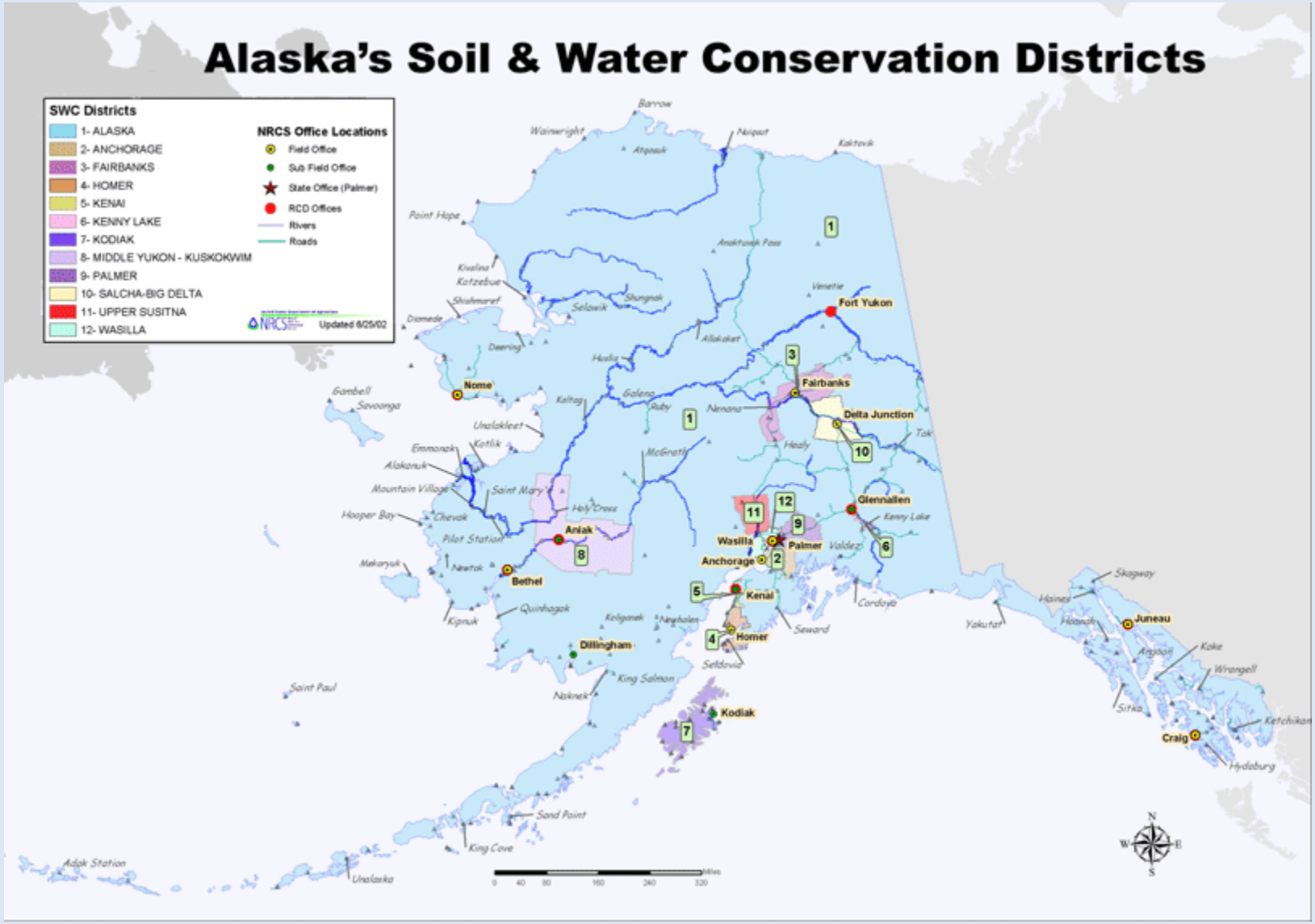
Alaska Association of Conservation Districts

Mission:

