Knik River Valley, Alaska

Alaska Soil and Water Conservation Districts' FY13 Annual Reports

Prepared by the Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board

December 2013

The twelve soil and water conservation districts in Alaska are created under the Department of Natural Resources and are governed locally by boards of volunteer supervisors. These pages contain the annual reports of activities for the state's soil and water conservation districts for the fiscal year 2013.

THE STATE of ALASKA
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Natural Resources
Office of the Commissioner

Natural Resource Conservation & Development Board
Shana Joy, Executive Director
701 W. 8th Avenue, Suite 400
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3577
Main: 907.269.5007
Fax: 907.269.5605

December 4, 2013

Joe Balash, Commissioner
Department of Natural Resources
550 W. 7th Avenue, Ste. 1400
Anchorage, AK, 99501

Dear Commissioner Balash:

Please find in the following pages a compilation of annual reports for fiscal year 2013 as prepared by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Alaska. Soil and water conservation districts are authorized under AS 41.10 to assist private land users with natural resource management matters. The Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board is authorized under AS 41.10 to inform and advise the DNR Commissioner of soil and water conservation district activities, programs, and project accomplishments.

The reports enclosed herein are provided for your information and offer a summary of the projects and accomplishments of the Soil and Water Conservation Districts over the past year.

Please take a moment to turn these pages and uncover some of the great work happening in communities across Alaska. Highlights include:

- Conservation planning
- Wildlife habitat improvement
- Natural resource education programs
- Forest management & wildfire mitigation
- Invasive plants inventory & management
- Trail restoration and improvement
- Water quality monitoring and assessments
- Flood prevention and watershed restoration

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me or Shana Joy, Executive Director.

Sincerely,

George Woodbury,
Chair

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Soil and Water Conservation District Reports

WHAT IS A SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT?

Districts are state-authorized entities with authority to exercise the powers delegated by the Commissioner as provided in AS 41.10.110. Each district is governed by a five-member board of volunteer supervisors. The districts are assisted by the Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board.

As provided by AS 41.10.130, the DNR Commissioner is authorized to create districts in the state upon petition and delegate to the district supervisors of each district such powers as the Commissioner considers necessary to accomplish the purposes of soil and water conservation. The following powers have been delegated by the Commissioner to the district supervisors of each district:

- conduct land capability surveys and investigations of potential agricultural areas and of soil conservation and erosion control, including necessary preventative and control measures, in the state; to publish the results of these surveys and investigations and to disseminate information concerning the results of the surveys and investigations to prospective settlers and the general public;
- make technical guidance and other assistance available to settlers of new land to assure the development of the land in a manner that will permit it to be used in accordance with its capabilities and treated in accordance with its needs;
- carry out measures for soil conservation and erosion control within the state, including engineering operations, methods of cultivation, the growing of vegetation, and changes in use of land, with the consent and cooperation of the land user or agency having jurisdiction of the land;
- cooperate with, furnish assistance to, and enter into agreements with, a user of land or agency within the state;
- construct, improve and maintain soil erosion control and conservation structures as are necessary and practical for carrying out the purpose of this chapter;
- develop comprehensive plans for the conservation of soil and control of soil erosion within the state, cropping programs, tillage practices and changes in land use, and publish plans and information and bring them to the attention of users of land within the state;
- accept contributions in money, services, materials or equipment from the U.S. or its agencies, from an agency of the state and from any other sources for use in carrying out the purposes set forth in this chapter.

HISTORY

The state of the nation's soil resources during the 1930's, a decade known as the Dust Bowl, inspired the establishment of soil and water conservation districts across the nation. When farm families arrived in the Great Plains states, such as Kansas, Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico and Colorado, they altered the landscape to suit their needs. These changes included replacing native grasses with agricultural crops and allowing cattle to graze on grounds less suitable for cultivation. When the U.S. entered World War I, the great demand for wheat to feed U.S. troops increased the conversion of even less appropriate land to agricultural use. In addition, the introduction of modern farm equipment allowed farmers to plow more land.

Such intensive manipulation of the land without conservation practices amplified the effects of the natural drought cycle on the Great Plains states. Crop vegetation, unlike indigenous plants, was not well suited for drought conditions. During the late 1920's and early 1930's widespread crop failure decreased ground cover. In addition, many farmers converted unsuccessful cropland to grazing land, where cattle trampled the already poor quality soil and thwarted ground cover renewal. The strong plains winds blew away unprotected topsoil.

By the mid 1930's, large dust storms were a common event across the Great Plains area that became known as The Dust Bowl. Displaced farming families migrated west to California in search of work and land. The once highly productive Great Plains reached a state of economic and ecological devastation.

In 1935, Congress made soil and water conservation a national priority by passing the Soil Conservation Act. This act established the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), referred to as the Soil Conservation Service at the time.

In 1937, President Roosevelt drafted a special recommendation to each state governor for the formation of local soil conservation programs. He suggested that the programs work on the local level directly with land owners. In 1937, North Carolina established the first soil conservation district, a precursor to soil and water conservation districts, in the Brown Creek Watershed.

The tone of the legislation is that of a volunteer, grass-roots organization which could function only with the permission of the land user. The original Territorial statutes and organization remained essentially unchanged when Alaska became a state in 1959. It was not until 1983 that many changes to the statutes were made. In 1983, the state was investing significant funds in agriculture. The changes established a statewide board (Natural Resource Conservation and Development Board) with regional representation and

changed the land occupier to land user (an individual who produces renewable resources and signs a cooperator agreement).

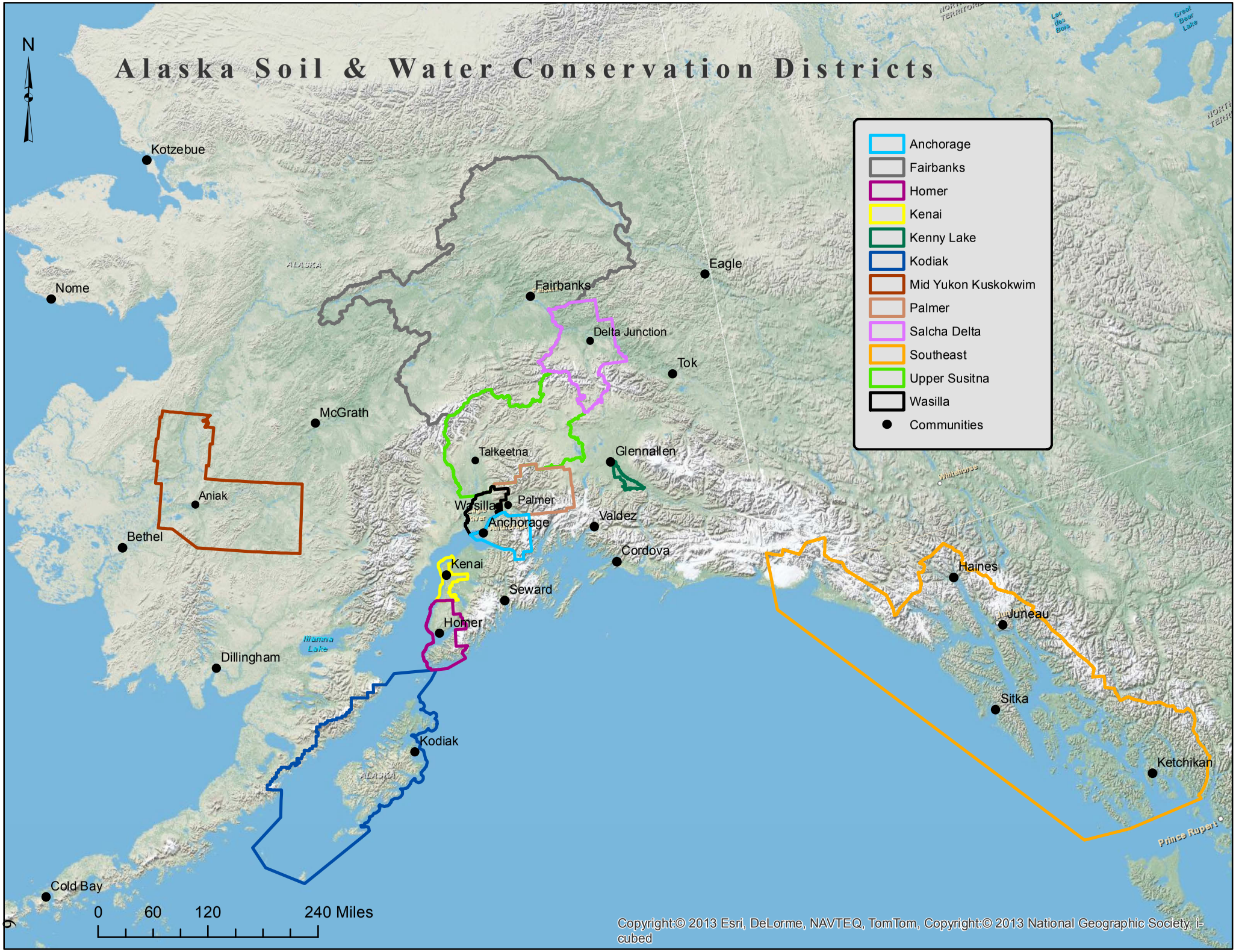
The Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) was organized in 1965 to help the Alaska districts do cooperatively what they could not do independently. In 1998, AACD incorporated with 501(c)(3) status.

NUMBER OF DISTRICTS

Today, there are approximately 3,000 soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) nationwide, whose boundaries encompass 98 percent of the privately-owned land in the 50 states. Considering that 70 percent of land in the U.S. is in private ownership, the role of local SWCDs in natural resource management is quite significant.

In Alaska, there are currently 12 organized districts as listed below. Each district is governed by five land users from the district that serve three-year, uncompensated terms of office. The Alaska District encompasses the area outside of the 12 locally organized districts and is governed by the NRCDB. District boards, with area-wide input from landowners and resource user groups, establish annual and long-term conservation priorities for their districts. It is through these locally led planning efforts that state and federal programs are directed.

SWCD	Acreage	SWCD	Acreage
Anchorage	1,106,889	Mid-Yukon Kuskokwim	9,793,685
Fairbanks	3,218,807	Palmer	1,564,283
Homer	1,020,129	Salcha Delta	2,493,606
Kenai	295,742	Southeast	156,919,821
Kenny Lake	206,530	Upper Susitna	1,707,780
Kodiak	43,044	Wasilla	802,636


Alaska Soil & Water Conservation Districts
N
Anchorage
Fairbanks
Homer
Kenai
Kenny Lake
Kodiak
Mid Yukon Kuskokwim
Palmer
Salcha Delta
Southeast
Upper Susitna
Wasilla
Communities
Kotzebue
Nome
Eagle
Fairbanks
Delta Junction
Tok
McGrath
Talkeetna
Glennallen
Aniak
Bethel
Wasilla
Palmer
Anchorage
Valdez
Cordova
Kenai
Seward
Haines
Homer
Juneau
Dillingham
Sitka
Kodiak
Ketchikan
Cold Bay
0 60 120 240 Miles
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Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District

FY2013 Annual Report

Conservation vs. Preservation - What's the Difference?

One of the central controversies of the twentieth-century environmental movement has been between those who want to preserve "wilderness" and those who support managed use of the material resources. The latter is sometimes referred to as the management of resources on a sustainable yield basis. "Conservation: The maintenance of environmental quality and resources or a particular balance among the species present in a given area. The resources may be physical (e.g. fossil fuels), biological (e.g. tropical forests), or cultural (e.g. ancient monuments). In modern scientific usage conservation implies sound biosphere management within given social and economic constraints, producing goods and services for humans without depleting natural ecosystem diversity, and acknowledging the naturally dynamic character of biological systems. This contrasts with the preservationist approach which, it is argued, protects species or landscapes without reference to natural change in living systems or to human requirements."

(Source: The Concise Oxford Dictionary of Ecology, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1994)

Board of Supervisors & Team

Bret Burroughs, Chair
Jon Nauman, Vice-Chair
Linda Boggs, Treasurer/Secretary
Fred Wolfley, Supervisor
Denise Chythlook, Supervisor

The ASWCD Mission:

Supporting self-governance and private property rights, to assist landowners and managers with conservation and development through technical, financial and educational programs

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The ASWCD's boundaries are the same boundaries as the Municipality of Anchorage: from Portage to the Knik River, including the communities of Portage, Girdwood, Turnagain Arm, Anchorage, Eagle River, Birchwood, Chugiak, Peters Creek, and Eklutna

Letter From The Chair

It's that time of year again, time to look back over the past year and measure our worth - what did we contribute. Well, the short answer is a lot and I'm very proud of our District; the more detailed answer is that we are continuing, as difficult as it is, to keep the Anchorage Woodlot alive for Anchorage's property owners managing their forests and wildfire danger; we stopped catastrophic flooding of a neighborhood (and two bridges) in Peters Creek; in a first, we helped all the communities within the Municipality and north of Anchorage write their own Land Use Code (Chapter 10 of Title 21), giving the residents of those communities a true and meaningful voice in their communities for today and into the future, and implemented their values based in self-governance, self-determination, and with absolute respect for property rights and the voice of the area; and so much more.

We are making a true and genuine difference with what the ASWCD does, no hype or marketing campaigns that would make us look like a large organization of bureaucrats - we're just who we are - honest, hardworking people, a concept created by the Territorial Legislature in 1947, to be run through official elections by property owners, to represent the property owners and fill a void in the needs of the area, yet be a part of the State System under DNR to advise DNR and in turn DNR provides a home in the state system for us and we usually have a cooperative relationship. We're just regular people. We own and work for private sector businesses, not agencies with seemingly endless dollars. We take the ASWCD a step further and operate it under a rational business model. The only employees of the District are part-time, temporary positions at the Woodlot - aside from that, ALL of our work is done through contracts with private sector companies. Our board is made of volunteers with a passion to do facilitate responsible conservation with responsible development.

The void we fill is a unique entity unlike any other available - an organization that works under strict confidentiality and respect with those we represent or work for, an organization that assists property owners in permitting, regulatory, or other issues so they can develop or enjoy the property they own, fixes resource issues like with the catastrophic flooding in Peters Creek, water quality, or the remediation of Sand Lake, we bring quality science, exceptional engineering, common sense, and rationality to many discussions, issues, proposed policy, etc., we help property owners reclaim their lives from the occasional misapplication or confused regulations or an occasional overzealous agency representative. We've mediated highly contentious issues to a successful conclusion, we're advocates for local and State control of issues beyond Federal scope (State's Rights), and we do it all with absolute protection of private property rights and the other rights we have as Americans and Alaskans, and with genuine respect where earned. And that was just this year.

One of the more recently publicized issues (not originating on our end) is with regard to our stance on the need for science and common sense to dictate our course of action on the protection of biodiversity, specifically non-native plants - not emotion, not federally-led or an extreme environmentalist path or non-Alaskans, not targeting a plant based on innuendo or woefully inadequate data. The implementation of this eviction of anything considered non-native, protection of biodiversity movement, if it is to be done in Alaska, has to be science-led, financially viable, do-able, not quash private property rights or disrespect to property owners in even the slightest, it must be rational and reasonable, and above all, not as another hammer to prevent development and use of our lands and resources.

The approach must be carefully controlled (and controlled at the state and local level), kept to species that do *actual harm* to our state, our agriculture, our aquaculture, wildlife habitat, something tangible and quantifiable. Financial and manpower resources only directed to the few species of true harm only, so we have even a chance at being successful. We must also stop allowing those who benefit from endless science project dollars to be the only lobbyists for funding or policy, rather, there should be a council of scientist, land managers, economists, property owners, agricultural/aquaculture producers, the businesswomen and men, best in class stakeholders in Alaska, to oversee and approve the expenditure of funds, the setting of priorities, the writing and implementation of Regulation(s), a broader, more responsible view - a council to double-check that the science is there to support the idea this certain plant is indeed non-native, invasive, and should/could be eradicated from the state, and then to make sure an effective program is implemented, statewide, so we have the best chance possible of eradicating the plant.

From our perspective without the oversight of responsible stakeholders in the process, our state is only creating another tool by which to create inequality and discourse preventing a sustainable future for generations to come.

-- Bret Burroughs

Anchorage Woodlot, Biomass Utilization & Composting

This was the Woodlot's sixth year under a self-sustaining business mode, the location remains at the South Anchorage Sports Park. Proceeds continue to closely match expenses, biomass utilization remains an issue without a permanent solution. The two controlling factors for the woodlot are property and utilization of the resulting material.

The woodlot supports property owners in their active management of their property and being wildfire-aware and active stewards of their land, the woodlot has become a cornerstone program of the community.

The ASWCD Anchorage Woodlot processes all brush, limbs, and other material dropped off, into a ground material (more than 2,500 tons a season), that is available to the community free of charge. All firewood and firewood-suitable logs are also free.

This year's Anchorage Woodlot was made possible in partnership with Alaska Land Clearing, LLC and Mayor Sullivan's Administration, who allowed us to use the unused area of the South Anchorage Sports Park. Thank you again from the ASWCD and the community we serve!

Whether it be firewood and groundcover from the woodlot, composting, biomass to energy or heat, or biomass to value added product, the District has been supporting utilization in all forms. Anchorage has tremendous biomass and compost feedstock resources, that are greatly untapped.

The ASWCD has assisted several potential start-ups with business plans, providing technical expertise, supplying data, and/or support through their respective processes, testing, permitting, or exploration of the possibilities. The ASWCD also teaches Composting 101, Large Animal, and other classes and is providing support to the community in their, and our, quest to become more self-sufficient and less wasteful of our resources.

Can you find the semi truck in the above picture?

Active Property management & Conservation Planning

The District is always available to the residents of our District to assist in becoming active managers of the natural resources in their control. Whether it be a Conservation Plan for an agricultural or non-agricultural facility or property, forestry, assistance with permitting, or technical support, we are helping property owners use and develop their land, protect their property rights, and to be good stewards.

Conservation Plans provide several benefits for property owners, including making properties more chore-friendly and easier to manage, bringing them into compliance with Municipal Code, and helping to provide protection under State law for agricultural properties within the Municipality.

The District team works one-on-one with property owners, in the strictest of confidentiality, to design and implement site-specific Best Management Practices as wanted by the property owner, such as creating vegetation and buffering strategy, manure and mud management plans, and to address drainage, erosion, or other natural resource concerns, as well as assist property owners in many other aspects.

Sand Lake Vegetation Management Project

Sand Lake is a community lake within the Municipality with an overgrowth of vegetation, including the plant Elodea, in certain areas of the lake. We are continuing to collect data and plan for treatment to begin spring 2014. While some blanket statements have recently been made declaring Elodea non-native, our investigation has found this information to not be scientifically provable, in fact, DNA analysis of one strain of Sand Lake's Elodea (which has been present since before the 1960's) has a unique DNA sequence not previously seen in North America, which, with other factors, may be an indication of an Alaska-hybridized version of Elodea in addition to the Canadensis and Nuttalli strains also found across the state.

When it is in normal, healthy populations, Elodea can be a unique and beneficial plant to the waterbodies that it is supposed to be in. Therefore, we find that it is necessary to answer the native vs. non-native question before proceeding with the only goal to be eradication of the plant. We, and many scientists, believe that the vegetation overgrowth is a symptom of the true problem in Sand Lake (and the other lakes connected to Sand Lake) of overabundant nutrients and a sedimentation problem. By addressing the sedimentation problem, the habitat for the Elodea is decreased or eliminated, which in turn gets the population to a level that is healthy and a habitat for the fish in the lakes (overgrowth produces thick mats of Elodea that are only pleasing to Pike).

We are working with the property owners of the lake to decide the best course of action while protecting their property rights and the lake's health. In this, we have found ourselves at odds with a federal agency (US Fish and Wildlife Service) who are pushing for the irresponsible use of an herbicide untested in Alaska. This not only causes a risk management issue, but it also creates a threat to the adjacent Class A wetlands, attached lakes, and it kills all vegetation in the lake, not just the targeted species. Causing a mass kill of all vegetation may likely add to the sedimentation problem, increasing the fertility of the muck, and all experts that we've consulted agree. Elodea is present in many waterbodies in the state, and because the herbicides cannot reach the full depth of the sediment, it is considered virtually impossible to truly eradicate when in an aquatic environment. In fact, experts in the field of aquatics do not even use the term eradication when discussing projects like this as eradication is seen as an impossible goal.

We will continue to work with the property owners and experts to implement the most cost-effective option(s) that produce the longest-term results, resulting in a healthy lake ecosystem that can manage itself, including the natural regulating of plant populations and sediment/muck to keep the lake healthy.

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Assistance to Consortium of Chugiak-Eagle River Community Councils, Title 21

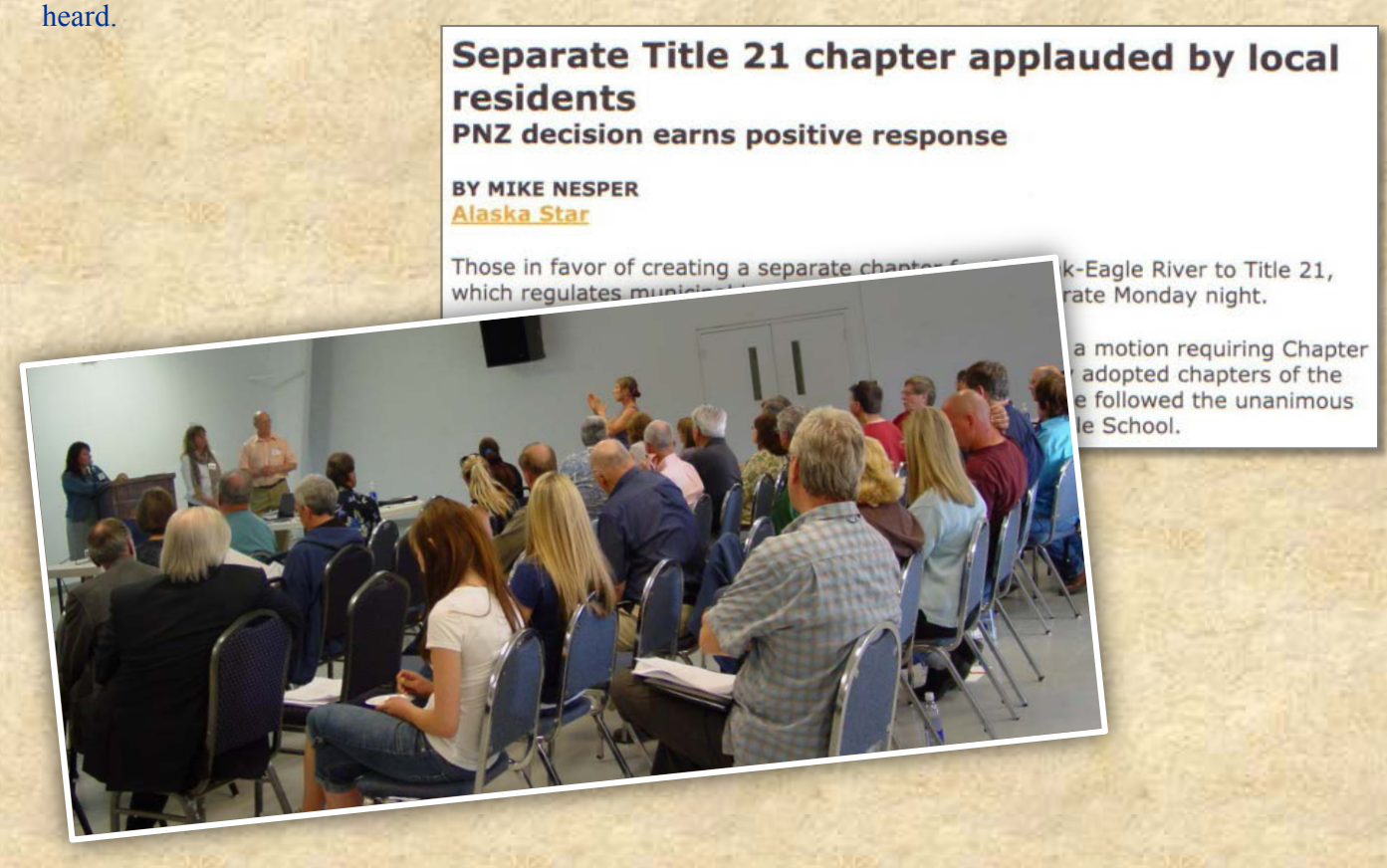
In recognizing the value of community and the values they share in common, the property and business owners of the Chugiak-Eagle River area petitioned the Municipal Assembly for a separate chapter within the Municipal Land Use Code. In the time-honored tradition of self-governance the citizens of the C-ER area worked to write their own land use code within the framework of the up-dated Title 21.
The process of rewriting and eventual adoption of the new Title 21 took more than a decade.

In February 2013, the Municipal Assembly adopted the new Land Use Code. Contained in the new code was Chapter 10, the Land Use Regulations for the Chugiak-Eagle River Area, which include Birchwood, Chugiak, Eagle River, Eagle River Valley, Eklutna Valley, the Native Village of Eklutna, Peters Creek, and Southfork.

The C-ER Consortium of Community Councils worked tirelessly completing hundreds of hours in public meetings, data gathering, discussions, meetings with Community Planning, numerous reiterations of preliminary drafts and a final draft for consideration and adoption by the Municipal Assembly.

Beginning in November 2009, the Consortium asked the ASWCD to coordinate their activities and work within the Consortium's timeline to produce a finished Land Use Code in conjunction with what the Municipality was accomplishing under the Title 21 rewrite. A suitable first draft was prepared for consideration by the Planning and Zoning Commission in early 2011. In August of 2012, the Planning Commission approved Chapter 10 subject to minor changes. By the spring of 2013, the Municipal Assembly ratified the Planning Commission and Consortium's hard work by placing Chapter 10 within the approved Municipal Land Use Code.

We are truly humbled by the role ASWCD has had in the development of this truly historic document of the people of the CER area. The communities of C-ER have found a voice of their own and the means to be heard.



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Inserting Common Sense and Rational Process Into the Non-Native Plants Movement

We are bridging the gap between private property owners, developers, and others, with the agencies, in the hopes of bringing responsible implementation of invasives control and the movement to eradicate anything considered non-native.

It is the position of the ASWCD that there are species of concern that must be addressed, but that the program, projects, and possible regulations, must be reasonable in their implementation. The broad statement that all plants considered non-native must be eradicated from the state is unreasonable as many non-native plants currently being looked at by the movement, like Kentucky Bluegrass, Alfalfa, Timothy, etc., are beneficial plants that were introduced to our state to support agriculture and other important functions, and do not cause harm to wildlife habitat. We do not fully accept the movement's definition of harm to habitat being only the presence of the plant as it may grow in space that a native plant *could* be growing in - in fact, some plants like Timothy, increase habitat.

Whatever program is put into place must also be under the control of local and State entities, not led by Federal agencies as is presently done. Further, this program must be cost-effective and only take on species that have a chance of being eradicated. Lastly, all species targeted for eradication must be done on a statewide level - it makes absolutely no sense for one area to be expending resources to eradicate a plant while a neighboring, adjacent area does not. It is common sense to recognize plants do not respect a boundary on a map, seeds are transported by wind, wildlife, and a host of other transportation methods.

We are also working toward this movement being led by science, the scientific method, and a defendable, respectable process, not arbitrary actions by agencies and people funded by those agencies. We also are concerned that there is a conflict of interest in these individuals lobbying for funding and regulations, when that funding goes to support their own jobs, creating a situation where any and all plants can be marked for eradication as it just means more money for those same jobs. Instead, this movement should be governed by a group of land managers, business people and private industry who understand cost-benefit, others who understand the issues, third-party scientists, and agencies, who can then be the lobbyists for projects that meet a responsible criteria.

ANCHORAGE SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

"A weed is but a misplaced plant"
-Emerson (1803-1882)

Policy Discussion: Invasive / Non-Native Plants

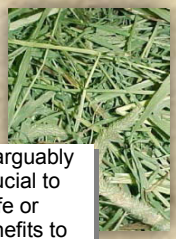
This year the Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District (ASWCD) made a decision to not participate in a statewide program to implement an agency-driven, Federally-controlled program. Before making this decision we spent a considerable amount of Board and contractor time in due diligence, researching and receiving education on the topic.

The ASWCD assists property owners in the control of plants not wanted on their properties, but this statewide program goes much farther.

has never participated. This year the AACD pursued and secured funding through the US Forest Service (USFS) and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) to implement a statewide invasive/non-native plants program. The subject funding is being distributed by the USFS to the AACD.

In December of 2009 the ASWCD was asked to implement this program in the Anchorage District and we appointed a Committee with members from the horticultural industry, science community, development and construction industries, agricultural base, and other

Canada Thistle: justified listing - a species clearly causing harm, and spread is such that it can be eradicated, is on the SOA Prohibited List, eradication efforts are effective



Timothy Grass: should not be listed - arguably the most common livestock forage, crucial to agricultural interests, no harm to wildlife or habitat has been shown; however, benefits to wildlife and habitat *have* been shown

Ruth Arcand Park Trails

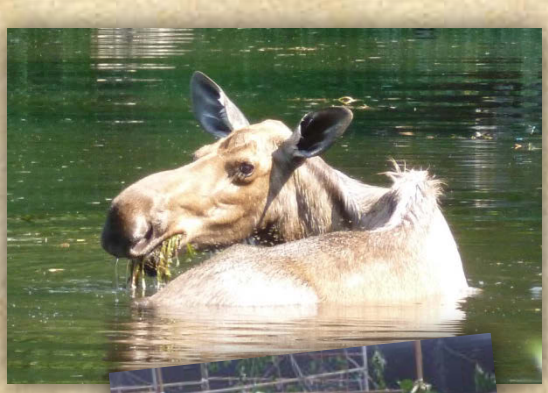
In partnership with the Anchorage Horse Council, and with the support of so many wonderful volunteers that have given many hours of their time, we are working to improve the trails within the William Clark Chamberlin Equestrian Center and Ruth Arcand Park.

