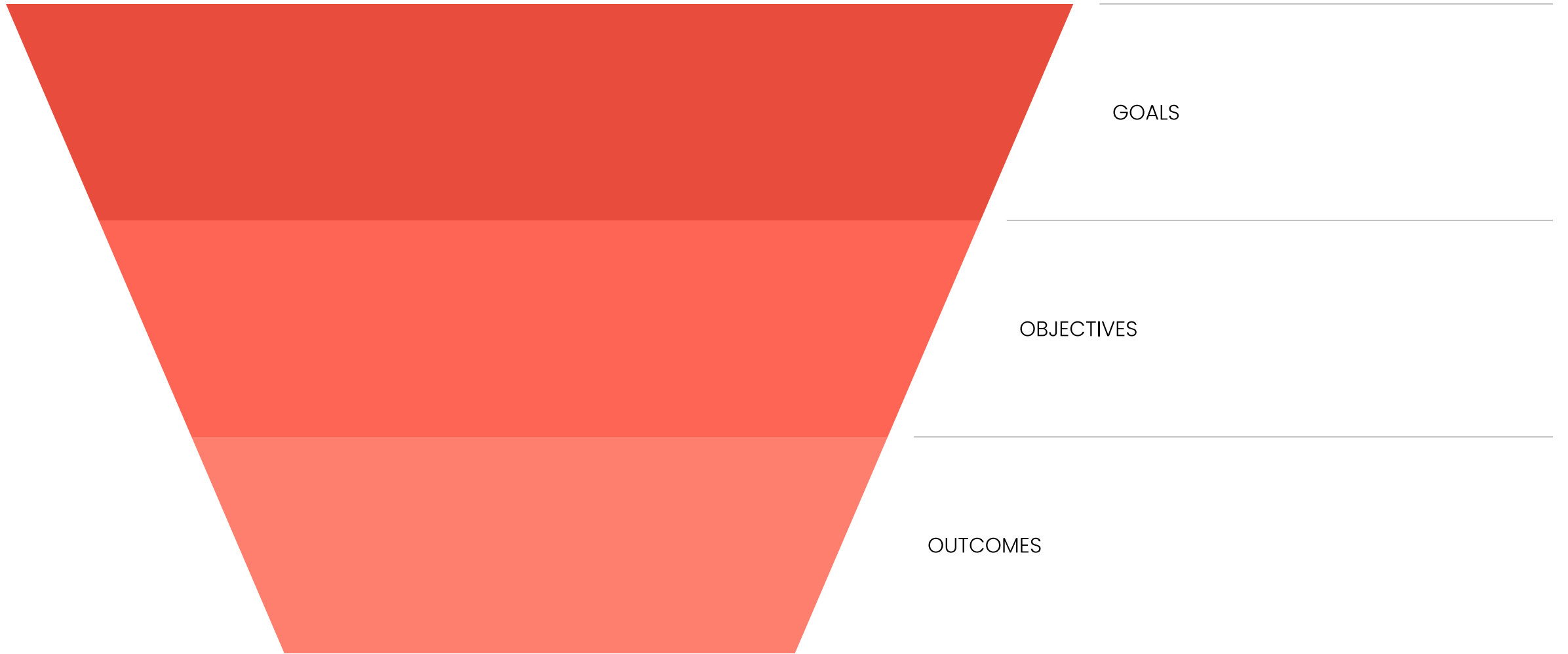


A landscape painting of a mountain valley. In the foreground, a river flows through lush green fields. The middle ground shows rolling green hills leading to a valley. In the background, rugged mountains with patches of snow rise against a sky filled with soft, white clouds. The overall style is that of a classical landscape painting.

SUBSISTENCE AS AGRICULTURE

 NRCS

MODULE EXPECTATIONS



ALASKA AGRICULTURE HISTORY

1765

Agriculture first reached Tlingit and Haida communities

1833

Documented gardens at Sitka, Kodiak, Unalaska, Atka, Kenai, Sanak, Unga, and Attu

1898

First agricultural experiment station was opened at Sitka

1935

Mat-Su Colonization project

2010

Tanana Chiefs Conference increased from 427 gardeners in 26 villages in 2008 to 521 gardeners in 36 villages in 2010

1783

Agriculture started Three Saints Bay

1892

Domestic reindeer had been introduced into the Alaska

1921

Fairbanks farmers' association constructed a grain mill

1961

Venetie yielded a recorded 24,000 pounds of potatoes

IT'S NOT SUBSISTENCE, IT'S A WAY OF LIFE.

