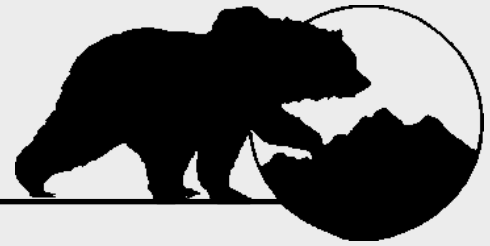


THE NORTHERN LINE



"The average U.S. family makes 60 car trips a week. Cut out two of them, and we wouldn't need to drill in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Cut out two more, and we wouldn't need any oil from Iraq. Plus, every mile you don't drive your car keeps a pound of carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and spares .0001 squirrel or other furry creature. The earth is the Lord's – let's live like it." — New Community Project, www.newcommunityproject.org



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WELCOME!

TO OUR NEWEST BOARD MEMBERS

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian has graduate degrees in Anthropology and Northern Studies from UAF and received a BS in Anthropology from the University of New Mexico. She currently works as an archaeologist for Colorado State University on Army lands in Alaska and is involved in cultural resources planning and management and tribal consultation issues. Julie is passionate about wilderness preservation issues, creating an inclusive environmental community, corporate and agency responsibility, and sustainable living practices, among other issues.

Mary Shields is a musher, author, and local business owner. She was the first woman to finish the 1,049 mile Iditarod Sled Dog Race. In international racing, she and her team ran in the Yukon Quest and the Hope Race from Alaska to Siberia. She has owned and run "Tails of the Trail," a local tourism business, since 1984. She has also written five books and been the subject of a PBS documentary.

Front Page photo: *The Arctic Refuge*, by Amy Gulick. Page 20 photo: *Migrating sand hill cranes*, by Charlie Ott.

Correction: In the March 2005 issue of *The Northern Line*, the photo of the snowy owl on Page 24 should have been credited to Wilbur Mills.

THE NORTHERN LINE



Environmental News of Arctic and Interior Alaska

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The Northern Alaska Environmental Center promotes conservation of the environment in Interior and Arctic Alaska through advocacy, education, and sustainable resource stewardship. The Northern Alaska Environmental Center has 1,000 members.

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This issue of *The Northern Line* was produced by Nicole M. Braem.

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Please return to: NAEC, 830 College Road, Fairbanks AK 99701

A Letter to our Membership



By David van den Berg
Executive Director

Alaska's Congressional delegation likes to recite the reasons to drill the Arctic Refuge. They are certain oil lies beneath the coastal plain — yet they'll concede that

drilling the Refuge will not in itself solve anything.

To be blunt, then: drilling in the Refuge would be a half-measure. Half-measures are not leadership, but a kind of Lemming indecision on the precipice. Oil dependence and its woefully inefficient use in transportation is a national problem — it is widely agreed. So we ask our Congressional delegation to lead America forward to plan-down our misuse of oil. When the next catastrophe upends oil's supply side, we will be better off.

What our current crop of leaders fails to appreciate is that many Alaskans and most Americans are opposed to burning wild lands in the engines of wildly inefficient automobiles. (Roughly 60 percent of all oil is refined into products for the transportation sector.) A 2004 Zogby poll found 41 percent of Americans favoring higher fuel economy standards; a fresh Pew poll has that number at a deafening 80 percent.

Ahead of the curve our leaders are not. For fear of inflicting damage on America's automotive industry, there has been no serious consideration of Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards since 1992. Nevertheless, Ford and GM fell into junk bond status in May of 2005, in part due to sagging SUV sales — and, one could argue, due to failed political leadership.

The Northern Center is in a unique position. In the heart of a petro state, we oppose drilling in the Arctic Refuge. Alaskans know what our oil is worth, and we love the land from whence it comes — or

might come. To be sure, America and the world need oil to simply function, but America really needs a rational national energy policy that treats oil as the dinosaur it is. There is scant national interest in drilling the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge — less so without a sensible energy policy.

Making sense in an outpost of progress and holding the northern line for a better day — that's what we do. But for our members, the Northern Center would not be. So thank you one and all for your many forms of support. It is a community effort that sustains the Northern Center.

What our current crop of leaders fails to appreciate is that many Alaskans and most Americans are opposed to burning wild lands in the engines of wildly inefficient automobiles.

The Center's support has grown over the summer thanks to those who joined or re-joined the Center; thanks to those who came to the member picnic or participated in our fair booth, the Golden Days Parade, and the 9th Annual Run for the Refuge; and thanks to those of you who made phone calls and planned events and read to school children.

And finally, thanks to Peter and Micky Bickford, Dan Swift, Phil Loudon, Carl Rosenberg, Bill Holman and Stan Justice, the Northern Center has a new (used) boiler. The Energy Kinetic boiler still uses oil, but a lot less of it.

As much as we like the new boiler, we call it the "interim boiler" because we are intrigued by the potential of wood pellet boilers. We will research these and other biomass boilers over the winter in preparation for conversion to a cutting edge, non-petroleum energy source.

Membership Drive 2005

Membership Drive 2005

Membership Drive 2005

Membership Drive 2005

Give a gift membership to the Northern Center to friends or family who want to protect the very character of Alaska — its wilderness and wildlife. ***Gift memberships are available for \$20*** — all you have to do is fill out the membership voucher in *The Northern Line*, check the Gift box, give us their address, send payment, and then it is up to us to retain them. As always, we're counting on you to help us help you!

The Fuzzy Numbers of ANWR drilling

Leasing Revenue Projections for Arctic Refuge Drilling Don't Add Up

By Alaska Wilderness League

The Bush administration's claims of \$2.4 billion in revenue from lease sales in the Arctic Refuge — as cited in the President's budget requests — are wildly speculative, as are the Congressional Budget Office's claims of \$5 billion.

Lack of industry interest and past experience on the North Slope of Alaska and the Gulf of Mexico suggest that such high revenue projections are misleading, irresponsible, and out of touch with the modern realities of oil drilling.

The fact is that the average price per leased acre on the North Slope over the past 20 years is approximately \$50 per acre. Therefore, for the Bush administration and CBO projections to be correct, oil companies would have to bid between 66 and 120 times the historic average.

In the past, the Bush administration has based its \$2.4 billion projection on leasing 400,000 to 600,000 acres in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. To achieve this number oil companies would have to pay, on average, \$4,000 to \$6,000 per leased acre. In order for CBO's projection to be correct, oil companies would have to bid, on average, \$3,333.33 per acre in a lease sale that resulted in each of the coastal plain's 1.5 million acres being leased.

The fact is that the average price per leased acre on the North Slope over the past 20 years is approximately \$50 per acre. Therefore, for the Bush administration and CBO

projections to be correct, oil companies would have to bid between 66 and 120 times the historic average.

Despite significant new oil discoveries in the Gulf of Mexico, in the last 20 years bidding trends there have been similar.

