



Understanding Tribal Territorial Jurisdiction in Alaska after VAWA 2022

1. *The Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 reaffirms the inherent sovereignty of Alaska Tribes to exercise their authority over all Native people present within the boundaries of a Village.*

SEC. 813. TRIBAL JURISDICTION IN ALASKA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to title II of Public Law 90–284 (25 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.) (commonly known as the “Indian Civil Rights Act of 1968”), Congress recognizes and affirms the inherent authority of any Indian tribe occupying a Village in the State to exercise criminal and civil jurisdiction over all Indians present in the Village.

2. *In recognizing tribal territorial jurisdiction in Alaska, VAWA 2022 refers to “Villages” as defined in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, commonly known as ANCSA, which is now a part of the United States Code in Title 43.*

(7) VILLAGE.—The term “Village” means the Alaska Native Village Statistical Area covering all or any portion of a Native village (as defined in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (43 U.S.C. 1602)), as depicted on the applicable Tribal Statistical Area Program Verification map of the Bureau of the Census.

3. To find the ANCSA definition of “Village,” perform a Google search for “43 U.S.C. § 1602” or follow this link to the [Legal Information Institute \(LII\)](#).

43 U.S. Code § 1602 - LII / Legal Information Institute

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/43/1602> ▼

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43 U.S. Code § 1602 - Definitions

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For the purposes of this chapter, the term—

(a) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior;

(b) “Native” means a citizen of the United States who is a person of one-fourth degree or more Alaska Indian (including Tsimshian Indians not enrolled in the Metlakatla¹¹¹ Indian Community) Eskimo, or Aleut blood, or combination thereof. The term includes any Native as so defined either or both of whose adoptive parents are not Natives. It also includes, in the absence of proof of a minimum blood quantum, any citizen of the United States who is regarded as an Alaska Native by the Native village or Native group of which he claims to be a member and whose father or mother is (or, if deceased, was) regarded as Native by any village or group. Any decision of the Secretary regarding eligibility for enrollment shall be final;

(c) “Native village” means any tribe, band, clan, group, village, community, or association in Alaska listed in sections 1610 and 1615 of this title, or which meets the requirements of this chapter, and which the Secretary determines was, on the 1970 census enumeration date (as shown by the census or other evidence satisfactory to the Secretary, who shall make findings of fact in each instance), composed of twenty-five or more Natives;

From the Definition section, you can follow the link to either [1610](#) or [1615](#); or, you can search for 43 U.S. Code § 1610 and 43 U.S. Code § 1615 directly in the search bar.

4. ANCSA refers to two sections within the statute that list Villages, [Section 1610](#) and [Section 1615](#).

a. Section 1610

(b) LIST OF NATIVE VILLAGES SUBJECT TO CHAPTER; REVIEW; ELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFITS; EXPIRATION OF WITHDRAWALS FOR VILLAGES; ALTERNATIVE ELIGIBILITY; ELIGIBILITY OF UNLISTED VILLAGES

(1) The Native villages subject to this chapter are as follows:

NAME OF PLACE AND REGION

Afognak, Afognak Island.
Akhiok, Kodiak.
Akiachak, Southwest Coastal Lowland.
Akiak, Southwest Coastal Lowland.
Akutan, Aleutian.
Alakanuk, Southwest Coastal Lowland.
Alatna, Koyukuk-Lower Yukon.
Aleknagik, Bristol Bay.
Allakaket, Koyukuk-Lower Yukon.
Ambler, Bering Strait.
Anaktuvuk, Pass, Arctic Slope.
Andreafsey, Southwest Coastal Lowland.
Aniak, Southwest Coastal Lowland.
Anvik, Koyukuk-Lower Yukon.
Arctic Village, Upper Yukon-Porcupine.
Atka, Aleutian.
Atkasok, Arctic Slope.
Atmautlaug, Southwest Coastal Lowland.

b. Section 1615

(a) WITHDRAWAL OF PUBLIC LANDS; LIST OF NATIVE VILLAGES

All public lands in each township that encloses all or any part of a Native village listed below, and in each township that is contiguous to or corners on such township, except lands withdrawn or reserved for national defense purposes, are hereby withdrawn, subject to valid existing rights, from all forms of appropriation under the public land laws, including the mining and mineral leasing laws, and from selection under the Alaska Statehood Act, as amended:

Angoon, Southeast.
Craig, Southeast.
Hoonah, Southeast.
Hydaburg, Southeast.
Kake, Southeast.
Kasaan, Southeast.
Klawock, Southeast.
Saxman, Southeast.
Yakutat, Southeast.

