



Tyonek Tribal Conservation District Annual Report, 2014



Message from TTCD

From the Board Chair

“The TTCD stands as a model for the way tribes can work cooperatively with local, state, and national interests toward the wise use of gifts provided by Mother Earth. The TTCD has made big advances in 2014, and it has done so in a manageable way. This is important so that programs develop appropriately to meet local needs.

Much of the money spent by TTCD in the past year was to repair damages done by past poor practices during resource extraction activities. Perhaps most of the effort in the past year was with the least expensive work; that of working with people and developing relationships. Building strong, trusting relationships will ensure the goals of the TTCD will be reached for generations to come.”

– Ron T. Stanek



From the Executive Director

“2014 has been quite a year for TTCD! With a dedicated staff and the support of our partners, we have made major strides in our work to address subsistence issues in Tyonek through community level conservation.

TTCD received local and national attention for our conservation work this year. The Tyonek Farm, managed by TTCD, was featured in the Alaska Dispatch News. In addition, TTCD was honored with a visit from several USDA staff from Washington DC, as well as a meeting with the US Secretary of Agriculture.

In 2015, TTCD will continue to work with landowners and partners to address conservation issues in the District. Thank you for your support!”

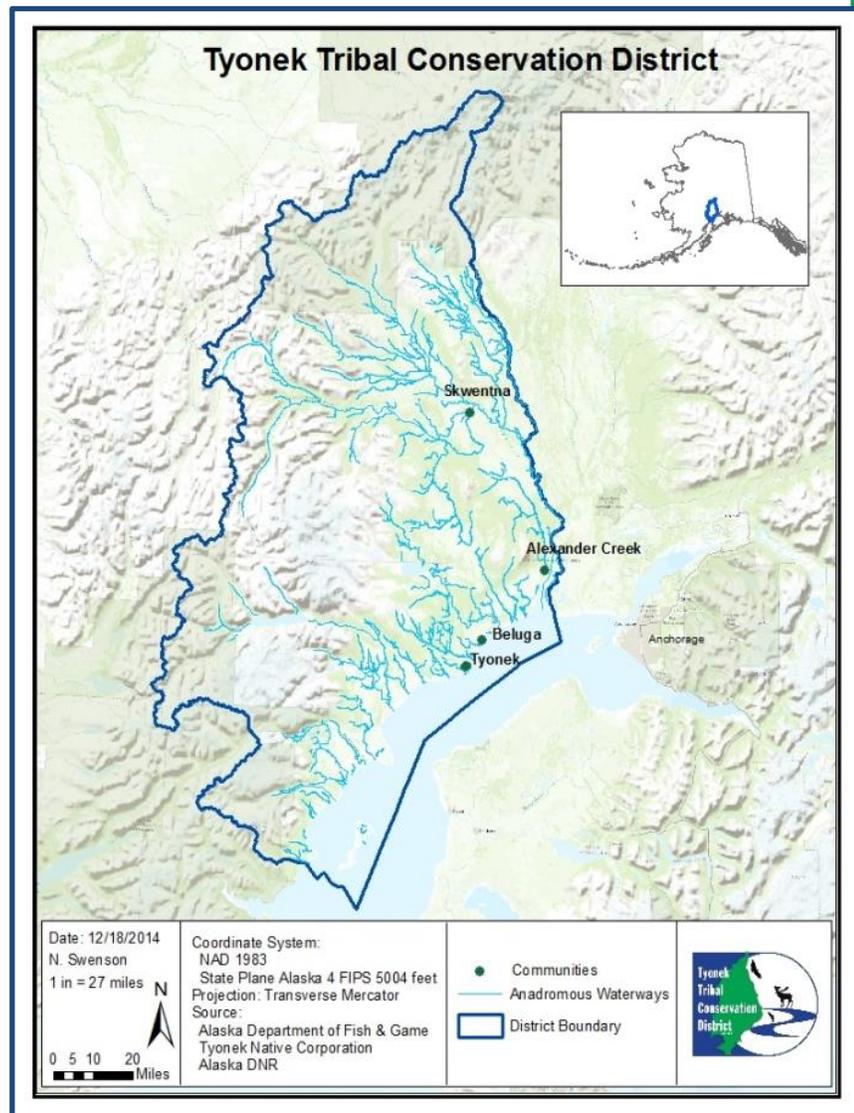
- Christy L. Cincotta



Who We Are

The Tyonek Tribal Conservation District (TTCD) is a non-regulatory, nonprofit 501c3 organization that addresses local issues through community-driven conservation. Our mission is to conserve, enhance, and encourage the wise use of the natural resources. Our District shares its boundaries with Game Management Unit 16B, and includes Tyonek, Beluga, 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: Fish Passage & Habitat, Tyonek Grown, Tyonek Youth Conservation Science (TYCS), and Technical Assistance.

Strategic Directions:

- ***Become more self-sufficient.***
- ***Protect natural resources.***
- ***Enhance energy resources.***
 - ***Provide outreach and education.***

Core Values:

- ***Meet the needs of District stakeholders***
- ***Form cooperative relationships***
- ***Use what the earth has to give***

Fish in Our Rivers

Fish Passage & Habitat Program

The Tebughna (“Beach People”) have fished in the Tyonek area for hundreds of years, and preserving the salmon resource goes hand in hand with preserving their cultural identity. For this reason, protecting fish habitat and improving fish passage has been a major priority for TTCD since our formation.

