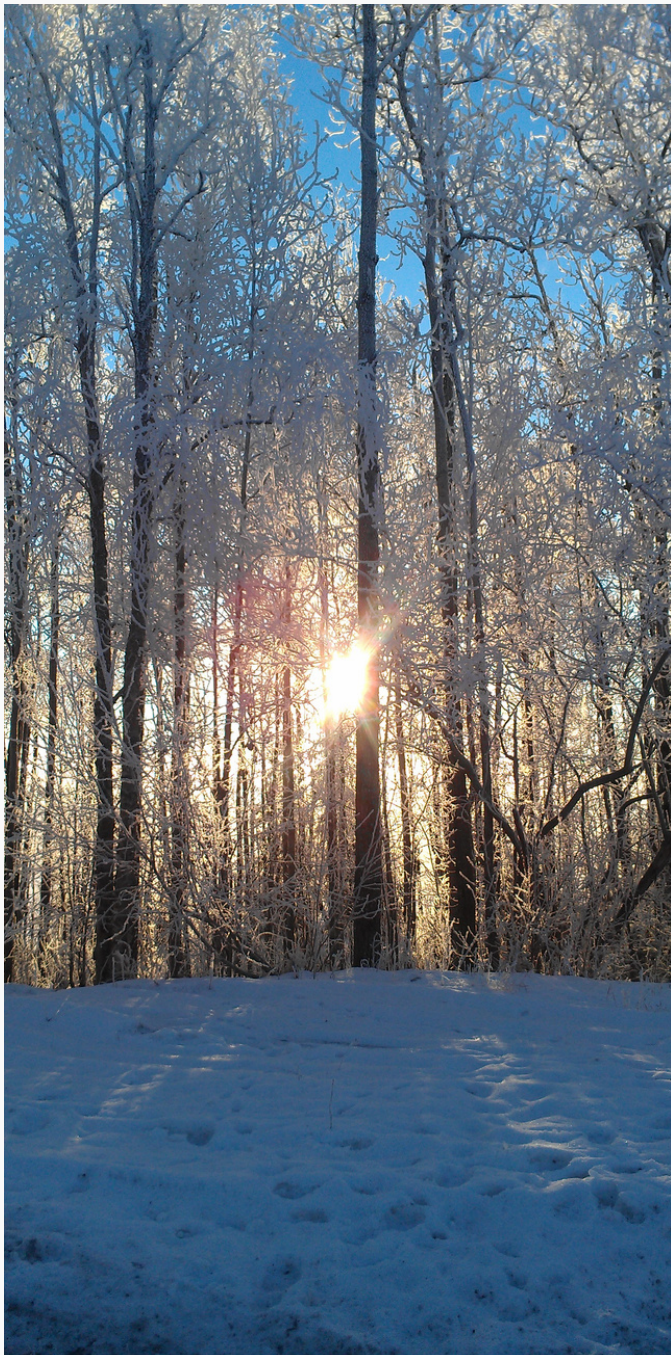


NEN' EL TUU

The CVTC Tribal Response Program Newsletter

Daan' (Spring) 2020

Volume 2| Issue 1



NTS'E BA HNIYAES?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Nts'e hwgha xona dit'aen de?
Why are you doing that?

Hwdiziitde:
Breakup

C'et'aan' dadestlaak:
The plants died.

Da'ilben:
It (liquid in a container) spilled.

Hnats'et'aen:
We are playing.

Slaaghe dela dezenda?
Can you help?

'Andze' kuzdlaen
"It became spring."

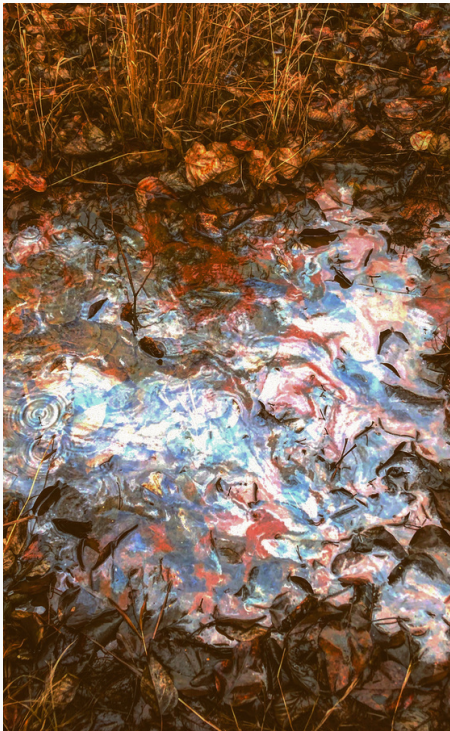
NTS'E HWGHA XONA DIT'AEN DE? WHY ARE YOU DOING THAT?

Previously I introduced myself as the Tribal Response Program Coordinator, but you might be wondering what a Tribal Response Program (TRP) is. The Tribal Response Program is meant to provide resources and increase the ability to address brownfield sites. A brownfield is an abandoned or underused property, the reuse of which is hindered by real or perceived contamination. This contamination may be asbestos in old buildings, or leaky storage tanks. In Alaska we have many illegal dumping sites and mine scarred lands that might also be brownfield sites. These contaminated sites can directly affect subsistence resources and/or recreational uses. A brownfield program is a reuse program; the community needs to have a reuse plan for the sites. It is also important for the health of the environment as well as the health of the community. Through this program we hope to provide information about current brownfield sites, and also education on how to prevent contamination of sites so that they don't become brownfields in the future.

