



### **Toolik Field Station Land Acknowledgment Statement:**

We acknowledge the Alaska Native nations upon whose traditional lands our field station operates. In Fairbanks, our Logistic Offices are located on the traditional lands of the Troth Yeddha' Dena people of the Lower Tanana River. We acknowledge that Toolik Field Station and the surrounding areas are located on the ancestral hunting grounds of the Nunamiut, and occasional hunting grounds and routes of the Gwich'in, Koyukuk, and Iñupiaq peoples. Toolik Field Station recognizes, and is grateful for, the Indigenous people who inhabit and steward this land.

We are endeavoring to become better stewards of the land that we research. When you visit Toolik Field Station, we invite you to join us in offering respect and gratitude to the Nunamiut and their ancestors that have resided and hunted in this area. Please take a moment to consider the impact of colonialism to the Nunamiut through the legacies of displacement, migration, and settlement over the past century. The Nunamiut primarily live in Anaktuvuk Pass, a community about 65 miles (103 km) to the southwest of Toolik Field Station.

We request that all visitors to the station be respectful of any artifacts found or uncovered while traveling through, or conducting research in, the Toolik Field Station area. If you discover a potential artifact, please forward photographs and the GPS coordinates to the Toolik Field Station GIS department and they will contact the appropriate authorities and the archeologists from the Bureau of Land Management. This will help to ensure the integrity and preservation of these archeological sites.

### **UAF Strategic Planning Goals 2019-2025:**

- [Solidify our global leadership in Alaska Native and Indigenous programs](#)
- [Embrace and grow a culture of respect, diversity, inclusion and caring](#)

### **Future Collaboration with the Anaktuvuk Pass Community**

Anaktuvuk pass is the closest community to Toolik Field Station (65 miles to the southeast). The community of Anaktuvuk Pass sits at the base of the Brooks Range on the northern side. The population of the community is just under 350 people of which 82% of the population is Native Alaskan - Nunamiut.

While there is not currently an active collaboration between Anaktuvuk Pass and Toolik Field Station, there has been in the past. During the 1950s and 60s there were a number of scientists living and

researching in Anaktuvuk Pass. One of them was Laurence Irving, who consulted with Simon Paneak, a member of the Anaktuvuk Pass community. Irving commissioned Simon Paneak to monitor bird arrivals in and around Anaktuvuk Pass in 1950 and effort that he kept up for over 25 years. While the efforts and contributions of Simon Paneak are acknowledged in many of Laurence Irving's articles Simon Paneak is listed in just a few articles as a co-author (Irving and Paneak 1954, Irving, West, Peyton and Paneak 1967). For Simon Paneak and the Nunamiut's in depth data collection on the timing of bird arrival and nesting dates, Irving thanks them throughout the book and specifically states "Without their help, existence for us would have been too difficult to permit methodical scientific investigation; thanks to their careful observations, accurate knowledge of the country, and ability to travel, our studies proceeded rapidly" (Irving 1960). In addition to his work on birds, Simon Paneak worked with many archaeologists and anthropologists describing the Nunamuit culture and history (Ingstad, H. 1954).

Roosevelt Paneak, one of Simon Paneak's sons, worked for Toolik Field Station from 2003-2005. While working with Toolik Field Station Roosevelt, introduced the staff and researchers to the history of his people creating a powerpoint titled "Life in the Brooks Range" as well as making a map of the Toolik area with landmarks depicted in Inupiaq. Around this time Toolik Field Station was working on its long range development plan. The North Slope Borough required Toolik Field Station to present the development plan to the Anaktuvuk Pass community and have their support as the nearest neighbours for approval of the plan. To do this two of Toolik's management team visited Anaktuvuk Pass to make a presentation about the TFS Development plan. Two staff returned to Anaktuvuk in 2006, for the naming of a mountain in Anaktuvuk after the Norwegian Explorer Helge Ingstad, author of *Nunamiut, Among Alaska's Inland Eskimos*. Since then there has been little to no interactions between Anaktuvuk Pass and Toolik Field Station. In fact the community currently does not know Toolik Field Station exists.