Further, no drilling bill has ever provided that leasing in the Refuge would provide the federal treasury more than 50 percent of the revenue, with the rest going to the State of Alaska. Alaska Representative Don Young's drilling bill would result in a 90/10 state/federal revenue split. And if Young's legislative formula is not used, Alaskans are likely to sue the federal government for the rights to 90 percent of what little revenue is generated from drilling the Refuge.

The Arctic drilling plan is based on fuzzy numbers. Such a speculative scheme should not be pushed through Congress in the federal budget.

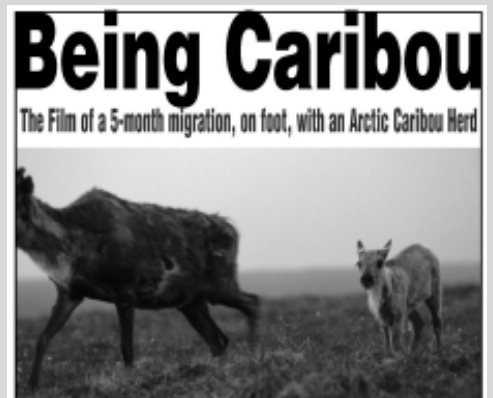
There are some places that should be off-limits to oil drilling and industrial development, and the Arctic Refuge is one of them. The harm to wildlife habitat for polar bear, caribou, and millions of migratory birds would be permanent and irreparable.

We have a moral responsibility to save wild places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for future generations.

Yes, we have (even) MORE Being Caribou DVDs

Thank you for your overwhelming interest in *Being Caribou*, the epic of two Canadians migrating with the Porcupine Caribou Herd. NAEC is once again able to offer copies of the movie for sale at a reduced cost. Copies are \$10 each.

This DVD is a great way to bring the message home of what we are protecting in the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain. To order your copy, contact the Arctic program (907)452-5021 or info@northern.org.



Runners Race for the Refuge

9th Annual Run for the Refuge focuses on budget vote

By Kelly Hill Scanlon
Arctic Coordinator

Greeted with handfuls of dog treats at the finish line, runners and their canine companions alike had a good time at the Northern Alaska Environmental Center's 9th annual Run for the Refuge.

The race included both 5k and 10k components. The top men in the 5k were: Mark Lindberg (17:23), Bryan Hawkins (17:53) and Logan Burley (18:33). Leading 5k women included local athlete Christina Gillis (18:15), Maggie Callahan (18:30) and Karin Gillis (18:50). The 10k field was led by Aaron Doyle (40:58), Keelan McNaulty (42:05) and Sven Grage (42:25). Women 10k leaders were Laura Thompson (43:55), Amy Carroll (55:06), and Nancy Fresco (59:48).

Much of the focus surrounding this year's race was the upcoming federal budget vote. Leasing the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge



Over 100 runners, walkers and (this being a Fairbanks event) their dogs turned out for the 2005 Run for the Refuge. Photo: NAEC.

members of Congress and to talk to friends and family in other states to let them know now is the time for keeping the Arctic out of the budget. The budget vote is

uge. The Gwich'in Steering Committee is holding a vigil on Capitol Hill raising awareness of the threat oil drilling poses to their traditional subsistence lifestyle.

"Now is the time to activate," said Debbie Miller. "Members of Congress throughout the nation need to know that their constituents care about protecting the Refuge."

to oil exploration and drilling is expected to be included as part of the final budget.

"Now is the time to activate," said Debbie Miller. "Members of Congress throughout the nation need to know that their constituents care about protecting the Refuge."

Miller asked people to call

unique because it only requires a simple majority to pass. In the past, the threat of a Senate filibuster has kept the Refuge out of federal legislation.

Roberta Morrison, representative of the Gwich'in Steering Committee, thanked the runners for joining in this celebration of the Arctic National Wildlife Ref-



Hats off to Carol Renn for her creative celebration of Refuge wildlife. Photo: NAEC.

How can you say no to a face like this?

©Amy Gulick



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Environmental
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wanted:

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**Saturday, November 5
Wedgewood Resort**

**Tickets \$20 at the door
(light supper included)**

6pm • Light Supper Social

7pm • Auction Action Begins

**Come bid on a variety of
outdoor gear, art, useful items
and fabulous desserts!**

Thank you!

Applause for those who gave of their time and enthusiasm!

Many thanks to all who participated in the Golden Days Parade with us or helped out with our booth at the Tanana Valley State Fair. Both events were sunny and successful.

Thanks to you, we have more members, dozens more people on our email lists, greater positive recognition in the community, and lots of people sporting environmental slogans on their t-shirts and car bumpers.

Parade

Mary Shields
Pat Deruyter
Jose Rueter
Gabe Rueter
Adela Rueter
Trish Wurtz
Flora Kielland
Eleanor Kielland
Susan Hansen
Kirsten Hansen
Adeline Peter Raboff
Sean McGuire
Margi Reynolds

Fair booth:

Audrey Magoun
Sylvie Savage
Jeannie Cole
Ritchie Musick
Claudia Markham
Julie Raymond
Brenden Yakobian

Jamie Marschner

John Hagey
Sean McGuire
Avalon Wappett
Glynn Hoener
Brook Gamble
Mary Zalar
Ann Swift
Betsy Chronic
Dan Swift
Claudia Markham
Maryann Nickels
Stan Read
Ann Mallard
Larry Landry
Sandra Zirnheld
Nancy Wood
Margaret Eagleton
Carol Hsieh
Nora Foster
Debbie Miller
Martin Becke
Michelle Murt
Mary Matthews
Sophia Mathew
Margi Deshevski

Phone bank:

Gail Mayo
Sean McGuire
Fran Mauer
Andy Keller
Kaarle Strailey
Pam Seiser
Sherry Lewis
Linda Walsh
Tyrall Bidson
Marilyn Richardson
Tarika Lea
Mary Teal
Susan Campbell
Celeste Leroux
Cynthia Wentworth
Katlain Stark
Carolyn Remmen

Miriam Paquin
Jennifer Steitz
Andy Reynolds
Larry Landry
Terry Gledinning
Stan Read
Jan Ohmstede
Gara Bidwell
Laura Welsh

Phil Loudon, for
gifting the interim
boiler

Member BBQ

Musicians:
Betsy Smith
Lew Shapiro
Mary Wyatt

Brian Blobaum
Franz Mueter
Jeff Merkel
Jennifer van den Berg
Larry Landry
Kaarle Strailey
Bruce Gadwah of St.
Matthew's Church



The NAEC float (and ED van den Berg's grass skirt) were a huge hit with the crowd. Thanks to all our parade volunteers! Photo: NAEC.

