage.

Question 8: What is the remaining process for these special action requests after the public hearing?

Answer: The Office of Subsistence Management is currently analyzing the potential effects of these requests on Chinook and summer and fall Chum Salmon populations and Federal subsistence fishing opportunity. It is anticipated that the Board will consider these special action requests on May 4, 2022. The Board will consider all information provided in the analysis including public testimony, Tribal and Native corporation consultation, and recommendations of affected Regional Advisory Councils when making its decision. The Board may approve, approve with modification, reject, or defer these special action requests until the next regulatory cycle.

Question 9: How can I get more information on these special action requests?

Answer: Please contact Scott Ayers, Fisheries Division Leader at the Office of Subsistence Management, at (907) 744-3824 or (800) 478-1456 with questions about these special action requests, or visit the Federal Subsistence Management Program website (www.doi.gov/subsistence/) for more information about subsistence on Federal public lands and waters.

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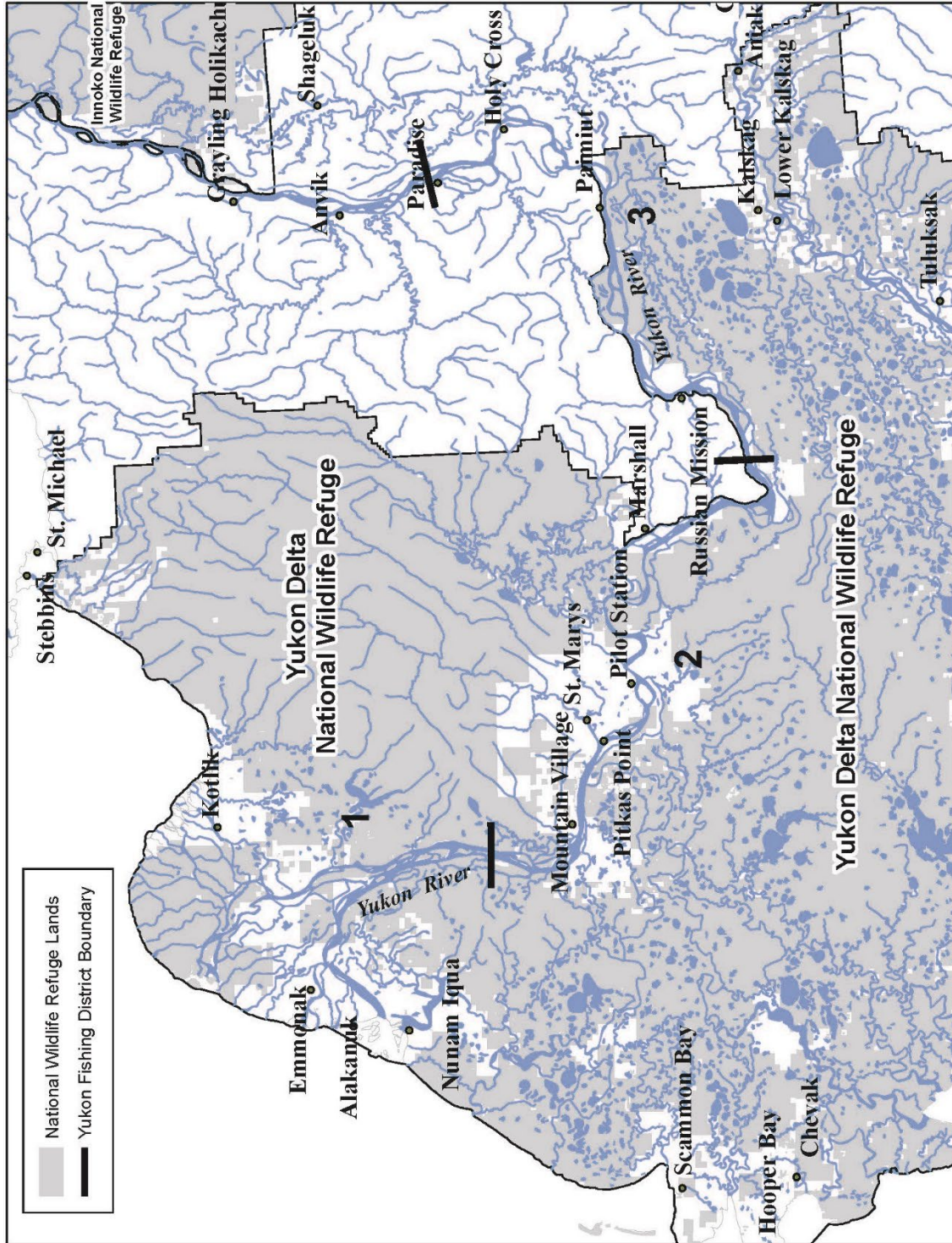


Figure 1. Map of Yukon River drainage Districts 1, 2, and 3.

