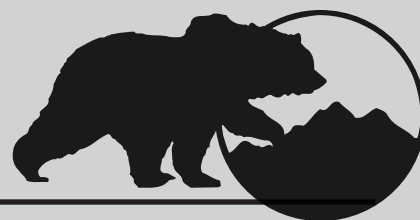


THE NORTHERN LINE



"Behind is a great forest that goes to the Arctic...and here we must draw our line."
~ Gary Snyder, *Front Lines*



Energized for Change

Calendar of Events	2	Denali Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council	8
From the Director	3	Proposed Delong Mountain Terminal Port Expansion	9
Proposed Land Swap in the Yukon Flats Refuge	4	Alaska Conservation Abstracts	9
Global Warming Working Group Focuses on Action	6	Re-think Plastics	10
NAEC Joins Alaska Natives to Fight Chukchi Sea Oil Leasing ...	6	Meet the New Mining Coordinator	11
Legislative Round-Up	7	Thank You's	11
Energy Fix?	8	Camp Habitat 2008	12

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 © 2008 by NAEC. All rights reserved. Subscription rate is \$35 annually and includes membership. We encourage submission of letters and articles for publication. We reserve the right to edit all submissions. The Northern Alaska Environmental Center is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization.

MISSION: 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 1,120 members.

STAFF

Sara Elzey, *Controller and Assistant Director*
Lori Hanemann Fickus, *Local Issues Coordinator*
Pamela A. Miller, *Arctic Coordinator*
Laenne Thompson, *Communications, Development & Education Director*
Zak Richter, *Mining Coordinator*
David van den Berg, *Executive Director*

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dan Adams, Marjorie Cole (Secretary),
Nicole Fliss (President), Roger Kaye, Jeff Merkel,
Karl Monetti, Franz Mueter, Ritchie Musick,
Michael O'Brien (Treasurer), Carl Roland,
Bill Schneider (Vice President), and Mary Shields,
Trey Simmons.

ADVISORY BOARD

Cindy Adams, John Luther Adams, G. Ray Bane,
Florence Collins, Jim Hunter (Vice Chair), Sylvia Ward
Schultz (Chair), Dan Swift, and Ginny Hill Wood.

Back Cover: *Sea Stars and feathers at Point Hope*
© Pamela A. Miller

Calendar of Events

March 11 Global Warming Working Group*

12 - 1:30pm @ the Northern Center. Join this action oriented group, the second Tuesday of each month, to discuss Global Warming issues relevant to Interior Alaska. Bring a lunch!

March 19 & 26 Fairbanks Alaska Youth for Environmental Action**

5:30 - 7pm @ the Northern Center. Middle and high schoolers come together to learn about and take action on environmental issues facing our community, such as recycling, climate change, and renewable resources. Bring a friend!

March 13 Northern Voices Series: Kesler Woodward

7pm @ Noel Wien Library Auditorium. Kes Woodward is the author of *Painting in the North* and other works. He is also History of Art Professor Emeritus at UAF in Fairbanks and famous for his richly impressionistic paintings of birches. He has been an artist-in-residence at Denali National Park and was invited to accompany the centennial voyage of the Harriman Expedition several years ago.

April - date TBA Spring Electronics Recycling Event

Visit <http://www.iagreenstar.org> for up-to-date information

April 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 Fairbanks Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (**see above)

April 8 Global Warming Working Group (*see above)

April 10 Northern Voices Series: Sherry Simpson

7pm @ Noel Wien Library Auditorium. Sherry Simpson, a former Fairbanksan, teaches writing at UAA in Anchorage. She is the prize-winning author of *The Way Winter Comes*. Her second book of essays is due out from Sasquatch Press.

April 8 NAEC Board of Directors Meeting

6pm @ the Northern Center. Meetings are open to NAEC members. Comments are welcome during the scheduled comment period at the beginning of the meeting.

April 26 Spring Migration Celebration

12 - 4pm @ Creamer's Field. Register for Camp Habitat, enjoy the sights of birds in the sky, and participate in activities at this fun family event. For more information, call (907) 452-5162.

May 8 Northern Voices Series: Monique Musick

7pm @ Noel Wien Library Auditorium. Monique Musick is a young photographer whose focus on the environment relates issues with art.

May 9 Polar-Palooza National Tour—Stories from a Changing Planet

7 - 9pm @ [Location TBA] Hear personal stories of life, research and adventure in the world's polar regions from scientists on the Polar-Palooza national tour. This engaging multimedia show features high definition documentary video, hands-on artifacts and dialog with members of the Polar-Palooza team. Free admission. International Polar Year event produced by Passport to Knowledge and supported by the National Science Foundation (NSF) and NASA's Science Mission Directorate.

