



Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
Incorporating Tribal Youth in Natural Resource Management on Kodiak Island, Alaska
Bureau of Indian Affairs - Tribal Youth Initiative Program
Grant Number: A16AV00656 – Final Project Report
Date: February 8, 2019

Introduction/Goals

In May 2016, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Youth Initiative Program awarded Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak (STK) a \$45,000 grant for a one-year project titled *“Incorporating Tribal Youth into Natural Resource Management on Kodiak Island, Alaska”*. The main goal of the project was to engage tribal youth in natural resource management through fieldwork, data collection and outreach. Project objectives included:

Objective 1. Teach tribal youth about the interdisciplinary approach to natural resource management through partnership with Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program (ASG MAP), Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR), Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association (KRAA), and Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District (KSWCD). By working with a federally recognized Tribe, a state government agency, a federal government agency, a university extension agency and two non-profit organizations, tribal youth will acquire knowledge on how different organizations manage natural resources, collaborate, and what career paths they have to offer.

Objective 1 Accomplishments: The award notice for this project arrived in April 2016 and the positions were advertised for three weeks, but no qualified youth applied. Due to the lack of qualified applicants, STK requested a one-year extension for the project. The extension was granted by the BIA Project Officer. From January – April 2017, STK collaborated with project partners to determine the intern schedules to ensure maximum field work time, and determine the safety training schedule. It was determined there would be a Fisheries Intern, who would work primarily with KRAA, a Wildlife Intern, who would work primarily with ADF&G, and a Natural Resources Intern, who would work with all partner organizations. Job descriptions (Appendix A) were distributed beginning January 30, 2017 to the following: project partners, STK Facebook page (Figure 1), STK website, State of Alaska Job Center, Kodiak Rural Leadership Forum, Kodiak Area Native Association, Kodiak Native corporations, statewide distribution lists (What’s up and EPA R10 Info Box), EPA Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) Environmental Coordinators (on Kodiak and Kenai), University of Alaska Anchorage Native Studies Program, Kodiak College, Kodiak Tribal Administrators, and flyers distributed around Kodiak.

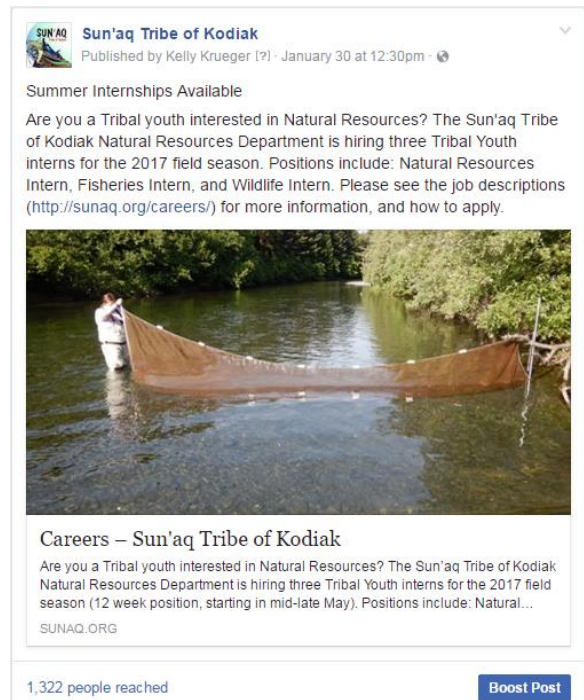


Figure 1. Facebook post advertising Tribal youth internships.



Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak interviewed five qualified candidates during March and April. In April 2017, the three most qualified youth were hired for the positions. Brandon Mahle, a member of Tangirnaq Native Village (Woody Island, Kodiak), was hired for the Fisheries Internship (Figure 2). Jessica Rich, a member of Native Village of Unalakleet, was hired for the Wildlife Internship (Figure 3). Mandi Cox, a member of STK, was hired for the Natural Resources Internship (Figure 4). The interns began work on June 19, May 22, and May 15, respectively. The interns completed the training schedule during their first week of work. In the second week of work, the Fisheries Intern and Wildlife transitioned to work with their primary agencies, and the Natural Resources Intern transitioned between organizations. The internships were completed in mid-August (Wildlife Intern, Natural Resources Intern) and early October (Fisheries Intern).

