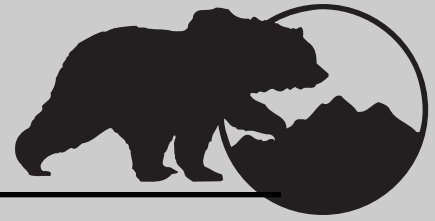


THE NORTHERN LINE



"You forget that the fruits belong to all and that the land belongs to no one." ~ Jean Jacques Rousseau, *Discours sur l'origine et les fondements de l'inégalité parmi les hommes*, 1755



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Membership BBQ

**Friday, July 28, 2006
5 p.m. til whenever it ends!**

At the NAEC Office, 830 College Rd.

Tasty grilled foods for both the carnivorous and vegetarian among us, beverages, live music and games provided by NAEC. Come meet the board, staff and fellow members. Side dishes are welcome.

For more info, call 452-5021

THE NORTHERN LINE

Environmental News of Arctic and Interior Alaska

The Northern Line is published quarterly by the Northern Alaska Environmental Center (NAEC), 830 College Rd., Fairbanks, Alaska 99701, info@northern.org, www.northern.org. Copyright © 2006 by NAEC. All rights reserved. Subscription rate is \$33 annually and includes membership. We encourage letters and articles to be submitted for publication. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. The Northern Alaska Environmental Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

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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Front Page photo: "Marsh Creek at Midnight," a view across the coastal plain area threatened by oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from the Beaufort Sea to the Sadlerochit Mountains. Photo (copyright symbol) Jeff Jones, www.lumnos.com by Jeff Jones.

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Your contribution is fully tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Thank you for your support.

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

A Letter to our Members

By David van den Berg
Executive Director



Ah, spring time. The North is under the sun and the land rouses loudly from a long quiet. This spring, like birch in good soil on a south slope, our organizational sap is rising.

This year, the Northern Center celebrates its 35th Anniversary. Fairbanksans formed this action group in 1971 to voice a unique northern perspective on conservation. The logic was plain then and the fact is now well-established: conservation belongs in Alaska. The right and caring impulse to protect this Great Land has been here a long time, and thirty-five years ago, our pioneering forbearers made it manifest in the Fairbanks Environmental Center. Ever since, the Northern Center has been holding the northern line.

The need for a local voice – a local steward – has only grown in thirty five years. Times are tough all over the country these days as we resist rollbacks to laws that protect our environment and ensure public processes that are the highest expression of American democracy. We face a strong and daunting countercurrent, and while it is tempting to let the heads of state go ahead and create the world they think they want, the truth is, the heads of state need us. In 2006 as in 1971, we find that if we ask the right questions about Alaska's future, we encourage the best outcome for Alaska and Alaskans.

Questions can raise problems, and problems beg solution. We have four programs whose work it is to raise questions (and adjust the volume to fit the circumstance) in pursuit of well-considered and just public policy and legislation. The Arctic, Mining, and Local & Forestry programs are joined in 2006 by the Community Organizer whose job it is to act on Alaska legislative issues and increase our grassroots capacity.

Also in 2006, the Northern Center added a fifth program. The Youth Education Director is a full-time position devoted to building capacity for Camp Habitat and to carrying the Camp Habitat curriculum into Borough and area schools.

***Times are tough all over the country
these days as we resist rollbacks to laws
that protect our environment and ensure
public processes that are the highest
expression of American democracy.***

Housing five program staff, two summer interns, the Camp Habitat Director, and three administrative staff – eleven of us in all – is not the sardine trick you might think. Thanks to a sustained push by the Northern Center's Board of Directors and an overwhelming volunteer effort, we have added three new offices in what was a garage.

As the Northern Center enters its 35th year, we are mindful of our history as we chart our future. If we are the birch in good Alaskan soil, we still need the rain – and we thank all of you for the nourishment you give to this organization. Thank you. Have a great summer.

Largest crude oil spill occurs in North Slope oil fields

Leak detection system failure leads to 267,000 gallon spill

The largest crude oil spill in the North Slope oil fields occurred when a pipeline leaked for at least five days before it was discovered on March 2, 2006.

A leak detection system failed to function, and up to 267,000 gallons of oil spread across two acres and into the edge of a lake. The Alaska Department of Environmental

Conservation's investigation into the spill could result in BP being fined more than \$2 million.



Largest crude oil spill ever in North Slope oil fields, March 2006.

Photo by Unified Command (GC-2 Oil transit line release)

The Environmental Protection Agency is currently conducting a criminal investigation into BP's management of pipeline corrosion, the recent spill and whether BP has violated the Clean Water Act. EPA is also investigating poor pipeline practices dealing with corrosion on the Trans-Alaska pipeline.

The record increasingly suggests that BP does not operate the North Slope oil fields in a safe and environmentally sound manner, as documented in "BP North Slope spill reveals a history of substandard environmental performance," by Richard A. Fineberg, an independent Alaskan expert on oil and gas issues. You can find it at: www.alaskaforum.org. 🌱

Sources:

"State to fine BP for Prudhoe spill." Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, April 6, 2006.

"BP's Pipeline Problems spur U.S. Criminal Probe." Wall Street Journal, April 6, 2006.

"Analyst: Alyeska falsified reports, Whistle-blower says he was forced out after cooperating with federal investigators." Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, April 5, 2006.

Arctic Refuge Fight Continues

Bush and Senate budgets call for revenue from Refuge lease sales

The backdoor budget battle for the Arctic Refuge has begun in earnest again this year.

It began with President George W. Bush's budget, unveiled on February 6, 2006, that assumed the Arctic Refuge coastal plain would be leased to oil companies for \$7 billion... despite his acknowledgement in the prior week of America's addiction to oil.

The Senate version of the budget also assumed revenue from lease sales and contained a single issue reconciliation instruction on Arctic Refuge drilling that would prohibit a filibuster. The Senate narrowly passed the budget resolution 51 to 49 on March 16.

Thanks to strong support from 24 moderate Republicans who sent a letter to the Budget Committee chairman, the House budget resolution was released March 30, 2006 as a clean bill with no Arctic Refuge drilling revenue assumptions or instructions, and it passed on May 18, 2006. The ultimate fate of the budget bill is anyone's guess, but it is clear that drilling in the Refuge is a poison pill to any budget in the House.

NAEC volunteers made over 1,200 phone calls to activists in the Lower 48 asking them to contact their legislators. We must keep up the pressure as energy bills face Congress, but this is a good start for the year.

In their quest to open the refuge to oil drilling, the Alaska Legislature passed a bill that would give \$3.75 million to Arctic Power and the Oregon public relations firm Pac-West for their lobbying efforts in 20 to 30 Congressional districts in the Lower 48.