Wildlife Natural Resources: Anchorage and Rural Alaska Working Together

The District continued its support of programs and projects that benefit both Alaska's wildlife and Alaska's people. In supporting the Wood Bison Reintroduction project, which will bring back a species that used to help sustain Alaskans and has only been extinct in Alaska for less than 100 years, and the programs of the Alaska Moose Federation which support better management and less wasting of our moose natural resources.

In the reintroduction of Wood Bison, many people have worked together to make this happen for rural Alaska: The AWCC, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, ASWCD, Canada's National Recovery Team for Wood Bison, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, International Union for the Conservation of Nature/Species Survival Commission- Bison Specialist Group, Alaska Outdoor Council, Safari Club International, the Wildlife Conservation Society, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Eastern Regional Subsistence Advisory Council, Fish and Game Advisory Committees representing the three regions being considered for wood bison restoration, and many, many hundreds of supporters and people that need this resource to support their families. (www.alaskawildlife.org)

The ASWCD has also been a supporter of the Alaska Moose Federation (AMF) since the beginning. The AMF is working to improve our management of moose resources, a resource that in the past has been taken for granted, or sometimes just plain wasted. Supporters of this effort include the ASWCD, Sampson Steel, Pruhs Corporation, NC Machinery, Alaska Mill and Feed, Native Village of Eyak, Tyonek Native Corporation, Sportsman's Warehouse, Surveyor's Exchange, Wendy's of Alaska, Great Northern Engineering, Granite Construction, Alaska Air Taxi, Alaska Highway Safety Office, Evert's Air Service, all of their outstanding volunteers, and many others. (www.growmoremoose.org)



Peters Creek Flooding & Erosion Control

Continued monitoring of the section of creek that we altered has shown an end to the massive flooding that plagued that section for many decades, including the catastrophic flooding in winter 2006 when the District interceded to stop the flooding. The District stopped the flooding and prevented the local access bridge from demolition, then followed with construction the following year.

The flooding and windstorms that came with September 2012 had a profound effect on Peters Creek. Hundreds of trees were downed, and thousands of tons of gravel was deposited in the creek, greatly reducing the capacity of the creek. This resulted in emergency measures in the winter of 2012/2013, again needing to blast in the creek. This time though, the aufeising and flooding spanned the entire stretch from above the Starner Bridge downstream past the Stoltze Bridge.

Without mitigation of the changed conditions from the flooding, it is expected the creek will continue this pattern until enough of the gravel has flushed out of the creek bed for a centralized, deep channel to accommodate the massive amounts of water Peters Creek conveys. If left to do this on its own, it could take a decade, no one knows for certain.

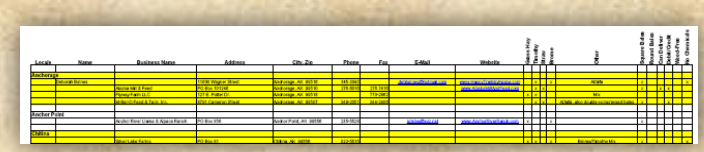
Assistance & Tidbits

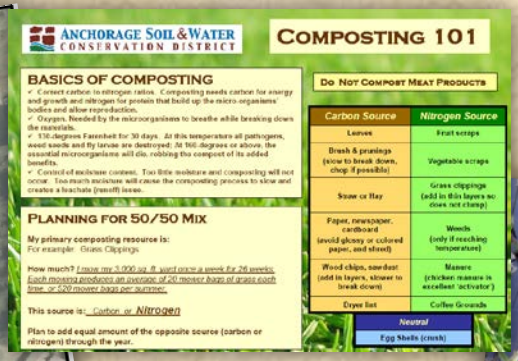
The ASWCD was asked to assist in several issues to assist/represent property owners in interactions with agencies and other issues, including:

- Assisted two property owners with serious soil erosion and permitting issues;
- Assisted, and prevailed, with a property owner in a significant property rights case regarding alleged wetlands;
- Prepared for the fall 2013 installation of a significant-sized drainage system for a neighborhood on Anchorage's hillside;
- Prepared for fall 2013 construction in Valdez to prevent continued flooding;
- Inserted science into a growing problem of herbicide carryover with herbicides such as Aminopyralid, Clopyralid, etc. and started a statewide dialogue on the problem;
- Provided technical expertise in multiple discussions, issues, and community gatherings; and
- The ASWCD assisted several property owners in issues with agencies, acting in an advocacy and/or mediation capacity.

Buy Local: Forage Directory

The District continues its publication and distribution of its Forage Directory, a statewide comprehensive list of forage producers, with detailed production data, to aid in the linking of producers and buyers and promote the use of locally grown product. The Forage Directory is an invaluable source for its users and many of the producers listed have commented that their sales have increased since their listing in the directory, some selling out. Some have also commented that the Forage Directory has also been a catalyst for an improvement in quality through better management of crops.





What They're Saying This Year - About Sand Lake

I was born and raised in Anchorage. I have lived on or around Sand Lake for my entire life and I have a home on Sand Lake now. I have witnessed the decline of the lake's health as development proceeded on and around the lake. Many of the developments have contributed to the sediment flow into the lake and the contaminated water flow into the lake.

As a Sand Lake property owner, I want to thank you for your great work and real concern for our lake's health. This summer is the first time that I have seen any organization make a real effort to solve our lake's problems. Your organization studied the problems and analyzed the water and the sediment in a logical method to identify the pollution and its sources. Your approach of removing the emotional responses that seems to prevail in the thinking of many of the people who have made suggestions and proposals for the lake's problems. The idea of using chemicals to kill water plants was bad from the beginning. Your rational approach makes a lot more sense.

Sincerely, T

I have been working closely with the Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District (ASWCD) for the last year to establish a procedure and methodology for dealing with some of the problematic lake issues in Southcentral Alaska, specifically Elodea and other vegetation overgrowth.

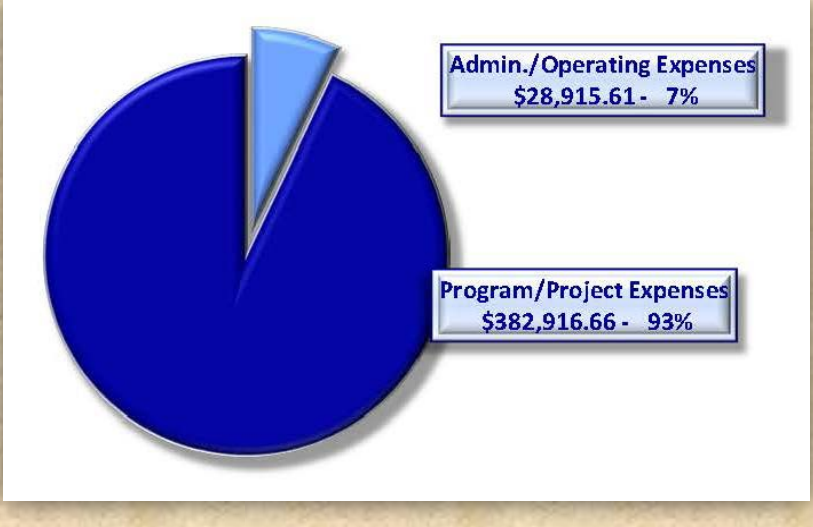
During this time, I have found ASWCD to be very professional in the approach to the problem. They have enlisted the help of numerous scientists to help educate them as to the role of Elodea in nature and to its possible dangers and benefits. The approach that ASWCD has taken has been very structured and scientifically defensible.

The staff and contractors for the ASWCD have conducted themselves very professionally and I believe have used their best efforts to defend the publics' right to know about the problem and to be fully informed about the various possible actions that may need to be taken.

Sincerely, R

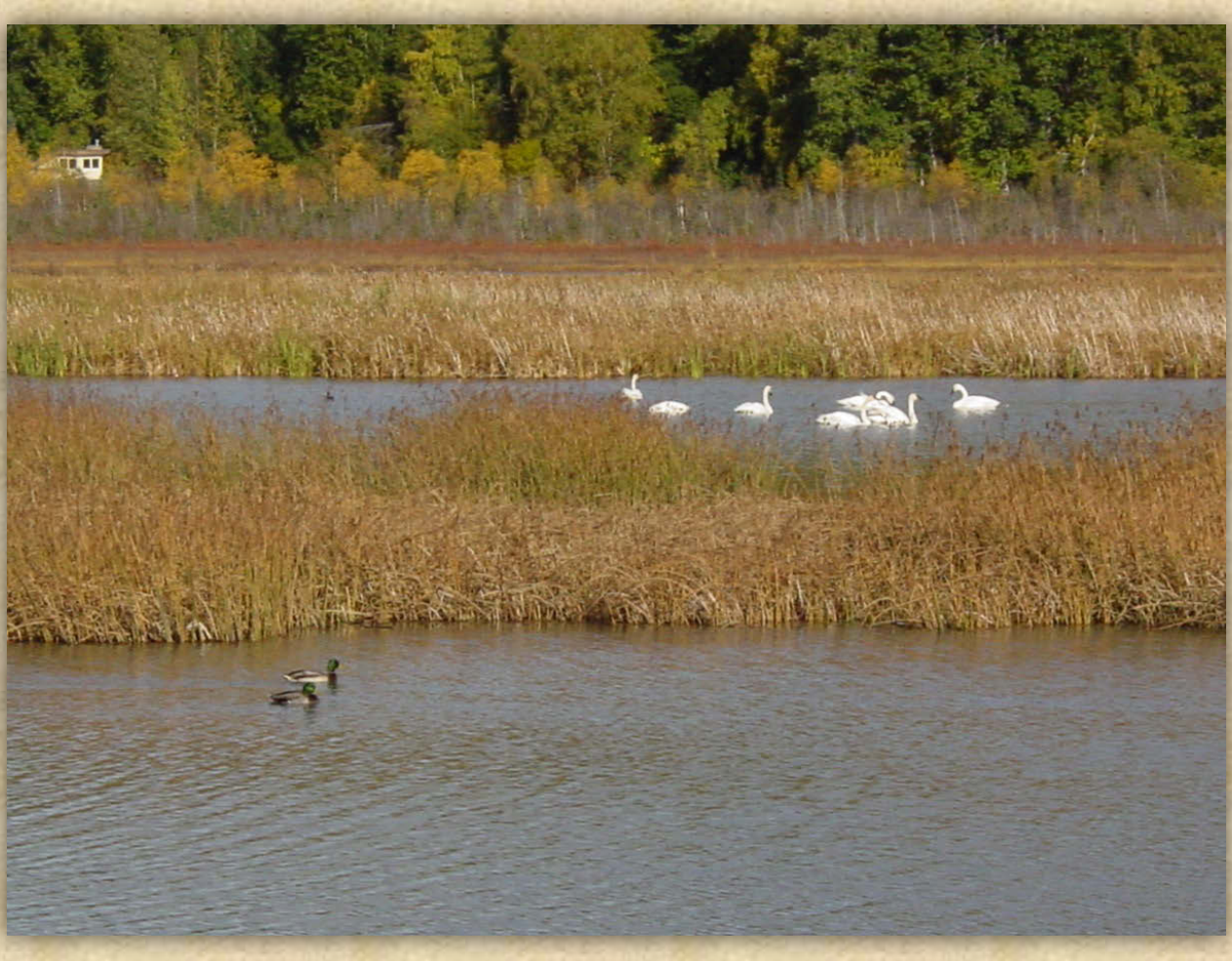
Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District
Fiscal Year 2013 Financial Report

Program / Project / Funding Source	Admin. / Operating Expense	Program or Project Expense	Total FY2013 Expenses	FY2013 Revenue & Proceeds
Anchorage Woodlot, 2012 Season, User Proceeds	$ 379.52	$ 62,209.86	$ 62,589.38	$ 53,272.49
Anchorage Woodlot, 2013 Season, User Proceeds	$ 11.10	$ 9,257.59	$ 9,268.69	$ 24,480.56
Biomass Utilization, MOA SWS Grant	$ -	$ (963.75)	$ (963.75)	$ -
Composting and EarthMachines, MOA	$ -	$ 900.00	$ 900.00	$ 300.00
Consortium of Chugiak-Eagle River Community Councils, Services	$ -	$ 41,775.92	$ 41,775.92	$ 43,934.04
DNR / SOA Annual Cooperative Agreement	$ 226.40	$ 1,106.25	$ 1,332.65	$ -
Homestead Trail Drainage, FY13 SOA	$ 1,438.97	$ 15,493.10	$ 16,932.07	$ 5,828.69
Operating Account, Unrestricted Funds	$ 3,098.67	$ 59,083.57	$ 72,182.24	$ 64,874.01
Donations, Pass It Forward Account	$ -	$ -	$ -	$ 500.00
Peters Creek, FY12 SOA	$ 968.93	$ 6,031.40	$ 7,000.33	$ -
Peters Creek, FY13 SOA	$ 1,567.20	$ 48,131.67	$ 49,698.87	$ 75,000.00
Peters Creek Bridge Feasibility Study, Services	$ -	$ 150.00	$ 150.00	$ -
Ruth Arcand Park Trails, FY13 SOA	$ 706.58	$ 7,575.91	$ 8,282.49	$ -
Sand Lake Vegetation Mgmt, FY13 SOA/MOA	$ 6,000.00	$ 67,500.00	$ 73,500.00	$ 67,468.85
State of Alaska / AACD FY12 Operating Grant	$ 3,326.54	$ 28,981.05	$ 32,307.59	$ 23,122.50
State of Alaska / AACD FY13 Operating Grant	$ -	$ 24,323.41	$ 24,323.41	$ 4,281.98
Valdez Flooding Project, FY12 SOA	$ 1,191.70	$ 11,360.68	$ 12,552.38	$ -
TOTALS	**$ 28,915.61**	**$ 382,916.66**	**$ 411,832.27**	**$ 363,063.12**



Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District

P.O. Box 110309 - Anchorage, AK 99511-0309
Phone: 907.677.SOIL (7645)
E-Mail: aswcd@aswcd.org
www.ASWCD.org



FAIRBANKS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Memorandum to: ***State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources***

From: ***Fairbanks Soil & Water Conservation District***

Subject: ***Annual Report of Accomplishments: July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013***

Date: ***October 15, 2013***

Chairman's Report

Highlights included:
1. 35 new cooperators joined the district
2. Boundary expansion to rural areas
3. Elodea trials continued
4. Community Habitat program
5. Completion of Persinger Culvert on Chena Slough

Mission: The mission of the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District is to promote and assist in the development of private land using sustainable practices and offer natural resource technical and educational assistance to our cooperators and the general public in our critical natural resource areas. The FSWCD acts as a liaison between private landowners and land users and other agencies and organizations in these critical areas.

Goals: Promotion of sustainable agriculture, natural resource education and affordable energy, prevention and eradication of invasive weeds, and conservation of forestry, soil, and water resources.

Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District continued to provide natural resource education, technical assistance, and conservation projects "on the ground" this year to assist their cooperators and other land users. In spite of financial and other internal challenges, FSWCD expanded its borders, added 35 cooperators, hosted two high tunnel workshops and provided over 40 soil recommendations, started new projects, and continued with some of last years' successful programs.

New projects included working toward the goal of affordable energy by training staff in the NRCS farm energy audit program, participating in alternative energy forums, and promoting rural energy assistance; starting a dialogue with interior mining operations to see if we can assist them in their struggle to continue to operate utilizing best management practices while coming under numerous and complicated types of government scrutiny and regulation; and assessing the needs of the Chena River and educating the public about its importance to the Chinook salmon crisis.

Persinger culvert was replaced during 2012. The new culvert will improve fish passage and benefit other wildlife.

FAIRBANKS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Our Community Habitat program encouraged homeowners along the Chena River to test their soil to prevent excessive runoff and consider bioengineering for their erosion problems. In addition, our district was awarded the management of the statewide Agriculture in the Classroom and will expand the program in the coming year.

Invasive weeds, particularly the aquatic invasive *Elodea*, continued to be high on the list for our cooperators' requests for assistance and FSWCD partnered again with numerous agencies and Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) residents to combat the problem. Other high priority invasive species infestations were controlled with the cooperation of landowners in Ft. Yukon and Stevens Village.

FSWCD, in partnership with USFWS, continued work on six schoolyard habitats and added Cantwell School this year. Natural Resource lessons were taught in classrooms and in the FNSB after school program as well as at many community events. We sponsored two district youth corps which taught youth about natural resource issues while utilizing their time for restoration projects in Fairbanks, Nenana, Healy, and Cantwell. Our district believes natural resource education is a top priority, and while it is often difficult to find funding for education, continues to pursue the expansion of our education program.

FSWCD worked with local, state, and federal partners to accomplish their goals this year. FSWCD particularly thanks the state of Alaska and our legislators who expanded district funding for this year and the year ahead. We are also excited to be a part of the successful commitment by the state and legislature to open the Nenana/Tochaket area to land use by building the bridge across the Nenana River, as well as funding the first part of the road between Manly and Tanana.

Goal 1: Prevention and Eradication of Noxious and Invasive Species

Highlight: *Stevens Village Creeping thistle (Cirsium arvense) eradication*
Cirsium arvense is an invasive plant that was found in 2011 growing on the airstrip pad in Stevens Village. This was the farthest north known population of creeping thistle in Alaska, and is considered a high priority invasive plant due to its ability to spread quickly and alter landscapes. FSWCD acted swiftly that year to visit the site and remove all above-ground biomass. The next year FSWCD returned and applied an herbicide to the infestation. In 2013 the site was re-visited and no new growth was observed. It was likely introduced from equipment brought to the village for work on the airstrip, an issue that needs to be addressed to prevent new infestations in rural areas. The Fairbanks SWCD has partnered with the Stevens Village Tribal Council, Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, and the State of Alaska Division of Agriculture to complete this project. FSWCD will visit the site one final time in 2014 to ensure the population of this nefarious weed will not return.

Cirsium arvense flowers

Herbicide application in 2012

Site visit in 2013 to confirm no regrowth of the infestation

General:

- Coordination of Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) meetings. Cooperating agencies include: Cooperative Extension Service, US Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Tanana Valley Farmer's Market, Department of Transportation, USKH, Inc, and concerned citizens.
- Participation in Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plant Management (CNIPM). Monthly teleconferences, listerv, and annual conference. Staff member, Darcy Etcheverry, was the CNIPM board chair for 2011 until November 2012, is currently a board member, and participated in the Weed-free Forage subcommittee.
- Coordination of the Elodea Steering Committee, which is working to manage the Elodea sp. infestation in the Chena Slough.
- With support from the US Forest Service, initiated a Vetch Busters program to provide technical and financial support to neighborhoods that are coordinating bird vetch control along their roadsides.
- Continued support of the Weed Cost Share program.
- Equipment lending program
- Provided direct invasive plant control information to 50 landowners.

Inventory & Control:

- Continued partnership with the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge and Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government in Fort Yukon to manage white sweetclover (*Melilotus alba*) on tribal lands.
- Utilized herbicides to control the farthest north known infestation of creeping thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) in Alaska at Stevens Village through a partnership with the Division of Agriculture, Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge, and Stevens Village Tribal Council.
- Sampled Elodea tissue in Chena Slough to determine whether or not the Elodea waste can be made available as a compostable material.
- Continued Elodea control trials using a suction dredge, hand pulling, and hand clipping in Chena Slough and Chena Lake to assess appropriate control methods in still and moving water.
- Aquatic invasive plant surveys at Chena Lake, Harding Lake, Birch Lake, and Quartz Lake with support from Salcha-Delta SWCD.
- Finalized Chena Slough hydraulic assessment through a contract with a local hydrologist to design ways to increase flow in Chena Slough to inhibit the growth of Elodea. Results presented at Chena Slough Open House in North Pole.
- Worked with researchers at University of Alaska Anchorage to begin herbicide trials on Elodea, including testing environmental fates of those herbicides in Alaska's cool waters.

Education:

- Invasive plant information reached thousands of people through outreach at various community events, including: Tanana Valley State Fair (1,000), Chena Slough Open House (60), Legislative Natural Resource Showcase (20), Sustainable Agriculture Conference (150), Northern Living Home Show (1,200), Fairbanks Outdoor Show (2,000),Chena River Summit, Tanana Valley Farmers Market (100), Chena Riverwalk (100).

- Provided invasive plant presentations at professional conferences: Alaska Invasive Species Conference and the Chena River Summit.
- Invasive plant lessons, utilizing the Weed Wackers curriculum set and other resources, were provided to various classrooms throughout the school year, including classes at: Salcha-Delta SWCD Conservation Camp, Hutchison High School, Joy Elementary, Badger Road Elementary, and Effie Kokrine Charter School.
- Participated in the Alaska Envirothon as part of the exam developers for the 'aquatics' section, which included scenarios with infestations of Elodea.
- The 2012 and 2013 Fairbanks Weed Smackdown were both held during this reporting period and each year recruited around 100 people to pull over 3,000 lbs of invasive plants from local recreation areas. In 2012 Tanana Lakes Recreation Area was targeted, and the Fairbanks Dog Park in 2013.
- Hosted a Bird Vetch public forum to teach the community about bird vetch (*Vicia cracca*) control and enlist neighborhoods to join the Vetch Busters program.
- Created aquatic invasive species outreach postcards for distribution to the local and statewide community.
- Aquatic invasive species Public Service Announcement was produced for radio by FSWCD and aired statewide from June 15 – September 15, 2013



The photo on the left and the one in the middle show the 2012 Elodea removal barge with suction dredge. Trials conducted proved that a larger boat was needed. The photo on the right shows the bigger barge in the process of being built (early summer 2013).

The FSWCD 2013 Homeshow booth theme was "Pirates of the Chena River", which incorporated lots of information about Elodea and invasive species control. Pictured on the right are our partners April and Jon from the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Weed Smackdown 2013

FAIRBANKS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Goal 2: Conservation of Plant and Soil Resources

Highlight: The USFWS funded a project called "Community Habitat" in which FSWCD staff provided free soil sampling and information on sustainable lawn practices and riparian health/restoration to landowners along the Chena River and its sloughs. The outreach was very successful and resulted in new partnerships as well as the beginning of several new stream-bank restoration projects on private property along the Chena.

**also see Goal 7 (Assistance to NRCS through contracts) for more conservation of plant and soil resources work, and Goal6 for habitat restoration work*

- Advertised, recruited and then provided information on sustainable lawn practices and riparian restoration to 16 riverfront landowners, including soil analysis and fertilizer recommendations
- Provided soil analysis and fertilizer recommendations to 45 customers through the FSWCD Soil Sampling Program
- Technical Assistance on soil topics to at least 8 cooperators, including creation of soil and wetland maps
- Nature trail designed for Woodriver Elementary School

Education:

- Denali After School Program – 16 lessons – Approximately 10 students per lesson
- North Pole Elem After School Program – 7 lessons – Approximately 5 students per lesson
- Hunter Elem After School Program – 7 lessons – Approximately 5 students per lesson
- Planning and Design of Woodriver Elementary School Yard Habitat- nature trail- worked with PTA, teachers and community to create design and plan.
- Soil enhancement at Woodriver school
- Plant resource and informational booklet created for patrons at tree sale
- 4H Clover Bud camp –3 days of lessons. Approximately 25 students per lesson

Assistance to landowner along Chena Slough

Soil testing for riverfront properties (N,P,K, and pH)

FAIRBANKS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Goal 3: Sustainable Agricultural Resources and Economy

Highlight: During early October 2012, Joni and Jessica travelled to Central to provide technical assistance to landowners in that area. Landowners were excited to find out about the soil sampling program and the NRCS cost-share for high tunnels. Soil samples were brought back for several different gardens and a lawn area. It was great to see that Central has some impressive gardens and greenhouses, with many innovative techniques being used.

**also see Goal 7 (Assistance to NRCS through contracts) for more agriculture work*

- Technical assistance to cooperators
- Review and assistance with about 5 Alaska Division of Agriculture Farm Conservation Plans
- Participation and outreach at the Greenhouse and Nursery Growers Conference, Peony Growers Conference, and Sustainable Agriculture Conference
- Displays at the Tanana Valley State Fair
- Bucks for Bales hay contest and sponsorship of Giant Cabbage & Farm and Garden Display at TVSF
- FSWCD sponsored trophies for the 4-H and other kid's animal events at the TVSF
- Alaska Agriculture day at the Chamber of Commerce
- Attending local peony growers, cooperative vegetable growers, and farm bureau meetings
- Assisting Alaska Division of Agriculture with assessment of a Kobe agriculture parcel (wetlands)
- At least 2 cooperators borrowed the FSWCD aerator for use on their hay fields

Education:

- Ryan Middle School After School Program – 28 lessons - Approximately 12-15 students per lesson
- Hunter Elementary After School Program - 13 lessons - Approximately 6 students per lesson
- Denali After School Program – 12 lessons - Approximately 12 students per lesson
- Joy Elementary After School Program - 13 lessons - Approximately 12 students per lesson
- Several staff members attended the NRCS pollinator training on March 28th.
- Provided a planting activity for THREAD during their outreach day for pre-school parents May 20th.

2012 Interns Christian and Rayna helping setup displays at the Tanana Valley State Fair

Judging the 2012 Bucks for Bales Contest

Goal 4: Conservation/Maintenance of Water Resources

Highlight: Persinger crossing was upgraded to improve fish passage for the Chena Slough. This project was completed with funding from the US Fish & Wildlife Service and State of Alaska Legislative funding. Additional partners included the Chena Slough Technical and Neighborhood Committees. FSWCD has helped replace 8 culverts on Chena Slough and the long-term goal is to replace 3 more. Culvert replacement is just one of the many ways in which FSWCD is working to restore the waterways in our district.

First water in the Persinger culvert

- Participation and assistance with the Chena River Summit and Chena River Walk
- Participation in Noyes Slough Clean-up
- Worked in partnership with TVWA, DEC and other groups to submit grant proposals for water quality monitoring and other projects
- Community Habitat Program: providing information on riparian habitat, restoration, salmon habitat etc. to landowners along the Chena River and sloughs
- Riparian restoration projects
    - FSWCD partnered with USFWS and State of Alaska on at least ten landowner riverbank restoration projects throughout our district using a variety of bio-engineering methods to prevent erosion and improve habitat (cabled spruce trees, veg-mat, brush layering, and root wads). These included a demonstration project at the Carlson Center, planning for restoration near the borough building, and a bank revetment at the Riverboat Discovery Boat Landing.
    - Partnered with Fairbanks City and TVWA on Chena River Shoreway park project that replaced a concrete runoff shoot with vegetation
- Green infrastructure
    - Completed the Homeowner Guide to Riparian Revegetation Techniques. Guides have been distributed at many outreach events including the home show, the Tanana Valley State Fair, the Chena Hot Springs Energy Fair.
    - Attended Green Infrastructure Working Group meetings on 8/24, 10/9, 2/12, and 4/23.
    - Attended FMATS meeting on Green Infrastructure restoration project on Chena River downtown
    - Gave a presentation on Green Infrastructure projects and examples in Fairbanks for the Chena River Summit held at the Carlson Center on May 1, 2013
    - Developed and submitted a new Green Infrastructure grant proposal to USFWS and it was approved. The focus of this new grant is to extend the reimbursement program to business owners.

- Wetland restoration and wildlife habitat: FSWCD partnered with USFWS on three wetland restoration projects. We also worked with them and the Fairbanks North Star Borough with clean-up at Tanana Lakes.
- Chena Slough Restoration planning: FSWCD hosted a Chena Slough community information summit at North Pole Hotel meeting room with about fifty people in attendance. It included information on *Elodea*, hydraulic analysis, culvert replacements, and grayling habitat changes. Community committees were formed and met to work on *Elodea* removal, public awareness, and continued restoration work.
- Chena River assessments, education about role in Chinook salmon habitat
- Aquatic invasive eradication trials and survey

Education:

- FSWCD had 2 educational booths at the Chena River Walk
- Anne Wien After School Program – 12 lessons – Approximately 10 students per lesson
- North Pole Elem After School Program – 7 lessons – Approximately 5 students per lesson
- Joy Elementary After School Program – 8 lessons - Approximately 12 students per lesson
- Taught lessons on Aquatic Invertebrates and Watershed to 5 classes (22-25 students per class) at North Pole Middle School
- Completed the installation of the two rain gardens in the front of the Woodriver school.
- Gave a presentation on March 8th to the students on rain garden development and function during a day where other professionals came to discuss elements of their project
- Provided technical assistance to THREAD, a pre-school support group, in the development of their outdoor classroom project.
- Assisted the US Fish and Wildlife Service's Youth Habitat Conservation Corps with designing and installing a demonstration rain garden at the Tanana Valley Farmer's Market. The 10 Students and 3 instructors planned the garden and sent letters to local businesses for donations of time and materials for the construction. Garden Size – 60 square feet. Property size - 35283.6 square feet. Additional 4-5000 square feet of road drains into property area.
- Set up and manned a table with live aquatic invertebrates for the USFWS Dragonfly Day held on June 29th at Creamers Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge
- Joni serves as the statewide project WET coordinator and regional representative on the National Project WET council.
- Member of the local storm-water committee

Aquatic insect educational booth at the River Walk

Dragonfly Day 2013

Farmer's Market Rain Garden 2012

Woodriver Rain Garden during a rain event

John, a fisherman on Chena Slough (Peede crossing) says "I come here all the time… this is my third time this spring- first time I caught anything this year"

-FSWCD Chena Slough Restoration

Shoreway park restoration, before (above) and after the concrete was removed and willows planted (right)

Goal 5: Conservation of Forest Resources

Highlight: The State of Alaska Community Forestry Program donated 300 birch seedlings to our office. Most of these seedlings were planted on local school grounds, with some also being potted for use in future projects. Hundreds of Fairbanks-area students were able to plant a seedling and learn about trees and the proper way to plant them.