“Subsistence” is the term most often used to describe a way of life that Alaska’s Native peoples have lived for thousands of years (and the way all cultures lived prior to the development of agriculture). It is a way of life in which everything—the economy, people’s relationships to one another, philosophy, spirituality, science, technology, health care, artistic expression, education, jokes, ideas about gender and sexuality, entertainment, the creation of tools and shelter and clothing—everything!—is intimately tied to the land and the waters upon which the people depend for sustenance.

SOURCE: DO ALASKA NATIVE PEOPLE GET FREE MEDICAL CARE*?



FOOD SECURITY IN ALASKA

“Urban Alaska is also highly vulnerable to disruptions in the food supply. Fairbanks is estimated to have three to five days’ of food on supermarket shelves, with Anchorage only having nominally more, perhaps five to seven days. The state of Alaska has no caches of emergency food supplies, relying instead on a system of contingency plans and supplies from nonprofit and for-profit suppliers, such as the Red Cross or Safeway.”

ALASKA FOOD POLICY COUNCIL, FOOD IN ALASKA FOOD SYSTEMS, SECURITY, AND POLICY IN THE 49TH STATE



16 U.S. CODE § 3113

As used in this Act, the term “subsistence uses” means the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools, or transportation; for the making and selling of handicraft articles out of nonedible byproducts of fish and wildlife resources taken for personal or family consumption; for barter, or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade. For the purposes of this section, the term—(1) “family” means all persons related by blood, marriage, or adoption, or any person living within the household on a permanent basis; and(2) “barter” means the exchange of fish or wildlife or their parts, taken for subsistence uses—(A) for other fish or game or their parts; or(B) for other food or for nonedible items other than money if the exchange is of a limited and noncommercial nature.



ALASKA: MIXED UP?

Economic picture of Alaska is generally thought of as oil & tourism

Alaska's economy is a mixed economy – specifically in rural villages

Cash

Subsistence

Attempts to resolve one or the other often fail for lack of a comprehensive approach and a holistic understanding of both

