



March 2020



“Yee gu.aa yax x'wan.”

*“Like music and art, love of nature is a common language that can transcend political or social boundaries.” - Jimmy Carter*

# ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

## TELL THE STATE TO TAKE THE POLITICS OUT OF PROTECTING OUR RIVERS

**Proposed Bill HB 138 will make it harder to protect our rivers than it is to pollute them. It is currently easier to pollute public waters in the state of Alaska than it is to protect them. Yet, our local food sources and economies depend on clean water to continue. A number of communities throughout Southeast Alaska have taken actions to protect their local waters by nominating them as Tier 3 Outstanding National Resource Waters (ONRW), but the state has refused to act on them. Meanwhile, the state permits dozens of corporations to dump wastewater into our rivers.**

**The Alaska legislature is currently considering HB 138 - a bill that would make designating an ONRW an impossible hurdle by requiring that ONRW's only be designated through the legislature rather than administratively by the agency responsible for reviewing discharge permits. Why should the public have to go through a political process to protect clean water while corporations only have to fill out an application to pollute?**

**Info from Southeast Alaska Conservation Council at <https://www.seacc.org>**

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## THIS NEWSLETTER IS ABOUT YOU

Do you know which Indigenous plants are used for food or herbal remedies? Is it something you want to learn but no one has taught you?

CIV's Environmental Staff is hoping to bring together residents interested in increasing plant related subsistence activities here in the village.

Topics may include plant identification, horticulture, and the roles these plants have played in the lives of Tlingit people for thousands of years. Group activities could be planting, gathering, and preparing them for home use.

Most importantly, we would like to hear who is interested and if there are any concerns to consider, first. Once we hear from the community, we can propose a good time to meet up and share ideas.

Contact: Morrigan at Ext #226  
[mshaw@chilkat-nsn.gov](mailto:mshaw@chilkat-nsn.gov)

## NEW STAFF

Morrigan Shaw  
(Keet Gooshi)



Morrigan moved here from San Diego, where she taught American Indian Studies at the local college. Her great grandmother, Marie Orsen, was a founder of the ANB and born in Klukwan. That legacy and her passion for protecting Native rights and natural resources are why she chose to move here. Her environment related interests include upcycling, off-grid energy alternatives, and learning about subsistence fishing and gathering. In her spare time she hangs out with her dog and tries to avoid slipping on the ice. She can be reached at Ext#226 and [mshaw@chilkat-nsn.gov](mailto:mshaw@chilkat-nsn.gov)

## PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF OUR COMMUNITY

**Pay attention for potential COVID-19 symptoms** including, fever, cough, and shortness of breath. If you feel like you are developing symptoms, call your doctor.

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- **Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 sec.
- Only use a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol.
- **To the extent possible, avoid touching high-touch surfaces in public places.** Use a tissue or your sleeve to cover your hand or finger if you must touch something.
- **Clean and disinfect** your home to remove germs: practice routine cleaning of frequently touched surfaces (tables, doorknobs, light switches, handles, desks, toilets, faucets, sinks & cell phones)
- **Avoid crowds**, especially in poorly ventilated spaces.
- **Avoid all non-essential travel**

## NEW STAFF

Dan Hotch  
(Kaagwaantaan)



A commercial fisherman and father of 5, Dan moved back to Klukwan in 2014. Before that, he was Athletic Director & Coach at Chemawa High School. He has recently started working at the CIV Office as an Environmental Specialist, working on the BIA Resilience Grant. He is interested in restarting the local village Fish and Game committee.

If you are interested in being on the committee you can contact him at the CIV Office most weekdays. He can also be reached at Ext 226 or 907-314-0098 and [dhotch@chilkatnsn.gov](mailto:dhotch@chilkatnsn.gov)

## KLUKWAN MERCANTILE

Mondays - Saturdays 12pm - 5pm

Closed Sundays

**Easter will be here soon! Don't forget to  
Check Us Out For Your Easter Needs!**

