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# Education, Outreach, and Training to Alaska Native Beginning Farmers & Ranchers

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Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

Beginning Farmer and Rancher Development  
Program Award No. 2015-70017-22859



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# Tribal Conservation Districts (TCD)

- Charges Tribe and the TCD to enter into MOU with USDA and work on long term natural resource management plans
- Provides forum for USDA/NRCS and Tribe to work together
- 1<sup>st</sup> TCD in Nevada in 1954, now 42 in lower 48
- Tyonek TCD 1<sup>st</sup> TCD in Alaska in 2005
- Now 12 TCD's in Alaska

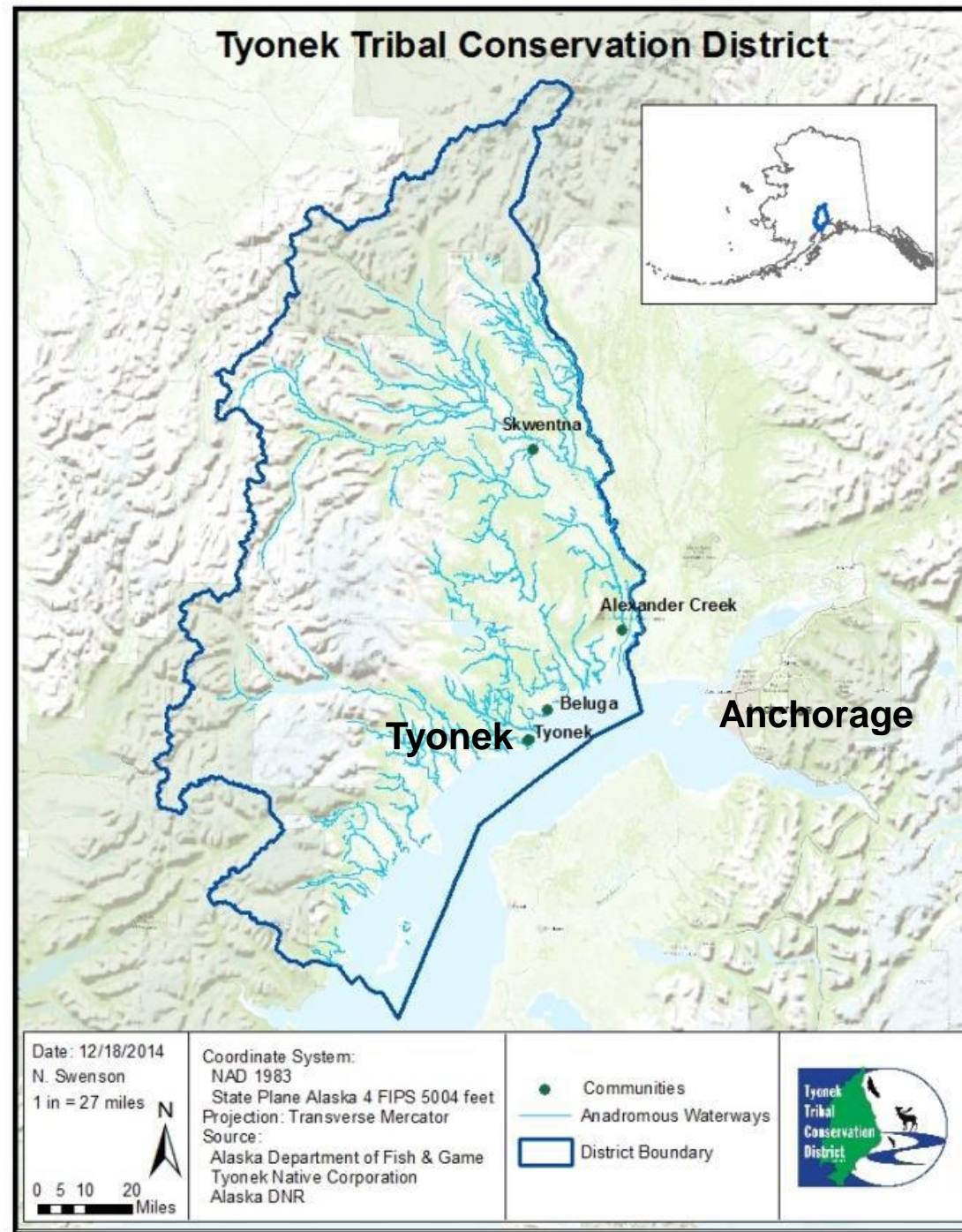


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# TTCD

- 6 million acres  
(~8 Rhode Islands)
- 4 communities
- Tyonek, Alaska  
Native Village
- Community driven  
conservation
  - Fish passage
  - Science education
  - Technical assistance
  - Food security





