

Appendix J
Major Events in the History of the Refuge

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Date	Events
1837	First European contact with the Koyukon people in their own area (Glazunov)
1838–1839	Smallpox epidemic kills many in Alaska, including most residents of the Nulato area
1839	Trading post established at Nulato (Malakhov)
1843	Yukon River explored as far as mouth of the Nowitna, and Koyukuk River as far as Kateel (Zagoskin)
1851	Nulato massacre
1865–1867	Western Union Telegraph parties explore this region of Yukon River
1867	U.S. purchase of Alaska from Russia; Telegraph station built at Koyukuk
1868–1869	Fort Adams (American) trading post established at Tanana
1869	Nulato trading post reestablished by Americans, but not continuously manned; Hakorcins (Kokrines) opens trading post at Fourteen Mile; First paddlewheelers on the Yukon River.
1870–1873	Father Petitot and other Roman Catholic missionaries explore the Yukon River and baptize Indians at Nulato
1880	Trading posts established at Koyukuk and near Tanana
1883	Yukon River further explored (Schwatka); epidemic kills many Koyukon
1884–1885	Gold prospecting begins near Hughes and becomes intense in Upper Yukon Koyukon territory
1887	Intensive development of missions and education begin: Roman Catholic mission established at Nulato, Episcopal school and hospital begun in Tanana
1897	U.S. Post Office opened at Nulato; first steamboat ascends the Koyukuk River
1897–1906	Gold rushes bring several thousand prospectors to Koyukon territory, mineral interests continue to the present
1898	Koyukuk post office first operated
1899	U.S. Army post, Fort Gibbon, established near Tanana
1900	Steamboat traffic on the Koyukuk peaks with 46 boats in operation; measles epidemic at Nulato kills between 58–67 persons, epidemic survivors from the Kaltag area settle at Kaltag
1901	Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph (WAMCATS) construction begins (becomes operational in 1903)
1903	Kaltag post office open sporadically until permanent establishment in 1933
1907	First gold strike at Ruby
ca. 1910	Fish wheels are introduced and become popular on the Yukon River but not extensively used on the Koyukuk

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1910	Hughes formally founded, serving as a supply port for nearby Indian River gold mines
1911	Gold strike south of Ruby begins a "gold rush" in the region
1912	Ruby post office established
1913	Ruby incorporated as a city
1918	Spanish flu pandemic strikes Alaska, killing thousands
1919	Lead prospectors arrive near Galena
1920s	Cutoff Trading Post established 4 miles overland from Huslia; School opens in Galena and residents of Louden begin moving there
1922	Wireless radio transmitters installed along the Yukon River
1923	Fort Gibbon (at Tanana) closed
1925	Kaltag's first school opens
1929	Ruby fire burns 23 buildings on Front Street, destroying most of the Gold Rush waterfront district
1931	Ruby flood removes most remaining waterfront structures
1932	Post Office opens in Galena
1933	US Signal Corp Telegraph System replaced by commercial telegraph and radio
1939	Koyukuk school is established and families begin living in the village year-round
1941	Runway and hangar construction begin U.S. Air Force presence in Galena
1942	Hughes post office opens
1945	Major flood in Galena
1949	New hospital facilities built in Tanana; villagers move from Cutoff to higher ground at Huslia with school establishment the following year
1950s	Development of military facilities in and around Galena spur economic growth; Hughes airstrip built
1952	Huslia post office, airport and roads are constructed
1956	Hughes school is built
1958	A 7.3 magnitude earthquake hits the Huslia region, creating pressure ridges, craters, cracks in ice and ground, and some structure damage
1959	Alaska enters statehood
1960s	Airport and clinic built at Kaltag
1960	Huslia clinic built
1963	Nulato incorporated as a city; hand-pumped water-wells installed in Huslia
1968	Hughes clinic built
1969	Huslia, Kaltag incorporated as a cities

Date	Events
1970s	Nulato, Ruby receive clinic, water supply, new school
1971	Severe flood in Galena prompts development of "New Site" on higher ground away from the river; ANSCA establishes Native Corporations and land ownership
1973	Ruby, Hughes, Koyukuk incorporated as cities
1974	Local roads built in Hughes; running water and local plumbing brought to Huslia
1976	Settlement of "Molly Hootch" case brings secondary schools to each village
1980	Passage of ANILCA sets aside over 80 million acres in Federal conservation units including National Wildlife Refuges
1981	Community wide electricity system developed in Hughes; new townsite/housing development begun in Nulato
1993	Galena Air Force Base enters "caretaker" status
1994	September flood on the Koyukuk River destroys many homes, community buildings and food caches in Hughes; severe erosion at Koyukuk destroys several homes
2000	New airstrip constructed in Huslia
2006	Spring flood at Koyukuk damages 6 homes; construction to raise Koyukuk airstrip above floodplain completed
2008	Galena Air Force Base decommissioned