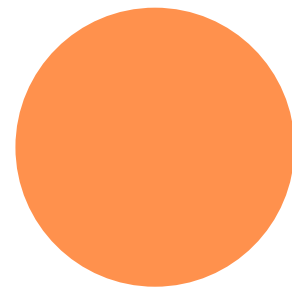


YRITWC Newsletter

www.yritwc.org



Executive Directors Letter

Hello Watershed,

The first day of spring is here, and we hope that you had a safe and fun winter! In this newsletter we will have updates from all our departments, and I will provide some important details regarding the summit. This year the bi-annual YRITWC summit will be held in Carcross, Canada from July 21st to the 25th. If you would like to attend or have any questions please reach out to Janet Angaiak at jangaiak@yritwc.org or call out office at (907) 258 3337. Additionally since the summit will be held in Canada, it is important for you to acquire an up to date Real ID and Passport. Please take time to complete the necessary steps to ensure your travel documents are ready ahead of time. The YRITWC team and myself are excited to seeing you in Carcross!

Thank you – Theresa Clark



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Science

Kids Activity Sheet

Summit



One People One River



Important Facts

The YRITWC Summit is just around the corner, taking place from **July 21st to 25th in Carcross, Yukon!** This important event will bring together signatory tribes and First Nations to collaborate, share knowledge, and discuss the future of our watershed. Here are a few key reminders to help you prepare:

Key Reminders for the Summit

- **Contact Janet** – For any questions about travel logistics, accommodations, or the summit schedule, please reach out to Janet. She is your go-to person for ensuring everything runs smoothly, so be sure to connect with her early.
- **Passport or REAL ID Required** – Since Carcross is located in Canada, you'll need proper identification to cross the border. Make sure your passport or REAL ID is up to date and readily available before your trip.

This summit is an incredible opportunity to connect with fellow stewards of the Yukon River Watershed, exchange ideas, and strengthen our shared commitment to protecting our lands and waters. We look forward to seeing you there!



Community Wide

Community-Wide Assessment Grant We are approaching the summer and will have Grayling Underground Storage Tanks removed and one step closer to clean up. But there is still work to be done. We will need to address the soil that is contaminated.

We can do it

Brownfield TRP

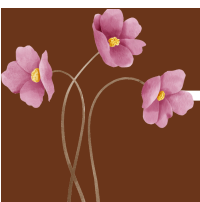
The Tribal Response program is anticipating a busy summer with assessments, community visits, other site specific work! We were awarded STAG funding to hold brownfield workshops, one of which was already held in Anchorage. If you would like to learn more about to entire brownfield process read the flyer on the next page and attend our next workshop in Bethel! Also if you are planning on coming to Anchorage stop by our booth and say hello. Brownfields and CHES are going to hold a webinar in April, so please click on the link below and let us know what topics you are interested in. As always, if your community has any brownfields or contamination concerns please reach out to our team!

[Webinar Survey](#)

ANCSA Grant



We are thrilled to announce that we have received an ANCSA Grant to clean up the Tanana Community Hall! This project has been a long time coming, and we are honored to work alongside the Tanana community and Tozitna Corporation to restore this legacy site. After many years, we are finally taking the steps needed to revitalize this important gathering space. Stay tuned for updates as we move forward with the cleanup!



YRITWC BROWNFIELDS WORKSHOP

Join our workshop to explore strategies for managing brownfields and contaminated sites. Learn about funding opportunities, reuse planning, and cleanup steps to revitalize communities. Reserve your spot today to make a difference!



**APRIL 9TH TO THE
10TH, 2025**



BETHEL, AK

ONE PEOPLE ~ ONE RIVER



Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

CONTACT US

jfinney@yritwc.org



907-258-3337



www.yritwc.org



IGAP

IGAP has a new coordinator, Anna Godduhn!

Anna first worked for YRITWC as an intern in the late 1990s and she is thrilled to assist and support YRITWC signatory tribes across the watershed.



Updates

Making sure we can contact you!

- IGAP staff have been reaching out to your Tribal office in order for us to update our contact list. We want to make sure to ensure you are receiving our programs updates, training and outreach opportunities.
- We are also reaching out to seek information about your landfill, backhaul needs, and other water quality related questions or concerns.



If you have a new IGAP or environmental worker who hasn't been getting emails from us – Please reach out to agodduhn@yritwc.org or thamilton@yritwc.org. We are here to help you brainstorm projects, secure funding, and protect water.

YRITWC Open Dump
Inventory Assessment

YRITWC Landfill Inventory

The landfill inventory is informing us about your landfill condition such as landfill distance to riverbank erosion or your community drinking water sources. The information generate aims to better assist Tribes about potential environmental or community health vulnerabilities.