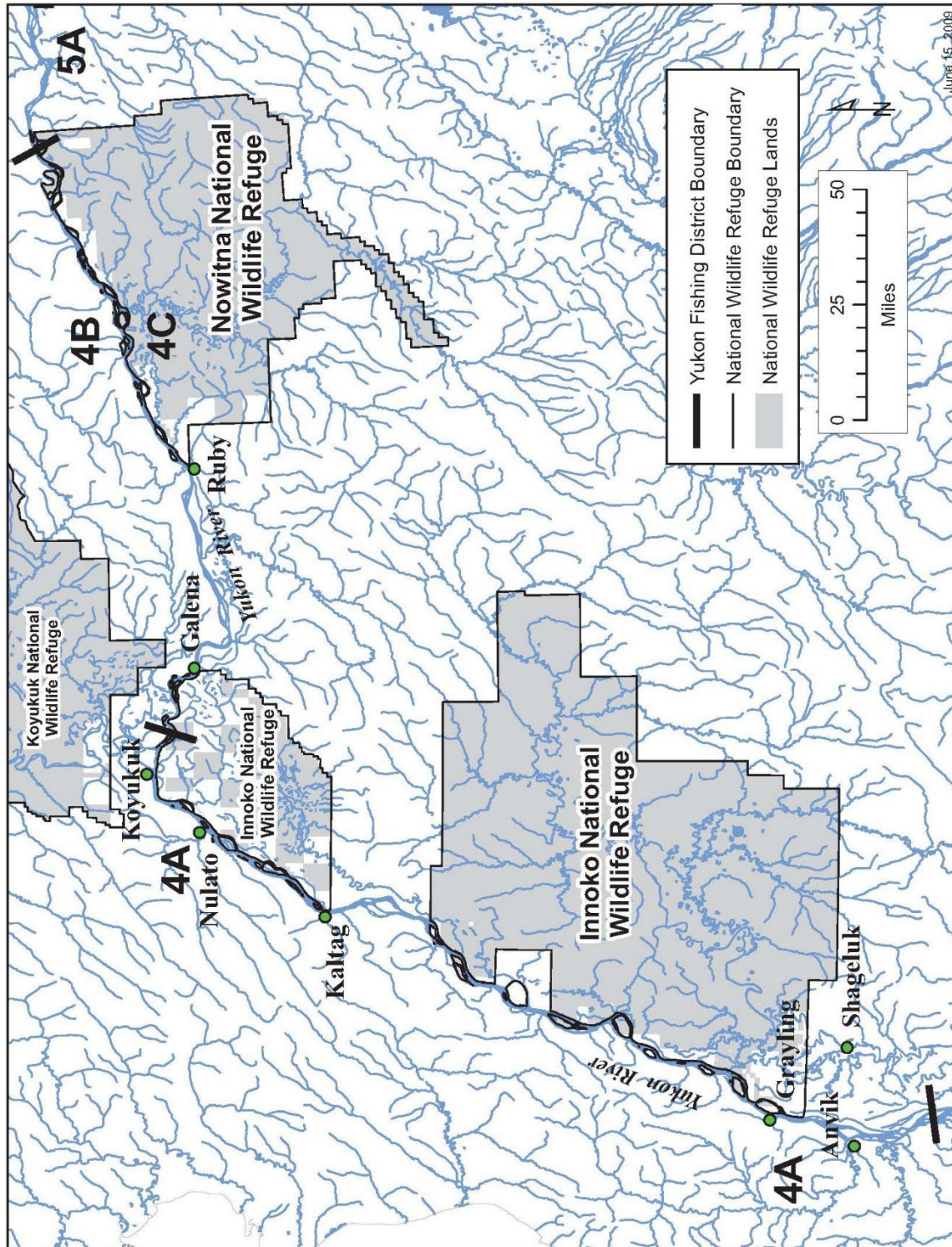


Figure 2. Map of Yukon River drainage District 4.

