



OUR VISION IS:
SELF SUFFICIENCY

OUR CORE VALUES ARE:

LAND, EDUCATION, HEALTHY PEOPLE, ACCOUNTABILITY & PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, COMMITMENT AND UNITY



COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2009

From the Executive Director, Ben Stevens

Hello everyone,

In the past, our people relied on the land and waters for food. Over the past decade, we've seen our moose population dwindle to one of the lowest in the State of Alaska. As we have seen this summer, the fish are disappearing as well. The fishing season is almost over and many of us still have empty freezers. With a dwindling moose population and fish not returning, we need to start thinking of ways to supplement those food sources.

A study done by the University of Alaska Fairbanks in the 1970's determined that the Yukon Flats has the best potato growing soil in the state. CATG has been looking to start a small scale agriculture program designed to grow massive amounts of potatoes for the communities of the Flats, including supplying the schools and stores.

This gardening effort has many partners. Grafton Bergman allowed us to use his allotment to plant; Rex Goolsby had

the soil analyzed and tilled the plot last fall; UAF's Craig Gerlack purchased a water pump; RC&D Coordinator Ryan Maroney is researching funding opportunities; CATG NR Director Laurie Montour, and Mike Jackson and many others are working hard to put the plan together for next spring's planting.

CATG's vision is self sufficient people in healthy, thriving communities. Hunting and growing our own food falls down those lines. We look forward to lowering the cost of a 5lb sack of potatoes from \$7.00/bag. We see a large stockpile of potatoes being distributed throughout the Flats at substantially lower prices.

Good luck moose hunting this fall.



Board of Director's Meeting, July 2009

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OUR GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ARCTIC VILLAGE.....	JONATHON JOHN
BEAVER.....	SELINA PETRUSKA
BIRCH CREEK.....	EDDY JAMES
CANYON VILLAGE.....	JOHN S. JONAS
CHALKYITSIK.....	WILLIAM SALMON JR..
CIRCLE.....	LARRY NATHANIEL
FORT YUKON.....	MICHAEL S. PETER
RAMPART.....	TOM WIEHL
STEVENS VILLAGE.....	HAROLD SIMON
VENETIE,.....	CHRISTIAN TRITT JR..

Visit us on the web for current news and program information

WWW.CATG.ORG



NEW EMPLOYEES



DEVON ADDAMS, NETWORK ASSISTANT

My name is Devon Adams, and I am now the new Network Assistant. I am originally from Fort Yukon Alaska. My grandparents are Johnny and Susan Peter of Fort Yukon Alaska and William and Hannah of Beaver Alaska. I have quite a few certifications for my young age including, Welding, Core I & II carpentry, E.T.T., Computer Apps I&II and have experience in working with dry-wall, carpentry, mechanics, emergency response, and now computers. I would like to further my education at the University Of Alaska, but not 100% on what I am going to be going for at this moment.

RYAN MARONEY, YUKON FLATS RESOURCE CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT



Greetings! My name is Ryan Maroney and I am the new coordinator for the Yukon Flats Resource Conservation and Development (RC&D) program. I am originally from "all-over," as I come from a Navy family background. I went to high school in Japan and have had the opportunity to live in a number of other countries. Before moving to the interior in August, I lived in southwest Alaska and worked as the coordinator for the Lower Kuskokwim RC&D program in Bethel. At this point, you are probably asking yourself, "What is RC&D?" Over 40 years ago, Congress established a unique program within the U.S. Department of Agriculture that empowered rural people to help themselves. The USDA focus was to assist local people by providing tools and technical support to stabilize and grow their own communities while protecting and developing natural resources. The RC&D program is administered by the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service

(NRCS) and is hosted in the Yukon Flats by CATG. Programs and projects are locally identified and directed by CATG's Board of Directors and facilitated by an RC&D coordinator who is an employee of NRCS. I will be based in Fairbanks and will travel to Ft. Yukon and other CATG member villages on a regular basis. My priority is to work on the Vertical Greenhouse Demonstration Project. I look forward to learning from the people in the Yukon Flats and hope to meet you soon.

Contact Information:

Ryan Maroney, Coordinator
Yukon Flats RC&D Program
USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
590 University Ave., Suite B
Fairbanks, AK 99709-3641
Tel: (907) 479-3159, ext.112

2009 FALL MOOSE HUNTING REGULATIONS

Submitted by Mike Hinkes, USFWS

The **Federal** subsistence moose hunt starts Aug 25 and ends Sept 25 for 25B and 25D east, which includes most of the area around Fort Yukon. This season includes **Federal lands only** and you must be a qualified **rural resident** to participate in this hunt. State and private lands (village, Doyon, native allotments) are excluded and closed to moose hunting.

The **State** moose hunt for these same units starts Sept 10 and ends Sept 25. This season includes **all lands** (State, private and Federal), and is open to **all State residents**.