Adam Morse
Daniel Glass
Magali Keller
Jennifer van den Berg
Richard Stolzberg
Frank Keim

The Boiler Project

Terry Gacke
Carl Rosenberg
Max Kaufman
Stan Justice
Bill Holman
Dan Adams
Dan Swift
Tom Paragi
Bruce Delbridge

Mason Damrau
Randi Kaihoi
Bridgette Machida
Elaine Ponchione
Andy Reynolds
Van Lawrence
Sue Royston
David Wyatt
Cindy Wentworth
Amber Smith
Rhonda Gilbertson
Rose Meier
Laurie Klein

*Set-Up/Cook/
Breakdown*
Brian Eppler

Donated food
Susan Campbell
Jacquie D'Auria
Marin Kuizenga
Failoni Family
Helmuth Family

Special thanks to
Elizabeth Jordan for
her steadfast and excellent help.

John Estle donated
gear to Camp
Habitat

Scott Kowalczyk for
carpentry at our offices.

South NPR-A Area Scoping Period Begins

Now is the time for public to influence parameters of EIS

By Kelly Hill Scanlon
Arctic Coordinator

In June 2005, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) began a planning effort to outline future management objectives for the 9.2 million acre South National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The planning schedule includes a public scoping process, a projected summer 2008 release for the draft environmental impact statement (EIS), a final EIS expected in summer 2009, and a Record of Decision in late 2009. Each of these phases will include a period for public comment. However, it is during the scoping period that *the public can influence the content and considerations defining the parameters of the EIS*. According to BLM, during this period the public can delineate what they think is important for an analysis of the impacts of development in the area. BLM wants specific descriptions of **what** resources are at stake (surface and subsurface), **where** they are located, and **why** they are important.

South's Attributes

In contrast to the flat wetlands and lakes that cover most of the Northeast and Northwest areas, the South planning area contains relatively dry uplands rising to the foothills and mountain peaks of the Brooks Range. The headwaters of the Colville and Utukok Rivers lie in the center of the area. The South planning area also includes important surface values that should be designated Special Areas. For example, comprising more than four million acres in the southwest corner of the NPR-A, the Utukok Uplands is a favorite calving area for the 450,000 member Western Arctic Caribou Herd, which congregates in the hills by the tens of thousands.

... mining was excluded, by law, from the permissible uses of the region because such operations could interfere with oil exploration and development. Nevertheless, the BLM is planning to assess the economic viability of mineral development as part of the South EIS.

Flowing from west to east along the Brooks Range and then north into the Arctic Ocean, the Colville is the largest river on Alaska's North Slope. It supports more than 20 different species of fish, including arctic char, pink and chum salmon, burbot, long-nosed sucker, sculpin and sticklebacks. Moose browse the willows along its banks far out into the arctic coastal plain. Grizzlies prowl the gravel bars searching for roots or carcasses washed

down with the current. Wolves, too, hunt along the valley bottoms, hoping to surprise a moose or caribou making use of the relatively insect-free open areas.

A phenomenal number of raptors utilize the cliffs for nesting. One of the healthiest populations of peregrine falcons in the world makes use of the ledges and crannies along the river to raise their young, as do gyrfalcons, and rough-legged hawks.

Along the lower reaches of the river, at Ocean Point, the currents have exposed some of the most important and productive dinosaur finds in the Arctic, including *Albertosaurus* and the *Hadrosaur*. Ocean Point and the Liscombe bone-beds are the northernmost Cretaceous deposits in the world and may help answer questions about dinosaur extinctions and the history of global warming.

BLM recommended the Colville River for Wild & Scenic River status during the 1980's. Fulfilling this recommendation, including the Colville and Utukok tributaries, should be a central component of the final South management plan.

Environmental Impact Considerations

In the BLM's Notice of Intent to plan for South, industry has been asked to nominate areas they want to see opened to leasing for oil, gas and mineral development. Other uses such as recreation/wilderness and subsistence take a back seat to industrial planning. These parameters are of note because currently mining in the NPR-A is expressly prohibited by law.

...Continued on page 9

*South NPR-A Area Scoping Period Begins**... continued from page 8***Mining**

NPR-A was originally established as the Naval Petroleum Reserve Number Four in 1923. From that time until present, mining was excluded, by law, from the permissible uses of the region because such operations could interfere with oil exploration and development. Nevertheless, the BLM is planning to assess the economic viability of mineral development as part of the South EIS. However, it would take an act of Congress to open the area for mining.

What You Can Do to Help:

Submit comments to BLM during the scoping period. Comments are being accepted through October 17, 2005 and can be mailed to:

South NPR-A Planning Team
222 W. 7th Ave. #13
Anchorage, AK 99513

Recreational/Wilderness Values

A more symbiotic relationship for human-use within the South includes recreational opportunities. Recreational uses of the region include low impact river floats, hiking expeditions and wildlife viewing opportunities. Alaskan companies guide fee-paying clients on these excursions adding to the economic benefits of designating wilderness for portions of South NPR-A.

However, BLM does not expect to consider, among other things, any "...wilderness recommendations (unless there is broad support from state and federal elected officials representing Alaska), Wilderness Study Areas, and Areas of Critical Environmental Concern." (BLM *Statement of Work: South National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* p. 2.)

Subsistence Use

The Utukok Uplands, located in the western region of the South comprises the main calving

grounds for the Western Arctic Caribou Herd. According to BLM, more than two dozen villages harvest caribou from this herd, considered to be the largest in North America. Because the migration route of the caribou herd intersects with the largest coal seams in the NPR-A it is important to protect this area now.

Keep updated on the planning process by joining the Northern Center's Arctic Action listserv. Arctic Action provides relevant information on Alaska's Arctic as it becomes available. To join the listserv send an email to info@northern.org. Put Arctic Action in the subject area.

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Reduce Reuse Recycle

Please remember to follow the “three R’s” – but keep in mind that in most cases, using fewer resources in the first place is much more effective than recycling what has already been wastefully consumed.

Paper Recycling returns to Fairbanks

By Nancy Fresco
Local Issues Coordinator

After a long hiatus, paper recycling is back. The Fairbanks North Star Borough has reached an agreement with R&D Environmental, the new waste contractor at Eielson Air Force Base, and they are taking our paper and cardboard to make pellet fuel, as before.

However, this is not a long-term solution for several reasons. First, converting paper to fuel pellets is fairly labor-intensive, while coal is extremely cheap, meaning that the program is not really cost-effective. Second, burning paper is not as environmentally friendly as recycling it into new products. Finally, the single drop-off point at the land-fill

means that the program is not particularly user-friendly.

However, the Borough is working towards a permanent plan, and we at NAEC as well as folks from Green Star and UAF are interested in helping the process. In the long run, we envision the program including more pickup points, separation of mixed paper from cardboard (and perhaps also from newspaper) and much greater participation by households and businesses.

For now, we can be grateful that Mayor Whitaker and others in the Borough have listened to the pleas of Fairbanksans and made recycling a priority.

