



# AMBLER MINING DISTRICT ACCESS PROJECT NEWSLETTER



## Working Together to Find Opportunity

The Ambler Access Project is being developed collaboratively, in close consultation with the tribes and communities closest to the project.

July 2022 | 2nd Quarter 2022

### 2 AAP's Community Visits

AAP and stakeholder outreach team visits communities to provide info.

### 3 2022 Field Season Kicks Off

Summertime commences this year's field season with 18 people hired

### 3 Ambler Access - JOBS

Over 60 jobs were planned for the Field Season at the start of 2022

### 4 Subsistence Advisory Committee - Meets in Kotzebue

### 5 AAP Myths vs. Facts

Myths vs. Facts debunk the misinformation that is circulating

### 5 Tribal Liaison Program

The TLP began the 2022 pre-field season with seven Tribal Liaisons.

## AMBLER ACCESS PROJECT'S COMMUNITY VISITS



### Tentative Community Visit Schedule

August 10 - Noorvik

August 11 - Kiana

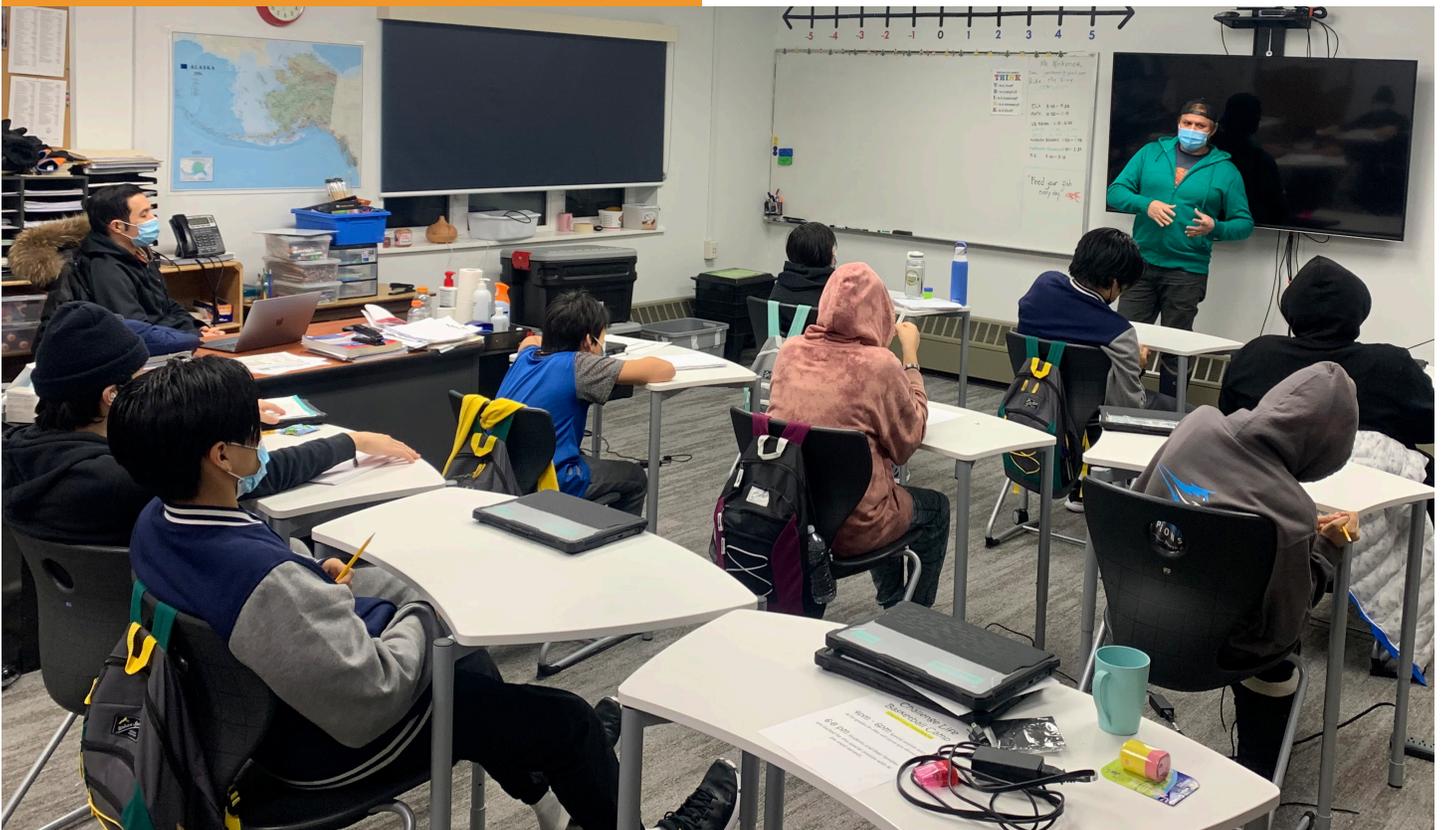
August (TBD) - Allakaket

August (TBD) - Hughes

The Ambler Access Project's (AAP) communications and stakeholder outreach team has been making community visits and hosting job fairs along the proposed access route since late 2021. In the coming weeks, team members will continue visits to Allakaket and Huslia in the Doyon region, and Kiana and Noorvik in the NANA region.

The objectives of the community visits are to provide information about the project's activities, employment opportunities, and progress, hear directly from residents, and answer questions. The trips are designed for community members to know who they can reach out to with any questions, comments, or ideas. The AAP team coordinates all visits with the local Tribal organization and the local AAP Subsistence Advisory Committee member.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule a community visit and a job fair, please reach out to Charlene Ostbloom at (907)590-9301 or [costbloom@ambleraccess.org](mailto:costbloom@ambleraccess.org), or Kathy Mayo at (907)347-3279 or [Kathy.mayo@kmayoassociates.com](mailto:Kathy.mayo@kmayoassociates.com).