The obsession of a few politicians has distracted us long enough from finding real energy solutions that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions and keep America competitive. Energy experts agree that the best ways to reduce our dependence on foreign oil are to make cars go farther on a gallon of gas and invest in clean renewable energy. 🌱



Photo by Pamela A. Miller

Interior Department to Lease Teshekpuk Lake

Still time to protect most important wildlife habitat

Pamela A. Miller

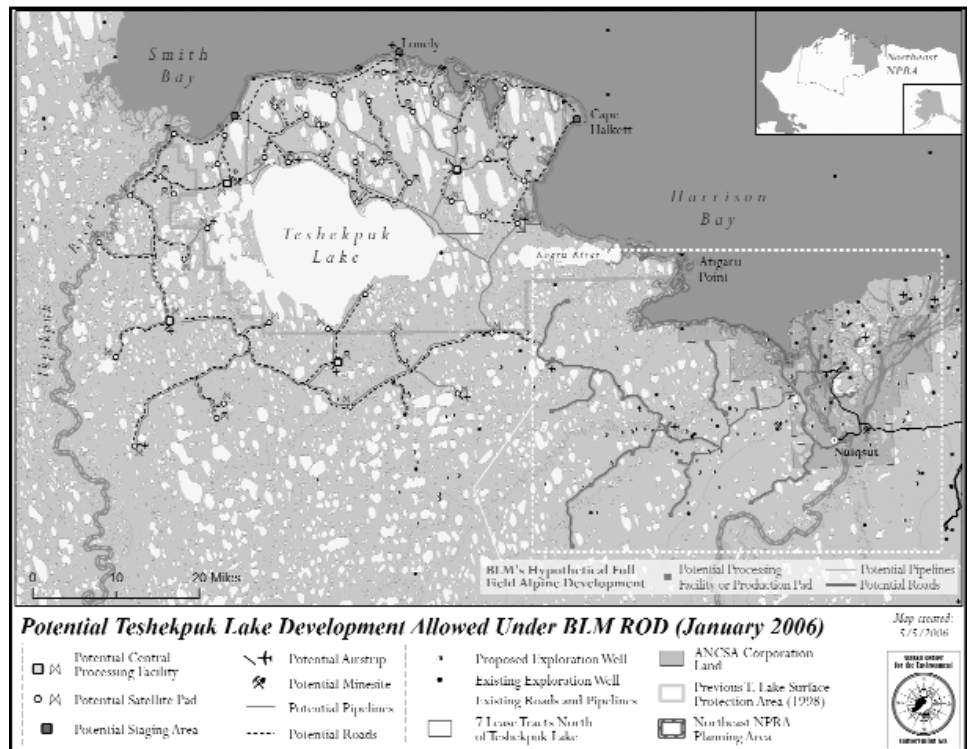
In Alaska's Arctic, there is no greater advocate for the Bush administration's National Energy Strategy than the BLM. Since 1998, the BLM has developed management plans for some 13 million acres of federal land within the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska with the intent to maximize oil production. With a striking can-do approach, the BLM has made available for oil and gas leasing 12 million of those acres of public land – an area twice the size of Vermont.

While we acknowledge that the NPR-A is a petroleum reserve, we have consistently made the case to BLM that while addressing America's need for oil from de facto wilderness and subsistence lands, they can also legally protect important, sensitive, known wildlife and wild land values. But they have chosen not to.

In January 2006, the Interior Department released its Record of Decision on the amended Environmental Impact Statement for the Northeast National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. The earlier EIS, completed in 1998, made available 87% of the Northeast planning area to oil and gas leasing; the amended plan establishes an indefinite lease deferral for the waters of Teshekpuk Lake but makes available 100% of the Teshekpuk Lake goose molting and caribou calving areas. The Record of Decision also weakened the stipulations that govern leasing and drilling with the result that buffer zones are smaller and open to industrial infrastructure like roads and pipelines.

The BLM's actions in the arctic are so excessive that the Northern Center and other groups had to file a NEPA lawsuit on the Final EIS nearly a year ago when that document was first released; an updated complaint was filed in May, 2006.

Even former Secretary of the Interior James Watt – infamous for his disregard for our environment – did not lease the core goose molting grounds. We will continue to fight the lease sale. Please add your voice: www.savetlake.org



The Bureau of Land Management has begun planning for the third and final of the three planning areas – the 9.2 million acre Southern NPR-A. The Southern Planning Area includes the Utukok Uplands and Colville River "Special Areas." Here we find mountains, foothills, fantastic rivers, dense grizzly and wolverine populations, and the critical calving and insect-relief habitat for Alaska's largest caribou herd. Roughly 40 villages in northwest Alaska depend on this herd for their subsistence needs. The area has low oil potential, middling gas potential, coal and base metals (the area is presently closed to mineral entry). Coming to terms with this diverse resource profile, the BLM is considering how it can give "maximum protection" to known surface values in this area, since it has already committed the rest of the petroleum reserve to oil companies. The stakes are high – as are public expectations for real protections – and BLM knows it. Stay tuned.

The Northern Center contributed to *National Geographic's* May 2006 foldout map of the North Slope, *The Selling of Alaska*. Please visit <http://www.ngm.com/0605>

Arctic Program Welcomes New Staff



Crystal Frank
Arctic Intern

My name is Crystal Frank, I am Di'haii Gwich'in from Arctic Village and Venetie, Alaska. I am the spring intern at the Northern Alaska Environmental Center. I am here because I have an interest in protecting the birthing grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd in the Arctic Refuge. I also have an opportunity to share my

Gwich'in culture in reference to how oil development on the Arctic Refuge jeopardizes our survival as a people. I also want to bring home information about other environmental issues. I'll be receiving my bachelor's degree in Rural Development at UAF this fall and this internship is helping me to reach my goal.



Pamela A. Miller,
Arctic Coordinator

I moved back to Fairbanks on Martin Luther King's Birthday. On the 400 mile transition from Anchorage, the radio linked me to ideas at the heart of conservation – Justice, Community, God's creation – as I thought about my goals for NAEC work.

Denali loomed huge down the highway. Spruce spires reached toward brightening

stars. The landscape opened before me, the wild broken by few lights, and I filled with hope that we could treat the land and each other with respect.

My first job in Alaska was as a biologist at Denali National Park in 1981, the year after ANILCA passed. The next summer, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge tempted me more. Working on a tundra shorebird study, I was hooked forever on that burst of life when birds arrive from five continents, the caribou calve, and wildflowers fill river bars.

On the radio, Mary McPartland's Piano Jazz played a piece inspired by Rachel Carson who launched the environmental movement with *Silent Spring*, explaining how pesticides accumulate up the food chain, and her most

basic lesson – everyone has the right to know what is in the air we breathe, the food we eat, the soil at our feet. The piano player described Carson's *Sense of Wonder* and the importance of childhood curiosity about the natural world.

Over the past ten years, I guided many VIP leaders to see the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge. Their eyes brightened while camping in the vast landscape as they understood what was really at stake with this wilderness. Senator Lincoln Chafee (R-RI) saw wild grizzlies lumber along the Katakturuk River where oil drilling is proposed and then saw "Toby the bear" at Prudhoe Bay, a dumpster diver who was later shot. Senator Chafee stood up to Senator Stevens during an Arctic Refuge drilling debate and told this story.

On *Fresh Air*, Terry Gross reminded Americans that the day Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated, he presided over a march for sanitation workers where violence broke out, saboteurs broke windows, and there was fighting within the civil rights movement. The burden was always on MLK: was this the right tactic? Would the next march be non-violent? The stakes are so hard, the battles for the land are long, too.

In 1988, the Gwich'in Nation gathered together in Gwich'in Nintsyaa, and after days of meetings in Arctic Village came to a decision in their traditional way to oppose oil and gas development in the "1002" area of the Arctic Refuge and support wilderness designation in order to protect the calving and nursery grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd. The elders directed their people to form the Gwich'in Steering Committee and to educate the world in a good way with no compromise on the issue.