SUBSISTENCE AS A WAY OF LIFE

Alaskans rely upon traditional wild foods even in this modern age

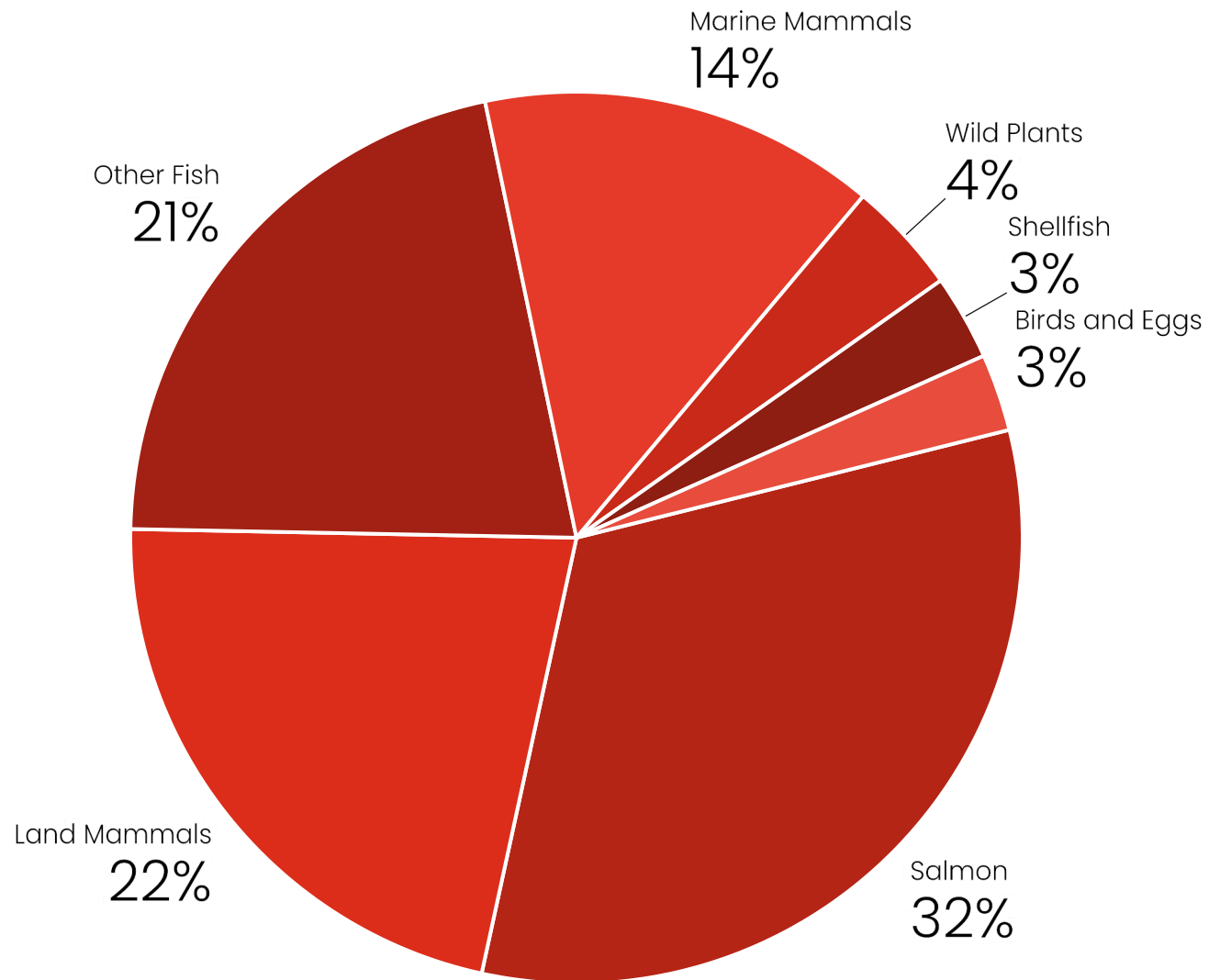
36.9 million pounds of wild foods are harvested annually by rural subsistence users

Urban areas harvest about 13.4 million pounds of wild food under subsistence, personal use, and sport regulations

The Federal Government recognizes "This dependence on wild resources is cultural, social and economic. Alaska's indigenous inhabitants have relied upon the traditional harvest of wild foods for thousands of years and have passed this way of life, its culture, and values down through generations."

