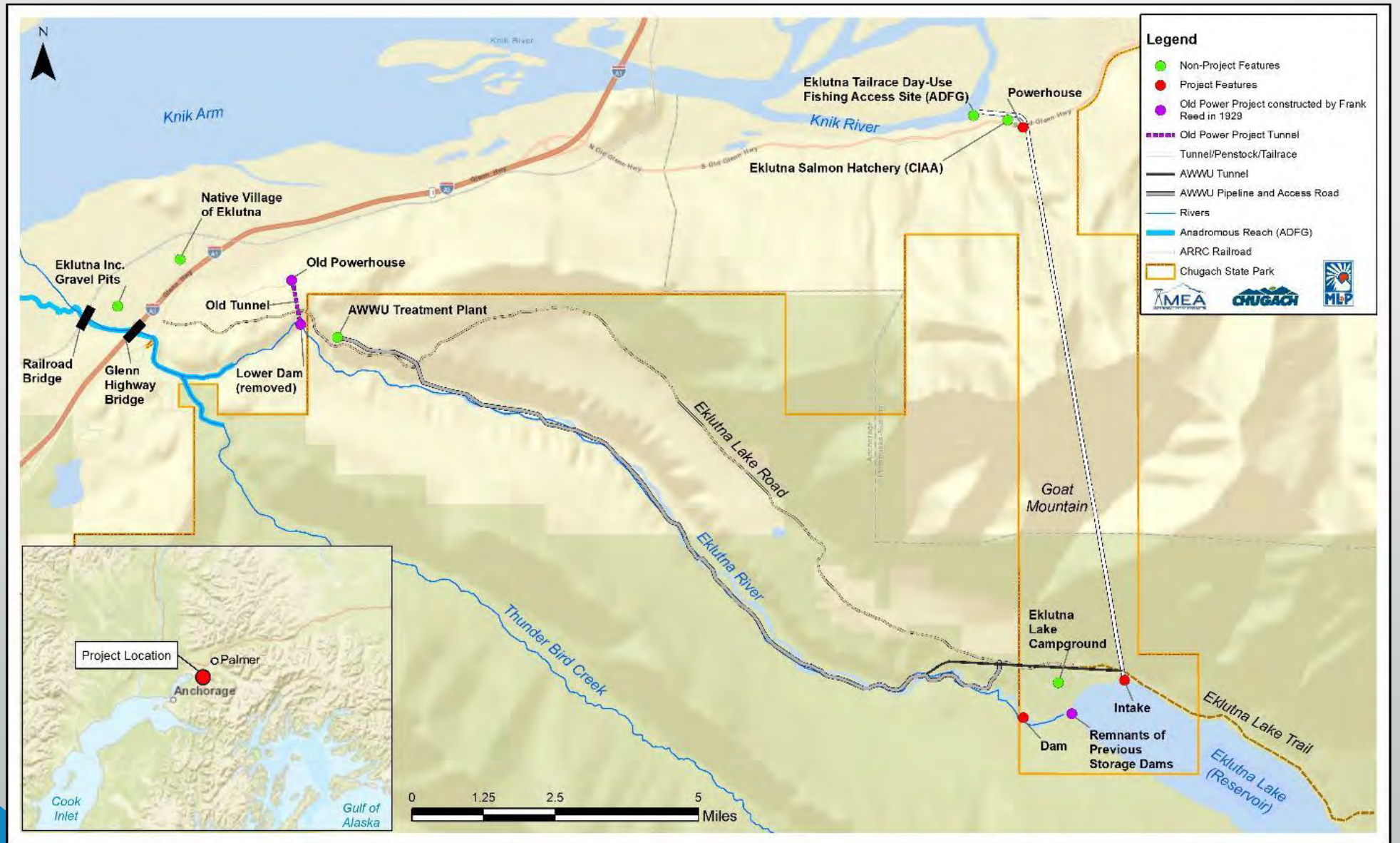


# Eklutna Hydroelectric Project Fish & Wildlife Program

Anchorage Assembly Work Session  
February 12, 2020

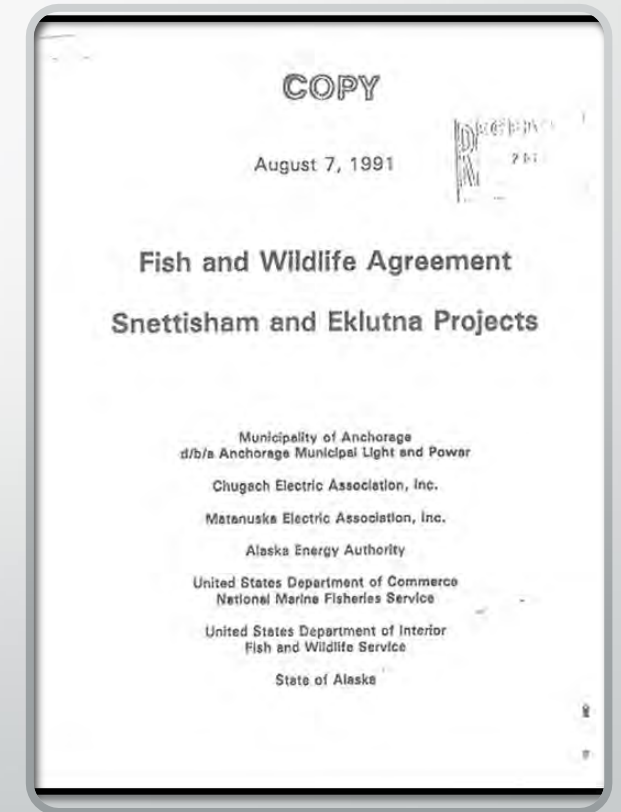


# Location Map



# 1991 Fish and Wildlife Agreement

- Executed by the Municipality, Chugach, MEA, and federal and state agencies as part of purchase consideration approved by U.S. Congress in 1995
- Requires owners to evaluate Project impacts on fish and wildlife, identify potential protection, mitigation and enhancement measures (PMEs), and then evaluate the impacts of implementing any identified measures.
- Requires equal consideration of:
  - Efficient and economical power production
  - Energy conservation
  - Protection, mitigation, and enhancement of fish and wildlife
  - Protection of recreation opportunities
  - Municipal water supplies
  - Preservation of other aspects of environmental quality
  - Other beneficial public uses
  - Requirements of State law



# Key Dates of 1991 F&W Agreement

- Transaction Date: October 1997
- 1991 F&W Agreement requires:
  - Initiate consultation process NLT 25 years after Transaction Date (2022)
  - Governor issues Final F&W Program 3 years prior to Implementation (2024)
  - Begin implementation NLT 30 years after Transaction Date (2027)
  - Complete implementation NLT 35 years after Transaction Date (2032)



# Accelerated Project Schedule

2019

Initiate consultation process, develop a project website, gather existing information, conduct site reconnaissance, and develop a long-term plan.

2021 – 2022

Conduct studies as described in the study plans (assuming 2 years of studies), develop a draft Summary of Results, and distribute to stakeholders for review and comment.

2020

Retain technical experts, develop study plans in consultation with state and federal agencies and any interested parties, submit study plan schedule to the Governor for approval.

2023 – 2024

Develop a draft F&W Program, distribute to stakeholders for review and comment, conduct public meetings, resolve any disagreements, and submit proposal to the Governor.

