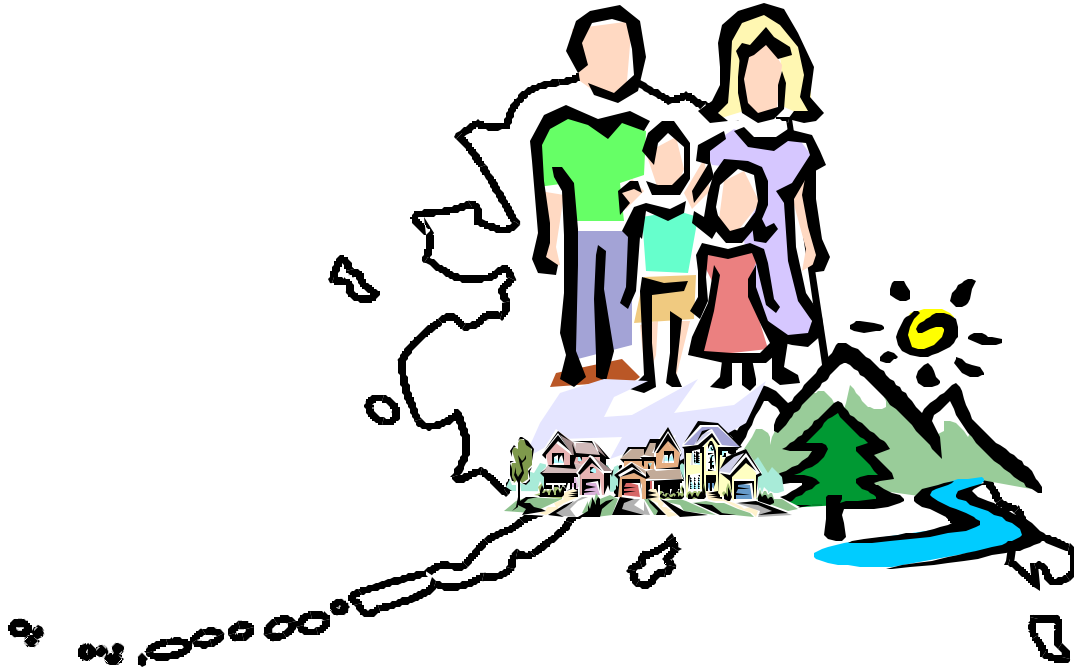


Your Community's Quality of Life and Future



A Survey of Alaskan Residents

Please fold and return your completed questionnaire to:



Environmental Science Department
Alaska Pacific University
4101 University Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99508

PART 1. INTRODUCTION

Please take a few minutes to think about the community where you live (or live nearby). This survey asks you to describe your community--its character and quality of life--and what you value most about living in your community. This survey also asks you to describe what changes (if any) you would like to see in your community.

In return for sharing this information, we will send you a summary of perceptions about your community. This information can help you and your community leaders better understand your community and it can also help state and federal agencies assist your community in achieving your community's desired future. If you don't understand a question, please move on and complete as much of the questionnaire as possible. Thank you.

- Q-1.** What community do you live in (or what community is closest to where you live)? _____
- Q-2.** If you do not live within the above community, approximately how many miles is your residence from the community? _____ **MILES**
- Q-3.** How long have you lived in or near this community? _____ **YEARS**
- Q-4.** How long have you lived in Alaska? _____ **YEARS**
- Q-5.** The idea of a "community" has many meanings. When you think of the word "community", which of the following definitions makes the **most** sense for your community. (Please circle **only** one response)
- 1** People living inside a distinct political boundary (for example, an incorporated city)
 - 2** People who share similar values, attitudes, and lifestyles (e.g., the Amish community)
 - 3** People who work in the same livelihood (e.g., commercial fishing community)
 - 4** People who share the same cultural heritage (e.g., native community)
 - 5** People living in bounded geographical area (e.g., Anchorage bowl community)

PART 2. QUALITY OF LIFE IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Q-6. What things do you value most about the community where you live? Please use single words or short phrases. Examples might include small town atmosphere, natural setting, job, schools, or social life. Identify your own and list up to 3 things you value most.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Q-7a. Over the time period you have lived in your community, has it become a more desirable place to live, a less desirable place to live, or stayed about the same? (*Please circle one answer*).

- 1** More desirable
- 2** Less desirable
- 3** Stayed the same



Q-7b. If you answered more or less desirable, list up to 3 reasons why.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

PART 2. QUALITY OF LIFE (Continued)

Q-8. What is most important to you in selecting a community? **PART A.** Imagine that you could live in any community. From the list of quality of life factors below, please indicate those things most important to you.