Much of the land around the villages is private. Also, State lands include all lands along the Yukon and Porcupine Rivers below mean high water. Basically, if there is no vegetation on dry land (gravel bars and mud bars) along these rivers, it is State land. Land status is shown on unit maps in the Federal and State regulation books. Hunters should make sure they get a copy before they hunt.

What this means is from Aug 25 to Sept 9, moose hunters can not hunt on private lands (village, Doyon, native allotments) around the villages or on State lands along the Yukon and Porcupine Rivers. They also must be a qualified rural resident.

Hunters from Fort Yukon who want to hunt down river in Unit 25D west must possess a State Teir II permit to hunt on State and private lands. Federal lands in 25D west are open only to residents of Stevens Village, Beaver and Birch Creek by permit.



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service will be patrolling by boat and airplane during the hunting season, and hunters **will** be issued a citation if they are in violation. Taking a moose during a closed season will result in a mandatory court appearance, and can result in a fine up to \$5000, a loss of rifle and other equipment, and loss of hunting privileges.

Did you know... that you can evaluate your visit to the YFHC and leave comments and suggestions, help us improve our services! Go to www.catg.org/health



WEIGHT LOSS PROGRAM IS UP AND GOING

Well folks, the Diabetic Weight Loss Program is started up in all CATG villages.

The Grand prize of two round trip tickets to Hawaii seems to have folks up and walking and changing their diets to loose those extra pounds they gained over the Winter.



You could be here!

This program does not END until November 15th. That's a long time. It will allow folks to loose the extra pounds (that's good) and KEEP THEM OFF (that's better).

If you would like to join the program you can at any time. (like right now)
Here are the rules:

Go to the clinic and get your weight, Blood Pressure, Blood Glucose measured and sign up. Pick up your hand weights, pedometer, diet and exercise guide and water bottle.

OTHERS IN CONTROL OF YOU **By David Akin, Diabetes Educator**

I was teaching a class a few months ago, as we were talking about risk factors for heart attacks, an overweight student in his 50s, made the statement:

"Before I can lose weight THEY need to make that healthy food taste better"

In other words, THEY (in this case the people who make healthy foods) were controlling his life...and so it was THEY who were keeping him from losing weight...

Other similar statements I have heard are:

"I can't loose weight because my wife won't cook the food I need", I can't exercise because there is no gym near my house"...I can't loose weight because the Dr. won't give me a diet that I can stay on"...I can't quit smoking because my spouse still smokes"...etc.

What they mean is: "Those OTHERS are controlling my life, and THEY are so powerful I am helpless to make any positive and healthy changes on my own."

So, if those POWERFUL OTHERS are in control of YOU, now is a good time to take back control and start on the road to better health. Call the clinic and make an appointment with the diabetic educator to learn how.

PATIENT REGISTRATION DRIVE

The Yukon Flats Health Center is having a Patient Registration Drive, See Alice Peter, Ethel Wright or Tamara Thomas to update your registration. We're drawing for two round trip tickets to Fairbanks on September 4th, the deadline to update your registration is September 3rd. These are all the documents you must provide in order to be eligible for the tickets:

- State ID or Drivers License**
- Birth Certificate**
- C.I.B or Tribal Card**
- Insurance Card(if any)**
- Medicaid or Denali Kidcare(if any)**
- Marriage License(if married)**

Surrounding Villages(Arctic Village, Birch Creek, Circle, and Venetie) please call 662-2460 for more information regarding this drive.

Register Now!



From Laurie Montour, Natural Resource Director

WATER QUALITY SAMPLING

NATURAL RESOURCES

For modern-day land management, summer tends to be for going outdoors to collect information; then the winter is for trying to figure out what it is telling us, and communicating it.

This is the 3rd year of a water quality sampling program, although nearly all samples had been collected this year. Under an EPA IGAP grant, young Richie Carroll III was temporarily hired to work with the Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) to get biweekly water and sediment samples at 11 samples per site x 2 sites, one at Yukon & other Porcupine. Collecting them from the same sites allows us to compare changes in water over time.

Water samples were also collected every mile from Circle City to Tanana. If you can imagine a line cutting across the river with samples collected along that line, at every mile from Circle City to Tanana. That information gives us documented info from which to measure temperature, depth, and other indicators that tell a story about changes to the river.

One of the benefits of having local Native employees is being able to visit and help relatives while waiting to get to work. Staff helped put in two fish wheels at Circle before meeting YRITWC staff arriving from Fairbanks. Once they arrived, we loaded the boats with food, water sample supplies, and gasoline from the general store and returned to Ft. Yukon in 3 1/2 hours. In Ft. Yukon, we unloaded the boats. Richie Carroll helped the YRITWC team prepare for the trip to Tanana, with another other boat going to Kaltag.

