

Mountain Village



Population: 782

Mountain Village is on the north bank of the Yukon River, approximately 20 miles west of St. Mary's and 470 miles northwest of Anchorage. It is at the foot of the 500' Azachorok Mountain, the first mountain encountered by those traveling up the Yukon. The climate is continental with maritime influences. Temperatures range from -44 to 80 degrees F. Annual precipitation averages 16", with snowfall of 44". High winds and low visibility are common during winter. The Lower Yukon is ice-free from May through October.

Mountain Village was a summer fish camp until the opening of a general store in 1908. This prompted residents of Liberty Landing and Johnny's Place to migrate to Mountain Village. Mountain Village became a regional education center in 1976 when it was selected as headquarters for the Lower Yukon School District.

The population of the community consists of 94% Alaska Native or part Native. It is a Yupik Eskimo community with traditional subsistence practices. Commercial fishing and fish processing provide income.

Mountain Village has a seasonal economy based on fishing and subsistence. Many residents hold commercial fishing permits. There are a few full-time positions with the city, school district, federal government and Native corporations. Subsistence foods are relied upon including salmon, moose and waterfowl. Some residents trap for additional income.

A summer road links Mountain Village to Pitkas Point, Andreafsky and St. Mary's. The community is accessible by riverboat or barge. A state-owned gravel airstrip is available and float planes land on the Yukon River. In the winter passengers, cargo and mail are flown in by plane. Snow machines and skiffs are used for local transportation.