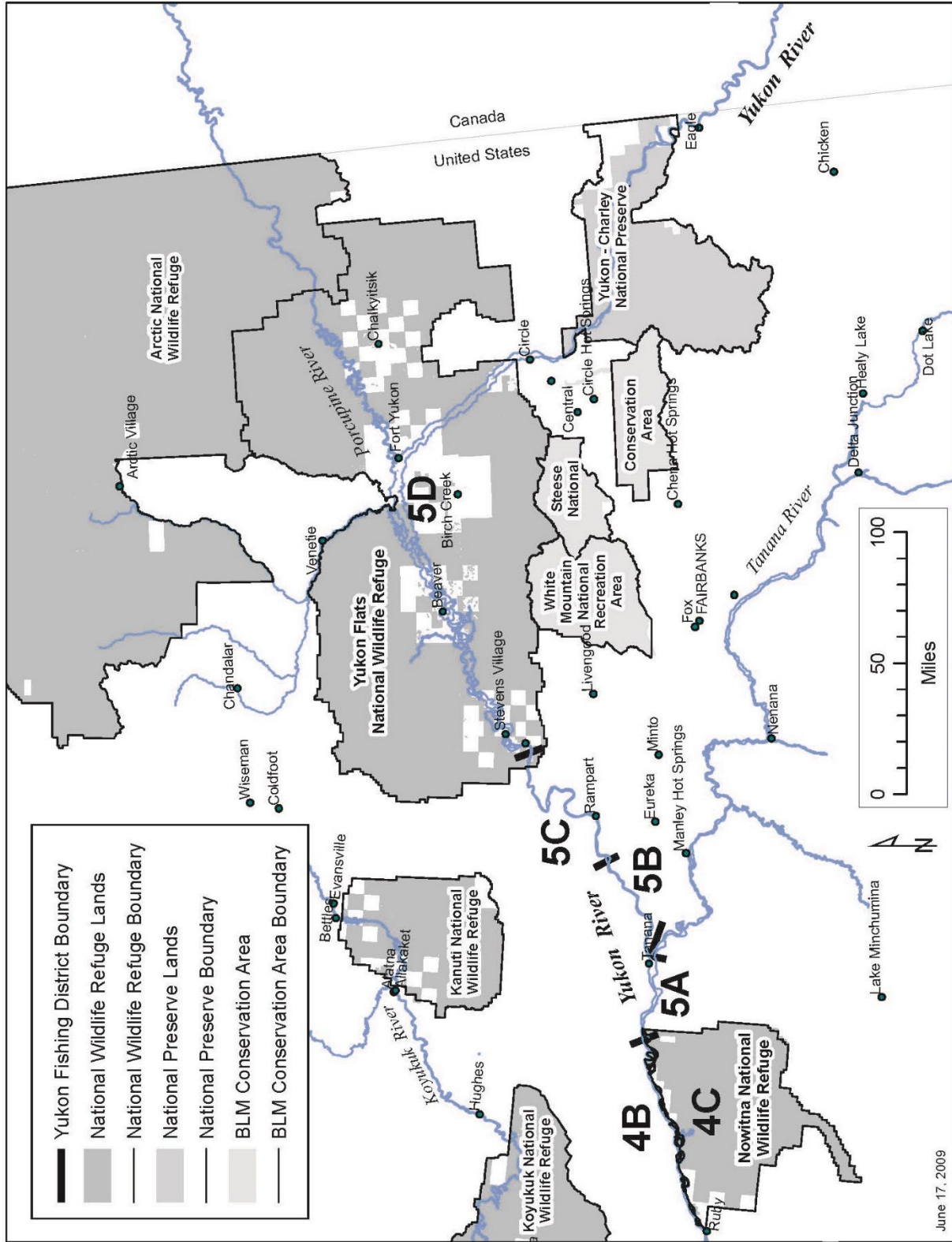


Figure 3. Map of Yukon River drainage District 5.

Table 1. Federally qualified subsistence users of salmon in the Yukon River drainage—All permanent rural residents of the Yukon River drainage (except residents of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, which is a Nonrural Area) including residents of the following rural communities:

Outside the drainage

Stebbins
 Scammon Bay (fall Chum Salmon only)
 Hooper Bay (fall Chum Salmon only)
 Chevak (fall Chum Salmon only)

District 1

Alakanuk
 Nunam Iqua
 Emmonak
 Kotlik

District 2

Mountain Village
 Pitkas Point
 Saint Marys
 Pilot Station
 Marshall

District 3

Russian Mission
 Holy Cross
 Shageluk

District 4

Anvik
 Grayling
 Kaltag
 Nulato
 Koyukuk
 Huslia
 Hughes
 Allakaket
 Alatna
 Bettles
 Evansville
 Wiseman
 Coldfoot
 Galena
 Ruby

District 5

Tanana
 Rampart

District 5 (continued)

Stevens Village
 Beaver
 Fort Yukon
 Chalkyitsik
 Arctic Village
 Venetie
 Birch Creek
 Circle
 Chicken
 Central
 Eagle Village
 Eagle

District 6

Livengood
 Manley
 Minto
 Whitestone
 Nenana
 Four Mile Road
 Healy
 McKinley/Denali Park
 Anderson
 Ferry
 Lake Minchumina
 Cantwell
 Delta Junction
 Fort Greely/Deltana
 Healy Lake
 Big Delta
 Dry Creek
 Dot Lake
 Dot Lake Village
 Tanacross
 Tetlin
 Tok
 Northway Junction/Village
 Alcan border
 Nabesna