

USING ORAL HISTORIES TO IDENTIFY RAIN ON SNOW EVENTS IN ALASKAN COMMUNITIES

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July 2014. Credit: Bruce Forbes, University of Lapland

RAIN ON SNOW & UTILIZING ORAL HISTORY

RAIN ON SNOW EVENTS

- Winter has reached below freezing
- Temperature spikes above freezing
- Precipitation causes rain
- Temperature drops
- Layer of ice

THE JUKEBOX PROJECT

- Is a digital branch of the oral history program
- Provides access to audio & video recording, etc.
- Preservation of Indigenous and local knowledge
- Reindeer Herding: the Present and the Past

TWO CASE STUDIES

BUCKLAND

- Nathan Hadley Sr. - Late 1960s rain on snow event
- Generational reindeer herder
- Community and culture

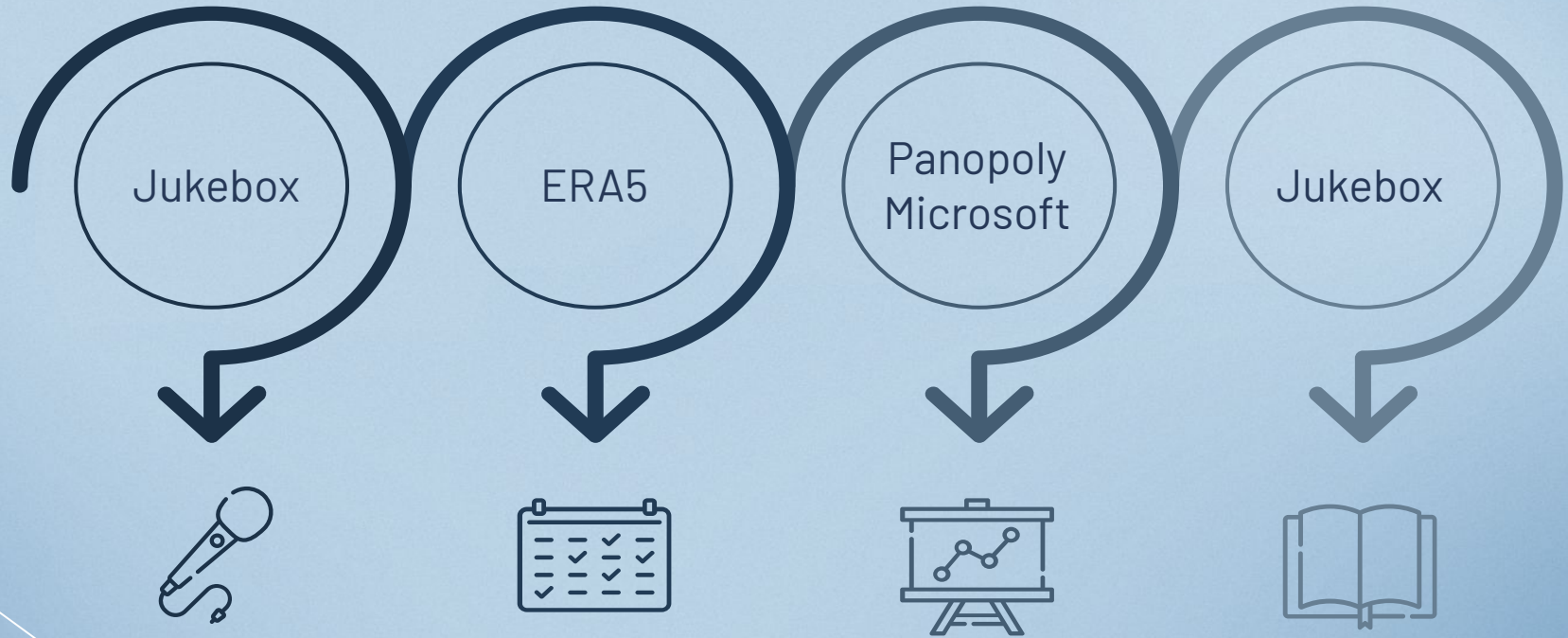
GAMBELL

- "The Great Die-out of Reindeer of 1943" - Herman Toolie
- Grandfather and Father were herders
- 10,000 reindeer loss - only 100 remained

