

# Nineteen Ahtna Place Names for officially unnamed features in and around Glacial Lake Atna

James Kari, Emeritus, ANLC

May 5, 2025, ACCAP webinar series



Photo by Suzanne McCarthy

- These 17 names can introduce Alaskans and the general public to some highly informative Ahtna place names in and around Glacial lake Atna; many GLA-related names were coined by eyewitnesses to the SusitnaR-to-Copper R drainage shift in the 11<sup>th</sup> millennium (Kari 2019)
- All names have been on record since 1983 with same spellings, locations and similar literal meanings; all 19 have no official names; (1982 Ak Sen Bill no. 127 applies here)
- a batch submission is time-effective for staff at DNR & AHC, and state & federal agency staff or Ahtna Inc and tribal governments.

1982 Statute to encourage  
new Alaska Native place  
names

To use recognized ANL  
In writing systems accepted  
by ANLC

*Only statute we have in  
Alaska*

Introduced: 2/8/82  
Referred: State Affairs

1 IN THE SENATE

BY SACKETT

2 SENATE BILL NO. 727

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the duties of the State Geographic  
7 Board; and providing for an effective date."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 \* Section 1. AS 44.19 is amended by adding a new section to read:

10 Sec. 44.19.059. ALASKA NATIVE PLACE NAMES. In carrying out its  
11 duties to name geographic features under AS 44.19.058(2) the State  
12 Geographic Board shall develop a policy for naming geographic features  
13 in the state that have not previously been named by finding Alaska  
14 Native place names for the unnamed geographic features and by considering  
15 giving the Alaska Native place names to those features, using Native  
16 language writing systems accepted by the Alaska Native Language Center  
17 of the University of Alaska at Fairbanks.

18 \* Sec. 2. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.10.-  
19 070(c).

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## some Copper River Basin events on GLA place names

- 2012 Nen' Yese' Ridge discussed, submitted, entered into GNIS, 1<sup>st</sup> authentic Ahtna name to become official
- 2014 April. Alaska Power Authority presentation on the SuWa Hydro projects, **2014 poster revised in 2025**
- 2017 February, Copper River Watershed Forum, Copper Center, with Rich VanderHoek
- November 2020. Tazlina Community Hall, event for Tazlina Homelands Recovery, hosted by WISE.
- September 21, 2022. Wrangell-St Elias Park workshop. Sources on Ahtna and Upper Tanana geography
- April 2023 presentation at Bud Carlson's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, Cantwell School.
- 2023 (with G.M. Smith) Geolinguistic Evidence of Dene/Ahtna Presence at High-Water Levels of Glacial Lake Atna. ACCAP Climate Webinar Series, March 7, 2023. <https://uaf-accap.org/event/ahtna-dene-place-names/>
- October 23, 2024 Chistchina, presentation at Cheeshna Inc annual meeting

**Nineteen Ahtna Place Names for officially unnamed features in and around Glacial Lake Atna** James Kari, April 25, 2025, i.d.= JK Access Ahtna p.n. d.b.

	ID	Region	Seq	Name	Location	Literal	Comment	FType	SType	Latitude	Longit	GNIS
1	4889	19	1411	Łuyinanest'aani	ridge S of Nenana Glacier	one that extends into glacier	Kari 1983:178	landform	geol	63.5206	-147.626	none
2	5077	20	1534	C'aali	ridge NW & N of Sevenmile Lake	snowshoe foot strap, lit 'opposite instrument'	lovely metaphor	landform	geol met	63.20613	-146.278	
3	5177	20	1604	Banazdleni	mt 4503' "Oshetna"	one that current flows around	Kari 1983	landform	hydro	62.72246	-147.346	
4	5094	20	1542	Nilben Caek'e	site N of mouth of Tyone River	lake level surges mouth	Reckord 1983, BIA Report 1996	village	hydro	62.70475	-147.215	
5	5098	20	1545	K'ey Tsaaygha	site, gap on, E of mouth of Tyone R	by the small birch	Jack Tyone 1980 paired with #10	landform	veg	62.71808	-147.13	
6	5125	20	1566	Tandzaey Dghilaaye'	3105', 2905' two mts SW of Tyone lake outlet	island mountain	isld-mnt innovations	landform	geol	62.59811	-147.049	
7	5123	20	1563	Tanaaxi Na'	stream from lakes NW of Saltigi	water that moves stream	GLA spillway 10700 <sup>ybp</sup>	stream	hydro	62.58763	-146.793	
8	4068	10	863	Saltigi	hill 3537 "Tyone"	sun bump	Irving 1957	landform	geol	62.5639	-146.731	
9	4101	11	905	Dzeł Ghaan'	mt W of Lower Tangle Lake	half mountain	paired with #19	landform	geol	63.13316	-146.019	
10	3773	10	706.1	K'ey Tsaay Bene'	Lake W of Hogan Hill	small birch lake	Reckord 1983	lake	veg	62.64031	-145.493	
11	3971	10	809	Nen' Yese' Ggaay	esker bluff W of Sourdough to bluff N Tazlina R, Mendenhall 1898	little land ridge	paired with Nen'Yese'	trail	geol	62.43871	-146.25	
12	4329	14	1027.1	Tandzaey Ce'e Na'	creek on N side Boulder Creek	big island creek	Bell Joe 1982, likely site on GLA shore	stream	geol met	62.58705	-144.493	
13	4615	17	1209	Sez'aani, Sez'aann	mt 6580' N of Copper Glacier	heart; or inside me	deLaguna 1970:32	landform	geol anat	62.3159	-143.757	
14	5294	14	1033.1	Taghaelts'e Tene	Nataelde-Taral Trail	'trail to barrier in water'	A Brown 1982	trail	trail	62.60	-144.17	
15	2762	6	407.3	Bes Nezdlaayi	bluffs E strandline GLA, 3000' strandline Klawasi-Chestaslina	river bank that extends rope-like	FJ 1983, 1986:	landform	geol	62.28345	-145.299	
16	3082	3	228	Tat'ahwt'aene Kaltende	ck w lake into Chetaslina R	headwaterspeople trail ascends	AB 1982, 1986:214	stream	trail	61.7962	144.7068	
17	3404	7	450	Tes Dghelaaye'	Ridge 3118' to N, mi 164 Glenn Hwy	hill mountain	Kari 1983	landform	geol	62.13	-146.24	
18	3493	8	510	Hwyyis Tes	hill by Knob Lake, Alascom site	mirage/ mist hill	Tarkhanov 1796	landform	geol met	61.83278	-147.328	
19	3502	8	514	Dzeł Ghaan'	mt 6449 "Chug"	half mountain	paired with #9	landform	geol	61.77549	-147.25	

