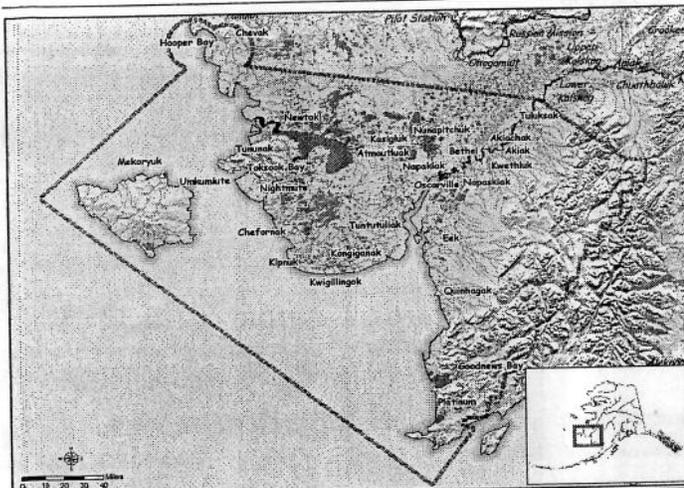


Ellamta Elucia *Inside Our World*

Lower Kuskokwim Resource Conservation & Development Program News

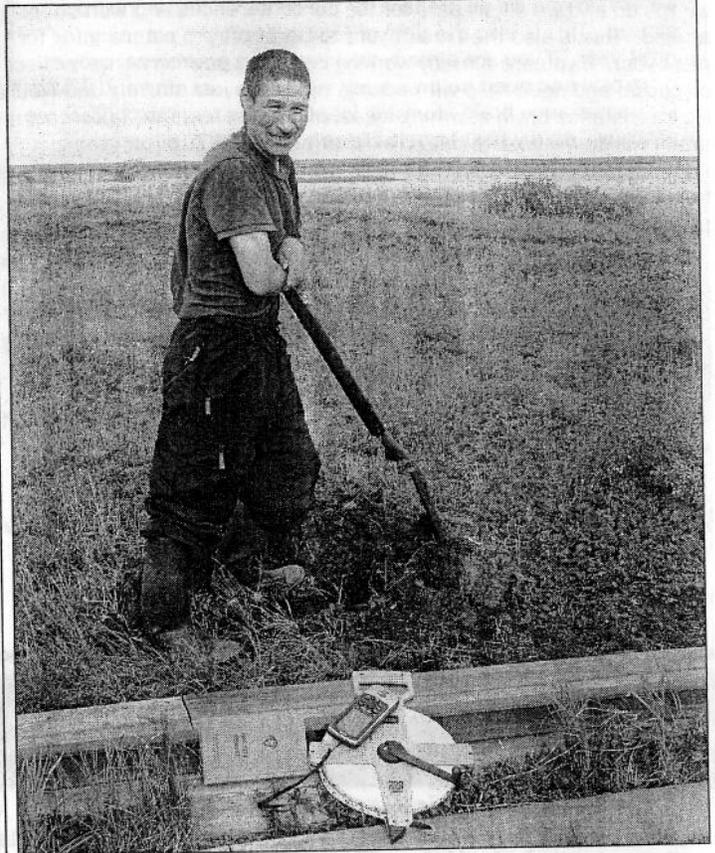
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Lower Kuskokwim RC&D Area

The Lower Kuskokwim Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) Council was established in 2001, and shares its board of directors with the Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council, Inc. — a 501-c-3 non-profit corporation and Alaska Regional Development Organization (ARDOR). The Lower Kuskokwim RC&D program services an area encompassing twenty-seven villages including the regional service center of Bethel, which is located 400 air miles west of Anchorage. Covering 29,000 square miles of lowland tundra patterned with thousands of small lakes, rivers and bays, the inhabitants of this RC&D area rely largely on subsistence practices for their livelihoods. More than 75 percent of the area's population live along the banks of the Kuskokwim, Alaska's second largest river; and Yup'ik Eskimo culture and language predominate daily life.