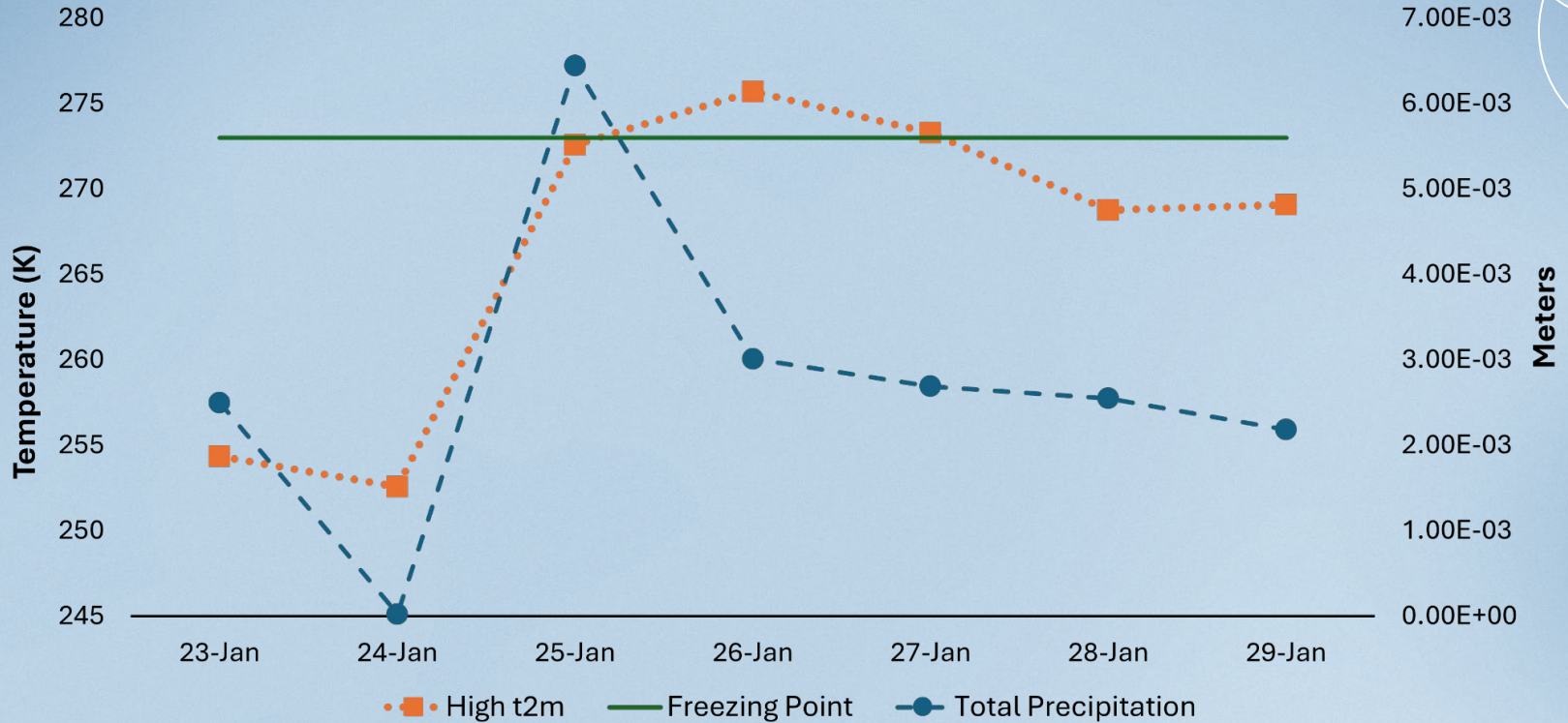


Photo credit: *Source: Alaska Native Heritage Center (n.d.)*
Image from Alaska Travel Industry Association (n.d.)

