



**ANCHORAGE SOIL & WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

ANNUAL REPORT

Fiscal Year 2009



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Letter From The Board

We are at that time of year again that we reflect over the prior twelve months, to quantify our achievements over the past year and measure ourselves and our accomplishments. We are proud to report that FY09 was a successful year for the ASWCD, one full of reaching goals, the satisfaction of meeting the needs of the community, and assisting in a broad range of subjects.

We have accomplished many of our goals: cost-effective management, results-oriented performance measures beyond standard, and ASWCD has continued its support of local private-sector businesses, directly supporting at least 32 Alaskan jobs in FY09.

Other highlights from FY09 include: The ASWCD conducted a large outreach, education and support campaign for composting and has received national recognition for its involvement and visionary path; The ASWCD is now in its second year of a self-sufficient Anchorage Woodlot and early indications are positive; and the ASWCD completed construction of its Peters Creek Flooding and Erosion Control Project, which proved its success over the winter.



View of the Kincaid Sand Dunes from the Coastal

Mission

Supporting self-governance and private property rights, to assist landowners and managers with conservation and development through technical, financial and educational program.

Anchorage Woodlot & Biomass Utilization

The ASWCD has begun its 2009 season at the Anchorage Woodlot, now under a self-sustaining business model that was implemented in the 2008 season.

The ASWCD has been involved with the Anchorage Woodlot since its inception in 2000, transitioning from Anchorage Fire Department to complete ASWCD control beginning in 2005. In the past the woodlot was supported with federal appropriations and other funding sources, which allowed there to be no charge for dumping; however, these funds are no longer available, making the decision whether to shutdown the woodlot or to make it self-sustaining.

In a move similar to the Municipality's new approach to recycling and waste disposal, the ASWCD has successfully implemented a long term self-sufficient woodlot.

All material brought to the woodlot, approximately 6,000 trips per year equating to more than 2,500 tons, is provided back to the community free of charge, in the form of firewood and ground mulch/landscape covering.

Since 2005, the Anchorage Woodlot has processed approximately 10,000 acres of material and continues to be the backbone of wildfire mitigation activities in Anchorage.

The ASWCD has proven over the years, and confirmed with reputable surveys, that by providing property owners with the tools and support they need, Alaskans will take care of themselves.

The Anchorage Woodlot is made possible in partnership with Alaska Land Clearing, LLC and Municipality of Anchorage Street Maintenance, who graciously allow us to use their snow dump in the summertime. Thank you.

Fall 2008 saw a tremendous wind storm that downed hundreds of trees on Anchorage's Hillside. When contacted the next morning by the Mayor's Office, the woodlot was opened on an emergency basis the next morning. During the next week, the woodlot accepted over 750 loads of woody debris. We also found during this time that the woodlot served another, unanticipated benefit to the community: a place for wind-torn residents to talk to each other, find comfort from their neighbors, and begin to put their lives back together.

It is this direct connection and involvement with the community that we attribute our success. It is also our connection and concern for the community that fuels our involvement in biomass utilization, whether it be the firewood and groundcover from the woodlot or biomass utilization on a bigger scale.



Peters Creek Flooding & Erosion Control Project

The ASWCD completed construction of its Peters Creek Flooding and Erosion Control Project, a project that has ended flooding of a section of Peters Creek that had been affecting area residents for decades. Revegetation, depending on funding, is scheduled for 2010.



Winter 2006, widespread flooding and emergency intervention measures taken by the ASWCD.



Same section of creek as blasting starts to alleviate flooding. Water level dropping, channel clearing, and water returning to the stream channel from adjacent properties.



The culbrit meander bend, in 1980



The same bend in 2006



The same bend after construction

Composting, Recycling & Utilization

The ASWCD is actively working with other agencies and members of the community and private sector to help Anchorage to become more self-sustaining.

