

Partners for Progress
with Alaska's Communities

RurAL-CAP

ACTION REPORTS

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ADF&G levels inflammatory charges against rural citizens

RurAL-CAP winterization program

The end of winter sometimes leaves one with the impression that everything is the same as it has always been. While things may be the same in some places, in the Chignik fisheries area on the Alaskan Peninsula they are not.

During the cold and dark of this last winter, a RurAL CAP-sponsored home winterization program came to the five villages in the area, and is now nearing completion.

As one of the original Alaskan target areas for Federal winterization funds, the villages of Perryville, Ivanof Bay, Chignik, Chignik Lagoon and Chignik Lake may not look a lot different now than they did a year ago, but if you check any of the 60 homes involved in the program you will notice changes.

There's new plywood on the ceiling, and hidden above that is new insulation. You may even spot a new door complete with weatherstripping, or skirting around the bottom of the house, and if you feel like looking beyond the skirting you may find some new insulation nestled right up under the floor.

A once hollow wall is now filled with insulation, and a new thermal pane window over in the corner which was not there before has been installed.

A weatherized home often does not look very different for much of the work takes place in spaces, like the attic, that you do not often see. The purpose for winterizing a home is to save fuel, and it is here that a change is noticeable. Stories of fuel savings ranging from 20% to 60% have been told to RurAL CAP staff by people residing in the Chignik area. Solid documentation of such fuel savings is now being gathered.

The Chignik target area has been an important learning ground for RurAL CAP because it brought into the open problems that will have to be dealt with in other bush locations where the program may be started up. RurAL CAP discovered that a preliminary housing survey must be comprehensive and precise so proper materials can be ordered. Given the sketchy transportation network existing in the remote parts of the state it is important to order all the materials at one time and get them transported in bulk.

"In the village of Chignik we didn't have good surveys, says Jack Easterbrook, Assistant Energy Coordinator at RurAL CAP, and the result was that four different barge deliveries from Kodiak were required. Materials kept dribbling in a little at a time, which makes it

difficult to perform work on the homes and also costs more."

Logistical problems exist even if surveys are complete, however. The village of Chignik received materials via barge from Kodiak, while Chignik Lake had materials flown in from Anchorage through Port Heiden.

"This turned out to be more expensive, but was the only choice we had, reports Easterbrook. Chignik Lagoon, Perryville, and Ivanof Bay were able to use local suppliers to obtain needed materials, but one supplier--Perryville Commercial--was thereby placed in the position of air freighting and boating materials in to keep the village crews busy.

No matter how you cut it, somebody has to deal with the difficult problem of moving materials."

While you can never entirely do away with logistical problems in rural Alaska, it seems that the time you pick to move materials makes a difference.

Mary Stachelrodt, Deputy Director at RurAL CAP, stated, "We received the money from CSA in late summer and it was freeze-up by the time we really got going. Trying to move materials in the winter is

difficult at best. I remember having a chartered DC-6 loaded and ready to go to Port Heiden, but it was unable to take off due to a storm in Port Heiden closing the long runway; the one we needed. The plow in Port Heiden was broken and by the time the runway was cleared the plane had been unloaded and had gone on to make other deliveries. It took several weeks to finally get the material out of Anchorage."

In spite of such problems, the program in the Chignik area has proven a success, reports Easterbrook. "The crews in the villages did a remarkable job, and remember they did a lot of work at the worst time of the year; December, March, April.

We all knew this was not the best time to do it, but it was all we had. Bill Lind (Council President, Chignik Lake) told me everyone is pretty happy with the program now that it's about finished." Mary Stachelrodt agrees, "I hope we never have to get involved in a winter time program again."

Whether the salmon run this summer is good or bad, many people living in the Chignik area will have one less concern next fall. Their fuel bills will be lower and their homes warmer because of proper winterization.

RurAL CAP holds quarterly board meeting

down due to over-income families.