Objective 2. Teach tribal youth about local resource management issues and overall environmental literacy by involving them in projects focused on controlling invasive species, salmon rearing, fisheries and wildlife monitoring, and habitat monitoring.

Objective 2 Accomplishments: After their orientation/safety week, each intern transitioned to working with the partner organizations. Each intern gained hands-on experience in the following areas with STK's staff and/or the various organization/agency partners.

Fisheries Intern (KRAA) – Brandon assisted with research and monitoring projects, particularly at Spiridon Lake and Kitoi Bay Hatchery. At Spiridon Lake, he assisted with smolt salmon sampling (scale, length, and weight), trail maintenance, trap maintenance, and camp chores/maintenance. At Kitoi Bay Hatchery, Brandon assisted staff with broodstock collection, fish culture tasks, and other hatchery maintenance projects. Brandon also assisted STK staff with:

- Data logger retrieval/download work as part of the Western Alaska Landscape Conservation Cooperative (WALCC) project;
- Electrofishing for Signal Crayfish as part of a BIA Invasive Species Program project;
- Conducting invasive species outreach/education for new Base Kodiak US Coast Guard personnel as part of the BIA Invasive Species Program project.



Figure 2. Fisheries Intern (Brandon Mahle) measuring the length of a sockeye salmon.

Wildlife Intern (ADF&G) – Jessica assisted with wildlife research, monitoring and management conducted by local wildlife professionals and management agencies. Specifically, Jessica assisted with the following: gear/fieldwork preparation, wildlife tracking and monitoring, biological sampling (blood, fecal, hair collection), wildlife population composition surveys, public outreach, data entry,



and public presentations. She also had the opportunity to learn about Alutiiq culture and crafts and teach a telemetry workshop at the Old Harbor Native Corporation's Nuniaq Camp (located on Sitkalidak Island). Jessica also assisted STK staff with:

- Digging butter clams as part of a paralytic shellfish poisoning (PSP) study in partnership with ASG MAP;
- Subtidal/intertidal fieldwork as part of the Buskin River Marine Zone (BRiMS) project;
- Setup and deployment of Asian Gypsy Moth traps (as part of a statewide monitoring effort).



Figure 3. Wildlife Intern (Jessica Rich) with an immobilized and tattooed Kodiak Brown Bear.

Natural Resources Intern (ADF&G, ASG MAP, KRAA, KNWR, KSWCD) – Mandi assisted with a broad array of natural resource job areas, including: clam collection and processing, data entry, water temperature monitoring (streams, lakes, and ocean), invasive tunicate monitoring, weed surveys, extracting otoliths, sampling sockeye salmon smolt (age, weight, length), bird banding, stocking rainbow trout, seining for king salmon broodstock, and other various partner projects. Mandi also assisted STK staff with:

- Data logger retrieval/download work as part of the WALCC and BRiMS projects;
- Setup and deployment of Asian Gypsy Moth traps (as part of a statewide monitoring effort);
- Capture and sampling of invasive Signal Crayfish in Buskin Watershed.

Objective 3. Develop a safety training schedule and position schedule to ensure a safe and supervised learning environment in the field.



Figure 4. Natural Resources Intern (Mandi Cox) downloading a water temperature and salinity data logger.

Objective 3 Accomplishments: During the first week of employment, the interns completed the following safety training activities (Appendix B, no training log available for the Natural Resources Intern): water/boat, bear, First Aid/CPR, laboratory, and Alutiiq cultural training. Following the training, the interns departed to their respective organizations and received further training for the following: field safety, firearm safety, chemical/immobilization safety (ADF&G), small aircraft/helicopter safety (ADF&G), salmon identification (KRAA), invasive plant identification (KSWCD and KNWR), clam species identification (ASG MAP), and bird banding (KNWR). While in the field, the interns were under



supervision from the crew leader and STK Natural Resources Director and Tribal Biologist communicated weekly or more often with the interns.

Objective 4. Engage tribal youth about their involvement in natural resource projects over the field season. During their position, tribal youth will submit logs detailing their involvement in the different resource management projects. At the end of their position, tribal youth will reflect on the summer by submitting a written piece on their experiences, and what they learned concerning natural resources management. Brief summaries will be posted on STK's web and media pages. The youth will also be given an opportunity to voice concerns or advice about the program.



Figure 5. Poster advertising intern presentations at Kodiak Public Library.