May - date TBA Elections for Golden Valley Electric Association.

Watch your mail for ballots and be sure to vote. GVEA Board members make critical decisions about Alaska's energy future.

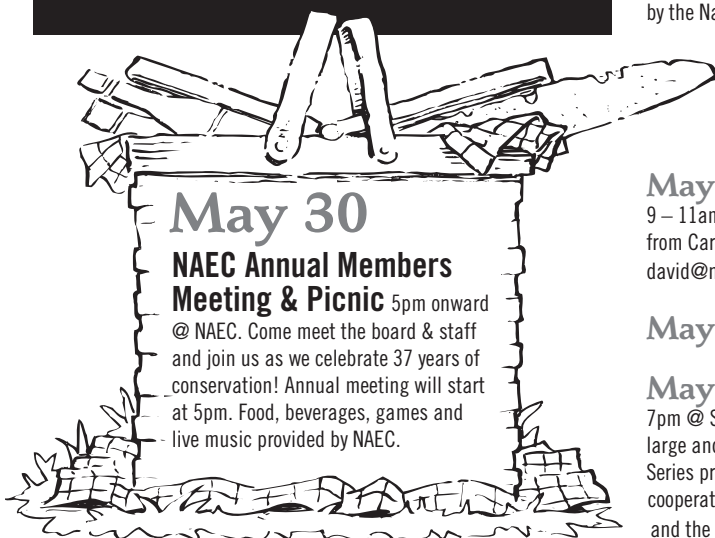
May 10 Fairbanks Clean-up Day

9 - 11am. Join in the city-wide cleanup. To get that 'green star,' join us to clean 1 mile of College Road from Caribou Street to the Northern Center. To help, please contact David at 452-5021 x 25 or david@northern.org

May 13 Global Warming Working Group (*see above)

May 28 Discovering Alaska: A Summer Lecture Series—David Mollett

7pm @ Schaible Auditorium. David Mollett, artist, describes the adventures and experiences of both large and small groups of artists painting in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and nearby areas. Series presented by the UAF Summer Sessions, and NAEC's Northern Voices Speaker Series, in cooperation with the UAF Center for Research Services, the International Arctic Research Center, and the UA Geography Program. Admission is free.



Energized for Change

By David van den Berg
Executive Director

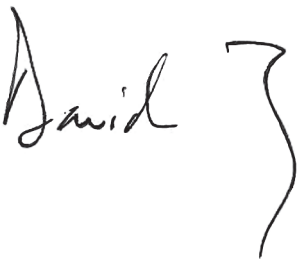


The change we want – and the change you support – is where we depart from drilling and mining Alaska's intact ecosystems by making our communities more efficient, while making our emissions and effluent cleaner. We're energized for this change in 2008.

We don't see the necessary "change" in plans to drill for oil in the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge; neither do we see "change" in drilling for oil in the Arctic Ocean. That is the business as usual we resist as we support America's – and Fairbanks' – progress to using fewer resources and reaping the rewards in prosperity and security.

In this issue, you'll find calls to action to advance the change we want in the world. We ask you to help us uphold environmental protections in the National Wildlife Refuge system; you'll read about some good bills in the Alaska legislature that make it easier for all of us to use less energy in the course of our daily lives and to have that energy produced in ways that don't release greenhouse gases; you'll read about some other bills we support that would restore necessary regulatory protection to Alaska's clean water. We need you to write your legislators and ask that these bills become law.

We hope you'll rise to the calls to action, as you have before. We thank you for your generous support in 2007. For the year, we raised 96 percent of our budgeted income! It was a great year as we advanced our common work of protecting northern Alaska. With good information, we empower you and, empowered, you give us the resources and the energy to pursue the change we want in the world. We look forward to 2008 and we seek and welcome your support in the months and years ahead.



Proposed Land Swap to Sneak Oil Drilling Into Yukon Flats Refuge

By Pamela A. Miller

The Northern Center is working with a coalition of Alaska Native and conservation groups to halt a proposed land trade that would remove 110,000 acres of irreplaceable wildlife habitat and wilderness from the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge to allow oil and gas development on the land.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service released a draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on the proposed land swap in January. After secret negotiations in 2004, the Service and Doyon Ltd. had revealed a controversial agreement to trade 110,000 acres of refuge land plus subsurface title to another 97,000 refuge acres for about 150,000 acres in scattered parcels owned by Doyon. The for-profit corporation plans to have a major oil company like Exxon drill for oil and gas on these lands.