More information can be found on our website:
<http://www.chickaloon-nsn.gov/tribal-response-program/>



A brownfield site in Wasilla.
This used to be a used car lot.



A sheen on water in the forest.
Is it an oil slick?

HWDIZIİŁDE: BREAKUP

The snow is melting and the earth is being revealed. Water that was previously locked up as ice is now starting to move. This is a great time to start paying attention to the ground beneath our feet and look for oil sheen. Oil doesn't mix with water on its own. Instead it floats on top and looks like a rainbow (sabiile'). But not all oil sheen is created equal! I learned this on a walk in the woods when I thought I found oil. Alaska has a lot of iron in its soil, and there are species of bacteria that use it as a food source. One of the byproducts of iron bacteria is a rainbow sheen on water that looks just like an oil slick (like in the picture). So how can you tell the difference? It's easy: poke it with a stick! If the rainbow colors you poke with the stick break apart like a shattered pane of glass, that's iron bacteria. However, if the rainbow colors don't break apart no matter how you move the stick around, that's probably oil. It's important to report oil sheen that you see on any body of water.

If you call this number, they'll get someone to help you:

National Response Center - 1.800.424.8802

C'ET'AAN' DADESTLAAK: THE PLANTS DIED



No leaks here. Look at the plants!

In springtime life seems to pop up everywhere, but here's something to pay attention to: areas where plants aren't coming back, especially if these areas are around your home. If the grass is dead under or around your home heating oil tank, or you notice that plants are dying or struggling near your driveway, workshop, or garage, it may be a sign that chemicals are leaking into the soil. Not only is it important to take care of this as soon as possible to keep people from getting sick, but the longer a homeowner waits to address these issues, the more

expensive they can become! The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has many on-line resources to help. (<https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/ppr/prevention-preparedness/hho-tanks/>) If you don't have internet at home or you can't access this information, please contact my office and I will make arrangements to get the information to you. My contact information is on the back page.

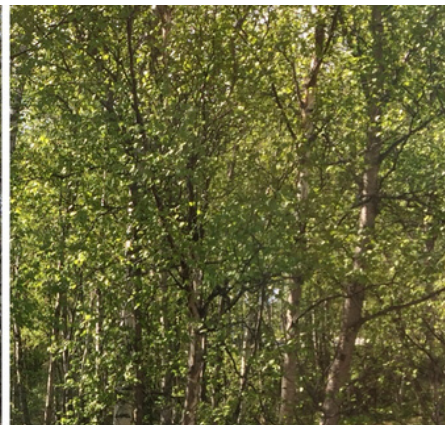
DA'IILBEN: IT (LIQUID IN A CONTAINER) SPILLED

What happens when we spill a container of oil in our driveway? Where does it go? Should we be concerned if it goes into the earth? How do we clean it up and do we have to let someone know? I'm working to put together a workshop that will talk about all of these issues in a fun, hands-on way. Working with our partners from the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) in Anchorage, we'll learn about watersheds and aquifers, where contamination goes once it's in the environment, how to address small spills that happen around our homes, and who to contact in case there's a large spill that's gotten out of control. Small, residential spill kits will be given out (limited quantities) to those who attend, so keep a look-out for the date*, or feel free to contact my office any time.

*POSTPONED DUE TO
COVID-19 CONCERNS



We'll learn more about aquifers using this kit from the Groundwater Foundation!

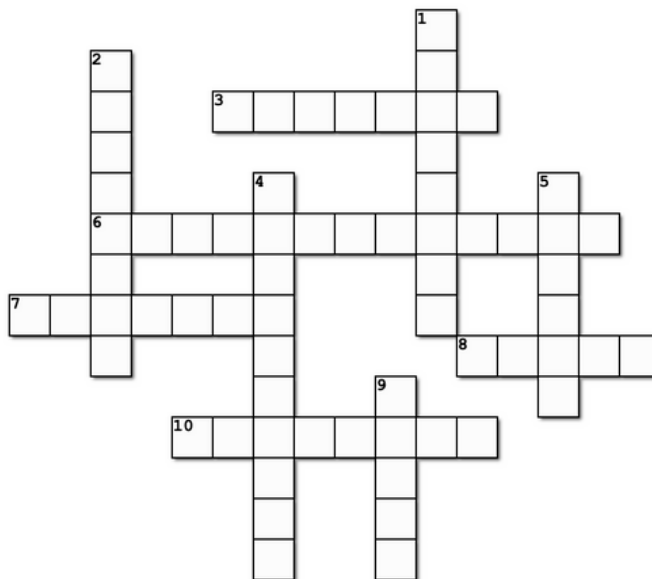


HNATS'ET'AEN: WE ARE PLAYING

It's crossword puzzle time! Fill in the blanks by following the clues below. All of the answers were taken directly from the articles in this newsletter.

Spring 2020

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

3. hwdiziitde
6. The Alaska Department of ____ Conservation.
7. sabilie'
8. You can test oil sheen on water by poking it with a ____.
10. Tribal Response Program Coordinator's family name.

Down

1. We'll be using a kit to learn more about ____.
2. Oil sheen is sometimes a byproduct of iron ____.
4. The Tribal Response Program addresses ____ sites.
5. Animal in the brownfield site picture from Wasilla.
9. A brownfield program is a ____ program.



@brownfieldbear

SLAAGHE DELA DEZENDA? CAN YOU HELP?

Curious about the Tribal Response Program? Wanna talk about brownfields or have me do a presentation? Got an idea for an article you'd like to see? I'd love to hear from you!

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