Edward Nicholai, Atmautluak's EPA IGAP coordinator, determines the permafrost depth at the Tevyraq tram-way portage site. Unit 6 tribes are planning to improve the tramway, which is currently in disrepair. See pg 7 for more information. Photo by R. Maroney.

September & October Calendar

- **September 24**, Protecting the Rights of Communities, People, and Nature. Discussion with Thomas Linzey. Bethel Cultural Center 6-8pm
- **October 9-13**, 13th Annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management Anchorage Marriott. See www.anthc.org
- **October 19-20**, Creating Sustainable Communities conference, Alaska Pacific University in Anchorage. See www.sustainak.org

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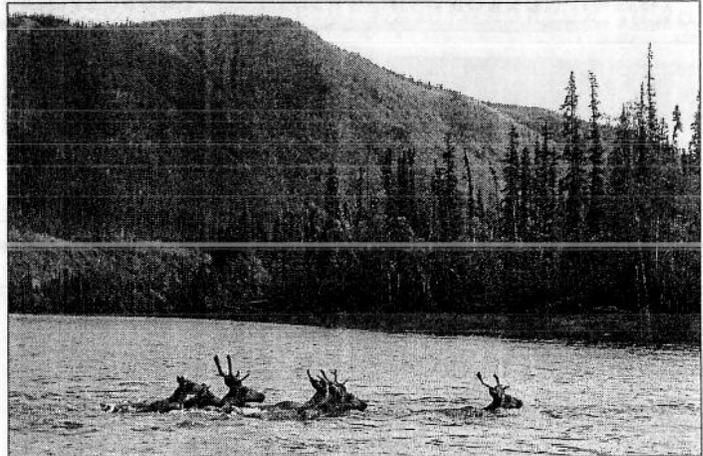
Coordinator's Corner

Source – Ryan Maroney, Lower Kuskokwim RC&D Program Coordinator

Fall is a busy time of year as the summer construction season wraps up and we all prepare for the conferences and workshops ahead. This is also the time of year to begin project planning for next year. If you are already working on an environmental project proposal and need help with editing, or are just starting and would like assistance brain-storming ideas, please feel free to contact me and I will do my best to help (Telephone: 543-7157 or email: ryan.maroney@ak.usda.gov). If you are looking for grant opportunities for your community, check out page 9 of this newsletter for a few grants worth considering.

I have been traveling on the Kuskokwim over the last month and am glad to report in this joint September/October issue of *Ellamta Elucia* on a few of the people and projects I have come across during my travels. In Kwigillingok, I learned about a number of exiting solid waste management projects from Emma Kiunya (see story below) as well as transportation improvement ideas from Andrew Kiunya. In the Unit 6 Tundra Villages, I had the opportunity to work with the respective tribes on planning for an improvement to the *Tevraq* Tram-way site (see pg. 7). Finally, in Nunapitchuk, I worked with Sophie Chaliak, Caroline Angaiak and the IGAP EPA crew to assemble and install a new dump access trail. See page 4 for photos and more information about this new trail in Nunapitchuk.

As always, I invite all readers to contact me or a board member if



Caribou Crossing. Photo R. Maroney.

you would like assistance with preparing a grant application or developing a project idea. Also, please submit local news stories, photos or project ideas for inclusion in future issues of this newsletter.

~ Qu yana

Kwigillingok Environmental Department Update

Source & Photos – R. Maroney, NRCS

Emma Kiunya and the Kwigillingok Environmental Services Department (KESD) is working hard to help improve solid waste management in the Native Village of Kwigillingok. In the picture on right, Emma can be seen holding a new reusable grocery tote-bag made by "Bag-Ease." The tribe purchased one bag for each of the 90 households in the village and also supplied the teachers with a bag utilizing an ANTHC Solid waste management grant. To further help reduce unnecessary waste filling up the village dump, the tribe successfully secured a grant from American Seafoods to purchase recycling bin boxes for used pop-cans for each household. KESD also was the recipient of grant funds from Best Buy for use in holding a community-wide E-waste recycling event to round up monitors, computers, and other electronic junk and ship it out of the village to keep it out of the dump.