Americans believe some places are so special that they should not be drilled. Today, the refuge is a symbol of more than our last great wilderness. The refuge is our national promise that wildlife refuges are a place where wildlife comes first, but also that we need to get serious about clean, renewable energy sources that can reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

In 1964, Rachel Carson wrote in *The Sea Around Us* that climate change was altering the oceans. This year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is considering listing the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act due to the factors of global warming changing their habitat, oil and gas development, and other threats.

As I continue my drive north, the big dipper is full, the seven sisters hug together, Orion steps up to the east. Politicians back in DC talk about winter's darkness as if there is total absence of life, ignoring tracks of rabbit, lynx, and raven. Close your eyes, dreams light up.

I spent the last ten years presiding over Arctic Connections, a consulting business that researched impacts of the oil and gas industry on the North Slope and wrote reports like *Broken Promises: The Reality of Big Oil in America's Arctic*.

We must do our homework, get our scientific facts right. But information alone will not save special places like the Arctic Refuge or Teshekpuk Lake, nor will it compel the U.S. to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions. We need to build communities of people who take action, stick with it, use their creativity, and above all, bring hope for the future. We can frame our issues in a way that connects with what most everyone cares about: clean air, clean water, and Alaska's wild lands.

Martin Luther King wrote that as the first group left for the bus on the Freedom Rides and sang "We Shall Overcome," he saw the real meaning of the movement for civil rights. He said, "students had faith in the future... the

movement was based on hope, this movement had something within it that says somehow even though the arc of the moral universe is long, it bends toward justice... Before the victory is won, some will lose jobs, some will be called communists, and reds, merely because they believe in brotherhood, some will be dismissed as dangerous rabble rousers and agitators merely because they're standing up for what is right."

I returned to Fairbanks at this half-century point in my life to be part of a strong community and mentor the next generation of champions who will inspire the world with hope and commitment to save special places for the generations and who will build a vision of renewable energy for Alaska to sustain our communities, large and small, and the wild lands. 🌿

Arctic Ocean Drilling Threats Increase

In February 2006, The Interior Department announced plans for the first oil and gas lease sale in the Chukchi Sea since 1991.

This will add to existing exploration and development activity in the Beaufort Sea, where additional federal and state lease sales are continuing.

The Interior Department also unveiled its five-year plan for 2007-2012, which contains nine more Alaskan lease sales. The Bristol Bay area (North Aleutians Basin), where lease sales are currently forbidden under a 1990 presidential moratorium originally is under consideration for leasing. Shell Oil and other companies plan to conduct disruptive seismic surveys this summer in Bristol Bay, the Chukchi Sea and the Beaufort Sea – which will include surveys off the Arctic Refuge coast.

This year the state of Alaska will offer another lease sale in the Beaufort Sea waters within three-miles of shore from the Canadian border to Barrow.

Spill cleanup drills in 1999-2000 proved that oil cannot be cleaned up during broken ice conditions in the Beaufort Sea. If a major spill took place, it could be devastating for polar bears, bowhead whales, Inupiat subsistence hunters and sensitive shorelines across the arctic coast. 🌿



Photo by Pamela A. Miller

Camp Habitat Summer 2006

An Outdoor Education & Ecology Camp for Youth ages 4 - 17



Camp Habitat Schedule

Outdoor Education & Ecology for Youth ages 4 - 17

Pre- School Program: 9 am - Noon

- Nature Sprouts I (ages 4 - 5) June 19 - 23 \$105
- Nature Sprouts II (ages 4 - 5) June 26 - 30 \$105

Day Camp Programs: 9am - 4pm

- Nature Detectives I (ages 6 - 7) July 17 - 21 \$175
- Nature Detectives II (ages 6 - 7) July 24 - 28 \$175
- Water Striders (ages 8 - 9) July 17 - 21 \$200
- Water Striders II (ages 8 - 9) July 10 - 14 \$200
- Refuge Adventurers (ages 10 - 11) July 10 - 14 \$200

Backpacking Programs:

- Backpacking I (ages 12 - 13) July 26 - 30 \$275
- Backpacking II (ages 13 - 15) July 10 - 14 \$300
- Backpacking III (ages 15 - 17) July 24 - 29 \$300

Registration Information

Three easy ways to register!

- 1) **Online** at www.northern.org
- 2) **In person** at the Northern Center.
- 3) **By mail:** just send in the registration form on the back of our brochure.

Call: (907) 452-5021 ext. 32

Email: camphabitat@northern.org

Both Camp Habitat & Camp Habitat After School benefit from community support. To contribute or volunteer, please contact Laenne Thompson at laenne@northern.org.



Hike at Creamer's Field Summer 2005



Backpackers in the White Mountains Summer 2005

Have you heard?! Camp Habitat also has an After School Program?!

At 4 schools in Fairbanks, staff offered a variety of nature & outdoor education activities during the winter 2006 semester. We look forward to continuing the program for the 2006-07 school year!

Camp Habitat Wish List 2006

Summer Camp Needs

Equipment

- 4 four to six person tents with good rain flies
- 4 backpacking tents
- 1 large tarp for camp site to shield rain and sun
- Several small backpacks for youth (not day packs)
- Water filters and replacement cartridges for water filters
- Bear spray (2 -3 cans)
- Epi pens (4 or 5)

Supplies Needed

- Rope of all sizes and lengths
- 2 small hand brooms for sweeping out tents
- Hammer
- Bag stuffer for grocery bags
- Small paint brushes
- Fimo Dough (blue, green, white)
- Eye droppers (12 or more)
- Feathers (legally obtained)
- White yogurt containers/white margarine tubs (20 each)
- 14 gallon Rubbermaid tubs with lids (5-7)
- Colored chalk
- Colored pencils
- Clear and colored 2-liter bottles (lots)
- Aquarium nets (5-10)
- 4-6" kitchen strainers (10 or more)
- Paper towel and gift wrap tubes
- Toilet paper rolls
- Egg cartons
- Cereal Boxes
- Poster board
- Cloth (felt, cotton, etc)



Granite Tors Trekkers 2005

Non-perishable Food for Overnight Campouts & Backpacking Trips

- Dried fruit & nuts (*apples, banana chips, Craisins, Peanuts, Almonds, Cranberries, Raisins, etc.*)
- Oatmeal
- Jell-O Instant cheesecakes, pudding (*chocolate, vanilla, pistachio, etc.*)
- Cereal
- Freeze-dried eggs
- Flour tortillas
- Crackers
- Peanut butter
- Instant mashed potatoes
- Vegetable soup mix
- Mac 'n Cheese
- Spaghetti
- Chocolate bars

Books

- *Keepers of Life, Keepers of Animals, Keepers of Night, Keepers of the Earth* By Joseph Bruchac and Michael J. Caduto

5 copies each of these field guides:

- Field Guide to Mammals
- Field Guide to Alaskan Birds
- Field Guide to Plants
- Field Guide to Alaskan Wildflowers

Supplies

- Clean plastic 1 gallon milk jugs
- TV/DVD player
- DVD: Prehistoric America (BBC Productions)
- Snowshoes
- Shovels

High Tech Items

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



Digital microscope and iBook

Camp Habitat **Thanks Susan Grace, Camp Founder**

Susan Grace came to Alaska in 1984 with her dog and whatever her car could carry. She was already a long-time environmental educator, having worked as a junior counselor at summer camps starting at age 15. She sought opportunities to teach in Alaska and eventually worked with Campfire, where she met two of Camp Habitat's current backpacking instructors.