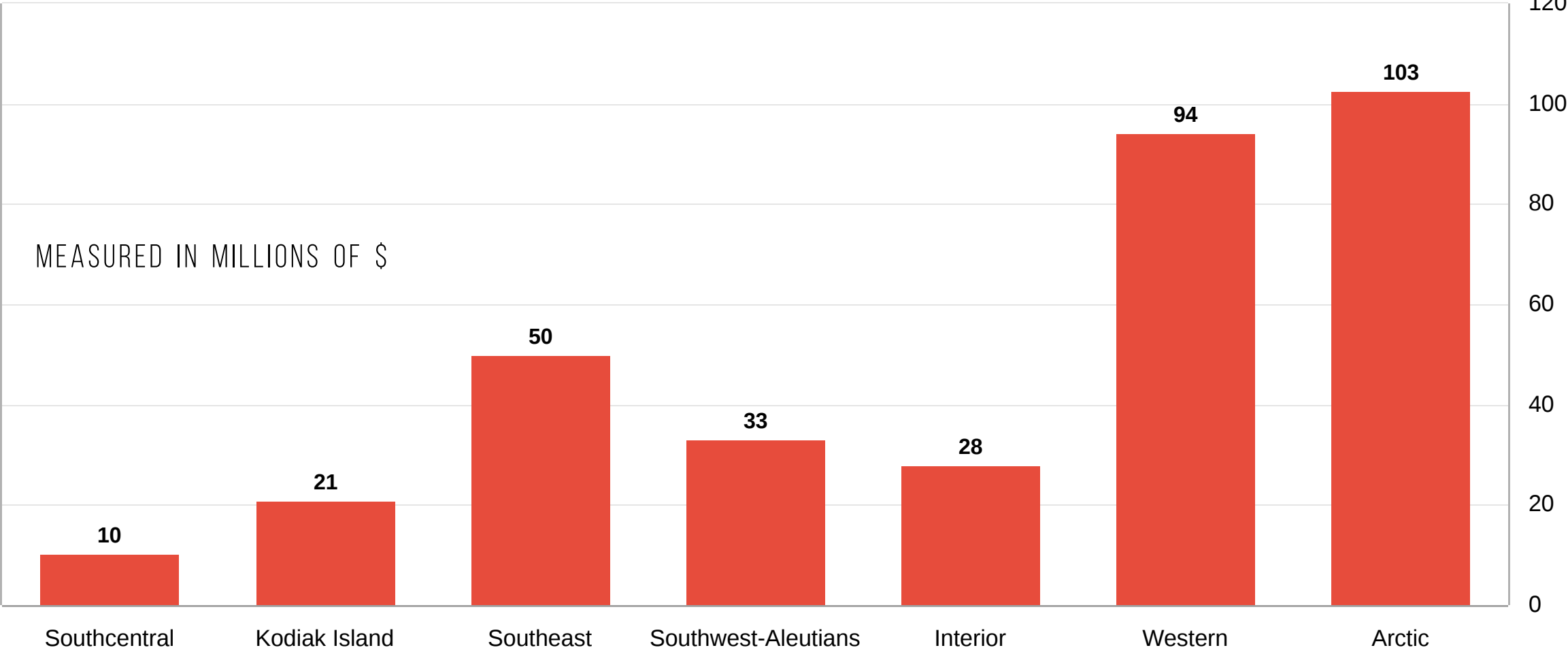
HOW LARGE IS THE SUBSISTENCE HARVEST?

SOURCE: ADF&G: SUBSISTENCE IN ALASKA:A YEAR 2017 UPDATE



SUBSISTENCE REPLACEMENT VALUES

2017 ESTIMATED WILD FOOD REPLACEMENT VALUE @ \$10.00/POUND



TRADITIONAL VALUES & SUBSISTENCE

Self-sufficiency & sustainability

Stewardship of wild resources for future generations

Respect

When an animal is harvested, the whole animal is used; waste is disrespectful to both the animal and the people who depend on it

Sharing

There are cultural standards and traditions associated with harvesting and sharing wild foods.

Connection to place & culture

Harvesting and processing wild foods is a cultural cornerstone; it strengthens ties between people and the land and is intertwined with cultural practices and traditional skills

SOCIAL IMPACTS: WHEN SUBSISTENCE NEEDS ARE NOT MET

Loss of culture & traditions

Increased substance abuse

Increased domestic violence

Out migration

Hub village

Urban - moving towards opportunity in the city

Out of state

Increased incarceration rates – family in jail

Increased health issues – obesity, diabetes, cancer, etc.

SUBSISTENCE IN ALASKA

“Subsistence is not a sentimental activity. It nurtures our soul and our bodies. If we can’t have [wild, traditional] food, it affects us psychologically and physically. We need to do it every season, every year. Our goal is not to deplete the very stock that nurtures our children and covers our boats.”