Currently, KESD is working with the tribal administration and council to finalize Kwigillingok's Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan. A few of the activities that will be implemented from the plan include closing the existing dump site and opening a new one. KESD also recently purchased a fluid evacuator for use in removing used oil from junk vehicles so that they can be safely prepared for backhaul. KESD also plans to have local workers trained to remove Freon and other hazmats from junk household appliances. To hear more about what KESD is up to contact Emma at 588-8912 or email emmakiunya@yahoo.com. Also, readers should consider signing up to receive Kwigillingok's monthly newsletter "KESD-GAP News of the Tundra."



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2007 Denali Commission Roads and Ports Improvement Request for Nominations

Source - Denali Commission www.denali.gov

The Denali Commission is requesting project nominations from city, borough, and tribal governments, and state/federal government agencies for rural road and waterfront development projects.

Nominations are open August 1 to November 1, 2007.

Project nomination forms are being sent to local, regional and tribal governments and non-profits. The project nomination forms are also available directly through the Denali Commission website: www.denali.gov

This is the third round of project nominations for the Denali Commission Transportation Program that began in late 2005. Current funding authorizations run through 2009 at an annual level of approximately \$13 million a year for roads and \$8 million a year for waterfront development.

Projects selected by the Transportation Advisory Committee in December 2007, and approved by Denali Commission in January 2008, will be developed through partnerships with regional, local and tribal governments, and/or with state and federal agencies that manage rural capital project programs.

In the roads programs, local street projects that address dust control needs and local boardwalk improvements will receive priority consideration. The selection process also will consider road projects that connect communities to one another and/or enhance local economic development opportunities.

In the waterfront development program, priority consideration will be given to small community port, dock, harbor and barge landing repairs, and to new barge landing structures that improve rural fuel and freight delivery.

The Denali Commission's 2008 project selection effort will continue to blend new project starts with projects that are ready for construction in order to create a multi-year capital projects stream.

Project Nomination Forms for road and waterfront development projects are available at city, borough and tribal government offices, and are available at www.denali.gov

Interested persons may also obtain forms through mail or fax by calling Ms. Automme Circosta, Transportation Program Assistant, at (907) 271-1426.

Send completed Project Nomination forms electronically to acircosta@denali.gov. Mailing address for hard copy forms:

Denali Commission
Attention: Ms. Automme Circosta, Transportation Program Assistant
510 L Street, Suite 410
Anchorage, AK 99501

To make sure projects are considered in the 2008 project selection process, nomination forms must be turned in, or postmarked, by November 1, 2007. Project nominations turned in after November 1, 2006 will be held for 2009 consideration.

Please check the Denali Commission web site for updated information.



Lower Kuskokwim Resource Conservation & Development Program Member Villages

There are twenty-seven (27) villages in the Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council RC&D and ARDOR region. They are, beginning up-river on the Kuskokwim River:

Kuskokwim River

Tuluksak Native Community,
Akiak Native Community,
Akiachak Native Community,
Organized Village of Kwethluk,
Orutsaramiut Native Village (Bethel),
Oscarville Traditional Village,
Native Village of Napaskiak,
Native Village of Napakiak,
Native Village of Tuntutullak,
Native Village of Eek,

Johnson River

Native Village of Atmautluak,
Native Village of Nunapitchuk,
Native Village of Kasigluk,

Kuskokwim Bay

Native Village of Quinhagak,
Native Village of Goodnews Bay,
Platinum Traditional Village,
Native Village of Kongiganak,
Native Village of Kwigillingok,

Kinak Bay

Native Village of Kipnuk,
Village of Chefomak,

Nelson Island

Native Village of Nightmute,
Native Village of Toksook Bay,
Native Village of Tununak,

Nunivak Island

Native Village of Mekoryuk,

Baird Inlet

Newtok Village,

Hooper Bay

Chevak Native Village,
Native Village of Hooper Bay.

