



NATIONAL *fish, wildlife & plants*
CLIMATE ADAPTATION STRATEGY

Project Title: Determine if Climate Change can affect the gathering calendar and natural resources

Headline Title (2-5 words): Traditional Gathering Calendar

Brief Summary (Abstract): The Organized Village of Kasaan, located in southeast Alaska on Prince of Wales (POW) Island, within the Alexander Archipelago, is made up of the Craig, Hydaburg, Kasaan and Klawock, or "POW" Tribes. This project centered on multi-generational interviews focused on generations of TEK regarding how the Tlingit and/or Haida Tribe's "traditional gathering calendar" has been affected by environmental changes. Using TEK, this project will foster understandings of climate change impacts to traditional resources on Prince of Wales Island and inform government action to increase their protection.

Project Location: South-central Alaska to Northern California

Partners:

All are primary representatives of federally recognized Tribes on Prince of Wales Island; and are a part of Prince of Wales (POW) Tribal Environmental Coalition- an ad-hoc group of Tribal environmental departments from each Tribe that identify and address environmental issues in a collaborative manner.

Background: Traditional Ecological Knowledge will play a key role in future decision-making (regulatory & enforcement). State & federal agencies have been requesting consultation and public testimony regarding natural resource protection. This provides an opportunity for federally recognized tribes to recommend indigenous stewardship to manage and enforcement agencies.

Project Goals:

1. To have sixteen knowledgeable gatherers of natural resources (2 middle-aged and 2 elderly from each community) interviewed from the four Tribal communities on Prince of Wales Island. Interviews will determine if and what natural resources are gathered according to weather or seasonal factors and if the "gathering" calendar has changed over time.
2. Develop baseline data to bring to state and federal agencies for review and to make sound recommendations on protection and potential enforcement of natural resources.

Strategy Goals Implemented: 3.1, 3.2, 4.1, 4.2

Climate Impacts Addressed: Coastal ecosystem changes

Status of Project Implementation (Timeline, Milestones, Next Steps): In progress with an end date of June 30, 2014

Expected Project Outcomes:



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This project will provide fluid collaboration, consultation and communication between federally recognized Tribes concerning gathering of subsistence resources.

Information on identified changes in the timing and abundance of gathered resources will be provided to state and federal agencies to inform protection and potential enforcement of the natural resources.

Project lessons learned and information that has been approved by the Tribal Councils will be shared.

Funding Sources: North Pacific LCC and Organized Village of Kasaan

Contact Info: Dennis Nickerson, Organized Village of Kasaan, dennis@kasaan.org, 907-542-2230 (

Photos/Attachments: attached "Nickerson1.jpeg"

Photo/Figure Credits (do we have permission to print): Credit: Organized Village of Kasaan, yes permission to print

Suggested Photo Caption: Salmon die off at the Klawock River due to low water level and low dissolved oxygen.