

Forming Tribal Conservation Districts in Alaska



Asa'carsarmiut (Mountain Village) Tribal Conservation District with Alaska NRCS State Conservationist Robert Jones, displaying their signed agreement with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.



Kuigglugmiut (Kwethluk) Tribal Conservation District with U.S. Under Secretary of Agriculture Harris Sherman and NRCS employees in front of their new high tunnel frame.

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Overview

Tribal conservation districts combine local and traditional knowledge with technical resources to actively manage natural resources in a defined area. The goal of tribal conservation districts is to set local priorities for conservation and ensure sustainable use of natural resources for subsistence, economic opportunity, resource development, and cultural preservation.

A tribal conservation district establishes its conservation priorities through a comprehensive planning process. The plan is implemented locally by the district's governing board of directors and members.

Once a tribal conservation district is established under Tribal law, it can enter into a mutual agreement with the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture and other federal agencies to carry out programs to accomplish conservation goals.

How to Form a Tribal Conservation District

1. The tribe signs a resolution forming their Tribal Conservation District (TCD). In Alaska, a tribe may form a tribal conservation district on their own or it may join with other tribes, villages, and/or an ANCSA Corporation. All entities are signatories on the agreement.
2. The USDA Mutual Agreement (MA) template is used by the tribal entities to create a draft MA.
3. All originals of the MA with signatures, and copies of any Tribal Council or ANCSA Corporation Board resolutions regarding the TCD are sent to the Alaska NRCS State Conservationist.
4. The State Conservationist forwards these documents with a cover letter expressing support to the NRCS National Office in Washington DC.
5. The NRCS National Office sends the documents, with a decision memo, to USDA Headquarters for review prior to acquiring the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture's signature on the original MA.
6. Once signed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture, one original will be kept by USDA, and the other originals will be returned to the State Conservationist, who in turn returns the original signature documents to the signatories.
7. While signatures are being acquired, the newly established TCD can begin writing their by-laws.
8. After signatures are acquired, the TCD Board is established and begins working on the Seven Generations Plan and a "signing ceremony" can take place.

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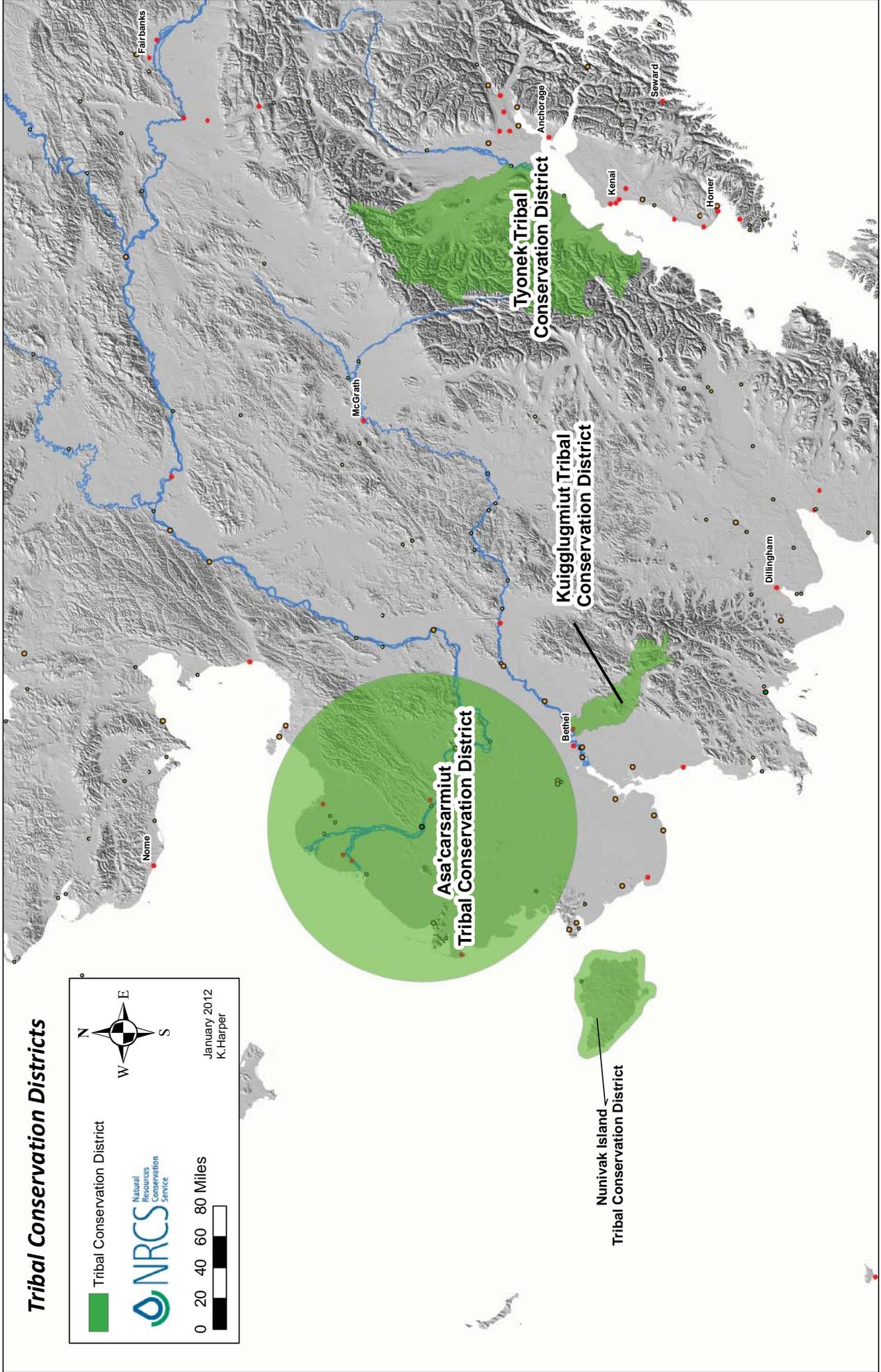
Tribal Conservation Districts

 Tribal Conservation District

 **NRCS**
Natural Resources Conservation Service

0 20 40 60 80 Miles

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K. Harper



Tyonek Tribal Conservation District

Kuiglugmiut Tribal Conservation District

Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Conservation District

Nuvivak Island Tribal Conservation District