An aerial photograph taken from the perspective of someone looking out of an airplane window. The top portion of the image shows the underside of the aircraft's wing and fuselage. Below, a wide, muddy river flows through a coastal town. The town is nestled on a hillside, with several buildings and a parking lot visible. The surrounding landscape is a mix of green and brown trees, suggesting an autumn setting. The sky is overcast with soft, diffused light.

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District  
2017 ANNUAL REPORT

*Subsistence is Our Agriculture*

## From the Board Chair



I am honored to serve as the new Chair of the Tyonek Tribal Conservation District Board of Directors. I would like to thank former Chair Sharon Williford for her service to TTCD in 2017 and in previous years.

TTCD strives to support healthy natural resources and food security in Tyonek and throughout the District. Thank you so much to our excellent staff, current and past board members, contributors, stakeholders and volunteers for helping TTCD to achieve our mission. Together with all of you, we can make a difference for current and future generations.

- Marian King, *Board Chair*

## From the Executive Director



Fostering cooperative relationships is a core value for Tyonek Tribal Conservation District. In 2017, TTCD took this value even further than in the past, forming new relationships and expanding current relationships to take meaningful conservation action within the District.

Through innovative collaborations, TTCD was able to accomplish so much more than we could have alone. Thank you so much to our partners for helping us to achieve more for our District in 2017, such as making Tyonek Grown produce available in the cafeteria at the Tebughna School, a multi-partner pike netting effort in Tyonek and Beluga, two culvert replacements to provide access to habitat for salmon, and much more. Your support means the world to us!

- Christy Cincotta, *Executive Director*



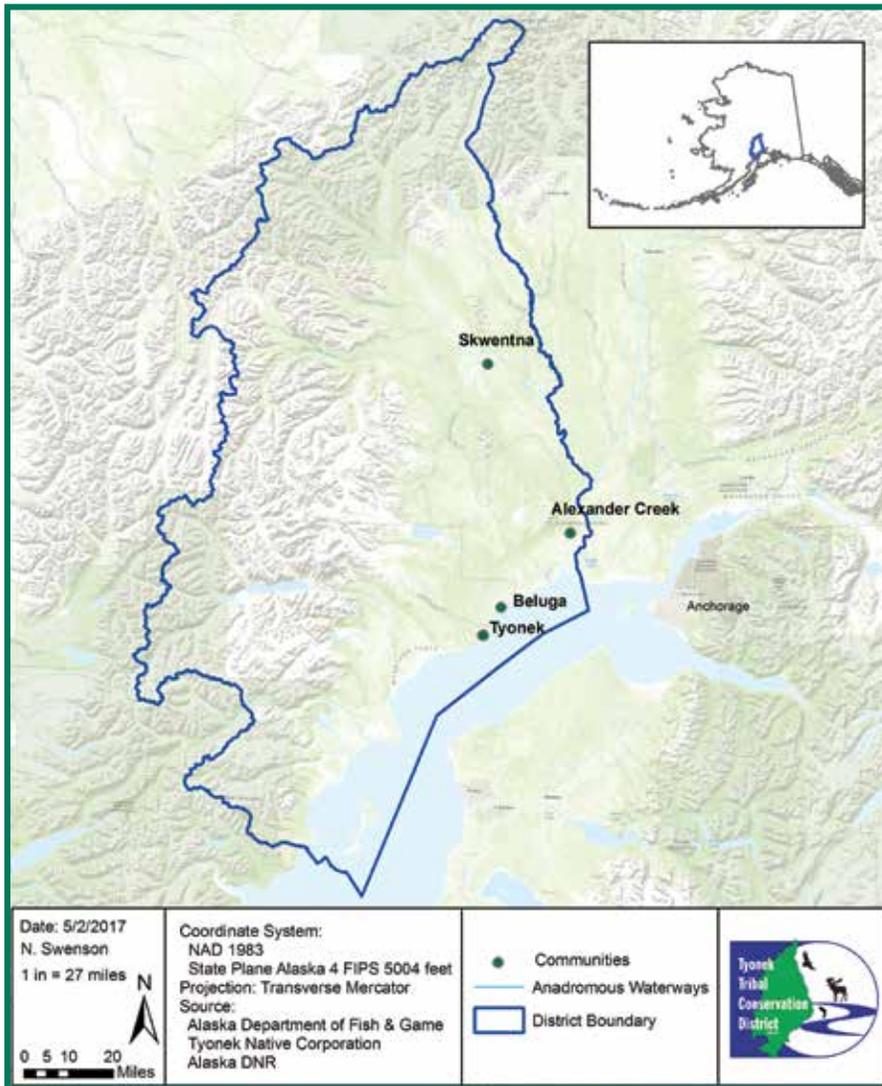
Board of Directors, L to R: Jason Brune, Gwen Chickalusion, Marian King (Vice-Chair), Sharon Williford (Chair) and Robert Stephan Sr. (Secretary /Treasurer).