- Woodlot walks for three cooperators
- Technical assistance on forestry topics
- Planning and assistance with Fairbanks firewood and air quality workshop
- Chairing of local Society of American Foresters chapter, including;
  - Developing agendas and recording meeting minutes
  - Planning technical sessions for continuing education credits
  - Attendance of Alaska SAF conference in Anchorage
  - Providing correspondence link between SAF members, chapter, and other groups
- Attendance at fruit tree grafting workshop
- Planning and participation in Arbor Day activities
- Planting of about 50 birch seedlings at Fort Wainwright golf course for restoration
- Annual tree and shrub sale
  - 224 pre-order customers
  - 60 or more customers the day of the tree sale
  - Additional customers purchased left-over trees throughout the summer

Education:

- Tree planting and lessons at North Pole Middle, Two Rivers, and JP Jones
- Denali After School Program – 8 classes – Approximately 12 students per lesson
- North Pole Elem. After School Program – 4 classes - Approximately 5 students per lesson
- Hunter Elementary After School Program – 3 classes - Approximately 10 students per lesson
- Prepared and taught lessons on Tree/plant identification and insect collecting techniques to Nenana Youth Conservation Corps on July 12, 2012. Assisted Joni with lesson on water testing and watershed education. ~15 Students and staff participated in the activities.
- Prepared and taught lessons on Tree/plant identification activities at Twin Bears Camp for the twenty two 6th grade students from the Watershed School on September 19, 2012
- Prepared for and gave a 3 hour presentation of Project Learning Tree activities and setting up forest study transects to UAF professor Jan Dawe's students in her BAKLAP program in April.

Spruce trees in a convertible at the Tree Sale

Grafting workshop at Cooperative Extension

Students potting tree seedlings at Woodriver Elementary

Jessica teaching the students about trees

Goal 6: Relevant Education and Information for all clientele, personnel, and partners

Public outreach and education:

- Booth at the Homeshow
- Attendance at Rare & Strategic Minerals Summit
- The Afterschool program was held at six local schools this year: Hunter Elementary School, Denali Elementary School, North Pole Elementary School, Anne Wien Elementary School, Joy Elementary School, and Ryan Middle School. A total of 106 classes served 5-15 students each time. Student numbers varied due to school and attendance. The topics for each quarter were as follows: Forest Exploration – 1st quarter, Soil and Water Activities – 2nd quarter, Agriculture in the Classroom – 3rd quarter, Gardening – 4th quarter.
- Attended the NCTC Schoolyard Habitat Training September 10, 2012- September 14th in Denali Natl. Park on how to develop Schoolyard Habitat programs with schools. Assisted with the local tour for

the NCTC facilitators of school sites and facilities in the Fairbanks district that was related to the workshop.

- Set up and manned an information table at the Community Outdoor Education Fair featuring author Richard Louv ("Last Child in the Woods") on September 5, 2012 with many handouts on our programs and a hands-on activity with aquatic insects.
- Presented a Project Wet/Learning Tree/ Project Wild workshop for UAF pre-service teachers
- Assisted with the continued development of The Alaska Natural Resource and Environmental Literacy Plan (ANRELP). Assisted with a focus group presentation at the Morris Thompson Center to gain public input on the plan. Gave a presentation to UA Chancellor Brian Rogers
- Participated in the Fairbanks District Science Fair Judging: Focus on natural resources
- Assisted with the Envirothon and judging of FFA convention
- Fairbanks Chamber of Commerce committee member on Natural Resource and Urban and Rural committees
- Barrow Schoolyard Habitat Project- planning and meeting with community and stakeholders to develop a plan for the following project components-
    - Construction of a traditional Inupiat Sod House including an outdoor learning area
    - Construction of environmentally friendly barricades behind the Senior Center to reduce noise and enhance outdoor interaction with students
    - Repair of existing hardened trail to protect and enhance the environment.
    - Construction of a new trail to connect the school to the learning area, Sod House, Inupiat Heritage Center, and Lagoon boardwalk
- Nenana Schoolyard Habitat
    - Completed work on playground (funded by a matching grant and project partners)
    - Conservation education for kids
    - Bridge constructed out of natural materials for river access for students, as well as clearing twenty-five 30 gallon trash bags of trash and debris, and constructing trails
- Nenana Youth Initiative
    - Employment of 6 high school aged young people and 2 college aged interns
    - Planting of native trees, trail construction, and trash clean-up
- Nenana Youth Corps
    - Employment of 10 youth corps members and 2 college aged interns
    - Clean up of creeks, creek banks, and wetlands
    - Stream bank restoration along the Nenana River (200 feet of stream bank)
    - Water quality testing at two sites on the Nenana River drainage
    - Mapping and removal of invasive species
    - Trail construction
- Fairbanks Youth for Habitat Restoration Corps
    - 15 students aged 13-15 participated, as well as 4 advanced students from the 2011 corps
    - Surveys for aquatic invasive species and riparian habitat
    - Restoration of gravel pits for wildlife habitat (native species plantings, invasive removal)
    - Invasive plant control work
    - Assistance with the Woodriver Schoolyard Habitat, rain gardens, and trail, the Watershed Schoolyard Habitat, and Two Rivers Schoolyard Habitat
    - Wetland restoration and trail work in the Tanana Lakes Recreation Area
    - Designed, built, and planted the Tanana Valley Farmer's Market rain garden
    - Soil sampling, tree planting, and water quality monitoring at Fort Wainwright

Joni and Brent in Barrow for Schoolyard Habitat planning

NCTC Training, Cantwell School

Trail work in Nenana by the Youth Crew

Youth corps member helping plant the pollinator garden at JP Jones Center

Youth planting trees in Nenana

Owl Pellet Dissection at ASP, North Pole Elementary 2012

Goal 7: Assistance to NRCS through contracts

- Conservation planning assistance to 12 landowners
- Outreach to new NRCS customers
- Assistance with local workgroup planning
- Outreach visit to Central, Alaska (including soil sampling and high tunnel information)
- Attendance at grazing conference and Farm Forum
- Wildlife and forestry training with NRCS forester
- Nutrient management and irrigation water management training
- High tunnel workshops in Fairbanks and Healy
- Processing, shipping, and getting data to NRCS staff for all soil samples (nutrient management)
- Floodplain easement assessments and monitoring on 16 parcels through ARRA funds including:
    - Monitoring of activities being done on easements for compliance
    - Invasive plant surveys and management plans
    - Mapping and report development
    - Demarcation of sites with conservation easement boundary signs
    - Outreach to landowners
    - Working with partners in Delta Junction to assist with an easement there
    - Training in Kenai and Homer on easements and invasive plants

Jessica taking soil samples in Central, AK on NRCS outreach trip

Fairbanks High Tunnel Workshop

Floodplain easement in Delta

Goal 8: Affordable Energy

- Certification of FSWCD staff member as an Ensave Data Collector for farm energy audits (through NRCS)
- Outreach to public about farm energy audit program
- Letters were sent to target businesses that could benefit from farm-scale energy audits
- Educational activities for kids at Chena Hot Springs Renewable Energy Fair
- Promotion of rural energy assistance
- Participation in alternative energy forums

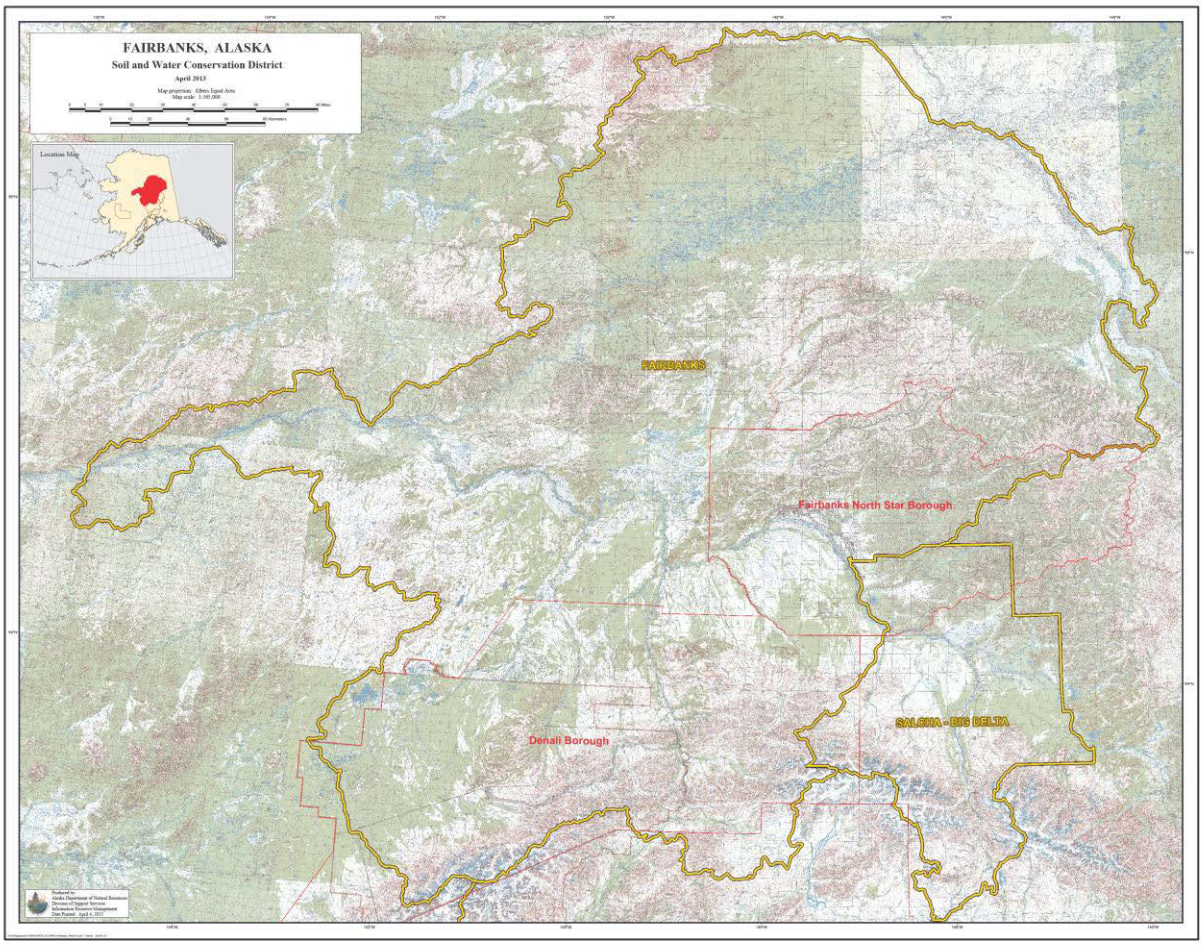
Energy audit training in Delta Junction

Energy audit training- checking light bulb type

Base Operations

- Monthly board meetings
- Budget and financial reports
- Grant administration
- General office work
- Updating and maintaining cooperator records
- Communications with AACD, NACD, NRCS, NRCDB and other partners
- Cooperator services
- Planning, promotions, fundraising, and grant writing
- Reviewed internal controls and established financial protocols

Map of the new FSWCD boundaries



FAIRBANKS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013
Spending

SOURCE		Wages	Travel	Equipment/ Supplies	Contractual	Other	AMOUNT
Invasive White Sweetclover	054	2,966.56	681.79	97.96		-	**3,746.31**
Weed Smackdown FBKS YHC '12	115	14,280.63	207.69	3,029.66		103.50	**17,621.48**
Nenana Youth Corps	116	23,404.60		471.77			**23,876.37**
Community H Fairbanks	117	5,757.65	10.17	2,788.89	4,900.00	2,610.05	**16,066.76**
State FY '11	119		401.46	65.59		509.09	**976.14**
Chena Slough 06-RR-007	140	1,652.45	19.98		56,302.36	-	**57,974.79**
Chena Slough 08-DC-064	140	-	-	-	114,309.33	373.13	**114,682.46**
Chena Slough 09-DC-312	140		-	-	19,902.51	-	**19,902.51**
Chena Slough 12-RR-005	140	-	-	-	11,469.90	18.95	**11,488.85**
Chena Slough-Persinger Crossing	140	-	-	-		162.35	**162.35**
Chena Slough #3 07-DC-086	141	5,082.22		7.99	42,319.52	208.60	**47,618.33**
NRCS Ctr Outreach	159	10,473.25	742.58	76.19		1,487.00	**12,779.02**
FSWCD Project Fairbanks	163	71,820.30	5,119.05	11,326.13	199.20	61,334.27	**149,798.95**
Nenana Uplands	167	1,102.13		600.00			**1,702.13**
USFWS-SH Fairbanks	193	62,909.74	7,262.06	11,268.32	1,348.00	1,071.42	**83,859.54**

FAIRBANKS SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Weeds #3 09DC025 Fairbanks	202	1,007.58				-	**1,007.58**
NRCS Farm Bill Fairbanks	213	21,028.44		100.00		874.45	**22,002.89**
Chena Slough 11-DC-495	224	-	-	19.75	43,883.14	68.96	**43,971.85**
Invasive Weeds Proj.	225		20.53			603.14	**623.67**
Anderson Park Restoration	229	1,788.76	-	-		-	**1,788.76**
Nenana SH	230	1,260.34	-	30.00	580.00	-	**1,870.34**
NRCS ARRA Restorat FBKS	231	13,148.81	642.81	510.95		120.90	**14,423.47**
Green Infrastructure	239	1,833.06		422.87		2,683.02	**4,938.95**
Weed Smackdown FBKS YHC '11	240	633.78	-	302.87	150.00	-	**1,086.65**
Interior Coop Weed Mgt. YthC	241	-	-	99.53		-	**99.53**
Invasive Weeds Proj. FY '11	314	262.65	54.32	348.20	1,000.00	268.34	**1,933.51**
Stevens CIAR Fairbanks	318	1,018.04	622.88	109.91		-	**1,750.83**
NRCS Deliverables/Other	962	-	310.30	-		177.74	**488.04**
AKSSF Elodea SSF Tanana W	1119	30,084.18	2,950.52	33,784.83	19,106.15	17,701.52	**103,627.20**
Invasive Elodea FBKS	2013-001	9,806.77	378.75	515.73	2,363.00	-	**13,064.25**
FTWW Elodea FBKS	2013-004	5,224.26	-	195.28	4,000.00	575.00	**9,994.54**
Arbor Day Cnsv. FBKS	2013-005	275.34	-	-		-	**275.34**
Chena Lake Elodea FBKS	2013-011	2,110.81		25.99		-	**2,136.80**
Chena Slough #4	2013-	1,682.21				-	

	013						**1,682.21**
Weed Smackdown FBKS	2013-014	5,254.56	-	3,066.19	455.00	-	**8,775.75**
MEAL 13 Ft Yukon	2013-025	-	629.07	160.84		-	**789.91**
Unclassified	n/a	-	430.06	426.83	-	646.55	**1,503.44**
		295,869.12	**20,484.02**	**69,852.27**	**322,288.11**	**91,597.98**	**800,091.50**

FAIRBANKS SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Signatures

Jessica Guritz
Report Prepared by (Print) | Signature | 10/16/13 Date

District Chair (Print) | Signature | 10/16/13 Date

Memorandum to: Department of Natural Resources

From: Homer Soil and Water Conservation District

Subject: Annual Report

Date: September 30, 2013

This document represents the annual report of the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District (HSWCD) for fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2013). This report fulfills a component of the cooperative agreement between the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District, as specified in cooperative agreements with the Department of Natural Resources and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts.

PROGRAM GOALS:

LANDUSE

Goal 1: Encourage incorporation of landscape systems into the planning process at any scale.

The Homer District promotes a landscape scale approach to understanding resource issues and implementing conservation programs. The District endeavors to work collaboratively with local and state agencies, steering committees, non-governmental organizations, and others in order to promote coordinated management strategies. A landscape level approach more fully recognizes connections within environmental systems that may not be apparent when addressing concerns in isolation.

Objective 1: Provide an environmentally oriented review of at-risk lands with high conservation values.

Accomplishments:

West Beluga Slope Planning Atlas: Last fall the Homer District finalized the West Beluga Slope (WBS) planning atlas, a compilation of resource information, maps, and management strategies to guide future planning decisions affecting the existing green infrastructure systems that this unique area provides for the City of Homer. The atlas was presented to the City Planning Commission in the spring of 2013.

Objective 2: Assist both private and public landowners with recreational planning, focusing on sustainable, multi-use recreational opportunities.

Accomplishments:

Fox River /Caribou Lake Trail Assessment: The Homer District received requests for assistance from landowners and various user groups who access remote parcels at the head of Kachemak Bay and are concerned about environmental impacts caused by the absence of sustainable access routes. In response, the District completed an assessment of current trail use

and conditions. Building on previous remote-access projects in the area, District field surveys completed in September 2012 documented current routes and identified alternatives that would protect wetlands and sensitive areas from damage caused by (a) poor trail placement, (b) changes in the types of off-road vehicles being used, and (3) under-maintained trails. In general, wetland degradation is widespread in the area for reasons such as those listed above. Increasing off-road-vehicle traffic is having substantial impacts, especially in areas that were formerly accessed only occasionally.

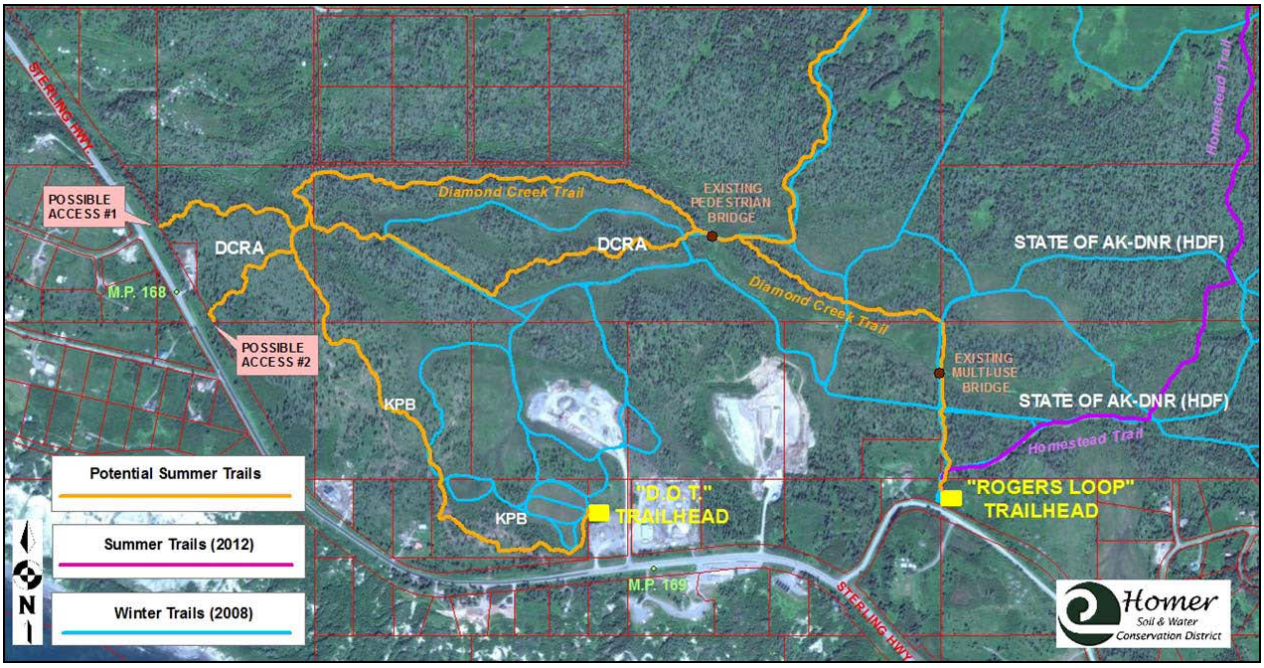
The photo at left shows a typical access route to remote parcels on the west side of Fox Creek Canyon. This route departs from the Caribou Lake boardwalk trail and heads east toward Danny Creek. This route is located entirely on wetlands leading to the Bradley Lake power line easement. .

Pratt Museum Trails: The Homer District partnered with the Pratt Museum to complete an interpretive trail system on museum property. This trail, located in downtown Homer, focuses on local plant communities and is one of the only trails in Homer that meets the Americans with Disabilities Act standards. This project was completed in the fall of 2012 and is now a popular stop for both residents and tourists interested in forest succession and native plant communities.

To ensure long-term trail stability, a combination of Typar and gravel was used to harden the trail. Hardening creates a sustainable trail that will withstand high trail use with minimal maintenance.

Nearly a mile of ADA-accessible trail now winds behind the Pratt Museum.

Management Plan for the Diamond Creek Recreation Area: The Homer District, working with the City of Homer Parks and Recreation Commission, finalized the management plan for the Diamond Creek Recreation Area (DCRA), a 273-acre area acquired with assistance from the Forest Legacy Program (FLP). The FLP requires the City to record a conservation easement for this land and to develop a multi-resource management plan. A conservation easement was filed in 2010. The DCRA Management Plan satisfies the latter requirement. Due to the parcel's proximity to the Homer Demonstration Forest (HDF), a recreational/educational forest managed by the Homer District through the HDF Steering Committee, we were a logical entity to assist the City in completing a resource inventory and identifying long term goals and objectives for the DCRA. After drafting the plan, the District presented it to the Planning Commission and then to the City Council for approval by the City of Homer. City Resolution 13-055 was introduced and passed May 28, 2013, adopting this plan.



Map of potential trails identified during development of the Diamond Creek Recreation Area Management Plan. Now that the plan has been approved by the City of Homer, the District looks forward to assisting the City with its implementation.

***Objective 3*:** Promote Low Impact Development techniques on private and public lands to enhance benefits of natural systems that can provide green infrastructure.

Accomplishments:

Rain Garden Cost Share Program: We've continued our partnership with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to offer a rain garden cost share program in the Homer District. A rain garden is a low impact development technique used to capture and slow stormwater and snowmelt runoff and increase infiltration of this surface water**.** By slowing runoff and increasing infiltration, many of pollutants carried in runoff can be filtered out so that they do not enter local streams and stormwater systems. Such pollutants include hydrocarbons washed off driveways and parking lots, sediments from cleared and disturbed areas, and fertilizers from lawns.

Last year the District cost shared two rain gardens on the southern peninsula. The photos above are rain gardens installed at the Ninilchik Fairgrounds during summer 2012. Because rain gardens use native plants and perennials that, once established, outcompete weeds, they require little maintenance and can be very cost effective in reducing stormwater runoff and improving water quality.

WATER QUALITY

Goal 2: Sustain Salmon Habitat.

Objective 1: Develop and implement streambank restoration plans: Identify anadromous streams throughout the Homer Soil and Water Conservation District whose streambanks need to be stabilized or restored to protect aquatic life and habitat, water quality, and to reduce flood damage.

Accomplishments:

Restoration Needs Assessment: The Homer District's Natural Resource Technician participated throughout the year in several stakeholder meetings to provide input into areawide issue identification and to help prioritize projects on the southern Kenai Peninsula. Organizations we have worked with include the Kenai Peninsula Borough, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, US Fish & Wildlife Service, and the Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership. High priority projects identified for the southern peninsula include bridge crossings of Fox River tributaries, stream crossings along the Watermelon Trail through the Fox River - Fritz Creek Critical Habitat Area, and erosion control at the Slide Hole, a popular fishing hole on the Anchor River. A common denominator in all projects considered is the need to protect riparian habitat.

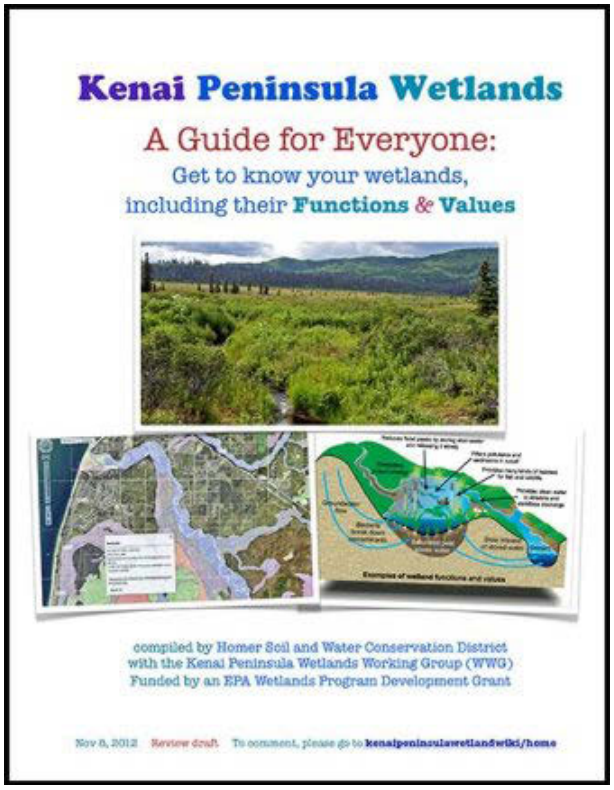
Goal 3: Promote and support sound management and protection of wetlands on non-federal lands on the Kenai Peninsula.

Objective 1: Collaborate with state and federal agencies, local governments, Native organizations, non-profits, universities, and other entities to develop a Kenai Peninsula Wetlands Program.

Accomplishments:

Updated surface hydrology for the Kenai Peninsula: Under an MOA with Homer Soil and Water, Kenai Watershed Forum (KWF) took responsibility to develop LiDAR-based maps of project area stream networks and watershed boundaries. These maps will provide an improved local database for planning and management. This data will also provide the starting point to update the USGS National Hydrography Dataset (NHD).

Assessment of Kenai Peninsula wetland functions and values: The Homer District completed a 2-year, EPA-funded project to assess the functions and values of peninsula wetlands on non-federal lands. Sixteen assessments were completed using a modified version of Anchorage and Homer wetland-assessment methodology. Modifications reflected differences in assessment scales and available information and were made using three sources: (1) the Northern Ontario Wetland Evaluation System (the basis for Anchorage and Homer wetland assessments), (2) best professional judgment of "expert teams" established to provide project oversight and review, and (3) advice from individuals with particular expertise on specific issues or topics.



Sixteen wetland functions and values were assessed.

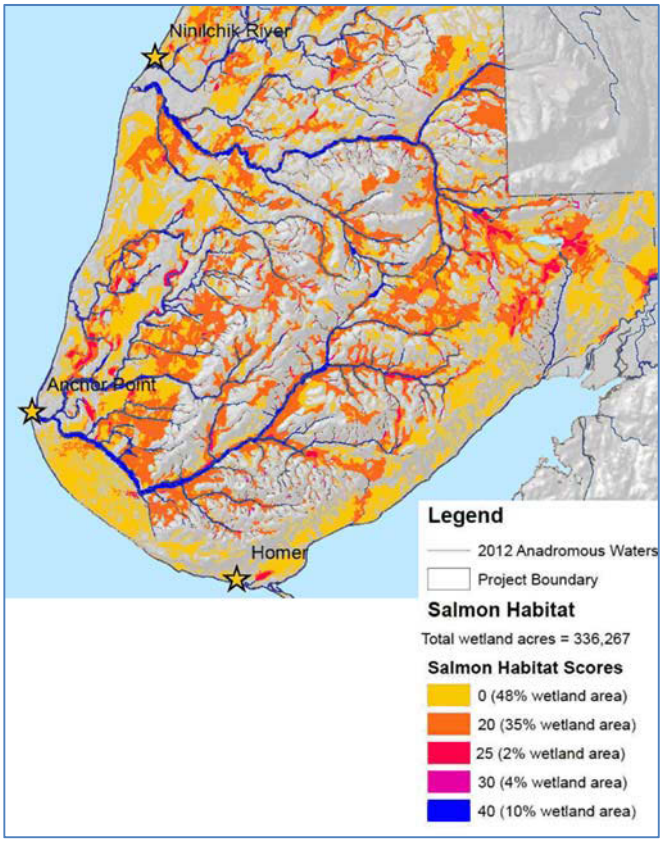
6 for the biology component: moose winter habitat, salmon habitat support, rare wetland plants, animal species of concern, wetland rarity/scarcity, and habitat structural complexity;

3 for the community/culture component: recreation, education, and culture/heritage (wetland use by Dena'ina Natives); and

7 for the hydrology component: recharging groundwater, providing water storage, transmitting discharge, contributing discharge, maintaining natural (unregulated) flow regimes, reducing streambank and shoreline erosion, and maintaining water quality.

