

# TTCD Newsletter—Spring 2014

Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

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**Subsistence is our Agriculture.**

## Tyonek Tribal Conservation District Updates

Summer is just around the corner, and we at TTCD are looking forward to a busy season of conservation and agriculture!

For those unfamiliar with our organization, the Tyonek Tribal Conservation District is a non-regulatory, nonprofit 501c3 organization whose mission is **to conserve, enhance, and encourage the wise use of the natural resources in our District.** The role of the TTCD is to provide technical and financial assistance for landowners within the District to achieve their conservation goals. The TTCD is guided by three core values: to meet the needs of district stakeholders, to form cooperative relationships, and to use what the earth has to give.

The Tyonek Tribal Conservation District currently has four program areas: Fish Passage & Habitat Program, Community Agriculture Program, Technical Assistance Program, and Outdoor Science Education Program.



The Tyonek Tribal Conservation District covers Game Management Unit 16B, and includes Tyonek, Beluga, Skwentna, and Alexander Creek.

### In this issue:

TTCD Updates	1
Community Agriculture Program	1
Fish Passage Program	2
Technical Assistance Program	2
New TTCD Staff	2



## Community Agriculture Program

Since 2012, TTCD has worked closely with the Native Village of Tyonek, the Tyonek community, and other partners to assist with Tyonek's goal of developing a community garden. The goals of this project are to improve food security for Tyonek, supply food to the elder's program, and produce food in a sustainable way.

In 2013, the Tyonek Garden growing capacity was increased through the installation of high tunnels, solar panels, and an irrigation system. This spring students at the Tebughna school have begun planting vegetable starts for the garden (see photo on right), and we're hoping

for our most productive year yet!

This year the Tyonek garden will employ two Tyonek residents. Residents interested in applying should contact Christy Cincotta at 907-646-3109 or [ccincotta@tyonek.com](mailto:ccincotta@tyonek.com).



### Board Members

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

### Staff

Christy Cincotta  
Tonya Kaloa

## Fish Passage Program

Since early 2012, TTCD has been working with many partners to address fish passage barriers in the Tyonek area. These barriers generally consist of undersized culverts that prevent salmon from reaching spawning and rearing habitat.

The Indian Creek culvert replacement project was completed in 2013 (see photos on right). This year, the TTCD is working with the Native Village of Tyonek, the Tyonek Native Corporation, the US Fish & Wildlife Service, the AK Department of Fish & Game, Hilcorp, and Cook Inlet Region, Inc., to complete a culvert re-

placement on Tyonek Creek. This project will open up nearly 7.5 miles of upstream habitat for salmon, and will help prevent future road washouts in the Tyonek area. We expect this project to be completed by the fall of 2014.

TTCD plans to continue to address fish passage issues throughout the district to benefit salmon populations, subsistence resources and road access.

Please contact us at TTCD if you have any suggestions for potential culvert replacement projects in the District. For more information on future fish passage projects go to [www.ttcd.org](http://www.ttcd.org).



Indian Creek Culvert Replacement

Above: Before installation

Below: After installation and restoration



## Technical Assistance Program

One of the major goals of the Tyonek Tribal Conservation District is to work with landowners within our District to help them achieve their conservation goals. TTCD provides voluntary conservation planning services to all residents within the district at no cost to the individual.

If you are a District resident, landowner, or stakeholder, our staff are eager to work with you to help you achieve your goals for your land.

We are also interested in discussing your ideas for any conservation projects that you'd like to see completed in Tyonek or other District communities. Contact us today!

**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](mailto:tkaloa@tyonek.com) to learn more.**

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## New TTCD Staff



The Tyonek Tribal Conservation District is pleased to welcome Tonya Kaloa as our new Program Assistant.

Tonya Kaloa joined TTCD in February, 2014, and is very excited for the opportunity to grow with this organization. In her role as the Program Assistant, Tonya is looking forward to learning more about the issues and needs of native peoples. Tonya is eager to be a part of helping natives achieve their goals for their lands, waters, and traditions.