# Food Security

- Community concern and interest in healthy food
- Gardening considered lost knowledge
- Off road system communities
- No grocery store in Tyonek
- Purchased food flown in on small plane for 39cents per pound
- Gas \$7.10 per gallon

# Tyonek Grown: Demonstration Farm

- Off-grid, off-road growing
  - Solar power ventilation and irrigation
- TTCD as farm manager, technical assistance
- Native Village of Tyonek owners, eventual managers
- Tyonek and Anchorage Markets, School snack, Elder's Lunch







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## Growers in Training

- Continuous youth involvement and education
- Start plants in school
- Planting ceremony with community and school
- Summer interns
- Harvest celebration





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# BFRDP

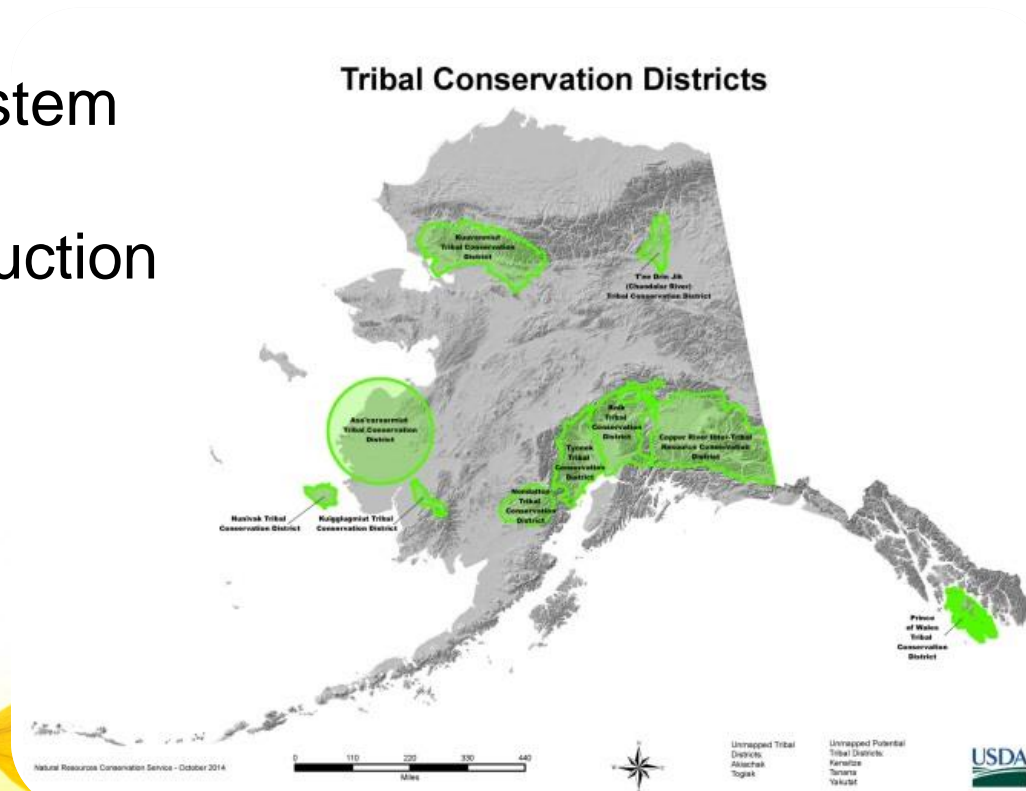
- Approached by other Alaska Native Villages (ANV's) for help starting farm/ subsistence garden
- Developing network of outreach for TCD's helping interested communities increase food security





# Project Audience

- Alaska Native Villages
  - Statewide (~540 Rhode Islands)
    - TCD's
    - Most off road system
  - Off-grid vegetable production
  - Exploring stage