# Consultations To Date

- Alaska Department of Fish and Game\*
- Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation\*
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources\*  
Including:
  - Office of History and Archaeology
  - Chugach State Park
- Alaska Department of Transportation
- Alaska Railroad
- Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- National Marine Fisheries Service\*
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service\*
- Eklutna Inc.
- Native Village of Eklutna
- The Conservation Fund
- Trout Unlimited
- The Alaska Center
- Cook Inlet Aquaculture
- JBER

\* 1991 Fish and Wildlife Agreement requires consultation in development of Study Plan

# Next Steps – 2020

- Compile, synthesize, and disseminate existing relevant information
- Develop key questions to be addressed with agencies (study scoping)
- Develop technical work groups with agencies
- Agree on new information to be obtained and analytical tools
- Retain appropriate technical experts
- Develop technical details of study implementation plans
- Study Schedule consultation with the Governor in late 2020

# Immediate Flow Releases Not Allowed

- Major change affecting water usage or fish & wildlife expressly prohibited prior to following process prescribed in 1991 Agreement
- State and Federal permitting may be required
  - Moving dredged and filled materials
  - Effects on anadromous fish
  - Flushing water to clear debris and fill materials outside Project's water appropriation
- Civil liability
  - Potential damage to downstream facilities and property (for instance, railroad, AWWU pipeline, bridges, private lands)
  - Negative impacts to fish & wildlife and habitat
  - Impacts to safe operation of project



# Debris and Sediment



# Conclusion

- Required process for protection, mitigation, and enhancement of the Eklutna River is already in place – 1991 Agreement
- Scientific process
- Allows Governor to balance all concerns and values
- Process started more than three years early
- To follow the process: [www.EklutnaHydro.com](http://www.EklutnaHydro.com)