

## **Brownfields Tribal Response Program Accomplishment/Success Story**

Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium Tribal Response Program  
Cooperative Agreement No. RP-00J26506-0

**Project Period:** October 1, 2015 to September 30, 2016

**Quarter:** 3

4/1/2016-6/30/2016

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### **Element(s) Addressed:**

1. *Timely survey and inventory of brownfields sites in state or tribal land.*
2. *Oversight and enforcement authorities or other mechanisms and resources.*
3. ***Mechanisms and resources to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation.***
4. *Mechanisms for approval of a cleanup plan and verification and certification that cleanup is complete.*

The Youth Environmental Summit (YES) is an annual environmental education camp for Alaska Native and non-Native youth aged K-8 in the Copper River Basin, but also welcomes youth from outer areas, such as Anchorage. The 2016 YES was the 9<sup>th</sup> year of operation, four of which ANTHC has co-hosted the event, providing much appreciated support to the YES partners and the youth in provision of necessary supplies relating the year's selected theme. The ANTHC TRP's partnership at YES has been enhanced by the provision of presentation materials and environmentally friendly and useful items to the participants.

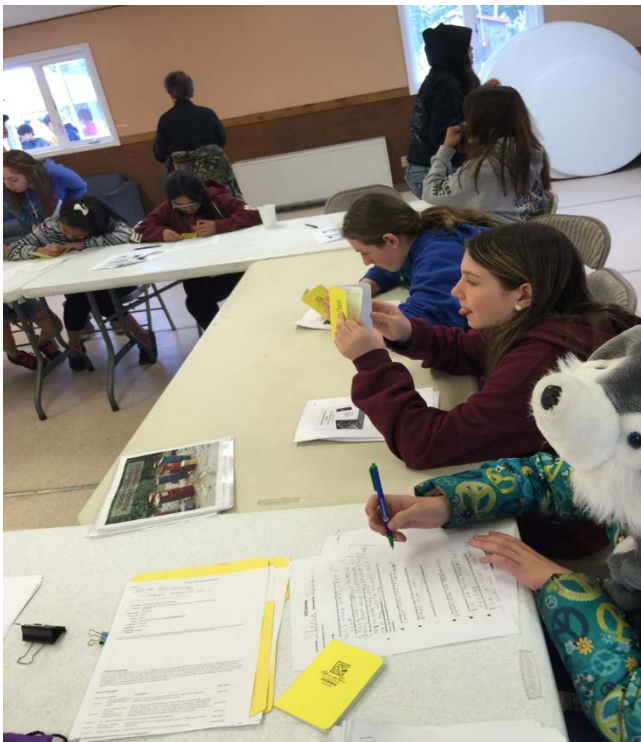
The ANTHC TRP has participated in the planning of the 2016 YES since Quarter 2 and was instrumental in providing guidance to the selected theme, "Climate Detectives." Ms. Britt and Ms. Richards led an instructional activity for two groups of participants, grades 6-8, on how to use the Local Environmental Observer (LEO) network. The learning objectives of this activity were to help familiarize participants with climate change and how it impacts Alaska, teach participants how to look for unusual or changing environmental phenomena in their communities, and teach them how to use the LEO application to report their observations. The first phase of the activity, Ms. Britt led a discussion about climate change, including why it is important and how it affects Alaskan communities. Ms. Britt and Ms. Richards then broke participants into small groups and showed them how to create a LEO profile and post an observation using iPads and iPhones borrowed from CHS programs at ANTHC. For the second phase of the activity, Ms. Britt and Ms. Richards led the group outside to look for unusual environmental phenomena that participants could enter into LEO. Before the activity began, Ms. Britt and Ms. Richards had placed a tropical plant amidst the trees and decoy coyotes with colorful feathers throughout a wooded area for campers to find, discuss and post to the LEO app. As an added bonus, a camp youth leader donned a homemade polar bear costume, which Ms. Britt and Ms. Richards provided, to add another element of unusual sightings to the activity. Participants worked in small groups, using iPads and iPhones, to take pictures of the plant, coyotes, and "polar bear" and practice posting their observations to LEO. Participants also noticed other unusual things (i.e. a neon green spider) that they posted about as well. After successfully submitting several LEO posts, campers responded to a survey asking for their opinions on LEO – whether they would use it, thought it was important, or would show it to their friends – and