## 2022 FIELD SEASON KICKS OFF

Summertime commences this year's field season with 18 people hired for jobs including Tribal Liaisons, Archaeological Technicians and Bear Guards. "This season's work has been reduced from what was initially forecasted," states Jeff San Juan, Interim Project Manager. "We had hoped to hire at least 60 people by this time, with many of them from the villages in the region of the project."

Nonetheless, there is excitement and anticipation for beginning this work. For some, this is their second season working on the Ambler Access Project, like Vincent Simon of Allakaket. Vincent was one of the few who worked as a Tribal Liaison in the 2021 field season. He will continue his roll in the Tribal Liaison Program this season. "We have a good group hired in the Tribal Liaison Program," said Eva Sheldon, Tribal Liaison Program Director. "We meet weekly and provide current information about the project so that they can share with their communities, as another avenue for exchanging information. Additionally, they will do pre-field work such as identifying cultural, historic, and recent use areas that will help the project in other aspects as we await the start of the field season this fall."

Jobs are an important boost to the local economies of the Upper Kobuk and Koyukuk regions, and it is the intent of the project to offer training and jobs to people of these regions. It has been voiced often that there is a desire for good paying jobs close to home.

The types of jobs can vary, especially early in the project. Many of the 2022 season jobs adapt to schedules desired by residents, allowing for subsistence and enjoying summer activities.



## AMBLER ACCESS - JOBS



Over 60 jobs were planned for the field season as planning commenced at the start of 2022. Job Fairs, community visits and recruitment were underway when the Bureau of Land Management halted work, moving the start date to later in the summer.

"Right now we are activating our community-based Tribal Liaisons (TLP). They are working for the project," states Eva Sheldon, Tribal Liaison Program Director.

## SUBSISTENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETS IN KOTZEBUE



The Subsistence Advisory Committee (SAC) held its second meeting since organizing in July 2022. This group, consisting of representatives of the directly impacted communities, Doyon, Limited and NANA, added to their committee during their meeting. Tanana Chiefs Conference and Gates of the Arctic National Park were approved as ex-officio members and are now part of the SAC.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game presented the 2021 Fish Investigation on the Koyukuk River report. Discussion focused on the first 55 miles of the proposed road. “Understanding this study and others that have been done by other organizations is important. This is critical spawning areas for sheefish,” stated Wilmer Beetus, First Chief of Hughes.

Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) leadership was present to listen to the discussion and document input for consideration in the project design. AIDEA is required under the Joint Record of Decision (JROD) to work with the SAC and listen to their advice and recommendations on the project.

Comprehensive maps for the proposed project can be found here <https://ambleraccess.org/About/Map>. These maps are used extensively during the SAC meetings as areas of potential impact are discussed.

Meetings of the SAC for the remainder of 2022 were approved. Information for meetings are available on the Ambler Access Project website <https://ambleraccess.org/Community-Engagement/Calendar>. Posted information includes notification of meetings, agendas, approved minutes, and support documents.

For more information contact SAC Coordinator Kathy Mayo at [Kathy.mayo@kmayoassociates.com](mailto:Kathy.mayo@kmayoassociates.com).



## AMBLER ACCESS PROJECT MYTHS VS FACTS

There is a lot of misinformation about the Ambler Access Project that is circulating. The following is a list of myths and facts about the project.

**The Ambler Access Project Road will be open to the public.**



The Ambler Access Project (AAP) Road is a private, controlled industrial access road and is being permitted and designed as such.

**The road will be built in the next year or so.**



The AAP is currently in the final and multi-year Feasibility and Permitting Phase following an extensive federal permitting process. The 2021 summer field season ended mid-October. Field surveys and studies are expected to commence in mid-August 2022.

**The Koyukuk River will be dammed for the road.**



The Koyukuk River and any other river the road crosses will not be dammed. Extensive studies and surveys will identify where bridges and culverts will be installed at river crossings.

**Tribes do not support the project.**



Yes, some tribes do not support the project. However, there are many that do. Letters of support have been written and resolutions have been passed by several tribes in support of the project. They can be found at <https://ambleraccess.org/Community-Engagement/Calendar>.

## TRIBAL LIAISON PROGRAM

The Tribal Liaison Program (TLP) kicked off the 2022 pre-field season with seven Tribal Liaisons (TLs) from five different affiliated tribes from around the proposed access corridor who are employed by Kuna Engineering and K'Oyit'Ots'ina Corporation (K-Corp). The TLs bring a vast knowledge of their community's history, language, culture, and subsistence way of life to the project, fulfilling an important role for assisting with cultural resource management and community collaboration.

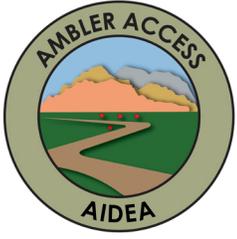
Ahead of the field season the AAP team anticipates that the new TLs will interview community members and elders to gather important ethnographic information, identify "recent" use areas around the AAP corridor including those dating back 100 years or more, and identifying unknown or undocumented sites of cultural and archaeological importance. The

TLs will utilize maps to document these areas that will in turn provide valuable information for the appropriate creation of the future helicopter landing zone areas. TLs will also participate in community and tribal council meetings, gatherings, job fairs, and other events where they can support overall community engagement.

The collaboration between the TLs, the communities, and the project are a significant element of the upcoming field work and the whole project.

For more information, please contact the Tribal Liaison Program Director:

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ALASKA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT & EXPORT AUTHORITY

