



# Sociocultural Impact Research and Incorporating Traditional Knowledge

Presentation for the North Slope Science Initiative  
Science Technical Group, April 26, 2006

# What is Social Science?

- The study of human society and of individual relationships in and to society.
- A scholarly or scientific discipline that deals with such study, generally regarded as including **sociology, psychology, anthropology, economics, political science, and history.**

# Sociocultural Impacts

Frequently, the social science research that has been and is being done on the North Slope is a result of the need to understand *sociocultural* impacts, referring to:

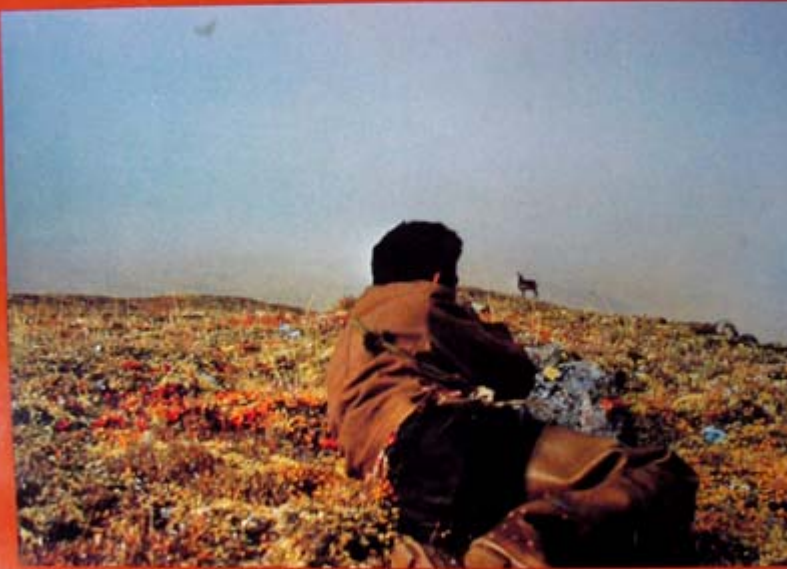
- Impacts to society as a whole and community well-being.
- Impacts to Iñupiaq culture, especially changes in traditional values and subsistence use.

# Past Social Science Research

- Numerical  
result of  
Slope 1

**In the National Interest:**

**A Geographically Based Study  
of Anaktuvuk Pass Inupiat  
Subsistence Through Time**



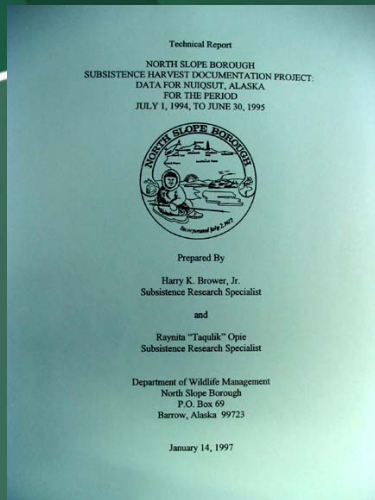
April 1989

Edwin S. Hall, Jr., S. Craig Gerlach and Margaret B. Blackman

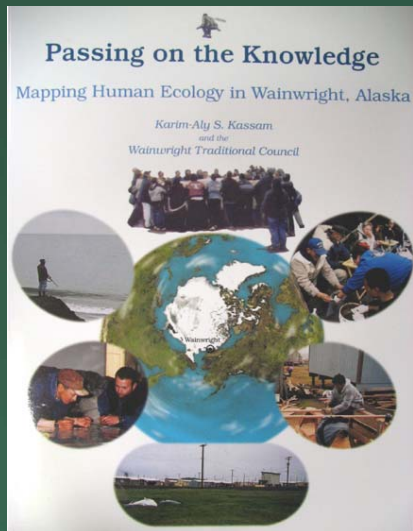
Volume 1

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orth

# Recent and Ongoing Research



- Only entity collecting data on a regular basis is the North Slope Borough.
- Recent work is sporadic, funded on a one-time basis (frequently by the community itself).



- Much current social science research is large-scale, focusing on the circumpolar or statewide cross-cultural perspective (ex. Survey of Living Conditions in the Arctic).

# NPR-A Social Science Plan

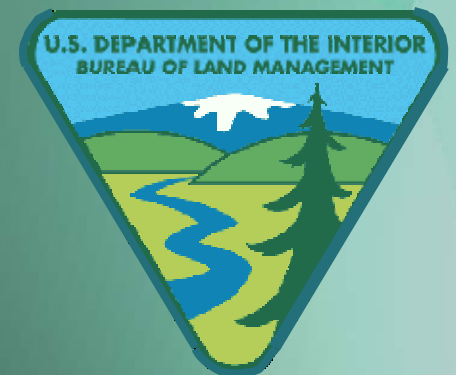
## Bureau of Land Management and the Alaska Native Science Commission

### Goals:

- Review existing information
- Conduct workshops on the North Slope to identify local social research needs
- Create draft plan by Spring 2007
- Conduct second series of workshops to review and revise Draft Plan
- Final Plan to BLM by Winter 2007/2008

# Traditional Knowledge

Incorporating it into research...



# Traditional Knowledge Defined

Two fundamental ways to define  
“traditional knowledge”

- From the perspective of Western Science
  - *Shared and agreed upon knowledge based on experience and passed from generation to generation, that is integrated within a community at the cultural level.*
- From the perspective of the Iñupiat
  - *What you need to know to be Iñupiaq*



# Traditional Knowledge Defined (cont.)

Western Science also recognizes different forms of Traditional Knowledge

- Indigenous Knowledge
- Traditional Ecological Knowledge
- Local Knowledge
- User Knowledge

In Alaska, much of the Traditional Knowledge recently collected and utilized by agencies could be considered

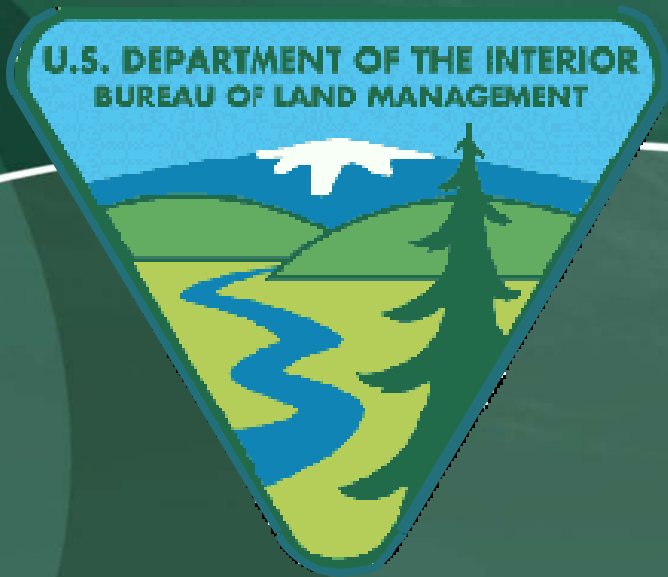
*Issue Driven Knowledge.*

# Incorporating Traditional Knowledge

- All science can benefit from Traditional Knowledge.
- Recommendations or requests from local community leaders and members to use Traditional Knowledge is fundamentally a request to be part of the decision-making process.

# Ways to Include TK in Research

- At a minimum, share and receive input on your research design.
- Partner with a local North Slope or regional Alaska Native entity—BASC, NSB, Native Villages, ICAS, ANSC, etc.
- Contact local experts who have specialized knowledge about the area/region or resource you are researching—western scientists included!



# Thank You!

## Questions?

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