To help Districts do collectively what is difficult for them to do independently

Alaska's Soil & Water Conservation Districts



Interior Alaska

Brilliant aurora

Aniak


Nome
Koltag
Galena
Ruby
Nenana
Unalakleet
Kotlik
McGrath
Saint Mary's
Holy Cross
Chevak
Aniak
Pilot Station
Wasilla
Anchorage
Newtok
Bethel
Quinhagak
Kipnuk
Kolgonek
Dillingham
Seldovia
1
11
8
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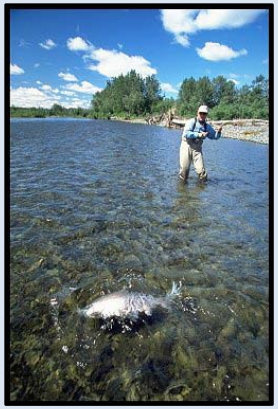
4



Homer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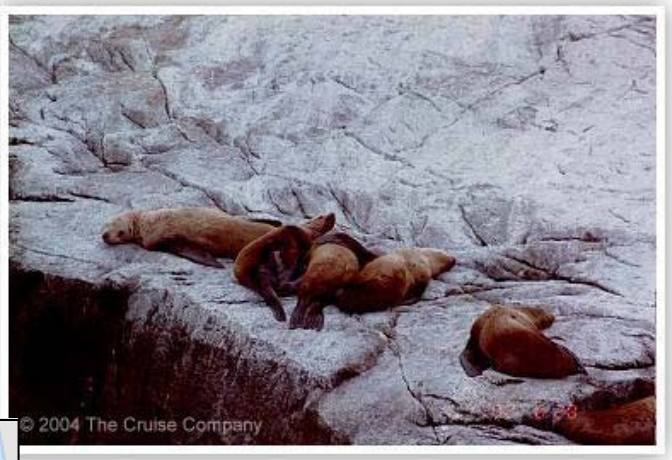
Holy Cross
Aniak
8
11
12
9
Wasilla
Palmer
Valdez
Glennallen
Kenny Lake
6
Anchorage
2
5
Kenai
Cordova
Kolgonek
Nanwalek
Seward
4
Homer
Dillingham
Seldovia
King Salmon
Naknek
Kodiak
7

Kenai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Holy Cross
Anlak
8
Wasilla
Palmer
Anchorage
Kenai
Valdez
Glennallen
Kenny Lake
Cordova
Seward
Homer
Dillingham
King Salmon
Naknek
Kodiak
Seldovia
Kolignek
Nagheles
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Upper Susitna

About 420 million Acres in Alaska

Twelve Districts in Alaska

- Alaska SWC District
- Anchorage SWC District 1,251,640 Acres
- Fairbanks SWC District 3,218,856 Acres
- Homer SWC District 1,048,636 Acres
- Kenai SWC District 298,430 Acres
- Kenny Lake SWC District 206,522 Acres
- Kodiak SWC District 3,134,209 Acres
- Mid Yukon SWC District 9,793,700 Acres
- Palmer SWC District 1,572,804 Acres
- Salcha Delta SWC District 2,493,650 Acres
- Upper Susitna SWC District 1,707,746 Acres
- Wasilla SWC District 835,495 Acres

- Alaska is the largest state in the United States in land area at 586,412 square miles, over twice the size of Texas, the next largest state.

- Alaska is larger than all but 18 sovereign countries.

- Counting territorial waters, Alaska is larger than the combined area of the next three largest states: Texas, California, and Montana.

- It is also larger than the combined area of the 22 smallest U.S. states.