# terminology for Applied toponymy in Alaska

*Native-origin place names*= Tazlina River, Tetlin River

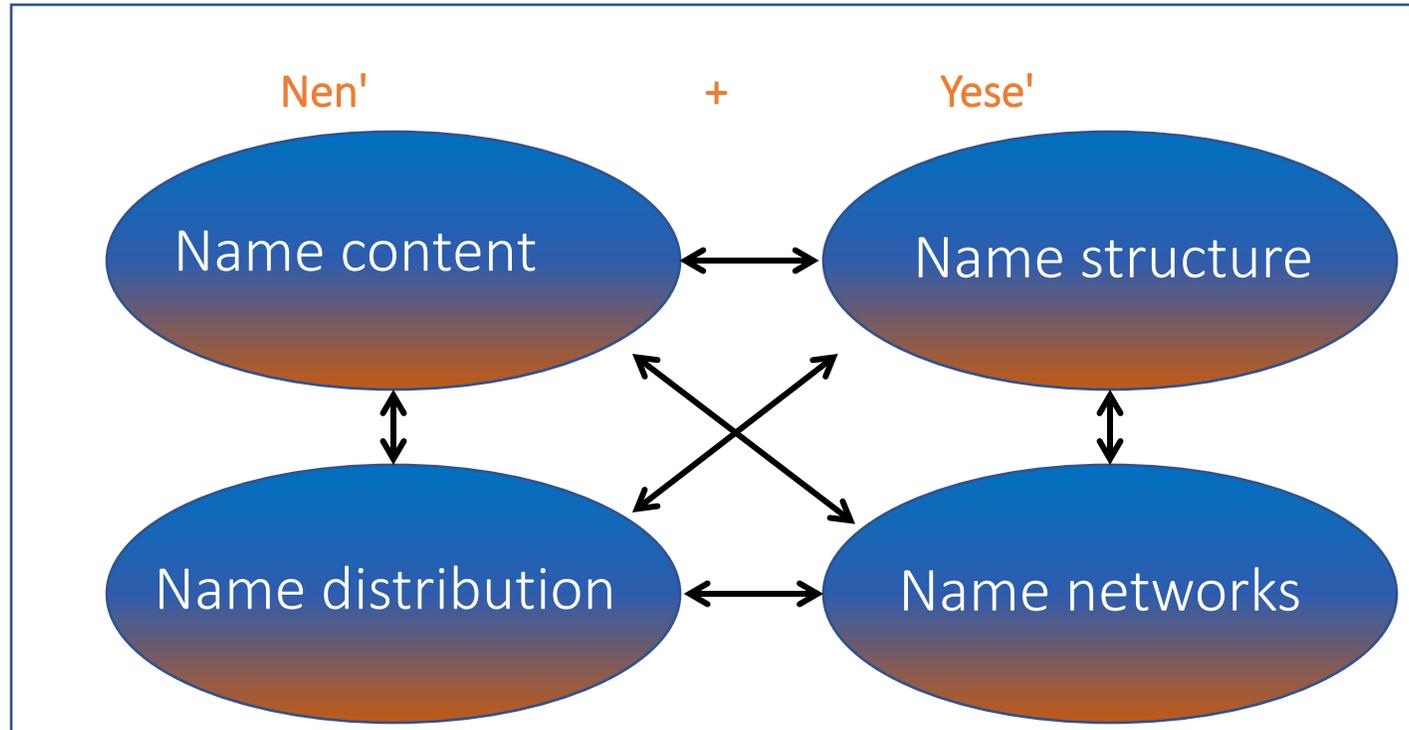
accurate Native place names: At.: Tezdlen Na', UT: Teetay Ndiig  
(spelled in practical alphabets), names maintained by Kari in p.n. lists

Many listed in GNIS as variant names

official, accurate Native place names , in GNIS since Feb 14, 2013

**Troth Yeddha'** 274556 summary

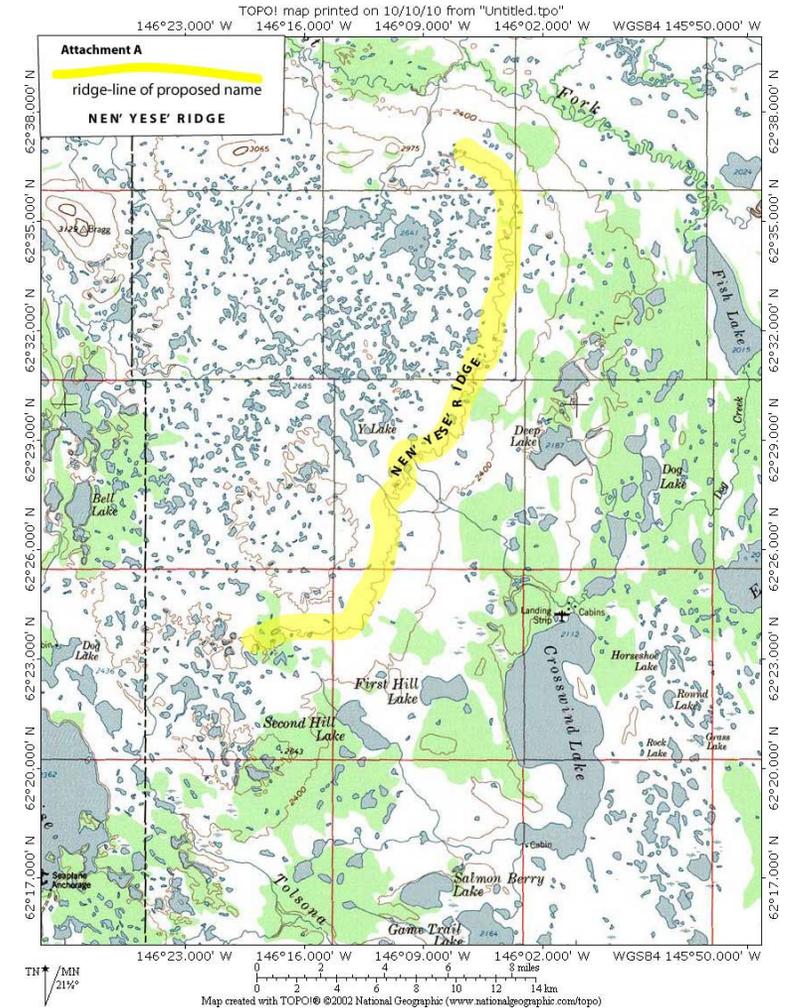
# Elements in Ahtna and Dene Geographic Names



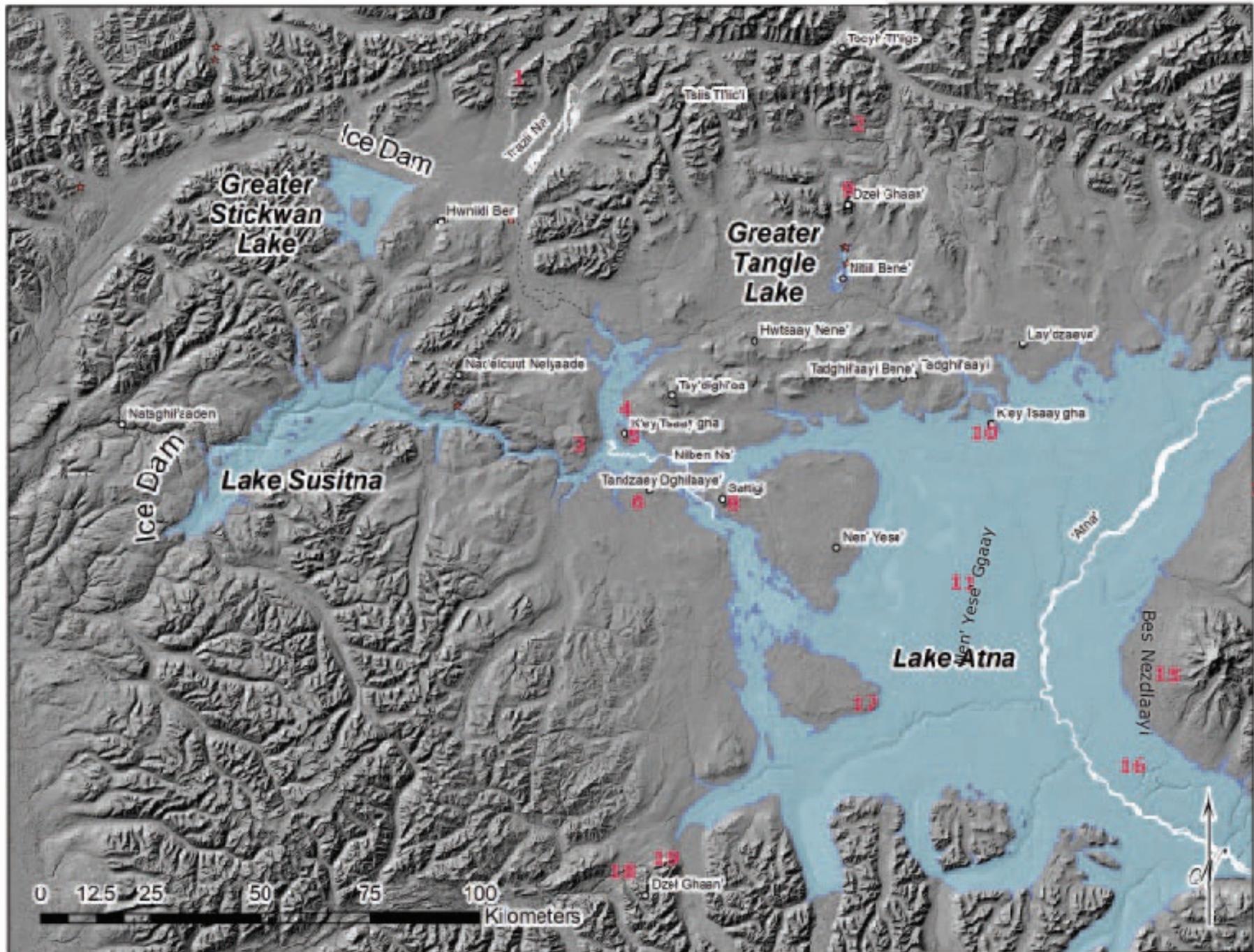
Reinforcing memorization and conservatism