PART B. Based on the community where you *currently* live, how satisfied or unsatisfied are you with these quality of life factors that are important to you? (*Please circle one response for Part A and one response for Part B*)

	PART A				PART B				
	How important are these to you in selecting a community?				How satisfied are you with these in your community?				
	Extremely Important	Somewhat Important	Not at all important		Very Satisfied	Neither Satisfied or Unsatisfied	Very UnSatisfied		
	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓	↓
Social									
Living near family and friends	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Trustworthy neighbors	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Good health care/hospitals	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Safety, low crime rate	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Art and cultural events	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Entertainment	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Community events/gatherings	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Quality of public schools	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
College or university nearby	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Responsive local government	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Diverse ethnic populations	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Programs/activities for youths	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Planning and zoning regulations	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Size and growth of community	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Church/spiritual groups	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Economic									
Job/employment opportunities	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Diverse & affordable housing	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Property/local tax rates	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Business opportunities	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Diverse & affordable shopping	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Subsistence hunting/fishing	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Sport hunting/fishing	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Subsistence gathering	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Environmental									
Clean air/water	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Beauty of surrounding area	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Open, undeveloped areas	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Local recreational trails	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Developed parks (playgrounds, ball fields)	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Roads/transportation system	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Access to and use of nearby public lands	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5
Other _____	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5

PART 3. DESCRIBING YOUR COMMUNITY

- Q-9.** How attractive is your community (e.g., downtown, residential neighborhoods) compared to other communities in Alaska? *(Please circle one number)*
- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Extremely Unattractive Community | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Extremely Attractive Community |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
- Q-10.** How important do you feel the scenery outside your community (within 100 miles) is to the overall character of your community? *(Please circle one number)*
- | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| Extremely Unimportant | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Extremely Important |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|
- Q-11.** How abundant are special places (that is, places that are special to you) outside your community (within 100 miles)? *(Please circle one number)*
- | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| Not at all abundant | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Extremely abundant |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|
- Q-12.** How attached are you to your community? *(Please circle one number)*
- | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Extremely Unattached: Some other community could easily substitute for this one. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Extremely attached: This community is like a part of me. |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
- Q-13.** How would you rate the overall cohesiveness of your community (that is, how well do residents work together to get things done)? *(Please circle one number)*
- | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Not Cohesive: Weak Sense of Community | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Cohesive: Strong Sense of Community |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
- Q-14.** What do you think about the overall adequacy of public services (e.g., schools, police & fire depts.) in your community? *(Please circle one number)*
- | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|
| Extremely Inadequate | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Extremely Adequate |
|-----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------|
- Q-15.** How autonomous (how linked to neighboring communities) is your community?
- | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| Not at all autonomous: We are linked and dependent on surrounding communities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Extremely Autonomous: Our community is independent and self-reliant |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
- Q-16.** What do you think about the overall economic diversity of your community compared to other communities in Alaska? *(Please circle one number)*
- | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Extremely Undiversified: Few kinds of businesses/jobs | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Extremely Diversified: Many kinds of businesses/jobs |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
- Q-17.** What do you think is the overall economic dependence of your community on natural resources?
- | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| Extremely Independent | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Extremely Dependent |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|
- Q-18.** How would you rate the overall attractiveness of your community for businesses?
- | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
| Extremely Unattractive | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Extremely Attractive |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----------------------------|
- Q-19.** How prepared for the future do you think your community is (that is, does your community have specific projects and plans for the future)? *(Please circle one number)*
- | | | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| Totally Unprepared | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Totally Prepared |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------------------|
- Q-20.** How would you rate the effectiveness of your community leaders (leaders can be both formal such as a mayor, or informal, such as a prominent business person)? *(Please circle one number)*
- | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| Extremely Ineffective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Extremely Effective |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|
- Q-21.** How would you rate the overall effectiveness of your community government (elected officials and local government employees)? *(Please circle one number)*
- | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|
| Extremely Ineffective | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Extremely Effective |
|------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------------------|
- Q-22.** In considering all of the above, how would you rate the overall quality of life for your community?
- | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Extreme Poor Quality of Life | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | Extremely High Quality of Life |
|-------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|

PART 4. IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC LANDS TO QUALITY OF LIFE

Q-23. Depending on your lifestyle, public lands in Alaska, both federal and state, such as the Chugach National Forest, Chugach State Park, Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Kenai Fjords National Park, and Wrangell-St. Elias National Park may or may not contribute significantly to your quality of life. In this question, think about how often, and in what ways you use the public lands near where you live (within 100 miles).

PART A. From the list of public land uses and opportunities below, please indicate those that are most important to your quality of life by allocating 100 points among the choices. You may allocate the 100 points in any way you like but your total should not exceed 100. For example, you might put all 100 points on one use/opportunity, or you might put 50 on one, 25 on another, and 25 on yet another.

PART B. Based on where you currently live, how satisfied or unsatisfied are you with each of these public land uses/opportunities? *If you don't use this public land opportunity, just indicate "Doesn't Apply to Me."* **PART A**

Which public land uses/opportunities are most important to you? (Allocate 100 points)	PART B					
	VERY SATISFIED		NEITHER SATISFIED OR UNSATISFIED		VERY UNSATISFIED DOESN'T APPLY TO ME	
	↓		↓		↓	
___ Viewing wildlife	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Hunting	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Fishing	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Trapping	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Jobs from logging, mining	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Jobs from oil/gas development	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Subsistence use	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Jobs from tourism attractions	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ ATV/ORV areas	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Snowmachine areas	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Hiking/backpacking/skiing trails	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Quiet areas	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Campgrounds and picnic areas	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Scenic drives	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Roads into backcountry	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Access for disabled people	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Scenic landscapes	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Undeveloped land/wilderness	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Clean air and water sources	1	2	3	4	5	6
___ Other _____	1	2	3	4	5	6

100 Total Points

Q-24. What interests should be considered when planning for the use of public lands near your community? (Please circle one response)

- 1 Only local community interests should be considered in planning nearby federal lands.
- 2 Local community interests should be given more attention than national interests.
- 3 Local community interests should be balanced equally with national interests.
- 4 National interests should be given more attention than local community interests.
- 5 Only national interests should be considered in planing nearby federal lands.