Contact Information:

Lower Kuskokwim Resource Conservation & Development (LKRC&D) Program Office
Ryan Maroney, Coordinator
311 Willow St., Building #3
P.O. Box 1869
Bethel, AK 99559-1869
Phone: (907) 543-7157
Fax: (907) 543-3855
Email: ryan.maroney@ak.usda.gov

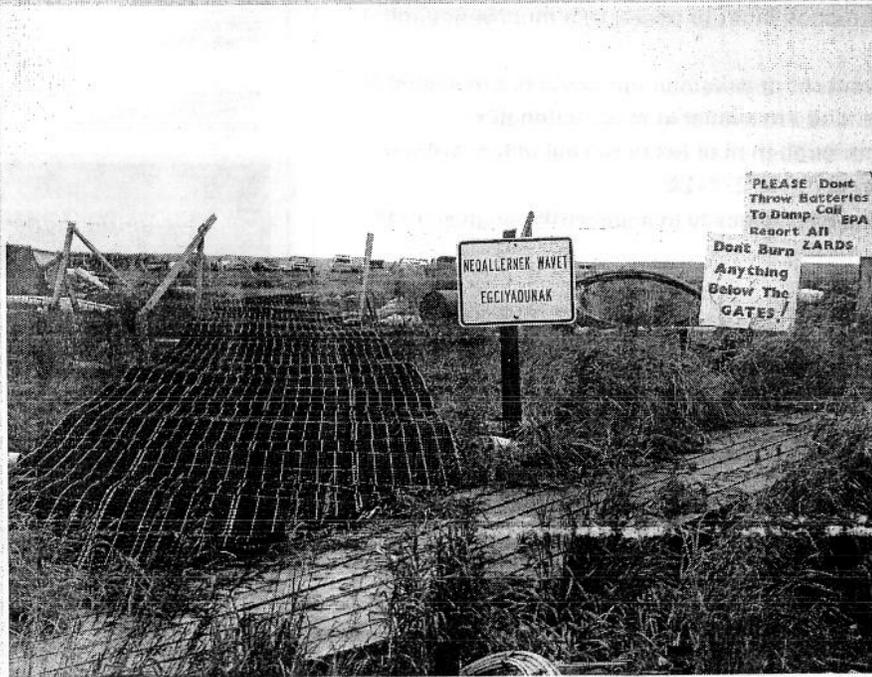
Lower Kuskokwim Economic Development Council (LKEDC) Office
Carl Berger, Executive Director
P.O. Box 2021
Bethel, AK 99559
Phone: (907) 543-5967
Fax: (907) 543-3130
Email: carl_berger@ddc-alaska.org
Web Site: www.lkdec.org

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Nunapitchuk Installs GeoBlock Trail to Improve Dump Access

Source & photos- Ryan Maroney, NRCS Lower Kuskokwim RC&D Coordinator

The Native Village of Nunapitchuk's EPA ICAP program recently completed the installation of 200' of 6' wide Geoblock trail to improve access to their village dump. This dump site is removed from the village and must be accessed by boat. Environmental Coordinator Sophie Chaliak and assistant Caroline Angaiak worked with Ryan Maroney of the NRCS to plan and install this project using EPA ICAP funds. Photos illustrate Morris Alexie, James Tikiun and Nick Twitchell working to assemble, transport and install the trail. Literally moments after finishing the trail, it was in use by community members hauling trash!



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Yupik Elder Attends NRCS Conference

Photos— Crystal Leonetti, NRCS District Conservationist / Native Liaison

“What does walrus skin taste like?” asks an NRCS employee from the lower 48. Marie Meade pauses, then with a very genuine and honest tone she answers, “Reeeeeeeally good.”

More discussion followed this question about the tastes of different Yupik foods, the meaning of subsistence, and the kinds of subsistence practiced by Alaska Natives. Even NRCS Associate Chief Dana York asked Marie about the subsistence diet during the breakout session titled “Yupik Subsistence Fishing” at the 10th Annual American Indian Alaska Native Employees Association for NRCS (AIANEA) conference last week in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Marie is on the Elders Council, one of nine Native elders from across the nation who provide NRCS with their experiences, guidance, and traditional knowledge as it relates to us as NRCS employees. In addition to her breakout session where she presented a PowerPoint about her summer fish-camp, she sat with the other elders in a general session. The elders answered employee questions and shared stories. Alaska NRCS is thankful for Marie’s participation and sharing. This was Marie’s third AIANEA conference.