This included taking samples with a Environmental Protection Agency staff person who was there to make sure our team took the samples the correct way. We had problems because the water level was low on the river and the GPS location was hard to reach; so we adjusted the way we took samples by taking samples closest to the GPS location.

Because we were close enough, we returned to Ft. Yukon and camped one more night. For the next 12 days we started taking samples. Mr. Carroll more than pulled his share of work since he was also boat pilot. "I worked hard and the days were even longer. It was a challenge for my team and me."

The team members were Elaine from California; Terri Joe and Dan the Man from Anchorage. There was also a tight schedule that had to be met, so we had to double the days. Once that part of the project was done, Gavin Refredi, a summer student hired to help YRITWC, was flown to Tanana to accompany Richie Carroll back by boat. They drove 15hrs straight.

Before departing Tanana, Gavin and Richie helped Lester Erhart put tin on his 3 story smoke shack, helped build a fish drying rack and fed his 80 dogs. It was a lot of fun. They stayed at his house where they were fed.

Richie Carroll took time off to go fishing for his family. 27 kings were caught in his nets and all were given away to his family. Additional time went towards helping his grandfather and building a cabin.

Because of his expertise is taking care of equipment, Richie will also be responsible for ensuring the US Fish & Wildlife Service compound property and equipment is maintained. They generously transferred property to CATG Natural Resources including snow machines and boat motors.

August has been spent collecting local water samples and getting trained to calibrate the Hanna meter through our videoconferencing tv equipment. On August 10th, we had taken the new teachers from the Yukon Flats School District on a boat ride. it was a blast, we all had a good time. Richard Carroll (Dad) and I took them to their camp at 6 Mile to visit.

FISHING PROJECTS WITH PARTNERS YUKON RIVER DRAINAGE FISHERIES ASSOCIATION AND TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE

Janis Carroll, who was hired temporarily to be our Admin Assistant has yet again taken on her usual efficient manner, a six week fishing effort survey and another to collect king salmon scales from volunteer fishermen.

Every Monday since early June in Ft. Yukon, you may have seen her and Gavin Refredi go to fishermen's homes to ask about how their catch was in the previous week: Did you get enough fish? Were you still going to go out fishing again? What was the condition of the fish?

This project, which began in 2002, has been conducted in other Yukon River communities of Emmonak, Holy Cross, Nulato, Eagle, Galena, and Beaver, Circle, Fort Yukon, Marshall and Allakaket.

Once the information is collected, Janis Carroll is responsible for filling out the data forms supplied by USFWS, then summarizing the information for the weekly Tuesday 1 pm salmon teleconference update with villages in Alaska, Yukon, USFWS and Alaska Dept of Fish & Game. Janis is also responsible for reading the weekly update on the teleconference.



FISH SCALE PROJECT

A number of fishermen went through training last spring to learn how to take fish scales from king salmon and mount them for age/sex/length and genetic information, such as which river the salmon may return to spawn. They will be paid \$5/Chinook, which can in some instances pay for the gas as well as get local people involved in scientific research that benefits all of us.

Since fishing for kings is compile, we are asking that all participants who did the fish scaling project to please submit your samples to Ms. Carroll at the Natural Resources Department as soon as you can.

FUR CO-OP

The Fur Co-op store has a lot of items for sale. Please stop by and check it out. For those of you who need beads, hunting supplies, traps, etc., if we don't have what you are looking for, please let Janis know and she can order some.

Moose hunting season is around the corner. Stop by and purchase a hunting license and a moose harvest ticket.

Thank you and have a wonderful hunting season.

From Jannette Jackson, Education/Disabilities Coordinator

EARLY HEAD START NEWS

First I would like to say I hope everyone had a great summer in spite of all the smoke coming from four directions.

The Early Head Start Program is having a great year in spite of the ups and downs we have had. I look forward to working with the communities and the families that we have enrolled in our program.

Our Family Advocates had a week in-service training from July 27th-31st, 2009.

They had a great learning experience with the new curriculum called Parents as Teacher with role playing. They are also excited about the new resources they have received to implement and assist with the curriculum.

Our program is also getting ready for a book fair. We will be announcing the date, time, and location on the radio. Flyers will also be put up around town. We look forward to seeing everyone at the book fair.