Q-25. What (if anything) can public land management agencies (for example, state and federal forests, parks, and wildlife refuges) do to increase the quality of life in your community?

PART 5. YOUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

The types of business and job opportunities in a community can influence quality of life. Communities, both large and small, are a mixture of different types of economic activity. Below is a list of economic activities found in Alaskan communities.

Q-26A. For each type of economic activity, please indicate whether you would like to see that particular economic activity (think jobs) *increase, decrease, or stay the same* in your community. (Please circle one response per item).

Increase(+) ↓	Decrease(-) ↓	Stay Same(0) ↓	<u>Economic Activity</u>
+	-	0	A. Forestry and forest products
+	-	0	B. Commercial fishing
+	-	0	C. Oil/gas
+	-	0	D. Mining (minerals and metals)
+	-	0	E. Construction (Homes, buildings, utilities, and transportation systems)
+	-	0	F. Manufacturing (Machinery, instruments, food products, wood/plastic/metal materials and fabrication)
+	-	0	G. Transportation, Communications & Utilities (Air, rail, trucking, shipping, radio and television, gas, water, and electrical utilities)
+	-	0	H. Trade (Wholesale and retail sales, hardware and sporting goods, and eating and drinking establishments)
+	-	0	I. Finance, Insurance & Real Estate (Banks, lending institutions, insurance, and real estate)
+	-	0	J. Tourism Services (Recreation, lodging, food/beverage)
+	-	0	K. Other Services (Non-tourism related services, food/beverage, medical, repair, education, business, and professional)
+	-	0	L. Government (Local, state, and federal agencies)
+	-	0	M. Other (please specify _____)

Q-26B. What economic activity is the primary wage-earner in your household employed in? Please write the letter of the category here (A,B,C,D,E,F,G,H,I,J,K,L,M or "none")

Q-27. A number of options discussed for the Alaska Permanent Fund range from leaving the fund alone to completely distributing it. One option discussed has been the concept of a *community dividend*—some or all the Permanent Fund earnings would go to every community to be used for public purposes determined by that community. With this option, individual Permanent Fund dividends would be capped (limited) while earnings beyond the individual dividend would go toward the community dividend. What do you think about this idea? (Please circle one response)

- 1 I support the idea of a community dividend.**
- 2 I do not support the idea of a community dividend.**
- 3 No opinion.**

Q-28. Given your overall satisfaction with the quality of life in your community, what would you do if you had the ability to live anywhere with the same standard of living?

- 1 I would still live in this community.**
- 2 I would move to another community in Alaska.**
- 3 I would move outside of Alaska**

Q-29. If you could change one thing about your community, what would it be?

PART 6. INFORMATION ABOUT YOU

Q-30. What is your age? _____ **YEARS**

Q-31. What is your gender? *(Please circle one response)*

- 1 Male**
- 2 Female**

Q-32. What is the highest level of formal/public school education you have completed? *(Please circle one response)*

- 1 None**
- 2 Elementary (Grades 1 to 8)**
- 3 High school (Grades 9 to 12)**
- 4 Some college**
- 5 College graduate**
- 6 Some graduate work**
- 7 A graduate degree**

Q-33. What is your occupation?

OCCUPATION _____

Q-34. What income category most closely approximates your annual household (all members combined) income? *(Please circle one response)*

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Less than \$10,000 | 6 \$50,000-\$59,999 |
| 2 \$10,000-\$19,999 | 7 \$60,000-\$69,999 |
| 3 \$20,000-\$29,999 | 8 \$70,000-\$79,999 |
| 4 \$30,000-\$39,999 | 9 \$80,000-\$89,999 |
| 5 \$40,000-\$49,999 | 10 \$90,000 or greater |

Q-35. What is your race/ethnicity? *(Please circle one response)*

- | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 White | 4 Asian |
| 2 Black/African American | 5 Pacific Islander |
| 3 Native American | 6 Other _____ |

Is there anything else you would like to tell us about your community and its future? We would appreciate any comments.

The survey results will be mailed to you unless you check one of the boxes below:

No. Do not send me the survey results.

I would prefer to be emailed the results. My e-mail address is: _____

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP!

PLEASE FOLD THIS SURVEY IN HALF ON THE DOTTED LINE SO THAT THE RETURN ADDRESS ON THE BACK COVER IS SHOWING. USE THE ENCLOSED TAB TO TAPE THE SURVEY SHUT AND DROP THE SURVEY IN ANY U.S. POSTAL PICK-UP BOX.

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