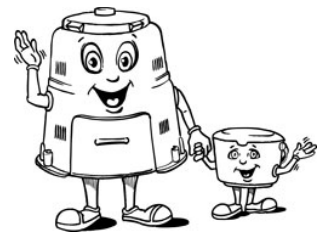
The ASWCD co-hosted the Recycling Business Development Forum, an open, broad-ranging discussion and transfer of information and expertise between agency representatives, business owners, community members and others to further the discussion and to provide these businesses with tools to help them to succeed. The ASWCD representative, Cal Kerr of Northern Economics presented timely and relevant information regarding businesses looking to start-up or recently started. The ASWCD also tailored the afternoon's Organics Management discussion to allow all producers and potential producers to discuss and share their expertise with the group and presented the group with the issue of woody biomass utilization, a woodlot self-sustainability issue.

The ASWCD has also continued its support for self-sustainability and biomass utilization in working with potential solutions to our recycling and utilization problems. On a smaller scale, the ASWCD has a project to harvest heat from compost, in our test-case to heat a small greenhouse.

Dirt Day

Earth Day, May 16th of 2009, was transformed into "Dirt Day" by a partnership between the ASWCD, the Municipality of Anchorage Solid Waste Services and many volunteers that provided high-quality, low-cost compost bins to the public.

Dirt Day was a phenomenal success, selling 1,000 bins within two and a half hours, and pre-selling another 250 bins.



2009 Poster Contest

The Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District has announced the winners of its 2009 Poster Contest "What are Alaska's Potential Green Energy Sources," which asked students to draw what they think the future of Alaska's alternative and renewable energy sources will be.

- Preschool-1st Grade
1st Place – Kyan Hogan, 6 years old, 1st grade at Bayshore Elementary
2nd Place – Catherine Jamieson, 7 years old, 1st grade at Anchor Lutheran
- 2nd-5th Grades
1st Place – Jacob Moore, 10 years old, 5th grade at Grace Christian
2nd Place – Sophie Wright, 9 years old, 3rd grade at Turnagain Elementary
3rd Place – Jack McLaughlin, 10 years old, 4th grade at Grace Christian
- 6th-8th Grades
1st Place – Lauren Vilorio, 14 years old, 8th grade at Romig Middle
2nd Place – Jordyn High, 12 years old, 6th grade at Aquarian Charter
3rd Place – Zuzu Yang, 14 years old, 8th grade at Romig Middle
- 9th-12th Grades
1st Place – Shawn Siebert, 18 years old, 12th grade at S.A.V.E. High
2nd Place – Michelle Hedden, 17 years old, 11th grade at Service High
3rd Place – Ryan Groeneweg, 18 years old, 12th grade at Grace Christian



The grand-prize winner was Lauren Vilorio, receiving a \$150.00 VISA Gift Card. Congratulations Lauren!

In addition to the grand prize, students placing in this year's contest received: First-place \$50; Second-place \$25; Third-place \$10.

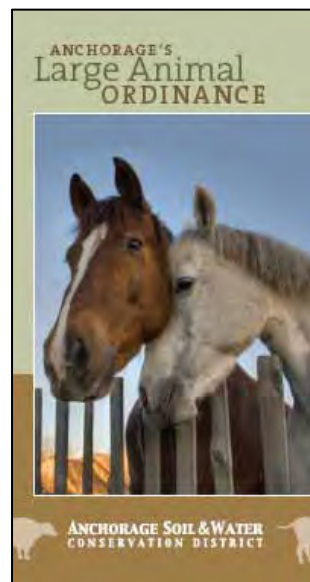
The District would like to thank all those who entered and a special thank you to those who supported this year's contest.

Conservation Planning, Advice & Technical Support

In FY09 the ASWCD continued its advice and technical support programs for the community. From assisting development, advising on drainage issues, to advising on options to create an emergency secondary access for a neighborhood, to lending our mediation expertise upon request, to advice on compliance with Municipal Code, to monitoring and involvement with the Title 21 rewrite process and the Hillside District Plan, the ASWCD has a reputation of solid, third-party, science-based information and confidential assistance with no strings attached.



The ASWCD continues its work as a liaison with property owners and the Municipality of Anchorage and others to implement Best Management Practices that make urban farming easier for the property owner, and in some cases, more pleasant for neighbors. As evidence of our success, property owners with previous issues that now work with the ASWCD were not cited by the Municipality this spring.



