**YUKON RIVER INTER-TRIBAL WATERSHED COUNCIL**

**WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**MODEL ORDINANCE**

MODEL ORDINANCE for ALASKA TRIBES in the YUKON RIVER BASIN PROTECTING WATER QUALITY: TO FURTHER THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF [***TRIBE NAME HERE***] THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF SPECIFIC WATER QUALITY OBJECTIVES AND STANDARDS FOR THE YUKON RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES

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**Section 1 Purpose**

The purpose of this Ordinance is to adopt water quality objectives and standards for the waters of the Yukon River and associated implementation procedures, in order to protect the health, safety, and well-being of the people of [***Tribe***]. The land, water and air where the people of the [***Tribe]*** live are sacred, and we are committed to their protection and preservation for this and future generations. The water quality objectives and standards are intended to improve and protect the chemical, physical, biological and cultural integrity of the waters of the Yukon River and its tributaries so as to promote the health, safety, welfare and well-being of the people of the Yukon basin and to provide the necessary conditions for healthy, productive, and abundant populations of fish, wildlife and plants dependent on the water of the river.

**Section 2 Authority**

The ***[Tribe]*** adopts, implements and enforces the provisions of this Ordinance under its inherent sovereignty and under the governmental authority recognized by the U.S. government and the State of Alaska to protect the health. safety and welfare of [Tribe] and its members. The Tribal Council exercises its authority to adopt this Ordinance under the Constitution and Code of\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ ***[Note: This sentence is a placeholder for inserting whatever is the specific authority/procedures the particular Tribe has for adopting ordinances.]***

**Section 3 Water Quality Objectives and Standards from the Yukon River Watershed Plan**

 **Approved by the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council in 2013**

It is the policy of the ***[Tribe]*** that the water quality in the waters of the Yukon River and its

tributaries be monitored, protected, regulated and maintained at the highest possible standards for drinking water quality, for the use of people for all economic, cultural, spiritual and recreational purposes, and for the protection and health of the plants, fish and wildlife that the people of ***[Tribe]*** depend on to live. The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council is an international inter-tribal organization founded in 1997 and comprised of representatives from the governments of 73 First Nations and Alaskan Tribes in the Yukon River Basin, from the headwaters to the mouth, including the government of ***[Tribe***]. The mission of the Watershed Council is to assist the First Nations and Tribes in protecting and improving the water quality of the Yukon River and its tributaries.

In August 2013 the Watershed Council approved the Yukon River Watershed Plan with the vision of ensuring Yukon River water of such quality that it sustains the health of the people and communities of the basin and the fish, wildlife and plants important to the ways of life of the people. The Watershed Plan includes specific, measurable objectives and standards to protect the quality, quantity and flow of the water in the Yukon River and its tributaries, to ensure that the Yukon River will continue to sustain the coming generations of all the people, fish, wildlife and plants of the Yukon. The Watershed Council's Watershed Plan is attached as an appendix to this Ordinance. By adopting this Water Quality Ordinance***, [Tribe]*** adopts the water quality objectives and standards in the Watershed Plan as the law of the ***[Tribe],*** with the intent that these objectives and standards be implemented, applied and enforced to protect the

quality of the waters of the Yukon River and its tributaries and thus preserve the health, safety

and welfare of the people of ***[Tribe].*** These water quality objectives and standards will remain

the law of ***[Tribe]*** unless and until superseded by further legislation of***[Tribe]***.

**Section 4 Water Quality Objectives**

The following water quality objectives, derived from the Yukon River Watershed Plan identified

in Section 3 above, describe the conditions of the river necessary to realize the purposes of this

Ordinance and the policy of [Tribe] with regard to water quality:

1. The Yukon River will be of such quality as to support and sustain the traditional and subsistence uses of the people of the First Nations and Tribes of the Yukon, including customary commercial uses.
2. The Yukon River will be substantially unaltered from natural conditions in terms of quantity, quality and rate of flow, including seasonal and daily rates of flow and flow patterns, within normal environmental variation over time.
3. The quality of the Yukon River will be consistent with, and support and sustain over time, the habitat characteristics and ecological functions necessary for abundant, productive and diverse populations of fish, wildlife and plants important to the Tribes and First Nations of the Yukon.
4. The quality of the Yukon River will be consistent with, and support and sustain over

time, the health of all the people, communities, and nations who drink or come into

contact with the waters of the Yukon River.

**Section 5 Water Quality Standards**

The water quality standards adopted in this Ordinance are found at pages 7 to 26 of the attached Watershed Plan, incorporated here by reference. These are specific, measurable water quality standards designed to protect and improve the quality, quantity and flows of the river as necessary to achieve the objectives in Section 4 above, the purposes of this Ordinance, and the policy of ***[Tribe].***

**Section 6 Implementation, including Cooperative Agreements**

[The Tribe's Executive Officers] are authorized to take such actions as necessary to help

implement, enforce, and monitor the water quality objectives and standards approved in this

Ordinance. This may include, among other activities:

1. developing and implementing a strategic plan to implement, enforce and monitor the water quality objectives and standards approved in this Ordinance;
2. developing a budget and seeking and expending funds for implementation, enforcement

and monitoring;

1. entering into discussions with representatives of the other governments of the Yukon River Basin about implementing, enforcing and monitoring the water quality objectives and standards approved in this Ordinance and in general about cooperating in the management of the waters of the Yukon River Basin to protect and improve the water quality consistent with the purposes of this Ordinance and the policy of ***[Tribe];***
2. entering into cooperative agreements on behalf of ***[Tribe],*** by itself or in combination with other Alaskan Tribes and First Nations of the Yukon River Basin, with any agency

of the government of the United States or Alaska; other indigenous nations in the Yukon River Basin; Native organizations such as the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed

Council, Native corporations, or non-governmental organizations to protect and improve the quality of the waters of the Yukon River basin consistent with the purpose, objectives and standards of this Ordinance.

*Ordinance # \_\_\_\_\_ adopted by the* ***[Tribe]*** *on* ***[date].***