

Working Effectively With Tribal Governments

Lessons Learned from the Loring AFB BRAC Project



Fred Corey
Environmental Director
Aroostook Band of Micmacs
Presque Isle, Maine

Aroostook Band of Micmacs

- Federally Recognized by Congress in 1991
- 1,200 Enrolled Members
- Largest Maritime Tribe in Eastern Canada (50,000+ Members, 27 Reserves)
- Tribal Council form of Government (Elected body consists of Tribal Chief, Vice Chief, and 9 Tribal Council Members)
- Current land holdings include approx 400 acres non-BRAC acquired property

BRAC Acquired Property

- Loring AFB SAC Base Slated for Closure (1990)
- Joint BIA/USFWS request for excess property (1995)
- BIA request included approx 650 acres for natural resource utilization and economic development, and two off-base family housing units

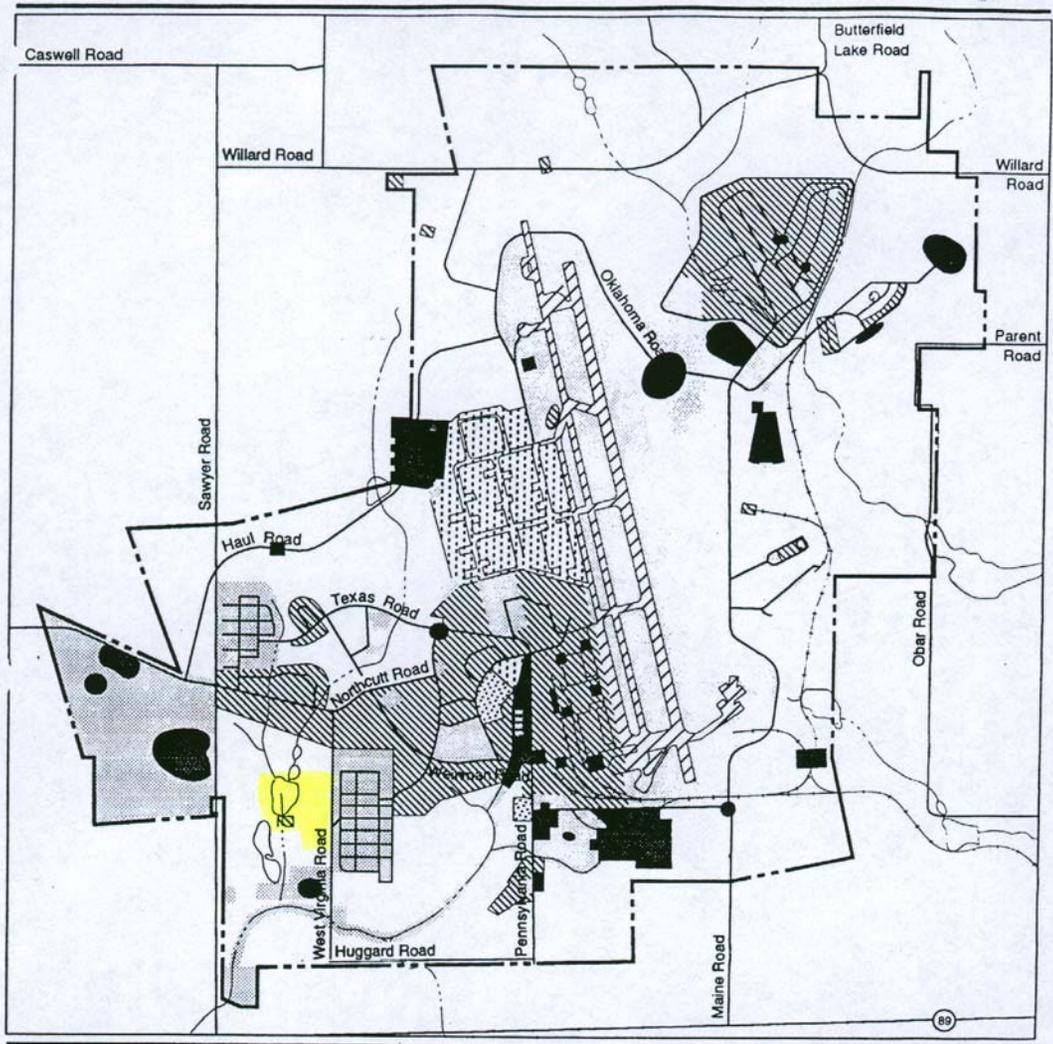






Environmental Issues

- EPA Superfund Site
- Contaminants include PCB's, chlorinated compounds, PAH's, petroleum products, and heavy metals
- Tribal Reuse concerns include:
 - Contaminants in subsistence materials
 - Lead, asbestos, radon, and mold and mildew in housing units