"The Yukon Flats Refuge constitutes the largest, most biologically productive boreal forest wetlands in North America," said Fran Mauer, a retired U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service biologist opposed to the land exchange. "This proposed land swap scheme violates the most fundamental purposes of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act. It will destroy the integrity of this vast and important ecosystem, and set the stage for development in other conservation areas in Alaska. If this

land exchange proceeds, nothing will be safe."

For Alaska Native people living in villages in and near the Refuge, subsistence activities continue to define the cultural and social fabric. "The Gwich'in people of the Yukon Flats have been dependent on the resources provided by this land for thousands of years," said Dacho Alexander, First Chief of the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribe in Fort Yukon. "We are not willing to jeopardize this close relationship in exchange for a few jobs."

The land trade would give oil companies a foot in the door to gradually transform the wild habitats of the Refuge into a sprawling industrial complex causing permanent damage.

The land trade would give oil companies a foot in the door to gradually transform the wild habitats of the Refuge into a sprawling industrial complex causing permanent damage. The area already suffers impacts from global warming caused by fossil fuel combustion. Since 1950, the refuge has lost more than 10% of its lakes and 18% of wetlands, has reduced nesting duck populations, increased

forest fires and insect outbreaks, and unhealthy salmon.

"We are acutely aware that even a minor spill could have devastating effects on the fragile ecosystem, not only here in the Yukon Flats, but along the entire Yukon watershed," said Alexander. "We do not want to add to the effects of global warming which we are already experiencing firsthand." ❧



Yukon River © Pamela A. Miller

Lesser known than the Arctic Refuge, many visitors have seen the awesome Yukon Flats enroute. When you fly north from Fairbanks in a small plane to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska's northeast corner, within minutes the visitor is awestruck by a vast wild land. From the boreal forest rise craggy peaks in the White Mountains' home of Dall Sheep, then the big bend of Beaver Creek abruptly turns northward to flow through vast lakes, ponds, and wetlands of the "flats" of the Yukon River that support moose, ducks and geese, a healthy watershed for salmon. Just above the Arctic Circle, you reach Fort Yukon, the largest Gwich'in community out of a total of eight in or next to the refuge. Across the river is the Arctic Refuge.

WHAT'S AT STAKE:

Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge

Third largest in the National Wildlife Refuge System (9 million acres), it protects a diverse boreal forest and wetlands ecosystem including nesting waterfowl, other migratory birds, Dall sheep, bears, moose, wolves, wolverines, other furbearers, caribou, and salmon; treaty obligations; subsistence uses; and clean water.

<http://yukonflats.fws.gov>

Proposed White-Crazy Mountains Wilderness

The exchange would split the proposed "White-Crazy Mountain Wilderness Area" of the Refuge into two separate areas by a road and pipeline route and destroy the intact ecosystem.

White Mountains National Recreation Area

This recreation area in Fairbanks' backyard is popular for dog mushing, snowmachining, and river floating and supports moose, caribou and Dall Sheep. Doyon's preferred road and pipeline route to transport oil out of the Refuge would go south along Beaver Creek, then punch across the Victoria Creek drainage in White Mountains NRA to the Trans-Alaska Pipeline.

www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/sa/white_mtns.html

Beaver Creek National Wild River

This River flows north through the White Mountain NRA into the Refuge. It supports moose, caribou, grizzly and black bears. It is a spectacular river rafting trip. Roads, pipelines, and drilling next to the Wild River corridor will destroy its remote, wild character. Impacts could include noise, spills and pollutants degrading river water quality which in turn would affect fish populations, including sensitive runs of Chinook and chum salmon, and Arctic Grayling.

www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/sa/beavercrk_nwsr.html

Protect the White Mountains and Yukon Flats Refuge!



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Write comments by March 25, 2008:

Yukon Flats Refuge lands set aside for the protection of wildlife, clean water, and subsistence should not be traded for oil and gas development! Please express opposition to the land exchange and provide substantive comments about the draft EIS's missing / incorrect data and impacts analysis. For maps and more information go to <http://www.northern.org>.