What You Can Do to Help:

Wherever you live:

- Make sure you know what can be recycled where, and remind others to participate.
- Put out recycling boxes, bins, or cans in your home and workplace, and make sure the recyclables end up where they're supposed to.
- When you can't buy less...buy recycled products.

In Fairbanks:

- Email Nancy at nancy@northern.org and let her know you'd like to help institute long-term recycling in Fairbanks.



BOREAL SHORTS

By Nancy Fresco
Boreal Forest Coordinator

• Jeff Jahnke, Alaska's State Forester, stepped down as of 8/1/05 to become the Colorado State Forester. He has shown significant concern for non-timber forest values during his tenure, and will be missed. His replacement has not yet been named.

• After a record-breaking fire season last summer, in which almost seven million acres in Alaska burned, the summer of 2005 has proven only slightly less extreme. Between three and four million acres burned this year; the annual average is approximately 0.8 million acres. While fire is a natural part of the

landscape, some scientists attribute increased fire in the far north to warmer, drier conditions caused by global climate change.

• September 27-29 the Alaska Northern Forest Cooperative is holding a workshop entitled “Biomass and Small Tree Utilization — Wood Energy and Business Opportunities for Interior Alaska.” The workshop will focus on use of wood as a renewable energy source, and will include field visits to a wood generator, wood heat plant, pellet-making operation, and various forest sites between Fairbanks and Tok.

ADEC Misses Deadline for Mixing Zones

By Meg Schlesinger
Mining Coordinator

On September 1, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) missed the deadline to make a decision about mixing zones. After intense pressure and activity surrounding the fate of mixing zones in Alaska earlier this year, ADEC remains inactive about the fate of Alaska's waterways.

What is a Mixing Zone?

A mixing zone is defined as a limited area (or volume of water) where initial dilution of a direct, "point source" pollutant discharge takes place. This area extends to cover the secondary mixing in the entire water body, whether coastal or riparian. Water quality standards state that some pollutants are allowed within mixing zones, however acute toxic pollutants are prohibited under current regulations from occurring in these zones.

The Debate

Since mixing zones are traditionally stretches of our waterways that big business utilizes as an industrial flushing system for mines, power companies, and sewage-treatment plants, the debate over changes to mixing zone regulation will have a broad and long lasting impact.

Alaska's current mixing zone regulations (which the state is seeking to relax) prohibit runoff pollution in salmon spawning or "anadromous streams." This protects Alaska's waterways and is an important regulation that assists the fishing and tourism industries along with the many that associate salmon with their Alaskan existence. It is important to note that the classification of "anadromous stream" also includes those waterways that are prime habitat for rainbow trout, Dolly Varden, grayling, and steelhead.

The ADEC claims that there is no proof that irrefutably documents that mixing zone pollutants affect aquatic life. ADEC has lobbied hard in the past year to move the permitting process of Alaska's waters, which traditionally was under the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) controlled by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), to the Alaskan state agencies.

The transfer would follow with trends across the country, since Alaska is one of just four states that

still answer to EPA regulation.

ADEC's proposal to relax standards was met with overwhelming concern during the public comment period. In part, the controversial nature of this issue is one of the factors preventing the State from making a quick decision. ADEC remains firm in its conviction that it will not and has not suggested changes to state regulatory procedures that would endanger fish populations.

What's at Stake?

The obvious and immediate answer is the threat to our fish streams across the state. *The more insidious answer is what the relaxed regulations would mean to the mining industry.*

While ADEC remains confident that these changes would in no way endanger fish and aquatic life, the next question needs to be "Why take the risk?" The State of Alaska is riding a wave of record high mineral prices. With proposed mines across the state that will have a tremendous impact on the ecological face of Alaska, the relaxation of this particular regulation opens the door wide for mining companies.

Canadian-funded Northern Dynasty is in the process of trying to implement an open pit gold mine in the Bristol Bay area outside of Iliamna. If Northern Dynasty succeeds in permitting their project, the pit size alone will equal that of the island of Manhattan. Point source pollution from that mine will affect the pristine and world-renowned sockeye and rainbow trout fisheries in Cook Inlet and the Koktuli River.

Are Alaskans ready to risk threatening our legacy found in those waters? All based on the assumption that point source pollution to date has not affected fisheries? All based on science and research that has not encountered industrial development on the scale the mining industry is planning?

With exploration, development and advanced mining projects moving forward across the state which jeopardize the Kuskokwim, Delta, Copper, Goodpaster, Nenana, and Yukon Rivers, along with many others, all attention needs to be focused on

...continued on page 15



From the Woodpile. .

by Ginny Hill Wood
founding member of NAEC

Sometimes I fantasize that in our present quest to discover if Mars once could have supported sentient life we discover that it did. Then we deduce that their lifestyle had overreached, ignoring warning signs that its life support systems were being ignored. Subsequently, all forms of life perished leaving Mars a dead planet.

Would our present administration and the self-righteous Right still remain in denial regarding the causes and consequences of global warming of our Earth, and our addiction to fossil fuel, greed, growth, and graft?

Now our nation is in shock and disbelief over the consequences and dimensions of recent Hurricane Katrina that has decimated New Orleans and the adjacent Gulf communities, the likes of which are unprecedented and are still being evaluated. Yet in the meantime, the killing fields in Iraq and Afghanistan continue, and millions keep starving in Africa. As Puck stated in Shakespeare's *Mid-Summer's Night Dream*: "What fools these mortals be!"

In my opinion, posterity (if we survive to have one) will judge our present era by how we have treated each other and how we have taken care of our Earth which sustains us — not by such indicators as our gross national product, the stock market,

our consumer price index or our military conquests to make other countries shape up.

Personally, I don't give Homo sapiens very high marks. In the USA these days, politicians seem to judge environmentalists just a bit below terrorists as the major threat to our economy and national security. Actually, healthy, fully-functioning eco-systems are fundamental to mankind's survival. It's the environment, stupid!

September, 2005: Headlines today in my Fairbanks Daily News-Miner proclaim, "Dark Times Ahead for Gulf Coast! Over 1,000 Feared Dead From Hurricane Katrina!; Recovery Could Take Years! Retail Gas Prices Soar! North Slope Can't Make Up Oil Shortage! Looters Ransack Ruins!"

But the stock market soared as did the price of gasoline at the pump. This hasn't deterred Labor Day driving or the use of ATVs for hunting off-road instead of on foot, or promises of politicians to rebuild New Orleans on the same spot. Tune in next Labor Day 2006 to find out if Katrina has taught us anything and how as a nation we are really coping.

One thing is for certain, I betcha. No newborn daughter is going to be named Katrina for a generation.

Camp Habitat Corner

Updates and news about Camp Habitat and other youth programming.

- A special thanks to Amber Borner for the fantastic job she did as Camp Habitat director this year. There was lots of positive feed back from parents, campers and staff on the way camp went this year. 164 campers were able to participate this summer.