EXPLANATION

- | | |
|---|---|
|  Uncontaminated Property (Category 1) |  Hazardous substance release, not all actions have been taken (Category 5) |
|  Hazardous substance stored - no release (Category 2) |  Hazardous substance release, no actions taken (Category 6) |
|  Hazardous substance release, below action levels (Category 3) |  Areas requiring additional evaluation (Category 7) |
|  Hazardous substance release, all actions have been taken (Category 4) |  Base Boundary |

Environmental Condition of Property On-Site

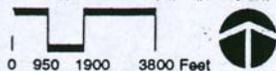
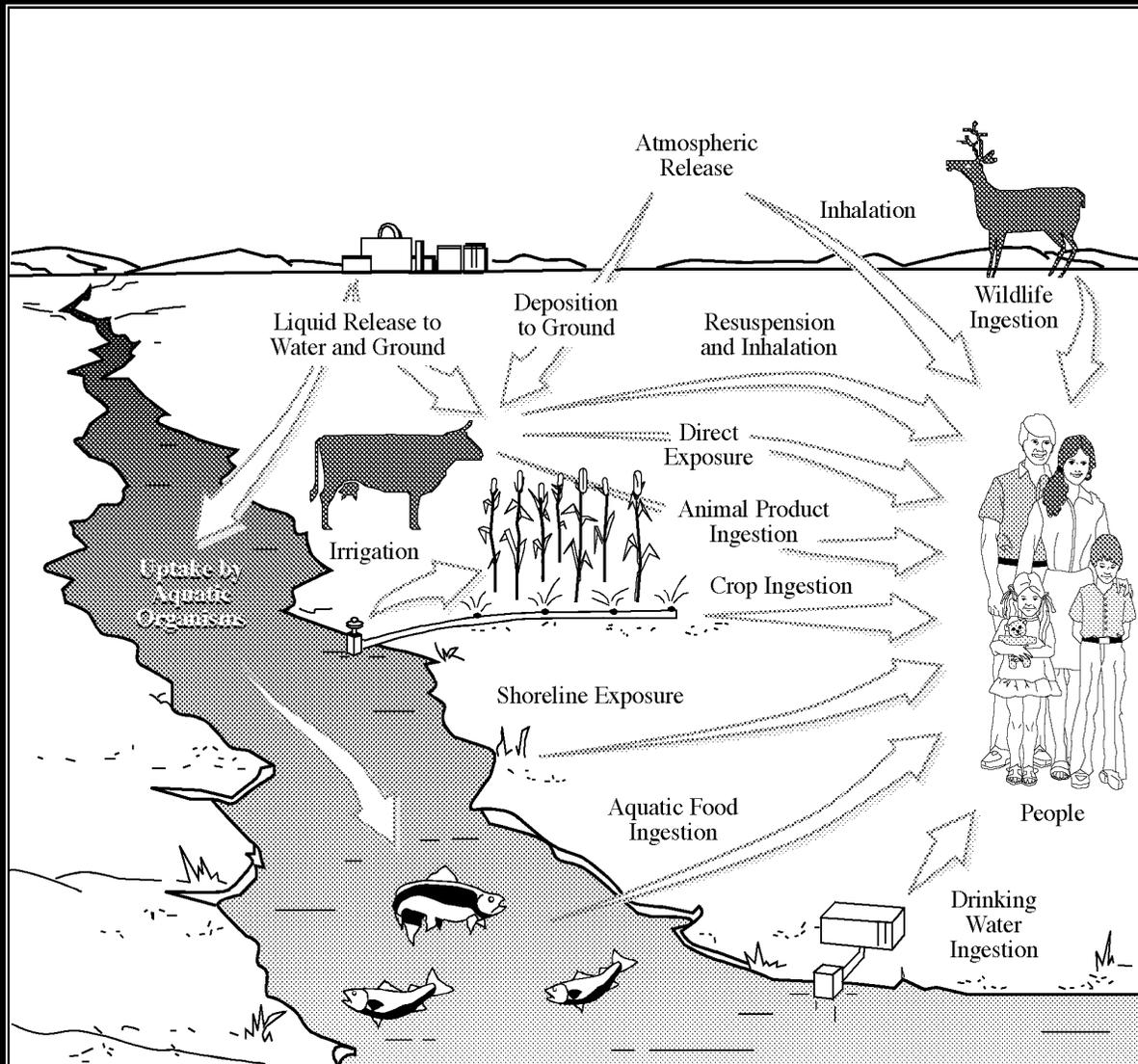


