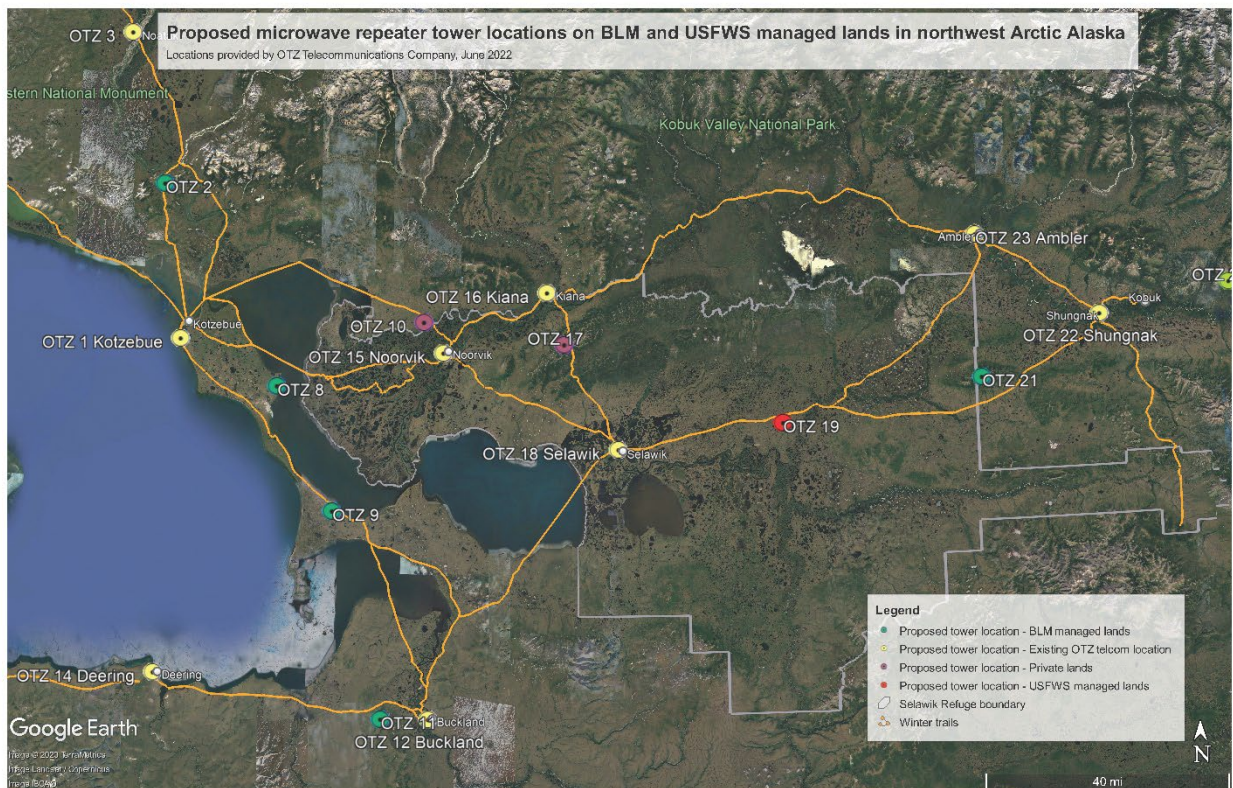


Potential Impacts of OTZ Towers Project to Subsistence in the Northwest Arctic, AK



OTZ Telecom of Kotzebue has applied for permission to construct a network of microwave telecommunications towers. This project would bring broadband internet to communities in Northwest Alaska. The series of towers would extend from Kivalina/Deering east to the Dalton Highway.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and US Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) are the agencies involved in the permitting process. BLM is the lead agency and FWS has a role in whether to permit the one tower which would be on refuge lands.



Currently, both agencies are evaluating the potential impacts of the proposed OTZ Towers project to subsistence on federal public lands. The presence of the towers, construction activities, and maintenance activities will all be considered. This is referred to as Section 810 analysis since it is required as part of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) part 810.

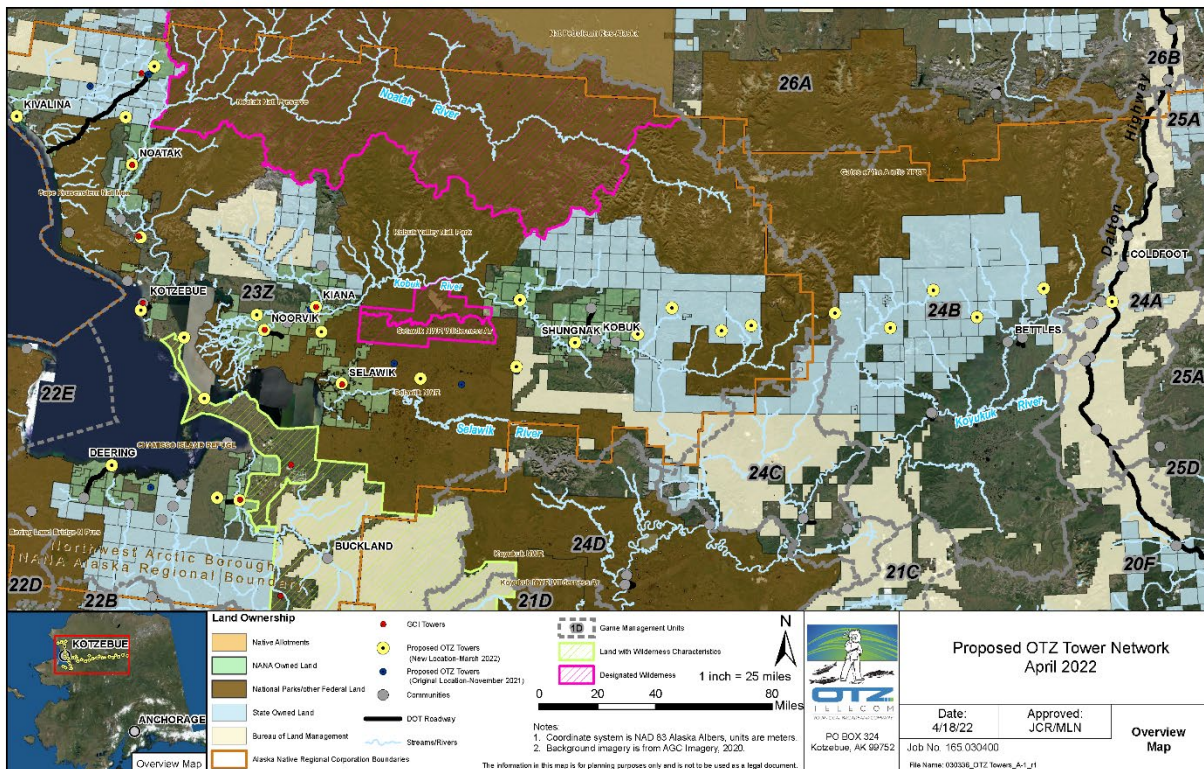
Questions which need to be addressed as part of the evaluation include:

- Will the project result in a reduction in the abundance of harvestable resources used for subsistence purposes?
- Will the project result in a reduction in the availability of resources caused by an alteration in their distribution, migration, or location?
- Will the project result in a limitation on the access of subsistence users to harvestable resources?



Figure 1: example of tower similar to those proposed for this project. Provided by OTZ as part of application package.

We welcome the council's input. We have reached out for input from Tribes and have not heard strong concerns at this point. We will reach out to Tribes and other regional partners again when we have a draft 810 analysis to share.



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