

TTCD NEWSLETTER

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

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Volume I, Issue I

TTCD In Your Community



In 2005, Tyonek took a historic step and became the first village in Alaska to start a Tribal Conservation District. The Tyonek Tribal Conservation District (TTCD) was formed through a mutual agreement between the Native Village of Tyonek (NVT), Tyonek Native Corporation (TNC) and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

TTCD is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to conserve, enhance, and encourage the wise use of the natural resources in Tyonek and all of Game Management Unit 16B. **TTCD is non-regulatory and has no authority to make decisions about land or other resources. We are here to provide technical assistance and financial assistance for landowners, including NVT, to achieve their conservation goals.**

A tribal conservation district provides a way for the

USDA and the tribe to work together. Prior to 1988, USDA was unable to work directly with Native Alaskan Tribes or Corporations to promote programs addressing needs of Native Alaskans. Tribal Conservation Districts are established to better enable tribes to receive USDA and other federal assistance and funding.

For the past year, TTCD has been working closely with NVT to assist with developing conservation projects in Tyonek that meet the needs of NVT. In particular, this year TTCD has worked with NVT on the development of the Tyonek Community Garden and a culvert replacement on Indian Creek.

This is our first newsletter, and we'll continue to send updates on new projects. Please read on to learn a little about projects we've been involved with in 2012. If you have any questions or wish to learn more about TTCD, please call Christy Cincotta at 907-646-3109.



You may have seen this person walking around your community, sometimes covered in garden dirt. She works for TTCD!

Indian Creek Culvert Replacement



This fall, TTCD assisted NVT with obtaining funding to install a new culvert on Indian Creek near the dump. Partners for this project included US Fish and Wildlife Service, AK Dept of Fish and Game, the Kenai Watershed

Forum, and TNC.

The new culvert is 8 ft wide, and replaces a 3 ft wide old culvert. The wider culvert will help to prevent road washouts.

US Fish and Wildlife funding, obtained by TTCD, paid for the culvert and funded NVT staff time to install this fish friendly culvert, which will allow for better fish passage. NVT staff involved in this project include Frank

Standifer III, Randy Standifer, Aaron Jones, and Sam Bartels.

TTCD hopes to continue to work with NVT and other partners on future culvert installation projects.



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Board Members

Patrick Chuitt, Jr.
Elizabeth J. Standifer
Ron T. Stanek
Emil J. McCord
Harriet Kaufman

Staff

Christy Cincotta
Melissa McCord
Erin Hoffman
Matthew Schmitt



1689 C Street, Ste 219
Anchorage, AK 99501

Tel: 907-646-3109
Fax: 907-274-7125
E-mail: ccincotta@tyonek.com
Website: www.ttcd.org

Subsistence is our Agriculture.

Tyonek Grown



Above: Annabell Goozmer, NVT Community Health Representative and Garden Coordinator, holds the first harvest of the Tyonek Garden.

Right: A pictures of elders' lunches that were prepared in 2012 including all Tyonek Grown produce:



In 2012, the Tyonek Tribal Conservation District partnered with the Native Village of Tyonek to assist with the development of the Tyonek Community Garden.

In past years, Tyonek community members did a lot of preparation work for this garden, including installing a shed, obtaining and starting work on a fence, and clearing and preparing a large area for the garden.

This year through the partnership of NVT, TTCD, the Tebughna School, Project Grad, TNC, and many Tyonek residents, we were able to grow food both in the garden and in the tribal center. Food produced included nearly 300 lbs of potatoes, as well as tomatoes, lettuces, cabbage, carrots, radishes, broccoli, and other veggies.

Accomplishments completed by NVT with assistance from TTCD in 2012 include the completion of the fence, 18 raised beds for planting, and the installation of a water tank to provide an accessible water source for plants.

In 2013, garden coordinator Annabell Goozmer hopes to increase the amount of produce grown for elders lunches and the food bank, and to have enough to make produce available for sale. There is also room in the garden for individuals to plant and grow their own veggies.

Thanks to everyone who helped make the Tyonek garden a success!!!

NVT and TTCD will hold a 2013 garden planning meeting on Friday, February 1st at 11 in the tribal center, with lunch provided. If you're interested, please attend and share your thoughts and suggestions.

A view of the Tyonek Community Garden seen from above, taken in August 2012.

