



The Village of Huslia is an Athabascan community located 260 miles west of Fairbanks on the main stem of the Koyukuk River. The village is off the road system and is only accessible by air.

The community has a population of approximately 275 people.

Relocating Homes Out of Harms Way

In 2014 and 2018, the Huslia Village Council requested assistance from NRCS through the EWP program, due to increased erosion during spring break-up. Projects were funded by NRCS in FY2014 and FY2019, respectively.

In 2014, after completing a site assessment and coordinating on a project scope and cost, NRCS and the Huslia Village Council signed a Cooperative Agreement to relocate two residences, demolish six abandoned structures, and remove all associated debris from the threatened area. The agreed upon project cost was \$90,759, of which NRCS contributed \$81,683 (90%).

In 2019, after another period of increased erosion, again upon completion of a site assessment and coordinating on a project scope and cost, NRCS and the Huslia Village Council signed a Cooperative Agreement to relocate five residences, demolish two abandoned structures, and remove all associated debris from the threatened area. The agreed upon project cost was \$206,000, of which NRCS contributed \$185,400 (90%).

In both cases the Huslia Village Council was able to use NRCS funding to leverage additional funds to cover portions of the overall relocation project that NRCS is not able to fund through EWP, such as extending utilities to the new residential locations.

Both projects were completed successfully and on schedule, with all project management and construction activities performed by, or under the direction of the Huslia Village Council, and utilizing all local labor.

When the sponsor/community has the equipment and workforce to manage and execute a project, the Cooperative Agreement approach to contracting provides a streamlined approach that reduces the project timeline, reduces the financial burden and liability to the sponsor, provides employment opportunities in the community, and reduces the cost to the government.

Pictured above: Severe soil erosion occurred in Huslia following rapid ice melt during spring break up. Photo by Steven Swatling.

Pictured left: Top: A closer view of soil erosion. Photo by Jeff Oatley. Bottom: A home in Huslia is relocated. Photo by Ryan Maroney.