In 2014, TTCD continued to address threats to salmon within the District through the following projects:

- ◆ The Tyonek Creek Culvert Replacement project opened up over 11 miles of habitat for silver and pink salmon.
- ◆ The first District-wide survey for invasive plants covered Tyonek, Beluga, Skwentna, and Alexander Creek. In 2015 TTCD will survey again and begin control measures.
- ◆ TTCD began work on a Tyonek area watershed to address other threats to salmon.

2014 Highlights

11 miles
of pristine habitat
opened for salmon

148 miles
of roads and rivers
surveyed for invasive
plants



Spotlight: Tyonek Creek Culvert Replacement

To thrive, salmon require unobstructed movement throughout their watershed. Undersized culverts can create barriers to fish passage that can impact salmon populations. In 2013, TTCD identified the culvert on upper Tyonek Creek as a barrier for silver and pink salmon and a priority replacement project. By partnering with multiple organizations, TTCD raised the needed funds and completed this project in 2014. Tyonek Contractors LLC was hired to install this fish friendly culvert, and employed several local residents.



This project was made possible through the generosity of multiple partners, including:

- **US Fish & Wildlife Service**
- **AK Department of Fish & Game**
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service**
- **Cook Inlet Region Inc.**
- **Hilcorp**
- **Tyonek Native Corporation**
- **ConocoPhillips**

Growing Our Own Tyonek Grown Program



2014 Highlights

1,450 lbs
of fresh produce
grown in Tyonek

4 youth
employees hired and
trained at the Garden

For the last three years, TTCD has worked with the Native Village of Tyonek (NVT) to develop an agricultural program aimed at enhancing food security and providing fresh organic vegetables. The project has grown into a 1.5 acre operation with two high tunnels (48ftx22ft), solar powered irrigation and ventilation systems, 1,000 feet of potatoes, and plans for expansion in the coming years.

- ◆ As in previous years, Tebughna School students grew vegetable starts from seed to transplant.
- ◆ In May, TTCD and NVT held the first garden blessing ceremony to begin the growing season.
- ◆ In 2014, TTCD hired four young summer workers from Tyonek and taught them about many aspects of farming.
- ◆ Elders received over 300 lbs of food through direct distribution and through the Elders Lunch Program.

Local and National Recognition Spotlight on TTCD Agriculture Program



The Tyonek garden is unique: it is off the road system, in an Alaska Native community, run on renewable energy, organic, and focuses on youth education. This innovative garden has inspired people within Tyonek, and has generated interest in gardening in other Alaskan communities. In 2014:

- ◆ The Tyonek Garden and Tebughna School were featured in AK Dispatch News.
- ◆ TTCD staff met with US Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsak. (above)
- ◆ The Tyonek Garden received visitors from Washington DC, including USDA NRCS Assistant Chief Kirk Hanlin and USDA Tribal Liaison Leslie Wheelock.



Tebughna students are engaged in every step of the farming process.

Left: Tebughna School elementary students enjoying fresh carrots after a day of harvesting potatoes.

Youth Involvement

Tyonek Youth Conservation (TYCS Program)



TTCD strives to incorporate youth education into all projects. Students at the Tebughna School have played an important role in the planning and implementation of the Tyonek Garden, and have also harvested willow cuttings to assist with streambank restoration. In 2014:

- ◆ TTCD worked with partners to provide science education during a week long culture camp.
- ◆ TTCD staff visited the Tebughna School throughout the year to provide science education through hands-on activities.

In the future, TTCD will continue to engage Tebughna youth in conservation projects, including activities at the Tyonek Farm and involvement in watershed level conservation issues.

2014 Highlights

35 youth
participants in
Tyonek Big Lake
Culture Camp

5 visits
To school by TTCD
to involve students in
hands-on activities

Completed:
Forest Stewardship
Plan for Tyonek
Native Corporation
can be used for future
land planning and
practices

Working with Others

Technical Assistance Program

Through our technical assistance program, TTCD works with landowners and stakeholders in the District to achieve their conservation goals. To date, TTCD has provided assistance with air quality monitoring in Tyonek, a spay and neuter clinic in Tyonek, and general conservation planning.

