

Project Objective:

The primary objective of the project was to develop a watershed assessment and begin monitoring the Tubutulik River Watershed in an effort to gather baseline data to be used to help protect human health and subsistence resources in the watershed from the effects of climate change and uranium mining activity.

Results:

The Native Village of Elim developed and received approval from EPA for their quality assurance project plan (QAPP). The staff received training and they began collecting instream flow data and traditional ecological data (TEK) to draft the Watershed Assessment which will include flow, water quality, habitat and interviews with local community members to assess the current conditions of the watershed. Education about the project was presented to local, regional, and statewide partners. A curriculum about water quality has been developed and will be introduced at the local school.

Benefits:

- Local and regional residents have an increased knowledge about the potential threats that climate change and uranium mining pose to the watershed.
- Baseline water quality data is being collected.
- The project has helped to increase capacity of the Norton Bay Inter-Tribal Watershed Council.
- Traditional knowledge is being preserved through this project.
- Youth are being involved to ensure sustainability.

Lessons Learned:

- **You can't get up the river without a boat.** One of the greatest unanticipated hurdles encountered was trying to secure a boat to rent in order to get up the river to conduct training, set up equipment and collect samples. It would be a good idea to locate a reliable boat or purchase a boat that meets the needs of your project at the beginning so it will be ready to go when you are.
- **Water sampling required a lot of supplies and resources.** Sampling/monitoring trips require a lot of gas and supplies. Make sure to budget for these expenses.
- **Water quality trainings are hard to come by.** The Native Village of Elim approached graduate students from UAA and UAF in order to find qualified trainers willing to travel to Elim to conduct a training that would satisfy the needs of the project.

For more information:

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ANTHC project website: <http://www.anthc.org/chs/ces/hve/cedgr09.cfm>

NATIVE VILLAGE OF ELIM NORTON BAY WATERSHED COUNCIL



Protection of Subsistence Resources and Management of the Norton Bay Watershed



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* PROJECT TIMELINE *

2012 Community Environmental Demonstration Project Grant

Work performed before February 15, 2012

- * Formed the Norton Bay Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (NBITWC).
- * Researched a variety of funding sources and secured funds from several sources.
- * Determined the type of parameters that would be monitored to establish a baseline.

