

TTCD Newsletter—Spring 2015



Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

April 2015

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Subsistence is Our Agriculture.

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District Updates

Spring has sprung, and TTCD is getting ready for another summer season in the District! This year, TTCD will be working on multiple projects, including watershed planning, fish passage improvements, pike removal, invasive plant monitoring, and Tyonek Garden improvements. Read on to learn more.

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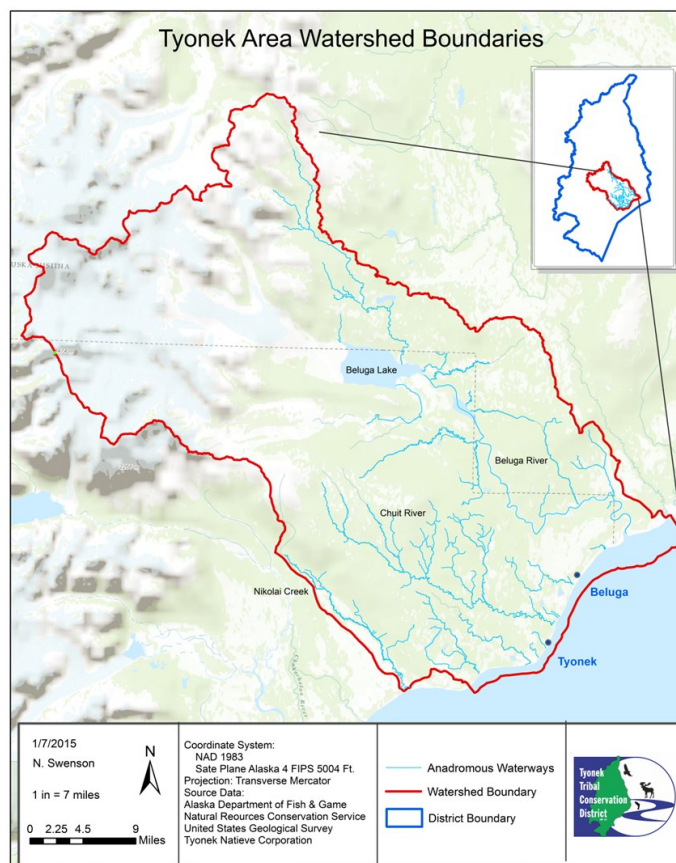
Christy Cincotta
Tonya Kaloa
Nicole Swenson
And newest staff:
Brandon Marlow

TTCD Watershed Action Planning

Over the past winter, TTCD staff have begun working on a new project. TTCD is working closely with the Native Village of Tyonek, local landowners, and other partners to develop a watershed action plan for all waterways from Nikolai Creek to Beluga River. The overall goal of this project is to provide a framework to restore, enhance, and protect freshwater systems.

As part of this project, TTCD plans to develop and implement strategies to deal with threats to the watershed, including pike, invasive plants, water quality concerns, and barriers to fish passage. In March, TTCD held the first ever pike derby in the Tyonek area, and is currently planning a second derby for later this summer. TTCD is also working with the Tyonek Native Corporation to remove a fish passage barrier on Old Tyonek Creek (locally known as Robert's Creek) later this summer. By installing a larger culvert on this creek, over 10 miles of additional spawning and rearing habitat will become available to kings, silvers, pinks, and hooligan.

TTCD is committed to a locally driven, cooperative approach to protecting natural resources. By working closely with all landowners, stakeholders, and partners to develop the Tyonek Area Watershed Plan, TTCD plans to address local concerns at the community level and to deal with issues that are of concern to the entire watershed.



Tyonek Youth Conservation Science (TYCS) Program

In 2014, TTCD received funding from ConocoPhillips to provide hands-on science education at the Tebughna School in Tyonek. Throughout the 2014-2015 school year, TTCD staff have provided monthly science lessons to students in Tyonek. We call this new program TYCS (pronounced tykes), or the Tyonek Youth Conservation Science Program.

Over the past year, Tebughna School students have learned about the salmon life cycle, watershed ecology, plant biology, and planted and harvested local produce at the Tyonek Garden. Students also played a role



Above: Tebughna School students dissected flowers and learned about plant biology.

in watershed planning for the Tyonek area by listing their priorities and concerns for the watershed.

TTCD plans to continue this successful program into the next school year.

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.



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Are you interested in supporting TTCD's 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**

TTCD is a 501c3 nonprofit, and all donations made to our organization are tax-deductible and used to directly support our programs.

Tyonek Grown

In 2015, TTCD will begin the 4th year working with the Tyonek Garden, and are again working closely with the Tebughna School to plant vegetable and flower starts.

Highlights:

In January, TTCD and the Tebughna School welcomed several representatives of the Farm to School Program to Tyonek, including the National Director and the AK Coordinator of this program.

2015 brings necessary garden expansions and improvements including using the field behind the high tunnels and implementing a drip irrigation system.



Above: Tebughna School students compare local and out of state carrots in a taste test.

This summer we will be hiring garden youth workers again for June-August. Applications are due May 8 (go to www.ttcd.org for more info).

Finally, please join TTCD, Tebughna school, and NVT on May 8th at 1:00PM for a planting ceremony to kick off the 2015 garden season!