- The Preschool Nature Discovery Time schedule has been extended through October thanks to the overwhelming demand for the continuation of this program. To find out more about this program contact Katherine Helmuth at the Center.

- The Camp Habitat After School program is still in development with a start date planned for January. The final writing and editing of the curriculum, instructor hiring and training as well as final agreements with the school district will all take place in the next few months. We have a wish list on Page 13 for this program which includes books and equipment. If there is something you can donate, please bring it to the Northern Center or contact Katherine at 452-5021 ext. 31.



Calendar of Earth Friendly Events

- **September 24**, *Alaska Conservation Foundation Awards Banquet*, Rivers Edge Resort, Fairbanks. (\$15 admission fee includes dinner.) Two of Fairbanks' very own will be celebrated: Fran Mauer and Sean McGuire.
- **September 30 - October 6**, *World Wildlife Congress*, Anchorage, at the Egan Center. WILDERNESS, WILDLANDS AND PEOPLE: A PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PLANET will spotlight global wilderness and wildlands issues. More than a third of the program includes Alaska and regional issues and subjects. Learn more at www.8wwc.org.
- **October 2**, *Northern Center Annual Meeting*, 5-8 p.m. at the Birch Hill Convention Center. Potluck dinner, please bring a dish to share! Hear about what we've accomplished this year and our forecast for 2006. Mingle with Northern Center staff and board while sampling some of our member's finest potluck offerings. Contact: info@northern.org or call 452-5021.
- **October 7-8**, *Denali Summit: Envisioning the Future of the Denali Borough Communities*, location to be announced. Denali Borough residents are invited to provide input to the Denali Borough Planning Process. Free food & door prizes! Contact Armeda Bularda at 768-2462 or Chuck Tomkiewicz at 683-3005.
- **October 13-16**, *Second Annual Bioneers in Alaska Conference*, University of Alaska Anchorage. A unique cross-cultural and global gathering of "biological pioneers." Local workshops in Anchorage will focus on issues integral to Alaska, including sustainable energy systems, the future of the Alaskan economy, ecological design, holistic health care, healing racism, safe food, and many more. For more info, visit www.sustainak.org, call 907-334-9630, or email info@sustainak.org.
- **October 29**, *Celebration of the life of Ginny Wood*, Fairbanks, at Cloudberry B&B. Confirm with Sean McGuire. 479-7334.
- **November 5**, *NAEC Annual Auction*. Social begins at 6 p.m., Auction begins at 7 p.m. Come bid on fabulous desserts and a variety of outdoor gear, art, and useful items. Tickets are \$20 at the door, light supper included.
- **November 11**, *NAEC Board Meeting*. Board meetings are open to members for 15 minutes at the beginning of every meeting. They are held the second Tuesday of each month at Room 214 of the O'Neill Building at UAF.
- **December 5-12**, *Holiday Bazaar at the Northern Center office*. An annual holiday sale featuring books, calendars, art and other items celebrating Alaska. If you are interested in having your creations in the sale please contact Sara Elzey by November 15, 2004. A portion of all sales go to benefit the Northern Center.

CAMP Habitat AFTER SCHOOL Wish List

Books:

Keepers of life
 Keepers of animals
 Keepers of night
 Keepers of the Earth
 (By Joseph Bruchac and Michael J. Caduto)

Field guide to mammals (5 copies)
 Field guide to Alaskan birds (5 copies)
 Field guide to plants (5 copies)
 Field guide to Alaskan wildflowers (5 copies)

Equipment:

4-6 inch kitchen strainers (10+)
 Aquarium nets (5-10)

Clear and colored 2 liter bottles (many, many, many)
 Margarine tubs (white)(20)
 Eye droppers (12+)
 Feathers (legally obtained)
 Colored chalk (for chalk board)
 14 gallon rubber made tubs (several)

High tech stuff

Digital microscopes (Scope on a rope)(3-5)
 Laptop computers (3-5)
 Digital thermometers (5)
 Digital pH monitors (5)

A Mine Does Not Belong at Tangle Lakes

By Ruth McHenry
Copper Country Alliance

The Tangle Lakes region of the Denali Highway is, for many Alaskans, a long-time favorite place – a place for canoeing, hunting, hiking; a place for enjoying outdoors activities in a spectacular setting.

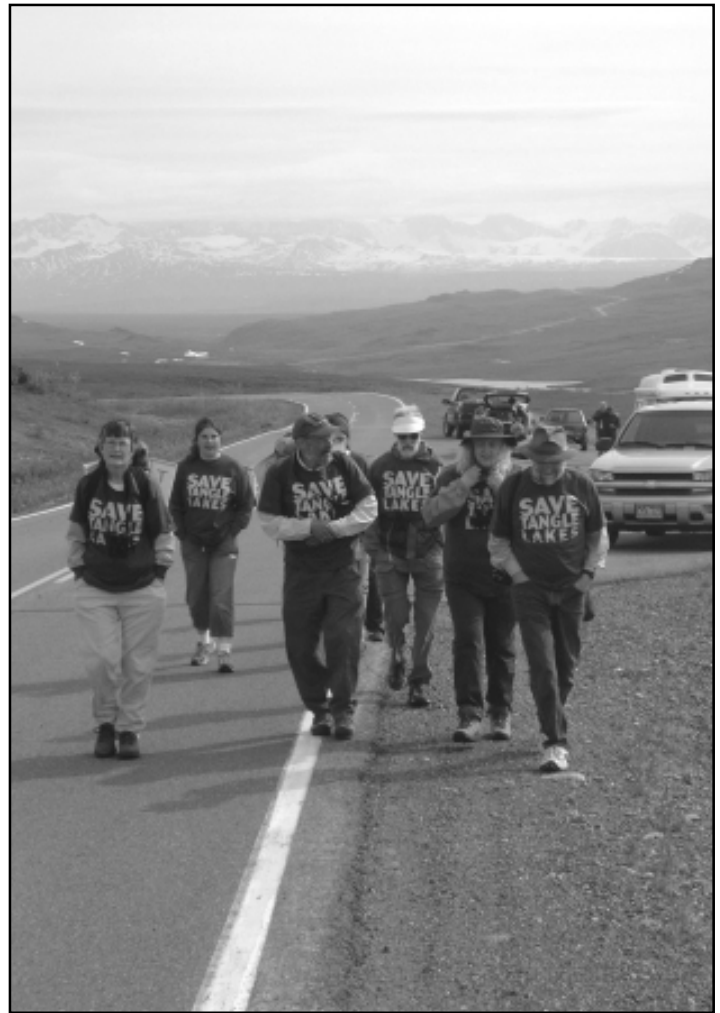
Yet, while dreaming of their next trip to the Tangles, many (perhaps most) of these Alaskans are unaware that a major multi-national mining company is dreaming of a large-scale mine there.