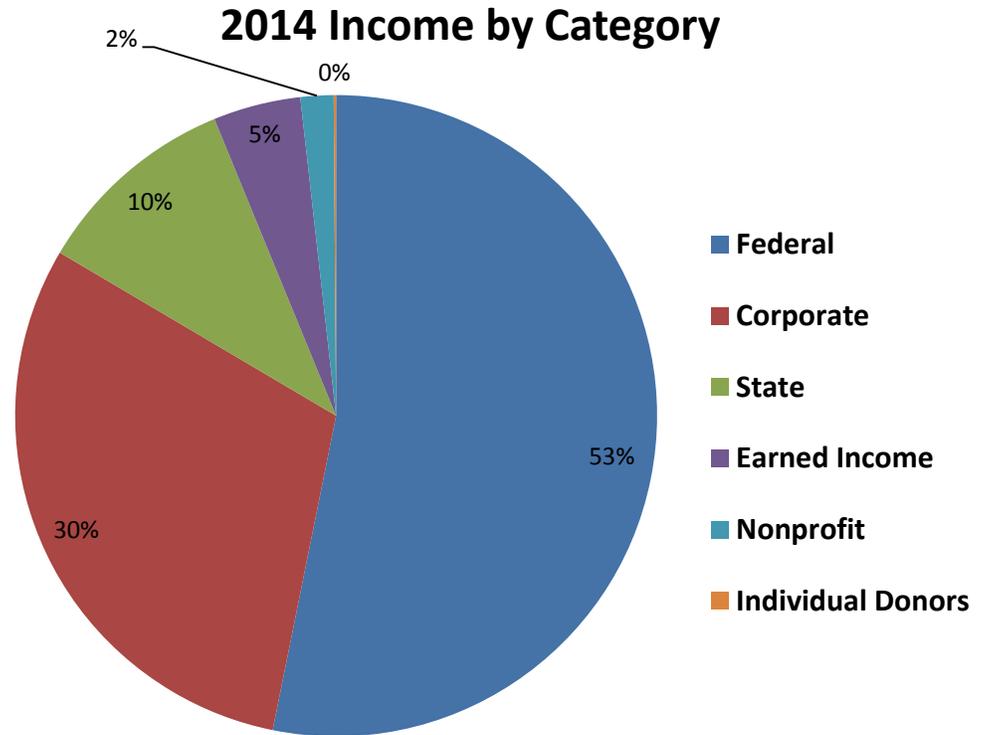
- ◆ In 2014, TTCD worked with the Tyonek Native Corporation, the DNR Division of Forestry, and Forest and Land Management Inc to develop a 10 year Forest Stewardship Plan for TNC lands.
- ◆ This extensive Forest Stewardship Plan will help to guide future conservation efforts for one of the largest land holders within our District.
- ◆ TTCD staff continue to provide conservation planning assistance to interested landowners and stakeholders.



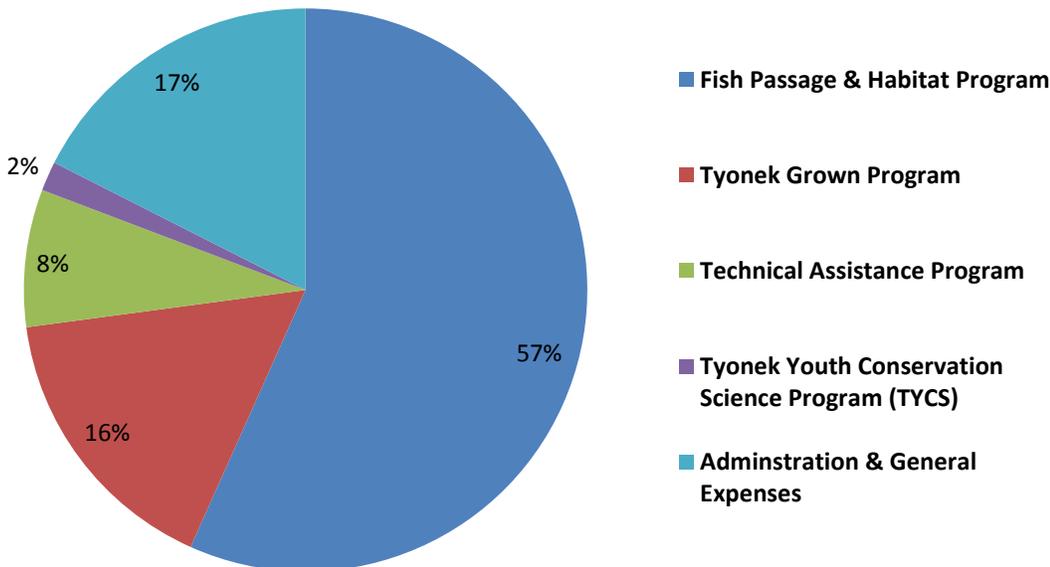
Financials

In 2014, TTCD continued to diversify our funding sources, a pattern that will carry on into 2015.

Also in 2014, TTCD received several multi-year grants, allowing us to focus on long-term efforts and projects.



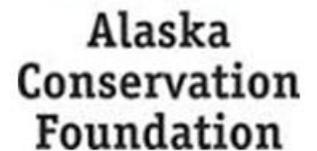
2014 Expenses By Program



In 2014, 83% of TTCD funding went directly to our programs. Over half of TTCD expenses went to the Fish Passage & Habitat Program, and directly benefited salmon and natural resources within the District.

Thank You!

Thank you to all of our supporters in 2014 for making these amazing achievements possible this year! Your support is instrumental in achieving conservation goals in the District.



TTCD is committed to working with landowners, stakeholders, and other partners to accomplish community-driven conservation and benefit natural resources.

If you are interested in supporting these efforts, please visit our website (www.ttcd.org) to donate today. Your contribution will directly support on the ground conservation work.