

TTCD Newsletter—Fall 2014



Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

October 2014

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Subsistence is Our Agriculture.

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District Updates

Here at TTCD we simply cannot believe that summer has already come and gone! In this quarter's newsletter, we're sharing updates and results on our many exciting programs. All of our work is community guided—please let us know if you have suggestions! Enjoy!

Community Agriculture Program



This summer, our four superstar youth employees and many volunteers helped TTCD manage the Native Village of Tyonek's agriculture program. This management consisted of cultivating, harvesting, opening and closing ceremonies, hosting educational events, employing and managing youth workers, trying new methods of distribution, updating infrastructure, and fundraising for next year.

To our delight, these efforts resulted in over 1,400 pounds of fresh organic produce from Tyonek's garden; an over 200% increase in yield from last year! Produce included tomatoes, peas, green beans, cauliflower, broccoli, celery, lettuce, radishes, onions, herbs, potatoes, and much more. At the harvest celebration in August, TTCD was able to serve fresh Tyonek corn on the cob! The final harvest of 725 pounds of potatoes was made possible by the students of the Tebughna School. The harvest concluded with a celebratory carrot! (See picture below.)



To distribute produce, TTCD held weekly farmers markets in Tyonek and brought excess produce to Anchorage to sell in weekly markets or wholesale to AK Native chef Rob Kineen. Tyonek and Anchorage elders received a total of 140 pounds of the first and last harvest, with additional weekly contributions made to the Elder's Lunch Program totaling 170 pounds. TTCD and NVT will be working together to refine distribution methods this winter.

For the first time since starting the garden, produce was sold to support funding for future garden seasons. TTCD and NVT appreciate your support of this program as we work toward its environmental and economic sustainability.



TTCD would like to recognize the generous financial support of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources Farm to School Program, Tyonek Native Corporation, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA Office of Advocacy and Outreach, and the Rasmuson Foundation.

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Board Members

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Charlene Stephan
Harriet Kaufman
Robert Stephan, Sr

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Christy Cincotta
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Fish Passage & Habitat Program

Salmon is a primary subsistence resource for Tyonek. As such, fish habitat and fish passage are major priorities for TTCD. This summer TTCD completed and began several projects within this program.

Through the efforts of TTCD and our many partners, the Tyonek Creek culvert replacement was successfully completed in July, 2014. This project opened up 7.4 miles of upstream spawning, rearing, and overwintering habitat for pink and silver salmon. This project was completed by Tyonek Contractors, LLC and Dowl HKM, and was funded by the US Fish & Wildlife Service, AK Dept

of Fish & Game, Tyonek Native Corporation (TNC), Hilcorp, and Cook Inlet Region Inc (CIRI). We are now planning for a future culvert replacement on Old Tyonek (Robert's) Creek.

In August, TTCD completed a District-wide invasive plant survey, covering Tyonek, Beluga, Alexander Creek, and Skwentna. TTCD staff and interns covered rivers and roads not previously surveyed. This helpful baseline data will be available on our TTCD website. In the coming year, TTCD will be working with stakeholders to plan control methods for invasive plants.

Along with our invasive plant survey, TTCD staff and interns collected District

wide water quality data. This survey is part of our new and ongoing watershed monitoring program.

Please contact TTCD if you have any suggestions for potential fish habitat projects in the District.



Above: TTCD Board Chair Ron Stanek with newly installed Tyonek Creek culvert.

Outreach & Education

Through generous funding from the Alaska Native Fund, a part of the Alaska Conservation Foundation, TTCD participated in Tyonek's 4th Annual Big Lake Culture Camp. This camp was attended by 35 Tebughna youth. TTCD covered topics in agriculture, watershed science, plant ecology, and wildlife ecology.

TTCD also attended the Native Village of Tyonek and Alaska Health Fair Inc. 2014 Health Fair on the 24th of September. Nicole Swenson and Tonya Kaloa displayed freshly grown vegetables from Tyonek and shared photos of the garden development over the past 3 years.

In September, TTCD began a new education program through funding provided by ConocoPhillips. This school year TTCD will be working with K-12 students at the Tebughna School to provide hands-on science activities.

Are you interested in supporting TTCD programs? Here are two ways you can help:

- 1. Donate online through www.ttcd.org**
- 2. Fred Meyers Community Rewards: You can help TTCD earn donations with your rewards card! For more info go to www.ttcd.org**

Are you a District resident or stakeholder? TTCD wants to work with you to help you achieve your conservation goals! Please call Tonya Kaloa at 907-646-3126 or email tkaloa@tyonek.com to learn more.



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