AIANEA is one of four NRCS employee associations. Anyone can be a member and attend the conferences. The official conference report will be posted soon on www.aianea.com.

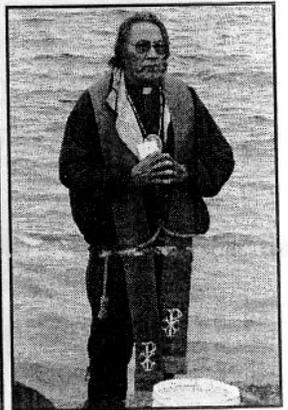


Photo: Yupik Elder Marie Meade at the AIANEA conference. Photo by Crystal Leonetti.

Yukon Inter-Tribal Watershed Summit in St. Mary’s

Photos— Ryan Maroney, NRCS

The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council is an indigenous grassroots organization dedicated to the protection and preservation of the Yukon River Watershed. The YRITWC conducts research, provides technical assistance and training to facilitate the development and exchange of information, and strives to raise awareness about opportunities to promote the health of the watershed. The YRITWC is comprised of 65 Tribes and First Nations in Alaska and Canada who rely on the Yukon River basin for survival. A 1,500 mile canoe journey headed to St. Mary’s, Alaska to celebrate the 10th Anniversary YRITWC Summit on August 9-13. Kuskokwim Watershed Coordinator David Griso brought a number of Kuskokwim River Watershed Council Board members and Elders to this meeting to learn from our neighbors on the Yukon. Photos: Reverend Trimble Gilbert presides over the water ceremony and paddlers sharing stories from their canoe journey.



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COURTESY, NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN, SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, 12275, DR. LEIMAN M. WAUGH, 1955

Yuungnaqpiallerput The Way We Genuinely Live

Masterworks of Yup'ik Science and Survival

Organized by the Anchorage Museum in collaboration with the Calista Elders Council and presented at the Yupiit Piciryarait Cultural Center and Museum by the Association of Village Council Presidents.