5. VAWA recognizes Alaska Tribes' territorial jurisdiction by referring to the Tribal Statistical Area Program (TSAP) Verification maps, which are maintained by the U.S. Census Bureau.

a. You can find a database of the Village Statistical Area maps by region [HERE](#).

b. They can also be found by searching: **2010 Census TSAP Verification Maps**

The screenshot shows the United States Census Bureau website. The header includes the Census Bureau logo, a search bar, and navigation links: BROWSE BY TOPIC, EXPLORE DATA, LIBRARY, SURVEYS/ PROGRAMS, INFORMATION FOR..., and FIND A CODE. Below the header, a breadcrumb trail reads: // Census.gov / Census Reference Maps / 2010 Census TSAP Verification Maps. On the left, a sidebar lists 'WITHIN CENSUS GEOGRAPHIES' with links for Mapping Files, Mapping Tools, Reference Files, and Reference Maps. The main content area features social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn, followed by the title '2010 Census Tribal Statistical Areas Program (TSAP) Verification Maps For The Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas' and the year '2010'. The text explains that the page lists Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs) sorted alphabetically by their Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC). It notes that users can view a map of an entire ANRC or select an ANVSA to view or download maps. A 'PLEASE NOTE' section states that some PDF files are very large and may take considerable time to download. A list of 12 Alaska Native Regional Corporations follows, each preceded by a folder icon: Ahtna, Alut, Arctic Slope, Bering Straits, Bristol Bay, Calista, Chugach, Cook Inlet, Doyon, Koniag, Nana, and Sealaska.

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2010 Census Tribal Statistical Areas Program (TSAP) Verification Maps For The Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas

2010

2010 Census Tribal Statistical Areas Program (TSAP) Verification Maps For The Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas

Below is a list of the Alaska Native Village Statistical Areas (ANVSAs) sorted alphabetically within their Alaska Native Regional Corporation (ANRC). You may view a map of an entire ANRC by clicking on the ANRC name or you may select an ANVSA name to view or download maps for that ANVSA.

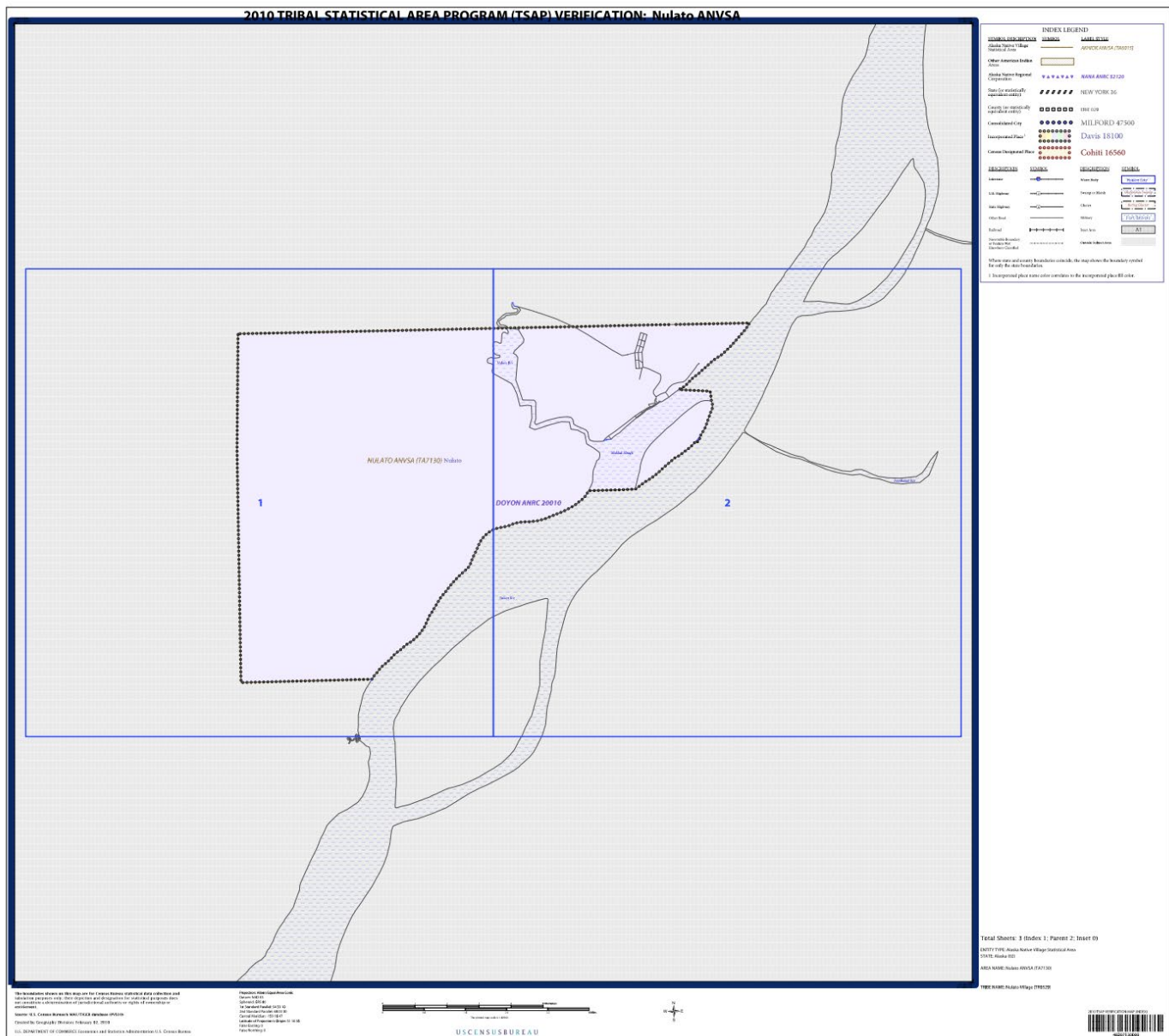
PLEASE NOTE: Some of these PDF files are very large and download time could be considerable.