The ASWCD authored and published this brochure to translate the new Code into a user-friendly format.

ASWCD Forage Directory

Currently the majority of Anchorage’s feed comes from the Lower 48 and Canada. Yet we hear that Alaska farmers cannot sell all their product and have land that is lying fallow due to lack of demand. The Anchorage Bowl alone is home to an active dog mushing community and more than 5,000 horses, along with many other livestock species such as cows, pigs, sheep, goats, etc. That’s a lot of demand.

The ASWCD is creating a network between producers and buyers that supplies the community’s needs and supports locally-produced products with the creation of The ASWCD Forage Directory, a constantly changing list of in-state producers of hay and straw.

Locals	Name	Business Name	Address	City, Zip	Phone	Fax	E-Mail	Website	Wash Hay	Timothy	Straw	Other	Organic	Round Bale	Can Dealer	Wash/Grill	Weed-Free	No Chemicals
Anchorage	Enduro Hay		11000 Angier Blvd	Anchorage, AK 99516	785-2243		anchorage@endurohay.com	www.endurohay.com				Hay						
	Alaska Hay & Feed		400 Hwy 97100	Anchorage, AK 99516	218-8910	218-1416	alaskahayandfeed.com	www.alaskahayandfeed.com				Hay						
	Alaska Hay LLC		1228 Palmer St	Anchorage, AK 99516			alaskahayllc.com					Hay						
	Wash Hay & Tack, Inc.		6700 Calumet Street	Wasilla, AK 99607	342-2813	342-2818	washhay.com					Wash Hay, Hay, Haylage, Haylage, Haylage, Haylage						
Anchorage	Alaska Hay & Feed		400 Hwy 97100	Anchorage, AK 99516	218-8910	218-1416	alaskahayandfeed.com	www.alaskahayandfeed.com				Hay						
	Alaska Hay LLC		1228 Palmer St	Anchorage, AK 99516			alaskahayllc.com					Hay						
Eggen	Alaska Hay & Feed		400 Hwy 97100	Anchorage, AK 99516	218-8910	218-1416	alaskahayandfeed.com	www.alaskahayandfeed.com				Hay						
	Alaska Hay LLC		1228 Palmer St	Anchorage, AK 99516			alaskahayllc.com					Hay						

Conservation Planning Training

The ASWCD hosted the 2008 Fall Conference of the Alaska Association of Conservation Districts (AACD) at the newly constructed Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center. The conference has been boasted as one of the best AACD has ever had and the ASWCD is proud of our efforts and grateful to all the other District personnel who assisted with the event. Sue True of the Kenai District was our auctioneer and side-splitting entertainment for the evening.

Friday, October 17th Embassy Suites, 600 Benson Blvd., Anchorage	
9:00 - 10:30 a.m.	6 Tips for Managing Mud & Runoff There are many ways to manage mud. In this class we will discuss what causes mud and how it affects your animals' health. Then we will cover six key steps you can take that will reduce and even prevent mud on your property. Learn about French drains, footing options, geotextile fabrics and many other secrets.
10:30 - 11:30 p.m.	Manure Management Make your place healthier for your animals, reduce the insect population, help your property become more productive during the growing season and make your property more chore-efficient.
12:45 - 3:00 p.m.	Natural Ways to Control Mud, Dust, Bugs & Weeds Reduce chemical use on your property, "natural" insect control, mud reduction, dust barriers, visual screening, and low cost / low care landscaping.
3:15 - 4:00 p.m.	Pasture Management Learn basic techniques for good pasture management including how grasses grow, creating a winter paddock, liming, spreading compost, rotational grazing, managing small grazing areas, weed control, fencing options and small farm equipment.

The first day of this conference was a full-day training on Conservation Planning, by a well-known and respected expert, Alayne Blicke. The ASWCD is planning another training opportunity with Alayne, pending availability of funding, for any property owner wanting to make their properties more chore-efficient.

It is the philosophy of the ASWCD that property owners, given the tools and background necessary, will see the benefits of active and effective management of their land and act on their own, without government oversight.