Susan dreamt of an environmental education program based in Fairbanks, and, in 1990, she made it happen by running a camp out of her house! It was the first program of its kind in the area and was received so well by the community that the following year at the Friends of Creamer's Field Spring Migration Celebration, parents were lined up in lawn chairs to register their children for the 1991 camp session! Susan also saw the potential for building bridges between three key organizations: Friends of Creamer's Field, the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (they manage Creamer's Field Waterfowl Refuge), and the Northern Alaska Environmental Center. Camp Habitat now has an advisory board made up of members from each of the three sponsoring agencies, and there are plans to bring

on two youth members. The program has grown to serve almost 200 youth each summer! Camp Habitat plays an important role in educating youth about conservation and giving youth a sense of place by offering opportunities to learn the natural history and ecology of the area.

This year Camp Habitat grew its way into the after school sector. **Katherine Helmuth**, a VISTA Volunteer, came aboard and launched the Camp Habitat After School Program. The program takes place at four area schools (two elementary schools and two middle schools). Susan oriented Katherine to Camp Habitat by describing the structure and showing her available resources, and Katherine developed curriculum that would meet the academic standards of the school-based programs. Youth have done a variety of projects and activities already this semester, including building quin-zhees (snow shelters), setting up bird feeder stations, creating worm farms, and examining nature close up with our new digital microscopes. Youth regularly go on short hikes, observe animal tracks and learn tree identification. Camp Habitat looks forward to continuing the after school program for many years to come.

Left to Right

Laenne Thompson

Youth Education Director

Katherine Helmuth

VISTA Volunteer

Jenny Day

Camp Habitat Director

Susan Grace Stoltz,

Camp Habitat Founder



Camp Habitat **Thanks Susan Grace, continued**

In hopes of sustaining Susan's success with Camp Habitat, the Northern Center created a new Youth Education Director position and hires **Laenne Thompson** to manage and fundraise for both Camp Habitat and Camp Habitat After School.

Jenny Day was hired as the 2006 Camp Habitat Director, so she will be seeking to distill and preserve the key experiences from all the years and directors before her. Susan has been a major help so far—bringing documents, offering to give tours and providing a history of the camp and its culture.

This will be Susan's last year officially helping out with Camp Habitat (though we know she'll always be a resource to us!) and we owe a great deal to her vision and hard work. Susan has helped the Northern Center in many ways over the years—she was a featured performer in the 2006 Northern Voices series and she's contributed to the annual auction. We thank Susan for 16 years of support to Camp Habitat and for carving out a place for youth environmental education in Interior Alaska! 🌿



Laenne Thompson, Youth Education Director, moved in March to Alaska from Michigan where she worked at the High/Scope Educational Research Foundation in the Youth Development Group. She holds a B.S. from the School of Natural Resources & Environment at the University of Michigan. Laenne enjoys cooking, photography, electronic music, anything Italian, foreign films, modern art, organic farming, camping, hiking and dogs.



Jenny Day, Camp Habitat Director, graduated with a B.A. in Environmental Science focusing in Sustainable Agriculture and Environmental Education in 2003. She recently moved to Alaska from Maine where she was learning how to spin wool and raise sheep and goats. She is very excited to have recently joined the Northern Center in March and hopes the summer programs at Camp Habitat will run beautifully. Jenny loves to weld, print, cook, garden, play music, backpack, and drink tea.

Farewell from our VISTA Volunteer, *Katherine Helmuth*

"VISTA Volunteer" has been at the end of my correspondence for three years now. Sadly this will be my last opportunity to do this, because Americorps VISTA only allows a person to be a volunteer for three years. In that time many people have asked me "What is VISTA?" And I have explained it as simply as I could, "It's like the domestic Peace Corps." Only a few people have needed further explanation.

Few have asked why I was doing this. I chose each of these VISTA opportunities with different personal goals in mind. My first VISTA experience was the one that brought me to Fairbanks. While the work itself was not as rewarding as I had hoped I did find something I had spent years looking for; a place that felt like home. During my second year as a VISTA Volunteer I worked in the Borough planning department helping to create the comprehensive plan. While it brought me a great deal of satisfaction for the skills I was able to use and being part of a large and noble project, my personal objective was to get to know more about this community I now called home.

Throughout this year I had the chance to use some of my strongest professional skills and find growth in others. I also got to meet some amazing people in our community. I achieved the project goal of expanding Camp Habitat into the schools through the after school programs and created

a curriculum specifically for the program. I truly believe very strongly in environmental education and the need for everyone to understand the local ecology and how we affect it and vice versa.

I believe strongly in programs and opportunities like Americorps and VISTA. Being a VISTA volunteer means bringing vital talent to help alleviate poverty. VISTA volunteers create programs and tools that help people overcome the problems of poverty in their communities. I would like to encourage anyone who is looking for a way to help themselves as well as their community to look into becoming an Americorps or VISTA volunteer.

As for me; I am part of the community now. Fairbanks is home. I plan to find new ways to use my skills and find more personal growth. As always, I plan to stay in touch with the people I have worked with during this great project.

If you want more information about becoming an Americorps VISTA volunteer you can contact me at:

Katsnipoys@yahoo.com or check out the Americorps VISTA website: <http://www.americorps.org>. 🌿

Conservation Successes in the State Legislature

Rob Cadmus, Community Organizer

The 2006 Alaska State Legislature debated more than oil taxes and the gas pipeline, and the Northern Alaska Environmental Center has kept a watchful eye on the Capitol to ensure the environmental movement has a say on important legislation. You help and activism led to some successes in Juneau!

Climate Change Bill Passes! (HCR 30)

Finally the State of Alaska recognizes that climate change is a serious issue! HCR 30, sponsored by Rep. Joule (D-Kotzebue) and Sen. Olson (D-Nome), is the first steps to addressing the impacts of climate change. Among other items, HCR 30 creates a commission to examine what impacts climate change is having on our environment and economy.

Dalton Highway Protections Upheld in Committee

In an effort to extend constitutional protections to off-road vehicles (ORVs) for the purpose of public access to public lands, State Senator Ralph Seekins (R-Fairbanks) tried through SB85 to remove a long-standing regulation that protects the wilderness hunting opportunities and subsistence uses along the Dalton Highway Corridor. Local residents, hunters, scientists, truckers, tour operators, and conservationists alike fought this short-sighted bill and showed up in force at public hearings held around the state last year. Their voices were strong and all felt joyriding over the tundra wasn't responsible and stressed that there is plenty of access to the area. Anyone can walk, ski, hunt, mush, or even boat in the corridor.

SB85 would have created problems that Senator Seekins was careful not to address in his bill's language. SB85 included no funding for ORV management, leaving others to deal with the consequences, leaving others to fund creation of new land management plans. The bill called for no additional funding for State Troopers – there is only one, lone patrolman for the entire Dalton. The modern ORV hunter will create conflicts between bow hunters and back-country rifle hunters, and destroy the locals' subsistence way of life, yet there was no funding for additional agency responsibilities. Scientists at a University of Alaska field station, who have long conducted research in the corridor, stand to lose their work through the single pass of a wayward vehicle.



