

# NEN' EL TUU

land and water

The CVTC Tribal Response Program Newsletter

Xay (Winter) 2021/2022

Volume 3 | Issue 2



## NTS'E BA HNIYAES?

### WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

Bede Nt'aennen? Who is this?

A 90-second Interview: Mike Yeager

Lts'ii Ditiy: The Wind is Strong

Nahwnilkuun':

It is getting warmer.

Climate Corner with Kendra

Hnats'et'aen: We are playing.

Slaaghe dela dezenda?

Can you help?

## Sogh hwdghitghel.

*"It (nature) covered the area with frost."*

tsangeh'aeni - rosehips; sogh - frost

Photo Credit: Heather Resz

# BEDE NT'AENEN? WHO IS THIS? (a 90-second interview)

## 1.What's your name?

Mike Yeager

## 2.What's your job?

I am a general inspector for pipelines through PHMSA (Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration), which is part of the Federal Department of Transportation.

## 3.Favorite place you've been in Alaska?

Qikertaq, also known as Kodiak Island. My wife took me to her ancestral homelands. We saw bears, picked berries, and caught the biggest salmon I've ever seen. It was life changing. A close second was Salmon fishing in Kraakiquq, otherwise known as China Poot, which are the traditional lands of the Sugpia't people.

## 4.How long have you been working in your position/field?

I have been in my current position for about a year and a half, but I've been working as a mechanical engineer for over a decade.

## 5.What's something you wish the general public knew about your job?

We inspect pipelines that have already been built, to help protect people, property, and the land. We don't have much say in where or when a pipeline is constructed; but we do our best to make sure those that are built are safely operated.

ugheli dzaen!

## 6.Most routine part of your job?

I set up inspections with operators, check procedures and records, and then go out into the field to check on the condition of the infrastructure. When I see a problem, I work with PHMSA and the operator to make sure it is fixed.

## 7.Weirdest/Wildest thing you witnessed while working?

Nothing too crazy, but when I first moved here from Hawai'i, we had a really stubborn moose hold up an entire car convoy. That was a first for me.

## 8.Favorite Alaska animal?

Salmon. I still don't understand how they are able to go into the massive Pacific Ocean for years and somehow find their way back to the same river they spawned from. It makes me feel lazy for using Google Maps.

## 9.Seasonal Question: all weather tires OR studded tires?

As an engineer, I'd say studded are best--but that comes with added costs, like switching out tires and needing two sets. All weather and 4WD are a close second.

I'm always looking to interview other people who work with hazardous chemicals or in an environmental position. If you know someone who should be featured, please let me know! [rechiolero@chickaloon-nsn.gov](mailto:rechiolero@chickaloon-nsn.gov)



Photo Credit: Stanislav Remnev

## ŁTS'II DIŁTIY: THE WIND IS STRONG

Disasters come in all shapes and sizes, as we all found out in early January when a "bora" tore down the mountains and slammed into our homes and businesses. Conex boxes tipped over; fences blew down; roofs were blown off; and pipes froze and burst. I don't know about you, but I certainly wasn't expecting 80mph winds and ensuing 37-hour power outage! The shed in the picture was knocked off of its foundation and tipped sideways: what would you do if this was your tool shed and you had a lot of garden chemicals or waste oil inside? Yikes.\*\*

As with most things, it's best to be prepared. Here are some things you can do to make sure you don't accidentally create a brownfield on your property:

- Try not to accumulate more than one (1) gallon of waste oil at a time.
- When you accumulate a gallon of waste, take it to the hazardous waste center.
- Make it a habit when you're prepping for winter to take all of your waste oil (etc.) to the hazardous waste center at the Mat-Su Central Landfill (1201 N 49th State St, Palmer - 907.861.7600)
- If an accident happens and there is a spill, contain it as best as possible and then report it.
- **Report spills by calling: 800.478.9300** (Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)- Division of Spill Prevention and Response (SPAR))



Photo Credit: Selena Ortega-Chiolero



look

\*\*If your home or business was damaged, you may be eligible for financial assistance: <https://tinyurl.com/2vc99h9j>

# NAHWNILKUUN': IT IS GETTING WARMER CLIMATE CORNER WITH KENDRA

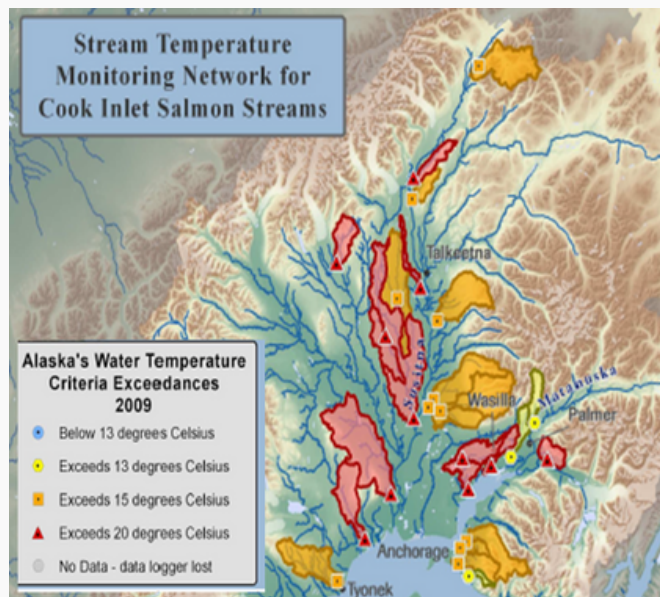


## THIS ISSUE: ŁUK'AE - SALMON:

Salmon and other fish are affected by climate change in good and bad ways.

