



ABOUT NASF

The mission of the National Association of State Foresters is to represent state and territorial forester interests by influencing forest policy and leading efforts to promote healthy and sustainable trees and forests.

ABOUT USFS

The U.S. Forest Service mission is to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands to meet the needs of present and future generations.

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www.stateforesters.org

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www.forestationplans.org



Protecting Forests from Harm with the Alaska Division of Forestry



With support from the USDA Forest Service's Forest Health Protection program, the Alaska Division of Forestry is achieving goals outlined in its Forest Action Plan.

In 2014 the Alaska Division of Forestry and its partners awarded grants to 12 organizations to expand the fight against invasive plants in Alaska.

100 miles of road and eight remote landing strips were surveyed in the Tyonek Tribal Conservation District. Until 2014, this area had never had an extensive inventory of invasive plants despite being a critical area for fish and wildlife habitat.

USDA Forest Service - Region 10's Forest Health Protection's invasive plant program and Office of Tribal Relations worked closely with the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) for many years. Alaska Association for Conservation Districts formed after the Territory of Alaska enacted legislation in 1947 that allowed the formation of districts.

Districts are legal subdivisions of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, authorized under Alaska State Statute Chapter 41.10, Soil and Water Conservation Law.

AACD uses Forest Health Protection funding to run an invasive plant "mini-grant" program, substantially increasing the number of groups engaged in invasive plant projects around the state.

In 2014, AACD's mini-grant program awarded a total of \$86,000 to 12 organizations, five of which were first-time recipients of funding from this program. Tyonek Tribal Conservation District (TTCD) received funding to scout for invasive plants in four communities within the district.

TTCD is a large rural area, accessible only by boat or plane. There are few roads in the district. The district hired two techs, who inventoried the communities of Tyonek, Beluga, Alexander Creek and Skwentna, as well as scouting about 100 miles of road and 8 remote landing strips. Previously unknown infestations of high-ranking invasive plants were discovered, several in their early stages.

In the community of Beluga, an infestation of orange hawkweed (*Hieracium aurantiacum*) is spreading from an airstrip, and in Alexander Creek an infestation of reed canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) was identified. TTCD developed maps of all infestations and submitted their survey data to the Alaska Exotic Plant Information Clearinghouse

In addition, TTCD shared invasive plant information with community members at the Tyonek health fair. Their next step is to develop an invasive plant management plan for the district and pursue funding to begin eradication efforts.

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