Anglo American Exploration is entering its second year of mineral exploration on claims on the north side of the Denali Highway, stretching almost from Hungry Hollow to Glacier Lake 14. Although the company is being close-mouthed about the results of this spring's drilling program, it intends to do more drilling this year.

What would a mine mean in the Tangle Lakes region? The worst-case scenario would be a strip mine, disfiguring thousands of acres. Even an underground mine would require a mill, waste dumps, tailings pits, powerlines and roads. Air and water pollution are huge concerns, even though the narrow Wild and Scenic River Corridor (which includes Tangle Lakes and the Delta River) would be off-limits to mining.

Anglo American and the State Department of Natural Resources are fond of saying, "This is just the exploration phase. No mineable deposit has been identified yet." Our point is that if a mine is unthinkable in the Tangle Lakes region, then the State should not permit mineral exploration there.

Copper Country Alliance, a small Copper Basin-based conservation organization, brought the issue to NAEC's attention. On June 18 and 19, with NAEC's help, CCA staged a 30-mile walk along the Denali Highway bordering the claims. At the same time, a group of paddlers gathered for a flotilla on Round Tangle Lakes. Both events were fun for participants and garnered media attention. NAEC, CCA, and the Alaska Center for the Environment (ACE) have all devoted booth space to the mining issue at the Tanana Valley State Fair, the Kenny Lake State Fair, and the Palmer State Fair. Nevertheless, many people still do not know of the threat to the Tangle Lakes region.



Copper Country Alliance members and a few intrepid Fairbanksans began the Denali Block Walk on June 18. Photo: NAEC.

What You Can Do to Help:

- We need your help in getting the word out. We are finding that our t-shirts prompt such questions as, "So what's happening at Tangle Lakes?"
- If you care about the Tangles, buy and wear one of these t-shirts. They are available from NAEC, Alaska Center for the Environment, and Copper Country Alliance. CCA will be happy to mail one to you. Contact Copper Country Alliance at HC60 Box 306T, Copper Center, AK 99573, phone (907)822-3644, email info@tanglelakes.org.
- While you're at it, ask for a savetangelakes.org bumper sticker. It will send folks to the website for more information.

Correction:

In the Summer 2005 issue of *The Northern Line*, one question and response from the interview with Gordon Wright was omitted. Below are the missing paragraphs. The introduction to the interview, thoughtfully provided by John Luther Adams, ran without attribution. Below is the missing text of the interview, along with Adams' introduction:

Gordon Wright is known widely as a musician. During his twenty-five years as conductor of the Fairbanks Symphony and the Arctic Chamber Orchestra, Gordon made lasting contributions to the cultural landscape of Alaska. Perhaps less well known is his contribution to the natural landscapes of the North.

In 1971, Gordon and a small group of friends founded the Fairbanks Environmental Center, now the NAEC. The controversy over the Trans-Alaska Pipeline was raging, and the campaign for the Alaska National Interest Lands was just beginning. With characteristic foresight, Gordon understood that northern Alaska needed a strong, clear voice speaking out for the land, the animals and the special qualities that make this a place like no other.

Today this need seems more urgent and Gordon's vision more timely than ever before.

Q. What other environmental issues were prominent at that time?

A. The main issues of the time for me were mining in McKinley Park and of course the pipeline. But not much could be accomplished through the Sierra Club without being called "outsiders." It was true, the Sierra Club was a California based organization, but even though we had about 20 members we were not a potent political force in Fairbanks. But we were somewhat of a thorn in the side of the Chamber of Commerce, because our power was magnified by the name Sierra Club and that presence in Fairbanks was a good thing. We took on issues but it was hard to be taken seriously by the community at large.

Meanwhile I connected with the Alaska Conservation Society, which was an "Alaska-based" organization in College. It took me a year or two, but I realized what Fairbanks really needed was a local organization that could not be labeled by the Cham-

ber and the community as representing outside interests.

Jim Hunter, who was then working for Defenders of Wildlife, was very supportive of the idea of a local environmental organization. It also happened that Jim Kowalsky wanted to come to Alaska and work full-time as an environmentalist. And I needed a trumpet player. Friends of the Earth had an Alaska representative, but was going to let the position lapse. I told David Brower if he would hire Kowalsky half-time, I would hire him for the other half. That took some maneuvering but it worked out, and the next year Jim worked half-time as the executive director of the Center and half-time for Friends of the Earth. My wife and I put up the money for Jim's first year on the job.

ADEC Misses Deadline for Mixing Zones

Continued from page 11

the decision that ADEC, Fish and Game, and the Department of Natural Resources have to make.

This is an issue of looking forward to our ecological future health, while simultaneously allowing the state to move forward to govern and develop itself. Yes, Alaska should have the right to govern itself and we need to develop the state's resources. However, in the modern push to entice and ease industry into our home state we must remember what happens to assist one, can end up hurting us in the long run. The state must look to sustainable development.

The concern remains that the relaxation of these regulations will allow for mining and power companies to use these new rules to their benefit. Undercutting the level of environmental protection and responsibility that they can be held to and leaving Alaska's rich fishing legacy endangered.

Reminder!

NAEC's Annual Meeting will be held Oct. 2 at 5 p.m. at the Birch Hill Convention Center.

• Program updates • Annual Awards

*Please bring a potluck dish. Conserve paper - Bring your plate and silverware!



Northern Alaska Environmental Center

Conservation's Northern Voice

2004 ANNUAL REPORT



Board of Directors

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Sarah Campbell, *Vice President*
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Board Report

Under the able leadership of President Dan Adams, and following several years of effort, the Board of Directors reached a major milestone in 2004 with the completion of a 5-year strategic plan that will guide the Northern Center's operations through 2009.

Throughout the year, the Board also worked on ways to increase input from the membership and other stakeholders, in an effort to become a more open and responsive organization.

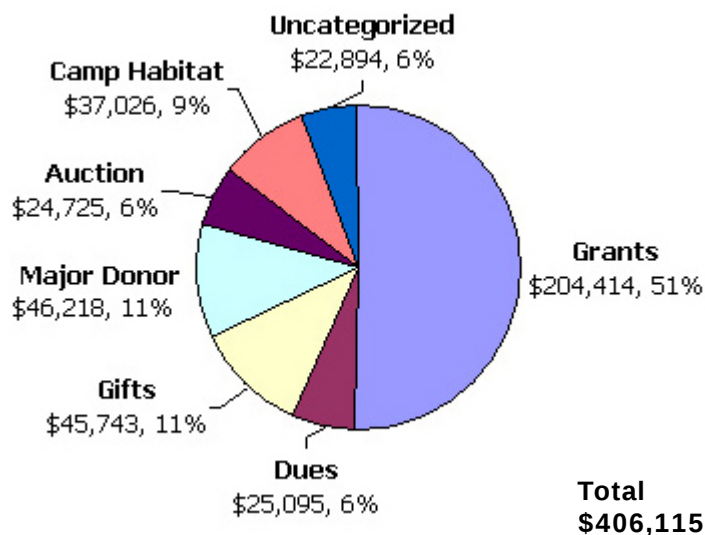
A major challenge faced in 2004 was Teck Cominco's response to an administrative appeal filed by the Northern Center. Two special board meetings were convened in April

and our negotiating team was able to reach a settlement agreement.

