

**STEVENS VILLAGE TRIBAL  
NATURAL RESOURCE PROGRAM  
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**BIA/AGENCY FY09 3rd. QUARTER REPORTS  
NATURAL RESOURCE/LAND/ROAD PROGRAM  
April-June, 2009**

Following is the FY09 3rd. quarterly report for the Stevens Village Tribal Natural Resource Program. This report will utilize a new format designed to make the use of the reports for Grant/Contracting Reporting Purposes more user-friendly and more self-explanatory to those individuals needing the information contained within. Do to the increase in the number of Grants/Contracts that the Tribal Natural Resource Program has become responsible for we need to streamline our system to avoid confusion in reporting to the granting agencies and in the dissemination of the program information. The Quarterly and Final Report format will consist of a single report for each Grant/Contract compiled into our one report. Each individual report will be able to be separated from our report to make it easy to submit the narrative report along with the financial reports and/or closeout documents at the end of the Grant/Contract period. We hope that this new format will help to more accurately report these program activities.

**BIA FY09 P.L.93-638 contract #CTE03T46322  
FY09 3<sup>rd</sup>. Quarter Report April-June 2009**

Fisheries:

The Council was represented at the various Fisheries meetings at TCC, CATG, AKDF&G Rural Advisory Committee Meetings, and the North Pacific Fisheries Council Meeting. The critical issue being decided was the King Salmon By-catch issue. The subsistence fisheries seasons will be drastically cut back due to the Canadian Escapement requirements on the Yukon River. The at sea fishers by-catch was capped at approximately 60,000 kings.

Wildlife:

The program continued to discuss the possibility of the re-introduction of Wood Bison into the Refuge. We had a community meeting with the Yukon Flats Wildlife Refuge Manager to discuss the possibility of developing a joint Tribal Wildlife Grant application to receive funds to develop a Tribal Wood Bison Management Plan. The Refuge Staff can be of assistance in developing this proposal.

Bison Farm:

The Bison Farm Project activities for this period are as follows. Pasture maintenance and improvement activities were conducted to fertilize approximately 500 acres of improved pasture. 168 acres of pasture was improved through brake disking, plowing, harrowing, fertilizing, and seeding with Nugget Blue Grass, Wheatgrass, and Oats as a companion crop. The Farming was done through a farming contract. In addition, we made an offer to purchase 14 Plains Bison from the Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage, Alaska. We purchased a Stock trailer to haul the Buffalo to the Farm but we need to schedule a Truck to haul the Trailer. The genetics of these

animals represents the original Stock of Buffalo from the National Bison Range in Montana, and the other Buffalo represent Genetics from the other Alaskan herds throughout the state. The Farm herd had 19 calves during this period and with the 14 newly purchased Buffalo the Farm will have approximately 100 animals. The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society has continued to work with us in an attempt to provide us with some additional Buffalo next fall. We continued to administer the Grant and complete the Farm activities required under the ITBC/BIA Bison Funding, although we still have not received the funds. The Buffalo meat distribution and sales have continued during this period and most of the product has now been distributed.

#### Land Management:

The FWS Refuge/Stevens Village Land Swap with the USF&WS, Dinyee, and Doyon is proceeding and will ultimately depend upon the timing of the decision concerning the Doyon land exchange with the USF&WS. We have met with the Refuge manager and the USF&WS Regional Director to continue the planning process. If the Doyon land exchange is not approved, then the Dinyee Land Swap will proceed on its own. If approved, the Dinyee Swap will be included in the larger action. Ultimately, Dinyee having Title to their Lands will be required to complete the final Swap. The "old BIA school" land transfer from the AKDNR to the Council non-profit is in its final stages,(again) and the transfer documents for the "old airport" lands, the new Landfill road, and the easements around the "Old airport" to the Council are being completed and will take effect when the construction projects are completed.

