



Manley Hot Springs

COMMUNITY PROFILE

Local Contacts:

Karen Brooks
RVSP Program Manager

(907) 675-4599
nrlites@yahoo.com

Location:

Manley Hot Springs is located 160 miles NW of Fairbanks, at the end of the Elliott Highway. This small village, in interior Alaska, is very unique and possesses quite a few community members who are already familiar with farming and natural resource management concepts.

Cultural Identity:

The majority of village residents are Koyukon Athabascan, with a smaller percentage of mixed ethnicity of many cultures.

Agricultural History:

Manley Hot Springs has long been known for its many varieties of edible berries and plants. In the early 1900's a homestead was staked by a man named Karshner. Mr. Karshner chose the area of land around the hot springs to utilize the thermal heat present for subsistence farming purposes. With help from Frank Manley, Karshner established a large farm, providing vegetables and meat for nearby mining communities and native villages. The village of Iditarod was one of their primary customers. The Karshner homestead has long been rooted in food production and continues to remain that way. Currently owned by the Dart Family, the farm operation has been quiet for some time. It still represents the farming culture that existed in Manley Hot Springs for generations.

RVSP Initiative:

The RVSP management team is excited about the potential that exists in the village of Manley Hot Springs. The Manley Village Council and the Bean Ridge Corporation have a working relationship for the benefit the community and its residents.

Crops being considered for the village of Manley Hot Springs include:

1. *Iris setosa*, Wild Iris
2. *Artemisia tilesii*, *Tilesius's* wormwood



Iris setosa



Artemisia tilesii

Further Information:

For more details about the Rural Village Seed Production Project in Manley Hot Springs, and in communities across Alaska, please visit the R.V.S.P.P. website, at: plants.alaska.gov/rvsp.