# Fred Ewan discussing **Nen Yese'** Ridge, May 30, 2013

**Nen Yese'** 'land ridge' =  $\phi$  a founding p.n.

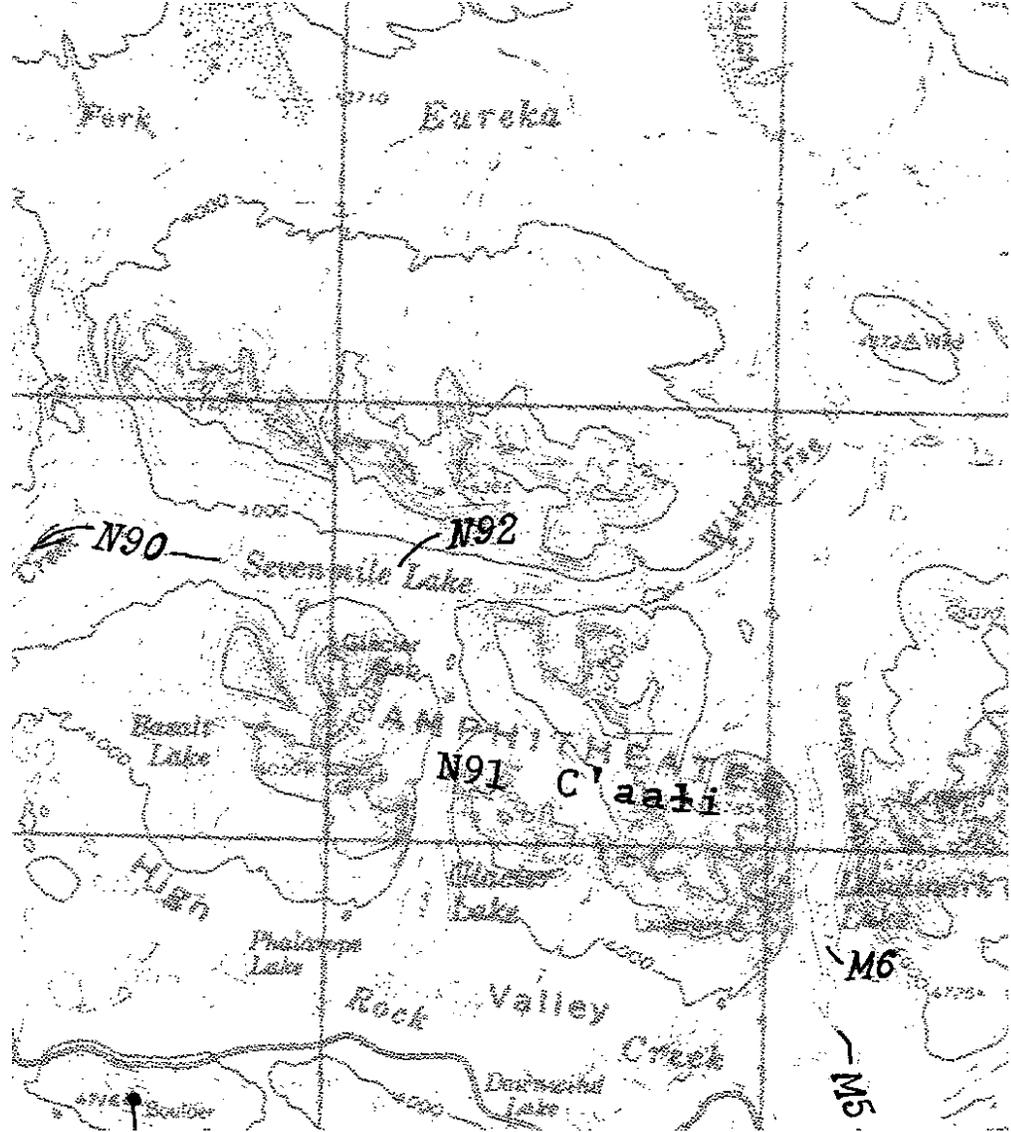
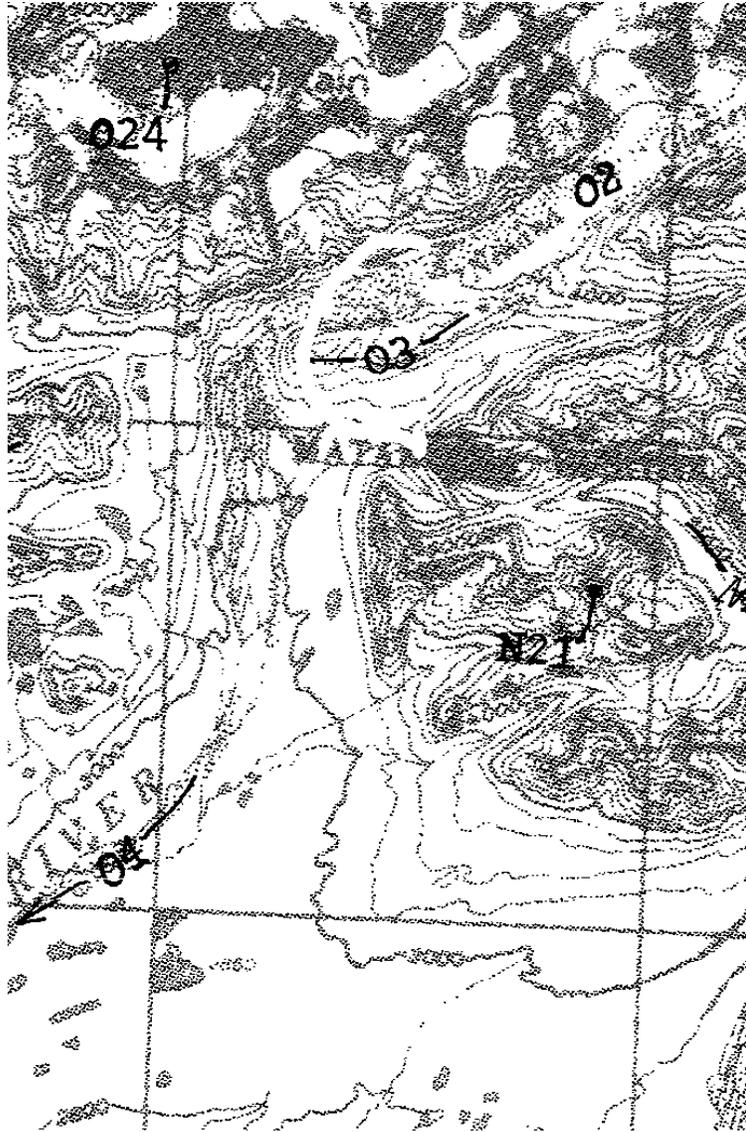


Fred Ewan: "We know the country by how places are named. You can't get lost when you know the names."