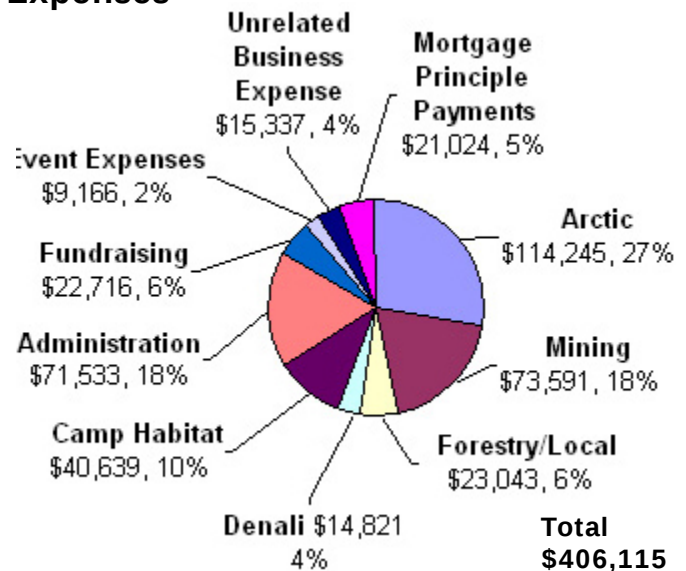
As always, fundraising was one of the major responsibilities faced by the board. Through the major donor campaign, headed by volunteer-extraordinaire Mary Zalar, and through the annual auction we were able to raise over \$60,000 for the Northern Center.

In addition to the regular annual events, a new initiative by the education committee established what has become a popular speaker series, featuring a number of well-known authors and enriching the cultural landscape of Fairbanks

Income



Expenses



Arctic 2004

This year was unique for the Northern Center's Arctic Program because most of the efforts were focused upon state lands on the North Slope and the National Petroleum Reserve (NPR-A) in the Western arctic rather than heavily concentrated on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The Northern Center was the only conservation group to be involved in the Alaska State Department of Natural Resources (DNR)/U.S. Department of Energy-sponsored tundra travel study. The study, done to determine the impact of tundra travel under various conditions and vehicles was of international significance. Not only is the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) looking at it for their NPR-A operations, but Exxon Canada is also interested in the outcome and how the recommendations could be applied to their operations.

Because the study is of such significance we felt the methodology and design should be reviewed by an outside,

objective party — in essence, a peer review akin to those in academic circles and requested by the federal government in projects they fund. We hired Professor Bruce Forbes, a specialist in tundra ecology to do this task.

Dr. Forbes concluded that the major flaw of the study was the truncated timeframe under which effects of tundra were to be observed (only a one-year period.) He suggested that the state have other experts review the study as part of an ongoing effort by the State. Dr. Forbes' suggestions were included in a *New York Times* piece on the study and in a variety of in-state media outlets.

We continue to be involved with the tundra travel study and share information about it with the rest of the Alaska Coalition.

Oil exploration activities in the NPR-A were addressed on several fronts. The record of decision on the North-

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*2004 Annual Report**Continued from page 17*

west NPR-A planning area was released by BLM. The Northern Center joined several other members of the conservation community in filing litigation against the plan on the basis that BLM failed, among other things, to meet NEPA requirements in the Northwest Environmental Impact Statement (EIS.)

We submitted comments to BLM regarding the revised Northeast NPR-A EIS. As part of that effort, we participated in BLM's North Slope Science Initiative. The purpose of the Initiative is to assemble a collection of research on the North Slope that could be used in decision-making efforts. We recommended that BLM give more credence to qualitative research and traditional knowledge because the social implications of oil exploration are inadequately addressed in most EIS processes.

The Arctic Program organized several venues to feature Alaska's Arctic. Many out-of-town groups traveling to the Arctic came to the Center to talk about Arctic issues in more depth. Those groups included the Church of the Brethren and the Sierra Club. Locally, we made presentations to UAF classes and scouting groups.

Our 8th Annual Run for the Refuge was smoked out, but we certainly gained a whole lot of publicity for the Arctic Refuge during the three weeks where we kept postponing the run!! This was also a good year for movie screenings. In both August and October we showed the movie *Oil on Ice* followed up by our planning for an early 2005 screening of *Being Caribou*.

Membership & Communications

Nicole Braem took over the vacant position of Membership and Communications Director in April 2004. She attended the three-part Fundraising for the Future seminar series hosted by Training Resources for the Environmental Community.

In 2004, we published four editions of *The Northern Line*, sent out four renewals and four fund appeal letters. A direct mail acquisition was mailed in November 2004, resulting in 120 new members.

Membership averaged 1050 members over the course of 2004.

We produced a number of postcards, flyers, and mailings for events such as the very popular Northern Authors Series, *Being Caribou* film presentation, and the Run for the Refuge. In addition, we donated our time and expertise to the fledgling group, Copper Country Alliance, by producing a display ad on mineral exploration in the Tangle Lakes area that ran in the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*.

We participated in a list enhancement project with the

Alaska Conservation Alliance and also had our information added to an online volunteer directory.

In addition to communications and development work, this position has the responsibility for the computers and network at the Center. We received a small grant to replace three of the most aged computers here for the Executive Director, Boreal Forest/Local Issues program, and Arctic Program. All computers now have adequate surge protectors/battery backups – a task that became a priority after one machine went down due to a power surge.

Our email lists are now hosted online, making it easier for staff to maintain and post to those on our email alert lists. Older editions of *The Northern Line* are now archived on our website and available to those visiting the site. Website traffic increased dramatically over the course of the year since we began monitoring it using AwStats. By January 2005, we were seeing more than 4,000 unique visitors to the site per month, up from a high of 1,600 in 2004.

Forests

In 2004, logging pressure was relatively low in Interior Alaska's boreal forests, but a record-breaking wildfire season brought up new issues and concerns. These included political pressure to suppress fires that should, from an ecological perspective, be allowed to burn; Division of Forestry's harvest and accounting of burned timber; and construction of a massive fire line intersecting the non-motorized Chena Dome Trail.

As usual, we submitted written comments on timber sales, logging roads, and agency management plans in the Northern Region, and attended and provided comments at meetings of the Board of Forestry. In addition, we took part in meetings of the Alaska Northern Forest Cooperative, a group comprised of public and private forestry researchers, educators, and practitioners.

Potential oil and gas exploration in the Minto Flats remained a concern. We submitted comments opposing seismic exploration in the Minto Flats State Game Refuge and wrote a Guest Opinion on this subject that was published in the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*.

