

# Innovative Approaches to Tribal Partnerships

Alaska Tribal Conservation Alliance

Conservation Planner

Tyler Mockta

# Overview

- Brief intro to ATCA
- Why TCDs are Important?
- Steps to form a TCD
- ATCAs Services
- Regional & Annual Symposium
- Pilot Programs
- Quick Facts About Alaska TCDs
- Future & Continued Work



# Alaska Tribal Conservation Alliance (ATCA)

- ATCA is a multi-tribal 501(c)(3) nonprofit
- Established in 2011
- Serve 18 TCDs
- Promote Conservation, Education, Outreach to Alaska Natives and TCDs
- Promote establishment of TCDs to Alaska Native Villages
- TA, Grants, Conservation Planning

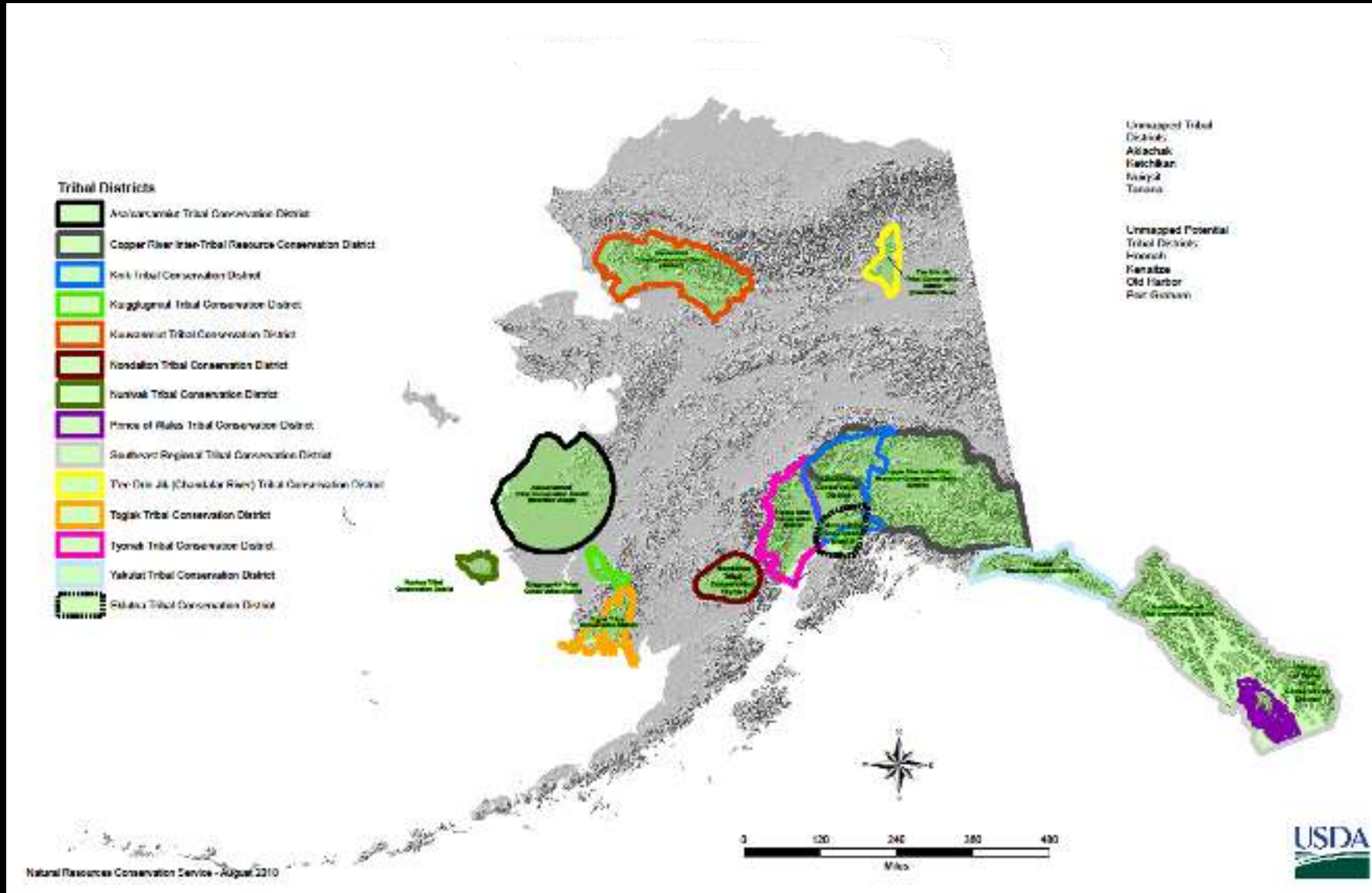


“To improve the conservation and sustainable development of natural resources in Alaska, promote traditional subsistence activities, and improve the quality of life within Tribal Conservation Districts, serving Tribal Governments, Native Corporations and other stakeholders within the district”

# Who We Serve

North Hub	Central Hub	South Hub
Akiacuarmiut (Akiachak)	Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission dba CRITR	Nuvendaltun (Nondalton)
Asa'carsamiut (Mt. Village)	Eklutna	Tuyuryaq (Togiak)
Kuigglugmiut (Kwethluk)	Ketchikan Indian Community	Tyonek
Kuuvanmiut (Ambler)	Knik	
Nuiqsagmiut (Nuiqsut)	Prince of Wales	
Nunivak Island	Southeast Regional	
Tanana	Yakutat	
T'ee Drin Jik (Arctic Village/Venetie)		

# Map of Alaska's TCDs



# Why Form a TCD?

- There's a need for conservation in our villages and traditional lands
- TCDs can develop priorities of natural resources concerns through community meetings
- Conduct conservation projects using Traditional Knowledge with the help of USDA
- Create partnerships with villages/TCDs
- Provide local leadership to help USDA address issues and concerns

# Steps to form a TCD

1. The Tribe signs a resolution forming their tribal conservation district (TCD). In Alaska, a Tribe may form a tribal conservation district on their own or it may join with other Tribes, villages, and/or ANCSA Corporations. All entities are signatories on the agreement.
2. Sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
  - MOU between: Tribe, Corporation, and Secretary of Agriculture.