TTCD Staff, L to R: John Hagan (Conservation Technician), Christy Cincotta (Executive Director), Nicole Swenson (Conservation Director), and Tonya Kaloa (Program Assistant).



TTCD Seasonal Staff, L to R: Gwen Chickalusion (Tyonek Garden Supervisor), Reka Smoke, Leanne Smoke, Janie Standifer, and Randall Jones (Tyonek Garden Youth Employees).



**Tyonek Tribal Conservation District** (TTCD) is a non-regulatory, nonprofit 501c3 organization whose mission is to conserve, enhance, and encourage the wise use of natural resources. The District shares its boundaries with Game Management Unit 16B, and includes Tyonek, Beluga, Shirleyville, Alexander Creek, and Skwentna. We work with landowners and stakeholders in the District to help them achieve their conservation goals.

TTCD was formed in 2005 through an agreement between the Native Village of Tyonek, the Tyonek Native Corporation, and the USDA, and first acquired staff in 2011. Since that time, TTCD has gained attention at the state and national level for our work in the Tyonek area to support subsistence and sustainability.

TTCD has four major programs: Habitat Monitoring & Restoration Program, Tyonek Grown Program, Technical Assistance Program, and Tyonek Youth Conservation Science Program (TYCS).

### Strategic Directions:

- Monitor and restore fish and wildlife habitat
- Improve food security through community agriculture
- Support sustainable practices through waste reduction and energy conservation
- Provide conservation education and outreach

### Core Values:

- Meet the needs of District stakeholders
- Foster cooperative relationships

# Habitat Monitoring and Restoration Program

In 2017, TTCD monitored and restored fish and wildlife habitat within the District through the following projects:

- Held a community derby and a week-long netting effort to remove a total of 170 invasive pike.
- Implemented second year of control efforts on 10 acres of invasive plants in Beluga, leading to a 90% reduction in invasive species densities so far.
- Continued monitoring efforts for stream temperature and juvenile salmon populations in Tyonek and Beluga through the Tyonek Watershed Action Plan.
- Removed two fish passage barriers on Indian Creek through culvert replacements.
- Coordinated a streambank restoration project on Tyonek Creek.



## Indian Creek Watershed Fish Passage Improvements

In 2016, TTCD worked with multiple partners to prioritize fish passage and culvert replacement projects for the next five years. The top two projects on the prioritization were addressed in 2017 through generous funding from the US Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Alaska Department of Fish & Game, and Tyonek Native Corporation. These culvert replacements opened two miles of pristine habitat for salmon spawning, rearing, and overwintering. Both projects were implemented in the Indian Creek watershed and provide habitat for coho and pink salmon.



TTCD continued its efforts to remove invasive pike from waterbodies in Tyonek and Beluga. Control measures in 2017 included a community pike derby as well as collaborative netting efforts with multiple partners.

# Tyonek Grown Program



Tyonek Tribal IRA Council President Arthur Standifer blesses the first tomato plant of the season at the Tyonek Garden Blessing Ceremony in May.



Justin Trenton (Native Village of Tyonek Environmental Department) managing a cover crop to improve soil health.



In 2017, TTCD worked with the Native Village of Tyonek, the Tebughna School, and other partners to achieve the following accomplishments:

- Harvested 1,500 lbs of fresh produce in Tyonek.
- Hired and trained four youth interns and one garden supervisor in gardening and invasive plant skills.
- Utilized a cover crop and fish composting for soil health.
- Provided vegetables to elders through the Tyonek Elders Lunch Program, to youth through the Tebughna School cafeteria lunch program, and to the public through sales in Tyonek and Anchorage.
- Held a gardening workshop for 7 individuals from 6 communities.
- Visited with Tribal Conservation Districts in Knik and Cantwell to share information on gardening.
- Set up a hydroponics system in the Tebughna School to allow for year-round food production.



## Tyonek Grown Produce in School Lunch

Since the start of the Tyonek Garden, TTCD has worked to implement food safety measures to ensure high quality produce. In 2017, as a result of these efforts, TTCD became a vendor of the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District (KPBSD), selling food for consumption at the Tebughna School. By making Tyonek Grown produce available at the Tebughna School cafeteria, students are now able to enjoy potatoes, carrots, and other produce that they helped to grow as part of their daily lunch. Thank you so much to the KPBSD and Tebughna School for making this goal a reality!