#### Forestry:

The Forestry Hazardous fuels removal project has been idle this period after the crew completed cutting in the eastern line from the airport runway to the Yukon River and the Western line from the airport to the Dump road right-of way. In total, nearly 3 miles of fire-break was cut. The quantity of stockpiled brush is substantially more than was anticipated at the beginning of the project and the unusually snowy winter made burning the brush unrealistic this spring. Unfortunately, the spring flood washed all the burn piles into the tree-line or submerged the materials. I conducted an on-site assessment to determine that the burning of this brush was not feasible. We notified the Federal agencies which authorized us to reprogram the burning funds into community flood cleanup of burnable debris and to begin the phase to Fuels Reduction around the community municipal buildings and private homes. We are activating the Hazardous Fuels Work crew to do this work. We received an additional grant of funding from the AKDNR-Division of Forestry and the USF&WS to complete this years activities.

We continued discussions with the AKDOT&PF to attempt to lease/purchase their D5 dozer, located in the village which will be needed to assist with the burning of the brush created by this project. The Federal Stimulus program has provided additional funding to expand the project through the State Division of Forestry.

#### Soils:

The Council and Program continue to participate in the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) Soil Surveys around the village and are awaiting the maps and reports that are being developed with the summer data that was collected.

### Agriculture:

Aside from the agriculture and farming activities associated with the Bison operation, the Program worked with the TCC agriculture program to set up a Community gardening program. The TCC University County Extension agent made a trip to the village to work with the school and local residents to establish a garden. Unfortunately, the massive flooding experienced in the Village limited any further participation in this activity for this season.

### ANCSA

During this period, the Council approved the use of 7(j) funding for the Tribal Natural Resource Management effort and budgets have been prepared and a manager and technician positions have been approved. The Dinyee Village Corporation is often overlooked in the Tribal Land and Resource management effort but the Corporation holds the future of these programs in their hands. The ANCSA 7(i) funding section specifically sets aside funds for the "village" to use for local projects. The 7(j) section funds have historically been used by the Corporation with little in-put from the Council. This situation has now changed in the fact that the Dinyee Native Corporation, which owns the Land, and the Council, which manages the lands and resources have agreed to a formula for distribution of the 7(i) funds. The council now receives an annual percentage of the fund to conduct the resource management activities while the Corporation will keep a percentage to operate its ventures. A significant percentage will be placed in a long term investment fund that will ultimately be a source of capital for both the Tribal and Corporation needs, thirty years down the line. The Corporation Board and Council agreed to this distribution at their, respective, annual membership meetings. To our knowledge, this is the first ever joint Tribal/Village Corporation agreement to share the 7(i) funds. The activities associated with the program are underway.

### Oil and Gas Development:

The program continued its technical support of the Councils participation in the agreement with Dinyee and Doyon to participate in the exploration for Oil and Gas on Corporation Lands. Seismic work is being planned and the ultimate decision for development will be made only after the information has been collected and analyzed. The Council has established a position statement to clarify their interests in these development activities and what they expect within the process and the assurances that the environment and Cultural sites will be protected throughout this process. The program continued to work with the Oil and Gas Industry through the Denali Gas Pipeline Company to initiate a dialogue about the role that Tribes should play in the development of the Alaska Gas Pipeline. We brought together all the Tribes along the proposed Gas Pipeline route, met in Fairbanks and formed the InterTribal Oil and Gas Coalition to deal with the State and Industry development continued the process to establish Tribal Liaison Offices at each Tribe. These positions will be funded by Industry contributions and will ensure active participation by Tribal Communities during this process. We also supported the development of a training and employment program for the liaison employees that will be run through the UAF-IAC Tribal Management Program and will be a requirement for employment.