Figure 3-2



Typical Pictorial Human Health Generic Conceptual Model



MONTANE RESOURCES

RIPARIAN RESOURCES

WETLANDS RESOURCES

DESERT RESOURCES

AIR AND DUST INHALATION

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

PROCESSING

DIRECT SOIL EXPOSURE

GARDEN PRODUCE

GROUNDWATER

AQUATIC FOODS

SURFACE WATER USE

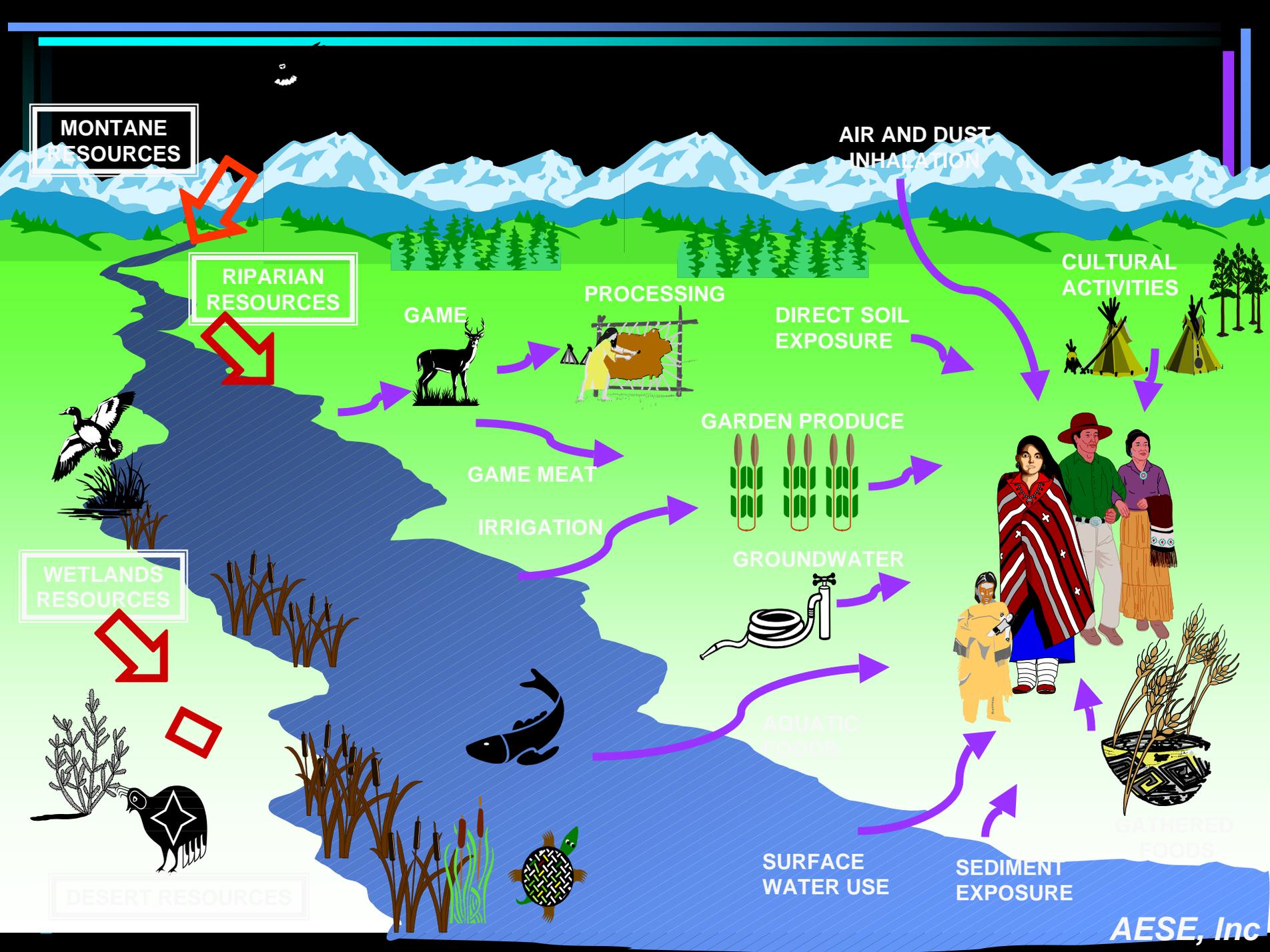
SEDIMENT EXPOSURE

GAME

GAME MEAT

IRRIGATION

FOODS



Consultation

- Different than public participation
 - Built upon the exchange of ideas, not simply providing information
 - Involves more than sending letters, notices, and copies of documents requesting comment
 - Must be outreach and concerted efforts to provide meaningful involvement in the decision-making process

Consultation

- It is important to:
 - Know the authority and knowledge of Tribal contacts
 - Recognize that Tribal governments often have a different decision-making process than other forms of government
 - Tribes often do not have the resources to review and comment on documents according to federal gov't timetables

Consultation

- Cultural differences often present significant communication barriers
- Changes in Tribal government may require additional efforts to ensure effective consultation
- Tribal sovereignty is thwarted when federal agencies attempt to treat Tribes in a conventional public participation process

Environmental Justice

- The fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies
- May result when there is a lack of understanding of Tribal goals and needs

Current Status of Land Transfer and Next Steps

- Transfer documents being prepared
- Additional environmental studies planned by Tribe and Air Force
- Risk assessment activities ongoing
- Tribe will need to limit reuse activities pending completion of risk assessment activities