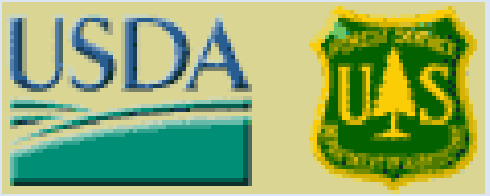

Alaska

Current Projects

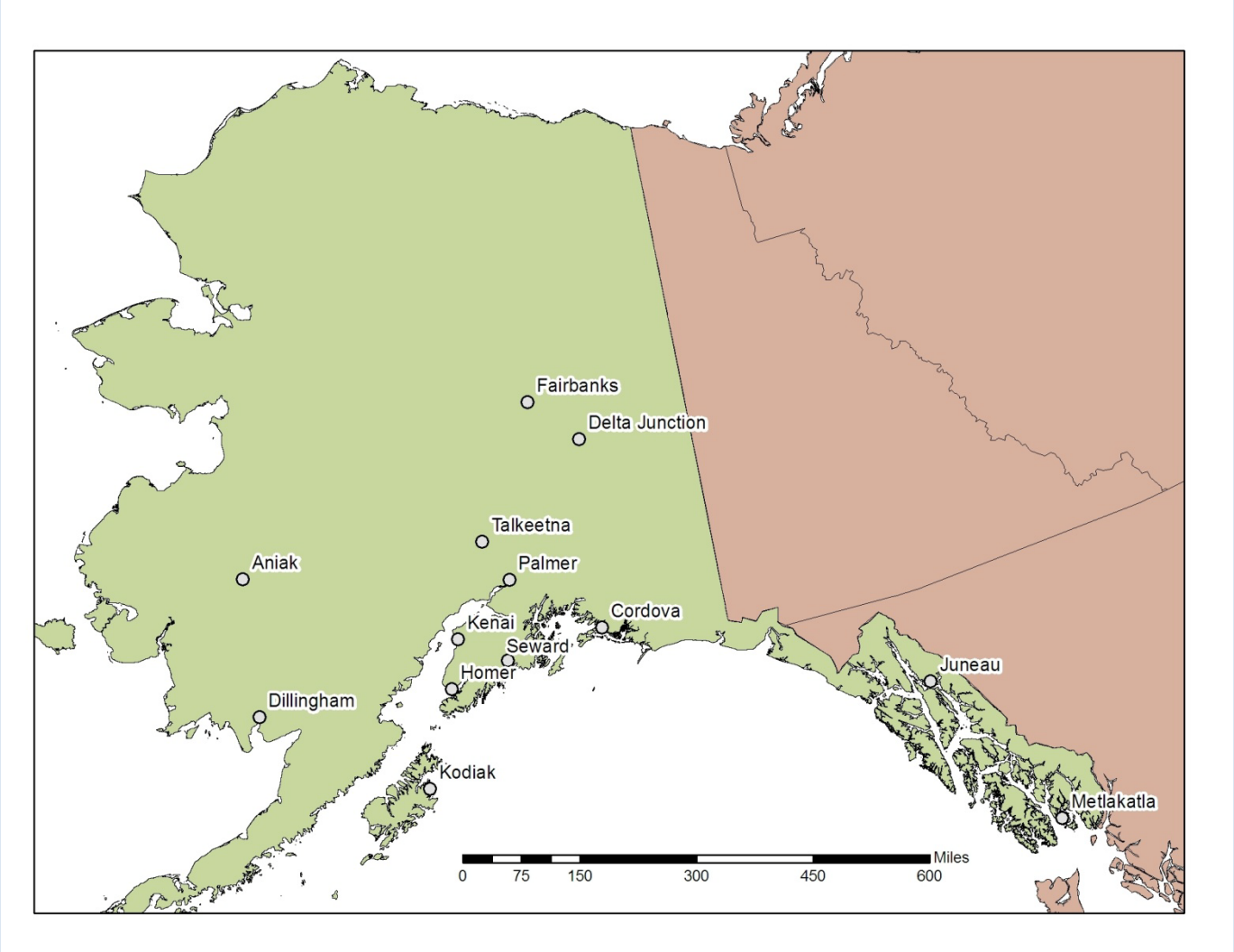
- Streambank restorations/salmon habitat restoration
- Wetland Determination
- DOD restorations
- Conservation Planning
- Ag parcel surveys
- CTA deliverables
- BTAs
- ARRA

ARRA Alaska Weed Management

A federal Recovery Act agreement between the USDA Forest Service and the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts