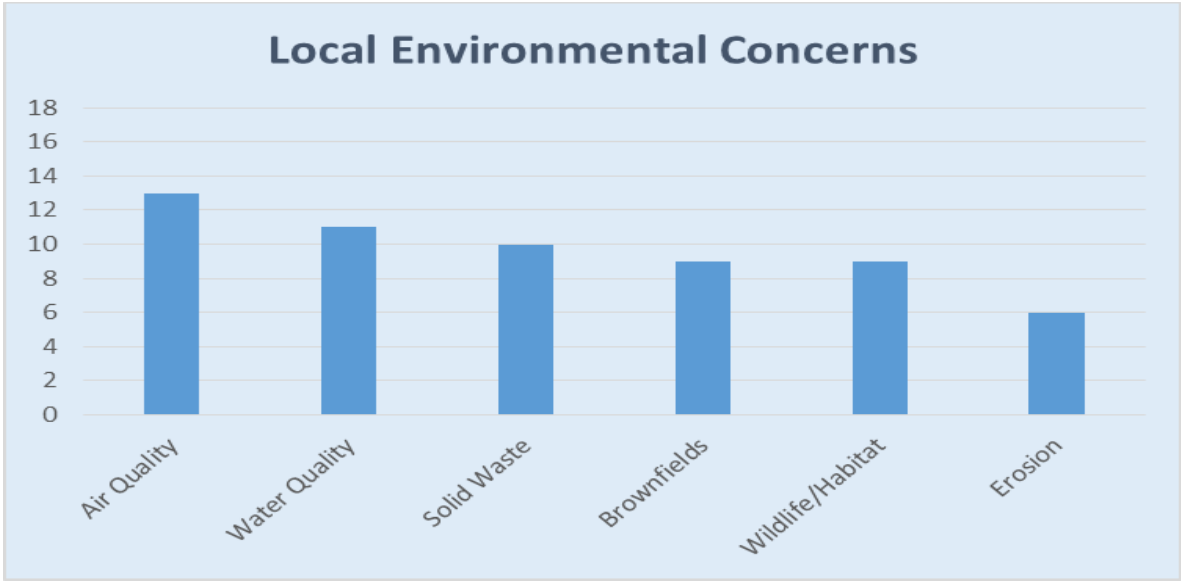
participants generally reported positive responses. In addition, the survey asked participants to describe if and how several environmental topics (air quality, water quality, solid waste, brownfields, wildlife/habitat, and erosion) impact their communities, which prompted campers to compare and contrast their responses – both with other campers from their home community as well as across the Copper River Basin.

Ms. Britt and Ms. Richards led an activity for two groups of participants, grades 3-5, on climate change in Copper River Basin communities. With each group, Ms. Richards led a twenty-minute discussion of six environmental topics, then handed out colored stickers representing each topic: Air Quality/Indoor Air (blue), Water Quality (yellow), Solid Waste/Illegal Dumps (orange), Brownfields (green), Wildlife/Habitat (black), and Erosion (red). Ms. Richards assisted participants with finding their community on a large map of the Copper River region, and participants placed stickers on the map to represent environmental issues of concern in their communities. Ms. Britt supervised remaining group members in a “climate detective”-themed coloring activity, where campers brainstormed ways to observe and protect the environment in their communities. The objective of these exercises was to encourage campers to reflect on their communities and environments, while capturing community concerns specific to the region from a youth perspective. The main takeaway messages of the activities were that youth voices on environmental issues are important, YES is an excellent forum for their voices to be heard, and that they are the experts on what safe, healthy environments look like in their home communities. Ms. Britt and Ms. Richards are currently working on plans to exhibit the map and drawings at the 2016 Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM).



*LEO Activity*





*Map Activity*







*Group Photo of 6-8 graders*