MAIL A LETTER TO HAVE THE MOST IMPACT:

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Yukon Flats EIS Project Office
c/o ENSR, 1835 South Bragaw Street, Suite 490
Anchorage, AK 99508

E-MAIL A COMMENT:

Read the draft EIS and fill out a web-form comment here:
<http://yukonflatseis.ensr.com>

LEARN MORE:

Visit the Refuge site
<http://yukonflats.fws.gov>

READ FORT YUKON TRIBAL CONCERNS:

<http://www.fortyukon.org/swap.html>



Fish wheel on Yukon River © Pamela A. Miller

NAEC Joins Alaska Natives to Fight Chukchi Sea Oil Leasing: Global Climate Change and Oil Risks People and Polar Bears

By Pamela A. Miller

The Center joined Native Village of Point Hope, the City of Point Hope, the Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, and nine other Alaska Native and conservation organizations to fight oil drilling in the Arctic's Chukchi Sea.

The coalition filed suit in federal district court on January 31, arguing that the federal government made its decision to hold Lease Sale 193 without adequately weighing the consequences of climate change such as accelerating sea ice melt plus the impact oil and gas activities would have on wildlife like polar bears or walrus and on coastal communities.

The Chukchi Sea serves as the lifeblood for Point Hope and other communities where residents have relied on the sea for cultural and nutritional subsistence for thousands of years. "The Chukchi Sea is our garden. We've hunted and fished



in the ocean for thousands of years" said Jack Schaefer, Native Village of Point Hope president. "The ocean is what our history and culture is based on. One oil spill could destroy our way of life."

The Chukchi Sea is home to one-tenth of the world's polar bears which are currently being considered for listing under the

Endangered Species Act. In January,

the Interior Department announced it would delay its decision on whether to list the bear for about a month, just enough time for the 30-million acre Chukchi lease sale to move forward on February 6. Bidders included Shell, ConocoPhillips and Norwegian Statoil, the world's biggest offshore oil company. ♻️

For updates on this lawsuit, please visit our website at www.northern.org.

Global Warming Working Group FOCUSES on Action

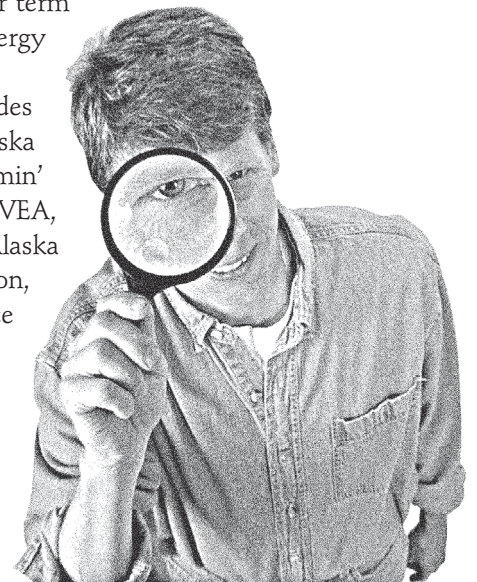
By Lori Hanneman

FOCUS. Fairbanks is the latest alphabet soup being used to get out a simple message: Finding Opportunities for Conservation, Understanding, and Savings in Fairbanks - FOCUS. The overall goal is to reduce CO2 emissions and create a more sustainable and clean Fairbanks. Naturally, many organizations in town have come forward to work on this exciting cooperative media effort because awareness and an understanding of the reasons to make change are a vital first step for a community to shift their values. From this shift comes action: personal choices that contribute to a social change and a political will for measures that reduce global warming emissions.

Public service announcements play every week on radio, television, and in the News Miner. All messages share the common theme: use resources

wisely to save money in the near term and reduce our exposure to energy markets in the long term.

The list of participants includes UAF's Cooperative Extension, Alaska Interfaith Power & Light, Jammin' Salmon, UAF's SNAP program, GVEA, The Northern Center, Fairbanks Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, Sustainable Fairbanks, The Peace Center, Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Policy, and many more. Check in the News Miner and www.focusfairbanks.blogspot.com every week to be inspired by what your neighbor is doing to reduce their carbon footprint. ♻️



Legislative Round-Up

By Lori Hanneman, Zak Richter, & David van den Berg



There are good bills in the second session of the 25th Legislature. With only a 90-day session to address an array of bills, time is of the essence to get these bills moving by mid-session or early March. Please take a moment to contact your representatives (only interior legislators are listed) on behalf of your favorite bills. The following bills are supported by the Northern Center in league with the Alaska Conservation Alliance, representing 38,000 Alaskans. To find the sponsors and full text of these bills, visit www.legis.state.ak.us/basis

Establish a renewable energy fund for Alaska's future – HB 152

This bill would create a fund administered by the Alaska Energy Authority to offer loans and grants for feasibility studies and construction of renewable energy projects. HB 152 passed the House last year 35-0. It is now stalled in Senate Finance. Email Senate Finance Committee members Donald Olson and Joe Thomas to keep positive pressure for passage.

