



U.S. Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Alaska District

## **ALASKA BASELINE EROSION ASSESSMENT**

### **Erosion Information Paper - Chistochina, Alaska**

Current as of February 25, 2009

#### **Community Information**

Chistochina (chis-toe-CHEE-nuh), population 103, is between mile 31 and 37 of the Tok Cutoff to the Glenn Highway, 42 miles northeast of Glennallen. The community is unincorporated in the unorganized borough. The riverbanks are used for boat ramps, snowmachine ramps, ATV ramps, fishing, hunting, cultural events, social events, cleaning fish, drying fish, smoking fish and canning subsistence fish harvests. Fish wheels are in use during most of the fishing season at the fish camp.

#### **Description of Erosion Problem**

An area used as a fish camp along the northern bank of the Copper River is eroding. Seasonal fluctuations in river flow, water levels, spring ice break up, water runoff, and vehicle traffic along the bank reportedly cause and contribute to erosion. The affected area is about 500 feet long and 15 to 20 feet high. Erosion events typically follow winters with heavy snow collection and accompany high runoff during spring break up. Major events were estimated to have eroded inland about 50 feet inland along the 1000-foot stretch of riverbank during an unspecified period. The main access road had to be rerouted twice during the three years prior to 2007. Major erosion again occurred in 2007, but resident at that time were unable to access the site to assess the amount of damage. As of this writing, an additional rerouting of the road has occurred. Ten years ago, flooding along Sinona Creek caused significant erosion.

#### **Potential Damages**

Community buildings are on high ground. The access road aligns itself with the Copper River where in most places the river is less than 100 feet from the centerline. Along the access road are food storage, drying racks, smoke houses, and sites of significant cultural value. These structures and facilities are considered to be at risk. Access roads are continually rerouted and eroded areas are continually refilled, but cost has not been estimated.

#### **Photos and Diagrams**

No photos of erosion were provided by the community or other sources. Attached is a diagram depicting the linear extent of erosion.

## References

USACE. 2008. *Alaska Community Erosion Survey*, OMB approved number 07100001, expires September 30, 2009 administered to Joeneal Hicks, Cheesh'na tribal council, land and natural resources director on March 19, 2008.

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## Additional Information

This information paper, as well as those for other communities, can be accessed on the internet at [www.alaskaerosion.com](http://www.alaskaerosion.com). For more information please contact the Corps of Engineers, project manager at (907) 753-5694 or email [Alaska.Erosion.POA@usace.army.mil](mailto:Alaska.Erosion.POA@usace.army.mil)



Adam Sanford  
Fishing Site

Flow

COPPER RIVER

SIMONA CREEK

Erosion Site is 1 mile across the Chistochina  
River along the Copper River.   
Area not shown on aerial photo.

Date of Aerial Photo: 18 July 04



Alaska District  
Corps of Engineers  
Civil Works Branch



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