Waterways
A film about water, language, and a changing way of life

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In summer...

*Nahk’ade ‘fish trap’ Last Tetlin*  
*Teedłqy Keey ‘current flows village’ Tetlin*
and in winter...

*Nudh’ qq Mann’ ‘island lake’*
Nuziamund Lake

*Teedlay Keey ‘current flows village’* Tetlin
the life of the Tetlin people

- is shaped by the waterscape they live in:
  - water provides food
  - water allows for “easy” travel in summer as well as in winter, which makes more resources accessible
  - but water poses also danger, through floods and boating accidents
Water and land

- In documenting traditional ecological knowledge,
Outline

• Tetlin and Upper Tanana
• Who are we?
• Funding
• Resources
• Product
Tetlin and the Upper Tanana

- Tetlin is located in eastern interior Alaska
- Traditionally, the Upper Tanana Athabascan language was spoken
- Only 4 or 5 Elders speak the Tetlin dialect today
- First contact in 1880s, school established in 1920s
The Tetlin people

- were traditionally semi-nomadic, and still like to travel: to harvest food, or to visit relatives in the surrounding communities.

Photo by: Lydia David

Photo by: Olga Lovick

Boat at Last Tetlin, UAF-1987-0114-00012
Team

Olga Lovick
(Linguist)

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(Language & Culture Expert)

Jessica Cherry
(Hydrologist)
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Team

Patrick Harman
(Media Designer)

Roy H. David Sr.
(Guide)

Siri G. Tuttle
(Voice)

Darian D. Mark
(Boat Pilot)
Climate and climate change

• temperatures between -70°F and +80°F
• weather is less predictable
• freeze-up comes later
• lakes and creeks are silting up
• “drunken” trees are becoming more common
• animal migration patterns have changed...

Photo by Patrick Harman
Resources

- recordings, transcripts, translations (David 2011)
- place name lists and maps by James Kari (1997) with additions by OL
- three D imaging technique
- historical photos
- an airplane and a pilot
- money from PACMAN

Photo: R. Busey
PACMAN (Pacific Area Climate Monitoring and Analysis Network) is a multi-year effort to better understand how climate change impacts freshwater resources (and the communities that depend on those resources) in Alaska and Hawaii. The goal is to utilize existing supercomputing facilities, climate observations, and regional freshwater resources to assess the impact of change on local communities.

**Climate Observations**

- Stormtracks
- GINA
  Geographic Information Network of Alaska
- IARC
  International Arctic Research Center
- IARC-INE
  Hydroclimatology Group

**Ground-based Sensor Networks**

Studying Alaskan climate and hydrology with ground-based sensor networks.

**Freshwater Resources**

- SPHN
  Seward Peninsula Hydrometeorology Network
- WERC
  Water and Environmental Research Center (Current Data)
- Airborne Remote Sensing
  Airborne remote sensing for study of the water cycle

**Community Impact**

- Anvil City Science Academy
  A public charter school in Nome, Alaska.
- Alaska EPSCoR
  Experimental Program to Stimulate competitive Research
- Rural Alaska
  Partnering with communities to study water resources in rural Alaska

**Supercomputing**

- ARSC
  Arctic Region Computing Center's Pacman
- ARSC Weather Modelling
  Supercomputer weather modelling, forecasts, and predictions for all of Alaska
- MHPCC
  Maui High Performance Computing Center
- UAF Smoke
  Supercomputer wildfire smoke forecasts by ARSC
Our goal

• was to use all of these materials in order to tell a story
  – demonstrating the importance of waterways to the Tetlin people
  – showing how their lives have changed
  – and do this in their own words in their own language
• and to do this in an appealing format!