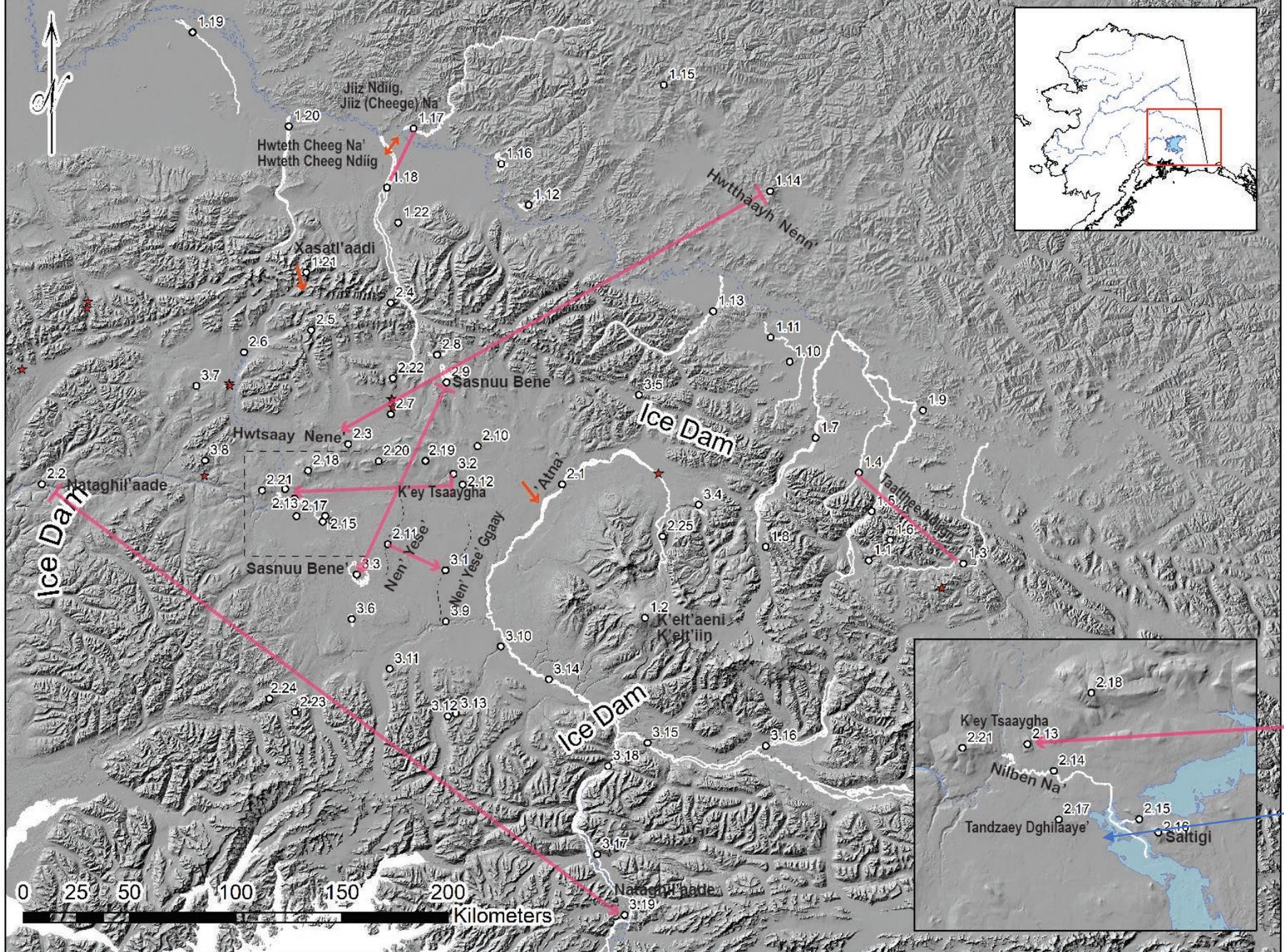


	1408	Tseles Bene'	Siksik Lake	ground squirrel lake	ani	Curious statemer	lake	rep	
19	1409	Ben Ggeh	small lake on E side upper Nena	lake Ω	op		lake		
19	1410	Łuyinanest'aani Luu'	Nenana Glacier	one that extends into glacier	geol		glacier		
19	1410.2	Łuyinanest'aani Luu' gha	moraine front of Nenana Glaci	by one that extends into glacier	geol		glacier		
19	1411	Łuyinanest'aani	ridge S of Nenana Glacier	one that extends into glacier	geol	Reckord 1983:17	landform		
19	1411.1	Saen Tene	trail from along base of range, i	summer trail	trail		trail	rep	
20	1412	'Ungga Łuu Gha	Susitna-Nenana River glaciers n	upland glacier morraine front area	glacier	JT's term for 6 or	wgroup		
20	1413	Sasutna'	Susitna River	sand river'; 'major river'	lith	1839 Wrangell m	1stream	tna'	
20	1413.1	Sasutna' Tl'aa	upper Susitna River	sand river headwaters	lith		1region		
20	1414	Kuyxi Dghilaay	mt between West Fork Glacier	marmot mountain	ani		landform		
20	1415	Kuyxi Dghilaay Cene	base of mt between West Fork	marmot mountain base	ani		l-trail		
20	1415.1	Kuyxi Dghilaay Cene 'Ane'	pass between upper Nenana R	marmot mountain base pass	ani		trail		
20	1416	Kuyxi Dghilaay Na'	stream from west into glacier n	marmot mountain creek	ani		s-trail		
20	1417	Tabent'aa Na'	West Fork of Susitna River	lake current flows creek	hydro		s-trail		
20	1417.1	Tabent'aa Bene' 'Edadinifeni	outlet of Tabent'aa lake into W	one that flows from lake current flows l	hydro	JT 5055, just notic	stream		
20	1418	Tabent'aa Luu'	West Fork Sustina Glacier	lake current flows glacier	hydro		glacier		
20	1418.1	Tabent'aa Luu' gha	moraine front of West Fork Sus	by lake current flows glacier	hydro		glacier		
20	1419	Tabent'aa Bene'	lake into West Fork	lake current flows lake	hydro		lake	ensembl	
20	1419.1	Tabent'aa 'Edifeni	stream into Tabent'aa Bene'	one flowing into lake current flows lake	hydro		stream		
20	1419.2	Dahwts'adyeh Bene'	lake below T.B. to N	sucker lake	fish		lake		
20	1419.3	Tabent'aade	site on lake into West Fork, Nlk	where lake water flows	hydro	AA--11127N Repc	locale		
20	1420	Tabent'aa Tayene'	bar on West Fork	lake current flows straight-stretch	hydro		l-trail		
20	1421	Tes Ggaay Nezdlaade, Tes Ggaay Hwn	pingos and several camp sites; '	little hill(s) is/are there	geol	AA-11127M Repc	landform		
20	1422	Kaghilen Na'	stream into Susitna N of West f	flows up and out creek	hydro		s-trail		
20	1423	Kaghilen Dghilaaye'	mountain on West Fork	flows up and out mountain	hydro		landform		
20	1424	Kaghilen Łuugha	moraine area of remnant glacie	by flows up and out glacier	hydro	Notable as name	glacier		
20	1424.1	Kaghilen Luu'	remnant glacier on upper Kaghi	flows up and out glacier	hydro		glacier		
20	1425	Tl'azii Na'	Middle Fork of Susitna River	headwaters ?~ stream	ambig		1s-trail	resembl	
20	1425.1	Tl'azii Na' Tl'aa	headwaters of Middle Fork of S	headwaters ?~ river headwaters	ambig		region		
20	1426	Tl'azii Luu'	Susitna Glacier	headwaters ?~ glacier	ambig		glacier		