Our mission: establish invasive plant programs throughout Alaska

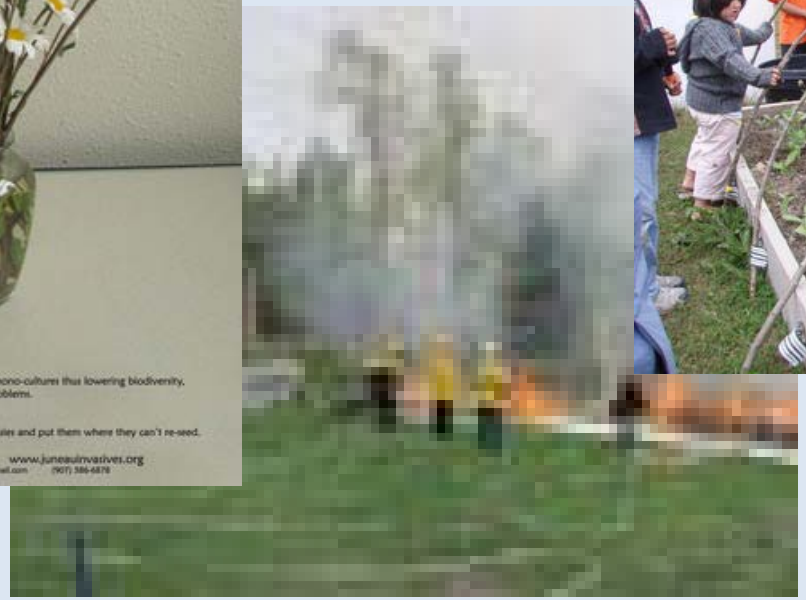


We hired 13 Invasive Plant coordinators

- Jennifer Poindexter Robinette, Dillingham
- Jessica Gaube, Metlakatla
- Dana White, Juneau
- Roger Johnson, Cordova
- Milo Wrigley, Delta Junction
- Darcy Etcheverry, Fairbanks
- Dave Cannon, Aniak
- Sara Persselin, Kodiak
- Brian Maupin, Homer
- Janice Chumley, Kenai
- Sierra Doherty, Palmer
- AJ Hoffman, Talkeetna

And a roving weed crew

We want to make best use of our funding to have the most lasting possible effect in the one year available to us. We are focused on public education and remediation efforts, including spraying, pulling, tarping and digging.



Pulling and Digging

Spraying

Keeping it clean so we don't become vectors ourselves

Our sincere thanks to Phil Kaspari, CES Delta Junction, who has mentored and advised the IP coordinators on safe and appropriate spray techniques.

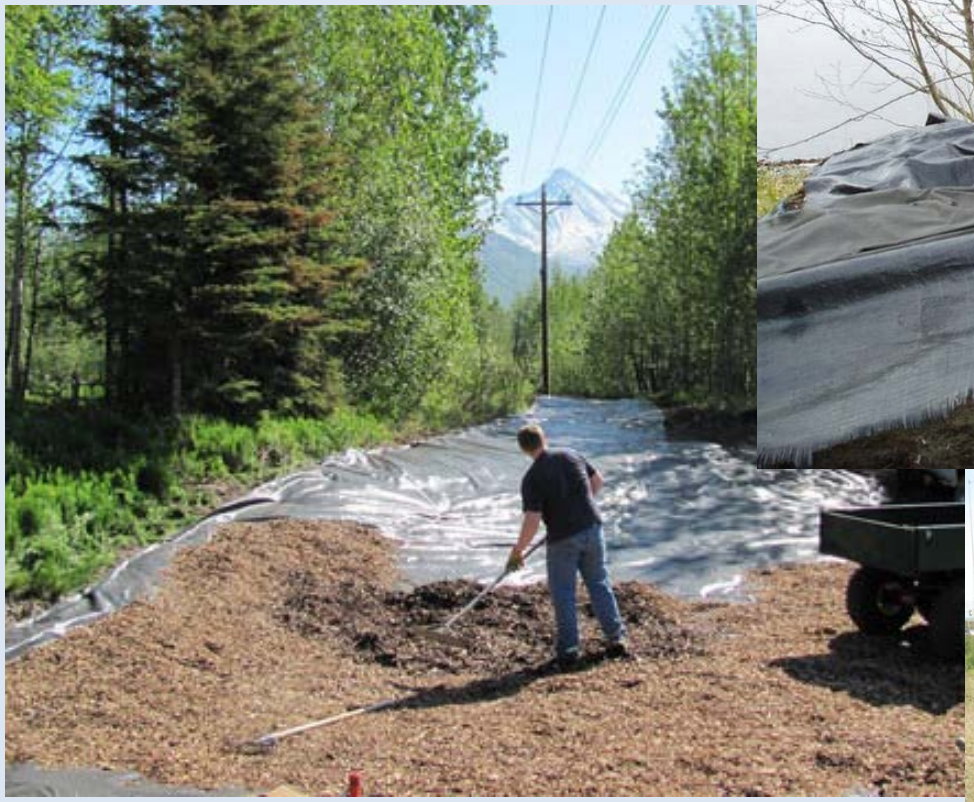
Locations include:
- Homer
- Dillingham
- Trapper Creek
- Kenai
- Kodiak/Port Lions
- Cordova
- Delta Junction
- Aniak