Objective 4 Accomplishments: The Fisheries, Wildlife, and Natural Resources Interns completed a daily log of their internship, including their activities and hours worked (Appendix C). In addition, at the end of their internships, the interns submitted an internship summary (Appendix D). The Wildlife Intern made two public presentations (one to ADF&G staff, and guests – the other to STK Tribal Council, Staff, and invited community members). The Fisheries Intern and Natural Resources Intern made one public presentation to STK Staff, Council members, and invited community members (Figure 5).

Objective 5. Enhance professional development and capacity building of staff within Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak by collaboration with project partners.

Objective 5 Accomplishments: Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak staff regularly communicated with the project partners throughout the duration of the season via phone, email, or in-person meetings. Project partners voiced positive remarks about the intern's performances throughout the summer. STK attended the BIA Providers Conference in November 2017 in Anchorage to continue staff capacity-building and presented on Tribal Youth program success. Quarterly reports were submitted to the BIA Project Officer throughout the project. In addition, STK received year end funding (A18AV00092) from the BIA Tribal Youth Initiative Program to hire a Fisheries Intern and Wildlife Intern for the 2018 field season.

Towards the end of their summer, the interns were interviewed by the local public radio station KMXT about their experiences (Appendix E).

STK staff visited Fisheries Intern and Natural Resources Intern at remote field site (Spiridon Lake/Telrod Cove) from July 7-11. STK staff were unable to visit Wildlife Intern in the field due to weather/logistical challenges.



Outcome/Results

The expected work products and measurable benefits included the following:

Work Product: Individual cooperator evaluations of the youth.

Measurable benefit: At the conclusion of the internships, all project cooperators conducted a performance evaluation for their respective intern(s). Those evaluations were combined with STK's evaluation of the intern's performance. STK staff sat down with each intern to discuss and sign the performance evaluation. All interns were given a copy of their evaluation, which is kept confidential.

Work Product: Number of hours interns assisted on each partner project.

Measurable benefit: The Fisheries Intern assisted with STK projects for approximately 21 hours and assisted with KRAA projects for approximately 579 hours (600 hours total). The Wildlife Intern assisted with STK projects for approximately 3 hours and assisted with ADF&G projects for approximately 447 hours (450 hours total). The Natural Resources Intern assisted with the following projects: ADF&G (75 hours), ASG MAP (75 hours), KNWR (22.5 hours), KRAA (52.5 hours), and KSWCD (67.5 hours). In addition, the Natural Resources Intern assisted with STK projects for approximately 157.5 hours (450 total internship hours).

Work Product: Daily logbooks from each youth detailing the activities, hours and involvement with different resource management projects.

Measurable benefit: See Appendix C.

Work Product: Summary from each intern describing their summer experiences, including what they gained from the field season and what they learned about natural resource management.

Measurable benefit: See Appendix D.

Work Product: Tribal website and social media updates including intern involvement with project partners.

Measurable benefit: The STK website has information about the 2017 interns and their photos (<http://sunaq.org/nrd/projects/tribal-youth-internships/>).



Appendix A – Job Descriptions



Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
312 W. Marine Way
Kodiak, AK 99615
Phone: 907-486-4449

Position Description for: Tribal Youth Fisheries Intern

Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak: Natural Resources Department

Compensation Level: \$15/hour

Effective Date: 1/30/2017, Application Due Date: Open until filled

Hours: 37.5 hours/week, with occasional work on the weekends

Supervision by: Natural Resources Director (Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak)

Introduction

Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak (STK) and Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association (KRAA) will host a Tribal youth intern (**age 18-25**) to learn about salmon enhancement projects and gain invaluable hands-on experience in remote salmon research and hatchery production facilities on Kodiak and Afognak islands. An additional goal is to encourage youth to pursue college-level education in natural resources studies. The internship will be 12 weeks in duration, with flexible start (late May) and end dates (late August), with funding by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

Mission

Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak is dedicated to protecting and monitoring the health of resources within the Kodiak Archipelago. For over 7,500 years, the Alutiiq people have inhabited and managed Kodiak Archipelago's natural resources. To this day, Alutiiq people rely heavily on land, maritime and freshwater subsistence resources. The Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak Natural Resources Department takes pride in protecting and monitoring the health of resources within the Kodiak Archipelago for the benefit of all residents. For more information, please visit us at www.sunaq.org.

Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association is dedicated to salmon fisheries development in the Area K Management Area for the benefit of all common property users — subsistence, sport, and commercial — through research and management efforts, habitat monitoring and protection, stocking, enhancement and rehabilitation projects. KRAA further promotes respect for Kodiak Area salmon resources through science, education, and partnership programs. For more information, please visit us at www.kraa.org.

Position Description

The Tribal Youth Fisheries Intern will work closely with experienced KRAA Research and Monitoring (R&M) staff to develop entry-level field sampling and data processing skills during smolt monitoring, fishery monitoring, limnology, and laboratory evaluation projects. The successful candidate will also work with experienced Pillar Creek Hatchery and Kitoi Bay Hatchery staff, which collectively produce all five pacific salmon species and rainbow trout, learning entry-level techniques in fish culture, fish transports, and broodstock collection. The intern will be positioned at all three divisions over the course of the summer and become familiar living and working as part of a team in wilderness conditions. The networking opportunities and skills acquired during this program will prepare the candidate for a future career in Alaska fisheries research and salmon production.

Some of the learning opportunities encountered on KRAA projects:

Research & Monitoring

1. Monitoring – learn principle techniques for assessing salmon populations including smolt traps and weirs, foot/boat-based surveys, and estimating salmon harvests. Follow standardized methods to

collect scale, weight, length, and otolith data and learn proper handling, analysis, and reporting of data.

2. Limnology – learn how to use scientific equipment to sample water quality and zooplankton data on over 20 salmon producing lakes.
3. Research – Use technical lab equipment to systematically read smolt and adult scale (age) information, process and evaluate otolith hatchery marks, and basic water quality processing and zooplankton identification.

Kitoy Bay Hatchery (Afognak) and Pillar Creek Hatchery (Kodiak)

1. Fish Culture – learn to care for juvenile salmon in raceways and freshwater/saltwater net pens. Introduction to egg incubation facilities, plumbing systems, feeding regimens and estimating growth rates.
2. Broodstock – learn to beach seine and other techniques to collect gametes from Afognak Lake sockeye salmon and Kitoy Bay chum salmon.
3. Other essential skills – learn basic construction skills, knots/net repair, outboard motor/ATV use and bear safety.

WORK SCHEDULE, WAGES & TRAINING: Work is performed outdoors in inclement weather, with biting bugs and in bear country. Average 37.5 hours/week, \$15/hour. Food will be provided while at field sites, but will receive \$25/day food allowance when in town (communal housing provided in both cases). Transportation to field sites and chest waders/rain gear are provided. The intern will receive first aid & CPR instruction/certifications, and other job-related training for laboratory safety, bear awareness safety, water/boat safety, and Alutiiq cultural training.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS: The successful candidate will possess a positive attitude and be adaptable to changing work schedules. Strenuous hiking for several miles over uneven terrain, and carrying up to 50 lbs. of equipment several hundred yards is required. **Intern must be within 18 to 25 years of age willing to submit to random drug-testing, and be drug-free in the workplace.** Project sites are located on the road system as well as remote areas accessible by floatplane only. **At the start of employment, Intern must have proof of current enrollment in a Federally-recognized Tribe or have Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB or CDIB) and a valid state Driver's License.**


To apply, please email requested information in one document to:

Finance Director, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
Email: financedirector@sunaq.org Phone: (907) 486-4449
Address: 312 W. Marine Way, Kodiak, AK 99615

In your email, please include cover letter (including Tribal affiliation), current resume, contact information for three references, and include the subject line "Tribal Youth Fisheries Intern". Please do not provide any personal information, such as social security number or Tribal enrollment information, in the application.

Thank you for your interest in this position. For duty-specific information, please contact Nathan Weber (kraa.weber@gci.net) or Kelly Krueger (kkruieger@sunaq.org).

