



Why it's so hard to solicit buy-in from Arctic Communities in Arctic Research

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Many positive things happening regarding community engagement in Arctic research

So much to learn from projects like the SIKU project and other amazing examples of the wide realm of “CCS”

Many new positions opening to build capacity (at least in Alaska) e.g., FSWG, UAF IARC, IARPC/ARCUS, ICC, NNA CO, more.

Funding opportunities are available for ideas and growth! e.g., DCLs, Planning Grants, more.

There is focus on Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (UNDRIP) on the International Level. e.g., Arctic PASSION.

Indigenous entities taking the initiative to write protocols for researchers. e.g., ICC EEE, Kawerak, lots in Canada.

Inuit Circumpolar Committee – “Equitable and Ethical Engagement of Inuit Communities and Indigenous Knowledge”

Sharing at the CORE of Indigenous Culture in the Arctic

Sharing is security. Sharing is survival.

Our relationships are not temporal – they are part of lifelong communal dependency focused on sharing of resources with those in need.

Indigenous Knowledge = Sharing Network (for safety and communal success).

We are also careful when sharing with people outside our trusted networks.

You will be expected to share back after entering sharing networks.

Locals interested in sharing time and energy on research that helps our people – whatever that may mean.





Why it's so hard to solicit buy-in from Arctic Communities in Arctic Research

Why are we soliciting Arctic communities' involvement in research?

Why it's so hard to solicit buy-in from Arctic Communities in Arctic Research

- ...to properly engage with residents (?)
- ...to help Arctic residents face challenges(?)
- ...to make a positive impact utilizing science tools and expertise (?)
 - ...to create a project (?)
 - ...to follow guidelines (?)
 - ...to receive funding (?)

A mixture of these incentives?

How and when do you solicit Arctic communities' involvement in research?

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How and when do we solicit Arctic communities' involvement in research?

Traditional research funding process:

1. Develop idea
2. Distinguish potential funding source
3. Develop proposal (try correlate project with funding requirements)
4. Submit proposal (back to previous steps if not funded)
5. Manage grant (*do* the research!)
6. Share research (traditional "outreach" stage)



Previous Stages in which research projects engaged with communities.

My observation: We are trying to force local and Indigenous involvement into the current Arctic research process, and we may need to adjust the process.

Values of 'Western research' that impact solicitation of local and Indigenous communities

Research process very competitive in nature

This can set the precedence for a lot of issues. People might not be used to subtle gestures of respect, for instance.

Research teams have very stratified power structures

It might make it hard for people to learn from younger and less established people

Research process temporal in nature – people come and go

Relationships in rural villages last throughout entire lifetimes, and for many generations between families

Research process (methods, field plans, etc.) very structured in nature

Living and working in the Arctic requires constant flexibility, patience, and situational responsiveness in everything people do

I don't claim these faults of the research process.

They are arguably necessary to the current research process.

These are all things that we've talked about for a long time, and people are working very hard to overcome challenges and obstacles.

What makes Arctic community and citizen science unique (from other "citizen science")?

Typically, there is a large distance between researchers and residents

This can be culturally and geographically. Covid made it much harder to bridge these gaps!

Everything that happens in the Arctic is very expensive

Arctic research is very expensive, but this is also very true about living in the Arctic! This sets the precedence for uneven power structures. E.g., lower income families have much higher cost of living in the Arctic. Generally, anyone working or supporting Arctic research is paid (monetarily or through school credit).

This affects volunteerism.

Want to create a network to capture local observations? Local experiences? Local pictures and video?

People have Facebook for that... so need to be extra creative.

Local self-determination is key (SIKU example)

Despite the challenges – there are successes to learn from.

These are my own observations meant to help bring awareness.

I apologize I don't have solutions for all the issues and observations I raise.

More on Context – very important to recognize



Not a good history of relations between outsiders and local Indigenous peoples in the Arctic.
I challenge us all to do what we can to change this!

Most visitors have always come for the purpose of taking something and leaving.
This impacts how willing people are to give their time and energy.

Context is very different between communities, regions, and countries.

Subsistence life and survival in the village keeps you constantly busy.
Leaders at entities can be subsistence leaders as well.