You can find more information on this project on our website (Homerswcd.org) under the wetland tab, also available is a full description of the assessments in the final report: ***Kenai Peninsula Wetlands – a Guide for Everyone***.

Development of wetland program for the Kenai Peninsula: Now that peninsula wetlands have been assessed for sixteen functions and values, the Homer District is working on a project to identify wetland management strategies. Strategies will be targeted to specific functions or values and will reflect existing implementation tools. A first draft of a compendium of management strategies and best practices has been developed and is undergoing review. A key goal of this project is to have wetland management information available through the Kenai Peninsula Borough (KPB) online "interactive parcel viewer". This will make it easy for landowners, managers, government officials, and others to find which management strategies have been recommended for which wetlands, why, and how strategies could be implemented.



The map to the left identifies wetlands that support coho salmon habitat. Variables used to assess wetland support of coho habitat included whether the wetland was riparian, whether it bordered a stream listed in the Fish & Game *Catalog of Waters Important for the Spawning, Rearing, and Migration of Anadromous Fish*, and, if the wetland was not riparian, the degree to which it connected to a catalogued anadromous stream—either directly or through open water. Wetlands were scored based on these and other variables.

The next step is to link management strategies, correlated by function, to particular parcels on the Kenai Peninsula Borough interactive parcel view. The goal is to provide a tool for both individual landowners and land managers so they can understand what wetlands do, how they provide benefits, and what decision- makers can do to help maintain wetland conditions and function.

Objective 2: Work in conjunction with USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service to identify wetlands subject to USDA wetland conservation provisions in order to facilitate conservation planning and ensure compliance with USDA conservation program requirements.

Accomplishments:

Wetland determinations: The Homer District provided staff to complete wetland determinations for our cooperators looking to participate in NRCS cost share programs. Five determinations were completed by our staff ecologist.

Updated Kenai Peninsula Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG): Homer District staff tailored information about wetland hydrology functions for inclusion in the Kenai Peninsula FOTG. This will be useful for NRCS conservation planners as they assist landowners.

Snow Survey: Homer Soil and Water, through a cooperative agreement with the NRCS, has continued to complete snow surveys on local snow courses on the southern Kenai Peninsula. Snow pack was measured at several sites, and data on snow depth and snow water equivalent (SWE) were recorded and to be used for forecasting streamflow and groundwater recharge.

Snow surveys are completed on the first of the month December through May. The Homer Districts travels to four local courses monthly as part of the program.

AGRICULTURE

Goal 4: Provide Support for Agricultural Actives

Objective 1: Work with NRCS to develop farm conservation plans for private property owners interested in installing conservation practices.

Accomplishments:

Partnership Collaboration/Outreach: The Homer District, working closely with the NRCS, continued to support agricultural activities on the lower Kenai Peninsula through several programs. District staff is available to work with local producers to assist with the planning and implementation of recommended conservation practices. Staff has made several site visits related to developing conservation plans and has been available to provide technical expertise. The Homer District Board of Supervisors reviewed and provided comments on several land use permits submitted by individuals to Alaska DNR – Division of Agriculture. As part of its outreach efforts, the Homer District continues to produce and distribute

District staff works with landowners to develop pest management plans to treat invasive species in accordance to the KP-CWMA integrated pest management protocols.

newsletters. The newsletter is mailed to all cooperators, as well as to numerous agency and organizational partners, and provides updates on both District and NRCS programs and available assistance.

Soil Testing Services: The Homer District continued to provide soil testing for our cooperators, and when requested, worked with the Cooperative Extension Service to obtain nutrient management plans. Soil testing was done for a variety of activities including high tunnel growers, peony farmers, and hay producers.

INVASIVE PLANT MANAGEMENT

Goal 5: Continue to develop Homer Soil and Water Conservation District's Invasive Plant Program.

Objective 1: Collaboratively work with partners in the Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area (KP-CWMA).

Accomplishments

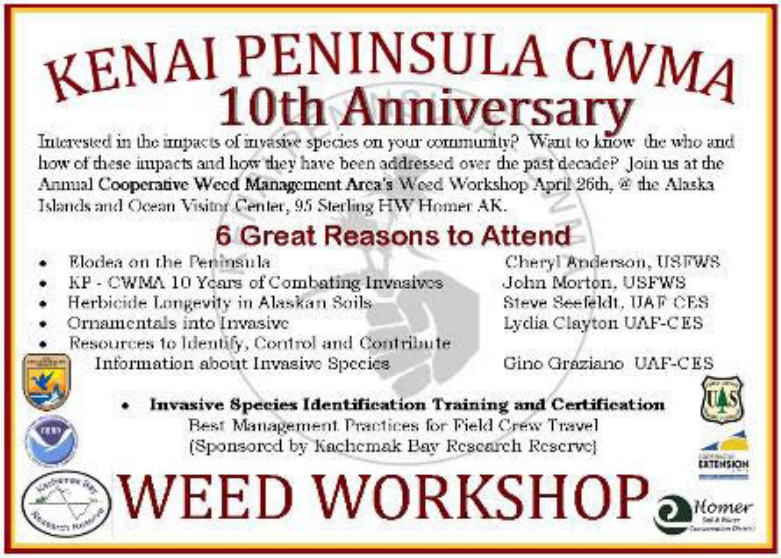
Coordination of KP-CWMA: The Homer District has continued to take a leading role on the technical advisory committee of the KP-CWMA, providing both administrative and technical support for addressing CWMA priorities. The KP-CWMA was established over 10 years ago with the intent of bringing together land managers responsible for invasive plant management in the region to develop common management goals and priorities, facilitate effective treatment, and coordinate efforts. The CWMA has strong support among local, state, and federal agencies.

Elodea Action Committee: As the coordinator for the CWMA the Homer District participated on a committee dedicated to development of an effective strategy for managing elodea on the Kenai Peninsula. With contributions from multiple agencies, the CWMA currently has a plan in place that will be implemented in the spring of 2014. The Homer District will continue to support this effort by assisting with obtaining necessary permits and securing funding to see this plan through.

Public Outreach/Education: A component of the District's Invasive Plant Program is public outreach and education. Outreach included information booths at the Kenai Peninsula State Fair, classroom visits in peninsula schools, and community weed pulls to heighten awareness about invasive plant species throughout the District. The CWMA has increased outreach to floatplane businesses, lakefront property owners, and pet stores to increase awareness of elodea.

Homer hosted this year's weed smack down, pulling over 270 pounds of weeds from neighborhoods in Homer.

Educational efforts included hosting the 10th annual Weed Workshop at the Islands and Ocean Visitor Center in in Homer. We had several speakers covering a variety of topics, including resources available to help identify and control invasives and factors affecting herbicide longevity in Alaskan soils. Morning presentations were followed by an invasive species identification training workshop. The Homer District partnered with the Kachemak Bay Research Reserve Coastal Training Program to offer this training and certification for agencies and organizations that employ seasonal field crews working in natural environments. The training focused on best management practices for preventing invasive species' spread and how to develop agency specific protocols for field staff to follow. This training was held in both Homer and Kenai, and we hope to see this become an annual certification.



The invitation for the CWMA Annual Weed Workshop held in Homer. We had over 70 participants, including land use managers, biologists, educators, and citizen scientists.

Objective 2: Promote District cost-share programs that encourage private landowners to implement integrated pest management for the protection of natural ecosystems and associated fish and wildlife.

Accomplishments:

Invasive plant cost share program: The Homer District continued to fund the invasive plant cost share program, focusing on high priority species and areas of high habitat value. Three projects were undertaken, treating nearly 10 acres. Species treated include reed canary grass, white sweet clover, and orange hawkweed.

EDUCATION

Goal 6: Provide educational opportunities and materials to assist the public in making informed decisions regarding resource management.

***Objective 1*:** Help increase landowner awareness both of how common land uses and activities on the lower Kenai Peninsula can affect resources such as habitats, water quality, and natural areas for recreation and what actions landowners can take to help sustain these resources.

Accomplishments:

Southern Peninsula Landowner's Guide: The Homer District continued outreach efforts with various groups to increase awareness of the *Landowner's Guide* developed for Anchor River, Deep Creek, Ninilchik River, and Stariski Creek watersheds. The guide provides landowners with information on how to manage their lands and waters in ways that sustain salmon habitats and populations. Printed copies of the guide were distributed to interested teachers; information about how to access the guide online was provided through numerous channels, including the District booth at the Ninilchik Fair and at a "What's New in the Bay" open house at the Island and Oceans Visitor Center.

Objective 2: Create locally supported, self-sufficient People's Gardens (community gardens) that will address community needs for better nutrition, improve community access to healthy foods, and provide significant educational opportunities about growing food.

Accomplishments:

People's Garden Grant Program: The Homer District, with a grant awarded through the USDA- National Institute of Food and Agriculture, funded 20 Peoples Gardens across the lower peninsula, including in the communities of Ninilchik, Nanwalek, Seldovia, Anchor Point, and Homer. Working collaboratively with partners gardens were installed by local schools, faith based organizations, health care facilities, and social service networks.

People's Gardens are characterized by providing community benefits, being collaborative, and incorporating sustainable practices. The gardens also teach life skills and provide service projects, science based education, and numerous psychological and rehabilitative benefits to participants..

The Long Term Care facility at the South Peninsula Hospital put in a People's Garden that is wheelchair accessible. All the produce is harvested and incorporated into menus at the LTC. This garden has become a social center for residents, families, and staff alike.

A People's Garden put in by the Nanwalek Summer Youth Worker Program. This organization had previously been gifted a greenhouse, so a goal for this project was to teach gardening skills in an area that doesn't have easy access to fresh produce.

Objective 3: Support natural resource education opportunities on the Kenai Peninsula.

Accomplishments:

Environmental Education: The Homer District continued to look for ways to work with local schools to promote environmental education. Some of the highlights for this year include working with the Homer High School Natural Resources class to teach technical field skills, providing staff to organize and lead field trips in the Homer Demonstration Forest, and working with four peninsula schools to create People's Gardens on their school grounds to provide opportunities to learn about nutrition and how to grow healthy foods. Homer District Board prioritizes educational opportunities that can be explored through the agricultural sciences and continues to support local schools as they explore the possibilities of developing small agricultre activites.

Students from Fireweed Academy pay an office visit to learn the tools of the trade from NRCS Soil Scientist Stephanie Schmitt.

***Objective 4*:** Work cooperatively with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District, and community organizations to plan and coordinate Schoolyard Habitat projects.

Accomplishments:

School Yard Habitat: The Homer District worked with West Homer Elementary School's faculty and students to plan and develop a School Yard Habitat on their campus. This project required working closely with school staff to set goals and schedules. The District also taught lessons to individual classrooms on local habitats and plant communities and helped students

Students help with spreading wood chips along the newly installed trails behind the school. All ten classrooms took turns working on these trails.

Students receive a lesson in plant identification, and the difference between native and non-native plants. The students will complete an herbarium for future students.

brainstorm ways they would like to "create" an outdoor classroom to observe and study the wildlife species that do use their school yard as a home. This project culminated at the end of the school year with the entire school, along with parent volunteers, constructing an interpretative trail system behind the school building. We look forward to fine tuning this project over the coming school year.

ADMINISTRATION/MANAGEMENT

Goal 7: Maintain a District office open to the public, provide oversight and guidance to all HSWCD projects, identify and develop programs and projects that promote the District's mission, and seek funding for all District activities and operations.

Objective 1: Provide office personnel to run the day-to-day operations of the Homer District.

Accomplishments:

During the past fiscal year, the Homer District continued to staff its centrally located Homer office so as to better serve its cooperators and the public, as well as to strengthen partnerships with both governmental and non-governmental entities. The District Manager oversaw and administered all District programs and projects, including program budgets and documentation of expenditures. In addition to the District Manager the District employed a full-time Natural Resource Specialist, a Special Projects Coordinator, and GIS Technician/Ecologist, and two seasonal employees.

Objective 2: Promote development of board capacity, travel to bi-annual conferences to the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts, and recruit new board members.

Accomplishments:

The Board of Supervisors provides review and general oversight of all District programs. In FY 2013, the board also served in advisory capacities to several local and state agencies, including the Division of Agriculture, the City of Homer, and the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The board works closely with staff from the NRCS Homer field office to provide input on their programs and priorities and to alert them to resource issues, concerns, and opportunities within District boundaries.

SOURCES OF INCOME

Natural Resources Conservation Service:	$58,078.00
National Institute of Food and Agriculture	$67,798.00
Environmental Protection Agency	$100,521.49
Pratt Museum	$13,049.68
US Fish & Wildlife Service	$32,305.63
Kenai Watershed Forum	$27,301.30
State Funding – allocated FY12	$25,890.00
TOTAL	**$324,944.53**

EXPENSES BY CATEGORY

Personnel	$198,889.94
Fringe	$24,677.78
Supplies	$4,737.35
Travel	$9,246.66
Contractual	$87,392.90
TOTAL	**$324,944.53**

SIGNATURES:

Tara Schmidt
Report Prepared by: Tara Schmidt

10/10/13
Date

District Chair, Chris Rainwater

10/14/13
Date

District Board Member

10/14/13
Date

Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District

FY 2013 Annual Report

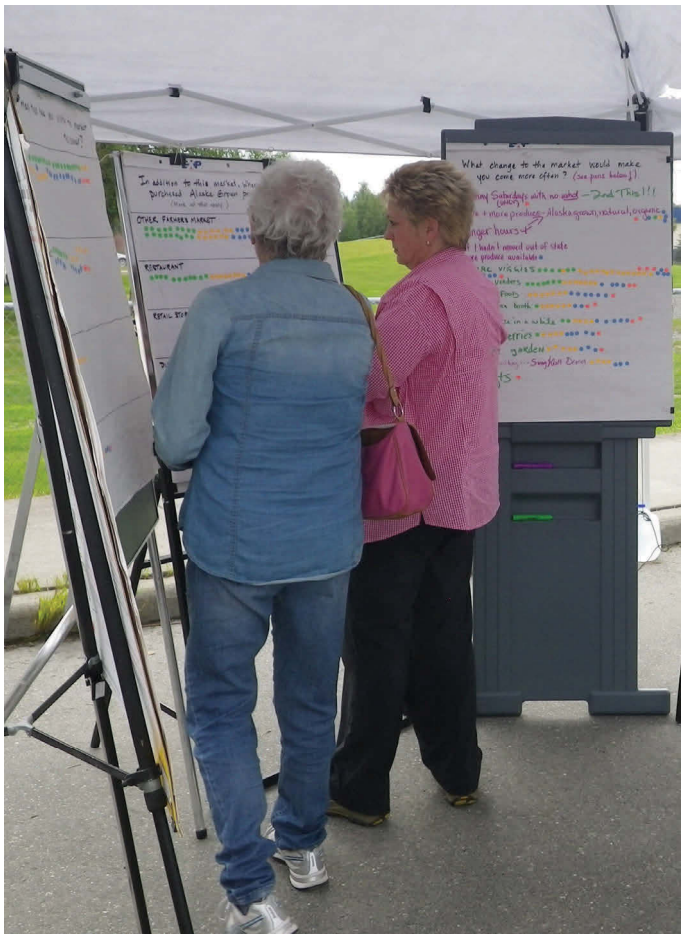
September, 2013

110 Trading Bay, Suite 160
Kenai, Alaska 99611
(907) 283-8732 x108
www.kenaisoilandwater.org

GROWING FOOD SECURITY

Partnering to promote agriculture, conserve farmland and increase food security

Raising Consumer Awareness From May to September, 2013, the District conducted an **area-wide marketing campaign** to raise consumer awareness of Alaska Grown food, particularly that grown in the Central Peninsula. We used radio and newspaper ads, as well as Facebook, and widely distributed a local foods directory, in print and on-line at www.KenaiLocalFood.org. Consumer surveys conducted at farmers markets in August revealed that the vast majority of shoppers were more aware of options for purchasing Alaska Grown products than in the previous year. This work was funded by a $2000 Cooperative Marketing Grant from the Alaska Division of Agriculture, mini-grants from the Cities of Soldotna and Kenai and the Kenai Peninsula Foundation, and donations from Alaska Berries, Back to Nature Chiropractic, Kenai Peninsula RC&D and Matti's Farm.



Shoppers at the Central Kenai Peninsula Farmers Market in Soldotna take part in a survey during the 2013 Local Food Campaign.

Judy Fischer (in orange) of Fischers' Fresh Farm Produce in Kasilof selling at the new Farmers Fresh Market that she helped start.

Opening New Markets

In January of 2013, the District partnered with UAF-Cooperative Extension, Alaska Division of Agriculture, and the Kenai/Soldotna Chambers of Commerce to organize an "eating local" event to promote the Alaska Restaurant Rewards program and plant seeds for new farm-to-restaurant efforts. In June, the District, in partnership with the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank and growers, launched a new "food-focused" farmers market targeting commercial buyers and locals. During its first year, the Farmers Fresh Market drew an average of 160 shoppers per week. In 2012, the District tested on-line food hub software and helped start experimental "workplace farmers markets" in Kenai and Soldotna.

Offering Learning Opportunities for farmers is a District priority. In the past year, we created a lending library of sustainable agriculture books, videos and periodicals, partnered with UAF-Cooperative Extension to host workshops on hay/haylage and on-farm food safety, and co-sponsored the 3rd Annual Kenai Peninsula Ag Forum. The Food Bank Demonstration High Tunnel, built in 2011 with assistance from NRCS and the District, is another learning resource.

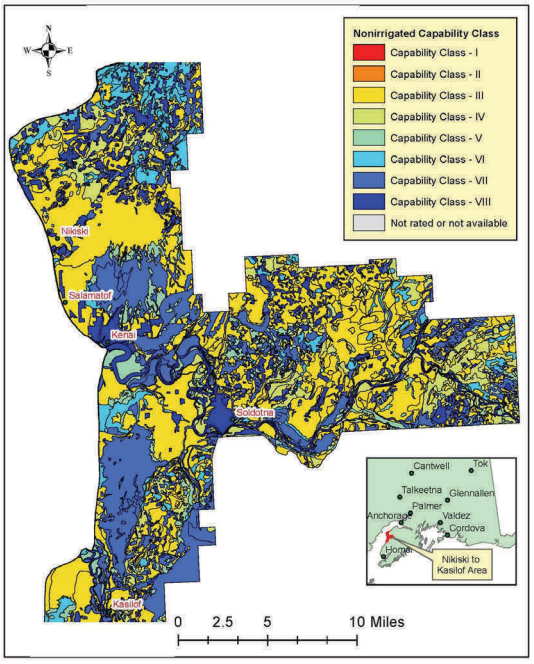
On-Farm Food Safety Workshop at the Food Bank Demonstration High Tunnel.

Vegetable planter at work during a field demonstration.

Assisting High Tunnel Growers In FY13, the District continued to support high tunnel agriculture by organizing educational tours for current and prospective growers, conducting site visits to NRCS-funded high tunnels to encourage good record-keeping, circulating an e-newsletter to a list of 148 subscribers, and maintaining a webpage to answer questions most frequently asked by new high tunnel growers.

Practical Tools for Growers The District's specialized rental equipment is valued by local hay, berry, vegetable and peony growers. This year we added a broadfork, two backpack sprayers and manual seeders to the rental inventory, and contracted with an experienced equipment operator to run the District's Meri Crusher.

Putting Kenai Peninsula Agriculture on the Map
In February, 2013, the District worked with partners to mobilize the ag community to participate in a Kenai Peninsula Borough land use survey. Respondents helped to identify more than 11,000 acres of state-owned land with agricultural potential for Borough selection — an important step toward cooperation with the Borough on land use issues, including farmland conservation. In the coming year, we hope to work with the Borough to make soils data and maps of land with agricultural potential more accessible to the public.



At right, a map of the District by soil capability classes. Yellow indicates soils with the best agricultural potential.

PLANTING THE SEED

Good stewardship of natural resources starts with inspiring young people

Sixth-graders at Tustumena Elementary plant their class tree.

Schoolyard Habitats Connecting kids with nature lays the foundation for long-term soil and water stewardship. In the first year of the District's Schoolyard Habitat program, our Schoolyard Habitat Coordinator, Dan Funk, worked with teams composed of parents, faculty and students at Tustumena Elementary and Sterling Elementary to design and begin implementing their Schoolyard Habitat master plans. At Tustumena, nature viewing trails were cleared with help from the Kenai Peninsula Borough. Students planted "class trees" and built and installed birdhouses. A native tree nursery, natural amphitheater and interpretive signage are in the works. At Sterling Elementary, students made birdhouses and "nest starters" for their Schoolyard Habitat, and nature trail construction is well underway. Kaleidoscope Charter School is scheduled to join the program during the 2013-14 school year. This work has been made possible by a $25,000 grant from U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and a grant of $8,333 from the Scott Paper Company.

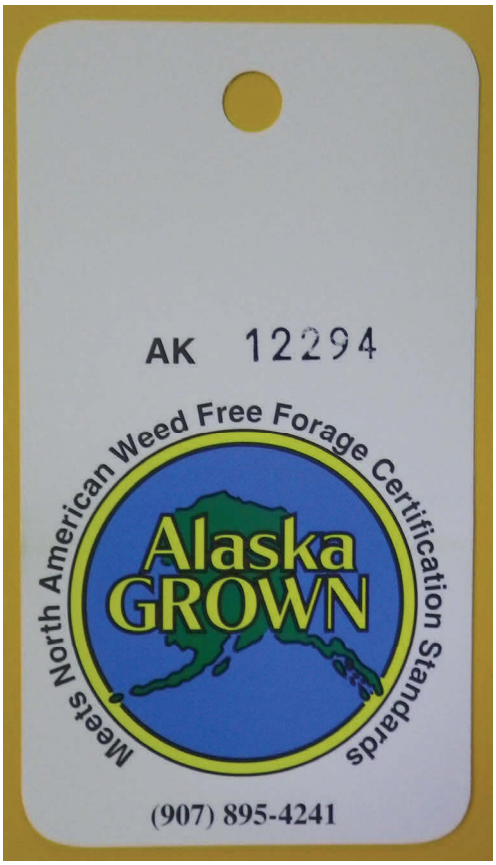
What is "Schoolyard Habitat"?
Schoolyard Habitat is a nationwide program developed and funded by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service that involves students and community at every phase of visioning, designing, constructing, use and maintenance of projects on school grounds that create habitat for birds, fish, and native plants and gets kids learning outdoors.

"Soil to Spoon" Poster Contest In fall 2012, the District partnered with Central Peninsula Garden Club, UAF-Cooperative Extension, 4-H and Kenai Peninsula Boys & Girls Clubs to spread the word about its annual conservation poster contest. The theme was "Soil to Spoon." At right is the 1st place poster for Grades 7-9 by Jaedyn Gale, 13, of Soldotna. The 2013 theme is "Where Does Your Water Shed?"

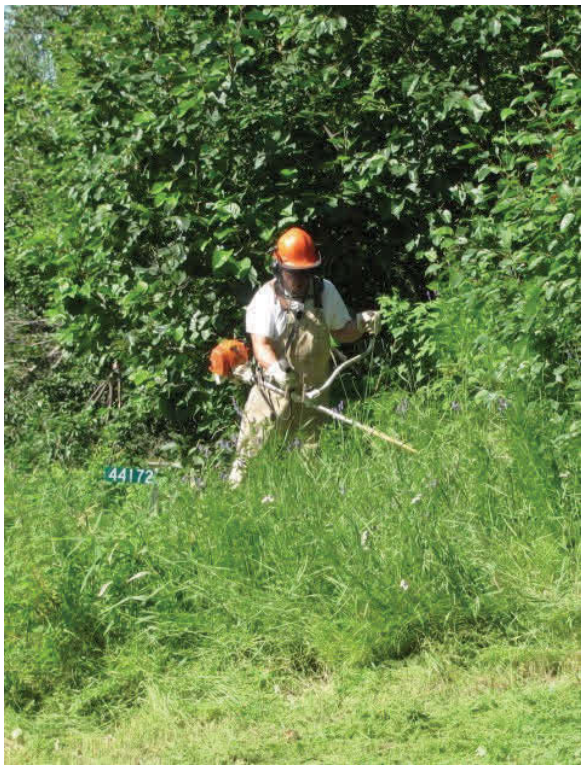
FIGHTING ALIENS

Working with willing landowners to prevent the spread of invasive plants

Certified Weed Free Forage In FY13, the District assumed local management of the statewide Weed Free Forage (WFF) program. Hay growers report increasing consumer interest in weed-free products, which are used in livestock operations (as feed) and in road-building and streambank restoration projects (as mulch) to prevent the spread of invasive plants along trails, roads and waterways. With help from volunteer inspector, Janice Chumley, the District provided free WFF certification to five growers in 2013, up from one in 2011. We promoted Weed Free Forage at the February Hay Growers Workshop and at the Kenai Peninsula State Fair in Ninilchik. A new webpage at www.kenasoilandwater.org provides information and links to producers of WFF-certified hay.



Hay, hay, hay! Hay has long been one of the Borough's top agricultural products. In support of dozens of local hay growers, the District organized its third annual cooperative fertilizer order and featured an eye-catching "Buy Local" display at the 2012 and 2013 fairs in Ninilchik emphasizing that local hay is high quality, economical, and supports the local economy.



District employee mowing bird vetch, a tenacious weed that blankets and chokes out everything in its path.

An ounce of prevention... Weed seeds can spread via mobile equipment, so the District developed a "Best Management Practices for Shared Farming Equipment" brochure, which is distributed with every equipment rental. We also distribute guidelines for properly handling pesticides along with rentals of spray equipment.

What is an invasive plant? Invasive plants are non-native species that spread rapidly and have negative impacts on fish, wildlife, agriculture or human health.

Collaborative efforts are key to containing and eradicating invasive plants. The District is a partner of the Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area, which in 2013 sponsored a third successful Weed Smackdown and surveyed for elodea, an aquatic invasive plant that is new on the Peninsula. The District is working with property owners on Sports Lake Road in Soldotna to contain and eradicate an isolated infestation of bird vetch.

BUILDING ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY

Planning for Effectiveness With help from the Foraker Group and a capacity-building grant from the Alaska Community Foundation, the District was able to do strategic planning in the spring of 2013. Board, staff and key partners were involved in creating a plan to guide the District over the next decade.

Core Purpose: Nurturing sustainable agriculture on the Kenai Peninsula

Core Values: Locally-driven, wise conservation, partnerships, and learning

From left to right, Kerry Nelson, Steve Albers, Michelle Martin, Bill Johnson, Heidi Chay and Judy Queen. District website on the screen.

10-Year Goal: By 2023, a fully-integrated local food system is in place on the Kenai Peninsula.

5-Year Goal: By 2018, the number of viable farm businesses has doubled over 2012.

New and Expanded Partnerships

FY13 was notable for the large number of partners involved in District projects. Existing partnerships with the Kenai Peninsula Food Bank and the Local Foods Group, part of People Promoting Wellness through Community Action (PPWCA), expanded in innovative ways this year. New partners this year include: Alaska Community Foundation, City of Kenai, City of Soldotna, Kenai and Soldotna Chambers of Commerce, Kenai Peninsula Borough, Kenai Peninsula Foundation, Best Transit Mix, Gareth and Kevin Byers, Alaska Berries, Back to Nature Chiropractic, Matti's Farm, Tustumena Elementary School, Sterling Elementary School, and the Scott Paper Company.