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# Partners/Collaborators

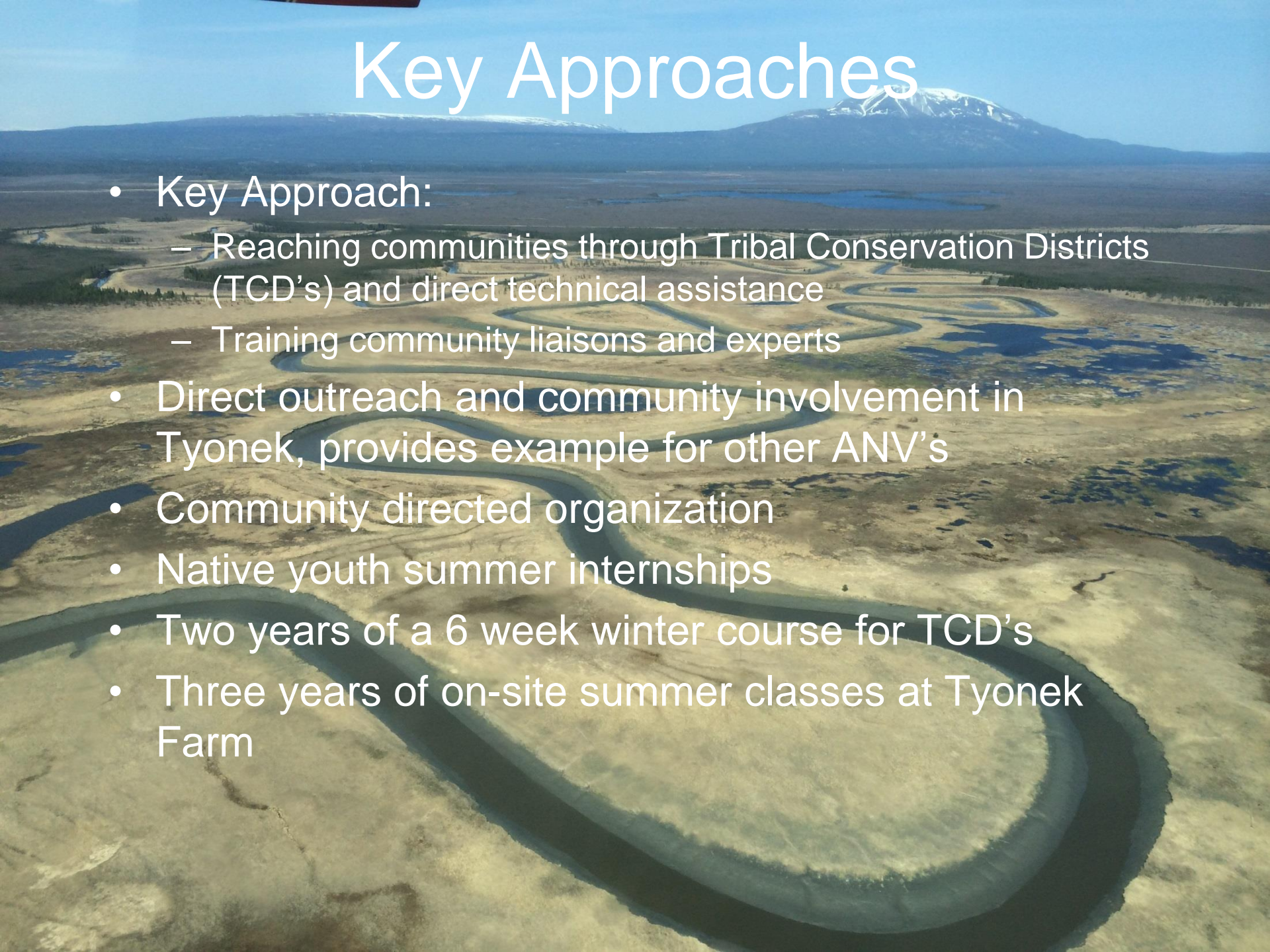
- Angela Peter, Alaska Tribal Conservation Alliance
  - Outreach, community visits and connections
- Native Village of Tyonek
  - Owner of experimental farm, garden committee
- Connie Downing, Tyonek Native Corporation,
  - Lands manager
- Tebughna School
  - Farm to School activities, outreach, youth education, labor





# Key Approaches

- Key Approach:
  - Reaching communities through Tribal Conservation Districts (TCD's) and direct technical assistance
  - Training community liaisons and experts
- Direct outreach and community involvement in Tyonek, provides example for other ANV's
- Community directed organization
- Native youth summer internships
- Two years of a 6 week winter course for TCD's
- Three years of on-site summer classes at Tyonek Farm







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# Tyonek Grown Workshop

- Held a 4 day workshop in June for 8 participants from 5 communities
- Will hold a winter class online for participants interested in starting a garden/farm







# Future Goals

- Food storage, etc
- Crop expansion
- Continue grow interns
- Year round production in school
- Livestock
- Cooking education
- Tyonek managed



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# Overall Target Outcome

By the end of this project, we will have helped:

- 11 Tribal Conservation Districts (including approximately 100% socially disadvantaged residents) start a farm
- 50 Alaska Native Beginning Farmers and Ranchers will receive business and holistic management training
- Create an approachable network for ANVs interested in agriculture through Tribal Conservation Districts



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# What I Can Share

- Working with Tribal Conservation Districts
- Working in off-road communities
- Working in communities with little agricultural background
- Growing watermelons against the odds and converting large areas of land into Rhode Islands







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# What I hope to learn from other projects

- Best platforms and approaches for distance education
- Evaluation tools and tips
- Beginning farmer curriculum ideas and resources via distance education



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# Keep in touch!



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Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

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