Rob Cadmus, community organizer, celebrates the defeat of SB85.
Photo by NAEC

Somehow the bill survived to the end of the session, until it was voted-down 3-2 by the House Transportation Committee.

New Stampede Road Funding Removed from Capital Budget

Governor Frank Murkowski has long hoped to build a north access road to Denali National Park, and last year he managed to kick-started his pet project with a \$5 million appropriation in the state budget for the Stampede Road "Improvement" Project. This year, he hoped to appropriate an additional \$9 million in the Capital Budget for the "improvements," but residents of the Stampede Road had another idea.

The Denali Borough Mayor & Assembly, the Planning Commission, Panguingue Creek Homeowners Association, the National Park Service, Representative David Guttenberg, and many local landowners and tourism businesses came out against the project funding. The "improvements" would have constructed a 12-foot wide "Pioneer Road" along the Stampede Trail (near Healy), which is currently used by hikers, skiers, bikers, and ORVs. The road would be extended from 8-mile Lake to the Savage River or however far the money would get them. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (ADOT) never knew exactly where the road would be built (they applied for a 1000 foot wide easement to construct a 12 foot wide road). There was also confusion with the intent behind building this road. Although the governor insists this project can stand alone by providing access to state land, State Legislators and ADOT admit the project is linked to north access to Denali National Park. ADOT Commissioner Mike Barton even suggested the road would be the beginning of a connecting route to McGrath! This would involve pushing all the way through Denali National Park.

The state's failure to properly consult with the local people and the National Park Service left many sore. Local sentiment holds that last year's \$5 million and this year's \$9 million appropriation could be better spent fixing and upgrading local roads and facilities like campgrounds, viewing areas, rest stops, and bike paths. As it is, however, the \$9 million was removed from the Capital Budget due to sustained public pressure! Good work everyone! The road project is still not dead, however. Stay tuned.

Mixing Zone Prohibition Fails (HB 328)

This was a good bill we hoped would pass on the strength of the many good reasons to protect water quality in Alaska. Designed to correct the Governor's recent release of permissive new rules on mixing zones, the bill had a hard swim upstream and ultimately failed.

Sponsored by Representative Paul Seaton (R-Homer), HB 328 was a concise and common sense bill that would have prohibited mixing zones in freshwater spawning waters. However, Representative Jay Ramras (R-Fairbanks), Chairman of the House Resources Committee, indefinitely tabled the bill, apparently concerned for the impact the bill would have on industrial-scale mining operations. He later stated the decision was because the bill could harm placer miners in the Interior, despite the fact that an amendment to exempt placer miners from an outright ban on mixing zones was added. Testimony on behalf of the bill was overwhelmingly in favor; only the Alaskan Mining Association came out against it.

Mixing zones, AKA "Sacrifice Zones", are plumes of pollution that exceed water quality standards to allow toxins to mix with water, embracing the false impression that "dilution is the solution to pollution". Up until January of this year, state regulations explicitly prohibited mixing zones in freshwater areas where fish spawn, but the Murkowski Administration pushed the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation to adopt new short-sighted regulations for mixing zones. These regulations do not protect fish species that are very important to the Interior and the Arctic, such as Arctic Grayling, Arctic Char, Northern Pike, Whitefish, and Rainbow Trout. These regulations and Ramras' decision to shelve HB 328 now allow mining companies to unnecessarily pollute our clean, fresh water and important spawning areas.

Check out the Alaska Conservation Voters' website:

www.acvoters.org. 🌱

Recycling Update

By Nancy Fresco, Local Issues Coordinator

The Fairbanks North Star Borough is hoping to do less burying and bulldozing, and more sorting and saving.

On behalf of the Borough, MACTEC, an independent consulting firm, has completed a preliminary assessment of the options available for a large-scale expansion of local recycling capabilities. Our community is faced with some challenges due to our remote land-locked location, our relatively small and scattered population, and our unusual trash collection system, in which 50 percent of waste is delivered to transfer stations by individuals, 20 percent is collected by the City of Fairbanks, the university, or the local military bases, and 30 percent is hauled to the landfill by businesses.

However, these factors do not put an effective program outside our reach.

Based on the report from MACTEC, the Borough has several options available for comment. It will likely take up the question of funding for recycling efforts this summer. The most inclusive option focuses on collecting commingled high-value recyclables – including aluminum, white paper, newspaper, corrugated cardboard, other (mixed) paper, white HDPE plastic (e.g. milk jugs), colored HDPE (e.g. detergent bottles), and PET plastic (e.g. pop bottles) – and sorting them at a central Borough facility for transport to markets in Seattle.

The Borough would also continue existing programs, including hazardous waste collection, junk car and scrap metal collection, and reuse stations at transfer sites. Furthermore, sorting of wastes might help catalyze local businesses that could use recyclables for manufacturing products such as cellulose insulation.

Public education is a key component of any successful plan. Even if we can't recycle everything, we can try to get everyone recycling. 🌱

To learn more:

Peruse the Borough's Recycling Plan and Analysis online under "Hot Topics" at <http://www.co.fairbanks.ak.us/>

To comment:

If you are a local resident and would like to weigh in on this issue, please send your comments directly to Mayor Jim Whitaker and his chief of staff Bob Shefchik at mayor@co.fairbanks.ak.us and bshefchik@co.fairbanks.ak.us

Stampede Road removed from Capital Budget

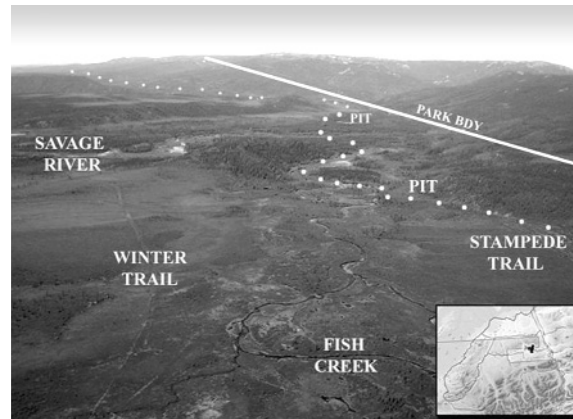
Murkowski may still push ahead with Stampede "Improvement"

By Cathy Lieser, DCC Community Organizer

Governor Murkowski last year appropriated \$5 million to study and then build a pioneer road through a remote community. This spring, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources processed permits for a construction easement and materials sites to build that road. Also, this spring, the Governor came back to the legislature for an additional \$9 million to build his road. It seemed the Stampede Road would be built.

Small in conception, the road would be a 12 foot wide pioneer road from the end of the existing Stampede Road at 8-Mile Lake to the Savage River and beyond to the eastern boundary of Denali National Park. Unnecessary and oppressively-planned, the Stampede "improvement" was opposed by the vast majority of local residents, the Denali Borough Mayor, the Planning Commission, the Assembly, Panguingue Creek Home Owners, Denali National Park and Rep. David Guttenberg. The legislature caught the tide and removed \$9 million from the Capital Budget.

But what will the Governor do with the balance of last year's \$5 million appropriation? With politicians, past performance is a predictor of results, so we expect the Governor to hastily construct a pioneer's pioneer road until the money runs out. Denali Citizens Council, (DCC), a grassroots organization striving to protect Denali National Park and its environs, has declared this project to be premature until the North Denali Access Reconnaissance Study is released this summer. This Alaska Department of Transportation study will determine potential feasible routes.