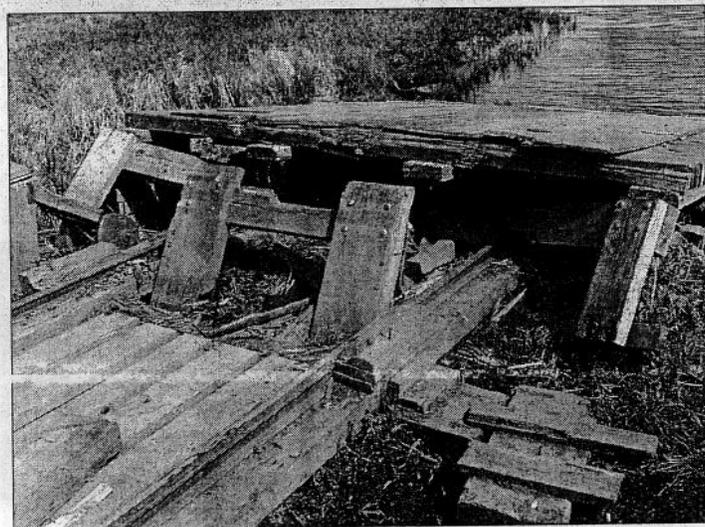
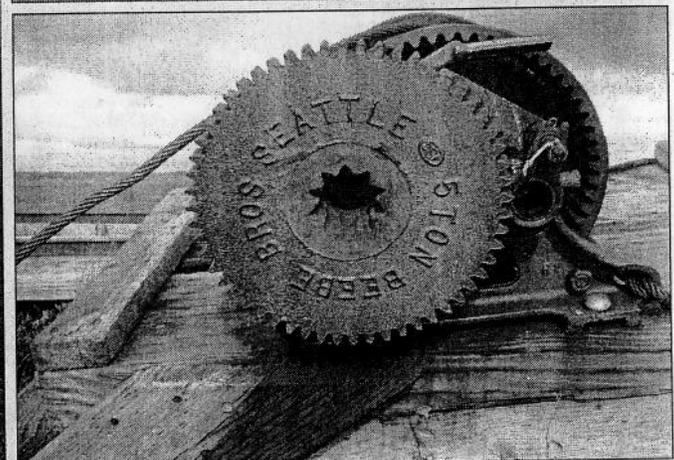
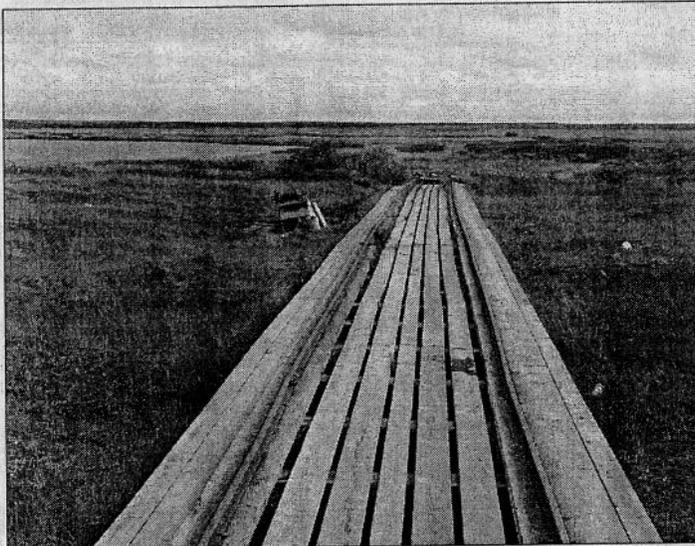
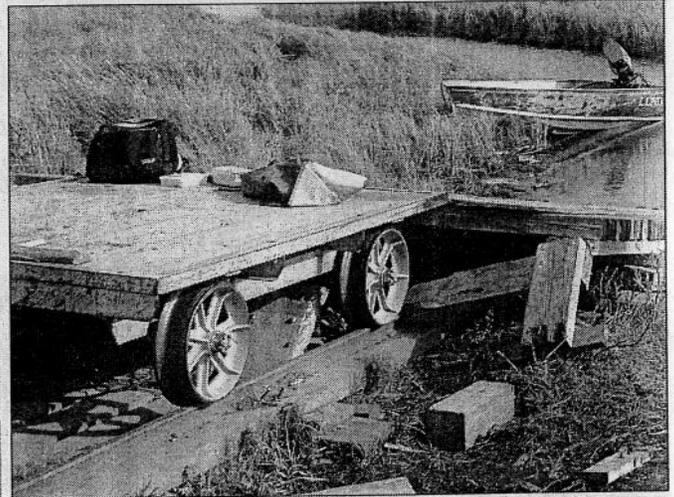
Exhibition Dates September 8–November 25th, 2007
Museum days/hours: Tues – Sat 1:00–4:00pm

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Unit 6 Tundra Villages Plan for *Tevyraq* Tram-way Portage Improvement

Source & Photos - R. Maroney of NRCS and Edward Nicholai of Atmautluak EPA IGAP

Out in the middle of a maze of sloughs, irregular shaped shallow ponds and enormous tundra lakes lies *Tevyraq*. *Tevyraq* (a tram-way portage) is located between *Takalesuk* and *Kavigualik* lakes and connects the tundra villages of the Johnson River to the coastal communities of Nelson Island. This traditional portage was used long before mechanized travel and many elders remember hauling wooden boats across the portage by hand. The first portage improvement occurred sometime in the 1950s, and improvements were made in the mid 60's and again in 1978. Although now in disrepair, *Tevyraq* remains today an important means for connecting communities to one another and to subsistence resources. Recently, at a Unit 6 meeting of the tribes of Nunapitchuk, Atmautluak, and Kasigluk, Elders and other community members talked about the need for improvements to the tramway.

