



The Resilience and Adaptive Management (RAM) Group

<http://ram.uaa.alaska.edu>

We are dedicated to developing social adaptation strategies in the face of rapid global change. We incorporate a vision that weaves multi-disciplinary research and diverse ways of knowing into a cohesive and integrated framework for Resilience in high latitudes.

National Science Foundation:

<http://www.nsf.gov>

The NSF is an independent federal agency which provides funding for approximately 20% of all federally supported basic research.

Core Personnel:

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Urban Elders Project: Searching for local knowledge and perceptions on water, health and the environment in Southcentral Alaska.

The Urban Elders project focuses on collecting and preserving local knowledge about water, health and the environment and how it contributes to community adaptation to change. We work in urban environments among pioneer residents living in Southcentral Alaska. Studies have shown that local environmental expertise, or local ecological knowledge not only exists in indigenous communities, but also in non-indigenous, resource-dependent ones, such as farming and fishing communities. Similarly, observant individuals, whether rural or urban, original inhabitants or migrants, exhibit local environmental knowledge. It is important to give recognition to all of our Elders, native and non-native, in order to preserve the wisdom and the knowledge, before the knowledge is lost.

We are working with long-lived Elders in Southcentral Alaska from numerous communities such as Alaskan Native, Polynesian, Filipino, and Russian. Many people who now live in cities have knowledge that can be shared for the wellbeing of present and future residents. Local environmental knowledge can help us better understand local ecological and social conditions, help create management policies and decisions

that are suitable for local conditions, and offer models of adaptive, sustainable resource use.

A workshop has been organized with the Elders, to act as a meeting place for them, where they will be asked to share their thoughts and knowledge. Individual interviews will be conducted after the workshop and a report about "Water Wisdom" will be drafted based on the workshop and the interviews.

At the moment, we are compiling a list of Elders and organizing preliminary meetings with the prospective workshop participants. The project is part of the Bering Sea Sub-Network (BSSN) initiative and funded by NSF. For more information on the Urban Elders project, contact the project coordinator, Hanna Eklund anhme@uaa.alaska.edu or call 786-7749. More info also on the RAM web page.

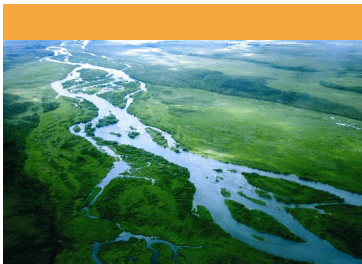
Urban Elders Workshop

April 20th, 2009

9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

UAA Consortium Library, Rm 307





World Water Day 2009

International UN World Water Day is celebrated worldwide annually on March 22nd to focus attention on the importance of freshwater and advocating for sustainable management of freshwater resources. Every year, there is a specific aspect to water and this year's focus is on trans boundary waters.



Upcoming Events

- **WORLD WATER DAY** at UAA: March 23rd, 2009: 6:30PM
UAA Consortium Library, Room 307: **FREE Movie: "One Water"**
Snacks, soft drinks provided www.onewaterthemovie.org
Supported by the RAM Group and Chancellor's Office
- **American Water Resources Association (AWRA) Spring Conference**
Anchorage, Alaska May 4 - 6, 2009
<http://www.awra.org/meetings/Anchorage2009/travel.html>
- **National Science Foundation, Alaska EPSCoR Social Ecological Systems Wrksp**
Anchorage, Alaska May 11 - 13, 2009
<http://www.alaska.edu/epscor/>
- NIH Program Officer Visits, TBA - Please stay tuned to the RAM website

For more information on Upcoming Events, please send an email to anmmk@uaa.alaska.edu.

Websites of the Month

- The **RAM Group** homepage, includes publications, research, and much more:
<http://ram.uaa.alaska.edu>
- Official **World Water Day 2009** web pages can be found at
<http://www.unwater.org/worldwaterday/flashindex.html>

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