3. Once resolutions and the draft mutual agreement are completed, work with the NRCS Alaska Native Liaison for further assistance and to initiate the review process by USDA in Washington D.C.

# ATCA's Services

- We serve 18 TCDs with 23 projected by the end of 2019
- Build Capacity
- Advocate for Alaska and TCDs
- Outreach for new TCD's
- Provide Training and Education to TCDs or any person interested in Tribal Conservation
- Assist TCDs in Short and Long-term Planning/Prioritizing
- Conservation Planning



# Regional Conferences

- In order to extend our service area, ATCA hosts regional conferences across the state, in regions where TCDs do not currently exist.
- The conference is a support system for forming Tribal Conservation Districts and aims to address challenges that Tribes may face regarding natural resources conservation, subsistence, and agricultural activities.



# ATCA Annual Symposium



- Since 2012 ATCA has hosted an Annual Symposium
- Brings together Tribal Conservation Districts, Native Corporations, Government Agencies, and other stakeholders
- Identify and address natural resource concerns, exchange knowledge, support common goals, and assist in overcoming barriers surrounding management of natural resources, subsistence, and agriculture activities on tribal lands.



# Pilot Programs

- **1.0 Research, Outreach, Education (ROE)**

- Future Alaska Native Conservationist
- Provide science education through hands-on activities
- Strives to incorporate youth education into all conservation projects.
- Summer Youth Program
- Internships
- Culture camps

- **1.1 Symposium/ conferences**

- **1.2 Education**

- Working effectively with Alaska Natives



# Pilot Programs



- **2.0 Conservation and Planning (CAP) Program**
- **2.1 Natural Resource Conservation/Management/Restoration**
  - 2.1.1 Habitat Monitoring and Restoration Program
  - 2.1.2 Erosion, air/water/soil monitoring and quality assessments
- **2.2 Community Assistance**
  - Support sustainable practices through waste reduction and energy conservation.
  - Infrastructure which can include seawalls, culverts, high tunnels, etc.
  - Needs assessment