Policy affecting the administration of the Winterization Program included reserving \$50,000 from the \$600,000 allocated funding to finish up the Tok area with the remainder of the funds to be used to purchase stoves, stove repair/replacement parts, stack robbers and/or metal bestos chimneys where necessary; and a formal petition to CSA to request a program amendment for the use of energy loan funds to be utilized to loan bulk storage funds.

Staff will be seeking a grant for technical assistance and training to aid non-profit regional corporations to assist them in meeting their management needs. Other action included unanimous Board endorsement of the merger of the Aleutian Planning Commission and the Aleut League.

Guest speakers for the two-day meeting gave presentations on Limited Entry and air transportation. Rich Listowski, who represent the United Fishermen of Alaska, gave a presentation on the limited entry controversy, and the need for it in Alaska. He cited one of the major problems within the fishing industry as being an increasing number of licenses and a decreasing number of fish. He stressed the importance of the passage of the Limited Entry Law this fall in the November election.

Hank Ostrosky, an opponent of limited entry, feels the only way for the fishermen of Alaska

We are dismayed that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game has once again levelled inflammatory charges against Alaska's rural citizens.

Biologist Davis' comments before the Legislature can do nothing but accelerate the disintegration of the traditional lifestyle in the villages, and obviate the possibility of responsible and enlightened dialogue on the issue.

The press release indicates that Davis counted 380 carcasses on May 6th. It further states that in late March a ground survey revealed that 77 out of 152 caribou were "untouched".

What Mr. Davis apparently failed to point out was the logical inconsistency of drawing conclusions based on two different types of surveys conducted six weeks apart.

He also failed to mention that ADF&G personnel had broadcast a threat to close the season in March, thereby encouraging local users to increase their pressure on the herd prior to the anticipated closure. Also, it is well known that many hunters leave their kills and return for them at a later date, knowing full well that the meat is preserved and frozen in the meantime.

It is these inconsistencies, coupled with ADF&G's own admission that they don't really know what the herd size was in 1970 or what it is in 1976 that leads us to brand the report as inflammatory, and unnecessarily damaging to the rural people of Alaska.

It seems as if the Department is locked in to their numbers and is valiantly searching for a scapegoat.

Maybe they should look further than merely pointing to wolves and man. Historically, the herd size has fluctuated with severe declines having been noted in the late 1890's and again in the 1930's.

A cyclical decline, which might have been predicted for the early 1970's, may have been forestalled by intensive predator control in the 60's.

Migration patterns, as well, seem to be shifting as a result of pipeline construction. This factor must certainly be considered when herd population is determined.

Our agency has never condoned wanton waste of any Alaskan resource. There may be some evidence to support the allegations of ADF&G regarding the Arctic caribou herd; however, blasting Native subsistence use as a primary cause in the decline of the herd is a form of wanton waste in itself.

We have long advocated that management of resources be more a function of the local people. As well, enforcement at the local level has been a goal that we have sought for some time. Our petitions, letters, and resolutions have fallen on deaf ears.

If they had been attended to, today's situation would not exist, and those whose very livelihood depends upon the resources would be secure in the knowledge that they would be adequately protected.

The ADF&G statement throws the question of responsible management and protection of resources directly into the political arena and exacerbates tensions that should not exist. It paints a distorted picture of true traditional resource users and conjures up images of irresponsibility that reflects on the entire rural population.

We had hoped that the Department would be more discreet especially following action by the Board of Game in late March; however, there is apparently less responsibility in the Department than we thought there was.

Let the legislature take hasty action prior to assessing the facts relating to the decline of the herd, we would ask that a special interim committee be established to work with local people to devise more appropriate management and protection measures for the future. Obviously, relying on the Department for direction will result in a continuation of policies that don't work.

New deputy director hired

Important Board action which occurred in Cordova last week was the hiring of a new Deputy Director. Mary Stachelrodt was unanimously selected to the position recently vacated by Jackie Dailey.

Mary, an Alaskan Eskimo born and raised in Bethel, is the former Director of RurAL CAP's Energy Office. She was initially employed by RurAL CAP in 1971.

(Continued on page 13)



Better is a neighbor that is near than a brother far off.