IGAP

Code Red Fire Fighting Kits Recall



***Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation
established the Firefighting Substance Disposal Reimbursement (FSDR)
program***

CODE RED portable firefighting kits were distributed to communities around Alaska from 2003 to 2009. The Code Red fire safety kits contained firefighting substances known as Aqueous Film-Forming Foam (AFFF), which consisted of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Not every community received a CODE RED kit, and most were issued to the city office, so please check with them. The DEC's FSDR program top priority is to ensure that the CODE RED AFFF is disposed of properly.

For more information please, visit the DEC website at <https://dec.alaska.gov/spar/csp/pfas/firefighting-foam/firefighting-substances-disposal-reimbursement-program/>. The website provides a list of communities where the CODE RED was distributed. Please let us know if we can help in any way!

Community Health & Environmental Services (CHES)



Protecting Traditional Drinking Water Sources

We are working with Tribes across the Yukon River Watershed to record and sample traditional drinking water sources for PFAS contamination. These water sources are sacred, and we want to ensure they remain safe for future generations. If your Village has a traditional drinking water location, we encourage you to consider allowing us to visit, pay respects, and conduct water sampling. Your participation will help protect these vital sources for years to come.

Support for Sewer Lagoon Maintenance & Upgrades

With breakup season approaching, we know that many Villages will be dealing with wastewater challenges. We have funding available to provide technical assistance for improving and maintaining sewer lagoons, including support for fencing, signage, and landscaping upgrades to improve safety and functionality. If your community needs help preparing for breakup or addressing lagoon issues, please contact us.

QuickBooks Training for Village Administrators

Managing finances effectively is key to running a successful utility system. This summer, we will be offering a QuickBooks training course designed for village administrators and utility managers. This course will cover financial tracking, billing, payroll, and grant management to help communities manage their finances more efficiently. For more details, please email Ben at bsmall@yritwc.org

Community Health & Environmental Services (CHES) Cont.

Upcoming Solid Waste Management & Waste Reduction Workshops

This summer, we will be hosting several Solid Waste Management and Waste Reduction workshops to support Villages in improving waste management practices. Some trainings will be held virtually, while others will take place in person. We have funding available to travel to Villages and provide hands-on training tailored to community needs. These workshops will cover landfill management, recycling programs, and waste reduction strategies. If your Village is interested in hosting a training, please reach out to us!

Solid Waste Management Plan Assistance

A well-developed Solid Waste Management Plan (SWMP) is essential for keeping communities clean, protecting water sources, and ensuring safe waste disposal. We offer assistance in creating, updating, or revising SWMPs to meet the specific needs of each village. Whether your community needs a new plan, an update to an existing one, or help meeting regulatory requirements, our team is here to support you. We can provide technical guidance, funding resources, and best practices to help develop a sustainable and effective waste management strategy.

SCIENCE

Community Relevance & Empowerment

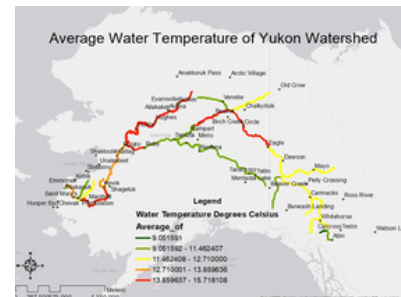
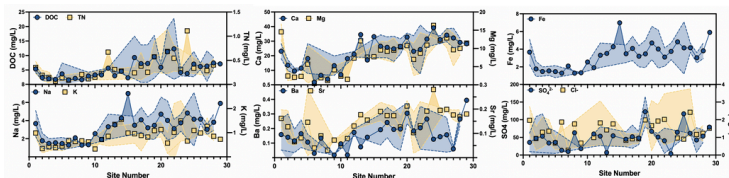


One People One River

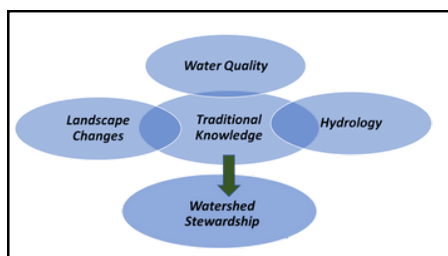


Indigenous Observation Network (ION) Updates

The ION has been funded by the National Science Foundation over the past five years and as the funding is coming to an end, I have been mostly working on data control and analysis. These data analysis will provide us a deeper understanding about long-term temporal and spatial trends across the watershed. Some examples of data analysis of chemical trends and average water temperature is illustrated in these graphs.