Kincaid Sand Dunes and Coastal Refuge Cleanup

In FY09 the ASWCD continued its support of the cleanup efforts at Kincaid Park. In partnership with the Department of Fish and Game, Friends of the Anchorage Coastal Refuge, and many volunteers, the site is being cleaned up over several years due to funding constraints.



On September 12, 2007, volunteers from ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. helped to collect old tires for removal from the dumpsite.



Refuse at a dumpsite within Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. This dumpsite has been cleaned up and the debris removed.



Education and Outreach

FY09 was a successful year for education and outreach efforts at the ASWCD, reaching hundreds of people. In addition to composting classes for the “ASWCD Composting 101” given to Master Gardeners and the Girdwood Rotary, the ASWCD also had outreach and education opportunities at the Garden Show at the Sears Mall, the Green Fair at the Egan Center, helped the Department of Fish and Game with their annual Potter Marsh event, and assisted a Boy Scouts Troop in getting their “Soil and Water Conservation” badges.



The ASWCD on the road, providing education on the benefits active and effective property management, Best Management Practices, invasive plant species to be aware of, wildfire hazard and mitigation, and other topics that serve the community’s needs.



The Garden Show at the Sears Mall.



Bird Released from Rehabilitation at Potter Marsh event.



The ASWCD previously published an update to the Field Guide to Anchorage Area Wetlands, a tremendous educational tool the ASWCD uses during outreach events.



Alaska Moose Federation

The Alaska Moose Federation (AMF), in cooperation with the Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District, is now initiating numerous programs within the Anchorage Bowl which will enhance the stewardship of moose as a critical renewable resource as well as increasing public safety on and around our highways. Past programs between the AMF and the District have allowed the AMF to expand current efforts to incorporate additional state and local agencies into these mitigation programs.



Thanks to Alaska Highway Safety Office grants, the first program will enable the AMF, under State Trooper and Anchorage Police Department oversight, to assume moose salvage operations on Anchorage roads. The AMF has been donated vehicles which will enable the moose to be promptly and safely removed where they will be delivered to the existing charities to be processed safely away from the road surface. AMF personnel will also collect collision data from the accident scene. Not only will this program significantly

increase public safety on Anchorage roads but also the large amount of time saved by Anchorage Police will enable greater enforcement on the road corridors as well.

An additional program will initiate this fall on the Glenn Highway where new moose mitigation technologies will be incorporated into the existing fenced corridor between Muldoon Road to the Ft. Richardson gate. This effort will place electrified 'at-grade' mats into the Ft. Rich and Arctic Valley gates which will then prohibit moose from entering into the fenced corridor from those locations. Past mitigation efforts to erect moose fencing have always struggled with the problems of moose entering into the corridor through open roads connected to the corridors. The Department of Transportation's Research & Development will monitor construction and follow up data collection. Future Anchorage highway corridors anticipated for moose mitigation include the Minnesota Extension, New Seward Highway and additional sections of the Glenn Highway. 40,000 vehicles travel in from the Mat-Su Valley in the daily commute. Current collision costs per vehicle average \$30,000 according to Alaska DOT. With the adoption of new federal fuel standards, cars will continue to be reduced in size while moose remain the same size so moose mitigation needs to be a priority in highway design.





A final program which the AMF is involved in is the recent change in policy by Governor Palin regarding the disposition of orphaned moose calves after their mothers are lost to vehicle collisions. Governor Palin has directed that all orphaned calves will no longer be killed but will be saved and cared for to be eventually released, once they are ready, back to the wild. This is a tremendous increase in the stewardship of this critical renewable resource. Past efforts with orphaned calves helped establish new herds around the state including likely the most famous herd out of Cordova where, in the 1950's, 24 orphaned moose calves were transported to the area from Southcentral Alaska. This action created a standing local herd of over 1,200 moose that has provided subsistence resources of the local community since 1950. If the mothers are lost to our vehicles, the least we can do is to rescue the orphans and, under veterinary and biologist oversight, release them back to the wild after they are viable and determined to be healthy animals.