Aerial view of the area of the proposed Stampede "Improvement."

The Stampede extension is an expression of Governor Murkowski's mission to build a road into Denali National Park to reach Kantishna – or a road even farther west. (We have long argued that this access project will damage valuable habitat and is not the best way to promote tourism in the Denali area.) So we must remain vigilant this summer lest the Governor build the road overnight.

We will track the Stampede "Improvement" Project now that it has been partially unfunded by the legislature. If the project is still going to move forward, DCC will request a public hearing on the wetland permits. We hope for optimum public input in this process.

For more information contact us at mail@denalicitizens.org or visit our website at www.denalicitizens.org

Run for the Refuge

August 20 • UAF Patty Center • 5k and 10k Courses

For more information contact us 452-5021.

Raise awareness about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Thank Yous

We thank you for volunteering multiple times, but we only list your name once.

Volunteers for the Winter/Spring 2006 ANWR Phone Bank

Andy Keller for organizing the volunteers who made over 1,200 phone calls on the Arctic Refuge to activists in the Lower 48 during March - May from their homes and at NAEC's pizza parties.

- Betsy Chronic
- John Davis
- Carrie Dershin
- Kim Fackler
- Kerynn Fischer
- Jim Hunter
- Jeff Jones
- Fran Mauer
- Sean McGuire
- Debbie Miller
- David Mollett
- Jan Ohmstede
- Larry & Miriam Paquin
- Tom Paragi
- Kari Peterson
- Marilyn Richardson
- Don Ross
- Carol Scott
- Pam Seiser
- Karen Toland
- Jane Trainor

- Nancy Wood
- Andy Reynolds
- Mary Stark
- Robert Weeden
- Celeste Leroux
- Jim Chumbley
- Lane Thompson
- Dorothy Thompson.
- Rob Cadmus
- Mary Zalar

More volunteers to be thanked!

Thanks to Volunteers

- Meadow Landry
- Colin McConnel
- Joanna Phillips
- Jane Trainor
- Susan Willsrud

Building Volunteers

- Jon Miller
- Stan Justice
- Bill Holman
- Ian Wright
- Al Guggisberg
- Ray Halderman
- Michael Armstrong
- Sam Fox
- Gary Newman

Callers for Stampede Road Phone bank

- Terry Glendinning
- Gail Mayo
- Kaarle Straily
- Natalie Monacci
- Jon Miller
- Julie Raymond -Yakoubian

Thanks for taking part in TREC's "360" stakeholder survey

- Leah Sansone
- Kerynn Fisher
- Kelly Hill Scanlon
- Ken Whitten and Mary Zalar
- Frank Keim
- Sean McGuire
- April Crosby
- Dan O'Neill
- Mara Bacsujlaky
- Roger Kaye
- Deborah Williams
- Carol Kasza
- Brian Rogers
- Richard Fineberg
- Carol McIntyre
- Jon Miller
- Rodney Guritz
- Eli Sonafrank

For heavy lifting during Pamela A. Miller's move to Fairbanks

Ritchie Musick, Bill Holman, William Walters, Sam and Danny Dashevsky, Tako Reynolds, Lois Epstein, Dorothy and Bob Childers, and Mathew Gilbert.

For housing during meetings

Ellen Maling and Lois Epstein in Anchorage, and in Beaver and Arctic Village, Cliff Adams and Fanny Gemmill. Thanks also to Chief Selina Petruska (Beaver), Chief Marjorie Gemmill (Arctic Village) and Gwichyaa Zhee Tribal Government's second Chief and Executive Director Nancy James (Fort Yukon) for welcoming us to their communities for oil and gas workshops.

Camp Habitat After School thanks

- Craig Helmuth
- David Valentine
- Dateline Printing
- Arctic Audubon

And a special thanks to the 140 respondents to our member survey. Thank you for the 40% response rate!

Calendar

July 22

NAEC float in the Golden Days Parade

NAEC float Theme: "Pioneers and Picnics." Want to represent the farthest north environmental group in the U.S and bask in the fun-filled parade atmosphere? Contact us at info@northern.org.

July 28

Members' Barbecue, 5 p.m. until ? at the NAEC offices, 830 College Rd.

Come share some fine grilled food for both the omnivorous and vegetarians at our annual meet-and-greet for members, staff, and board. Side dishes are welcome, beverages, games and live music provided by NAEC. For more information call 452-5021 or contact info@northern.org

Aug. 4 – Aug. 12

Northern Center booth at the Tanana Valley State Fair

Theme: "Diamonds are Fair-Ever." We still need volunteers to help staff the booth! Please contact us at info@northern.org

Aug. 20

Run for the Refuge

Run (or walk) to raise awareness about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The 5K and 10K courses begin at the UAF Patty Center. Same day registration begins at noon. Dogs on leashes are welcome. For more information contact us 452-5021.

Nov. 11

NAEC Annual Fundraising Auction at Wedgewood Resort

Join us for an evening of fun and fundraising at one of Fairbanks' best auctions! Ticket price includes light supper. Silent and outcry auction, and a variety of services, outdoor gear, art, trips and unique items up for bid!



ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Northern Alaska Environmental Center

Conservation's Northern Voice



2005 Board of Directors

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Sarah Campbell
Kerynn Fisher
Nicole Fliss

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Bill Holman
Stan Justice, *Secretary*
Fran Mauer

Jeff Merkel
Franz Mueter, *Vice President*
Ritchie Musick
Michael O'Brien

Julie Raymond-Yakoubian
Mary Shields
Ken Whitten
Phil Wildfang

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Camp Habitat Director

Nicole Braem
*Membership and
Communications Director*

Brendan Buckley
Legislative Intern (DAN!)

Sara Elzey
Controller

Nancy Fresco
*Boreal Forest Campaign
and Local Issues Coordinator*

Katherine Helmuth
VISTA volunteer

Linda Paganelli
Denali Watch Coordinator

Kelly Hill Scanlon
Arctic Coordinator

Meg Schlesinger
Mining Coordinator

Sally Smith
Interim Executive Director

David van den Berg
Executive Director

Rocky Weber
ACF Arctic Intern

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

Board of Directors

One of the biggest challenges the Board of Directors faced in 2005 was the search for a new Executive Director. Under the experienced hand of our Interim Director Sally Smith, the Board had adequate time to make such an important decision. After a thorough and wide-ranging search, we selected well-known local activist David van den Berg. His experience with the Northern Center and conservation issues in Alaska allowed him to hit the ground running as executive director.

With great energy, David has introduced many new and exciting ideas for the Center including increased staffing. New positions include a Youth Education Director and a Community Organizer, both of which expand our efforts to advance our Mission "through advocacy and education."

If you haven't been by the Center lately, stop in and see the exciting renovations that provide space for our new staff. The Board supported this expansion financially as well as with hours of volunteer labor. Through the Annual Auction and the Major Donor Campaign, the Board netted over \$82,000. In addition, the mortgage on the Northern Center's building was decreased from over \$112,000 to \$85,000, due in large part to forgiveness of loans by two very generous donors. And as the year came to a close, we celebrated our successes by toasting the latest victory to prevent drilling in the Arctic Refuge.

