



PROJECT PROFILE

Metlakatla Indian Community, Integrated Waste Management Program, Annette Islands Reserve, Alaska

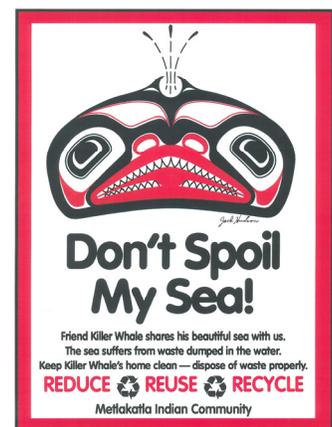
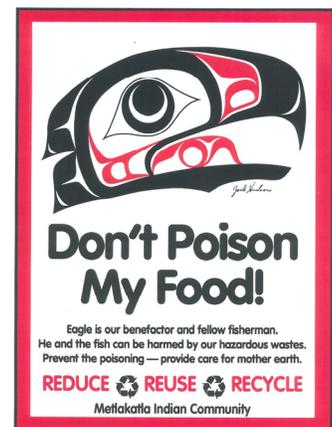
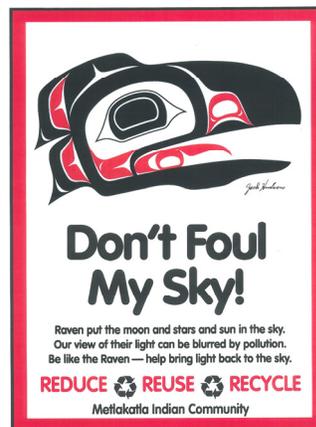
SERVICES PROVIDED: Waste management plans, waste stream analysis, household hazardous waste collection, compost pilot, emergency response plan, regulatory code development, community education and outreach.

PROJECT SUMMARY: This large-scale integrated waste management pilot project involved characterizing the Metlakatla Indian Community’s open dumps, fuel tanks, and current waste stream. Tribal codes, ordinances, regulations, and guidelines for environmental protection, cleanup, and restoration were developed. Community demonstrations were conducted for educational purposes on topics including waste management, recycling, composting, and waste disposal. Ridolfi provided engineering and environmental consulting services to develop a comprehensive waste management program for the community that included:

- An environmental protection code and tribal regulations for management of solid waste, hazardous waste, and underground storage tanks (USTs)
- A solid waste management plan with an inventory of open dumps, waste stream analyses, recycling options, and closure plans for each dumpsite on the Metlakatla Peninsula
- A hazardous waste management plan with an inventory of hazardous substances and the procedures to identify, handle, and properly dispose of hazardous materials
- An emergency response plan for oil spills and releases of hazardous substances
- A management plan to address USTs, including guidelines and procedures to remove leaking USTs and close UST Sites
- A public outreach and education plan and training materials that were used to inform Community members throughout the project

In addition to producing plan documents, this project involved on-the-ground activities such as conducting a pilot demonstration that produced compost from fish and wood waste; selecting and distributing compost bins for yard-waste composting; arranging and coordinating the Community’s first collection event for household hazardous waste; organizing and coordinating an emergency response action

to dispose of compressed gas cylinders containing a hazardous substance; conducting a waste stream analysis; completing an inventory of open dumps and contaminated sites; and conducting outreach and educational activities involving Community members, school administrators and teachers, and school children.



Ridolfi worked with a local artist to develop a series of posters that were used for public outreach and education.



PROJECT PROFILE

Metlakatla Indian Community, Brownfields Showcase Community Annette Islands Reserve, Alaska

SERVICES PROVIDED: Project and grant administration, site assessment, community outreach, redevelopment and planning.

PROJECT SUMMARY: The Metlakatla Indian Community (MIC) was successful in its application for a sizeable grant under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) Brownfields Showcase Community program. Ridolfi assembled a team of scientists and engineers to provide valuable support for all elements of the project's four main tasks: project and grant administration, site assessment, community outreach, and redevelopment and planning. The project was implemented over a period of four years. During this time, Ridolfi provided technical assistance and also served as an interface between the USEPA and MIC to ensure that all restrictions and requirements associated with the grant were met.

The Annette Islands Reserve formerly housed a World War II-era military air base, and numerous sites in the area present cleanup challenges. The MIC addressed three brownfields under its grant. One of the sites, the former hangar area, provides an excellent example of the work conducted by the MIC and the Ridolfi team. The first task was to gather existing environmental data for the former hangar area. Ridolfi worked with the MIC's internal agencies to compile the results of previous sampling conducted by six different entities. Based on that data, the team developed a comprehensive site map that was used to identify potentially impacted natural resources and areas requiring access restrictions.

Preliminary evaluation reports were then drafted for the main hangar building and the air traffic control tower, both part of the former hangar area. These reports summarized the physical and environmental conditions and presented alternatives for future reuse, as well as cost estimates for each reuse alternative. MIC and Ridolfi organized outreach events in which fact sheets, maps, and informational handouts were presented to community members. Information gathered during these events and discussions with the MIC

Environmental Committee and Council members aided in identifying community preferences for reuse, which included light industrial and recreational uses.

In addition, the impact of contamination in the hangar area on cutthroat trout in adjacent ponds proved to be of major concern to the area. To support a cutthroat trout investigation, Ridolfi developed a Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) that were executed by the MIC Environmental Office. Following receipt of the trout tissue data, Ridolfi coordinated data validation and interpreted the results in a report on the findings. The investigation results showed potential impacts from polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) released in the hangar area to cutthroat through in the ponds.

After four years of intensive efforts under the grant program, Ridolfi also assisted the MIC in compiling a final project performance report in accordance with grant requirements. Going forward, MIC is pursuing cleanup options with the federal agencies responsible for pollution at the former hangar area. Currently, the site is being used as a staging area for cleanup contractors working on other sites on the former airbase.



Hangar building looking west on the World War II-era military air base.