- Ahtna Alaska Native Regional Corporation
- Aluet Alaska Native Regional Corporation
- Arctic Slope Alaska Native Regional Corporation
- Bering Straits Alaska Native Regional Corporation
- Bristol Bay Alaska Native Regional Corporation
- Calista Alaska Native Regional Corporation
- Chugach Alaska Native Regional Corporation
- Cook Inlet Alaska Native Regional Corporation
- Doyon Alaska Native Regional Corporation
- Koniag Alaska Native Regional Corporation
- Nana Alaska Native Regional Corporation
- Sealaska Alaska Native Regional Corporation

c. Select the Regional Corporation folder. Example: Doyon Regional Corporation.

United States Census Bureau				United States Census Bureau			
Name	Last modified	Size	Description	Name	Last modified	Size	Description
Parent Directory		-		Parent Directory		-	
TSAPV10RC20010_000.pdf	30-Aug-2012 14:49	3.5M		TSAPV10NV7130_000.pdf	21-Feb-2014 08:54	80K	
TSAPV10RC20010_001.pdf	30-Aug-2012 14:49	1.0M		TSAPV10NV7130_001.pdf	21-Feb-2014 08:54	77K	
TSAPV10RC20010_002.pdf	30-Aug-2012 14:49	872K		TSAPV10NV7130_002.pdf	21-Feb-2014 08:54	90K	
TSAPV10RC20010_003.pdf	30-Aug-2012 14:49	1.2M					
TSAPV10RC20010_004.pdf	30-Aug-2012 14:49	4.1M					
alatna/	21-Feb-2014 08:52	-					
allakaket/	21-Feb-2014 08:56	-					
anvik/	21-Feb-2014 08:52	-					
arctic_village/	21-Feb-2014 08:57	-					
beaver/	21-Feb-2014 08:57	-					
birch_creek/	21-Feb-2014 08:52	-					
canyon_village/	21-Feb-2014 08:52	-					
chalkyitsik/	21-Feb-2014 08:52	-					
circle/	21-Feb-2014 08:52	-					
dot_lake/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
eagle/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
evansville/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
fort_yukon/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
galena/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
grayling/	21-Feb-2014 09:04	-					
healy_lake/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
holy_cross/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
hughes/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
huslia/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
kaltag/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
koyukuk/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
lake_minchumina/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
manley_hot_springs/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
mcgrath/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
minto/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
nenana/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
nikolai/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
northway/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
nulato/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
rampart/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
ruby/	21-Feb-2014 08:54	-					
shageluk/	21-Feb-2014 08:55	-					
stevens_village/	21-Feb-2014 08:55	-					
takotna/	21-Feb-2014 09:07	-					
tanacross/	21-Feb-2014 08:55	-					
tanana/	21-Feb-2014 08:55	-					
telida/	21-Feb-2014 08:55	-					
tetlin/	21-Feb-2014 08:55	-					
venetie/	21-Feb-2014 08:55	-					

- d. *The Census maps vary based on Region and Village. This example uses the Village of Nulato, listed in 43 U.S.C. § 1610 as “Nulato, Koyukuk-Lower Yukon.” Each map of a statistical area will look something like this:*



This is a screenshot of the first PDF in the Nulato folder: TSAPV10NV7130_000.pdf 21-Feb-2014 08:54 80K

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- 2010 TRIBAL STATISTICAL AREA PROGRAM (TSAP) VERIFICATION: Nulato ANVSA**
- LEGEND**
- | SYMBOL DESCRIPTION | SOURCE | DATE ACQUIRED |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------|
| Boundary Line | Bureau of Land Management (BLM) | 2010 |
| Water Body | Natural Resources Inventory (NRI) | 2010 |
| Infrastructure | Aerial Photography | 2010 |
| Other Features | Various Sources | 2010 |
- Scale:** 1 inch = 1 mile
North Arrow: Points North
- Metadata:**
 Project Name: Nulato ANVSA
 Date: 2010-10-10
 Author: [Name]
 Contact: [Phone Number]
 Version: 1.0
- Notes:**
 This map was created from the best available information at the time of publication. It does not constitute a warranty or guarantee of accuracy. The user assumes all responsibility for the use of this map.

