

The Chilkat Valley A Biogeographical Nexus

Alaska Bald Eagle Festival

November 9, 2024 – Klukwan, Alaska





Presenters

Derek Poinsette

Stacie Evans

David Strong

Executive Director, Takshanuk Watershed Council

Science Director, Takshanuk Watershed Council

Tribal Council, Chilkat Indian Village

There will be lots of time for questions at the end

Takshanuk Watershed Council

A 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 2002 to provide stewardship for the lands and waters of the Chilkat Watershed

Four main program areas:

1. Education
 2. Scientific Research
 3. Habitat Restoration
 4. Community Development
- Nine-member volunteer board of directors
 - Three paid full-time staff
 - Seasonal part-time staff



The Chilkat Valley – A Biogeographical Nexus

- “Biogeographical” – the geographic distribution of plants, animals, and other forms of life
- “Nexus” – a central, focal, or important place; a connection or a link; a connected group of items

The Chilkat Valley is located at the confluence of five different ecoregions (EPA Level 3 definitions)

Chilkat Valley
and
Klukwan

- 7.1.5 “Coastal Hemlock-Spruce Forest”
- 7.1.4 “Pacific Coast Mountains”
- 6.1.4 “Wrangell and St. Elias Mountains”
- 6.1.6 “Yukon-Stikine Highlands”
- 6.1.5 “Watson Highlands”



Regional Migration and Travel Corridors
used by both wildlife and humans

The Chilkat Valley – A Biogeographical Nexus

- The most biologically diverse region in all of Alaska
- Highest vascular plant species richness (most number of species) in Alaska
- Most number of mammal species (38 and counting)
- A geographic and migratory corridor between temperate maritime and interior boreal ecoregions – for humans as well as other animals and plants

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All creatures,
including humans,
need the same
basic things to
survive and thrive

Humans rely on
other creatures to
create and maintain
the ecological
conditions for our
existence

Many other
creatures rely on
humans to create
and maintain the
ecological
conditions for their
existence

One World

The Chilkat Valley
is a rare modern
example of a large
ecosystem that is
still fully intact

Humans have been
a part of this
ecosystem for
many centuries
without destroying
or significantly
degrading it

The people here
today are still
thriving on the
renewable
resources of the
Chilkat Valley