Trapper Creek field 5 days after spray

Surveying

In Western and Southeast Alaska, we are collecting data in previously unsurveyed communities—baseline data that researchers will use for years to come.

Tarping

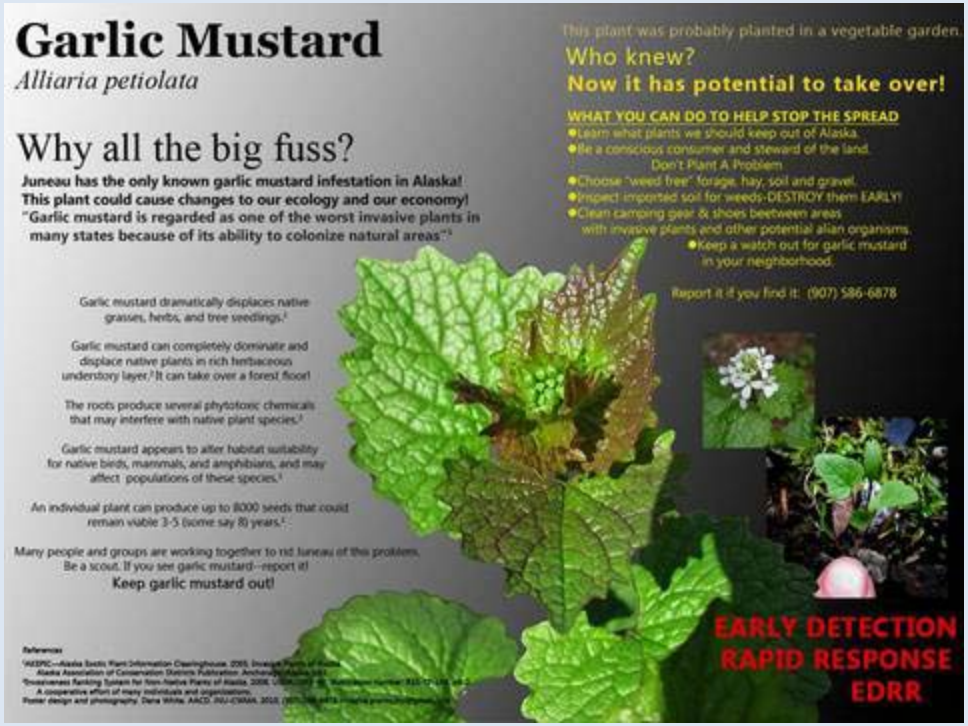


Whacking

Burning

Outreach

- Posters and flyers
- Displays at community events and public buildings
- Handouts
- Coloring pages
- Newspaper articles
- Speeches
- Testifying to local government
- Working in schools
- Presentations to tribal governments
- Radio and newspaper interviews



Over the winter

- **We will enter our research into AKEPIC**

- **We will create a handbook documenting what we discovered, photos, copies of our work plans, copies of our outreach materials, and recommendations, which we will offer to CNIPM for its archives.**

- **We will continue education for the invasive plant coordinators.**

- **We will continue outreach and education.**

After we're done

Alaskan employers have access to an enthusiastic, trained, experienced new workforce with a passion for fighting invasive plants.