**Nilben Na'**  
 'water level rises/surges stream'  
*Tyone River*  
 Fig 5a, Kari 2019

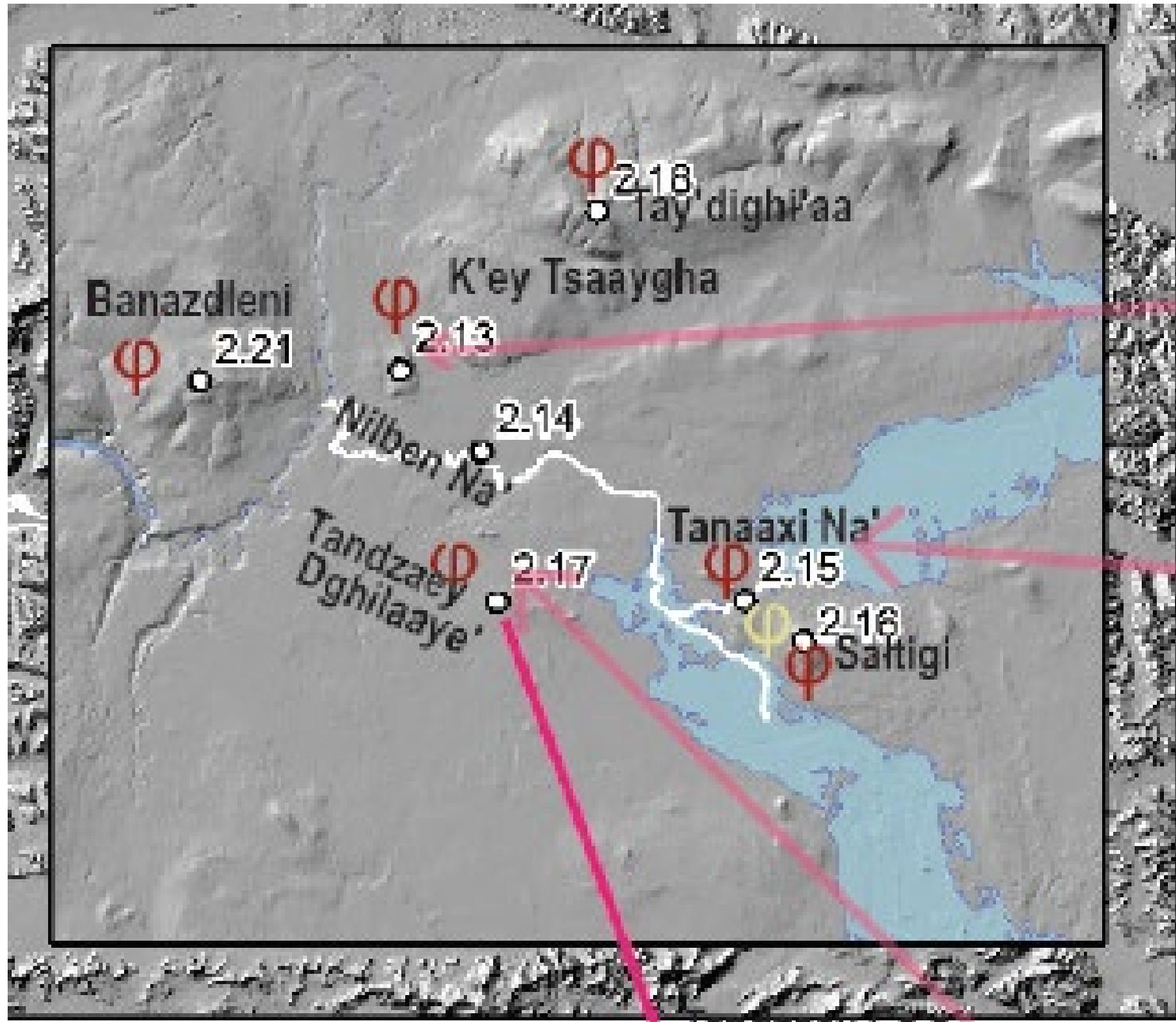
K'ey Tsaaygha

Tandzaey Ce'e  
*new in 2023*



# 2023 spatial-temporal context for the *Nen' Yese'* Ensemble

- *at high water levels before NYE* **Natael Na'** Nabesna-0533 site
- **3.4 Tanaade Menn'** Tanada Lake
- **(2023) Tandzaey Ce'e** ridge Boulder Ck
- 2.11 Nene' Yese'
- 2.9 *Sasnuu' Bene'* Summit Lake
- 2.12 *K'ey Tsaagha* Hogan Hill
- 2.14 *Tanaaxi Na'* stream into Tyone R
- **2.15 Nilben Na' Tyone R**
- 2.17 Tandzaey Dghilaaye'
- 3.3 *Sasnuu' Bene'* L. Louise
- 2.12 *K'ey Tsaagha* hill Tyone R mouth
- 3.6 *Ben Daes Bene'* Old Man L.
- 3.1 Nen' Yese' Ggaay
- 
- *during NYE*
- “
- “
- “
- “
- “
- *after NYE*



K'ey Tsaay gha = Hogan Hill

Tanaade Menn' =Tanada Lake

Tandzaey Ce'e  
ridge N of Boulder Ck



Ben  
K'atggeh

### Saltigi

Photo by J. R. Williams,  
Bureau of Indian Affairs.

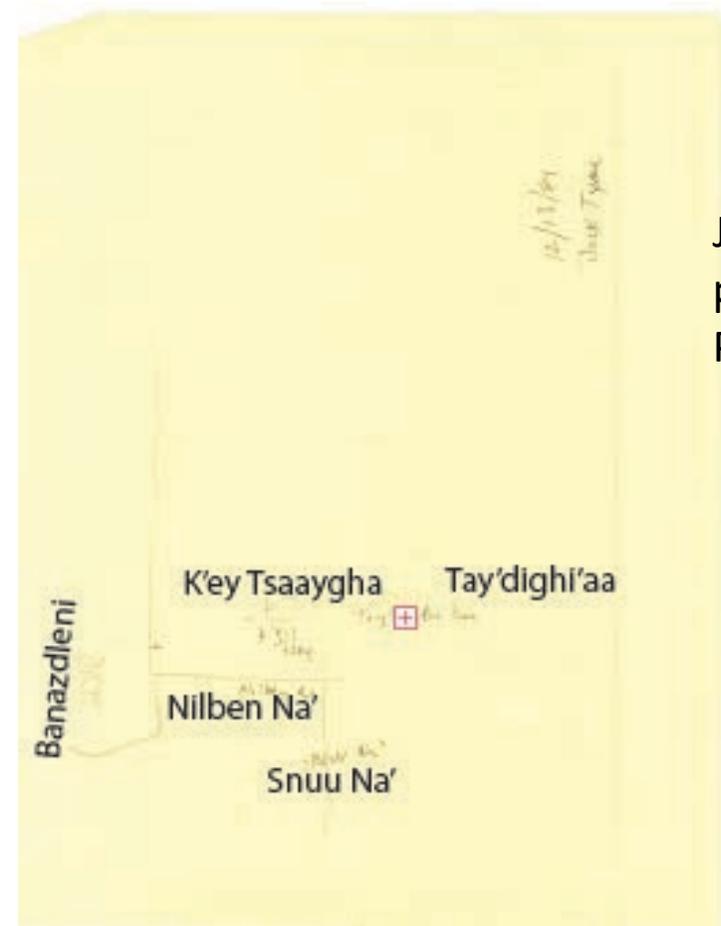
Figure 2-5. Aerial photo of Tyone Village, Ben Katggeh on the east side of lower Tyone Lake on May 29, 1954.

The photographer noted that the only two residents at the time were Jimmy Secondchief and Johnny Tyone. The westernmost Tyone Lake is called **Hwtsuughi Ben Ce'e** 'lowland big lake'.

The hill at the right of the photo is called **Saltigi**. In August–September 1953 archaeologist William Irving surveyed sites in the Tyone Lake and Tyone River area, locating 11 sites and many artifacts. Irving (1957:43) wrote: "The hilltop affords an excellent outlook over the nearly flat surrounding country, about half of which is thinly forested or devoid of timber. A spot about 30 feet across on the higher of two knobs is largely bare of vegetation: on the exposed but little-eroded till were found 32 implements and an assortment of other cultural debris. Most of the material was found on the southern side of the knob, which suggests use of the site during the winter months when this section would be favored by the low sun." See also Chapter 3, pages 71–73.