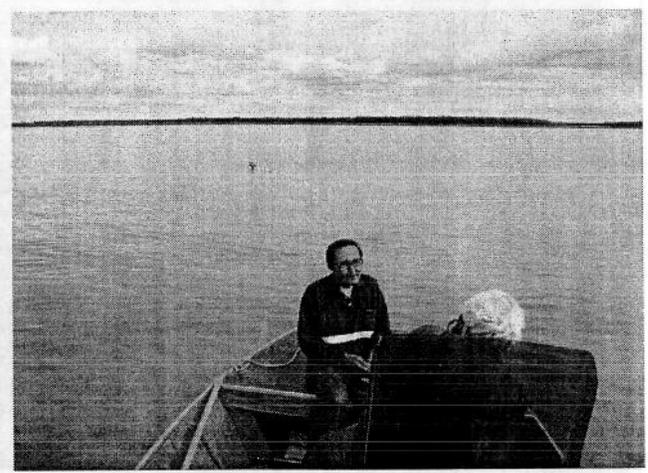
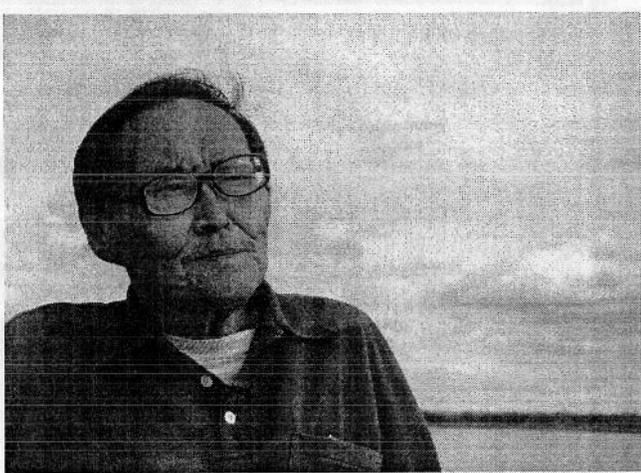


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Focus on Subsistence: Fishing with John & Jim

Source & Photos — R. Maroney

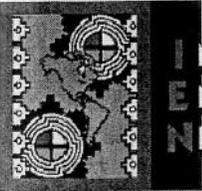
I recently had the honor to go drifting on the Kuskokwim River for silvers with John Active and Jim Barker. Both of these men are well known in the region for telling stories with words and photographs. While we waited for salmon to find their way into our net, it was enjoyable to listen to these old friends share stories and remembrances. John brought along a great picnic lunch to keep us energized as we enjoyed the nice weather. After awhile, we had enough fish to bring home for cutting that evening.



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Grant Opportunities for Your Community

Source — USFWS, UAA, and NRCS



WESTERN MINING ACTION NETWORK

Western Mining Action Network and Indigenous Environmental Network Indigenous Communities Mini-Grant Program

This is a program between the Western Mining Action Network (WMAN) and the Indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) that will run from October 2007-September 2008. The goal of the mini-grants program is to support and enhance the capacity building efforts of mining-impacted indigenous communities to assure that mining projects do not adversely affect human, cultural, and ecological health within their traditional territories.

The applicant must be, rather than simply advocating for, an indigenous community or grassroots organization working within the U.S. or Canada on issues impacting indigenous peoples and communities within the U.S. or Canada. Projects or initiatives that focus outside the U.S. or Canada are not eligible.

Applications must be submitted by October 1, 2007, February 1, 2008, and June 1, 2008. Applicants will be notified of the funding decision by the 20th of October, February and June. There will be an "emergency" fund for extremely time-sensitive projects that fall between grant cycles (i.e., needs that could not have been anticipated at the time of the last cycle and cannot wait to be addressed until the next cycle). These grants will be very limited and awarded on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the Mini-Grant Review Committee.

WMAN/IEN Indigenous Communities Mini-grants program criteria:

Applications will be taken at fixed times during the year (October 1, February 1, June 1) Organizations with any budget level may apply, however if there are more applicants than funds available, priority will be given to indigenous organizations or programs in the U.S. or Canada with a budget under \$75,000 U.S.; priority will also be given to Indigenous

community-based grassroots groups.

Requests must be project-specific for an immediate need such as legal assistance, organizing and outreach, development of campaign materials, media development, reports, travel, mailings, etc. to be fulfilled within the next four months on a specific mining campaign. Funds cannot be used for an organization's general operating funds, staff salaries, rent or telephone bills.

Each grant issued will not exceed \$4,000.