Approved: _____



Tribal Administrator

Date: _____

11/30/2017



Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
312 W. Marine Way
Kodiak, AK 99615
Phone: 907-486-4449

Position Description for: Tribal Youth Natural Resources Intern

Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak: Natural Resources Department

Compensation Level: \$15/hour

Effective Date: 1/30/2017, Application Due Date: Open until filled

Hours: Average 37.5 hours/week, with occasional work on the weekends

Supervision by: Natural Resources Director (Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak)

SUMMARY:

Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak is partnering with various agencies, including Alaska Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program, Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association, and Kodiak Soil and Water Conservation District to offer a Tribal youth natural resources internship with primary funding by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The purpose of this internship is to provide an opportunity for a Tribal youth to gain experience in a broad array of natural resource job areas with tasks related to fisheries, invasive species, wildlife management, crab stewardship, water monitoring, operations support, public involvement and subsistence concerns. An additional goal is to encourage youth to pursue college-level education in natural resources studies. The intern will assist Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak and project partners with various management and research projects.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist field staff with activities associated with wildlife tracking and monitoring on Kodiak, Afognak and surrounding islands; assist with wildlife population composition surveys; assist with vegetation surveys and plant collections; and assist with data analysis.
- Help with phytoplankton monitoring and water quality measurements; assist with shellfish collection for PSP monitoring; extract and test for toxin in the laboratory; assist with monitoring marine invasive species; and assist with research-instructional activities.
- Participate in data collection and sampling of salmon; assist with traditional creel surveys at native villages; learn how to age salmon scales and otoliths; assist with limnology sampling; and learn to care for juvenile salmon in raceways and freshwater/saltwater net pens.
- Engage in invasive plant control projects by searching for, locating, marking and clearing invasive plants; assist with invasive plant surveys and outreach, assist with planning and implementing events; and mount dried invasive plant specimens.
- Assist with electrofishing and removal of invasive signal crayfish; participate in locating and downloading water temperature and salinity monitoring stations; and help with public involvement educational activities.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Intern must have proof of current enrollment in a Federally-recognized Tribe or have Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB or CDIB)
- Must be within 18 to 25 years of age
- Able to lift up to 50 pounds and be able to traverse rough terrain for extended distances
- Hold a valid state Driver's License

- Submit to random drug-testing, and be drug-free in the workplace
- Preference will be given to candidates with proven backcountry experience, ability to work in a remote location with inclement weather conditions and experience in brown bear country
- Must be able to work independently or as a member of a team
- Preferred candidate will be local with own accommodations

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

- High school student with plans of pursuing higher education, or be a high school graduate
- Have a strong interest in natural resource management

DATES/DURATION:

12 week internship with flexible start date (mid-late May) and ending date (mid-late August).

WHAT WE PROVIDE:

- Food provided while at field camps; receive a \$25/day food allowance when in Kodiak
- Necessary field gear: waterproof boots, waders and rain jacket
- Training: water, boat, bear awareness safety, First Aid/CPR training, laboratory and field safety and Alutiiq cultural training, and fieldwork orientation.

TO APPLY:

Please email requested information in one document to:


Finance Director, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
Email: financedirector@sunaq.org Phone: (907) 486-4449
Address: 312 W. Marine Way, Kodiak, AK 99615

In your email, please include cover letter (including Tribal affiliation), current resume, contact information for three references, and include the subject line "Tribal Youth Natural Resources Intern".

Please do not provide any personal information, such as social security number or Tribal enrollment information in the application. At the start of employment, the intern must include CDIB or tribal membership card and information for employment purposes.

Thank you for your interest in this position. For duty specific information, please contact Kelly Krueger (kkrueger@sunaq.org) or Tom Lance (talance@sunaq.org).

Approved: _____



Tribal Administrator

Date: _____

1/30/2017



Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
312 W. Marine Way
Kodiak, AK 99615
Phone: 907-486-4449

Position Description for: Tribal Youth Wildlife Intern

Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak: Natural Resources Department

Compensation Level: \$15/hour

Effective Date: 1/30/2017, Application Due Date: Open until filled

Hours: 37.5 hours/week, with occasional work on the weekends

Supervision by: Natural Resources Director (Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak)

SUMMARY:

Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak is offering a Tribal youth wildlife internship with primary funding by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The purpose of this internship is to provide an opportunity for a Tribal youth to participate in wildlife research, monitoring, and management conducted by local wildlife professionals and management agencies. An additional goal is to encourage youth to pursue college-level education in natural resources studies. The intern will gain a solid understanding of wildlife ecology and management and become exposed to various wildlife, habitat, and vegetation monitoring techniques. The intern will work with collaborating agencies on various management and research projects on Kodiak, Afognak, and surrounding islands, and see a working model of collaborative efforts between Tribal, state and federal partners.

ESSENTIAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Assist field staff with activities associated with wildlife tracking and monitoring
- Assist with wildlife population composition surveys
- Assist with vegetation surveys and plant collection
- Enter data into large databases and help manage multiple databases
- Assist with data analysis
- Maintain daily field logs
- Present internship and data findings in a public setting (forum or seminar)

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:

- Intern must have proof of current enrollment in a Federally-recognized Tribe or have Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB or CDIB)
- Must be within 18 to 25 years of age
- Able to lift up to 40 pounds and be able to traverse rough terrain for extended distances
- Hold a valid state Driver's License
- Submit to random drug-testing, and be drug-free in the workplace
- Preference will be given to candidates with proven backcountry experience and ability to work in a remote location with limited communication
- Preference will be given to candidates with GPS experience and plant identification
- Intern must be self-motivated, willing to work long hours and able to work independently or as a member of a team
- Ability to occasionally camp in remote areas for extended periods of time
- Experience with performing fieldwork in inclement weather under strenuous conditions in a northern maritime climate

- Individuals with experience traveling in brown bear country are encouraged to apply
- Intern must be willing to sign a volunteer agreement with partnering agencies

EDUCATION/EXPERIENCE:

- High school student with plans of pursuing higher education, or be a high school graduate
- Have a strong interest in wildlife ecology and management

DATES/DURATION:

12 week internship with flexible start date (mid-late May) and ending date (mid-late August).

WHAT WE PROVIDE:

- Shared housing at no charge
- Food provided while at field camps; receive a \$25/day food allowance when in Kodiak
- Necessary field gear: waterproof boots, rain jacket and rain pants
- Training: water, boat, bear awareness safety, First Aid/CPR training, laboratory and field safety, Alutiiq cultural training, and fieldwork orientation.

TO APPLY:

Please email requested information in one document to:

Finance Director, Sun'aq Tribe of Kodiak
Email: financedirector@sunaq.org
Phone: (907) 486-4449
Address: 312 W. Marine Way
Kodiak, AK 99615

In your email, please include cover letter (including Tribal affiliation), current resume, contact information for three references, and include the subject line "Tribal Youth Wildlife Intern".

Please do not provide any personal information, such as social security number or Tribal enrollment information in the application. At the start of employment, the intern must have proof of current enrollment in a Federally-recognized Tribe or have Certificate of Indian Blood (CIB or CDIB).

Thank you for your interest in this position. For duty-specific information, please contact Kelly Krueger (kkrueger@sunaq.org).

Approved:  Date: 1/30/2017
Tribal Administrator



Appendix E – News Articles



SUN'AQ INTERN HELPS COLLAR BEARS AND ELK

Posted by: Kayla Desroches August 10, 2017 in News, Newsflash



Jessica Rich with unconscious young male bear.
Jerry Belant / Mississippi State University

Kayla Desroches/KMXT

A small number of people ever get to touch a Kodiak bear in their lifetime. Sun'aq Tribe wildlife intern, Jessica Rich, had the opportunity multiple times this summer.

She participated in a study looking at how foresting could be affecting elk and bear populations on Afognak Island. That involved knocking the animals unconscious and then collaring them with devices that can track their movements.

Rich says she's studying wildlife ecology and management at Michigan Technological University, and she was able to assist the researchers on-site for a period of two days.

"This is kind of like the dream job for the field I'm interested in, doing stuff like this, going out and working directly with animals."

She says they'd take a helicopter and shoot the animals from the air, knocking them unconscious. They could then land, gather the samples they need and fasten the collar on them.

Rich describes what it's like to be up close and personal with a Kodiak bear.

She says the bears' fur felt coarse.

"Usually they're pretty dirty, but softer than I kind of expected. Like longer. Softer than a dog's fur."

She says their smell depended on what they were doing.

"Like some of 'em were just running through a marsh, and so they were fairly clean, just smelled kind of like mud, and then some of them were just really stinky for who knows what reason."

Rich says the bears were heavily unconscious when the researchers approached. The elk were the ones they had to watch out for. They had a tendency to kick.

She says her internship wraps up this month and she has one semester left at Michigan Tech.

Rich is one of three Tribal Youth interns with the Sun'aq Tribe. All three will present on their experiences on Monday. That event will be from 5 – 6 p.m. at the Kodiak Public Library.