Examining this photo, Fred Ewan commented: "**Saltigi** is a real good luck mountain. There was a village at the base of it, and the old men used to sit up on top of it and watch for game all over. They would holler down to village below when they saw game."

The 60-mile long trail between Tyone Village, Crosswind Lake village (**K'estsiik'e**) and Gulkana was traveled throughout the year. Fred Ewan states that in the winter typically people made this trip in two days, stopping at Crosswind Lake. The summer the route was longer, routing around lakes, and they might take three to four days each way.



Jack Tyone's  
place in  
Palmer

# Sez'aani lit. 'inside me', puns on my heart, paired with Gunsight Mtn Siz'aani

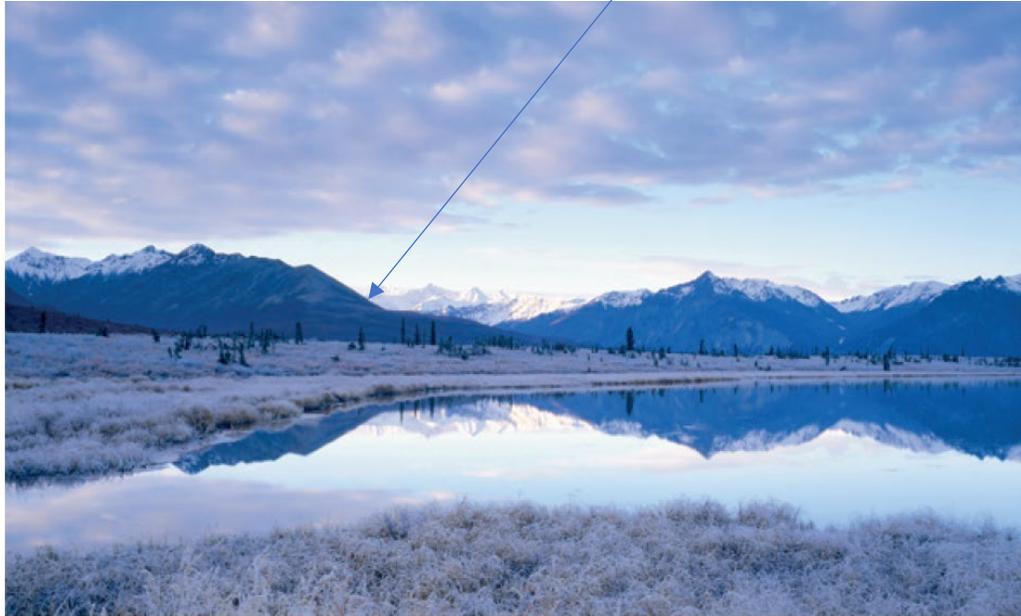


Kari 1986 *The Headwaters*  
People's Language. ANLC

Natał Nnw', 'Roasted Salmon Country' (Batzulnetas) and the very head of the Copper River, Ts'itu' T'iaa, as seen from the top of Mount Wrangell. The mountain in the center is Siz'aani, 'Heart'. Photo by University of Alaska Geophysical Institute.



# Dzeł Ghaan' 'half a mountain'



1<sup>st</sup> mountain on left at upper Matanuska River

"an intervisible patterned duplication"



1<sup>st</sup> mountain on left of upper Delta River

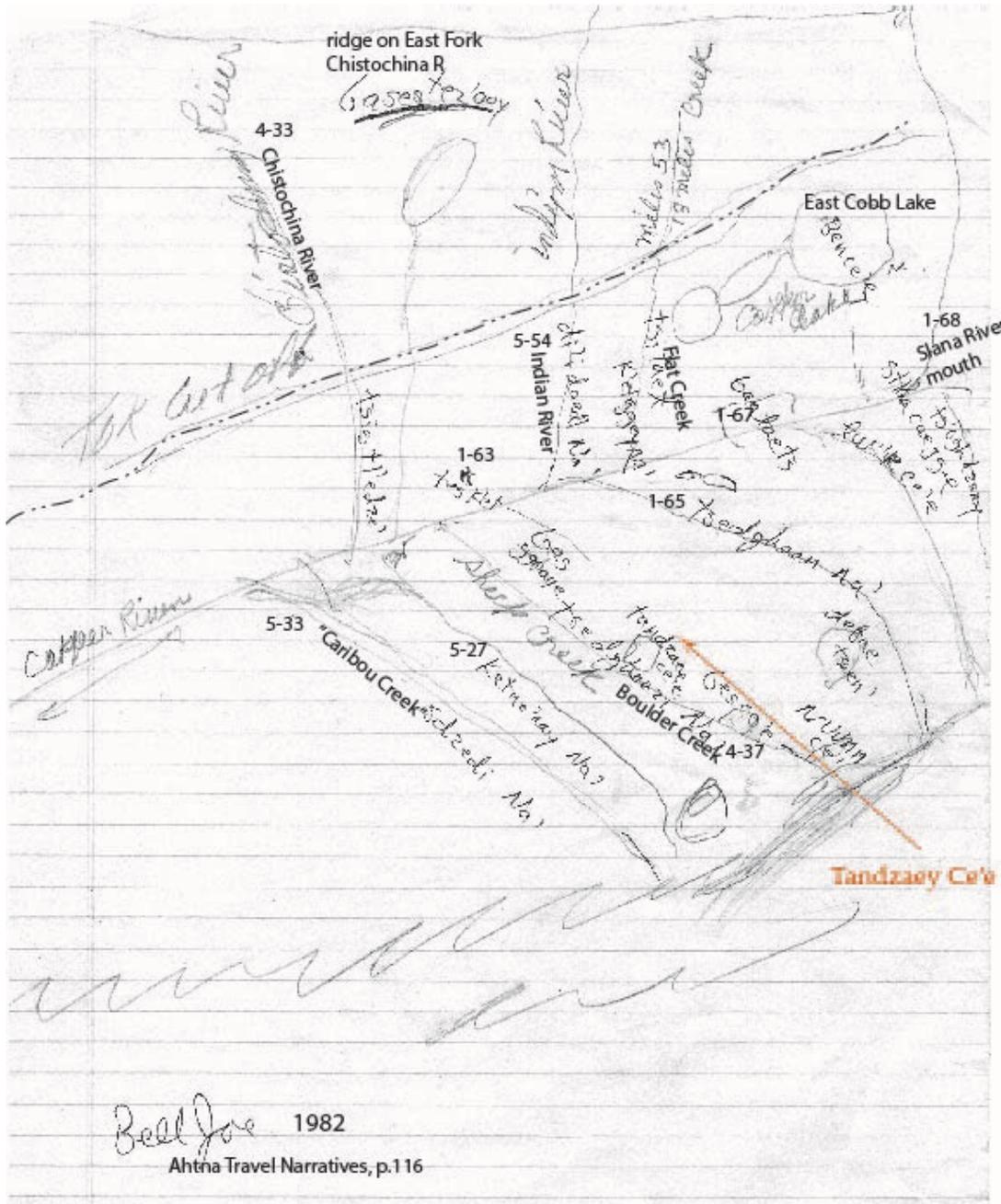


Hwyyis Tes  
'mirage hill'  
Ahtna place name  
1st recorded in 1797  
by Tarkhonov

officially unnamed  
"Alascom Hill"  
at head of Matanuska River

Hwyyis Tes one of the oldest documented Ahtna names, from Tarkhonov 1796





Locating 'big island'



Jessica Denny, Jan. 23, 2024  
comments



Andy Brown  
Photo by Linda Weld

**Taghaeldze' Tene**

*The Trail to Taral*

Nicholas A. Brown

1986 pp 213-215, revised in April 2025  
ANLC5013A ff 22 min to 25 min

'Adii Nataelde desniide.  
*Now I speak of 'Roasted Salmon Place'.*

Yet ts'inidaetlne tene kughil'aen' danaaxe yae'.  
*The people who left from there had a trail over on the [across, east] side (of the Copper River).*

Gha yet **Kateni Na'** xuhwk'a tighita'.  
*There was a trail on 'Creek That Trail Ascends' (Drop Creek or an upper tributary of Drop Creek).<sup>1</sup> via K.John*