We alerted and educated concerned individuals on a wide range of forest issues via our Boreal Briefs e-mail list, our Local Lists e-mail list, and updated information on our web page.

Local

Early in 2004, working with an unusual coalition of Borough employees, healthcare professionals, auto maintenance workers, and conservationists, we successfully defeated a ballot initiative that would have repealed our

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*2004 Annual Report**Continued from page 18*

local auto emissions testing program and threatened to worsen our local air quality.

Throughout the year, we were active in the Chamber of Commerce, the Rotary Club, the Borough Economic Planning Commission, and at public meetings. We acted as a voice for environmental concerns in planning a long-term vision for the Borough, and many of our ideas and concerns were incorporated into the draft Borough Comprehensive Plan.

In collaboration with other committed community members, we also worked to improve recycling opportunities in the Borough. We gathered information about efforts that have been successful in other communities, markets for recyclables and the economics of recycling, and the infrastructure necessary to implement programs at varying scales. We took part in an ongoing series of meetings between NAEC staff, Interior Alaska Green Star, and the Borough Mayor and his staff, who made a commitment to expanding and improving the program.

Working closely with Alaska Conservation Voters, we activated Fairbanks residents to take part in lobbying, letter-writing, and testifying on important conservation-related and anti-conservation bills in the state legislature, including the Pesticide Right to Know Bill (State Senate Bill 27), which passed in 2005.

Our outreach efforts included not only writing regular e-mail alerts, but also preparing informational displays and using them at Earth Day events, Young Pioneer Days; the spring Migration Celebration; the Tanana Valley State Fair; the Golden Days Parade, on our website, and in our own office.

Mining

Mining Coordinator Mara Bacsujlaky worked with corporate, government and public stakeholders to improve environmental regulation and performance of the mineral industry in Alaska in order to safeguard our pure waters, clean air, and healthy ecosystems for present and future generations of people and wildlife. To meet this goal, she worked diligently to increase accountability of the mining industry and regulatory agencies, expanded the activities of the mining program beyond the Fairbanks area, and enhanced in-house technical capacities.

In aid of the popular Tangle Lakes area, the Mining Program organized a 2,000-strong letter-writing campaign to dissuade the mining company, Anglo American, from optioning claims at Tangle Lakes from Nevada Star. The Program also published in the *Daily New-Miner* an open letter to Edward W. Yarrow, President of Anglo American informing him of citizen opposition to large-scale mining

in the area. The Program helped launch the independent website savetanglelakes.org in support of the citizen's group, Copper Country Alliance.

The Pogo gold mine was the battle royal for 2004. The Northern Center filed an administrative appeal of Teck Cominco's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. Settlement negotiations ensued, during which the Center withdrew its appeal in exchange for:

1. A monitoring approach wherein Teck Cominco will take definitive action before water quality at the mine site drops below Clean Water Act standards.
2. A seven-member citizen's advisory council appointed by the Commissioner of DNR, active throughout the mine's life.
3. A ten-year fish study on the Goodpaster River.
4. The establishment of a formal communications relationship between the NAEC and Teck Cominco that will ensure honest and timely communication.

The new 49-mile road to the mine is closed to public access for the duration of the mine; after the mine life (loosely defined), the road will be open to public access from the Richardson Highway to roughly its half-way point; from that point to the mine, the road will be removed and the road alignment rehabilitated. The mine is due to produce in early 2006.

The Mining Program successfully challenged the Red Dog mine's port expansion and its supporting benefit-cost analysis and monitored the mine's efforts to power their operations with local gas reserves. Additionally, Red Dog continued to be out of compliance with its NPDES permit in the main stem of Red Dog Creek; rather than allow the State to assume control, the Northern Center sought to uphold federal regulatory authority on Red Dog's waste discharge. The Mining Program maintained its seat on ADEC's Red Dog Fugitive Dust Technical Team, and its seat on the Northwest Arctic Transportation Plan working group.

Denali Watch

Healy-based Denali Watch Coordinator Linda Paganelli worked hard to involve local constituents in matters critical to their quality of life. Chief among these efforts was the Stampede Summit, which was a groundbreaking event to assemble a great many stakeholders for a look at their common ground and their common future. The latter parts of 2004 were devoted to planning Stampede Summit II.

Three planning processes resumed their slow trajec-

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tory: the Denali Backcountry Management Plan, the South Denali Implementation Plan, and the North Denali Access Route Reconnaissance Study. Also in 2004, Coal Bed Methane worked its way up the Parks Highway. Denali Watch worked collaboratively with other local and state-wide groups to protect the unique natural landscapes found within Denali and the Alaskan dreams lived by many on the edges of Denali National Park and Preserve.

Camp Habitat

It was another good year for Camp Habitat though not without its share of challenges. We had all new counselors and Junior Counselors this year, but they were an excellent group. The biggest challenge for 2004 was the excessive heat and smoke from wildfires. This became a problem increasingly in July during the Water Striders, Nature Detectives and backpacking trips.

Enrollment was good this year. Overall we had 164 campers out of a possible 182 openings. This was an increase over 2003 enrollment. Both Nature Sprouts sessions were full with short waiting lists for each session. Refuge Adventurers was nearly full. Water Striders had 25 out of the 30 spots filled and Nature Detectives also filled. Introduction to Backpacking only drew five out of eight participants; the White Mountain Explorers had nine registrants, but eight backpackers actually went out on the trip.

This year ACF unexpectedly withdrew its funding for the Camp Habitat Assistant Director/intern at a late date. Fortunately we were able to get the list of interested candidates and hire one of them. NAEC also offered to cover the salary for the intern if we can't cover it from Camp funds.

Lora Seery was an excellent Assistant Director, full of enthusiasm, ideas and always willing to help.

We had an entirely new staff of Instructors and Junior Counselors who were all outstanding. All four counselors stayed for the entire summer and three of the junior counselors did.

We pursued many new funding sources this year with good results. The amount of funds raised from new sources was close to \$4,000 and our total amount from all sources so far was over \$10,000.

Camp Habitat needs a long-range fiscal plan that includes acquiring a more permanent director. Camp loses important experience and historical information each time a director does not return. This is exacerbated if there are also no returning staff. Due to the seasonal nature of camp, I recommend merging the director's position with an already existing position or one to be created that would provide the individual with year round work located at either NAEC or Friends of Creamer's Field.

A big thanks to the Camp Habitat Advisory Board of Susan Grace, Mark Ross, Lizanne Hansen, Becky Hammer, Ritchie Musick, Ruth Prokopowich and Amy Contesti as well as Kelly Scanlon and Arthur Hussey of the Northern Center who guided Camp through the spring, helped with fundraisers and will carry the work on through the winter.

Conservation Abstracts

by Florence Collins, NAEC Member, will return in the next issue of *The Northern Line*; they are available in their entirety at www.northern.org.

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