### Good Impact: *New habitat.*

As glaciers melt and get smaller, they leave behind lakes, rivers, and gravel-bottom ponds. This is new habitat that fish can move into.



### Bad Impact: *Warm waters.*

Less rain and snow means streams and lakes will be more shallow and warm up quickly. Warm water holds less oxygen, which makes it harder for fish to "breathe" and for fish eggs to survive.

Several warming streams are in the Susitna Valley: Cottonwood Creek, Fish Creek, Jim Creek, and Deshka River.

In the Matanuska Valley: Moose Creek, Eska Creek, Granite Creek, Kings River, and Chickaloon River continue to have cold water all year.

Questions or Comments? Please contact:  
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dats'ii uk'e kal'ots'e - it's tracks are still fresh

## HNATS'ET'AEN: WE ARE PLAYING



Here are the answers for the games in the last newsletter. How'd you do?

### 1. What the heck is a brownfield?

A brownfield is a property, for which the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

### 2. Secret Picture (leaking oil drum)

saghani gige' - orange  
suux ghaeze' - light blue  
It'uutsi - black  
ditsiici - yellow  
Itsoghi - brown  
deldeli - red  
tlogh - green



## HNATS'ET'AEN:

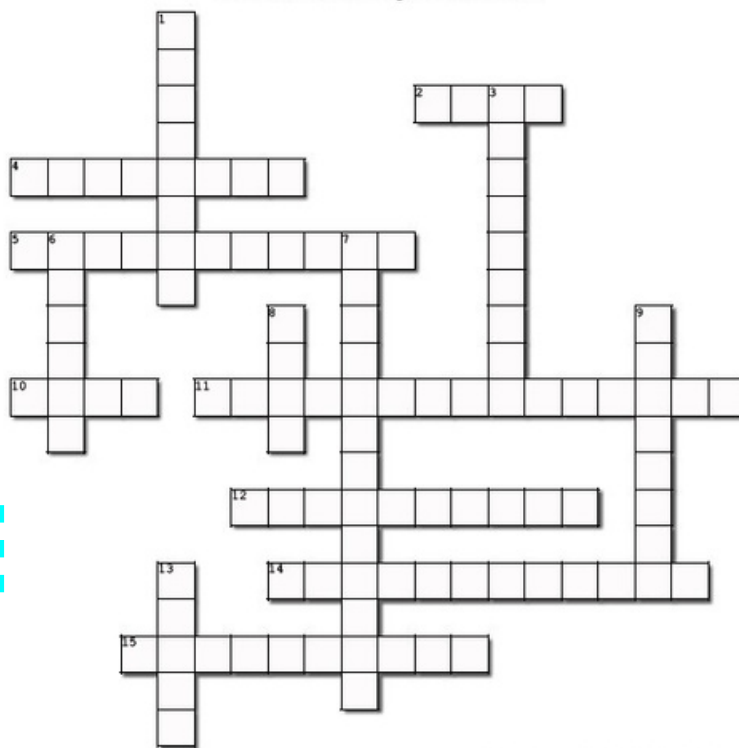
### WE ARE PLAYING

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.

# GAME ON

### Winter 2021/2022

Complete the crossword puzzle below. There is no space between 2-word answers.  
For Ahthna words: a ' gets its own box.



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

#### Across

2. If your \_\_\_\_\_ or business was damaged, you may be eligible for financial assistance.
4. CVTC Tribal \_\_\_\_\_ Program
5. A standard greeting in Ahthna (near question 1 of the 90-second interview).
10. The kind of wind that came down the mountains in January.
11. You can find the hazardous waste center here.
12. One bad impact for salmon and other fish affected by climate change is \_\_\_\_\_.
14. She writes the articles for the Climate Corner.
15. He is a general inspector for pipelines.

#### Down

1. The kind of boots you might wear in the snow.
3. You can find Moose Creek and Eska Creek in this valley.
6. Try not to accumulate more than 1 \_\_\_\_\_ of waste oil at a time.
7. Alaska Department of \_\_\_\_\_ Conservation (ADEC)
8. [It's'ii] diltiy; the word in the brackets means \_\_\_\_\_
9. The family name of the Tribal Response Program Coordinator.
13. Division of \_\_\_\_\_ Prevention and Response (SPAR)



kec'otl' - skin boots



@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!

Richard Chiolero

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