







IAC ALASKA REGION ESTABLISHES NRCS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT TO SUPPORT FOOD SECURITY

ALASKA REGION

In October, the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) was informed the IAC Alaska Region had been selected to receive a grant for almost \$300,000 to help support multiple aspects of the work that Tribes and Tribal members are already engaged with. The agreement will provide outreach and technical assistance to the Indian Tribes of the State of Alaska and improve Tribal participation in United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Programs.

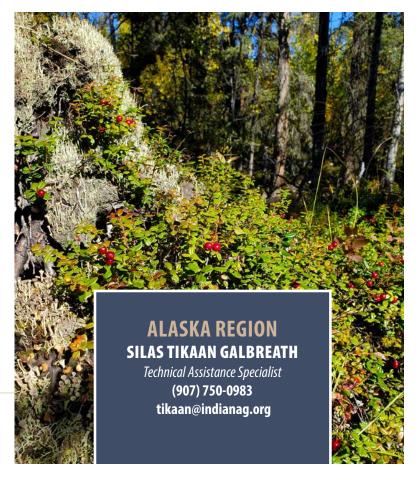
The agreement will help accomplish multiple goals and remove identified barriers that Tribes have shared with the IAC. Some of the goals of the funding include hosting a Tribal Youth Summit, supporting a third-party internship program, and the development of a Tribal-informed ethical harvesting guide.

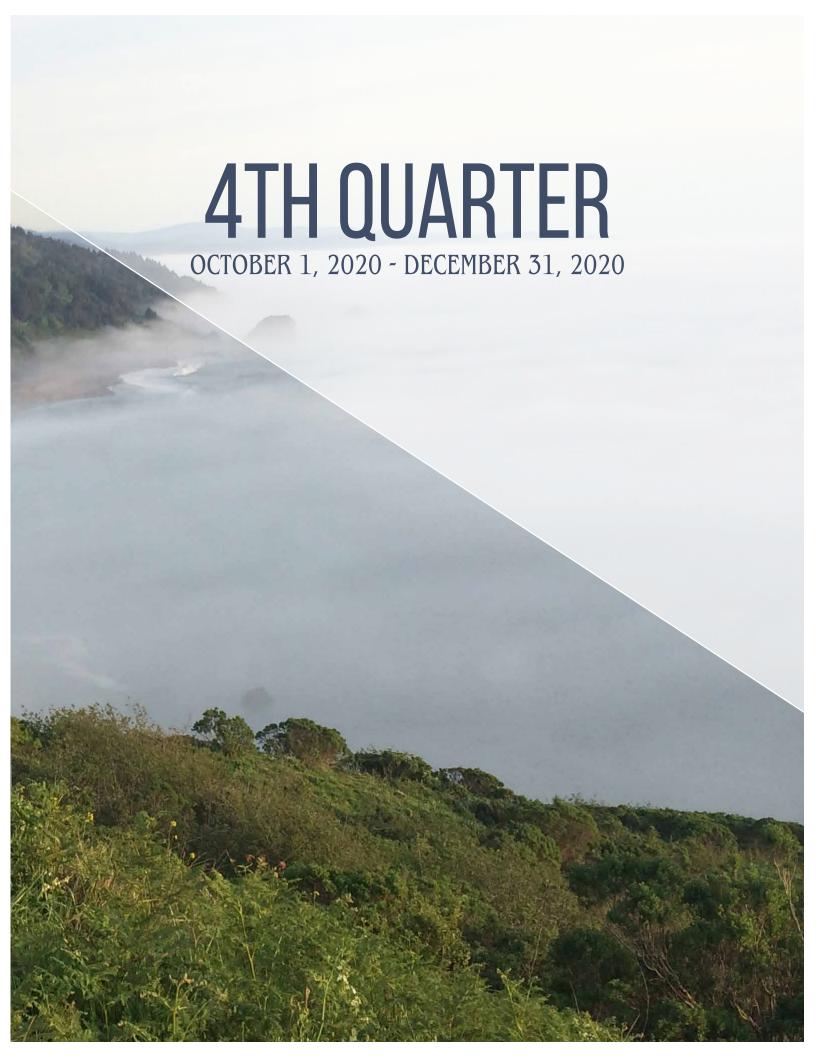
Through direct collaboration with Tribal stakeholders, this agreement will help inform Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)-Alaska collaborative approaches on Tribal lands. In partnership with individual land-holding Tribal producers/ land managers/gatherers, the IAC Alaska Region will encourage more inclusive and traditional forms of land management for foods, fiber, and other useful cultural products derived from active land management of controlled lands.

Within the duration of the agreement, IAC will implement strategies and issue funding, including but not limited to, establishing conservation planning and traditional management sites throughout the state in partnership with Alaska Tribes, Tribal Conservation Districts, and/or individual Tribal members. The agreement will also support Alaskan Tribal Conservation Districts for the purpose of supporting outreach and technical assistance activities that can include professional development exposure initiatives to natural resources and land management activities and/or fields of study/careers. It will also support other approved activities to be determined by NRCS and IAC. Additionally, IAC will coordinate local administration and implementation of Alaska Native/Native youth summit programming for Tribal Youth in partnership with Alaska Tribal youth organizations, state universities, applicable agencies and/or other organizations.

The IAC Alaska Region is excited for the potential of this agreement to remove multiple barriers that are currently experienced by many communities in the region. It is in direct alignment with multiple IAC core values including conservation, holistic management, and utilization of best practices – all supporting resiliency through agriculture. Additionally, this agreement creates opportunities to help engage youth, and those who are interested in agriculture, by supporting professional development opportunities.

IAC internship programming places Native student interns at NRCS and Tribal partner sites such as Plant Materials Centers, NRCS Field Offices, Tribal Conservation Districts, Tribal departments, Tribal organizations, and/or other applicable natural resource-oriented sites, for the purpose of expanding professional and leadership development opportunities to Tribal student/non-student members and diversifying applicant pools in natural resources and land management careers and degree pathways.





IAC HIRES A TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST FOR THE ALASKA REGION



ALASKA REGION

During the Intertribal Agriculture Council (IAC) 2019 annual conference one of the identified caucus issues for the Alaska Region was the need to have someone hired into the Technical Assistance Specialist (TA) position. During Quarter three, this goal was met. Though he was new to the IAC team, Silas Tikaan Galbreath brought a lot of experience related to food production and food systems which also meant that he had many existing relationships from throughout Alaska. In the role, he quickly engaged in multiple projects that were already underway in the region or just at the beginning stages.

Since joining IAC, Galbreath has developed many new relationships and strengthened old ones which has helped to better establish IAC's presence in Alaska. Partnerships and collaborations include organizations such as Anchor Gardens, Alaska Native Media Group, Alaska Village Initiatives, Alaska Native Village Corporation Association, First Alaskans Institute, Southeast Sustainable Partnership, Tanana Chiefs Conference, Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission, Alaska Farmland Trust, and Alaska Food Policy Council. In addition to the many partnerships, he has also worked to develop relationships with staff in various Alaska-based United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs including the National Resource Conservation Service, Federally Recognized Tribal Extension Program, and the Farm Service Agency.

By developing relationships that support a robust network of nonprofits, state and municipal programs, and USDA agencies, Galbreath has quickly become aware of many opportunities and services that will help support Tribes and Tribal members accomplish their goals and objectives related to food security.



SILAS TIKAAN GALBREATH

Technical Assistance Specialist (907) 750-0983 tikaan@indianag.org

ALASKA REGION