Increased Visibility

Community awareness of the District continues to rise as a result of projects involving broad-based partnerships such as Schoolyard Habitats, the annual poster contest, the 2013 Local Food Campaign, and Harvest Moon Local Food Week. The District made better use of Facebook and its new website. From spring of 2012 to spring of 2013 traffic at the District's website doubled, for a total of 1389 unique visitors during FY13. A number of articles in local newspapers highlighted District projects and goals:

Homegrown revolution—Gardeners expand to tackle Alaska's food insecurity, Redoubt Reporter, 10/24/12
USDA funded program stitches bond between local farms and restaurants, Peninsula Clarion, 1/21/13
Farm use grows—Agricultural sector sewing seeds of progress on peninsula, Redoubt Reporter, 4/17/13
Room to grow—Agricultural community looks for land, Peninsula Clarion, 4/17/13
Farm to fork—Food Bank to stitch farmer-community bond, Peninsula Clarion, 4/27/13
Even in rain, good farmers market turnout, Peninsula Clarion, 6/4/13
Whole Food for the Whole Community—Farmers Fresh Market at Food Bank, Clarion Dispatch, 6/27/13
Outdoor learning at its best —Tustumena receives grant for schoolyard upgrades, Peninsula Clarion, 9/8/13

Photo Credits Thanks to Bill Johnson, Kerry Nelson, Jen Kain and Heidi Chay
Cover Photo Farmers Fresh Market, by Bill Johnson

Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District
FY13 Statement of Financial Income and Expense
July 2012 through June 2013

	Jul '12 - Jun 13
Ordinary Income/Expense	
Income	
Bank Interest	3.78
4000 · Equipment Rentals (Net)	65.95
4200 Government Grants	93,679.00
4300 · Direct Public Support	200.00
4800 · Program Income	94.00
Total Income	94,042.73
Gross Profit	94,042.73
Expense	
66900 · Reconciliation Discrepancies	-0.27
6000 · Personnel	48,104.50
6100 · Fringe Benefits	7,484.13
6200 · Travel and Training	5,402.74
6300 · Facilities and Equipment	2,114.93
6500 · Contract Services	9,462.39
6600 · Operations	4,163.90
8500 · Other Types of Expenses	0.00
Total Expense	76,732.32
Net Ordinary Income	17,310.41
Net Income	**17,310.41**

Kenai Soil and Water Conservation District
FY13 Grants - Government and Private
July 2012 through June 2013

Date	Name	Class	Amount
4200 Government Grants			
7/1/2012	State of Alaska:FY13	700 Admin	45,000.00
7/13/2012	AACD IPP	200 IPM	1,300.00
8/15/2012	USFWS:Schoolyard Habitats	300 Youth	25,000.00
12/31/2012	Alaska Community Foundation:Strategic Planning	700 Admin	3,046.00
1/1/2013	State of Alaska:DNR Coop Agmt	100 Agriculture	2,500.00
2/1/2013	State of Alaska:Scott Paper Award	300 Youth	8,333.00
4/16/2013	State of Alaska:Cooperative Marketing Grant	100 Agriculture	2,000.00
5/1/2013	NRCS:NRCS09x	100 Agriculture	5,000.00
5/8/2013	City of Soldotna:2013 Mini-Grant	100 Agriculture	500.00
6/7/2013	City of Kenai:2013 Mini-Grant	100 Agriculture	500.00
6/17/2013	Kenai Peninsula Foundation	100 Agriculture	500.00
Total 4200 Government Grants			93,679.00
TOTAL			**93,679.00**

Kerry Nelson

Kerry Nelson
Chairperson, Kenai SWCD

9/27/13

Date

Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District

Board of Supervisors

Chair – Kerry Nelson
Vice Chair – Steve Albers
Secretary – Bill Johnson
Treasurer – Michelle Martin (to 8/2013)
Member – Judy Queen
Member – Lydia Clayton (appointed 8/2013)

Staff

District Manager – Heidi Chay
Schoolyard Habitats – Dan Funk
2013 High Tunnel Coordinator – Ryan Rice
2013 Local Food Asst. –Makena Roesch

Partner Organizations

Alaska DNR and Div. of Agriculture
Alaska Community Foundation
Boys & Girls Clubs of the Kenai Peninsula
Central Peninsula Garden Club
Cities of Kenai and Soldotna
Kenai Chamber of Commerce
Kenai Feed
Kenai Peninsula 4-H
Kenai Peninsula Borough and KPBSD
Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area
Kenai Peninsula Fish Habitat Partnership
Kenai Peninsula Food Bank
Kenai Peninsula Foundation
Kenai Peninsula Resource Conservation & Development Inc.
Kenai Resilience
Kenai Watershed Forum
Homer Soil & Water Conservation District
Soldotna Chamber of Commerce
Natural Resources Conservation Service
People Promoting Wellness through Community Action, Local Foods Group
UAF-Cooperative Extension Service
US Fish & Wildlife Service

Contact Us

110 Trading Bay Rd., Suite 160
Kenai, AK 99611
(907) 283-8732 x 108
Email: kenaiswcd@gmail.com
Website: www.kenaisoilandwater.org

Rental Equipment

Meri Crusher, for soil preparation

Truax No-Till Drill, for re-seeding

John Deere 660 Roto Tiller

McHale Square Bale Wrapper

John Deere 45-gal. Tow-behind Sprayer

Solo Backpack Sprayers (2)

Buckeye Vegetable & Flower Planting Tools:

- Chisel plow
- Spring tooth harrow
- Disc pre-bedder/hiller
- Raised bed shaper
- Plastic mulch/drip tape layer
- 2-row vegetable & flower planter
- Mulch row remover

Broadcast Spreader (hand-cranked)

Earthway Precision Seeder

Thomas Hart Broadfork

For more information, visit the Equipment Rental page at www.kenaisoilandwater.org.

Please join us! By becoming a cooperator of the Kenai Soil & Water Conservation District, you join a community of local landowners who have pledged to follow a conservation ethic when developing natural resources on their land. For information on membership, visit our website.

Memorandum to:	AACD/ DNR
From:	Kenny Lake Soil & Water Conservation District
Subject:	FY 13 Plan of Work Report
Date:	September 2013

This represents the annual report for the Kenny Lake District, covering fiscal year 2013, as required by DNR, and as specified in cooperative agreements with DNR and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts.

Program Goals

Goal 1: Provide general office support for Conservation District activities

Objective: Set up local office files and equipment. Provide office coordination, management and support, bookkeeping, financial accounting, budget and work plan development and planning, reporting, administrative assistance to the Board.
FY 2013

Accomplishments: Carolyn Weimer and Chuck Kaucic were hired to preform general office duties until a permanent district manager was hired. Miah Breivogel was hired as the permanent part-time district manager in April 2013. Miah is taking care of all financial responsibilities, reporting duties, and supporting the board with administrative assistance.

Goal 2: Implement outreach activities to raise awareness of the Conservation District's services and achievements to encourage new cooperators and to strengthen relationships with existing cooperators

Objective: Contact and interaction with Cooperators, essential partners, and community.
FY 2013

Actions: Contact cooperators to verify and update cooperator list. Share education and technical support to landowners and developers regarding conservation concerns through use of email, telephone, correspondence, etc. Share ideas and concerns regarding our natural resources and our district at monthly public board meetings.

Accomplishments: Time was spent looking into the possibility of a boundary expansion. Two public meetings were held. The public meetings were advertised in the local newspaper and on two radio stations. Board members spoke to concerned cooperators. A board member, cooperators, and staff worked on the Willow Creek Watershed Project. The cooperator list has been updated.

Goal 3: Plan for continued operations and projects

Objective: Determine desired projects for District to pursue. FY 2013

Actions: Continue process to establish District office presence and general operations. Board will determine project priorities and continue to plan for the desired projects that will accomplish the District's goals. Board will contract road maintenance to meet NRCS requirements for maintenance of the Tonsina North Agricultural road.

Accomplishments: Monthly meetings have been established, meeting notices are being posted, office and general operations are happening on a regular basis. Road maintenance was put on hold due to the unavailability of contractors late in the season.

Goal 4: Pay dues and subscriptions

Objective: Pay required dues and newspaper subscriptions. FY 2013

Actions: Pay obligatory dues to AACD and NACD, as well as newspaper subscription to promote coverage of District activities.

Accomplishments: $775 was paid to NACD and $120 was paid to the AACD.

Goal 5: Attend Conservation District and agency Conferences to disseminate information and to gather valuable input and expertise.

Objective: Attend partner conferences. FY 2013

Actions: Attend AACD conferences.

Accomplishments: Chairman Joshua Scott attended the 2012 Fall AACD Conference along with Board Member Ross Nease. Board Member Billy Williams attended the Spring AACD conference. Vice Chair Doug Vollman participates in the monthly AACD teleconferences.

Kenny Lake Soil & Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 227
Copper Center, Alaska 99573
Office: (907) 259-5999
Fax: (907) 822-5944
Email: mgr.klswcd@gmail.com

Kenny Lake Soil and Water Conservation District

Proposed Budget vs. Actual Expenses

July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013

Expenses	Budget	Actual
6000 – Personnel	$6,600	$4,235
6100 – Fringe Benefits	$660	$509.20
6200 – Travel	$4,887	$845.53
6300 – Equipment	$0	$2,881.24
6400 – Supplies	$150	$358.96
6500 – Contractual	$30,450	$0
6600 – Operations	$0	$288.00
Total Expenses	$42,747	$9,117.93

KLSWCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Joshua Scott – Chairman - Seat A - Exp. 12/13

Doug Vollman – Vice Chairman - Seat D - Exp. 12/15

Eric Veach – Secretary/Treasurer - Seat B - Exp. 12/13

Billy Williams - Seat C - Exp. 12/14

Ross Nease - Seat E - Exp. 12/15

KLSWCD DISTRICT MANAGER

Miah Breivogel

Signatures:

Joshua Scott – Chairman

10/01/2013
Date

Miah Breivogel – District Manager

10-1-13
Date

Kodiak Soil & Water Conservation District
518 West Marine Way, Suite 206, Kodiak, Alaska 99615
Phone: (907) 486-5574 Fax (907) 486-5586

Date: September 11, 2013

To: Shana Joy, Executive Director,
NRCDB, Dept. of Natural Resources

From: Joe Dinnocenzo, District Manager,
Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District

Subject: Annual Report of Accomplishments

This document is the annual report of accomplishments of the Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District (KSWCD) for fiscal year 2013 (July 1, 2012-June 30, 2013 or FY 13). This report is intended to fulfill the requirement of the cooperative agreement between the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the KSWCD. This document is a collaborative work of the entire KSWCD staff.

The KSWCD assists land managers and cooperators by coordinating and implementing programs for the conservation, use, and sustainable development of soil, water and related resources throughout the Kodiak Archipelago.

Overall operations continued to be impacted by a break-in and vandalism of the KSWCD offices on February 27, 2012. Initially, KSWCD was compensated for the damages of this incident by an insurance policy in July, 2012. In August, 2012, under court supervision, the vandal paid restitution and the insurance funds were refunded. The majority of the damage was rectified during this fiscal year.

KSWCD continued the partnership with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), conducting technical assistance for ranchers and growers. Despite sequestration of the federal budgets, limited funds were available to support the high tunnel program and conduct other technical work to support ongoing NRCS contracts. The continuation of past programs included an effort to control invasive plants, collect rain samples to measure mercury deposition, establish a framework plan to manage wetlands, and a farm to schools program to educate children about agricultural production. New programs in FY 13 included an agreement with the Plant Materials Center (PMC) of DNR to collect technical information on hay production at a selected site in Kodiak.

KSWCD funding and expenditures for FY 13 are depicted in Tables 1 and 2. Expenditures totaled $166,754 and included personnel, equipment, travel, supplies, contract payments and operations. KSWCD has a small reserve of savings which it draws upon to maintain operations during administrative delays in payment for services provided in accordance with reimbursable agreements and to fund unforeseen expenses. Table 3 depicts KSWCD staff hours expended by funding source.

Table 1. Funding sources for KSWCD operations during FY 13.

Active Grant	Explanation	Original grant amount[1]
AK State #201263	Alaska Association of Conservation Districts Legislative appropriation	**$45,000**
AK State #119208 (FY12)	Alaska Association of Conservation Districts Legislative appropriation (FY 12) A small amount was spent in FY13.	**$33,300**
AK DNR #238 (FY12)	Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources Agreement AS 41.10 Membership dues and District Operations	**$2,500**
AK DEC #237	Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Mercury Monitoring Reimbursement for Services	**$9,576**
NRCS #9	USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service work contracts	**$37,273**
ACCD IPP #22261-12	Alaska Association of Conservation Districts Invasive Plants Program, summer weeds crew	**$7,000**
Invasive species Outreach #136	Wildlife Forever funds for outreach to lodge and charter operators encouraging invasive weed control.	**$9,105**
USFWS Weeds #244 (FY11)	USDI Fish & Wildlife Service Partners Program, summer weeds crew	**$25,000**
USFWS Weeds #144	USDI Fish & Wildlife Service Partners Program, summer weeds crew	**$15,000**
USFWS Invasives #2013-017	USFWS 2-year grant to help fund invasive weed control	**$75,000**
USFWS Fish Passage #233	USDI Fish and Wildlife Coastal Programs, Fish Passages and Culvert Assessments	**$45,404**
Kodiak Borough 2012	Kodiak Island Borough non-profit appropriation	**$3,685**
Kodiak Wal-Mart	Private donation for agricultural outreach	**$2,000**
UAF CES	University of Alaska Fairbanks Cooperative Extension Service, 4-H office and storage space	**$3,600**
Alaskan Leader	Alaskan Leader Fisheries Foundation grant for State Envirothon sweatshirts	**$1,000**
AK Farm to Schools #112 (FY 11)	Alaska State Capitol Projects funding	**$15,000**
EPA Wetlands #143	Environmental Protection Agency, Wetland Management Plan Development	**$24,688**
Capsis Grant #9901	AK State legislative grant for computers, software and a truck cap and conex storage container.	**$19,471**
Damage Reimbursement	Reimbursement for cost associated with office vandalism.	**$5,574**
AK DNR growth Curve Project	Contract with Plant Materials Center to conduct field work for Growth Curve Project.	**$6,000**
RIP Weeds Lions Club	Donation for conducting a reimbursement incentive program.	**$2,000**
Kodiak Charterboat Association	Donation toward phase 2 of Lake Orbin Culvert Replacement Project	**$2,000**
KSWCD cash reserves	Used mostly on a temporary basis to cover reimbursable costs for many grants.	**N/A**

[1]Original grant amount is not always what was available or used in this fiscal year. Many grants are used over multiple fiscal years.

Table 2. Total FY 13 Expenditures in dollars by source and category.

Funding Source	Personnel	Equipment	Travel	Supplies	Contractual	Operations	All Expenses
Alaska State/AACD (grants #119208 &2012-63)	$45,867		$5,425	$1,745			$53,037
AK DNR #238	$12			$2		$406	$420
AK DEC (mercury Monitoring)	$7,605		$745	$148			$8,498
NRCS #9	$7,799					$109	$7,908
1PP weeds crew	$10,591						$10,591
USFWS weeds #144	$15,286			$65			$15,351
USFWS weeds #244	$3,909		$959	$4			$4,872
CAPSIS	$1,925	$11,718	$25	$1,096	$512		$15,275
AK DNR Canada Thistle #127	$3,602		$843	$194			$4,639
Kodiak Island Borough						$3,685	$3,685
USFWS/fish passage #233	$3,909		$959	$4			$4,872
EPA/wetlands	$12,222		$679			$32	$12,933
Farm to School #112	$2,709			$3,527	$297		$6,533
Reimbursement/break in	$908	$2,557		$1,045	$45	$7	$4,562
Invasiv species Outreach #136	$3,459						$3,459
USFWS invasive /weeds #2013-017	$3,886		$973	$131			$4,989
AK DNR Growth Curve 2013-006	$681			$14			$695
Walmart	$1,500			$97	$49	$169	$1,815
RIP Weeds 2013-012	$29				$19		$47
Kodiak Special account #2013-016	$192			$94			$287
General fund			$144	$451		$1,691	$2,286
Kodiak Charterboat Assoc.							$0
Alaska Leader Fisheries							$0
Total expenses	$126,089	$14,274	$10,751	$8,618	$922	$6,099	$166,754

Table 3. Kodiak Soil and Water District staff hours expended by funding source, FY 13.

Funding source	Staff Hours
AK State #s 119208/201263	2,327.8
AK DNR #238	0.5
AK DEC #237	263.5
NRCS #9	280.8
AACD IPP #22261-12	450.5
USFWS Weeds #244	137.0
USFWS Weeds #144	628.0
AK DNR Canada Thistle Kodiak #127	135.0
Invasive Species Outreach #136	144.5
Kodiak Borough	0.0
Walmart Ag Outreach #98	62.0
Lions Club RIP Weeds 2013-012	4.0
Alaskan Leader	0.0
Fish Passage Watershed Health #233	83.5
FWS invasives 2013-017	394.0
Kodiak special account	10.5
CAPSIS #8901	113.5
Insurance claim #8902	28.0
AK DNR Growth Curve Project 2013-008	30.5
EPA Wetlands #143	420.0
Farm to School #112	108.0
Total District Staff Hours	5,621.6

Following is a summary of accomplishments during the reporting period by subject:

Administration and Operations

KSWCD received a CAPSIS grant to purchase and install a conex for storage, a truck cap to secure equipment and chemicals, computer hardware and software to enhance information system capability. Wooden shelves and equipment racks were installed in the conex to organize gear. The Kodiak Cattleman's Cooperative allowed KSWCD to install this storage conex on their property.

(Upper left). Joe Dinnocenzo with interior view of conex storage box. (Upper right). View of exterior of installed storage conex and also newly installed truck cap on KSWCD pickup. (Photos in this document by Blythe Brown unless otherwise noted).

KSWCD staff worked to replace damaged equipment including computers, faxes and printers and to reorganize disrupted files and records damaged during the break-in of February, 2012. The work of restoring the office to its "normal" state was finished during FY 13.

Invasive Plant Management

The Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District's Invasives Program was supported by grants from the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts Invasive Plants Program (IPP), the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Services Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program (FWS), Alaska Plant Materials Center (PMC) and Wildlife Forever (WF). We also received funding from the Kodiak Lions Club. These partnerships provided funds for an invasives program which could not have occurred with any one funding source.

KSWCD employed a summer field crew of two people. Grant funding also provided for a Project Coordinator's time to supervise and assist as needed and a computer technician to process and submit records. The crew surveyed areas for new infestations and checked current status of old infestations. They documented sites with photos and GPS locations and recorded data for submission to the Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse (AKEPIC). KSWCD obtained

permission from landowners to perform control when possible. Landowners were encouraged to take responsibility for their own infestations but assistance was provided upon request.

Kodiak hosted the 2012 annual statewide Alaska Committee for Noxious and Invasive Plants Management (CNIPM) and Alaska Invasive Species Working Group (AISWG) conference. Attendees came from all corners of Alaska to participate and hear from state, local and national speakers.

Attendees from across the state participated in break-out sessions during the 2012 annual Alaska Invasive Species conference in Kodiak. (Left). KSWCD assisted with organizing the conference, gave presentations and hosted a "weed walk" to discuss examples of some of local projects, 10/30/2012 and 11/1/2012. (Right).

The District continues to be the designated "lead" for the Kodiak Archipelago Cooperative Weed Management Area.

Species controlled included: orange hawkweed, oxeye daisy, Canada thistle, bull thistle, common tansy, bohemian knotweed, creeping buttercup, hempnettle and annual sow thistle.

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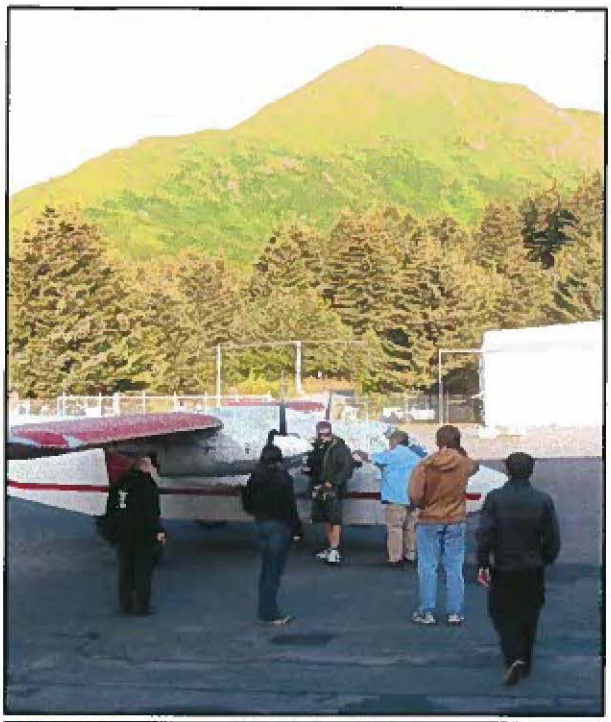
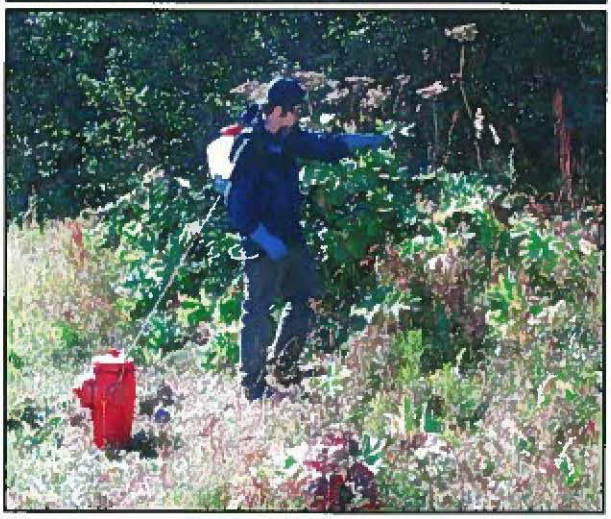
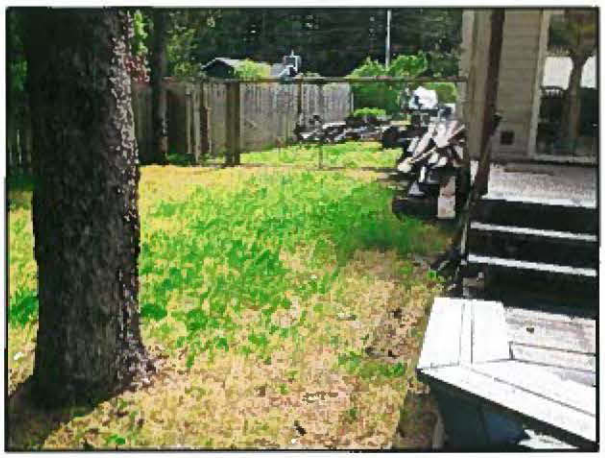


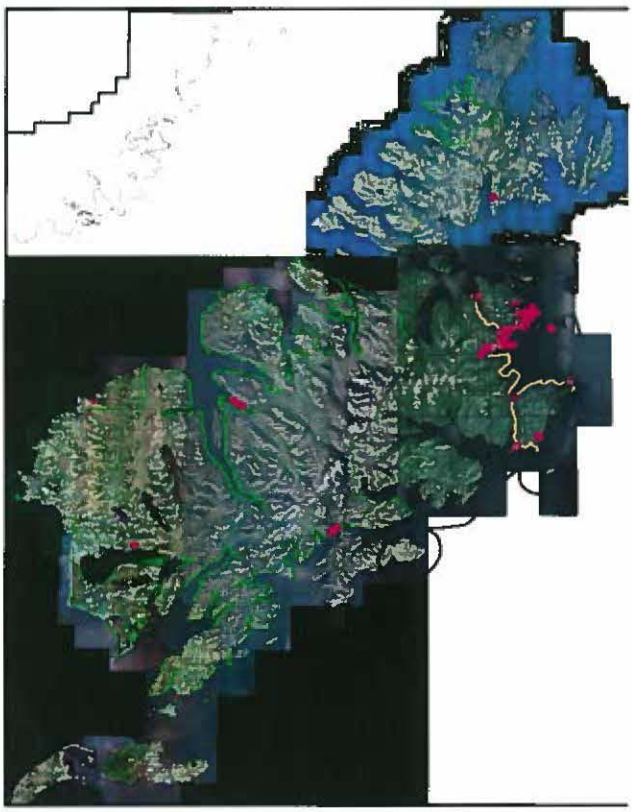
Lauren Cooney, Summer Crew Leader, boards a plane for Karluk. The flight and invasive plant eradication was funded by a Canada thistle grant from the Alaska DNR Plant Materials Center. While there she surveyed for other species, discussed invasive plant issues with residents and provided invasive species color books to children. This is an example of KSWCD partnering several project funding sources to accomplish a well-rounded program, 8/3/2012.



Greg D'Elia applies herbicide to an infestation of Canada thistle, 8/21/2012. Michael Smith, Bill Pyle and Lauren Cooney prepare for a flight to Akalura cannery for a partnered eradication project on private land with the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, 6/10/2013.



The Reimbursement Incentive Program (RIP Weeds) provided funds donated by the Kodiak Lions Club to assist with private weed control, 6/25/2013. (Left). BJ Johnson of American Pest Management prepares equipment to apply herbicide to a patch of bohemian knotweed on private land within Kodiak city, 8/24/2012. (Right) This is another example of partnering to accomplish our Kodiak Weeds Program. Donated time and materials for this project matched a grant from the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts.



This map depicts those sites where new data was collected during summer 2012. Invasive plant locations are concentrated along the Kodiak road system area but also occur in villages and other human footprint sites around the archipelago. The fiscal year covered by this report straddles two field seasons; data collected in the spring of 2013 is still being compiled.

Wetlands Management Plan Development

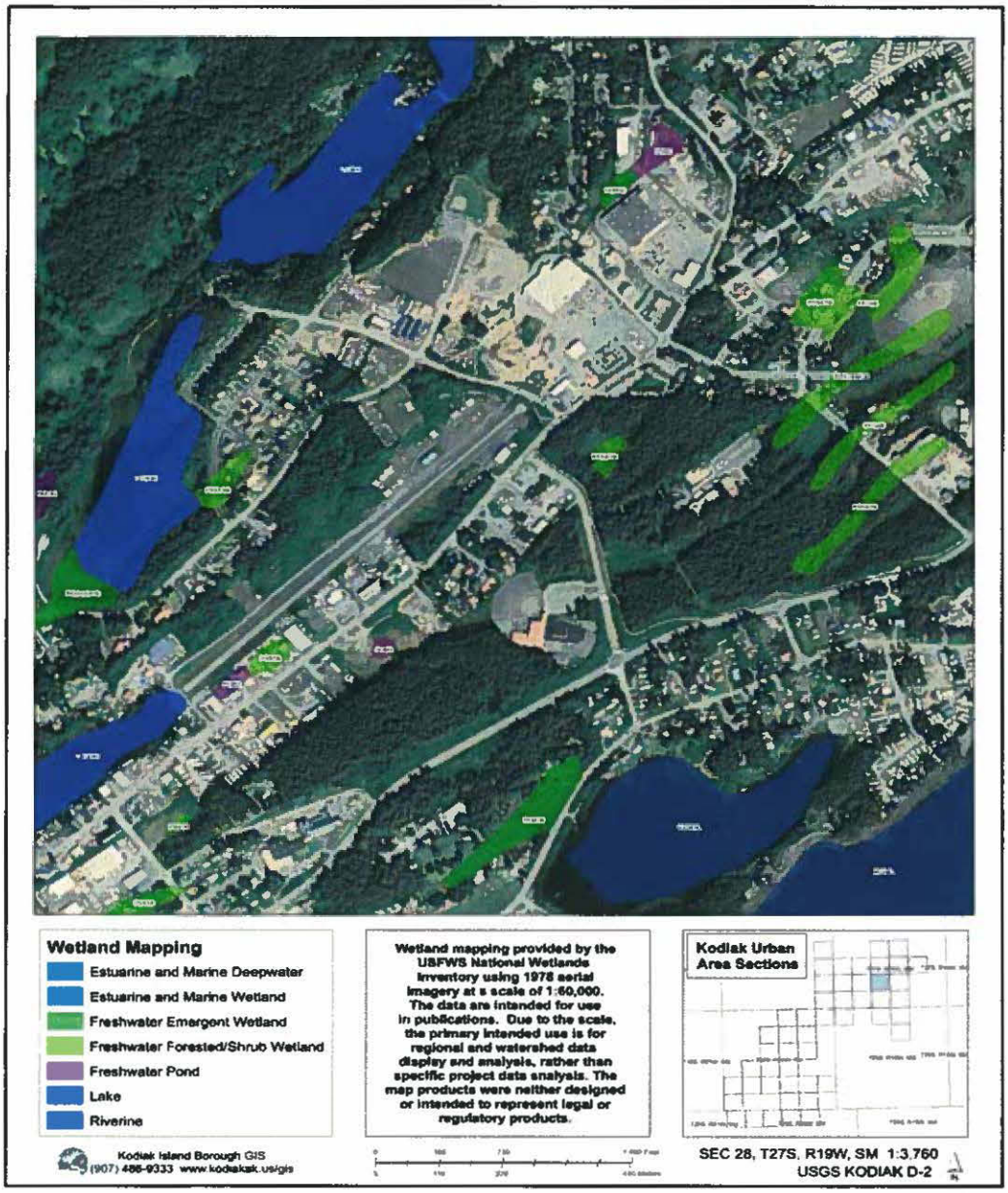
Project Title: Monitoring and Assessment of Urban and Rural Community Wetlands on Kodiak Island.

KSWCD began work on this project on 09/15/2011. KSWCD designed a collaborative effort with the Kodiak Island Borough (KIB) and the rural villages in the Kodiak Archipelago to develop a wetlands monitoring and assessment program and to promote and support wetlands management by constructing a framework plan for the Kodiak Island area. The district has worked with KIB to compile ortho-imagery, current Kodiak management plans, and other core elements to ultimately develop a final management plan and an informational vehicle to promote wetlands conservation on Kodiak.

KSWCD applied and received from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), a Wetlands Program Development Grant (WPDG), in 2011 for the specific purposes of developing and preparing a wetlands program framework plan for monitoring and assessment. This framework plan will be the foundation to ultimately produce a wetlands management plan specific to urban Kodiak and the rural village communities. The framework plan was completed in January of 2013.

This project will build and support a program designed to archive and transfer information that supports wetlands management and protection in urban and rural communities on Kodiak Island. As part of the plan development, KSWCD has been working with KIB as part of a cooperative agreement producing and compiling a database of existing baseline wetland environmental data and GIS aerial color imagery mapping of Kodiak Island. The project goal is to develop an informational resource tool and a final wetlands management plan that will be available to the Kodiak Island Borough, City of Kodiak, Native Villages of Kodiak, and any other entities or agencies that share the mission of this project.

Critical freshwater emergent wetland in Larsen Bay (Left). KIB Community Director Bud Cassidy reviewing orthographic maps of wetlands (Right). (Photos by Dave Kaplan).