Protect Alaska's clean water and healthy fisheries – HB74

This bill would prohibit toxic mixing zones in freshwater spawning areas. It is now stalled in House Resources Committee. Email Resources Committee members David Guttenberg and Scott Kawasaki to encourage that the bill be brought to a hearing.

Make information about Mixing Zones public- HB302

An Act related to the public's right to know information about potential water pollution, that would require the Department of Environmental Conservation to collect information and make it available to the public." This is an important companion to HB74. It, too, is in House Resources Committee.

Establish a hydrogen energy research program – HB56

This bill would establish a hydrogen energy partnership within the Department of Community and Economic Development to develop a hydrogen fuel industry in Alaska. It is now stalled in House Finance Committee. Encourage this bill along by contacting Mike Kelly and Reggie Joule.

Reform mining production & license taxes/royalties – HB156

This complicated bill aims to re-figure the mining industry's financial contribution to Alaska. It recently passed House Ways and Means Committee and will spend some time in House Resources Committee, where it needs encouragement from David Guttenberg and Scott Kawasaki.

Net energy metering – HB288

"An Act relating to net energy metering for retail electricity suppliers and customers," this bill would make it easier for home-owners and businesses to generate their own power and sell it back to the utility. To 'perfect' the bill, it needs to exempt rural utilities – and even then, 'urban' railbelt utilities may oppose it. Email House Labor and Commerce and urge passage by Jay Ramras and also House Finance members Mike Kelly and Reggie Joule.

Manage of noxious weeds and invasive plants – HB330

"An Act relating to management of noxious weeds and invasive plants; establishing the Noxious Weed and Invasive Plant Board; and establishing the noxious weed and invasive plant management fund." To encourage the bill to include fauna in noxious species management, contact House Resources Committee members David Guttenberg, Scott Kawasaki, as well as House Finance Committee members Mike Kelly and Reggie Joule.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Contact the legislators listed by each bill above to strengthen the voice of conservation!

Legislator Contact Information*

Senator_Donald_Olson@legis.state.ak.us
 Senator_Joe_Thomas@legis.state.ak.us
 Representative_David_Guttenberg@legis.state.ak.us
 Representative_Reggie_Joule@legis.state.ak.us
 Representative_Scott_Kawasaki@legis.state.ak.us
 Representative_Mike_Kelly@legis.state.ak.us
 Representative_Jay_Ramras@legis.state.ak.us.

**NOTE: Only Interior Alaska legislators are listed here, but please contact your senators and representatives if you live elsewhere in Alaska. Let's make our view heard!*



Energy Fix?

By Kaarle Straley, Research Associate

At a time when energy prices pinch many Alaskans in this energy state, Alaskans will be making long-term investments to replace our energy generating capacity. There are a number of projects being considered, including megaprojects. Here are few that you may recognize.

SUSITNA – The November 2007 federal Water Resources Development Act included an authorization to the Corps of Engineers to conduct studies for a Susitna River hydro electric project. Legislation has been introduced in both the State House and Senate, HB 336 and SB 246, respectively, directing the Alaska Energy Authority to study and propose an appropriately-sized Susitna River hydroelectric power project. The version ‘on the street’ now is a 645 foot concrete dam at the foot of Devils Canyon, a 26 mile long reservoir, and 600MW generation capacity. Hearings are underway to advance these bills through committees.

MT. SPURR – The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources is considering a geothermal lease sale on the southern side of Mt. Spurr, one of the northern-most volcanoes of the Aleutian chain, located 70 miles west of Anchorage. Geothermal energy may someday provide electricity to Anchorage and the Railbelt.

CHAKACHAMNA LAKE – Several miles west of the Mt. Spurr geothermal lease area, a hydroelectric application was filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 2006 for a 49 foot high rock fill dam at the outlet of Chakachamna Lake and a 330 MW hydroelectric project. ♪

Need some
**QUALITY
RECYCLED PAPER**
for printing

Stop by the Northern Center
and pick up a ream...or a case!
White paper is \$6.50/ream and \$60/case.
Colored paper available at a special,
1-time price of \$5/ream.

Denali Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council Begins Deliberations

By Joan Frankevich, Denali Citizens Council Board Member

The number one complaint Denali managers receive from backpackers is too much noise from sightseeing flights. Alternately, an ideal way to experience the immensity and grandeur of the park is to fly over it. What is the best way for these two experiences to co-exist fairly with a minimum of conflict?