The AMF will continue to target future projects with the District including moose browse removal from right-of-ways along known collision corridors, enhancement of critical wintering habitat through the removal of beetle killed spruce above Anchorage to encourage moose to winter above Anchorage rather than on the roads and the adoption of AMF youth programs into the Anchorage School District which is being incorporated into the Mat-Su District this school year. These youth programs will encourage the students to actively participate in moose versus vehicle mitigation with the intent to enable our youth to benefit tomorrow from today's mitigation efforts.

What The Community Has To Say...

On the Anchorage Woodlot-

Thanks for maintaining the wood lot. It is a great idea to separate useable logs for individuals to take as firewood. This is the ultimate recycling program for woody waste. The wood provides heat during our long winter for folks continuing to use this resource as fuel. Please continue this part of your program. Thanks, J.

On the Peters Creek Flooding and Erosion Control Project-

We can't begin to thank you for your on-going support and determination to come through for us. Way back when, when everywhere we turned, no other agency would take on our community-wide project, the Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District stepped up.

After years of challenges, as soon as the District got involved, we saw tangible results and the District has made a difference for us. You not only helped us with the flooding issues, emergency management, and tricky permitting procedures, you have been a source on many other property related concerns. Your assistance with mulching, recycling and composting has been in quick response, and the woodlot is a fantastic resource that we hope to see duplicated in the Eagle River area. Thanks again, The Residents of the Peters Creek Project

On Conservation Planning and Property Owner Support-

I wanted to take a moment to express my appreciation for your work with the Anchorage Soil and Water Conservation District.

Upon moving to our new Anchorage horse property we had no idea the issues we'd be facing: working with neighbors, manure management, muni code compliance, etc. You both have been an invaluable asset to our family. You have helped us speak to our neighbors and have spoken to them on our behalf; you have assisted us in manure management in an arctic environment; and you have helped us know how to comply with all applicable codes. I truly cannot imagine navigating the year without your help.

Thank you for all of this and much more. I look forward to continuing in our work to better Anchorage life with horses. Sincerely, D.

**Anchorage Soil & Water Conservation District
Preliminary Report of Financial Expenditures by Program, Fiscal Year 2009**

Program / Project / Funding Source	Admin. / Operating Expense	Education, Outreach, Program or Project Expense	Total FY2008 Expenses	Income / Revenue / Reimbursements
Anchorage Woodlot, 2008 season (partial)	\$ 235.50	\$ 36,920.66	\$ 37,156.16	\$ 37,732.70
Anchorage Woodlot, 2009 season (partial)	\$ 178.67	\$ 6,823.31	\$ 7,001.98	\$ 24,516.35
Conservation Planning Program	\$ 2,707.24	\$ 27,072.40	\$ 29,779.64	\$ 50,000.00
Composting	\$ -	\$ 53,099.55	\$ 53,099.55	\$ 78,669.50
Fuel Reduction Program (closed)	\$ 2,340.00	\$ 16,087.38	\$ 18,427.38	\$ -
NRCS 2006 Conservation Technical Assistance*	\$ 125.00	\$ -	\$ 125.00	\$ 2,555.40
Peters Creek Flooding & Erosion Control Project	\$ 5,098.79	\$ 51,156.41	\$ 56,255.20	\$ 50,000.00
FY09 Poster Contest (private donors)	\$ -	\$ 460.00	\$ 460.00	\$ 460.00
State of Alaska FY08 Operating Grant	\$ 2,904.52	\$ 21,361.30	\$ 24,265.82	\$ 35,827.27
State of Alaska FY09 Operating Grant	\$ 2,270.34	\$ 20,496.51	\$ 22,766.85	\$ 21,659.29
Admin	\$ 325.00	\$ -	\$ 325.00	\$ 70.00
General Operating Account**	\$ 30,671.26	\$ 49,452.61	\$ 80,123.87	\$ 71,273.79
	\$ 46,856.32	\$ 282,930.13	\$ 329,786.45	\$ 372,764.30

*NRCS reimbursements were for FY08 expenditures

**Administration/operating expenses are higher than normal due to cost of working with NRCS through AACD