Don't dismiss the lack of internet and bandwidth.
My Unalakleet example

People use different types of communication in the rural areas.
Text, phone call, WhatsApp, Facebook, Fax



The Administrative Procedures Act 1946 — The “Notice and Comment” Law

U.S. Population (continental): 326 million people
 U.S. Federal Land (continental): 418 million acres
 U.S. federal land per person: **1.3 acres/person**

Alaska Population: 730,000
 Alaska Federal Land: 222 million acres
 Alaska federal land per person: 303 acres/person

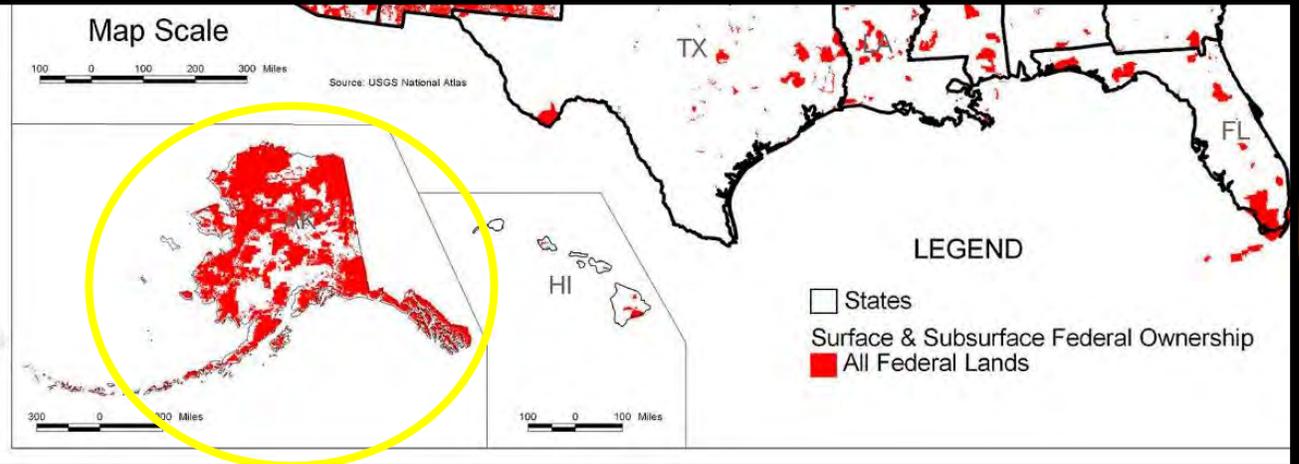
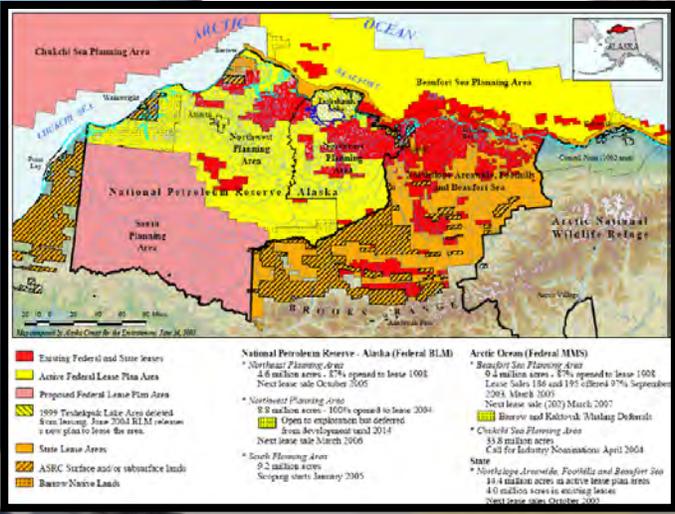
Rural Alaska: 238,000
 Federal land per rural resident: **931 acres/person**

People are passionate about things they make public comments about.

Their comments are either:

1. Put on a shelf and ignored.
2. Misinterpreted due to cultural and linguistic barriers.
3. Take out of context and can be used against people.

The geographical and cultural barriers between residents and the federal managers contributes greatly.



Conclusions

There are a lot of successes to learn from and be proud of.

Take the initiative to be creative.

Utilize Planning Grants to follow Free, Prior, and Informed Consent process (UNDRIP)

Why are we soliciting Arctic communities' involvement? How and when are we doing this?

Nature of research process is competitive, stratified power structures, temporal, and ridged. (These are characteristics make proper community engagement tough.)

Sharing is at the CORE of Indigenous cultures in the Arctic. Relationships – lifelong sharing dependencies

Arctic Citizen and Community Sciences are unique from other Citizen and Community Sciences – let's keep in mind power inequities related to funding.

The cost of living in the Arctic is extremely high and the lack of internet bandwidth affecting communication and the ability to take part in virtual meetings. So much Fed lands causes issues in engagement.

This presentation may not have been relevant to everyone in audience.



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*Quyanaqpak - Quyana cernaq - Thank you
Questions?*

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