



A well-dressed & well-rehearsed NVN Anyagak Dance Group Performs at the TKC Tribal Gathering on March 6, 2018 – Great Job Audrey!

Director's Report: March 2018

"Patience is a Virtue"

Summary:

After a late freeze up and record warm December many doubted that we would even have an ice road upriver this year. "Have patience" we'd tell them. "There's still a lot of winter left. It can catch up very fast with a little cold weather."

We ended up having the longest marked and plowed ice road in the history of the Kuskokwim and trucked a record amount of wood from Kalskag to Kasigluk.

With that said, the past few weeks have been centered on our work on the River.

River conditions during February were up and down – warm and stormy with very short cool spells in between. Because of these conditions we had a long dry spell in firewood sales. We had very little wood to sell in Bethel anyway, people couldn't travel to pick it up and we couldn't deliver.

Finally at the end of February after a few cool days there was a coordinated effort by the tribes to plow the road all the way from Bethel to Chuathbaluk. on one day there were 6 graders and one plow truck working to open up the ice road: Akiachak, Akiak, Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk and Napaimute. The awesome power of the tribes working together.



A Meeting of the Minds: Aniak, Kalskag, and Napaimute Ice Road Crews meet halfway – small meeting!



A beautiful site – NVN's two pieces wisely invested of ice road equipment working in tandem...



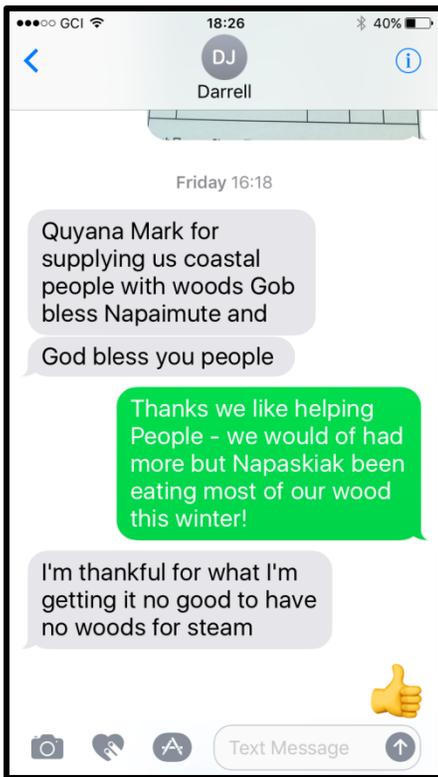
...So we can finally get some firewood down the River...

With a good ice road we immediately sent a convoy of NVN trucks to Bethel with wood. Our trucks had been sitting loaded and ready to go for weeks. It was quite a sight. As soon as the wood hit Bethel wood sales got brisk.

Later we brought another huge load down and trucked it all back to the Johnson River for customers in Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, Newtok, Kipnuk, and Toksook Bay.



Customers picking up their firewood on a cold windy day in Kasigluk



This was great but now we are in a bad place:

We have no more log bundles to sell – just the less popular bags of chopped wood – and it looks like there are still a few weeks of winter left. I am trying to scrape together one more load to bring down the River from various sources but don't know if we can pull it off.

All during February I had been working with the Crooked Creek tribal transportation department. They wanted to start making an ice road from Napaimute to Crooked and also had a small bull dozer they needed brought up. We needed to plow the road to Napaimute as promised to the Council when they approved the purchase of the Seattle plow truck.

I spent a lot of time advising them both in writing and verbally and they worked throughout the month to measure, mark, and plow a road the 38 miles from Crooked Creek to Napaimute.

Over the weekend of March 3 they were expecting to reach Napaimute with their grader so we started up with their dozer in tow behind the NVN plow truck. When we reached Napaimute they weren't there so we plowed a four more miles to New York Creek where we met them and

they took possession of their dozer. I charged them \$1,500 which more than covered the cost of the expense of plowing to Napaimute. I felt that it was a win-win for both tribes. And boy, are they proud of their ice road! I'm proud of them too. It was fun talking with them each day and listening to the challenges they encountered and the expenses racking up. "Welcome to my world!" I told them.



I have to tell the Council that that plow truck has been a real asset – good investment. To be able to plow the road and tow a load is so awesome and efficient.

Audrey and I attended the TKC Tribal Gathering in Aniak Tuesday & Wednesday. I also spent a day at the harvest site getting the office in order. Next I need to spend time there cleaning up the grounds outside. We're getting too much junk accumulated. It's time for some trips to the Kalskag dump!



The week of the 19th I will be traveling to Anchorage for the day to give a Kuskokwim Ice Road presentation to the GTAC Transportation Subcommittee on Wednesday afternoon. There will be approximately 20 people attending: folks from the Governor's office, the DOT&PF Commissioner, and other high level officials from DNR, DPS, FAA, and Tribal Representatives.

On Thursday and Friday I will be attending the Y-K Region Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) 2018-2023: Regional Economic Summit.

During this time I will be meeting with two representatives from the Economic Development Authority regarding our funding proposal for a landing craft. I will be showing them vessels similar to what we have in mind as and take them to a nearby village on the ice road to show them the poor housing conditions that we hope to help alleviate with affordable housing packages from our sawmill.

That's my report for this month.

Thank you!



NVN's new Bethel Office