True color aerial imagery and wetland delineation and classification in Kodiak urban area.

Mercury Monitoring

This project was funded through a reimbursable services agreement with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC).

As site operators, KSWCD was responsible for maintaining the State's Mercury Deposition Network (MDN) site at the Kodiak Fairgrounds. Once per week, the glassware was changed, rain gauge data was downloaded onto a PDA, and the rain gauge bucket was emptied. The samples were shipped to a lab in Washington State and the rain gauge data was emailed to the University of Illinois.

Maintenance during this FY included replacing the old Bluetooth data download with a USB port and adding a panel to the perimeter fence. This will prevent accidental movement of the platform in case plowed snow is pushed against the fence. The site was inspected in by DEC staff in June 2013.

Stephen Bodnar downloads rain gauge data from the MDN station at the Kodiak Fairgrounds, 3/26/2013 (Left). This site was inspected by Sandy Grenville on 6/11/2013 (Right).

Outreach and Education

Outreach and education activities were incorporated into several KSWCD projects.

During the past year, four Kodiak schools have installed and planted raised garden beds. Produce grown from these beds was used for education and a supplement for the school cafeterias. KSWCD hired a project coordinator, monitored the progress of these raised garden beds, and procured necessary materials.

KSWCD conducted outreach at public events such as the Kodiak Garden Club's annual plant sale, garden fair, garden tours and staffed an invasive species information display at the annual commercial fisheries trade show (Com Fish), the U.S. Coast Guard's Welcome Aboard event and the Kodiak State Fair. KSWCD provided invasive species brochures and handouts at sites around town such as air charter waiting rooms, garden centers and bulletin boards.

The seasonal field crew partnered with the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge's Information Technician for educational activities with children in villages and summer camps.

In addition to invasive species information, the KSWCD display at the Kodiak State Fair offered information about programs and services such as UAF Cooperative Extension Service (CES) bulletins, Grown in Alaska items and NRCS program information. A high tunnel was installed to attract people with displayed photos of local grown vegetables and examples of Kodiak area high tunnels.

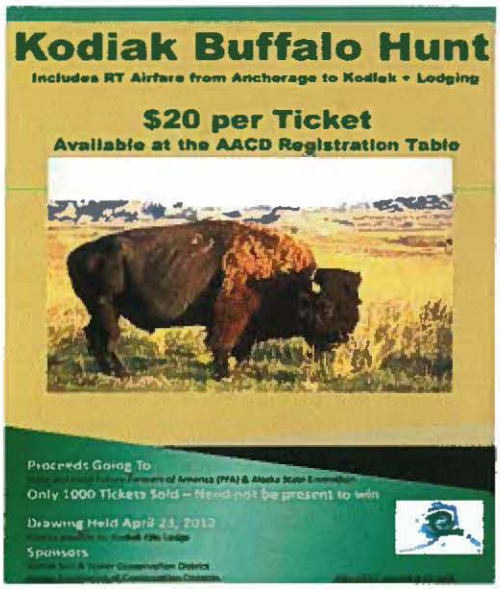
KSWCD published a quarterly newsletter which is distributed to more than 400 addresses by e-mail. Additional paper copies are mailed and provided to the public at several sites around town such as the public library and post offices.

On September 12, 2012, KSWCD hosted a Kodiak Harvest potluck in conjunction with the monthly board meeting. The event showcased the variety of locally produced agricultural products including vegetables, fruit and beef. Keynote speakers included NRCS staff who shared details of the very popular and exciting high tunnel program.

The district received many entries for the annual National Association of Conservation District's (NACD) poster contest. This year's topic "Soil to Spoon" inspired a sister and brother to create posters winning first place in Kodiak and at the AACD State Conference. They went on to win prizes at the NACD national contest for a second year in a row! Rafael Bitanga placed 2nd in the grade 4-6 category and his sister Deborah Bitanga earned honorable mention in the grade 10-12.

KSWCD supported the annual Kodiak Envirothon competition by planning and hosting the Forestry station. This year, KSWCD partnered with several local Foresters for the classroom, field lessons and the day of the competition. KSWCD submitted a successful grant application to the Alaskan Leader Fisheries Foundation to provide sweatshirts to all of the Kodiak Envirothon participants.

The KSWCD/AACD Buffalo Hunt Raffle was officially conducted at the Kodiak High School on April 23, 2012 after 626 tickets were sold. The winning ticket belonged to a Fairbanks resident who came later in the year to Kodiak and successfully hunted and processed their buffalo. A total of $12,250 was raised in gross ticket sales; $930 was reimbursed to KSWCD for expenses; $232 was apportioned to the local Kodiak Elk's Lodge for the raffle permit, tax and accounting. The remaining proceeds of $11,357 were distributed evenly between the Kodiak High School Future Farmers of America (FFA) and the Alaska FFA Association.



Raffle advertisement (Left). Raffle drawing suspense! (Right). (Photos by Dave Kaplan).

NACD poster contest repeat winners Deborah and Rafael Bitanga with KSWCD Board members Todd Dorman, Marie Rice, Charles Dorman and Chris Flickinger, 4/10/2013 (Left). The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) shared booth space with KSWCD at the annual ComFish event 4/11/2013 (Right).


Kodiak High School Career Day, 2/1/2013 (Left). Forestry class field lessons, 1/24/2013 (Right).


Project Coordinator Dave Kaplan inspecting East Elementary School garden (Left). Project Coordinator Lucy Murdock preparing a rain barrel at Main Elementary School gardens (Right). (Photos by Dave Kaplan).

Karin Sonnen, range specialist with NRCS in Homer, meets with the Kodiak Envirothon team at the Growth curve plot on Chris Flickinger's hayfield. (Photo by Stephen Bodnar).

Agricultural Support

KSWCD fulfilled an important need for Kodiak growers and agricultural producers. There is no CES Agent so KSWCD staff provides a "face" and "go to" location for bulletins. Staff facilitated visits by off-island CES Agents, organized pesticide applicator classes and hosted a harvest potluck.


KSWCD invited and facilitated public talks with CES agent Stephen Brown, 6/2/2013(Left). KSWCD provides CES bulletins at events such as the Kodiak Garden Club Garden Fair, 4/6/2013 (Right).

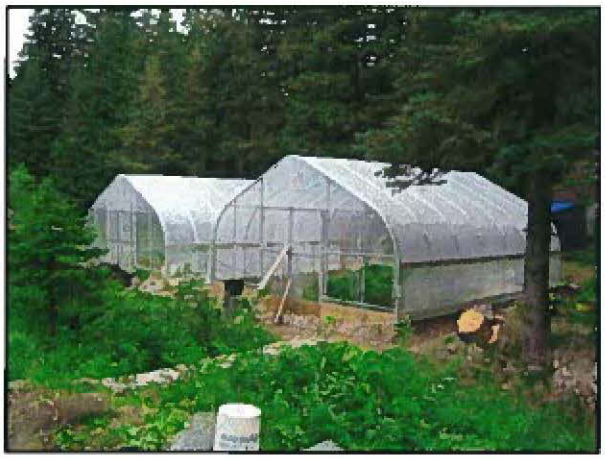

Kodiak producers and supporters watch FFA present a plaque to KSWCD at our annual harvest potluck, 9/12/2012 (Left). Kodiak grown apples at the Farmers Market, 9/15/2012 (Right).


FFA's annual Fun on the Farm event attracted a crowd with games, dancing and displays 10/13/2012 (Left). Color coordination at the Kodiak Farmers Market, 9/22/2012 (Right).

KSWCD Cooperator Judy Hamilton participated in the annual Kodiak Garden Tour by showing and sharing her NRCS sponsored High Tunnel, 8/04/2012 (Left). KSWCD staffed an eye-catching display at the Kodiak Fair that included a wide variety of invasive species and agricultural information, 9/2/2012 (Right).

Technical Assistance

Technical assistance was provided to KSWCD cooperators and partners through NRCS. A KSWCD employee completed training and certified as a Conservation Planner and Technical Support Provider (TSP) under the direction of NRCS/USDA. Under NRCS, KSWCD has been active in performing site surveys and inspections for clients participating in the High Tunnel Program. KSWCD has been assisting customers in the office, and by facilitating meetings and special events. Assistance provided included: soil testing instructions, nutrient management, high tunnel applications, pest management and other agriculture re-related information. KSWCD staff completed eight Conservation Practice Certifications/Inspections for Kodiak High Tunnel operators which included: Measurements; HT Kit Documentation; and Final Check Out.



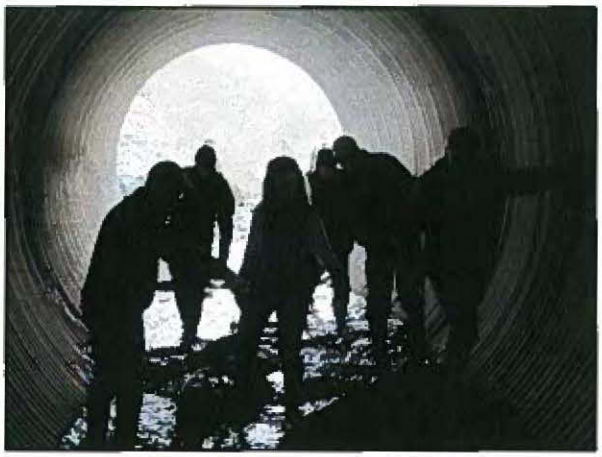
High tunnels ready for inspection (Left). Large Kodiak High Tunnel producing crops, including tree saplings (Right). (Photos by Dave Kaplan).


Inspecting geo blocking, trail condition and looking for invasive species on Portage trail with NRCS, Karluk River, 8/29/2012.

Stephen Bodnar, GIS Technician gave a presentation about data collection and mapping techniques at the annual Kodiak GIS day. In this photo he displays an early Russian map of the Kodiak Archipelago. GIS day, 12/5/2012.

Fish Passage

KSWCD used funds in the 2010-12 Fish Passages grant from the FWS Coastal Programs to continue partnership activities associated with the removal of three culverts at the head of Buskin Lake. Staff initiated a project for participants of the US Coast Guard sponsored Eco Challenge. Volunteers transplanted native plants and spread seeds and vegetation material over the bare soil of the culvert removal areas. KSWCD staff also participated in a Fish Passage training session provided by FWS and ADFG instructors.

Culvert removal site above Buskin Lake, now a free flowing stream with unimpeded fish passage, 8/11/2012 (Left). Fish Passage workshop participants inspect a culvert in Kodiak, 10/23/2012 (Right).


A few of the Eco Challenge volunteers, 8/11/2012 (Left). ADFG and FWS discuss fish passage and culvert issues with KSWCD board member and cooperator Todd Dorman, 11/29/2012 (Right).

Agriculture Research/Hay Growth Curve Project

On June 1, 2013 KSWCD entered into an agreement with the DNR, PMC to collect data for an intensive study and analysis of several native and non-native species of grasses on Kodiak Island. This project focuses on forage growth curve and nutrient production throughout a typical graminoids life cycle. Starting June 1, 2013, KSWCD staff began field sampling procedures as directed by PMC staff. This project was funded by NRCS.

Casey Dinkle of the PMC talks with Joe Dinnocenzo and Chris Flickinger while setting up the Growth Curve test plot (Left). Growth Curve test plot in Chris Flickinger's hayfield (Right). (Photos by Stephen Bodnar).

Harvest time at Burton's hayfield. (Photo by Stephen Bodnar).

Signatures

Joe Dinnocenzo		9-11-13
District Manager	Signature	Date
Chris Flickinger		9-11-13
District Chair	Signature	Date
Charles Dorman		9-11-13
District Vice-Chair	Signature	Date
Craig Stratman		
District Supervisor	Signature	Date
Marie Rice		
District Supervisor	Signature	Date
Todd Dorman		
District Supervisor	Signature	Date

From: Mid Yukon Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation District
P.O. Box: 88, Aniak, AK. 99557

Date: 09/26/13

This represents the annual report of the Mid Yukon Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation District for the fiscal year FY13, as required by the Dept. of Natural Resources, as specified in the cooperative agreement with the Dept. of Natural Resources and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts.

Highlights:

I. Provide Capacity Building for the Mid Yukon Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation District
II. Provide Conservation Technical Assistance to MYK landowners
III. Develop Stream Bank Erosion Survey in the Mid Yukon Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation District
IV. Continue High Tunnel Demonstration Project
V. Complete Water Quality / Aquatic Species Habitat Study

Programs & Projects

The Mid Yukon Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation District conducted its annual assessment of progress toward completion of the FY13 Plan of Work.

Goal I: *Provide Capacity Building for the Mid Yukon Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation District.*

Assessment: Monthly meetings by the Board of Supervisors of MYK SWCD have been held, including elections and swearing in of new board member. Meeting minutes provided to NRCDB.

Goal II: *Provide Conservation Technical Assistance to MYK landowners*

Assessment: MYK SWCD continued to work with gardeners in the application of accepted conservation practices in gardening such as crop rotation, nutrition management, pest management, etc. We are also working with local gardeners in the region to lessen the dependence of obtaining seed potatoes from outside sources. Appropriate seed stock compatible to this region's climate are being provided along with information on how to store the seed potatoes throughout the winter for spring planting.

Through funding from the Scott Paper Co. we are also working to document areas of invasive weed infestation such as hemp nettle and narrow leaf hawks beard. MYK SWCD is also working with landowners and agencies in the process of invasive weed eradication. The grant timeline has been extended to 2014 due to invasive weed infestation that is more extensive than anticipated.

We are also continuing to actively support the State of Alaska Division of Wildlife Conservation's efforts to reintroduce of Wood Bison in the MYK Region.

Goal III:. *Develop Stream Bank Erosion Survey in the Mid Yukon Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation District*

Assessment: Lathe markers have been placed along the eroding shoreline in the south end of Upper Kalskag to measure rate of erosion. MYK SWCD is in the final stages of completing a River Bank Erosion Survey in the community of Aniak, along the Aniak Slough, which will be presented to landowners and City of Aniak. Lathe markers and GPS coordinates are also in place along other areas to document areas of concentrated flow erosion and other types of erosion. Measurements are also taken annually to determine rate of erosion and potential effects on life and property.

Goal IV; *Continue High Tunnel Demonstration Project*

Assessment; MYK SWCD is continuing to operate a High Tunnel Demonstration Project in Aniak, in cooperation with the NRCS, Kuskokwim Native Association and the Aniak Tribal Council. The project demonstrates the advantages of the season extending properties of a high tunnel. Crops such as corn, cucumbers, tomatoes, etc are being grown inside the high tunnel that normally could not be grown in this region. Produce from the project is distributed locally to elders and to the KNA Elder Meals Program. Applications for constructing a high tunnel through NRCs are made available to the public from the MYK SWCD office.

Goal V: Water Quality / Aquatic Species Habitat Study

Data is being collected as to types of aquatic species being possibly affected by sewage being pumped into Kuskokwim River. Duration and estimated amount of sewage being discharged is being documented.

10:43 AM
09/12/13
Accrual Basis

Alaska Association of Conservation Districts
2012 State FY13 13-DC-448:201258 Mid Yukon FY13 State
July 2012 through June 2013

	2012-58 Mid Yukon FY13 State (2012 State FY13 13-DC-448)				Total 2012 State FY13 13-DC-448				TOTAL			
	Jul '12 - J...	Budget	$ Over B...	% of B...	Jul '12 - J...	Budget	$ Over B...	% of B...	Jul '12 - J...	Budget	$ Over B...	% of B...
Expense												
6000 · Personnel	25,162.00	30,000.00	-4,838.00	83.9%	25,162.00	30,000.00	-4,838.00	83.9%	25,162.00	30,000.00	-4,838.00	83.9%
6100 · Fringe Benefits	5,196.39	3,198.00	1,998.39	162.5%	5,196.39	3,198.00	1,998.39	162.5%	5,196.39	3,198.00	1,998.39	162.5%
6200 · Travel	5,697.77	5,000.00	697.77	114.0%	5,697.77	5,000.00	697.77	114.0%	5,697.77	5,000.00	697.77	114.0%
6400 · Supplies	758.20	3,000.00	-2,241.80	25.3%	758.20	3,000.00	-2,241.80	25.3%	758.20	3,000.00	-2,241.80	25.3%
6500 · Contractual	226.70	1,000.00	-773.30	22.7%	226.70	1,000.00	-773.30	22.7%	226.70	1,000.00	-773.30	22.7%
6600 · Operations	1,674.65	2,802.00	-1,127.35	59.8%	1,674.65	2,802.00	-1,127.35	59.8%	1,674.65	2,802.00	-1,127.35	59.8%
Total Expense	38,715.71	45,000.00	-6,284.29	86.0%	38,715.71	45,000.00	-6,284.29	86.0%	38,715.71	45,000.00	-6,284.29	86.0%
Net Income	-38,715.71	-45,000.00	6,284.29	86.0%	-38,715.71	-45,000.00	6,284.29	86.0%	-38,715.71	-45,000.00	6,284.29	86.0%

NRCS FY13 Budget

July 2012 through June 2013

Revenue	Budget	Expense	Remaining Balance
Personnel	$ 33,887.00	$ 14,137.50	$ 19,749.50
Fringe	$ 3,728.00	$ 1,529.38	$ 2,198.62
Travel	$ 4,110.00	$ 1,958.58	$ 2,151.42
Supplies	$ 704.00	$ 238.11	$ 465.89
Equipment/Contractual	$ 1,961.00	$ 1,850.00	$ 111.00
	$ 44,390.00	$ 19,713.57	$ 24,676.43

Mid Yukon Kuskokwim Soil and Water Conservation District
Profit & Loss for Scott Paper Grant 2013
January 1 through September 19, 2013

	Jan 1 - Sep 19, 13
Income	
1 · State Contracts	8,333.00
Total Income	8,333.00
Expense	
6000 · Personnel	2,357.74
6400 · Supplies	274.12
Total Expense	2,631.86
Net Income	**5,701.14**

Signatures

DISTRICT MANAGER

Report prepared by	Signature	Date
HERMAN W. MORGAN	Herman W. Morgan	9/12/13

District Vice Chair	Signature	Date
Jerry Peterson	Jerry Peterson	9/13/13

District Board Member	Signature	Date
Lewis J. Mallette	Lewis J. Mallette	9/12/13

To: Alaska Department of Natural Resources

From: Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District

RE: Annual Report for 2012 – 2013

Date: October 4, 2013

In the 2012-2013 Plan of Work 11 conservation-oriented goals were identified.

Goal 1: Complete project deliverables such as high tunnel plans, conservation plans, water and nutrient management plans (a continuation of a 2012 project).

In addition to the Conservation Plans developed for the Jim Lake Public Recreation Area (managed by Alaska DNR), Nutrient Management Plans for vegetable and hay crops were developed for nine cooperators.

A 200 word article was written about high tunnels for the NRCS Blogsite. This short article is written as a precursor to a much more technically oriented publication scheduled for early 2014.

A series of workshops and presentations were given to cooperators and the general public to increase the level of soil sampling prior to fertilizer application by both of the District's agronomists. These educational events were attended by over 120 individuals.

There was significant interest in proper soil sampling and the resulting recommendations for both organic and conventional production strategies. The soils of several intensively-managed vegetable fields in the Palmer were intensively mapped by taking soil samples on a 300' grid pattern and entering the data into ARCGIS (a geographic analysis program).

As part of the same project several vegetable fields and several hay fields were mapped with a Greenseeker (a sensor that measures the color of the individual plants as it passes over them). In some fields the level of green correlated with soil nutrient status but in other fields there were no differences in soil nutrient levels associated with detectable differences of crop color. For one of the fields the farmer explained that the area of the field with less green was an area that drained slower in the spring. This technology shows great promise as a means to verify site-specific management decisions since it can detect numerous color distinctions where our eyes indicate a uniform 'healthy' green color of the field. Another aspect of this project looked at the relationship between soil nutrient levels and plant tissue nutrient levels in potatoes. In the large potato production regions of the Lower-48 side-dress and fertigation applications are made according to crop tissue nutrient levels. Unfortunately, these recommendations don't exist for Alaska production conditions and tissue sampling/analysis is much more expensive than soil sampling/analysis. Consequently, soil NPK levels were compared to tissue NPK levels to determine if timely soil sampling could be used to predict tissue NPK stress within a timeframe in which corrective action can be taken.

In the summer of 2012 PSWCD monitored the soil moisture levels of selected fields using both irrometers and the deeper sensing Diviner. The moisture results were delivered to the growers so they could make their appropriate irrigation decisions. In the 2013 growing season an Environmental Science student took over the moisture monitoring role and monitored the fields on an intensive basis (twice per week). The readings of both sets of instruments never left the acceptable range since the growers managed their irrigation on a daily basis based on the field readings that were recorded that morning.

Although there was only minimal call for weed-free forage scouting in the 2012 season and none for the 2013 season, our agronomist's weed identification skills were put to good use assisting several of the district's other invasive weed programs. Purple Loosestrife, White Sweetclover, Reed Canarygrass , Spotted Knapweed and Western Waterweed (Elodea nuttallii) were all identified.

Mychorrhizal fungi were added to select onions in the growing areas of several cooperators. Although the effect was not obvious at each site, on several sites the onion bulbs of the inoculated plants were significantly larger than those of the non-inoculated 'control' plants.

A cooperator concerned with wind erosion soil loss allowed PSWCD set up a trial evaluating several annual crops and a commercial silt fence to determine if cost-effective strategies of minimizing the effects winter wind events were available. The treatments were established in the spring of 2013 and will be evaluated over the upcoming winter.

Goal 2: Complete a road cut/hillside revegetation project at Valley Pathways High School in Palmer and plan for a walking trail from the school to the Cravasse-Moraine Trail system.

The slope stabilization/bioswale portion of the project was completed in the fall of 2011 and the site was monitored in 2012. The bioswale worked as planned, the runoff water from the parking area was contained in the bioswale to allow the sediment and pollutants to settle out and the excess water perked into the soil. Unfortunately, the planned trail connecting the school grounds to the Crevasse Moraine trail system was not allowed to move forward. The proposed trail was to have crossed Mat-Su Borough land and, ultimately, permission was not granted to access this property.

Goal 3: Complete Alaska Department of Fish and Game salmon habitat project through inventories and controls of invasive plants deleterious to salmon in the Susitna and Knik River Watershed.

This project has been identifying and controlling invasive plant species which have potential to adversely affect anadromous waters in the Matanuska, Little Susitna and Knik River Watershed. The invasive plants surveyed include *P. arundinacea*, *M. alba, L. salicaria*, *E. nuttallii, and E. canadensis* because of their ability to invade stream beds and alter soil hydrology, constrict waterways, and alter salmon habitat. FY 2013 work included:

Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Management project contracted with the Division of Forestry's Student Intern Crew and the Upper Su Youth Conservation Crew to fulfill survey and control work as outlined in the Statement of Work. The Alaska Forestry Intern Crew (based in Palmer) and the Youth Conservation Corps (based in Talkeetna) were hired for 10 and 6 days respectively during the summer of 2012. Each crew participated in a full day of training led by PSWCD staff where they received instruction on native and invasive plant identification and how invasive plants have the potential to negatively impact salmon habitat. Crew members were trained in survey techniques using GPS units and in how to correctly fill out data collection forms that are entered into AKEPIC, a statewide database. After the initial training they were taken into the field and taught how to safely and effectively perform surveys, implement early detection and rapid response eradication work, and to work together as a cohesive team. During the spring and summer of 2013 the field crew worked extensively at the Matanuska River Park to revegetate a three-year tarping effort of Reed Canarygrass.

PSWCD staff utilized volunteers to help perform multi-day surveys including 30 miles of theMatanuska River from the Matanuska Glacier to Chickaloon as well as the 40 mile Deshka River from the confluence of Kroto and Moose Creek near Neil Lake to its output at Susitna River. In 2012 PSWCD staff requested and was

granted an informal change to the scope of work to include more watersheds along the Matanuska River. The additional streams were requested due to the discovery of Reed Canary Grass growing along Matanuska River Park parallel to the Matanuska River. We also requested to widen the target invasive species to include Western Water Weed (*Elodea Nuttallii*), Common Water Weed (*Elodea Canadensis*), and Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*). These changes were requested due to the recent discovery Elodea species in Fairbanks, Cordova and Anchorage, AK. PSWCD has surveyed for Elodea in several lakes in the Matanuska Susitna Borough.

PSWCD staff organized several volunteer events over the 2012 field season, including weed pulls with Trailside Discovery Camp and identification trainings with the Volunteer Lake Monitoring Program. The biggest community event was the "Weed Smackdown." In 2012 the youth crews and 37 volunteers from the community participated and 340 pounds of white sweetclover were removed from a two acre area on the Matanuska river bed. The spring planning for the 2013 Smackdown ultimately resulted in the recruiting of over 70 volunteers which pulled over 1,400 pounds of weeds from downtown Palmer in the summer event. This was a great way to demonstrate the importance of monitoring and controlling invasive plants and we plan to continue this event again next year.

PSWCD staff continued to visit the sites where controls were performed and continued to manually control, pull, dig, mow, or tarp to ensure the greatest impact on the invasive colony, as well as to reduce the amount of seeds produced by mature invasive plants. The PSWCD updated the District's Web page (www.palmersoilandwater.com) with details surrounding the Mat-Su Salmon Habitat Restoration Project.

Goal 4: Complete an education program that involves being present at the Little Susitna landing during the peak of the salmon fishing season to provide information to boaters about the harmful results of fuel spills and other possible negative impacts of boating.

The boater education outreach project, sponsored by Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, was completed in December 2012. The focus of this outreach effort was to educate recreational boaters on the dangers of petroleum-based hydrocarbon pollution in degrading water quality and consequently damaging salmon habitat. Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District staff, along with several volunteers, spent weekends at one of the busiest boat launches on the Little Susitna River. They distributed educational materials, answered questions and had materials available to demonstrate the impacts of oil and gasoline on water quality along with information and techniques to minimize the risk of hydrocarbon pollution.

Goal 5: Complete an education program that involves a natural resource education competition between high school teams.

The 2013 Alaska Envirothon was held in North Pole, Alaska on April 26th at Chena Lakes Recreation Area. High school students from around the state came to learn about science careers and environmental issues. After completing four hands-on field tests in the areas of Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils and Wildlife, teams delivered a presentation to address the current issue: *Range Management: Herding Reindeer on the Seward Peninsula.* The Envirothon program depends on many dedicated volunteers representing the following agencies: Alaska Department of Fish and Game, University of Alaska Fairbanks and Cooperative Extension Services, Natural Resource Conservation Service, US Forest Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Department of Environmental Conservation, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Faribanks North Star Borough and Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District.

Goal 6: Complete implementation of Veris Technologies soil analysis machine to determine soil conditions to increase productivity.

The soil mapping implement made by Veris Technologies arrived in August and was setup by Veris personnel and tested in several cooperator fields. The unit successfully evaluated levels of soil organic matter and the electrical conductivity of the soils in the field. Unfortunately, the system that detects soil pH was problematic and the data was unreliable. The data of all sensors is recorded to a computer chip as the implement is towed through the field and simultaneously a global positioning unit is recording the implements location within the field. After appropriate computer analysis the result of the operation is a fairly detailed map of the organic matter levels and the soil texture (sand, silt, and clay content) of the field. These maps can be made at a much higher resolution than the published NRCS soil maps. When the field specific information is added to the information in the NRCS soils map the farmer is able to fine-tune the field's planting, fertilizing, and irrigation regimes for optimal crop productivity. Several presentations were given on this technology to interest farmers in the advantages that this implement could provide to fine-tune their management decisions. In addition to several Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District cooperators there was also interest in having the unit travel to Kenai and to Kodiak to survey soils.

Goal 7: Support the implementation of various conservation projects across the Matanuska Watershed

State funds provided program and administrative support for the district. These funds were used to purchase needed items that were not covered by various grants, cover administrative expenses and covered technical support that was not covered by the grants. These funds also provide valuable match funds to the grants that want to see that the recipient organization also contributes to the project.

Goal 8: Complete inventories for Canada Thistle and Purple Loosestrife

Throughout the 2012 growing season PSWCD staff monitored the Palmer region for the presence of Purple Loosestrife and Canada Thistle. While no loosestrife was found several populations of thistle were identified and control measures were initiated. The Canada thistle project continued into the 2013 growing season and increased landowner awareness caused numerous new populations to be identified. One long-term Valley resident informed district staff that Canada thistle was not a new weed to the region but that it had been identified (and apparently controlled) in the Palmer area in the 1950s.

Goal 9: Mapping of Cottonwood Creek stream bank.

This project conducts core area stream mapping and watershed characterization on Cottonwood Creek to verify stream location, collect geomorphic and habitat information, identify restoration opportunities, and monitor any potential past restoration projects. It uses Fish and Wildlife Service protocol to map over 7 miles of lower Cottonwood Creek during 2012 classified as impaired by Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation. During the summer of 2013 the upper reaches of Cottonwood creek were also mapped and the results will be given to project partners for outreach purposes. It is intended that the geomorphic data will also become available for future salmon habitat and land use purposes. This project has been extended through 2014, to include the 24 high priority water bodies that the Mat Su Salmon Habitat Partnership has identified. These water bodies will be incorporated into a GIS data set and using LiDAR imagery, restoration opportunities will be identified and more habitat and geomorphology data incorporated as it becomes available.