As you will read, we advanced our mission to protect the wilderness qualities of northern Alaska, a region of roughly 180 million acres that includes 18 national parks and wildlife refuges created in 1980 by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. We also furthered our service to and visibility in the Fairbanks community. These disparate approaches are a winning combination that will only grow stronger as we move forward in 2006.

Mining

With three of Alaska's four large-scale mines located in interior or northern Alaska and with the majority of proposed mines also in the northern region, we used 2005 to build awareness of the tradeoffs mining presents to Alaskans.

Following up on the Final Executed Agreement with Teck-Pogo that settled the Northern Center's appeal of Pogo gold mine, the Northern Center ensured that the Pogo mine fulfilled its obligations, such as forming a Citizen's Advisory Board and installing monitoring wells along the

Goodpaster River. The Fort Knox mine closed the True North property and halted expansion plans to the Gill JV property in 2005. The Center monitored the mine's operating permits throughout the year.

Chief among the mineral properties we watched is the Tangle Lakes region. Teaming with Copper Country Alliance (CCA), we drew attention to mineral exploration in the area with events such as "Walk the (Denali) Block" and a flotilla on one of the Tangle Lakes. With partners CCA, Alaska Center for the Environment and the Alaska Coalition, we formed the Tangle Lakes Coalition to work for a sustainable future in the Tangle Lakes region.

With assistance from Alaskans for Responsible Mining we revived the Red Dog Working Group to address a range of technical, environmental, and social issues at the Red Dog mine—the world's largest lead-zinc mine. Also in northwest Alaska, we took the lead in questioning the proposed expansion of the Delong Mountain Terminal.

The Northern Center's mining program was involved in the federal government's move to lift withdrawals on the 1970's-era d-1 lands. We followed mining issues in the East Alaska Resource Management Plan (RMP), the Kobuk-Seward RMP, and the southern NPR-A EIS. We monitored mine start-up at Nixon Fork, the mine proposal at Donlin Creek, and other exploration areas across the North.

Local Issues & Forestry

Putting a face to conservation, we staged events throughout the year, including class presentations at local schools, Camp Habitat Earth Day, the Spring Migration Celebration, and UAF's Sustainable Living Conference, and supported student groups at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. We had our greatest-ever participation in the Golden Day Parade, hosted a booth for all nine days of the Tanana Valley State Fair, and enjoyed participation by over 150 runners in our ninth annual Run for the Refuge.

Encouraged by the Northern Center and concerned residents, the Fairbanks North Star Borough will improve recycling opportunities in the Borough. Furthermore, although not all proposed environmental protections in the Borough Comprehensive Plan passed the Assembly, the ideas and energy generated during the planning process will be carried forward to promote trails, green space, cleaner air, and reduced urban sprawl.

Weighing-in on land use plans, we advocated for non-degradation in relation to off-road vehicle use in the White Mountain National Recreation



OUR MISSION

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



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Area, sustainable management of BLM lands in the East Alaska Resource Management Plan, and comprehensive ecological analysis of the proposed reintroduction of wood bison in the Yukon Flats.

In the Interior's forests, logging on a small-scale supports local markets. Fire management has become one of the biggest forest issues in Interior Alaska. We participated in the newly-formed Alaska Northern Forest Cooperative to find a balance among natural fire cycles, human resource use, ecological sustainability, and fire safety. One opportunity that has come to the fore is using wood for biomass energy. While we are eager to wean our local economy—and even our own building—off fossil fuels, we are approaching this issue with caution to ensure that conservation interests are met.

Arctic

News from Alaska's Arctic was dominated by climate change. We suffused our work with questions posed by climate change, gradually raising the profile of this discomfiting issue within Alaska.

The rest of the news from Alaska's Arctic was about a determined, nationwide effort to stop drilling (yet again) from going forward in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. What the Republican leadership was unable to do through the budget process, they tried to do in an eleventh-hour switch to the Senate Defense Appropriations bill. Despite using every ruse in the book, the drillers were unsuccessful in making the case that America has no other option but to drill in wilderness. The Northern Center's membership supported this national effort by responding to mailed and emailed alerts, visiting Capitol Hill, attending rallies, and making literally thousands of phone calls to Congress.

In 2005, the Bureau of Land Management continued its aggressive disposal of the 23-million-acre National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A) to the oil and gas industry. While recognizing that oil and gas drilling has a guaranteed place in the petroleum reserve, the Northern Center relied on education, public comments and finally legal action to protect biologically rich "hot spots" and insist that the managing agency protect known wildlife and wilderness values within the NPR-A. As BLM moved forward with the last of its three planning areas—the 9.2 million-acre "Southern NPR-A"—we worked to uphold the Reserve's organic legislation which excludes min-

eral and coal entry to the calving grounds of the 500,000-member Western Arctic Caribou Herd.

2005 saw renewed discussion of bringing to market the massive gas reserves at Prudhoe Bay via the yet-to-be-built Trans-Alaska Gas Line. While no route has been selected, the Northern Center has worked to define what an acceptable gas line deal would look like. Though a formal agreement on the gas line remains elusive, one offshoot is the economic feasibility of gas reserves throughout Alaska. In this context, we worked successfully to improve a proposal to drill for oil and gas in the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge.

Camp Habitat and Camp Habitat After School

Amber Borner directed Camp Habitat's summer program. She hired four instructors and four junior counselors and managed five sessions of Camp over five weeks. Camp also employed three backpacking instructors for two one-week trips into the White Mountains.

Our partners in Camp Habitat—Friends of Creamer's Field and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game—remained active on the Camp Advisory Board, giving programmatic guidance and performing a great deal of work as a board.

Camp Habitat jumped in 2005. After 15 years as a summer-only camp, we hired a VISTA volunteer to take Camp Habitat into area schools and to lay the groundwork for a full-time staff position to make available an environmental curriculum in Fairbanks throughout the year. In keeping with the plan, VISTA volunteer Katherine Helmuth retooled the Camp curriculum for deployment into Borough schools, built a relationship with the school district, hired and trained three after-school instructors, and developed a funding base for our first year. Finally, at year's end, the Northern Center hired a Youth Education Director who will oversee both Camp Habitat's summer operations and the Camp Habitat after school program throughout the school year.

Defend Alaska Now! (DAN!)

For three years, the Alaska Conservation Foundation has funded the Defend Alaska Now! legislative internship to increase the capacity of Alaska's three homegrown regional organizations to better engage in the state legislative session.

The Northern Center's intern informed members of legislative happenings via the phone and



OUR VISION

We envision a naturally thriving, biologically and culturally diverse, wildlands-rich, sustainable, inspiring and thoughtfully protected northern Alaska, forever.



ANNUAL REPORT 2005

the legislative listserv and sought member action when citizen participation was in order. The interns also worked together under the aegis of the Alaska Conservation Association to educate and advocate on behalf of the few bills in the Alaska legislature that seek to maintain Alaska's fragile and pure environment. As to the bad bills – the interns tried to make them better, or show them the door.

In 2005, the Northern Center's legislative intern, Brendan Buckley, played an important role in passage of HB 19, a statewide Pesticide Right-to-Know bill. He also led the charge to defeat SB 85, a bill to open the 450-mile long Dalton Highway corridor to All-Terrain Vehicles (ATV).