**Hwniidi K'elt'aeni** udetniiyi yet t'aaghe niidze tene kughil'aen'.  
*At the one they call 'Upriver K'elt'aeni (Mount Sanford), they had a trail beneath there coming from upriver.*

'Uniiit Ts'itael Na' hwniiden yet naane k'ehghidel.  
*Up there they cross upper 'River That Flows Straig/It' (Sanford River).*

Yet danaaxe yae' xona kadeldze' 'adii 'adii **Kolghosi Na'** cu yet k'ehghidel.  
*Going across there, now there they come to 'Boiling Creek' (Klawasi Creek).*

Yae' kadaaxe ldu' xona **Hwniidi Na'** yae' k'ehghidel.  
*The next place downriver they come to is there at 'Upriver Creek' (Nadina River).*

Tene kughile' all the way tinitaan kughile'.  
*There was a trail; the trail went all the way.*

**Hwdaadi Na'** cu k'ehghidel.  
*They also come to 'Downriver Creek' (Dadina River).*

Kadaaxe yeldu' **Tsitsox Na'** cu yet k'ehghidel.  
*The next place downriver they come to is 'Yellow Head Creek' (Chichokna River).<sup>2</sup>*

<sup>1</sup> This sentence was added by Katie John.

<sup>2</sup> The next four sentences were inserted by Andy Brown after the original tape recording of this story was made.

Yet cu Ts'itazdlen Na' k'ehghidel.  
*There also they come to 'Straight Swift Stream' (Chestaslina River).*

Yet hwts'en daa' **Bes Cene** xuhwk'a tighita'.  
*From there the trail led down to 'Base of the River Bank' (Riverstag village on the west bank of the Copper River).*

Gha yet Ts'itazdlen Na' beyudileni  
*There is a stream there flowing into 'Straight Swift Stream'*

yet c'a **Tatl'ahwt'aene Kaltende** dae' key'dighi'a'.  
*that they have named 'Where the Headwaters People Had a Trail Ascending'.<sup>3</sup>*  
right tributary to Chestaslina R with lake [short cut]

Cu yet k'ehghidel kadaaxe ts'idinileni,  
*They also come down to the one flowing out,*

**Tsezuuli Na' Ggalaay Nu' Kadinileni** k'ent'ae.  
*'Pipe Rock River' (East Fork of Chestaslina), the one that seems to be flowing up and out of a hole in the mountain.*

Yet **Tsezuuli Na'** k'ehghidel.  
*They come there to 'Pipe Rock River'.*

Yihwts'en xona kadaaxe ldu' xona **Tsesnen' Na' Tsesnen' Na'** yet k'ehghidel.  
*From there then down to 'Copper Chisel Creek' (Cheshnina River) they come to 'Copper Chisel Creek'.*

Yet hwts'en 'udaaxe **Nekedezdleni Na'** yet k'ehghidel.  
*From there they come down to 'Creek That Flows in an Arc' (either Elliot Creek or stream into Kotsina River from the south).<sup>4</sup>*

Yihwts'en kadaaxe **Cedidzaasi Na'** k'ehghidel.  
*From there they come to 'Bushy Tail Creek' (location unknown or Dadina Lake outlet stream).*

Yet ts'en 'udaa' **K'ats'i Na'** hwniidi k'ehghidel.  
*From there they come to upper 'Cold Creek' (Kotsina River).*

Yet xona 'Atna' yehwts'en 'udaa' **Taghaelde** ldu' xona inaadze ts'en kenakedel.  
*Then they come from 'Atna' (Copper River) and they get back downriver to 'barrier in Water' (Tara/) coming from the other side.*

Yet 'unaaxe daa' tighita'.  
*Across and downriver (on the west bank of the Copper River) from there was a trail.*

**Yeldu' Taghaelde** xona ye k'ehghidel.  
*Then they reached 'Barrier in Water Place'.*

## Understanding Dene Geolinguistic Conservatism

- 1) Dene languages have occupied a large section of NW North America for over ten millennia without having close ties to any non-Dene speakers.
- 2) *absence of any substrate* can be proven by congruent Lexware root-morpheme dictionaries for ten or more languages.
- 3) extended Glacial Lake Atna is the only periglacial lake in the world with a large network of names from Dene language (over 4300 features).
- 4) Kari 2019 presents "The Nen' Yese' Ensemble," a group of about twenty hydrologically informative rule-driven Ahtna/ Dene place names that were coined by eyewitnesses to the Susitna R-to-Copper R drainage shift in the first half of the 11th millennium.
4. Alaska Dene p.n. can be 10-13k in age, but are analyzable & etymologizable. This is due to a resilient auto-instructional Dene Generative Geography.
5. In 2024-2025 support for the Dene-Yensieian Hypothesis has grown among the more qualified linguistic specialists as well as several Alaskan archaeologists.

- These GLA- centered Names will enhance landscape tourism in C.R.B. and also Ahtna /Dene language efforts; GLA names can lead to derivative projects (posters, tour planning, interp. panels at viewpoints, maps, brochures)
- Dene Generative Geography interfaces with fields, linguistics, archaeology, geology, ethnohistory, Alaska cartography
- This batch names proposal will be on the schedule for the 2025 fall meeting of AHC



<u>Feature Name</u>	<u>ID</u>	<u>Class</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>Latitude</u>	<u>Longitude</u>	<u>Elev(ft)</u>	<u>Map</u>	<u>BGN Date</u>	<u>Entry Date</u>
<a href="#">Riley Creek</a>	1408702	Stream	Denali	AK	634340N	1485302W	1572	Healy C-4-		31-MAR-1981
<a href="#">Tsenedghaas Caek'e</a>	2664237	Area	Denali	AK	634338N	1485304W	1552	Healy C-4-		17-FEB-2011

Feature Detail Report for: Riley Creek

ID: 1408702  
 Name: Riley Creek  
 Class: Stream ([Definitions](#))  
 History: Local name reported by Woodbury Abbey, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, on the blueprint of his 1921 Mount McKinley National Park survey.  
 Description: flows NE to Nenana River, 10 mi. S of Healy, Alaska Range  
 U.S. Geological Survey. Geographic Names Phase I data compilation (1976-1981). 31-Dec-1981. Primarily from U.S. Geological Survey 1:24,000-scale topographic maps (or 1:25K, Puerto Rico 1:20K) and from U.S. Board on Geographic Names files. In some instances, from 1:62,500 scale or 1:250,000 scale maps.  
 Citation: topographic maps (or 1:25K, Puerto Rico 1:20K) and from U.S. Board on Geographic Names files. In some instances, from 1:62,500 scale or 1:250,000 scale maps.  
 Entry Date: 31-Mar-1981

**Variant Name**

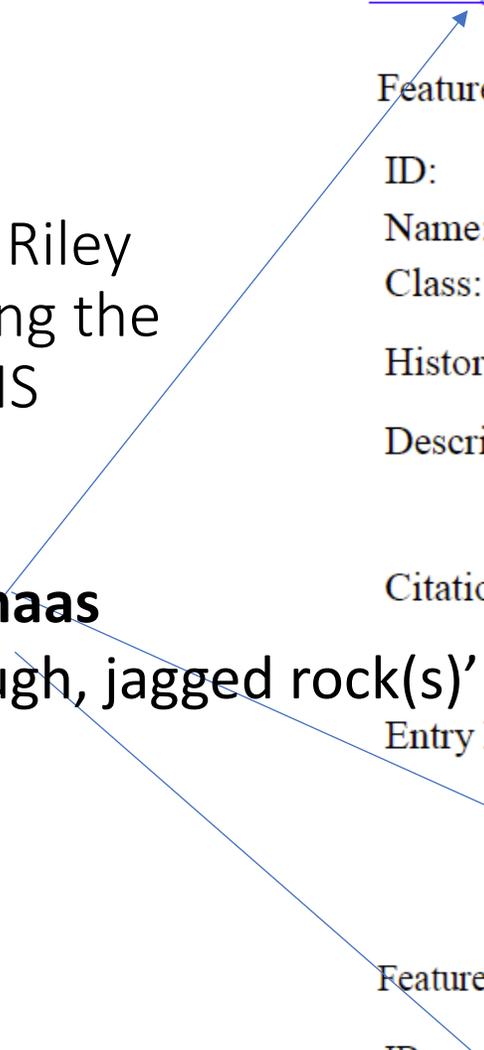
Tsenedghaas Na' [Citation](#)

