

# 2000 Environmental Quality Incentives Program



## Alaska Summary

### Overview

Alaska has had increased interest in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) each year since 1997. In FY 2000, 38 landowners applied for approximately \$782,000 in EQIP funding. NRCS helped 12 landowners develop contracts that obligated \$292,871 in Federal cost-share assistance. EQIP educational assistance funds of \$43,945 were allocated to Conservation Districts and Alaska Natives.

### Accomplishments

Alaska has five Conservation Priority Areas (CPA); two on the highway system in which financial assistance funds are allocated and three for Alaska Natives in "remote" Alaska in which only educational assistance funds have been allocated. Water quality issues are the primary concern in the CPA, and in the state. Contracts include a range of conservation practices; including agricultural waste management systems, fencing, and livestock walkways across streams.

Educational Assistance funds were used to purchase and install satellite collars on reindeer to help Alaska Native reindeer herders apply range management practices with their herds. These funds have also been allocated to Alaska Natives for prescribed burn near the village of Galena to enhance subsistence berry production as a food supply and to ensure the cultural tradition of berry picking.

*Jimmy Noyakuk - Reindeer Herder*



### Customer Focus

Alaska Native Jimmy Noyakuk operates a reindeer range operation on the Seward Peninsula in northwest Alaska. Noyakuk uses several hundred thousand acres owned by the Native Village Corporation, Bureau of Land Management, and State of Alaska. Several hundred reindeer are managed on this remote tundra range for meat and antler production. During the last 5 years, increasing caribou numbers from the Western Arctic Caribou Herd have migrated onto this range and mixed with the reindeer. Wolves, which follow the caribou, have also increased reindeer losses. The remoteness weather and size of the grazing area make range and herd management extremely difficult.

A reindeer satellite-tracking program was initiated to ameliorate these problems. NRCS EQIP education assistance funds, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks Reindeer Research Program funded the project implementation. Collars with satellite transmitters and VHF transmitters were placed on three female reindeer. Transmitted data travels from reindeer to satellites, to the service company and finally to the Fairbanks Reindeer Research Program facility where data are posted on the university web site. Data are available for interpretation by the herder, researchers, and land managers within several days of transmission. Knowledge about reindeer location and the relationships of reindeer to weather, vegetation, caribou, and predators is being incorporated into the management plan. Additional collars are scheduled for installation this calendar year.

### Outlook

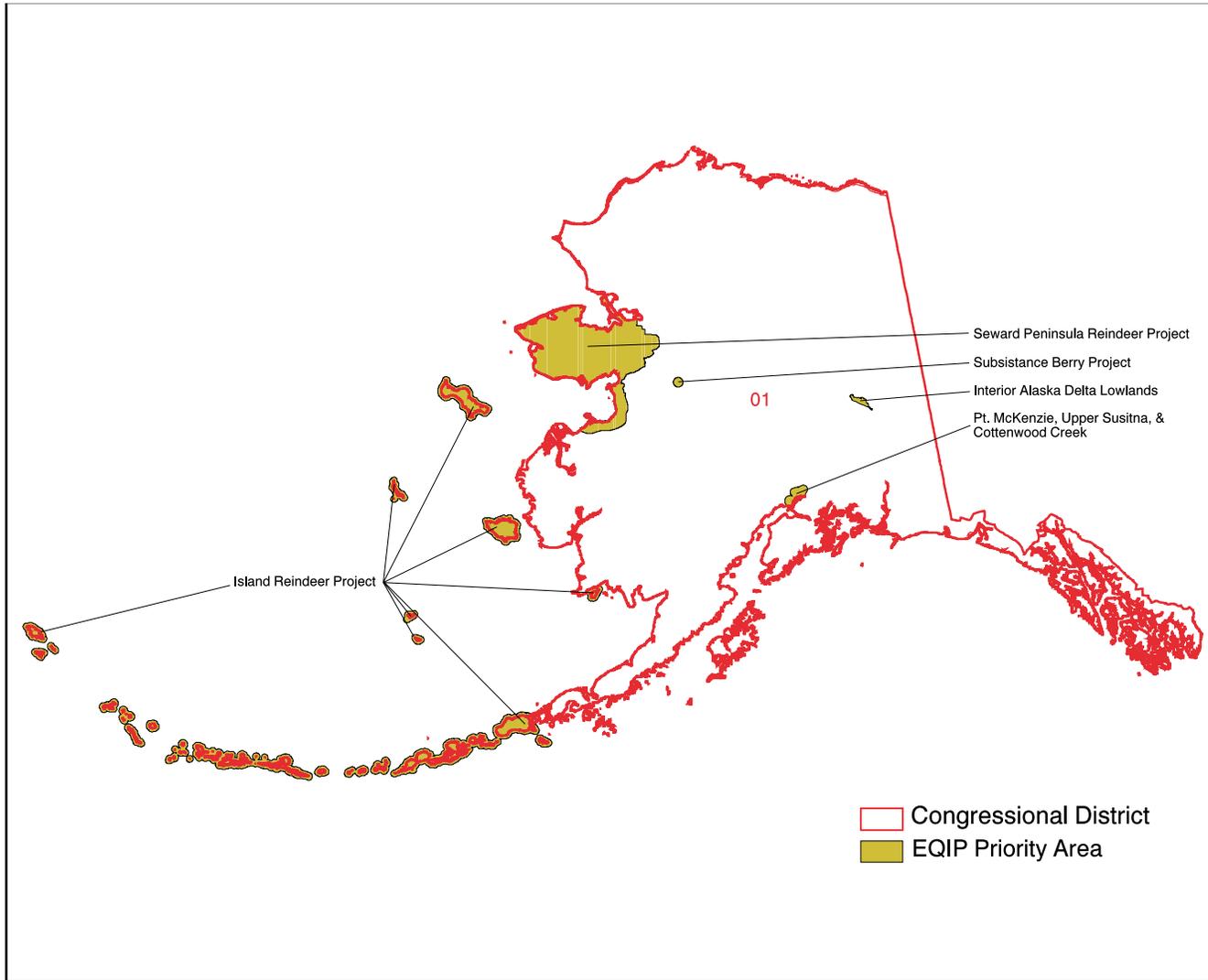
The outlook for EQIP in Alaska is good despite the high cost of conservation work. Increased funding would allow more agricultural producers to participate in the program and increase the speed with which environmental concerns can be treated in the priority areas. Currently, funding is available for only one to three contracts in a CPA area each year.

### State Contacts

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## Alaska EQIP Priority Areas Within Congressional District



## Alaska EQIP Dollars and Contracts by Congressional District

Congressional District	Fiscal Year 2000		Cumulative Total (97-00)	
	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts	Obligated Dollars	Number of Contracts
District 1	\$311,089	14	\$1,132,215	70
<b>State Totals</b>	<b>\$311,089</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>\$1,132,215</b>	<b>70</b>

*Note: EQIP contracts for each Congressional District are estimated from Conservation Priority Areas which may include more than one district. Congressional District 0 = EQIP Contracts for Statewide Natural Resource Concerns which can be in any Congressional District in the state.*

Source: FSA Recordset type01, data through 4th quarter FY2000

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