

Project Objective:

The project objective was to design a radio talk show and interview local knowledge bearers and statewide climate experts to document traditional and western knowledge about observed changes occurring in the Yukon Flats region. The goal was to identify climate related changes and to better understand the impacts the changes could have on future generations.

Results:

Interview questions were developed and people were selected to participate in interviews. Two interviews were broadcast on the local radio station and two were captured during boat trips up river. Interviewees included local elders, local residents who were familiar with the land, and Michael Brubaker from ANTHC's Center for Climate and Health. Changes to the land were documented during the interviews and climate change impacts were discussed on the radio every two weeks. The radio show provided an opportunity to share project updates. An interactive call-in radio show took place in January 2013. Two videos were produced about river bank erosion and spruce bark beetles. They are available on the LEO Alaska YouTube page and the ANTHC HVE website.

Benefits:

- Traditional knowledge documented from elders and youth will carry forward for generations.
- A greater understanding about climate change throughout the region.
- People understand the importance of documenting and discussing observed changes.
- Local residents and residents from surrounding villages are more aware of climate related threats to traditional resources and human health.
- The project helped to initiate a conversation that can carry forward into the future to begin planning appropriate adaptation strategies.

Lessons Learned:

- **People get busy in the summer.** Interviews were sometimes difficult to schedule because people use the short season for fishing and gathering for the winter.
- **Have a good microphone.** When ordering a camera that you intend to use for interviewing, make sure it has a microphone output and that you order the appropriate microphone. Without a good microphone background noise like wind could make the interview hard to hear.
- **Be realistic about your grant timelines.** Planning and interviewing can take time, especially when people are hesitant to talk on camera. Ensure that you have plenty of time to find people to interview.

For more information:

Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Gov't * Rocky James * Ph 907-662-2581 * E-mail: Rocky.James@fortyukon.org
ANTHC project website: <http://www.anthc.org/chs/ces/hve/community-environmental-demonstration-grants.cfm>

GWICHYAA ZHEE GWICH'IN TRIBAL GOVERNMENT

Fort Yukon, Alaska



Gathering Knowledge about Climate Change in the Yukon Flats



Funding provided by ANTHC through the Community Environmental Demonstration Grant
Program made possible with the Alaska Tribal Multi-Media Grant from the US EPA.



* PROJECT TIMELINE *

2012 Community Environmental Demonstration Project

Check out our YouTube videos....
Created using an iPhone!

Received
CEDP
grant
from
ANTHC

Ordered media
equipment to help
document interviews.
This included a digital
camera and a video
camera with tri-pod
and protective cases

Began providing
updates about the
project on the local
radio station to
educate residents
and surrounding
communities.



Completed two
radio interviews



River Erosion in Fort Yukon

LEOalaskan 44 views 3 months ago

Fort Yukon, October 2012 (river, lake, erosion) Rapid change to the channels and banks of the Yukon River are occurring in the Fort Yukon area. Also changes to the lakes. R...



Spruce bark beetle infestation

LEOalaskan 50 views 4 months ago

Fort Yukon area, September 7 (insects) Some of the trees in the area of Fort Yukon are infested with spruce bark beetles. They been increasing in the last few years. Spruce...



LEO Alaska Channel



<http://www.youtube.com/user/LEOalaskan>

Feb. '12 March '12 April '12 May '12 June '12 July '12 Aug. '12 Sept. '12 Oct. '12 Nov. '12 Dec. '12 Jan. '13

Identified and contacted
people in the community
to participate in interviews.

Developed
interview questions
to ask during
interviews

Recorded interviews during boat trips
up river on two occasions. Observed
environmental changes like river bank
erosion were documented.

The tribe plans to continue documenting
traditional knowledge and observations from
local residents and from residents of surrounding
villages. Rocky also plans to continue sharing
information on the local radio station.



Albert Thomas is one of the people who Rocky has interviewed. He has lived in Fort Yukon for 75 years.



Rocky uses local radio to do interviews and broadcast information to Fort Yukon and other villages. It is helping to get people to talk and think about the changes in their community.



Some buildings and other infrastructure are built right on the river bank.