EDUCATION NEWS

NACTEP NEWS

NACTEP'S Partner Meeting was a success. Meeting was started with

Welcome/Introductions

NACTEP Overview

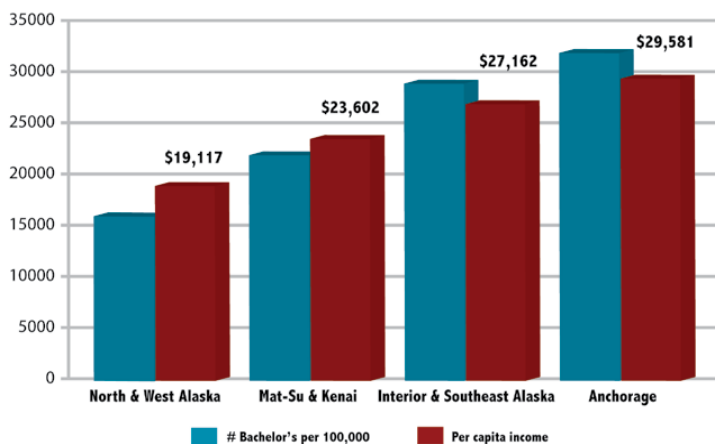
MOU-Tutor

Mentor/Internship Question/Answer

Closure

The new UAF Catalogs are out for the fall semester. If you are interested to see if you qualify for the NACTEP program please stop by the Education building for more information.

Per capita income rises with college education...



Geographic Distribution based on Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) of the 2005 American Community Profiles. Descriptors approximate. For precise geographic distribution, please refer to PUMA map available from the Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development.



August 2009

CALENDAR

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2 Land Use & Environmental Summit	3	4 Drawing for 2 r/t tickets	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

WOOD BISON PROJECT UPDATE



USFWS and ADF&G Develop Special Designation for Wood Bison

Wood bison were the focus of some attention recently because of concerns about their being listed under the US Endangered Species Act (ESA), and how that might affect other resource developments. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game and US Fish & Wildlife Service are working to create a special rule that will make it easy for wood bison and other land uses to occur without interfering with each other. Wood bison will not be released in the wild until the rule is in place.



ADF&G hopes to begin working with Yukon Flats communities, tribal governments, USFWS and others to further evaluate the opportunity to bring wood bison back to the Yukon Flats, and develop

March Wood Bison Handling at Portage

In late March about 30 people spent 3 days moving 80 bison through a handling facility at the Alaska Wildlife Conservation Center south of Anchorage. Samples were obtained from each bison as it was held in a hydraulic squeeze chute. Although the bison were tested extensively for diseases in Canada before being moved to Alaska, they are being tested again in Alaska. The results so far show the animals are extremely healthy. The bison are moved through a corral and chute system into the squeeze chute, where samples are taken before the animals are released.

HIRING FOR THE 2010 U.S. CENSUS



U.S. Census 2010 is performing initial recruiting for Enumerator positions that will work in late February, 2010. Enumerators will update census maps and complete census questionnaires for each housing unit. Contact tribal liaison to let them know you're interested in helping the 2010 census complete the count. Data will be used locally to help allocate health services, and nationally to allocate part of the \$300 billion dollars in federal monies. In Fort Yukon, please contact Donna Thomas at 662-2581 to let her know you are ready to work for the census. For Circle, Central, Venetie, Chalkyitsik and Birch Creek contact your tribal office for more information. This position is equal opportunity for any interested applicants.

NEWS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

LAND USE PLANNING & YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL SUMMIT

The Natural Resource Department is hosting a two day workshop on *September 2-3, 2009 in Ft. Yukon*. We are able to cover the travel costs of one young person per village, preferably at minimum, a high school graduate, since we are encouraging the pursuit of education. Four villages have been involved in the CATG NR land use planning project since its inception, although others are invited to learn more about ways to take control of development and protection of lands and resources.

The intent of our workshop is for villages and the CATG Natural Resources Department to:

- learn about the purpose of a land use plan;
- how it can be done, especially in partnership with others;
- how to execute a project while ensuring that it complies with the spirit and intent of your land use plan.

We are also inviting other Native organizations to show us how they have developed their land use department – it takes time! - while keeping a step ahead of outside development. The Alaska Dept. of Fish & Game has also graciously agreed to talk about reviving a moose management plan and discuss the reintroduction of wood bison. We will also be hearing from US Fish & Wildlife Service on how they want to work with us to take care of the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge. For more information, please call James Kelly at 800-478-2667 or locally, 662-7591.

If you have any news, events, or announcements from your community that you would like to see in the C.A.T.G Newsletter, please contact Michelle VanDyke at mvandyke@catg.org.

**COUNCIL OF ATHABASCAN
TRIBAL GOVERNMENTS**

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BOXHOLDER

JOB OPENINGS

CATG HAS THE FOLLOWING JOB VACANCIES

FORT YUKON

Human Resource Manager
Early Head Start Administrative Assistant
Early Head Start Family Services/Health Coordinator
Early Head Start Program Manager
Early Head Start Family Services Coordinator
NACTEP Program Assistant

*These positions are open until Filled

For information regarding these positions or to apply visit our website www.catg.org, or contact the HR department by calling 662-7504 Or Fax your resume to 907-662-3333, attn: Human Resources.