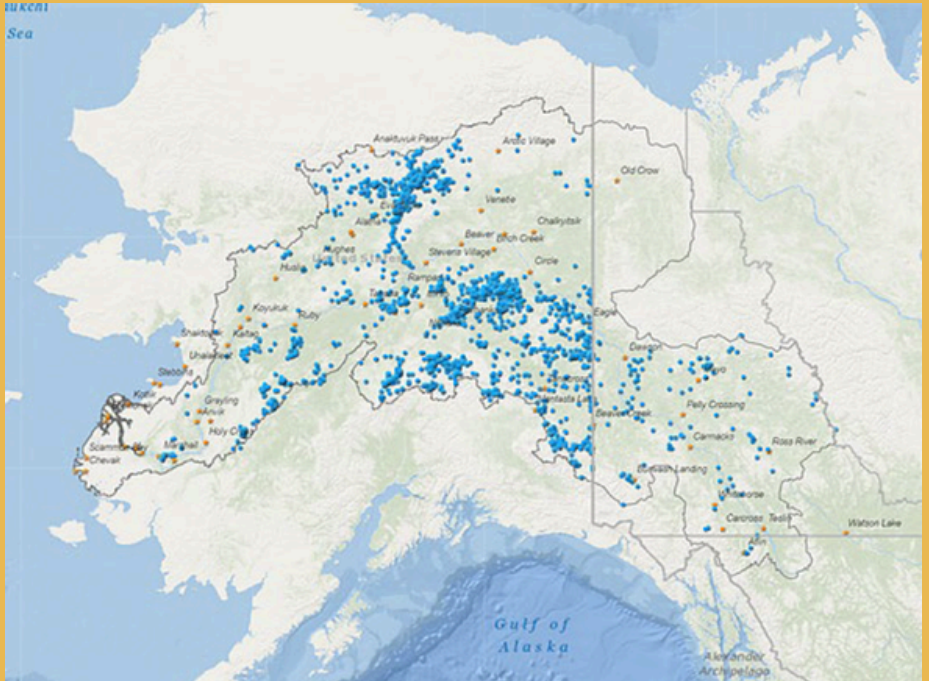
Detailed community data analysis and interpretation will be shared with you via the 2025 Water Quality Report by end of April. I am also have been working on proposal development for the program funding continuation. The framework of the proposal links the themes of water quality, hydrology, landscape changes and traditional knowledge to elevate our water stewards.



As I am in the proposal development phase, I deeply would appreciate any of your guidance or ideas or framework recommendations changes. The ION is driven by you and I want to be sure the proposal addresses your environmental monitoring concerns and needs.

Mining Watchdog Program

We are excited the Mining Watchdog Program received funding from the Native American in Philanthropy network. Funding provides the opportunity to conduct intensive water quality monitoring this summer. The water quality data collected will serve to monitor potential mining impacts or to create baseline data to understand natural river or stream conditions. The data results will become available on our interactive map on mining activity within the Yukon River Watershed.



The interactive online mining map can be accessed at <https://goo.gl/rQqXCt>

YRITWC Climate Change Adaptation & Action Plan for the Yukon River Watershed

In 2023 we hosted series of water resilience workshops to create space for discussions about local and regional vulnerabilities such as climate driven environmental or pollution impacts to water resources. The workshops were attended by 32 Tribal leaders, IGAP professionals, youth and Elders, who shared their perspectives on water resilience strategies to support mitigation, preservation or conservation efforts. This report provides a summary and should be seen as a living document for further guidance and direction from all the YRITWC signatories. ***Please, reach out to me at emutter@yritwc.org to share your concerns about the Yukon River and its tributaries!***

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council
Tribal Climate Resilience Program:
Creating a Climate Change Adaptation & Action
Plan for the Yukon River Watershed



The report is available for your review at
https://www.yritwc.org/_files/ugd/dcbdaf_b1ad0aa114f044d180c09ba010e75381.pdf

Board Members

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Tanana:

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Innoko Confluence

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Koyukuk River

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Lower Yukon

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Coastal Communities

John Olson Jr
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8 am - 4:30 pm

Upcoming Holidays:

Memorial Day :May 27th
Juneteeth: June 19th
Independence Day: July 4th



YRITWC

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Benedict Jones

Eliza Jones

Nick Andrew Sr.

Trimble Gilbert

Sarah James

Spring Word Search

F	E	P	W	F	M	S	Z	N	S	T	W	M	W	C
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P	U	K	A	E	R	B	E	C	I	B	G	S	W	S

Blooming
Flood
Flowers
Forget Me Not

Fortitude
May
Wilderness
Melting

Ice Breakup
Nature
Spring
Watershed

Help Lost Salmon!

Help the
salmon get to
her spawning
bed so she
can lay her
eggs!

