

The Chefnak Traditional Council wishes to protect its environment so that we can protect our way of life. We ask the United States Environmental Protection Agency, on a government-to-government basis, to assist us in this goal by undertaking the following:

- ❖ Develop required forms and formats for grant applications and reporting to reflect our unique circumstances, and ways of thinking and communicating.
- ❖ Provide flexibility in grant application and reporting deadlines to reflect our lifestyle's seasonal dependence, and to support our traditional activities.
- ❖ Allow us to define what an acceptable "deliverable" or project result is, and what an acceptable timeframe is, in accomplishing it.
- ❖ In evaluating grant proposals, prohibit any penalties for roadless Alaska Villages due to weather- or transportation- related problems that prevented them from meeting goals or requirements of current or past grants in a timely manner.
- ❖ In evaluating grant proposals, prohibit penalization of Alaska Tribes who did not meet grant goals or requirements in a timely manner due to a traditional decision making process or performance of other traditional activities.
- ❖ Lower the number of required reports from four to two each year, to allow more time to work on environmental problems, and less time completing grant requirements.
- ❖ Provide for additional travel funds to roadless Alaska Villages, so that we are not penalized for living on the lands of our ancestors.
- ❖ Provide for additional operational funds to roadless Alaska Villages who are still with honeybucket dumps, so that we may protect the health of our people and our River.
- ❖ Provide for additional staffing funds to Villages where English is not the first language, to allow for the greater time it takes to operate a program, so that we are not penalized for continuing to speak in our own tongue.
- ❖ Hire additional Alaska staff that will travel here and spend adequate time to work with us in our own way, respect and follow our traditional decision making, and provide us technical and administrative assistance.
- ❖ Form a Task group, with members that we approve to speak for us, that will begin facilitating the necessary steps to meet these requests as soon as possible, and will identify and pursue all other means to ensure that USEPA policy fully supports, and in no way detracts from, the persistence of our traditional lifestyle.