Goal 10: Support of youth programs, outreach, and invasive plants program.

The district's youth project, funded by ConocoPhillips, focuses on educating and involving youth with the control and eradication of invasive plants. Funding from this program went to train and then hire the Division of Forestry's youth intern crew for approximately 6 days to assist in the invasive weed control project associated with the Alaska Sustainable Salmon Fund. CononcoPhillips' Funds were also contributed to hiring a Natural Resource Technician. This technician assisted numerous projects throughout the office and the salary money was used as valuable matching funds for other grant-funded projects. The ConocoPhillips funds received in 2012 were used for the 2012 Palmer 'Weed Smackdown', a family friendly community weed pull event, and various other supplies that may be needed throughout the field season. In the Spring of 2013, additional ConocoPhillip's funds were used to plan for the Weed Smackdown to be held in July (the next reporting year).

Goal 11: Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District support of all projects, purchase of Veris equipment, Alaska Ag day, and all District operations

Palmer Soil and Water Conservation District funds were used to purchase the soil mapping unit from Veris Technologies, contribute to the sponsorship of Agriculture Day at the Alaska State Fair, contribute to several agriculture-oriented projects in the Palmer area and to cover the district's operational expenses. While the grants we are able to acquire cover the project's salary needs and specific expenses directly tied to the project, very few of them contribute to the overall operating expenses of the district (rent, utilities, management expenses etc.). Consequently, district funds are necessary to facilitate office operations. Fortunately, several grant-funded projects are able to use these district expenditures as matching funds. This allows PSWCD to be more competitive in the grant evaluation process.

Accomplishments outside of the Plan of Work: Jim Lake Restoration Planning

Palmer district staff identified methods of minimizing soil erosion from a parking area into a salmon spawning bed on the shore of Jim Lake. Extensive planning between several agencies was necessary prior to achieving the permits to facilitate the actual work in the summer of 2013.

		Jul '12 - Jun 13
Income		
State Grants		
Div. of Ag. - Loosestrife	$	1,027.51
Div. of Ag. - Specialty Crop Workshop	$	2,700.00
AK Sust. Salmon Fund (Inv. Weeds and Outreach)	$	138,211.90
DEC - ACWA 2013	$	6,985.52
DEC - ACWA 2011	$	2,791.00
Federal Grants		
NRCS Tech Service Provider	$	57,244.00
NRCS Conserv. Innov. Grant - Bee Project	$	7,413.00
USDA Veris 2013	$	17,436.54
F&WS - Pathways Restoration	$	4,477.95
F&WS Jim Lake/Cottonwood Creek	$	1,440.00
Other		
Palmer Unrestricted Funds	$	141,392.52
Landowner Services income	$	659.60
Misc. Revenue	$	190.00
Total Income	$	381,969.54
Expenses		
Operations (rent and other indirect expenses)	$	54,367.08
Personnel (wages, training and fringe)	$	251,325.27
Projet Outreach Expenses	$	1,023.71
Direct Project Expenses	$	64,625.98
Total Expense	$	371,342.04
Net Income	$	10,627.50

Jeff Smeenk

District Manager

Todd Pettit

Chair, Board of PSWCD

FY13 Annual Report

Salcha-Delta Soil & Water Conservation District

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Above photo: Aerial view of Delta farmland looking east.

Cover photo: Harvested barley and brome plots at the UAF Research Farm.

Memorandum to: Department of Natural Resources

From: Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District

Subject: Annual Report of Accomplishments

Date: September 16, 2013

Note from the Chair:

The following report discusses some of the activities, projects, and programs accomplished by the Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District (SDSWCD) from July 2012 to June 2013. In the compilation of this report, the District conducted its annual assessment of progress on the 2013 plan of work. Specific project highlights of the year are included in each section. This includes projects that have been completed for fiscal year 2013, as well as those which are still ongoing.

District programs include conservation assistance, water quality, noxious and invasive weed control, conservation education and information, watershed planning, research projects, agricultural crops for biomass projects, and land rehabilitation and maintenance (LRAM). Many other worthwhile efforts could not be included in this report due to space limitations. The District supports agriculture development, science-based resource management, and responsible conservation efforts by land managers. The SDSWCD meets the conservation needs of many businesses and individuals locally and throughout the state.

Rex Wrigley
District Chair

PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

Goal 1: Conservation Assistance

The District continues to support the local agricultural community. Nutrient and pest management plans are developed for cooperators and assistance is provided to cooperators to put those plans into action. Field visits provide assistance in improving soil sampling accuracy, calibration of equipment, appropriate application of fertilizer and herbicide, scouting and identification of pests, record keeping, and identifying resource concerns and other practices to improve efficiency and productivity of farms.

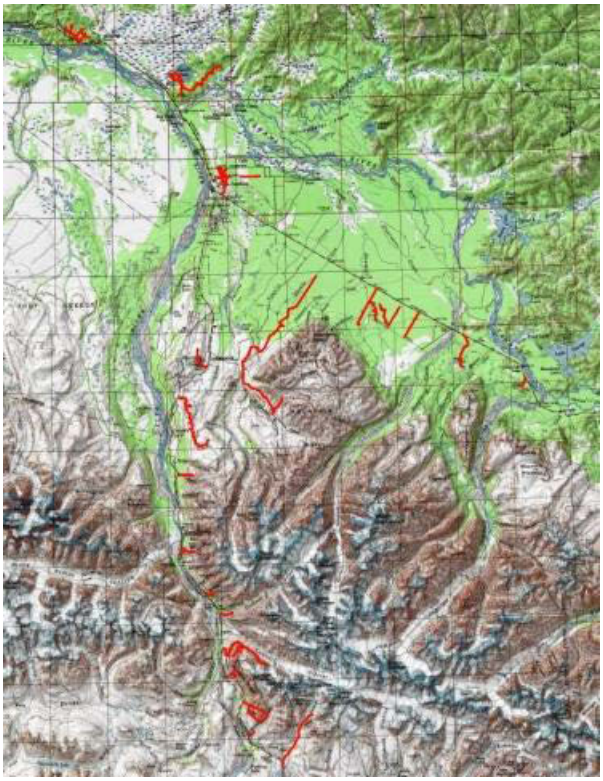
The SDSWCD supports local food production and processing efforts to improve food security in Alaska and reduce the carbon footprint of what we eat. The SDSWCD also developed a cost-share bison fencing program available to eligible cooperators to help mitigate the damage to crops caused by bison. The District accomplished numerous outreach efforts throughout the year to support various local and state agriculture-related organizations, as well as sponsoring the Deltana Fair and Friendly Frontier Days.

GPS Guidance – In a funding agreement with NRCS, the District was able to continue to assist producers in setting up GPS guidance systems to improve farming efficiency.

Soil Sampling Cost-share – SDSWCD continues to provide a cost-share program for District cooperators testing their soil for Nutrient Management Plans to be able to meet nutrient needs of their crops.

Farm Forum 2013 – The District co-sponsors the Farm Forum, an annual farmer-focused symposium. The forum had an approximate turnout of 110 attendees. The forum focus was towards local farming and food processing this year. Board Chair Rex Wrigley presented the 2012 Cooperator of the year award to John Robinson of Robinson Farms.→

Cost-share Bison Fencing Program – After developing and approving the new program, the District had a sign up process for the 2012 season and held a fence building guidelines workshop for interested and eligible cooperators. The District plans to extend this program into next year. This program provides an opportunity to District cooperators to receive assistance in funding for spec-built fences in order to help keep roaming bison out of their fields.



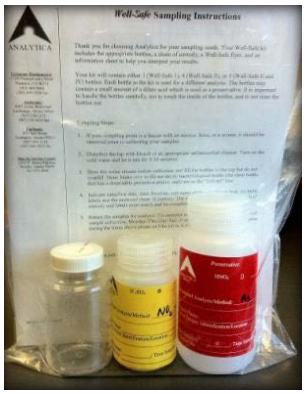
Trail Assessment – The SDSWCD received funding from NRCS to perform trail assessments and inventories for fifteen trails located within the District boundaries. The red lines on the map indicate assessed trails (*left*).

The project purpose is to catalogue recreational trails and assess them for resource issues such as wetland degradation, soil erosion, usage patterns, drainage issues, and others. The collected information will be useful in assisting NRCS in identifying areas for possible future rehabilitation projects, as well as helping SDSWCD develop a local trail guide that could be available to the public interested in outdoor recreational opportunities.

Bison Range Management – With funding from the military, the District developed and implemented a bison management plan for the Ft. Greely military impact areas, a plan which includes fertilizing the calving grounds for the free-roaming bison herds. During the 2012-2013 field seasons, the SDSWCD managed 300 acres of range with brush cutting, smoothing, seeding and fertilizing berms.

Goal 2: Water Quality

The water quality program is one of several that focuses on conservation and wise development of our natural resources. The purpose of the water quality testing is to provide baseline information for tracking changes in the water quality of the Clearwater River and Harding Lake. The District conducts water testing to monitor the effect of agricultural and homeowner activities on water quality. Tracked results are used to establish baseline data and identify trends showing substantive changes in water quality. Testing is performed four times per year (at break-up, mid-summer, fall, and just prior to freeze-up), for pH, electrical conductivity, dissolved oxygen, temperature, nitrates, nitrites, phosphates, and turbidity.



Well Water Testing Clinic – The SDSWCD held their second annual well water testing clinic in early June, which brought in higher participation this year. Eligible participants from within the District boundaries bought more than 20 *Well-Safe* testing kits, such as the one pictured here, to test their water sources for possible contamination from arsenic, coliform bacteria, and nitrates+nitrites. Collected water samples were taken up to the receiving lab in Fairbanks, who sent test results to both the participating landowner and the District. The District plans to utilize this data, and any other collected from future well water testing clinics, to monitor private well water drinking sources and assist landowners in remediation efforts should levels exceed maximum EPA drinking water standards.

Goal 3: Noxious and Invasive Weed Control

The SDSWCD continues to be committed in eradicating noxious weeds in the local area, operating several programs to support that goal. This includes weed pulls, certified noxious weed-free forage and straw scouting, pest management planning, noxious weed inventory, and responding to landowner concerns about noxious weeds.

Early detection is crucial for identifying new invasive weed threats while they can still be controlled. We have a rapid response capability in the District for private land. This has been partially expanded to include public land. Early detection, along with timely treatment, is the best option for eliminating noxious and invasive weeds.

64 Degrees North Restoration – The newest program addition to the District, 64° North Restoration connects youth to the environment through an 8-week educational internship. Backed with funding from a Wells Fargo grant and a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant, the internship provides youth with the opportunity to receive job-readiness skills and hands-on experience in native habitats preservation within the interior of Alaska. Youth are trained in native plants/shrubs propagation and the use of Early Detection-Rapid Response methods in mapping and controlling invasive plants along rivers, highways, and agriculture interface. Youth also work with BLM field staff and wildlife biologists in habitat improvement projects to develop skills for conservation careers. During the summer of 2013, youth were working with Ft. Greely Environmental Department, the Tetlin National Wildlife Refuge, and the BLM Forty Miles Wild and Scenic Corridor. With the completion of the 2013 season, the District plans to continue the program in the following year.

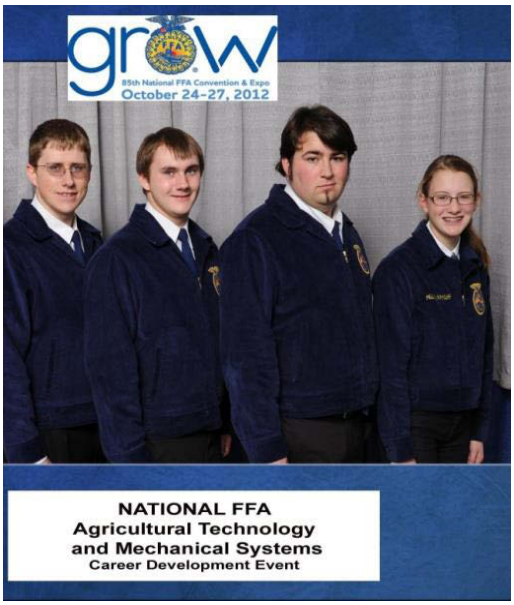
Goal 4: Conservation Education and Information

The District continues raising awareness of conservation practices that everyone can participate in, which will help conserve our natural resources. Classroom activities, forums, newsletters, and several programs and projects that encourage families to participate together help accomplish this. Other activities are geared towards educating students, from using a hands-on approach to teaching outdoors. The District also sponsored different educational events throughout the year, including the sponsorship of the Envirothon for the fourth year.

Lost Lake Conservation Outdoor School (LLCOS) – The District ran the outdoor conservation school as a five-day overnight camp for sixth grade students at the Lost Lake Boy Scout Camp in September 2012. The thirty-three students attending the camp learned skills in topics such as archeology, bush craft, orienteering, and invasive plants. The main purpose for the outdoor school is to introduce children to the Alaskan environment and interest them in the natural resources field.

The location of the camp conveniently lends itself to provide the best opportunity for students to learn these things without being distracted by modern technologies and busy schedules. The District hopes to continue to offer this opportunity indefinitely.

The following photos show students learning how to safely start a fire, making a boat or canoe, building a shelter out of available forest resources, identifying weeds using noxious and invasive plant identification guidebooks, and using a compass to orient themselves in the woods.



Future Farmers of America (FFA) – The SDSWCD continued to sponsor the local FFA chapter, which is led by SDSWCD staff member and chapter advisor, Tammie Kovalenko. Local students attended the National FFA Convention in October 2012 (*left*) as the Alaska team, winning a bronze medal, as well as earning individual awards.

In the spring, the local chapter participated in the 2013 FFA State Convention in Fairbanks (*right*), where students went on to receive a number of awards, and one student was voted in as the vice-president of the Alaska State FFA Association.

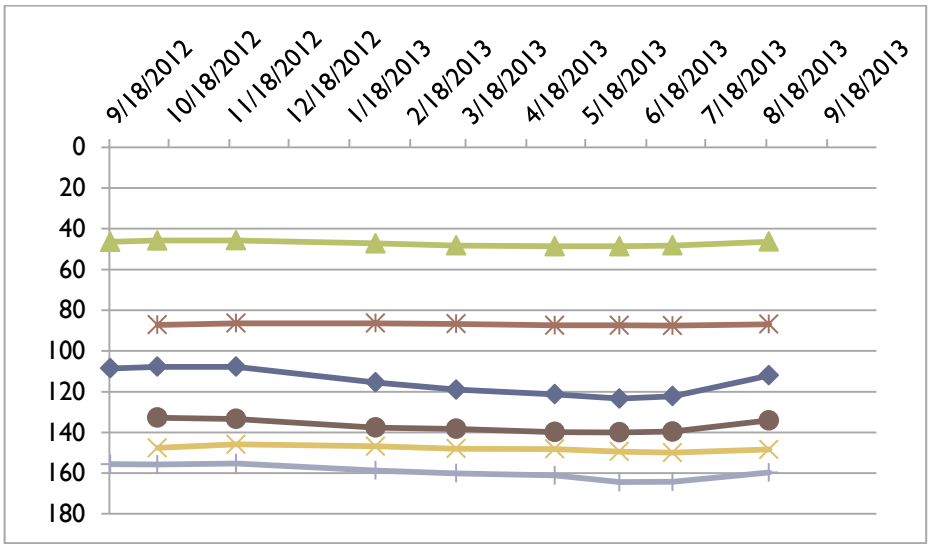
Goal 5: Watershed Planning

The SDSWCD partners with local, state, and federal agencies to deal with watershed concerns. The Clearwater and the Harding Lake watersheds impact fish and wildlife habitats, agriculture, recreation, and public safety. Both watershed projects need significant investment in time and resources to solve the existing problems.

Jarvis Glacier Study – The District completed its third year of research on the Jarvis Glacier, partnering with the Cold Regions Research Engineering Laboratory (CRREL) and researchers from the UAF Water and Environmental Research Center (WERC). The gathered data is used to study the impact of the glacier on the District watersheds.

Groundwater Study – The SDSWCD, with funding from NRCS, started a study of Delta Junction groundwater. The goal was to develop a GIS layer map of the water table in the area that can be used for planning purposes, such as landowners interested in developing their property and preparing for well drilling.

Using a sonic water level meter (*below left*), District GIS Program administrator Colin Barnard has been monitoring static water levels in six wells spread out over the area for seasonal fluctuations in the space of a year. This chart shows what progress has been made so far (*below right*).



Goal 6: Research Projects

The SDSWCD continues to invest in agricultural research, as well as collaborate with UAF and USDA/ARS researchers to support Alaskan agriculture. Some NRCS-funded projects included the irrigation/nitrate leaching project and developing a fertilizer matrix for barley, potatoes, and brome hay. The District completed their third year of collecting data on these deliverables and is finalizing the results.

The bottom left photo shows soil samples collected from the fertilizer matrix study, ready to be sent to the lab. On the bottom right, District staff member Charles Mancuso is pulling a water sample from a barley plot using a lysimeter for the irrigation trials study.

Goal 7: Agricultural Crops for Biomass Projects

The SDSWCD continues to explore the potential for alternative energy from agricultural crops, which could create new markets for producers. This would make farming more economically sustainable for local farmers. A potential biomass system in Ft. Greely could significantly impact local grain production. The District also continued to research the development of new markets for local crops such as barley and canola.

Land Rehabilitation and Maintenance (LRAM)

The SDSWCD continued to work closely with the US Department of Defense to maintain their training lands, providing wildlife benefits, erosion control, water quality, and wetlands protection. Projects include hardening and stabilizing trails, creating and maintaining wildlife and plant habitats, providing technical support for future planning, and assisting with Environmental Impact Surveys and environmental assessments.

U.S. Forest Service Beetle Project – A large portion of SDSWCD's funding for the year had been from a U.S. Forest Service grant. The District completed the beetle mitigation project during the 2012 field season. The project purpose was to help control white spruce damage from a variety of factors, including high levels of the northern spruce engraver beetles, by reducing beetle activity and tree mortality within the forest stands. Beetle traps, such as these (*left*), set in different places of the Jarvis Creek Floodplain helped keep track of population numbers.

Range Seeding – The District completed several seeding projects in the past season, including this area below. These photos show the before and after results after District crews seeded the area.

Jarvis Creek Aufeis Monitoring and Ripping – This project was located in the Ft. Greely, Donnelly East Training Area within the banks of Jarvis Creek, adjacent to the city of Delta Junction. This project monitored aufeis formation and identified appropriate locations where a channel was ripped into the ice to contain breakup and precipitation flows within the banks of Jarvis Creek and prevent flooding impacts associated with out of bank flows.

PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN DISTRICT ACTIVITIES

Board of Supervisors
Rex Wrigley, *Chair*
Scott Schultz, *Vice Chair*
Phil Kaspari, *Treasurer*
Gary Sonnichsen, *Supervisor*
Shelly Tappen, *Supervisor*

SWCD Staff
Bryce Wrigley, *District Manager*
Jeff Durham, *Program Administrator*
Colin Barnard, *GIS Program Administrator*
Gary Cooper, *Water Quality Program Coordinator*
Tammie Kovalenko, *Conservation Education Coordinator*
Meghan Lene, *Agricultural Specialist*
Chuck Mancuso, *Agriculture Program Coordinator*
Earl McNabb, *Projects Manager*
Violeta Vorobyov, *Administrative Assistant*
Will Wright, *GIS Specialist*

Financial Report

See next page for attached report.

Signatures

Violeta Vorobyov		9/13/2013
Report prepared by	Signature	Date

FINANCIAL REPORT – FY 2013

Salcha-Delta Soil and Water Conservation District

Income

NRCS CTA	65,122.57
Farm Forum	782.00
State Stipend	2,500.00
US Forest Service	376,479.56
Interest	35,901.00
AK Dept. of Fish & Game	20,000.00

Total Income 481,986.04

Expenses

Outreach/Conservation Education	
FFA	2,623.06
Fair	5,149.65
Conservation Outdoor School	6,726.82
Classroom projects	412.74
Farm Forum	1,100.93
Essay Contest	425.00
Scholarship Program	2,500.00
Outreach Contributions	5,209.64
Other Outreach	642.25
Projects	
Ag Research	43,856.65
Noxious Weed	7,149.26
Cost Share	667.41
Water Quality program	1,369.32
Repair and Maintenance	37,416.17
Fuel	24,868.30

Administrative	
Office rent	24,600.00
Insurance	670.00
Supervisor travel	820.00
Training	7,944.07
Postage	1,384.81
Advertising	52.99
Dues/registrations	1,545.00
Travel	26,757.31
Office & Field Supplies	9,077.99
Phone/Internet	13,079.29
Meeting Expenses	803.87
Miscellaneous	2,188.76
Life and Health Insurance	42,736.11

Total Expenses 271,777.39

SALCHA-DELTA SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

P.O. Box 547, Delta Junction, AK 99737
Phone: (907) 895-6279
Fax: (907) 895-6278

Southeast Soil and Water Conservation District

CONSERVATION • DEVELOPMENT • SELF – GOVERNMENT

Memorandum to: DNR NRCDB/AACD
From: Southeast Soil and Water Conservation District
Subject: FY 13 Annual Report
Date: September 30, 2013

This represents the FY 13 Annual Report for the Southeast Soil and Water Conservation District as required by DNR, and as specified in cooperative agreements with DNR and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts.

The Southeast Soil and Water Conservation District is Alaska's newest Conservation District. It is also the Nation's largest Conservation District, encompassing the entire Alexander Archipelago from Yakatut to Metlakatla with nearly 157 million acres within its boundaries.

In the summary below you will learn about the activities that the District has undertaken since its inception in 2012.

Establishment of the SE SWCD and Board Recruitment:
On August 15, 2012 the Natural Resources Conservation and Development Board voted unanimously to approve the formation of the Southeast Soil and Water Conservation District. The District was formally established when DNR Commissioner Dan Sullivan signed the official District Charter on September 5, 2012. Subsequently, the District Board was appointed from cooperators who had previously expressed interest in serving on the Board of Supervisors. The first SE SWCD Board of Supervisors Meeting was held on October 8, 2012.

However, two board members resigned within a few months due for personal reasons and the remaining Board members began to search for cooperators who were interested in serving on the District's Board of Supervisors. At the January 9, 2013 Board meeting, the two vacant seats on the Board were filled. The District has maintained a stable makeup of the Board of Supervisors since then.

The SE SWCD Board of Supervisors and Staff: (L – R) Brian Kleinhenz, Lon Garrison (Treasurer), Rodger Painter, Kerry MacLane (Chairman). David Lendrum (Vice-Chairman), Brian Maupin (Regional Invasive Plant Coordinator), & James Marcus (District Manager)

PO Box 21788 Juneau, Alaska 99802
Office Phone: (907) 586-6878; Mobile Phone (907) 957-8988; Fax: (907) 586-7383
E-mail: districtmanager@seswcd.org
Website: www.seswcd.org

Development of the District's first project, 'SE SWCD Fruiting Plants Project':
The District received a grant from the Scott Paper Company through DNR. The District devised the SE SWCD Fruiting Plants Project with these funds. The goal of the project is to provide fruiting shrubs and trees to remote communities in Southeast Alaska without commercial nurseries. This project would provide public outreach for the District, educate the public about basic arboriculture, and would provide these communities with another source of fresh fruit.

The hiring of a District Manager:
Brian Maupin, AACD Regional Invasive Plant Coordinator, was tapped to become the Interim District Manager in October of 2012. However it soon became clear that his previous commitments to ongoing invasive plant projects would not allow him perform the necessary tasks that were required to get the District up and running.

James Marcus was tapped to become the Interim District Manager in January and was selected as the District Manager at the February 12, 2013 Board meeting. This hiring was a result of the recruitment process the District undertook in the winter of 2012-2013. However, the District Manager was only budgeted as a part-time position with 20 hours per week.

Organizing and facilitating Monthly Board of Supervisors Meetings:
James has prepared agenda packets for monthly Board meetings, lead monthly Board meetings, recorded minutes for the monthly Board meetings.

Development of SE SWCD Strategic Plan:
James identified the need for the District to develop a Strategic Plan. This document would allow the District to identify specific goals and focus its efforts towards achieving those goals. The District then began seeking out a consultant to facilitate the Strategic Planning process.

The Board met with the Strategic Planning consultant on March 21-22, 2013 and developed a Strategic Plan to guide the development of the District in the next two years. As a result of the Strategic Planning effort and the numerous tasks needed to get the District up and running, it was determined that the District Manager should be budgeted as a full time position begin in April 2013. The Strategic Plan was adopted by the Board at the April 10th Board meeting. The resulting three Strategic Focus Areas were established: Regional Food Security, Mariculture Development, and Invasive Species Management.

Bookkeeping and Financial Procedures:
James immediately began working on establishing a functional organization. The first tasks were to establish the District's bank accounts and maintain the District's financial records. James purchased and installed Quickbooks and developed accounting procedure for the District. He contracted a bookkeeper to reconcile bank records and produce financial reports for the District. He developed a budget that was approved by the Board of Supervisors.

Establishing a web presence for the District:
James established a District website and Facebook page. He contracted a web designer to develop the District's web page.

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Southeast Soil and Water Conservation District

CONSERVATION • DEVELOPMENT • SELF – GOVERNMENT

Facilitating the District's office move:
The SE SWCD's office is collocated with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Juneau. In May, NRCS and the District were forced to move into a new office in the Federal Building. James facilitated this move and transferred phone and internet service to the new location.

Developing public outreach material:
James developed a FAQ sheet about the District as well as written material to support the Fruiting Plants Project.

Implementation of the Fruiting Plants Project:
The District implemented the Fruiting Plants Project in the summer of 2013. The District purchased 250 Red Currant shrubs (5 varieties) and 25 Serviceberry trees. James then visiting various communities in the Southeast region to sell those plants at a wholesale cost, engage the public, and sign up new cooperators for the District. James visited the communities of Pelican, Gustavus, and Haines as well as the communities on Prince of Wales Island (Craig, Klawock, Coffman Cove, Thorne Bay, Kasaan, and Hydaburg). He also sent out plants to cooperators in Sitka, Kake, and Tenakee Springs. The project was met with success and resulted in the decision to continue the project in 2014. Presently the District has over 2/3rds of the original grant funds available to implement this project next year.

Proud participants of the District's Fruiting Plants Project.

(L): Red Currants that were sold in Hydaburg. (R): Red Currants that were sold in Thorne Bay.

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Southeast Soil and Water Conservation District

CONSERVATION • DEVELOPMENT • SELF – GOVERNMENT

Recruit new Cooperators to join the District:
Through the public outreach efforts and the implementation of the Fruiting Plants Project, the District has recruited 46 new cooperators in 2013 (nearly double the amount of cooperators at the establishment of the District) bringing the total number of cooperators to 93.

New cooperators in Pelican, Alaska.

Developing future projects for the District to support:
The District has been researching funding sources, establishing local and regional partnerships, and developing cooperative projects to support the Mission and Goals of the SE SWCD and expand the District's operations beyond the existing Invasive Plant projects.

Signatures

James Marcus Report prepared by	Signature	10/12/13 Date
Kerry MacLane District Chair	Signature	10/12/13 Date
David Lendrum District Board Member	Signature	10/12/13 Date

PO Box 21788 Juneau, Alaska 99802
Office Phone: (907) 586-6878; Mobile Phone (907) 957-8988; Fax: (907) 586-7383
E-mail: districtmanager@seswcd.org
Website: www.seswcd.org

Budget Summary - FY 13

Income

State FY 12	$33,300.00
State FY 13	$44,960.01
FY 13 NRCDB Stipend	$ 2,500.00
Scott Paper Conservation Award	$ 8,333.00
Scott Paper Proceeds	$ 2,410.00
Total Income Sources	$91,503.01

Expenses

	Personnel	Fringe	Travel	Conference Registration	Postage	Supplies	Telephone/ Internet	Advertising	Total
District Operations	$15,724.01	$ 2,311.03				$ 356.20	$1,351.49	$ 329.36	$ 20,072.09
Board Meetings			$ 478.00						$ 478.00
Fruiting Plants Project			$1,677.52		$ 175.80	$ 681.05			$ 2,534.37
Conferences			$4,714.66	$ 980.00					$ 5,694.66
Total	$15,724.01	$ 2,311.03	$6,870.18	$ 980.00	$ 175.80	$1,037.25	$1,351.49	$ 329.36	$ 28,779.12

Memorandum to:	Shana Joy, Executive Director NRCDB
From:	Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District
Subject:	Annual Report of Accomplishments
Date:	August 20, 2013

This represents the annual report of the Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District for fiscal year 2013 as required by the DNR as specified in cooperative agreements with DNR and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts.

Highlights of the year.

Programs & Projects

The **Upper Susitna Soil and Water Conservation District** conducted its annual assessment of progress toward completion of the **2012-13** plan of work.

Project 1: Land Suitability Reviews

Assessment: Goal accomplished**.** GIS mapping will enable an expansion of opportunities for agriculture in Alaska and ensure that a portion of public lands remain in agriculture production.

Project 2: Upper Susitna Youth Conservation Corps

Assessment: Goal accomplished**.** Project funding provided work experience for nine youth, ages 14-17, living in the Upper Susitna Valley. Work projects included a variety of conservation jobs with educational components to teach young people to become stewards of natural resources.