### Environmental and Emergency Disaster Flood Relief:

The program responded to the Yukon River Flood Disaster in the Village by assisting in the coordination of the State Division of Homeland Security and FEMA interaction with the community and residents. We provided the primary community assessment which alerted the agencies to the needs in the village from damage of the flood. We contacted the AK Energy Authority to initiate the repair of the Electric Distribution System and to start the electrical

generating plant, we contacted the Village Safe Water program to initiated the inspection and re-establishment of the water and sewer system, we initiated action of the DEC to coordinate the clean-up of the materials washed out of the landfill onto community and private property, we coordinated with the NRCS to obtain a commercial Burn Box for the incineration of the garbage, trash, and flood debris. We coordinated a summer youth program to clean up the community, consolidate the recyclable flood debris (eg. Steel drums, plastic, batteries etc.), and collected and stored burnable wastes for incineration in the Burn Box. In addition, we supported the distribution of the disaster relief funding to the flood victims through the State Division of Public assistance and by soliciting Corporation contributions from the Conoco-Phillips/British Petroleum Denali Pipeline Company. Their contributions were applied to the Stevens Village Flood Disaster Relief Fund at the Wells Fargo Bank.

#### Travel/Trip Report:

During this period, the Director traveled to Fairbanks to assist with the Resource Program Administrative, Accounting, and Auditing functions with the RVI Management Services Company. We also met with the AKDNR in an effort to resolve the exchange of the old BIA school Land to the Tribe. We met also, with the WHPacific Engineering Representative to Plan for the Road Construction bidding process. I also traveled to the Village to asses the damage caused by the flood and to meet with the Council, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and State Homeland Security, Emergency Services Representatives. I attended to Council related business in Anchorage with the Tribal Attorneys, the WH Pacific Engineering Company, USF&WS, BIA, and other agencies. I attended the Native American Fish & Wildlife Society National Conference in Juneau where I put on a power-point presentation show-casing the Tribal Bison Farm and the Traditional Indigenous Food Security Program. My travel and expenses were provided by the various Tribal grants and participating organizations. Travel to Delta and Fairbanks is considered "Local Travel" under the Tribal Policies and Procedures. Any mileage compensation and expenses for Travel were documented via a Mileage Log book, submitted receipts, and properly approved Check Request forms.

#### **BIA FY08 ITBC Bison Grant #7E00460051 FY09 3<sup>rd</sup>. Quarter Report April-June 2009**

#### Bison Farm:

The Bison Farm Project activities for this period are as follows. Pasture maintenance and improvement activities were conducted to fertilize approximately 500 acres of improved pasture. 168 acres of pasture was improved through brake disking, plowing, harrowing, fertilizing, and seeding with Nugget Blue Grass, Wheatgrass, and Oats as a companion crop. The Farming was done through a farming contract. In addition, we made an offer to purchase 14 Plains Bison from the Wildlife Conservation Center in Portage, Alaska. We purchased a Stock trailer to haul the Buffalo to the Farm but we need to schedule a Truck to haul the Trailer. The genetics of some of these animals represents the original Stock of Buffalo from the National Bison Range in Montana, and the other Buffalo represent Genetics from the other Alaskan herds throughout the state. The Farm herd had 19 calves during this period and with the 14 newly purchased Buffalo the Farm will have approximately 100 animals. The Native American Fish and Wildlife Society has continued to work with us in an attempt to provide us with some additional Buffalo next fall. We continued to administer the ITBC Grant and complete the Farm activities required under the ITBC/BIA Bison Funding, although we still have not received the funds. The Buffalo meat

distribution and sales have continued during this period and most of the product has now been distributed.

**BIA FY08 Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grant #CTE03T46310  
FY09 3<sup>rd</sup>. Quarter April-June 2009**

Forestry:

The Forestry Hazardous fuels removal project has been idle this period after the crew completed cutting in the eastern line from the airport runway to the Yukon River and the Western line from the airport to the Dump road right-of way. In total, nearly 3 miles of fire-break was cut. The quantity of stockpiled brush is substantially more than was anticipated at the beginning of the project and the unusually snowy winter made burning the brush unrealistic this spring. Unfortunately, the spring flood washed all the burn piles into the tree-line or submerged the materials. I conducted an on-site assessment to determine that the burning of this brush was not feasible. We notified the Federal agencies who authorized us to reprogram the burning funds into community flood cleanup of burnable debris and to begin the phase to Fuels Reduction around the community municipal buildings and private homes. We are initiating the Hazardous Fuels Work crew to do this work. We received an additional grant of funding from the AKDNR-Division of Forestry and the USF&WS to complete this years activities.