However, we are now in the early stages of reinvigorating the relationship between Toolik Field Station and Anaktuvuk Pass. This relationship would have many mutual benefits and purposes.

Building relationships with members of the Anaktuvuk Pass community is a big step in developing our collaboration. Toolik Field Station has the ability to establish a long term collaboration with the Anaktuvuk Pass community, through this collaboration it can help facilitate and increase the capacity for the researchers at Toolik Field Station to share the results of their research. Many research projects are on a short term or limited to a funding period, Toolik Field Station can bridge the gap between these researchers and the community. Furthermore, establishing a long term relationship with the community will help to build a trusting environment to co-produce research questions that are meaningful to the Anaktuvuk Pass community and to the researchers.

Initial steps are being made to re-establish this relationship, through a collaboration between Toolik Field Station's SEDC manager and a faculty member at UAF who is from Anaktuvuk Pass. The first step that is being taken with the community of Anaktuvuk Pass is inquiring with the tribal council if they would be interested in a collaboration.

If the community looks favorable on this collaboration then we will write a proposal with members of the Anaktuvuk Pass community to fund a workshop bringing together members of the Anaktuvuk Pass community (elders, tribal council members, children) and Toolik Field Station Researchers. This workshop will be centered around questions that are important to the community, such as the seasonality of caribou and the impact of climate change on their distribution. Workshops will take place in both Anaktuvuk Pass as well as at Toolik Field Station. During the workshops researchers and

community members will work to co-produce research questions that either directly or indirectly answer the questions important to the community.

Through this process a goal is to provide educational opportunities to both students and members of the community who wish to pursue careers or degrees in STEM fields. An active component of this proposal will be to engage and employ members of the community in research and monitoring efforts. This would be through training opportunities in Anaktuvuk Pass as well as paid internships working with Toolik Field Station researchers and Staff. Through these training opportunities and establishment of long-term research opportunities in Anaktuvuk Pass, we aspire to collaboratively establish a career trajectory in STEM fields within the community.

Through this collaborative process one of our goals is to ensure community members of Anaktuvuk Pass are fairly compensated for their time and knowledge. Furthermore, they are properly acknowledged and cited in research papers, presentations, and outreach activities as active participants in the research.

### **Overall Outreach To Communities of Color**

- Communicate results of research being done at Toolik to surrounding communities
- Collaborate with UAF to encourage, recruit and provide more opportunities at Toolik for students of color in the STEM fields

### **Student Groups at UAF to reach out to:**

UAF Rural Student Services - Primarily focuses on Native Alaskans and supports their adjustments to living in Fairbanks and going to University through a support group

AISES - American Indian Science and Engineering Society

### **International Organizations:**

- [Polar Impact: Minorities in Polar Research](#)
- [Polaris Project](#)

### **Self and Community Education**

To help educate ourselves about the local Indigenous communities we have a number of projects in development:

- Provide more access and visibility of Indigenous history of the Toolik Field Station Area both at the Field Station and on the website.
- Improving our resource library with books on the history of the Indigenous peoples, culture, language, and their scientific contributions.
- Rediscovering resources from 17 years ago a powerpoint on the "Life in the Brooks Range" by Roosevelt Paneak as well as a map with the Inupiaq place names around Toolik Field Station that Roosevelt Paneak also made.
- Inupiaq glossary (with instructions on proper pronunciation) of geographic features, place names, animals, and flowers from around the Toolik Field Station.

## References

Ingstad, H. 1954. Nunamiut, Among Alaska's Inland Eskimos.

Irving, L. 1960. Birds of Anaktuvuk Pass, Kobuk, and Old Crow: A Study in Arctic Adaptation. Bulletin 217. Washington, DC. Smithsonian Institution.

Irving, L., and S. Paneak. 1954. Biological reconnaissance along the Ahtasuruk River east of Howard Pass, Brooks Range, Alaska, with notes on the avifauna. *Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences*. 44(7):201-211

Irving, L., West, G., Peyton, L., and S. Paneak. 1967. Migration of Willow Ptarmigan in Arctic Alaska. *Arctic*. 20:77-85.