Project 3: Watershed Health

1. **Assessment:** Goal accomplished. Community based conservation planning was completed for Sunshine Creek, Montana Creek, Byers Creek ,East Fork of the Chulitna River, Troublesome Creek, Moose Creek, Chijuk Creek, Trapper Creek, Alexander/Cache Creek, and the Susitna River. Water temperature data was collected by using temperature loggers set in critical anadromous streams. Streams with a critical status are identified as housing critical salmon spawning and rearing habitat. These efforts are provided in order to supply information about the best farming and fishing practices that will sustain high water quality and encourage future salmon sustainability.

Project 4: Nordic Ski Trail System Signage

Assessment: Goal accomplished. Create quality, descriptive trail signs to be placed at all intersections of the Nordic ski trails and the X Lake loop trail. Signs for the new canoe portage are also included.

Project 5: Administrative Duties

Assessment: Goal accomplished. Staff maintained a functional office and working unit to support the projects and goals of the USSWCD.

PROJECT #1: Land Suitability Reviews & Nutrient Management Plans

Upland Soils Mapping:

Deliverable #1 Goals. Using the land suitability review data already collected for the Willard Cash land plot, a wetlands delineation will be conducted. This delineation will describe the soil and vegetation for each broad wetland type based on hydrology and vegetation. The delineation will be made using the GIS mapping program.

Accomplishments: Data has been entered into the GIS program and final maps including the agricultural designations component as the final step have been drawn for the Willard Cash land plot.

PROJECT #2: Upper Susitna Youth Conservation Corps

Youth Conservation Corps Training:

Goals. To provide on the job training to nine locally hired youth between the ages of fourteen and seventeen. During the training the youth will be introduced to the skills and knowledge needed to successfully undertake the projects set before them this season.

Accomplishments: The training included the history of YCC and CCC programs, YCC mission and goals, YCC member mid-season and end-season evaluations, work gear requirements, work projects, leadership roles and a rotating weekly job schedule, team building activities, safety and nutrition, physical fitness and sore muscles, invasive plant identification, trail maintenance skills, and tool use and maintenance.

Specific Projects:

1. **Talkeetna Village Park Beautification and Flower Planting:**
   - **a.** The Talkeetna Village Park has needed volunteers in the past to plant the flowers and water them throughout the summer. This has worked out sometimes but other times, the volunteers do not always follow through with the entire task. The YCC program received a grant to plant flowers in the village park which is visited by thousands of tourists during the summer.
   - **b.** They built up the flower bed in front of the "Welcome to Historic Talkeetna" sign by adding rocks, soil, and bark mulch to level out the bed. Native, locally grown flowers were planted in this bed.
   - **c.** In the raised beds, the YCC removed some plants from last year to open up space for new, native, locally grown flowers. Soil and bark mulch was added to this bed too. The stone footing around the bed was pulled up and re-laid so to make it even again. Gravel was placed in the spaces between the stone to also make it level. Boards on top of the bed were replaced to ensure the bed's durability and to also provide nice seating for the public to enjoy. Finally, the cement blocks were painted to add an overall natural look. They also removed invasive plant species from this bed.
   - **d.** Throughout the entire summer season, the YCC picked up trash in the park and in the flower beds, and watered and weeded the flowers beds. The town gave the YCC very positive feedback from this community project.

2. **Montana & Sunshine Creek Fishermen Surveys**
   - a. Over a few days this summer, the YCC went to Montana Creek and Sunshine Creek to survey fishermen on their feedback of the shoreline restoration projects that were completed last year.
   - b. Only two surveys were completed, as there were never many fishermen out at the times the YCC were there and the fishermen that were present did not often want to participate in the survey.

3. **Talkeetna Lakes Park Trail Maintenance**
   - **a.** The YCC maintained the X Lake Loop trail using sustainable trail building practices.
   - **b.** The YCC maintained all of the Nordic ski trails using sustainable trail building practices.
   - **c.** The park was surveyed for invasive plants. None were found except in the parking lot, which were documented and controlled.
   - **d.** The trail around Tigger Lake (Otter Loop) was seeded with a native seed. Signs were posted at the entries to this loop to prevent access for one year for the grass to be able to establish itself.

e. Temporary signs were made and installed for the Nordic Ski Trails that include trail distances, distances to trail heads, trail names, and trail difficulty.

4. **National Park Service Archaeology Field School**
   a. Denali National Park and Preserve is continually seeking ways to reach out to the local community. This program made great strides in helping the park to build strong ties with the youth of the Talkeetna, Willow, Trapper Creek and Sunshine communities. The field school consisted of a week-long component that took place during the summer of 2013 at the Talkeetna Ranger Station. The YCC high school students learned about cultural resources relevant to Denali through archaeology. During this week, the YCC students accrued skills and knowledge and had the chance to dig their own 'test unit' in the designated study area. This knowledge included archaeological excavation techniques, the history and prehistory of the site, and the importance of cultural resources. On the last day of the field school, the YCC put together a PowerPoint presentation on their field school and findings that was presented to the public at the Sheldon Arts Hanger in Talkeetna.
   b. Field School objectives included:
      i. To share and make relevant the importance of archaeological resources and current research activities of Interior Alaska to participants and the residents of the Upper Susitna Valley.
      ii. To teach high school youth about cultural resources.
      iii. To support USSWCD in educating locals about the preservation of cultural resources.
      iv. To educate a new generation of conservation stewards.

5. **The Cooperative Alaska Forest Inventory**
   a. The YCC crew helped UAF Research Forester Thomas Malone in establishing long term data plots. The YCC crew spent four full days collecting and recording data on nine plots. These plots are located behind the Talkeetna Fire Station (11-2) and northwest of the railroad tracks that cross the Parks highway around Mile 100.
   b. The data collected included a measurement of trees, a species count and identification, and topographical information such as slope, aspect, land formations, etc.

6. **Early Detection, Rapid Response Invasive Plant Eradication**
   a. USSWCD partnered with the US Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct invasive plant surveys and control work. Part of this year's work included aquatic invasive plant surveys. The US Department of Fish and Wildlife conducted a state-wide push to conduct surveys for the aquatic invasive plant known as elodea. This is in an effort to detect if this species was wide spread across the entire state or mainly existed in the urban cities of the state. The YCC found no elodea in the Upper Susitna Valley.

b. The crew continued to survey areas throughout the Upper Susitna Valley and record all data found. They took appropriate control action for the invasive plants found. European Bird Cherry trees were a new invasive species that was found and pulled this year.

c. The YCC also conducted several tarping projects that will control invasive species that are not manageable by digging or pulling the plants. The tarps will remain in place for at least two years before they are removed and native grass seed will be planted in the area to prevent the invasive plant seeds that may still exist in the area from germinating.

Project Accomplishments:
Preserving and protecting the local environment through projects and education is the heart of the YCC program. Education is directed at increased awareness, understanding, appreciation, and participation through active stewardship of the natural environment and agriculture. YCC projects are selected by the communities' identified needs in high use areas, contractual obligations of the district; assistance to the district's other projects, and needs identified by cooperators.

Daily on the job conservation practices teach participants how to become better stewards of the land and water. The YCC program strives to expose participants to new and traditional conservation ideas and practices. Educational activities include hands on restoration efforts, group and personal goal setting, plant identification, Natural Resource professional guest speakers, art projects, and community events.

PROJECT #3: Watershed Health

Goals: To partner with Cook Inlet Keeper to collect temperature data using temperature loggers in a variety of streams in the Upper Susitna Valley. The data will be downloaded from the loggers and transferred to the Cook Inlet Keeper, who uses this data to monitor stream health and fish spawning habitats.

Accomplishments: The following creeks were identified by Cook Inlet Keeper and the Upper Susitna SWCD as being important to watershed health across the valley:

2. Byers Creek
3. East Fork of the Chulitna River
4. Troublesome Creek
5. Moose Creek
6. Chijuk Creek
7. Trapper Creek
8. Montana Creek
9. Alexander/Cache Creek

All data from the loggers will be downloaded and sent to Cook Inlet Keeper in an excel format on or before December 1st, 2013.

PROJECT #4: Nordic Ski Trail Signage

Goals. Create and provide quality and legible signs to be put up throughout the Nordic ski trail system in Talkeetna Lakes Park. The signs are to include a map of the trail system, trail names, trail distances, a scale, and a 'you are here' mark for each sign. The signs will then be installed at each trail intersection and trailhead. The park is located about 1.5 miles southeast of downtown Talkeetna, east and south of the fork of Spur and Comsat Roads. The park spans approximately 1040 acres, an area roughly 1 by 2 miles.

Accomplishments: A map containing the trail system, trail names, trail distances, a scale, a compass, and a 'you are here' mark for each sign was created. This map was sent to Carsonsite Composites, a company that makes custom trail signs on carsonite (the required material for the signs in TLP). Pricing was determined and the final product is being worked on currently.

PROJECT #5: Administrative Duties

Goals. To maintain a functional office and working unit to support the projects and goals of the USSWCD. An additional goal was to continue working towards a financial sustainable office.

Accomplishments: Administrative duties included tracking finances, creating reports, seeking future funding, finding local natural resource projects, and acquiring staff to complete the district projects. Administrative duties are essential for all district projects to be successful, which in turn, supports conservation and education within the USSWCD boundaries.

Financial Report: By Project

Project #1: Land Suitability Reviews & Nutrient Management Plans

Funding Source	Opening Balance	Expensed to date	Today's Balance	Status
NRCS D1 GIS	$12,907	$12,682	**225.00**	*Operating*
NRCS D1A NMGIS	$10,067	$7916	**2151**	*Operating*

Project #2: Upper Susitna Youth Conservation Corps

Funding Source	Opening Balance	Expensed to date	Today's Balance	Status
Talkeetna Village Park – Talkeetna Community Council	4000	4000	**$0**	*Closed*
Montana and Sunshine Creek Fisherman Surveys – Dept of Fish and Wildlife	21,908	21,307.23	**$600.77**	*Operating*
Talkeetna Lakes Park Trail Maintenance – RTP State of Alaska & Drumm Family donation	36,354 & 800	17,260 & 800	**$19,094 & 0**	*Operating & Closed*
Archeology Field School – National Park Service	9500	9293.29	**206.71**	*Operating*
Forestry Inventory – Susitna Community Council & Scott Papers	5400 & 8333	5400 & 0	**0 & 8333**	*Closed & Operating*
Early Detection, Rapid Response Invasive Plants – US Department of Fish and Wildlife	25,000	23,957.23	**1042.77**	*Operating*

Project #3: Watershed Health

Funding Source	Opening Balance	Expensed to date	Today's Balance	Status
Cook Inlet Keeper 2012-13	7000.00	5198	**1802**	*Operating*

Project #4: Nordic Ski Trail Signage

Funding Source	Opening Balance	Expensed to date	Today's Balance	Status
Mat-Su Borough	**$25,000**	**$12,609**	**$12,391**	*Operating*

Project #5: Administrative Duties

Funding Source	Opening Balance	Expensed to date	Today's Balance	Status
DNR 12	2,500	$2500	**$0**	*Closed*
DNR 13	1,334.42	799.72	**534.70**	*Operating*
DNR 14	2500	$0	**$2500**	*Operating*
Trapper Creek Community Council	481.84	481.84	**0**	*Closed*
State of Alaska FY13	45,000	44,520	**480**	*Operating*
State of Alaska FY14	60,000	7747	**52,253**	*Operating*

Signatures

Laura Allen	Laura Allen	8-21-13
Report prepared by	Signature	Date
Ken Marsh	Ken Marsh	8-21-13
District Chair	Signature	Date
Rick Ernst		8.21.2013
District Board Member	Signature	Date

Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District

Annual Record of Accomplishments

FY 2012-2013

Memorandum to: AACDJDNR
From: Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District

Subject: Annual Report of Accomplishments

Date: September 13, 2013

This report represents the Wasilla soil & Water Conservation District (WSWCD) FY 2013 report as required by DNR, and as specified in cooperative agreements with DNR and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts.

Programs & Projects

WSWCD has conducted its annual assessment of progress toward completion of the 2013 plan of work as below:

Goal 1: Provide Nutrient Management assistance to cooperators to ensure high quality, productive soils.

Assessment: Goal accomplished with satisfactory results. 30 soil samples were submitted; fertilizer and lime recommendations were provided to 6 cooperators. 3 compost samples were submitted and organic fertilizer recommendations were provided for 3 cooperator's.

Goal 2: Provide Nutrient Management and Forage Management to cooperators, promoting best management practices for production of high quality crops.

Assessment: Goal accomplished with satisfactory results. Fertilizer was recommended to 6 cooperators.

Goal 3: Coordinate Poster **Contest**

Assessment: Goal accomplished. The poster contest theme was" Soil to Spoon" and there were two winners; Cassie Crockett with a" Pumpkin to Pie" poster in the 4th to 6th grade division and Maggie Crockett with her" Carrots "poster in the 2' to 31 grade division. Local Conservation-minded community members were recruited to judge the art. Materials for this years poster contest will be made available to all schools during Fall 2013.

Goal 4: Provide admin/office support for Conservation District activities

Assessment: Goal accomplished through office management, grant cultivation, proposal development & administration; financial accounting, office coordination, budget and annual work plan development and planning, reporting, administrative assistance to the Board; promotions: flyers, posters, news releases & feature articles; personnel & volunteer recruitment, training, administration & evaluation.

Goal 5: Implement outreach activities to raise awareness of the Conservation District's services and achievements to encourage new cooperators, volunteers and to strengthen

relationships with cooperators.

Assessment: Goal accomplished through a new 12 session free Winter Conservation Series education outreach to all Alaskan Valley residents (see below schedule of sessions) created & initiated by the District Manager who recruited volunteer instructors from the community including WSWCD Board members, government, local, professional & practitioners. Education and technical support was provided to landowners, residents, developers, hobby farmers, and volunteers regarding conservation topics best management practices and ideas/concerns were shared regarding natural resources and district services. A new Conservation Ranger program is being developed for primary public, private, charter and home schools. Grants were received from Captain Planet and MEA's Operation Roundup Program to sustain this project. District Manager presented to three Mat Su College classes and conducted a field trip to our restoration sites. Additionally he presented two sessions at the 14th annual Alaska Rural Water Association Conference, October in Anchorage.

1 Annual Winter Conservation Series held Mat Su College Jan 1 7-AprL 11, 2013

Session	Presenter(s)
1) Intro to Alaskan Gardening	Carol Kenley, John McNeal, Chuck Kaucic
2) Value of Soil, Forage & Compost/Manure Sampling	Jeff Smeenk
3) Effective Streambank & Lake Shore Restoration Techniques	Amber Bethe
4) Dealing with Pesky, Non-Native Weeds	Brianne Blackburn
5) Growing from a Garden into a Hobby Farm	Jeff Smeenk
6) Low Cost Framing Projects Construction	Ron Phillips
7) Bee Keeping Basics	Kelly Strawn
8) An Alaskan Garden Seen thru the Seasons	Doug & Florene Carney
9) Vegetable Production the Organic way	Jeff Smeenk
10) Invasive Weeds	Brianne Blackburn
11) Private Water Well Care	Elizabeth Rensch, Chuck Kaucic
12) Intro to Alaskan Gardening	John McNeal

Goal 6: Pay dues and subscriptions

Assessment: All required dues and newspaper subscriptions were paid. Also all obligatory dues to AACD and NACD were paid to support umbrella organizations and to promote District activities.

Goal 7: Attend Conservation District and Agency Conferences/Training to learn profession trends and disseminate information

Assessment: Goal accomplished by: Board members & the District Manager attended both the Fall and Spring AACD conferences as follows: Fall:- John Schirack, Dick Zobel, Chuck Kaucic; Spring- John Schirack, Linda Menard, Chuck Kaucic; prepared logistics for monthly Board meetings- including refreshments for members and attending government, guest presenters and public; District Manager presented at the Spring Conference in Fairbanks.

Goal 8: Riparian Restoration

Assessment: Goal accomplished. WSWCD restored damaged stream banks to benefit salmon habitat @ Little Meadow Creek (90 LF)& Wasilla Creek (60 LF)- both private property sites ; assessed for invasive weeds on land & in the water & restoration sites, involved and educated community members in habitat restoration and protection activities with additional outreach to ATV trail users; monitored water quality sites with trained volunteers and added undocumented waters to the anadromous catalog. We remain active in the Mat-Su Basin Habitat Partnership by encouraging Matanuska Susitna Borough (MSB) stream setback ordinance and participating in storm water workshops; participated in and presented the Nature Conservancy annual Salmon & Science Symposium in 2012 in Wasilla. District Manager presented a Streambank Restoration Project power point and our Conservation Technician prepared an Elodea poster for review and discussion.
A new FWS cooperative agreement was applied for & negotiated in April to conduct assessment on Big Lake & the Little Su River & to initiate stream bank restoration along Cottonwood Creek. Community meetings were conducted in June in the Cottonwood Creek community & the Big Lake Community Council monthly membership meeting. The DM presented the summer program to the Wasilla City Council. Summer crews of 5 were recruited, interviewed, hired by the BOS, trained & were dispatched to conduct field operations.
During summer 2013, WSWCD crews canvassed 24 lakes throughout the District to assess the presence of Elodea via public & private property accesses. (See attachment) No Elodea was discovered in any of the 24 lakes during 2012 surveys. All survey data was submitted to the statewide database, Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse (AKEPIC) on October 2, 2012.

Goal 9: Cooperative ATV/ORV Outreach, Trail, & Restoration Plan Pilot Project

Assessment: Goal accomplished by conducting site assessments and 70 in-person on-site surveys with trail users; actively engaged ORV users at outreach events; developed a trail & restoration plan for the area; & prepared & submitted a land use application to the Alaska Mental Health Trust to channel & establish one common stream crossing & restore 40 LF of 250LF of degraded stream bank along Swiftwater Creek. On Nov 10' WSWCD hosted an ATV/ORV Stream Crossing Workshop in conjunction with the ADF&G, USFWS, users, & students Mat-Su College. A seven member expert panel concluded the day by addressing participants questions & comments.

Goal 10: Mat Su Stream Gauge

Assessment: Goal accomplished. Both the DM & Conservation Tech's closely partnered with ADF&G

to continue gauging streams & taking water samples & stream measurements with trained staff & volunteers at two sites on Fish Creek & Little Meadow Creek.

Goal 11: Elodea Surveys

Assessment: Goal accomplished. The summer crew surveyed 24 lakes in 2012, and resurveyed Big Lake in 2013. They found no Elodea. The lakes surveyed in 2012 are:

	Rainbow Lake	Beverly Lake
Lake Lucille	Seymour Lake	Dubloon Lake
Jacobson Lake	Kalmbach Lake	Dawn Lake
Horseshoe Lake	Reed Lake	Blodgett Lake
Big Lake	Meier Lake	Paradise Lake
Big Beaver Lake	Kings Lake	Wasilla Lake
Cloudy Lake	Lucy Lake	Memory Lake
Marion Lake	Island Lake	
Rocky Lake	Fuller Lake	

Additional District Activities/Promotions/Service:

In order to further reach into the community& serve District neighbors, with unanimous BUS support & encouragement of revised program goals & new practical programs were initiated.

Little Meadow Creek Stream Bank Restoration project:

In cooperation with & funding from the USFWS, WSWCD restored 80 lf of heavily impacted stream bank along a productive anadromous stretch of Little Meadow Creek down stream of the Big Lake cutoff/Parks Highway intersection. The "Stream saver" crew were joined by the Div of Forestry Student Intern Program, Mat Su Detention Center youth, & volunteers. A dedication ceremony, ribbon-cutting/cook out was hosted on July 11th to commemorate this improvement. Financial & staff support was graciously offered by the City of Houston, SBS, & Tews Inc. Participating officials included Houston Mayor Virgie Thompson, Sen. Charlie Huggins & Rep Mark Neumann. All three addressed the audience & emphasized the importance of salmon & healthy streams to neighbors & the community. This project was unique because of the improvements being constructed on private land. As part of the project, Reed Canary Grass, a highly invasive aquatic weed significantly dangerous to waterways & fish was extracted by the crew.

Huston Mayor Virgie Thompson, Sen. Charlie Huggins, and Rep. Mark Neumann conversing at the dedication ceremony for the Little Meadow Creek Stream Bank Restoration project.

Invasive Weeds Assessment

Contract: The MSB contracted WSWCD to assess Lake Lucille & Fish Creek Parks for invasive weed species. The project was completed in 2 days with a report of findings provided to MSB staff.

Earth Day Celebration 2013: WSWCD staff, Lynne Atkin & Chuck Kaucic developed & presented a special "Timberwolf" program to the Kindergarten classes @ Tanaina Elem. MSB Mayor Larry DeVilbiss visited the classes & presented a proclamation acknowledging this official Borough Earth Day event.

Water Well Testing: - a new program to test home owners wells was introduced in 2013. In conjunction with Analytica Labs, WSWCD will be able to offer a discount to residents on a group basis. Fifteen parties are required to realize the group rate. Program promotion is planned to continue in 2013-14.

2013-14 WSWCD Staff KUDOS:

The Board of Supervisors appreciate the following seasonal/part-time & full time staff for their enthusiasm, dedication & desire to provide Conservation services to assist our neighbors, Cooperators & District residents:

Lynne Atkin	Forrest Shumaker
Joseph Phillips	Ryan Hutchins
Julius Thompson	John Paszalek
Matt Rowland	Cameron Christiansen
Mark Wuitschick	Chuck Kaucic

Arbor Day: Eighty Alaskan White Spruce potted trees were obtained from MSB Parks & Recreation and planted in three different ceremonies at Mat Su College, Cottonwood Elementary and Sacred Heart Catholic Church. The Cottonwood Creek Celebration was the largest in District history. Forty trees were planted by *85* students, teachers, and parents. Mayor Larry DeVilbiss presented a mayoral proclamation recognizing the celebration as the Borough's official Arbor Day ceremony, MEA staff provided a practical, tree planting demonstration and distributed tree care literature
Also, WSWCD hosted a first-ever tree sale to commemorate Arbor Day which far exceeded expectations for community involvement. Alaskan White Spruce and Colorado Blue Spruce were made available for sale.

Alaska Weed Free Certification to certify fields & gravel pits as weed-free was earned by the District Manager.

State DNR Cooperative Agreement Commitments (funded @ *$2,500* total):
State required tasks were completed as follows:
Cooperator List was revised & submitted.
Equipment Inventory- reviewed, certified & submitted;
Annual Elections conducted-; New members: Linda Menard, John McNeal;
Annual Plan -devised, approved & filed;
Annual Report -devised, approved & filed

Spring & Fall Newsletters - Substantial time & effort were dedicated to revising the pre-existing newsletter format to introduce "Ground Wire" as the official WSWCD publication. It was issued in April & October (see attached spring sample). Announcement of each issue was issued via an ever-evolving email list; hard copies were made available via posting the office & for distribution special events.

Invasive Weeds - With cooperation & funding from the Division of Agriculture/Plant Material Center, summer field crews covered public parks, open spaces highway rights of way ,private & commercial open areas searching for invasive land-based plant species such as Canada Thistle, Vetch & Reed Canary Grass Public spaces included the following locations/areas:

- Parks Highway: from Seward Meridian past Houston;
- Knik Goose Bay Road: From Parks Highway to the Knik Tribal Museum;
- Big Lake Road: From Parks Highway to Mile 12;
- Seward Meridian Parkway: entire length from Bogard Road to the Old Matanuska Rd.
- All Wasilla City Parks

Crew productivity/efficiency was outstanding as summarized below:
Crew Size: 2-4
Acreage assessed: 977 acres
Time: 30 days; 4-6 Hours/day
Production *32.56;* Acres/day Average
Additionally, WSWCD directly involved District residents in invasive weed species awareness by co-hosting community "WEED Attacks" in Wasilla, Big Lake & Houston. The purpose of these events was to educate people & engage them in removing any invasives found during the activity.
All invasive species descriptions, locations & infestation estimates were uploaded into the AKEPIC data base.

Annual Christmas Party -was re-instituted. Attendees included elected officials/staffs, Cooperators, partners, & the AACD Board Chairman, Ken Marsh & his wife.

Soil & Water Stewardship Week: was promoted from Sun April 28 thru Sat May 4. WSWCD's selected theme was: "Discovering Hometown Conservation: One Resource at a Time!" This new feature provided inter-active exercises that could be accessed by students/families via the internet. It was marketed & distributed for primary public, private, charter & home school students.
Resource facts, links, games, preferred publications, activities & web site sources were provided for each day's topic.
Featured topics were:
Sun: "The Value of Soil" or" Just Plain Dirt"
Mon: "Water: the Critical Element of Life"
Tues: "Fisheries/Salmon Resources"
Wed: Agriculture
Thurs: Forestry
Fri: "Invasive Weeds, Canada Thistle"
Sat: "Recycling; Everyone's Responsibility"
This inaugural effort launched the District into the viral education world! Evaluated improvements were noted for revising/preparing the 2014 week.

New Partners - added to the growing WSWCD Conservation partnerships over this year, new associations included:
Dept of Corrections
tipper Cook Inlet Sport Fish Assn.
Mat-Su Trails Council
Valley Mover

Cooperating Agencies: During the FY, numerous government agencies were partners in providing Conservation services as below. WSWCD appreciates

US Fish & Wildlife Service
ADF&G
DEC
State Div of Agriculture
Plant Material Center
Mat-Su College
City of Houston
Alaska Rural Water Assn
Mat Su Community Detention Program
BLM Public Information Center
Cooperative Extension
State Div of Forestry Student Intern Program Crew
Mat Su Borough Parks & Outdoor Recreation Div. & Planning Dept.
Tanaina Elem School
Cottonwood Creek Elem Staff & Parent Teacher Organization

Partners/Supporters/Volunteers:
These people and agencies have been and continue to be valued cooperators in all of our efforts. Without these people, our work could not get done.

SBS
The Nature Conservancy
MEA
Great Land Trust
Alaska Sailing Club
Analytica
Tews Inc
The Dirt Co.
Bob Shumaker, Pres Alaska Farmers Union
Rebekkah Riley
Jack Harrison
Boni Koch
Make A Scene
The Greatlander
The Frontiersmen
Fairview Loop Baptist Church
Winter Conservation Series Volunteers:

Carol Kenley
John NcNeal
Jeff Smeenk
Amber Bethe
Ron Phillips
Dr. Polly Bass
Kelly Strawn
Doug & Florene Carney
Brianne Blackburn
Elizabeth Rensch
Chuck Kaucic

Financial Report
Income Source Budget Actual % Used
Financial Summary July 1, 2012 - June 30, 2013

Program	Income Source	Budget	Actual	% Used
Operating	DCED	45,000	45,000	100
Operating	DNR	2,500	2,500	100
Capital	DCRA	55,800	20,900	37
Wasilla Outreach	FWS	25,000	6,700	27
Mat Su Stream Gauge	ADF&G	6,764	3,522	52
RoundUp	MEA	955	0	0
Conservation Corps	Capt Planet Found.	500	0	0
Canada Thistle	Div of AG	5,000	5,000	100
Swiftwater Creek	FWS	14,150	3,220	23
ATV/ORV Workshop	ADF&G	3,702	3,702	100
Arbor Day	Scott Paper	8,333	7,500	90
Invasive Weeds	MSB	550	550	100
Riparian Restoration	FWS	100,000	7,200	.72
TOTALS		$295,254	$105,295	56%

The WSWCD crew and the DNR Forestry crew preparing to survey Memory Lake

Matthew Rowland, part of the WSWCD Interns crew, surveying Big Lake

The WSWCD Crew repairing stream banks on Wasilla Creek

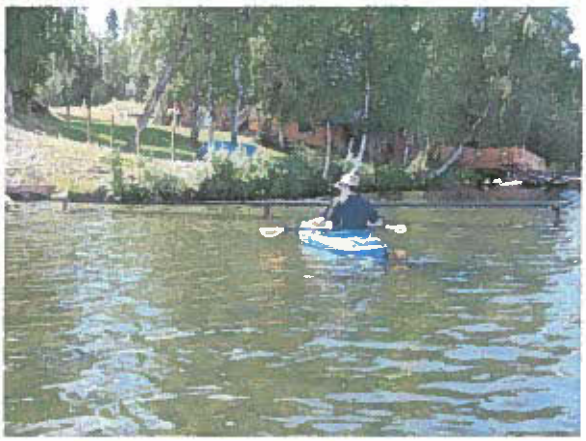
The dedication ceremony for the Little Meadow Creek Project.

The WSWCD Crew placing Coir log For the Little Meadow Creek Project.

Successful Live staking at Little Meadow Creek.

The Kayak Paddle that we broke from over use.

Joseph Phillips recording survey data.



Joseph Phillips surveying Big Lake

Joseph Phillips surveying rocky shoreline.

Chuck Kaucic teaching the class about trees at the Arbor day ceremony at Our Lady of the Valley School

The class from Our Lady of the Valley planting trees for Arbor day.

Signatures

Annual Work Plan prepared by: Signature Date
District Manager
Chuck Kaucic _____
Reviewed & approved by:
District Board Chairman Signature Date
John Schirack

Signatures

Annual Work Plan prepared by:	Signature	Date
District Manager		
Chuck Kaucic		9-13-13

Reviewed & approved by:

District Board Chairman	Signature	Date
John Schirack		9-13-13

7.