## Tyonek Youth Conservation Science (TYCS) Program

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TTCD strives to incorporate youth education into all conservation projects. In 2017, TTCD continued to involve students in all stages of growing at the Tyonek Garden. TTCD also worked with the NVT Environmental Department to coordinate an Earth Day trash cleanup event in Tyonek with Tebughna School students. Throughout the year, TTCD staff visited the Tebughna School to provide science education through hands-on activities.



## Technical Assistance Program

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Through our technical assistance program, TTCD works with landowners and stakeholders in the District to support sustainable practices through waste reduction and energy conservation.

In 2017 TTCD:

- Received Green Star Award at Alaska Forum on the Environment event in February 2017.
- Partnered with Native Village of Tyonek, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, US Department of Energy, and others to complete energy audits for five buildings in Tyonek: Tribal Center, Tyonek Native Corporation satellite office, Boys & Girls Club, Tyonek Clinic, and Tyonek Fire Station. These audits can be used in the future to improve energy efficiency and reduce costs in Tyonek.
- Partnered with Native Village of Tyonek Environmental Department on air quality monitoring, recycling 481 lbs of lead batteries, and installing efficient LED lighting in the Tyonek Tribal Center.



# Financials

We would like to thank all of our partners and supporters for a successful year in 2017. Tyonek Tribal Conservation District continues to diversify revenue through corporate and individual donations, program income, and federal and non-federal contracts. TTCD increased Habitat Monitoring and Restoration (HMR) Program expenses from 2016 to 2017 by 94% due to completing two culverts in the Indian Creek Watershed. Tyonek Tribal Conservation District also decreased general expenses by 49% from 2016 to 2017; therefore, 90% of TTCD's revenue in 2017 covered program expenses. We thank all our partners for continued support in completing conservation work within the district.

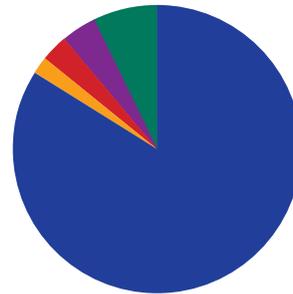
There are two diagrams; the first demonstrating revenue sources by type: federal and state grants, corporate contributions, non-profit and foundation contributions, program income, and individual donations. The second diagram depicts expenses by program: General expenses include administrative and operational costs, Tyonek Youth Conservation Science or TYCS, Habitat Monitoring and Restoration or HMR, Tyonek Grown, and Technical Assistance.



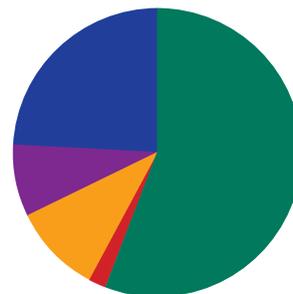
Erin Hoffman,  
Innovative Funding, LLC

*Innovative Funding, LLC provides financial services to Tyonek Tribal Conservation District*

## 2017 Revenue



## 2017 Program Expenses



## Thank You!

Thank you to all of our supporters and partners in 2017 for making these amazing accomplishments possible this year! Your support is instrumental in achieving conservation goals in the District.

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Alaska Department of Fish & Game  
Alaska Department of Natural Resources  
Alaska Native Fund  
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium  
Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund  
Alaska Tribal Conservation Alliance  
Chugach Electric Association, Inc.  
ConocoPhillips, Alaska  
Cook Inletkeeper  
Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association  
Cook Inlet Region, Inc  
Fred Meyer Community Rewards Program  
Hilcorp Alaska, LLC  
Innovative Funding, LLC  
Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership  
Kenai Peninsula Borough School District  
Mat-Su Salmon Partnership  
National Fish & Wildlife Foundation  
National Oceanic & Atmospheric Association  
Native Village of Tyonek  
Pick.Click.Give.  
Spernak Airways  
Tebughna Foundation  
Tyonek Native Corporation  
US Fish & Wildlife Service  
USDA National Institute of Food & Agriculture  
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

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TTCD is committed to working with landowners, stakeholders, and other partners to benefit the people, land, and natural resources within the District. If you are interested in supporting these efforts, please visit our website ([www.ttcd.org](http://www.ttcd.org)) to donate today. Your contribution will directly support on-the-ground conservation work.

### **Tyonek Tribal Conservation District**

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