Funding recipients must submit a brief report detailing how funds were spent before the next grant cycle begins.

The application below can be emailed to either Sarah Keeney or to Simone Senogles, or they can be sent by regular mail, post-marked by October 1, 2006, February 1, 2007 or June 1, 2007 respectively, to: IEN attn: Mining Mini-grants, PO Box 485, Bemidji, MN 56619. If you are mailing the application, please call Simone or Sarah to let us know to expect it. Thank you!

Climate Change Tribal Impacts, Communication and Outreach

Dates: The closing date and time for receipt of proposals is November 5, 2007, 4:00 p.m. EST. All hard copies of proposal packages must be received by Kathryn Parker by November 5, 2007, 4:00 p.m. EST in order to be considered for funding. Electronic submissions must be submitted via Grants.gov by November 5, 2007, 11:59 p.m., EST. Proposals received after the closing date and time will not be considered for funding. Final applications will be requested from those eligible entities whose proposal has been successfully evaluated and preliminarily recommended for award.

Summary: This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals for the communication of climate change impacts on Indian Country and Alaskan Native Villages, as well as adaptation and mitigation efforts to address them.

Funding: The total estimated funding for this competitive opportunity is approximately \$40,000. EPA anticipates awarding one coop-

erative agreement from this announcement, subject to availability of funds and the quality of proposals received.

Denali Commission Solid Waste Program FY 2007 Request for Proposals



The Commission's FY 07 Solid Waste Program Request for Proposals is now available. The deadline for submitting proposals is October 12, 2007. Please contact Ms. Jodi Fondy with questions at 907.271.1414.

This RFP seeks solutions to community solid waste that are appropriate to local needs and will be sustained with local resources. It should be evident that projects will help eliminate or reduce contamination of rural drinking water supplies. Applicants are encouraged to identify community solid waste practices that are best suited to specific local conditions and are sustainable. The following criteria will be considered in the selection of appropriate solid waste projects:

- The degree to which the project will help alleviate existing, developing or reasonably anticipated threats to rural drinking water supplies linked to local solid waste disposal;
- The degree to which the project will help reduce community solid waste in local landfill;
- The degree to which the project will enhance efficiency, environmental and operational safety in rural Alaska community solid waste facilities;
- The degree to which the proposal exhibits collaboration and leveraging of project funding with other organizations or local contributions; and
- Demonstrated sustainability of the project and project applicant, consistent with the Denali Commission's policies.

The solution of solid waste-related problems should be documented as a priority of the local community in a community plan or in an adopted plan of an appropriate regional organization. Download the RFP online at:

http://www.denali.gov/Program_Documents/solid%20waste%20RFP%20090707.pdf



Lower Kuskokwim
Resource Conservation
& Development Program
311 Willow Street, Bldg. #3
PO Box 1869
Bethel, AK 99559-1869

Support for this newsletter is provided by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). The NRCS provides leadership in a partnership effort to help people conserve, maintain, and improve our natural resources and environment. The USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

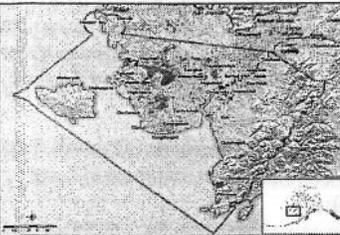
This newsletter is available online
www.lowerkuskokwim.blogspot.com
Receive email notification of online posting by contacting ryan.maroney@ak.usda.gov

Ellamta Elucia

Inside Our World



Helping People
Help the Land



Lower Kuskokwim Resource Conservation & Development Area

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LOWER KUSKOKWIM RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Kwethluk, AK

Lyman Hoffman
State Senator, AK Legislature;
Small Business Owner
Bethel, AK

Richard Foster
State Representative, AK Legislature; Small Business Owner,
Nome, AK



The Lower Kuskokwim River and waterways. Image courtesy of Dr. William Bowen, California Geographical Survey.

Ferdinand Pleasant
Native Village of Quinhagak
Quinhagak, AK

Mary Nelson
State Representative,
AK Legislature
Bethel, AK

Les Daenzer
Lower Kuskokwim School District
Administrator, Bethel, AK