Feature Detail Report for: Tsenedghaas Caek'e

ID: 2664237  
 Name: Tsenedghaas Caek'e  
 Class: Area ([Definitions](#))  
 Citation: Kari, James. Draft Final Report : Native Place Names Mapping in Denali National Park and Preserve. 31-Dec-1999. National Park Service .  
 Entry Date: 17-Feb-2011

search for Riley Creek, Using the Alaska GNIS

**Tsenedghaas**  
 Ahtna 'rough, jagged rock(s)'



The *Lower Tanana Dene Dictionary* is a mid-sized Lexware dictionary that consolidates nearly all primary data for this language of Alaska's middle Tanana River Valley from the years 1903 to 2023. The LTDD presents the words, skills, and ideas of more than 40 expert Lower Tanana speakers. New features increase the book's accessibility for a range of users, from members of the Lower Tanana community, to specialists in Dene linguistics or ethnology, to those in allied fields of interdisciplinary prehistory.

The Lower Tanana Table of Headwords (pp. 1-11) has 1149 consolidated headwords or separate entries. These assembled headwords plus tag definitions are an outline of the cosmographic breadth of the Lower Tanana language. The material and natural world, the conscious and the subconscious, the lexical and the grammatical are displayed as an alphabetized outline that reflects the long-term Dene ecological, cognitive and linguistic adaptations to Interior Alaska.

The book is arranged as a multi-disciplinary resource that invites browsing and study. Appendix B has an editable LT Verb Complex and Kari's current model of Dene word formation. Other appendices summarize LT numerals, classificatory verbs, kinship, loan words, anatomy, fish and fishing, and shelter. Local place names and Dene Generative Geography are presented in many figures and in Appendix D. Chena dialect speakers Helen David Charlie and Laura David Anderson are featured with colorful quotes and drawings from the classic booklet *According to Mama* (1956).

This is an invaluable work, truly amazing in breadth and detail! Loaded with rich language, ethnographic and contextual data, it will capture the attention of any reader interested in Indigenous languages and lifeways. Abundant photographs, drawings & maps with captions as well as nine appendices supplement the dictionary entries.

*Kenneth Pratt, Director, BIA-ANCSA office*

The LTDD is an extremely valuable addition to the compendium of previous Alaska Dene / Athabaskan dictionaries produced by Professor James Kari. This new dictionary is marked by an updated conceptual system taking into account recent developments in Dene linguistics.

*Andrej A. Kibrik, Director, Institute of Linguistics, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow*

This book is beautiful both visually and intellectually.

*Edward J. Vajda, Western Washington University*



Kari

Lower Tanana Dene Dictionary

# Lower Tanana Dene DICTIONARY

James Kari

ANLC  
ALASKA  
NATIVE  
LANGUAGE  
CENTER

Nineteen Ahtna Place Names for officially unnamed features in and around Glacial Lake Atna James Kari, April 25, 2025, i.d.= JK Access Ahtna p.n. d.b.

	ID	Region	Seq	Name	Location	Literal	Comment	FType	SType	Latitude	Longit	GNIS
1	4889	19	1411	Łuyinanest'aani	ridge S of Nenana Glacier	one that extends into glacier	Kari 1983:178	landform	geol	63.5206	-147.626	none
2	5077	20	1534	C'aali	ridge NW & N of Sevenmile Lake	snowshoe foot strap, lit 'opposite instrument'	lovely metaphor	landform	geol met	63.20613	-146.278	
3	5177	20	1604	Banazdleni	mt 4503' "Oshetna"	one that current flows around	Kari 1983	landform	hydro	62.72246	-147.346	
4	5094	20	1542	Nilben Caek'e	site N of mouth of Tyone River	lake level surges mouth	Reckord 1983, BIA Report 1996	village	hydro	62.70475	-147.215	
5	5098	20	1545	K'ey Tsaaygha	site, gap on, E of mouth of Tyone R	by the small birch	Jack Tyone 1980 paired with #10	landform	veg	62.71808	-147.13	
6	5125	20	1566	Tandzaey Dghilaaye'	3105', 2905' two mts SW of Tyone lake outlet	island mountain	isld-mnt innovations	landform	geol	62.59811	-147.049	
7	5123	20	1563	Tanaaxi Na'	stream from lakes NW of Saltigi	water that moves stream	GLA spillway 10700 <sup>ybp</sup>	stream	hydro	62.58763	-146.793	
8	4068	10	863	Saltigi	hill 3537 "Tyone"	sun bump	Irving 1957	landform	geol	62.5639	-146.731	
9	4101	11	905	Dzeł Ghaan'	mt W of Lower Tangle Lake	half mountain	paired with #19	landform	geol	63.13316	-146.019	
10	3773	10	706.1	K'ey Tsaay Bene'	Lake W of Hogan Hill	small birch lake	Reckord 1983	lake	veg	62.64031	-145.493	
11	3971	10	809	Nen' Yese' Ggaay	esker bluff W of Sourdough to bluff N Tazlina R, Mendenhall 1898	little land ridge	paired with Nen'Yese'	trail	geol	62.43871	-146.25	
12	4329	14	1027.1	Tandzaey Ce'e Na'	creek on N side Boulder Creek	big island creek	Bell Joe 1982, likely site on GLA shore	stream	geol met	62.58705	-144.493	
13	4615	17	1209	Sez'aani, Sez'aann	mt 6580' N of Copper Glacier	heart; or inside me	deLaguna 1970:32	landform	geol anat	62.3159	-143.757	
14	5294	14	1033.1	Taghaelts'e Tene	Nataelde-Taral Trail	'trail to barrier in water'	A Brown 1982	trail	trail	62.60	-144.17	
15	2762	6	407.3	Bes Nezdlaayi	bluffs E strandline GLA, 3000' strandline Klawasi-Chestaslina	river bank that extends rope-like	FJ 1983, 1986:	landform	geol	62.28345	-145.299	
16	3082	3	228	Tat'ahwt'aene Kaltende	ck w lake into Chetaslina R	headwaterspeople trail ascends	AB 1982, 1986:214	stream	trail	61.7962	144.7068	
17	3404	7	450	Tes Dghelaaye'	Ridge 3118' to N, mi 164 Glenn Hwy	hill mountain	Kari 1983	landform	geol	62.13	-146.24	
18	3493	8	510	Hwyyis Tes	hill by Knob Lake, Alascom site	mirage/ mist hill	Tarkhanov 1796	landform	geol met	61.83278	-147.328	
19	3502	8	514	Dzeł Ghaan'	mt 6449 "Chug"	half mountain	paired with #9	landform	geol	61.77549	-147.25	

# Selected Referenes

Kari, J. 2010a. The Concept of Geolinguistic Conservatism in Na-Dene Prehistory. *Anthropological Papers of the University of Alaska. New Series*, Vol. 5:194–222.

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- Recently discovered Victor Golla 2001, SSILA Newsletter XIX:4
- After the Koy. Ath. Dict. In Nov. of 2000

Some thoughts on Athabaskan Dictionaries

- The benchmark of modern Athabaskan lexicography was set by James Kari's *Ahtna Athabaskan Dictionary* in 1990. Jim, who recently retired after several decades at the Alaska Native Language Center, has retooled Athabaskan morphosyntax more thoroughly than any linguist since Sapir, and his analysis of verb stem variation.... has permanently altered the way linguists think about Athabaskan verbs. If this intrigues you, the place to find out about it is not in any of Jim's journal articles and monographs (though they are there to consult) but in the Ahtna dictionary, which lays out his scheme in lucid detail, lexeme by lexeme.