We continued discussions with the AKDOT&PF to attempt to lease/purchase their D5 dozer, located in the village which will be needed to assist with the burning of the brush created by this project. The Federal Stimulus program has provided additional funding to expand the project through the State Division of Forestry.

**BIA FY09 IRR program contract #E003706136  
April-June 2009**

Roads/IRR:

The Indian Reservation Roads Program continues to proceed to community roads Construction. Following is an updated progress report of the projects that the IRR program encompasses, their relationship to the responsibilities of the Tribal Resource Program, and their current status. To keep abreast of the national and regional level rules and regulations for Tribal roads programs we have attended the Alaska Tribal State Federal Transportation Symposium in early April. Tribes will need to be very proactive of their Tribal Roads Programs if they are to continue to receive current or increased levels of funding into the future. The BIA has redesigned its Alaska Region Program due to the in effectiveness of the previous system. The Transportation Program Director was re-assigned, the BIA Regional Director, Niles Ceasar, has been re-assigned out of the Alaska Region, and the Office of Trust/Self-Determination Director was terminated. Throughout the Divisions of the BIA, many employees have resigned or been terminated and many of these positions have not been replaced. The near future will be difficult for the Tribes to navigate through. Our projects, none-the-less must continue to push ahead or they will be lost in the reorganization.

Community Roads Project:

This is a \$3.435 million dollar construction project to engineer, design, and rebuild all the main roads in the Village. During this period the engineering and design is completed, the Right of Way surveys and legal easement documents have been nearly completed and we are awaiting the

BIA final approval. Upon approval, the Council will close out the initial E&D Contract and complete the contracting for construction through a competitive bid process, will select the construction company to do the work, will negotiate the construction agreement, (including the working relationship with the village), and will proceed to construction.. All funds have been raised and the Council signed the BIA High Priority Construction Contract which provides \$1 million grant funding to the construction project. The Council also signed a Road Maintenance Agreement for the maintenance of the road after construction.

#### Road Inventory and Construction Activities:

The road inventory application to the BIA continued to proceed through the BIA system with the assistance of our Engineering Firm WH Pacific. We requested approximately 100 additional miles of roads to expand the Councils Road Inventory to include transportation road mileage from the village half way to Beaver, Alaska up river of the village. This mileage was approved. The 50 miles of the Dalton Highway from the Bridge to the Arctic Circle was not approved as a paid road for the Council. The trail from the hot springs to the Dalton highway was also disapproved because it does not lie within the Native Corporation lands. To date, the Council applied for a draw-down of 43% of the FY09 funding to be placed into escrow for use in the construction project. The BIA, we learned recently, did not process the draw-down request nor did they authorize an amendment to the FY08 Contract to secure this funding. As a result of the BIA Transportation Program "Shack-up" they are now requiring the Tribes to reapply for their FY09 funding. You can realize the difficulty of running a Tribal Transportation Program when we are already in the 4<sup>th</sup>. Quarter of the Fiscal Year and we have not yet received any funding for this year. The BIA IRR Tribal Programs are also eligible for the Federal stimulus grants (ARRA). We are eligible for approximately \$175,000 additional road construction for this year. We have applied for this funding. Later this year if the other Tribes do not use their shares we may be eligible for more funding in the FY10 year.

#### **Denali Commission Community Roads and Dalton Highway Feasibility Grants FY09 3<sup>rd</sup>. Quarter Report**

##### The Dalton Highway Access Project:

The activities this period included working with Western Federal Lands Administration Agency (WFLA) to complete the Stevens Village-Dalton Highway pre-engineering Feasibility Study. The Denali Commission has provided \$250,000 for this project completion. The cost estimates of \$57-71 million prohibit the continuation of the project until funding is identified. We retain the option of continuing to develop the alignment as a winter Trail.