Denali Watch

In 2005, the Denali Watch program suffered a setback when its long-time staffer Linda Paganelli moved on to other things. As we search for a replacement for Linda, we work closely with our partner organizations—especially the Denali Citizens Council—on land use plans effecting the Denali Borough and Denali National Park and Preserve.

Membership & Communications

Total membership averaged 1,000 for the year. We have a very loyal and generous membership for whom we are thankful! Communicating with our membership, we mailed numerous “non-ask” mailers, including four issues of *The Northern Line*, invitations to local events, and action alert postcards. We also sent quarterly renewals and four special issue appeals. In addition, an end-of-year letter to lapsed members from 2003 and 2004 garnered a 12.5% response rate. We did no direct mail membership solicitation.

We embarked on no major technological upgrades, but did replace some hardware. All staff use the online calendar Groove, which enables us to share a calendar. Website traffic, which in January 2005 saw a tripling over 2004 levels, remained constant, averaging 4,000 unique visitors per month throughout the year.

*Annual report design and layout by Mary Zalar;
all photos by Ken Whitten.*

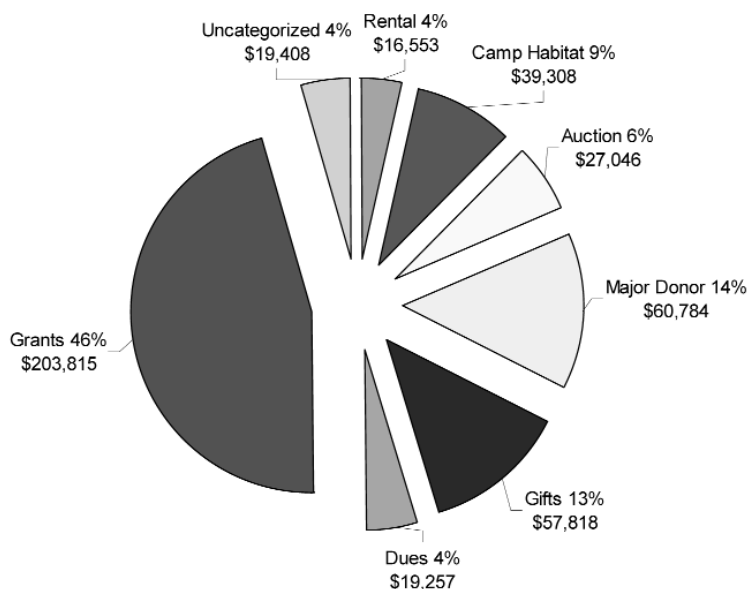
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2005 Financial Report

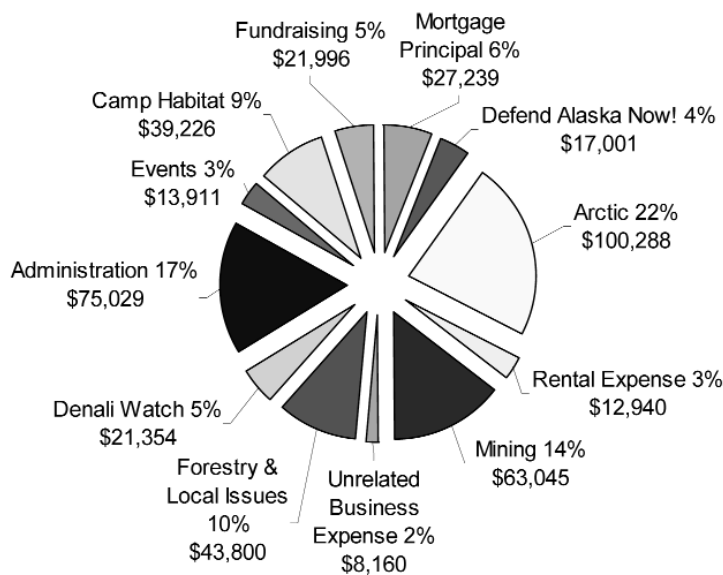
Income

\$443,989



Expenses

\$443,989



Conservation Abstracts April 2006

The complete Conservation Abstracts are available each month on the NAEC website, www.northern.org, and by standard mail if requested by calling (907) 452-5021. Items from the Abstracts may be reproduced in nonprofit newsletters or similar publications; please credit the original source.

Florence Collins

GLOBAL WARMING

The Inuit Circumpolar Conference filed a petition with the Inter-America Commission on Human Rights (part of the Organization of American States), in December, "defending the human rights of the global Inuit from climate change caused by [U.S.] greenhouse gas emissions." The U.S. has 5 percent of the world population but emits 25 percent of greenhouse gasses. In Brief, Spring 2006, p. 22-23.

LAND

The Tanana River from its mouth to the confluence of the Chisana and Nabesna Rivers, 40 miles above Tok, and the Kuskokwim River from the mouth to just below Nikolai and its George, Aniak, and Takotna tributaries will be under state jurisdiction if a "recordable disclaimer of interest" is made by the federal government, as the state has requested. The state also wants Whitefish Lake, just south of Kalskag, and also the Yukon-Kuskokwim portage waters. (The Salcha River has already been disclaimed from its mouth 109 miles upstream.) FDNM, April 19, 2006, p. A3.

Delta Junction officials are objecting to the U. S. Army Alaska's plan to install two training ranges just south of the city, saying "the EIS is patently and fatally biased." They are especially concerned about the fire hazard from live fire. FDNM, April 6, 2006, p. B3.

MINING

The Tangle Lakes mineral exploration is in early stages; the AngloAmerican Exploration Co. is entering its third year in the 800 square mile MAN Alaska Project northwest of the junction of the Denali and Richardson Highways; four to six test holes totaling 2500 feet are planned. Nickel and associated metal ores are hoped for. State and federal permits will be needed for mining, and the company says it "meets or exceeds local environmental laws." FDNM, April 27, 2006, p. A1, A7.

PETROLEUM

The Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989 is still affecting people and the environment on Kodiak Island, and "no beaches are clean and clear until our resources thrive again and they aren't thriving now." Out of 6775 test pits, more than 500 had traces of heavy oil, and sea otters, sea birds, harlequin ducks, clams, mussels, harbor seals and killer whales have not yet completely recovered. Pacific herring are not recovering but are "being hit by a virus that might be linked to the spill." Hearings in Anchorage, Cordova, and Kodiak were emotional as people talked about the past and present effects. The company says Prince William Sound is "healthy and thriving," but the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council says an estimated six miles of the Sound's shoreline is still affected, with as much as 100 tons of oil there, and an "undetermined amount lingered beyond the Sound." FDNM, April 8, 2006, p. A9.

MISCELLANY

A total of 66 National Wildlife Refuges in eight states were damaged by hurricanes in 2005, and damage is estimated at \$270 million. <mwoodbridge@refugenet.org> April 4, 2006.

The National Park Service will have to "show that they can function at 80 percent or less of their operating budgets," according to the Bush administration. Twelve western parks have begun the process and all must finish by 2011. Visitors will notice such changes as some campgrounds without potable water or trash service, raised back country or campground fees, closed visitor centers, etc. Pres. Bush proposes cutting \$100.5 million from the \$2.1 billion budget next year. The parks have a \$5 billion maintenance backlog and fixed operating costs are rising. <mdodd@npca.org> April 17, 2006. 🌿



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