JOHN WAGHIYI, BERING STRAITS ELDERS CONFERENCE,
NOME, ALASKA



CONSERVATION IS KEY

ANC given land under ANCSA, and a land selection criteria was subsistence needs

ANC cannot provide for the subsistence needs of the village unless there is a corporate financial reason to do so

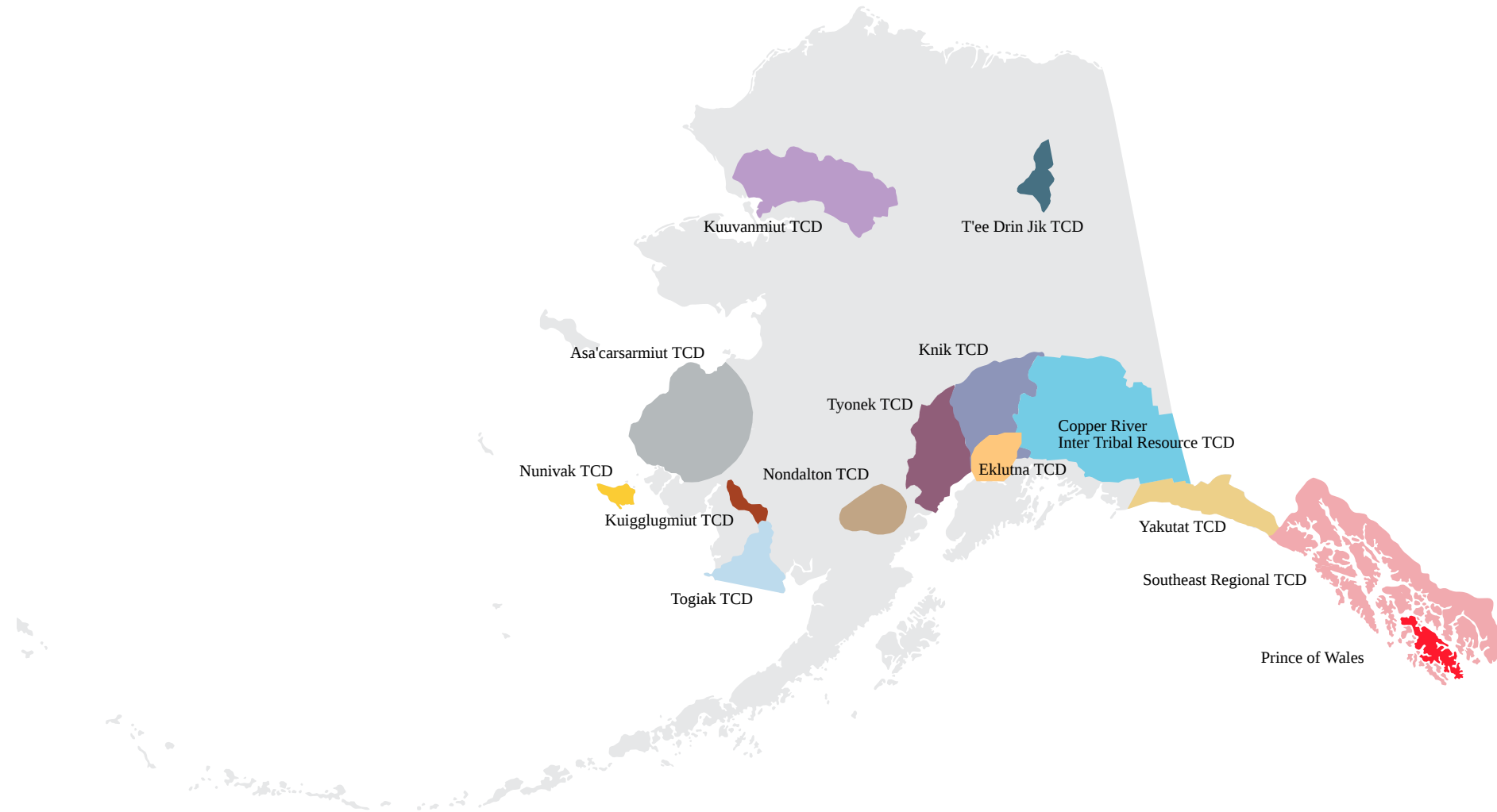
Tribes were expected to deal with the subsistence issue, but most hold no land

Programs like those administered by USDA are an important key in bridging these gaps

SUBSISTENCE AGRICULTURE

Growing food to meet the needs of Elders, families, and villages

Approximately 95% of Alaska's food is imported (in 1955 it was 55%)



Alaska Tribal Conservation Districts

SUBSISTENCE AS AGRICULTURE



Fish Wheel, Yukon River.