Making hard decisions about the needs and impacts from aircraft is the primary task of the newly formed Denali Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council. The idea for the council comes from the Denali Backcountry Plan and was formed by Secretary of the Interior, Dirk Kempthorne. The purpose of the council as stated in the charter is: *to advise the Secretary on matters relating to the mitigation of impacts from aircraft overflights at Denali National Park and Preserve. The Council will develop voluntary measures for assuring the safety of passengers, pilots, and mountaineers and for achieving desired future conditions at Denali.*

Denali Citizens Council is pleased that three of its board members were selected as members: Nancy Bale, Nan Eagleson, and Joan Frankevich. The council is comprised of 12 members who serve two or four year terms. The members and interests they represent are as follows:

Suzanne Rust
K2 Aviation
concession-authorized air
taxi and scenic air tour
operators

Tim Cudney
ERA Helicopters
scenic air tour operators
not operating under an NPS
concession

Erika Bennett
Alaska Airmen's Association
commercial aviation other
than air taxi/scenic air tour
operators

Joan Frankevich
NPCA
statewide or national
environmental community

Nancy Bale
DCC
local environmental
community

Brian Okonek
local landowners

Sally Gibert
State of Alaska

James W. Edwards
Federal Aviation
Administration

Charlie Sassara
American Alpine Club
the mountaineering
community

Nan Eagleson
backcountry users other
than climbing interests

Tom George
AOPA
general aviation users
of park airspace

Lt. Col. Scott Babos
US Air Force

Meetings are open to the public and held two to four times a year. The first meeting was conducted in Wasilla on February 7, 2008.

Abstract: Benefit Cost Analysis of the Proposed Delong Mountain Terminal Port Expansion

By Zak Richter

The DeLong Mountain Terminal services the Red Dog Mine by a 60-mile road through Cape Krusenstern National Monument. Expanding the terminal and port facilities could have lasting negative impacts on the communities and marine and terrestrial habitats throughout northwest Alaska.

In September 2005, the Army Corp of Engineers (ACoE) released drafts of a Feasibility Study for the proposed Delong Mountain Terminal Port Expansion (DMTPE) required by the WaterResourcesDevelopment Act and an Environmental Impact Statement required by the National Environmental Policy Act. According to ACoE regulatory guidance as well as general principles of Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA), federal participation in civil works project such as the DMTPE is warranted only in situations where the benefit-cost ratio exceeds 1.0.

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center contracted the Center for Sustainable Economy (CSE) to produce a critique and independent assessment of the ACoE-BCA for the proposed DMTPE. CSE assessed the extent to which the ACoE Feasibility Study analysis conformed to generally accepted methods of benefit-cost analysis as well as additional requirements set forth in ACoE regulations governing civil works projects. The modifications suggested in the context of this report imply a benefit-cost ratio that may be as low as 0.1911.

Several shortcomings of the analysis were found that cause estimates of net project benefits to be significantly overstated.

These include: failure to establish federal interest in the project; failure to properly incorporate the BCA into the DEIS by failing to discuss and disclose other social and economic effects that may have bearing on the project's justification; the DEIS's failure to properly identify and evaluate cumulative economic effects; failure to apply compound interest rates to project costs; improperly assuming that the Red Dog Mine will continue operations through the end of 2041; assuming regional diesel fuel prices remaining near \$1.40 per gallon; failure to incorporate uncertainty into estimates of fuel delivery savings; failure to incorporate several categories of cost; and failure to consider renewable energy investments in communities throughout the Northwest Arctic Borough as an alternative way to reduce energy costs.

Additionally, CSE estimated how the BCA might change if the shortcomings were properly addressed. The benefit-cost ratio stream was recalculated by correctly compounding project costs, terminating project benefits accruing to the mine at the end of year 2029, using more realistic fuel price data, and discounting fuel delivery savings to reflect uncertainty. CSE also recalculated the benefit-cost ratio by incorporating cost estimates for carbon emissions damage, reductions in U.S. economic activity associated with the substitution of Singapore fuel oil for fuel oil now purchased domestically, increased marine pollution, loss of passive use values, and adverse changes in subsistence use patterns. ❧

...federal participation in civil works project is warranted only in situations where the benefit-cost ratio exceeds 1.0. The modifications suggested in the context of the CSE report imply a benefit-cost ratio far below a threshold of 1.