Funding provided by:

Invasive Plant Program Report 2010

Blaine T. Spellman, Program Manager

AACD Invasive Plant Programs

Program Purpose: Performing early-detection/rapid response (EDRR) of invasive plants in state and private lands across Alaska. EDRR is strategically targeting small incipient populations of invasives weeds before they become a large spread problem.

- Invasive Plant Grant Program
  - Competitive grant for invasive plant management in state and private lands of Alaska. 11 grantees are using integrated methods to control invasive weeds.
- EDRR Youth Crews
  - 4 youth crews working on the Kodiak Archipelago, Kenai Peninsula, Mat-Su Borough, and Fairbanks. Mechanical methods used to control invasive weeds.

Kodiak youth crew pulling bull thistle on Woody Island, Kodiak.

Invasive Plant Grant Program - Example #1
Common Tansy in Seldovia

Grant Purpose: Kenai Peninsula Cooperative Weed Management Area received a grant from AACD to eradicate common tansy from Seldovia (a remote Alaskan village).

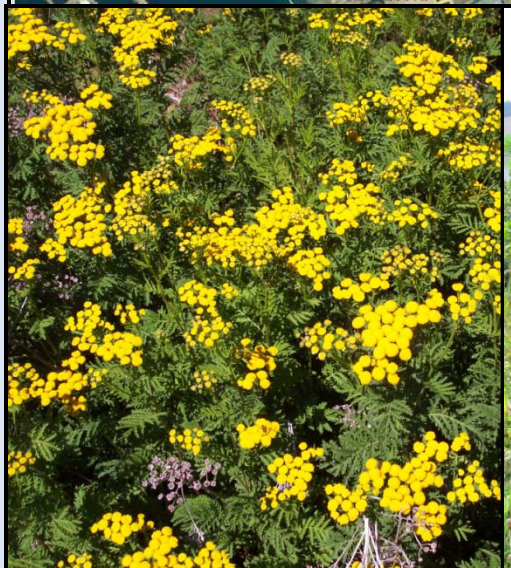
-KP-CWMA determined the location of all common tansy infestations in Seldovia, contacted property owners, and asked permission to control.

-As it is pretty, many property owners were hesitant to remove common tansy.

A solution: AACD offered to replace tansy with grass seed or non-invasive ornamentals (e.g. Himalayan poppies).

-Kenai Peninsula youth crew removed 20+ infestations on city and private lands that totaled over 5 acres treated.

-Common tansy is well on its way to being eradicated from Seldovia!



Invasive Plant Grant Program - Example #2
Canada thistle in Anchorage

Grant Purpose: Anchorage Cooperative Weed Management Area received a grant from AACD to control Canada thistle growing in parks around Anchorage.

-Before AACD grant, Canada thistle had been known about but no action had been taken. This grant facilitated successful partnership between Anchorage Municipality and Anchorage CWMA to control Canada thistle in local parks.

-Anchorage CWMA determined the exact location of Canada thistle in Kinkaid and Cuddy Family Midtown Parks.

-Anchorage CWMA worked with municipality to authorize spraying of Canada thistle in public lands.

-AACD paid for contractor to apply herbicide in Anchorage parks and revegetate**. 3+ acres of Canada thistle were treated in Anchorage public parks**.