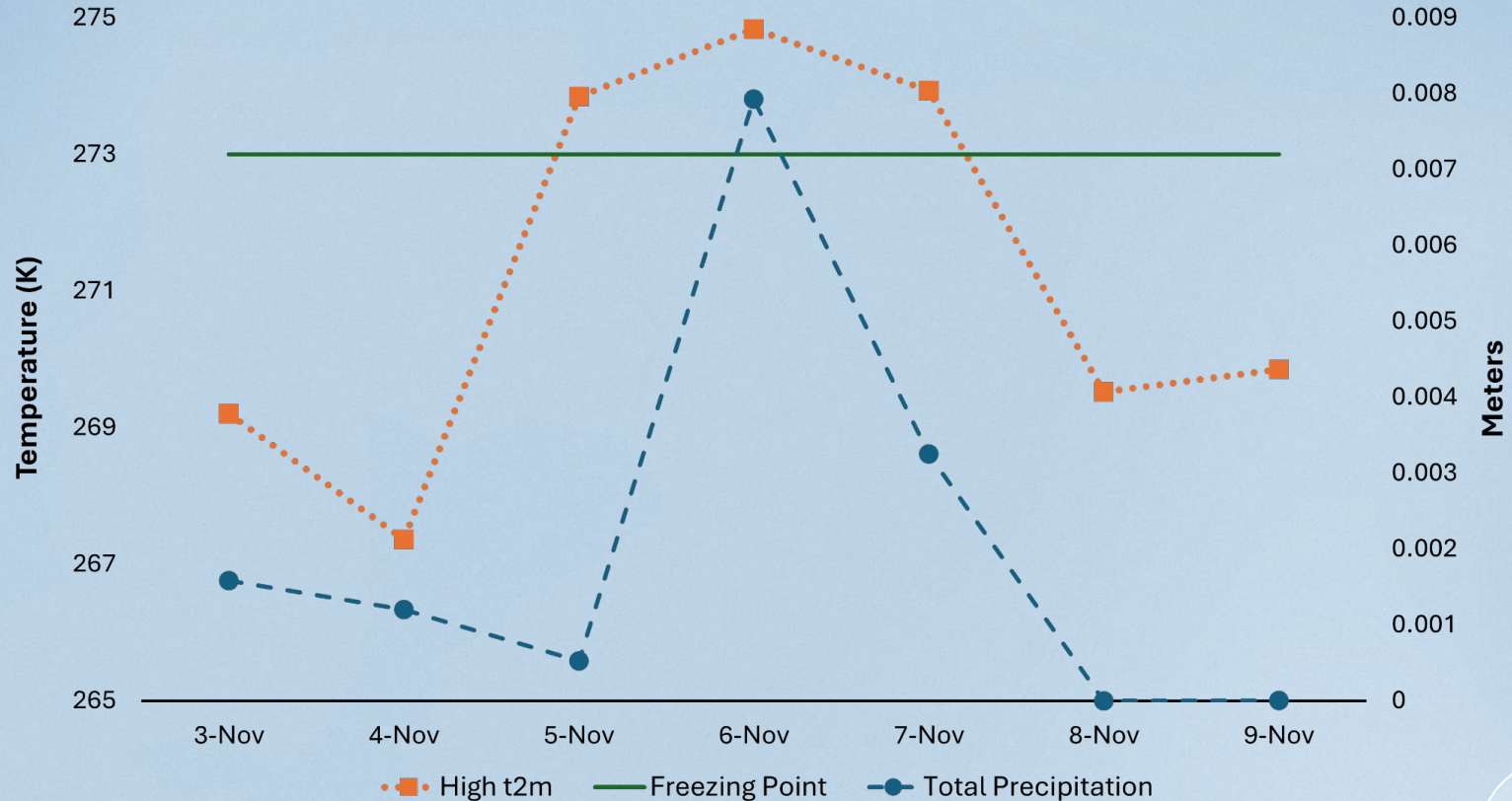
METHODS



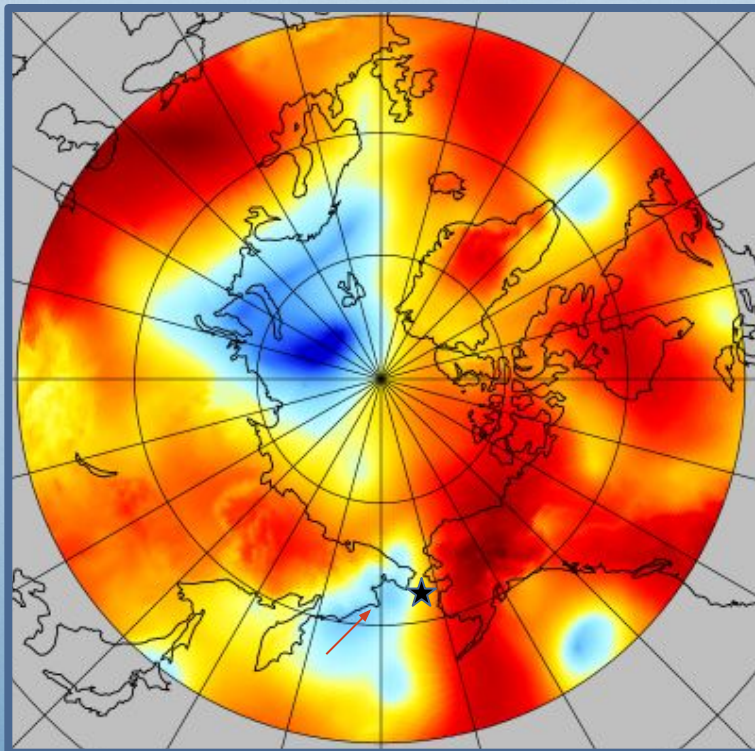
BUCKLAND ROS EVENT 1968