CONSERVATION ABSTRACTS

by Florence Collins
are available on our website
www.northern.org.
Learn about all the hot topics
and environmental issues facing
Alaskans and Americans!



Re-think Plastics

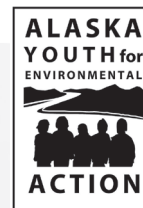
by Aana Prentzel

To illustrate just how much we depend on plastic in our daily lives, Fairbanks Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (FAYEA) Treasurer Aana Prentzel kept a "Plastics Diary" one Saturday and wrote down everything she did that related to plastic. This is her experience.



© Laenne Thompson

AYEA urges you to "Re-think Plastics" and join the statewide campaign to cut down on the use of plastics in our lives. Most plastic is derived from petroleum and does not biodegrade; it only photodegrades, but it takes 500 years or more! For campaign updates, please visit www.ayea.org.



Dear Plastics Diary

- 9:53 am Ate cereal – opened new plastic cereal bag
- 9:54 am Touched the plastic refrigerator door handle to get plastic milk jug
- 9:56 am Cereal spoon had a plastic handle
- 10:00 am Used plastic TV remote and watched TV
- 10:30 am Fed the dogs using a plastic measuring cup for the dog food
- 10:37 am Got my plastic cup and used plastic water spout in the fridge door
- 11:55 am Brushed my teeth using a plastic-handled toothbrush with toothpaste from a plastic tube
- 12:01 pm Went to the bathroom lowered the plastic toilet seat
- 12:03 pm Vacuum time – Plugged plastic cord into the plastic covered outlet
- 12:08 pm Brushed my hair with a plastic handled brush
- 12:19 pm Got paper off the plastic computer printer
- 12:35 pm Played my electric piano plastic keys
- 12:42 pm Played with plastic coated cards while watching TV
- 3:55 pm Turned on the X Box and touched the plastic controller
- 5:09 pm Opened a plastic CD case put the plastic CD in the plastic CD player and listened to music
- 6:04 pm Movie time – Opened the plastic DVD case – put the plastic DVD in the plastic DVD player and pushed play on the plastic remote
- 8:35 pm Played a game with plastic chips The game board was plastic too
- 9:45 pm Bed time Turned out the lights switch was made of plastic



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Participate by going "A Week Without Plastics" April 14 – 21 and purchase a canvas bag for re-use.

Urge the AK State Legislature to pass House Bill 118 which would call for a plastic bag tax.

Teens join your local AYEa chapter and make a difference! FAYEA meets every Weds. at 5:30pm @ the Northern Alaska Environmental Center.



Meet the New Mining Coordinator

By Zak Richter



© Laenne Thompson

My name is Zak Richter and I am the new Mining Coordinator for the Northern Alaska Environmental Center. I came to Alaska in the summer of 1992 to participate in a chemistry internship at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. I have a B.S. in Biology from Alma College, MI and a M.S. in Environmental Science from the University of Northern Iowa. I have worked in and for the environment since moving to Fairbanks in 1996. I enjoy

Alaskan winters and have been known to run with dogs on occasion.

During my first summer in Alaska I came to realize that this beautiful State would be my home. The majesty of the Alaska Range, the smell of the boreal forest in the summer breeze, and the ever present natural beauty has inspired me to reside in Alaska. The opportunity to live a life that is grounded in the natural world has captured my imagination and has moved me to work for the protection of Alaska's wilderness and the conservation of the environment.

My first day at the Northern Environmental Center was the 14th of January and since then I have been settling into the office space and acquainting myself with the history of NAEC's mining program and its effort in this great state. I look forward to working with you to promote the conservation of the environment in interior and arctic Alaska through advocacy, education, and sustainable resource stewardship. ♻️

THANK YOU TO ALL OF THE FOLLOWING FOLKS FOR THEIR VARIOUS CONTRIBUTIONS!

Michael Armstrong for consulting on electrical work

Suzy Fenner for volunteer help on Local Issues projects

Kerynn Fisher for research into new fundraising software

Bill Holman for his service on the NAEC Board

Jonathan Joye for donating his time for the server installation

Stan Justice who spent several days working on wiring in the front half of the office and performed maintenance on our air exchanger

Karl Monetti for plowing and setting up the energy audit

Kelly Newman Allman for her help folding brochures

Brittany Retherford who took photos at Step it Up event

Kaarle Strailey who continues to provide 15+ hours/week of research and office/clerical support

Adam Wool, owner of The Blue Loon, who allowed FAYEA to hold a movie night fundraiser

Scott Hillard, Kelley Newman, and Greg Smith for working at the Green Holiday Bazaar in December!