Invasive Plant Grant Program - Example #3
Invasive Plant Teacher Training Workshops

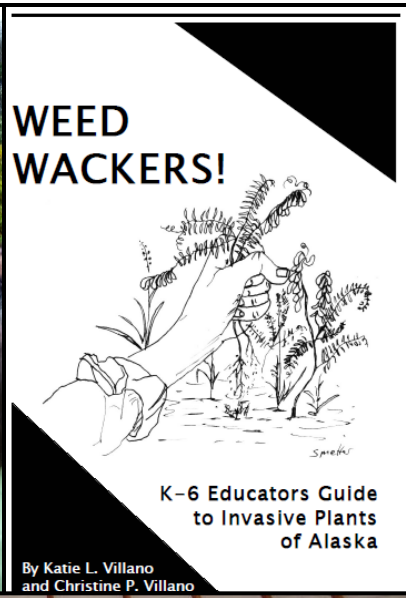
Grant Purpose: Train K-12 teachers throughout the state on Alaskan invasive plant curricula and invasive plant science concepts. AACD worked collaboratively with the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies.

- **AACD helped create a University of Alaska professional development course** to increase teacher participation in invasive plant education.

-Workshops have occurred in Ketchikan, Juneau, Homer, Eagle River, and Fairbanks.

-**62 educators** from **52 different schools** and agencies have been trained, reaching **1550 students** across Alaska.

-Educators attended from **16 different towns** across Alaska (Akiachak, Anchorage, Craig, Eagle River, Fairbanks, Haines, Homer, Juneau, Kenai, Ketchikan, Kodiak, Palmer, Prince of Whales, Soldotna, Valdez, Wasilla).



EDRR Youth Crews

Program Purpose: The purpose of this program was to hire Alaskan youth and perform EDRR on invasive plants in both remote and urban areas across Alaska. Grant funded by the *Recovery Act*.

-Crews **controlled 14 high-priority invasive species** including: tansy ragwort, orange hawkweed, and white sweetclover.

-Crews **treated 125 acres** of invasive plants.

-Crews **controlled 219 separate infestations,** which often were located in or bordering fish and wildlife habitat**.**

-Crews worked in remote villages such as **Seldovia**, **Old Minto**, and **Ouzinkie**.

-**16 youth from the age of 16-25 were hired** to work in either Fairbanks, Kenai Peninsula, Fairbanks, or Mat-Su Borough.

Mat-Su crew controlling bird vetch along the Parks Highway near Trapper Creek.

Fairbanks crew tarping reed canargyrass along Cushman Street in Fairbanks.

National Award for Wasilla Soil and Water Conservation District

Program Manager Catherine Inman, 2nd from left, received national recognition by accepting the *Outreach and Educational Achievement Award in Support of Fish Habitat Conservation* on behalf of the Wasilla SWCD. The award was presented by the National Fish Habitat Board in Washington D.C.

Catherine has been instrumental in carrying out the restoration and educational goals of the Wasilla SWCD by partnering with local schools, community groups, citizen volunteers, and local businesses. WSWCD projects emphasize community-based restoration and stewardship with a diverse group of stakeholders on issues of water quality, water quantity, and fish habitat. They have coordinated restoration projects to improve the natural conditions and ecological integrity of degraded systems by inviting youth and community volunteers to conduct on-the-ground restoration work, thus fostering stewardship and appreciation for natural resources.

Chena Slough Resolution

As concerned citizens, we want to stop the degradation of the Chena Slough and restore and enhance this valuable natural resource in our neighborhood, so that generations to come can continue to enjoy the fish, wildlife, recreation, and educational opportunities that Chena Slough provides to the community. We ask that the Fairbanks Soil and Water Conservation District provide leadership and assistance to our Neighborhood Committee. We ask that the City of North Pole, the Fairbanks North Star Borough, and all federal and state agencies which have an interest in this project, work in cooperation with our Neighborhood Committee in an ongoing project of restoration and enhancement of Chena Slough.

Chena Slough Neighborhood Committee

Video 1

Tanana Valley Watershed Association

Tribal Organizations

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

grants

Outdoor Schoolyard Habitats

Project WET

Chena

Slough

Green Infrastructure

City of North Pole

Legislative Contacts & Funding

Chamber of Commerce

Fairbanks North Star Borough School District

City of Nenana

Healy

Anderson

Video 2