GAMBELL ROS EVENT 1943



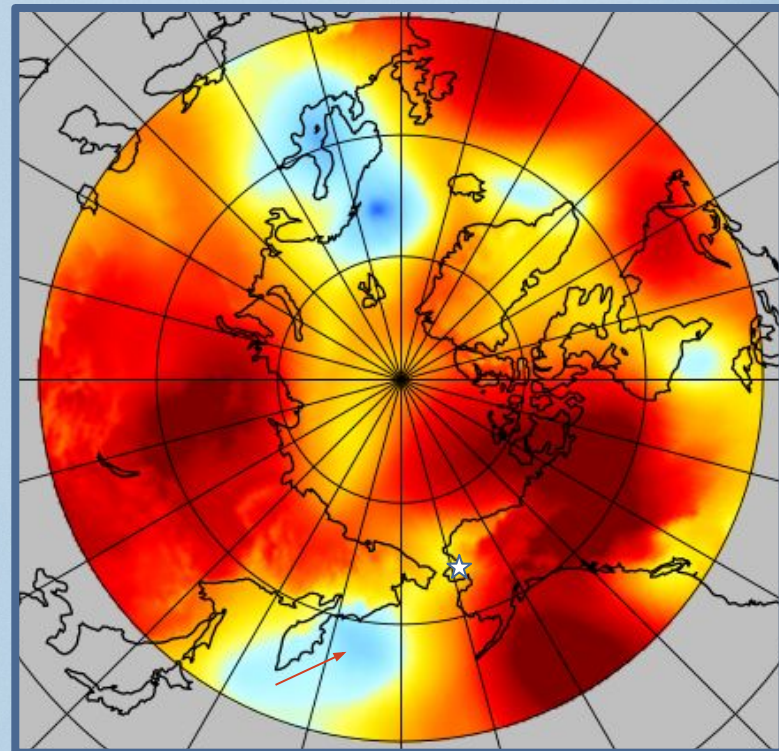
Gambell - Nov 6, 1943



Mean sea level pressure (Pa)