ENERGY AUDIT

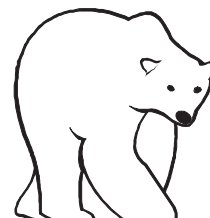
Phil Loudon, Arctic Technical Service and Energy Technologies Inc., for donating his equipment, time and expertise to the energy audit

Ben Berthold for running the "blower door" equipment and analysis

Jack Schmid for running the infrared camera

Ty Keltner for videoing our energy audit

Jack Hebert and friends from the Cold Climate Housing Research Center for consultation



NAEC ANNUAL AUCTION

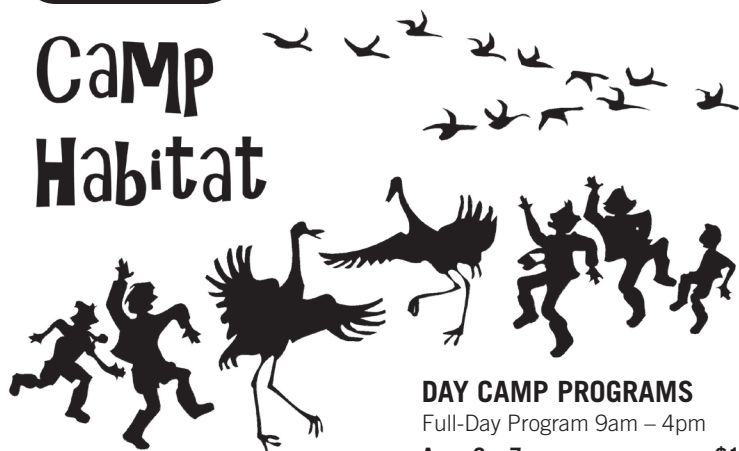
The Northern Alaska Environmental Center heartily thanks the following folks who helped us raise over \$25,000 at our Annual Auction on November 10th!

Auctioneer: Gerry Marsh
Entertainment: Karl Monetti

Jeanne Armstrong
Mike Armstrong
Martin Becker
Lou Brown
Jacqueline D'Auria
Margaret Eagleton
Keith Echelmeyer
Sara Elzey
Suzie Fenner
Nicole Fliss
Ana Fochesatto
Yoriko Freid
Lori Hanemann
Linda Hutton
Stan Justice
Roger Kaye
Katie McCaffrey
Amy Marsh
Fran Mauer
Pamela A. Miller
Jeff Merkel
Ritchie Musick
Mary Ann Nickles
Aana Prentzel
Mary Shields
Greg Smith
Carl Roland
Bill Schneider
Laenne Thompson
Karen Toland
David van den Berg
Mary Zalar

2008

Camp Habitat



**Nature Education & Ecology
for Youth Ages 4 – 11
at Creamer's Migratory
Waterfowl Refuge**

PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Half-Day Program 9am – 12pm

Ages 4 – 5	\$110
Nature Sprouts I	June 16 – 20
Nature Sprouts II	June 23 – 27

DAY CAMP PROGRAMS

Full-Day Program 9am – 4pm

Ages 6 – 7	\$185
Nature Detectives I	July 7 – 11
Nature Detectives II	July 14 – 18
Nature Detectives III	July 21 – 25

Ages 8 – 9*	\$235
Water Striders I	July 7 – 11
Water Striders II	July 14 – 18
Water Striders III	July 21 – 25

Ages 10 -11*	\$235
Refuge Adventurers	July 14 – 18

**includes 1 overnight campout*



REGISTRATION INFORMATION

A registration fee of \$20 is required per family. Tuition and fees must be paid in full to secure your child's registration.

ONLINE REGISTRATION is available
March 1 - June 1 at www.northern.org

SCHOLARSHIPS available.
Call for more information.

QUESTIONS? Call (907) 452-5021 ext. 32 or
Email camphabitat@northern.org



Northern Alaska Environmental Center
830 College Road
Fairbanks, AK 99701
(907) 452-5021
www.northern.org



NOW HIRING FOR SUMMER '08!

Camp Habitat is looking for qualified Day Camp Instructors (professional teachers, outdoor educators, college juniors & seniors) and Junior Counselors (high school juniors & seniors). Please visit www.northern.org to view job descriptions and download applications. Send all required application materials, including 3 references to 830 College Rd., Fairbanks AK 99701 or email to camphabitat@northern.org.

Nonprofit Org
US postage
PAID

Permit No 201
Fairbanks, AK



PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER