

TTCD Newsletter—Spring 2015

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

July 2015

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Subsistence is Our Agriculture.

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District Updates

This summer, TTCD staff are engaged in continuing ongoing projects as well as beginning new ones. With expansion of the Tyonek Garden, installation of a 30' wide fish friendly culvert, pike derbies, invasive plant surveys, and watershed monitoring, the 2015 field season will be our most active yet!

Tyonek Grown Program

The Tyonek Garden is now in its fourth year of operation through TTCD's collaboration with the community of Tyonek. In 2015, TTCD's Nicole Swenson continues her role as Garden Manager with the assistance of several youth interns.

The garden officially opened this season with the second annual blessing ceremony on May 14. Participants included Tebughna School, Tyonek Tribal Administrator, USDA NRCS, ANTHC, Tyonek Health Clinic and community members.

In June, TTCD held our first Tyonek Grown Workshop through funding from the USDA NIFA Beginning Farmers and Ranchers Development Program. The class had 8 participants representing 5 communities: Tyonek, Togiak, Nondalton,

Below: TTCD's Nicole Swenson and Tonya Kaloa stand with participants in the first annual Tyonek Grown Workshop after planting squash starts.



Above: Donita Slawson (Tyonek Tribal Administrator) and Tebughna School students plant the first tomato plant in the Tyonek Garden as part of the Garden Blessing Ceremony (photo by ANTHC).

Montana Creek, and Chickaloon. Participants learned about many aspects of gardening.

New at the Tyonek Garden in 2015:

- Garden Expansion: New areas of the garden are now under production, and irrigation system upgrades are underway.
- Volunteer Program: Residents interested in volunteering may redeem hours volunteered for vegetable produce.
- Cooking/Nutrition Lessons: A lesson at the Garden is scheduled for July 15 at 2PM.
- Produce Distribution: Produce will be available at weekly markets, and throughout the week at the Tyonek Tribal Center.

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Board Members

Ron T. Stanek
Emil J. McCord, Jr
Charlene Stephan
Harriet Kaufman
Robert Stephan, Sr

Staff

Christy Cincotta
Tonya Kaloa
Nicole Swenson
And newest staff:
Ty Spaulding

Fish Passage & Habitat Program

Old Tyonek (Robert's) Creek Culvert Replacement

This summer, TTCD is working with the Tyonek Native Corporation (TNC) to remove a fish passage barrier on Old Tyonek (Robert's) Creek. Through generous support from our partners, TTCD has contracted Chumley's and Dowl to install a 30' wide culvert. This project will make over 10 miles of additional habitat available to salmon, benefitting these populations for years to come.

TTCD and TNC would like to thank all supporters for making this possible, including: US Fish & Wildlife Service, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, National Fish & Wildlife



Above: Current culverts are perched and undersized, presenting a barrier to salmon moving upstream to spawn.

Foundation, Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership, Native Village of Tyonek, Cook Inlet Region Inc, PacRim Coal LP, Aurora Gas, and Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

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.

Watershed Plan Updates

TTCD staff are working with our partners to develop a watershed action plan for waterways from Nikolai Creek to Beluga River. TTCD has begun to address issues identified through our planning efforts.

In June, TTCD worked with the Native Village of Tyonek and AK Forum Green Star program to remove 5,000 lbs of lead batteries from Tyonek, a concern identified in Tyonek community meetings. Later this summer, TTCD will also be holding a pike derby in Tyonek and Beluga, conducting a second invasive plant survey, and beginning control efforts on invasive plant populations.



Above: TTCD Conservation Technician Ty Spaulding collects fish population data on Old Tyonek Creek.

Throughout the summer, TTCD will be involved in watershed monitoring efforts. Monitoring efforts will focus on water quality, stream temperatures, and fish populations. This data will be shared and used for future management decision-making.