# Pilot Programs

- **3.0 Tribal Agricultural Program (TAP)**
- This program will provide food security/ sovereignty, will focus on agriculture and subsistence
- Food assessment



# ATCAs Partnerships



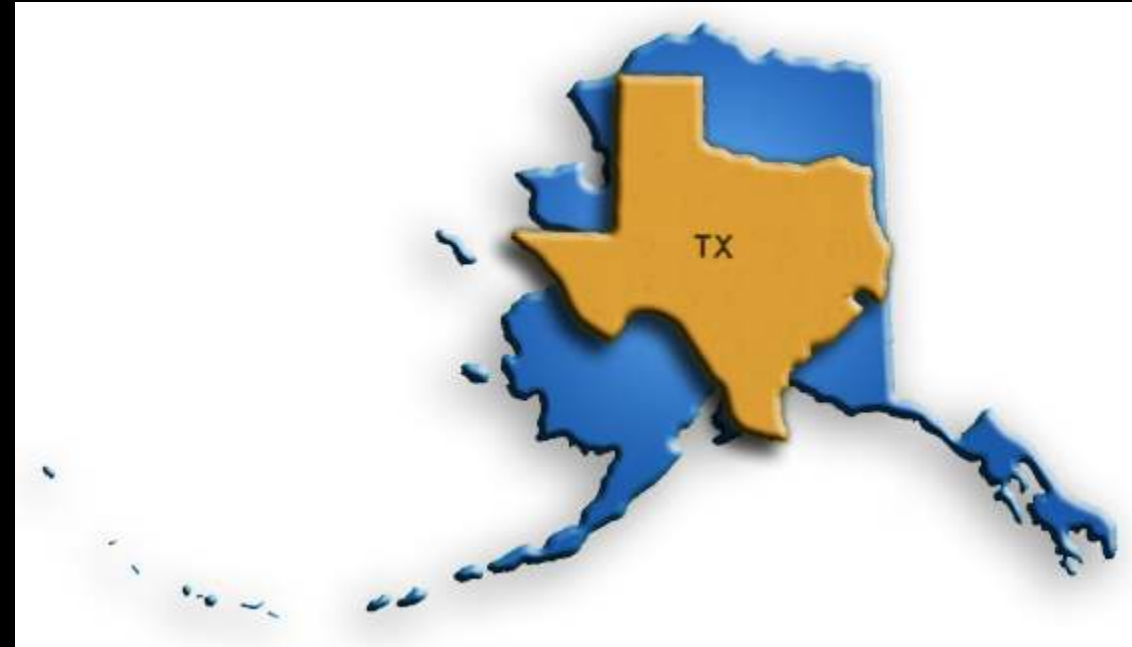
# Site Visits with TCDs

- Tyonek TCD
- Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission
- Knik TCD
- Kuigglugmiut TCD
- Asa'carsamiut TCD
- Nunivak Island TCD
- Nuvendaltun TCD
- Tuyuryaq TCD
- Prince of Wales TCD
- T'ee Drin Jik TCD
- Prince of Wales



# Quick Facts

- Alaska 663,267 mi<sup>2</sup>
  - 571,951 mi<sup>2</sup> of land
- 189,912 mi<sup>2</sup> are designated TCDs
- California + Maine = Alaska's TCD area
- Within Alaska's TCDs are ≈ 80 communities
- In these 80 communities ≈ 37,000 people (2010 census)



- **58 TCDs in the Nation**
- **18 of those are in Alaska**



# ATCA Moving Forward

- Continue working with our partners to promote tribal conservation districts and conservation practices in Alaska.
- Continue working with NRCS and Tyonek TCD to certify more Alaskan and Alaska Native Conservation Planners in Villages
- Continue to revise our programs so it fits the needs for our TCDs
- Continue to search for funding for our TCDs to promote more conservation on the ground.
- Partnership meeting August 2019
- TA training with First Nations Institute in August 2019
- Planned Site Visits 2019: Nondalton, Ketchikan

Thank You

Tsin'aen

*Mahsi'cho*

**Quyana**

Gunalcheesh

*Enna base'*

**'Doyckshn**

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