#### **USDA Rural Development Landfill Project (Grant award pending). FY09 3<sup>rd</sup>. Quarter Report**

##### The New Solid Waste Landfill Project:

The \$2.4 million dollar sanitation road project is being done by the State DOT&PF and has progressed through the public notice and review process. The State informs us that the final survey will have to be completed prior to bidding of the construction project. They will be soliciting bids for the project as soon as this work is completed. A key to the success of this project is the new landfill funding from the USDA Rural Development agency. During this period we modified the USDA proposal to expand the size of the facility, to include fencing and a burn box at the site, and to update the expenditures for the construction of the new site and the close-

out of the old landfill. The new grant application is for \$886,000. We completed submission of all the Council Financial and Audit information, completed the Grant assurance documents, and are awaiting the Final notification of the Grant Award. The States funding will be used only to build the road. The road right-of-way will be turned over to the Tribe who will maintain the road under a road maintenance agreement and will use a portion of its IRR funding for this purpose. We have met recently with the Denali Commission representatives, the BIA High Priority Projects representatives, the BIA IRR representatives, and the WH Pacific engineering representatives to insure that all entities are working within the same Construction schedule. Although they maintain that that is the case, I am not convinced that the three projects are lining up to be bid or constructed at the same time. The best that we can hope for is that the projects will follow one another so any company getting the first project will be at an advantage to get the second and third, as well.

**USF&WS Hazardous Fuels Reduction Project  
FY09 3<sup>rd</sup>. Quarter Report April-June 2009**

The Forestry Hazardous fuels removal project has been idle this period after the crew completed cutting in the eastern line from the airport runway to the Yukon River and the Western line from the airport to the Dump road right-of way. In total, nearly 3 miles of fire-break was cut. The quantity of stockpiled brush is substantially more than was anticipated at the beginning of the project and the unusually snowy winter made burning the brush unrealistic this spring. Unfortunately, the spring flood washed all the burn piles into the tree-line or submerged the materials. I conducted an on-site assessment to determine that the burning of this brush was not feasible. We notified the Federal agencies which authorized us to reprogram the burning funds into community flood cleanup of burnable debris and to begin the phase to Fuels Reduction around the community municipal buildings and private homes. We are activating the Hazardous Fuels Work crew to do this work. We received an additional grant of funding from the AKDNR-Division of Forestry and the USF&WS to complete this years activities.

We continued discussions with the AKDOT&PF to attempt to lease/purchase their D5 dozer, located in the village which will be needed to assist with the burning of the brush created by this project. The Federal Stimulus program has provided additional funding to expand the project through the State Division of Forestry.

**Alaska Department of Natural Resources-Division of Forestry  
ARRA Hazardous Fuels Reduction Grant.  
FY09 3<sup>rd</sup>. Quarter Report April-June 2009**

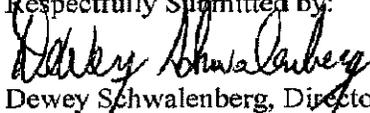
The program concluded a Grant Agreement for \$30,000 for use in removing Hazardous Fuels from the Community due to the flooding. The removal of burnable vegetative debris left after the flood around the municipal buildings, along the roads and trails, and around the residential houses will be removed and controlled burned to reduce the fire danger. The funding will be provided through the States share of the American Recovery and Re-investment Act (Stimulus funds). The work will be completed during the 4<sup>th</sup>. Quarter of FY09.

**USDA-FSA/NRCS EQUIP, GRP, and CRP cost share agreements.  
FY09 3<sup>rd</sup>. Quarter Report April-June 2009**

During this reporting period, the Program and Farm staff worked with the NRCS, FSA, and University County Extension agents to complete the Bison Farm Range Management Plan and

Scope of work for the pasture improvement. During May, approximately 500 acres of improved pasture were fertilized through a Farm assistance agreement with Bryce Wriggley, contract farmer. An additional 168 acres of pasture improvement was begun with the pasture being brake disked, plowed, harrowed, fertilized and planted to Blue grass and wheat grass, with a companion Oat cover-crop. It will be completed in July. These activities meet our EQUIP and GRP requirements. We completed the plans for the CRP brush-cutting during this period. Cutting will be accomplished during August, in compliance with the Federal regulations.

Respectfully Submitted by:

  
Dewey Schwalenberg, Director  
Tribal Natural Resource Program