97174.1 98483.9 99793.7 101103.5 102413.3 103723.1

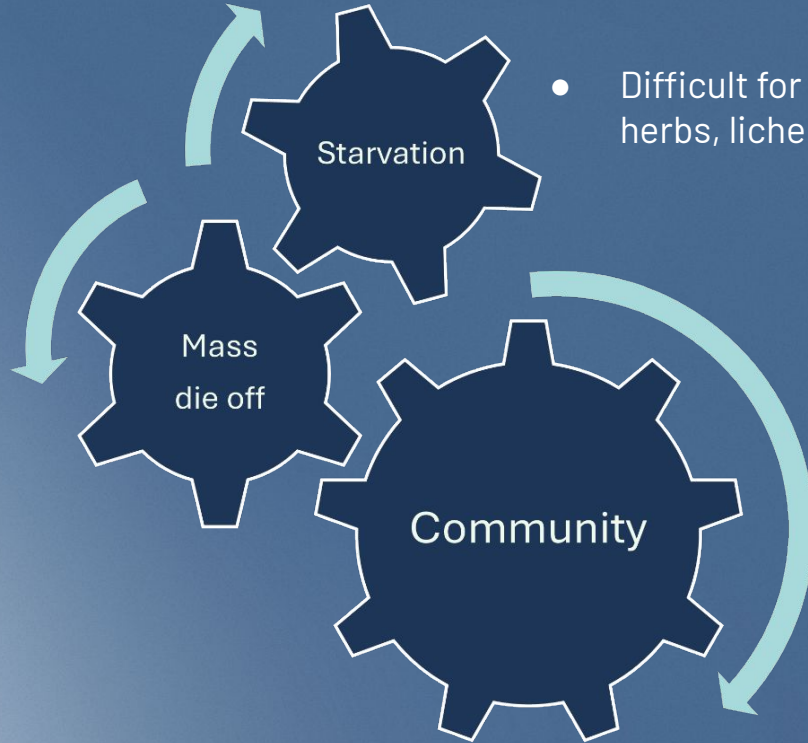
Buckland - Jan 26, 1968



Mean sea level pressure (Pa)

96031.5 97639.2 99246.9 100854.7 102462.4 104070.1

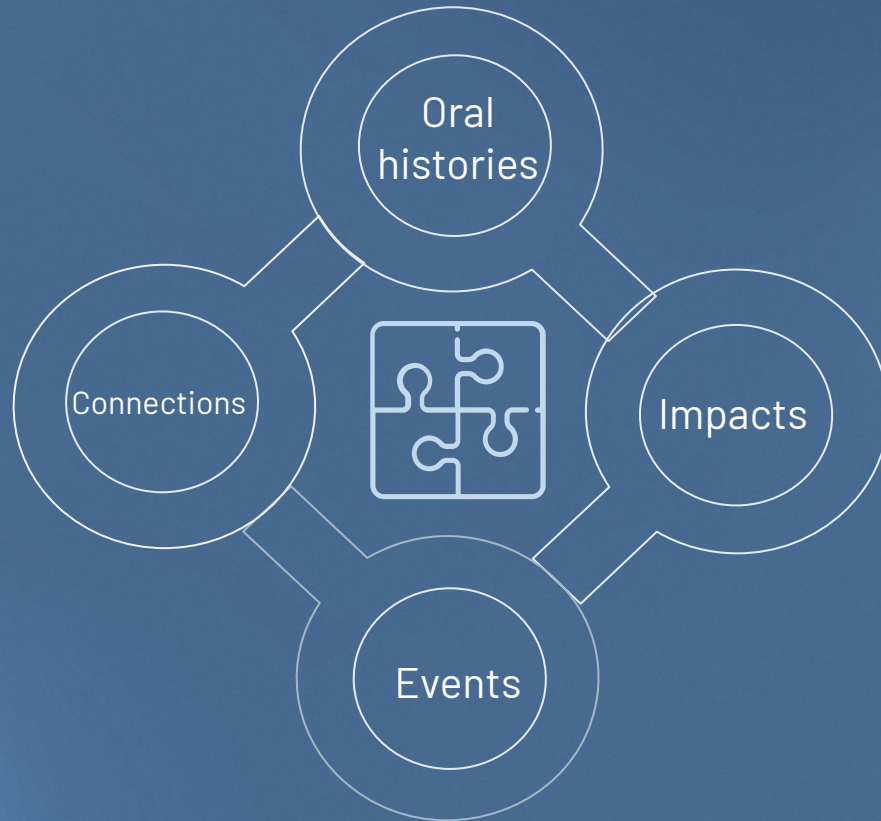
IMPORTANCE



- Difficult for reindeer to dig for low herbs, lichen, or grasses

- Community members relying on purchasing groceries

FUTURE WORK



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ELDERS

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QUESTIONS?



References and Contact Information