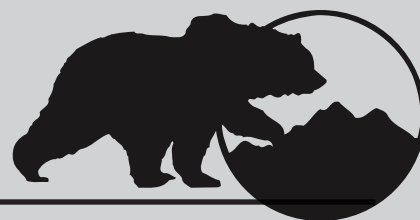


THE NORTHERN LINE



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



Taking Root

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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 1,099 members.

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Front Cover: *Pt. Hope Willow and Primrose*

© Pamela A. Miller

Back Cover: *NAEC friends at the 2007 Annual Meeting & Picnic*

© Laenne Thompson

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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.

Calendar of Events



June 5 Kick-Off & Planning Meeting

5pm @ the Northern Center.

Food, drink & great folks to work with to plan our November 8 Auction! RSVP to Auction Chair Ritchie Musick at (907) 479-5336 or email her at ritchiemusick@gci.net.

Join the NAEC Auction Team!

June 10 Elections for Golden Valley Electric Association

Ballots must be returned to GVEA by 5pm!

June 10 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.

June 12 Elections for Golden Valley Electric Association

GVEA Election results available

July 19 Golden Days Parade

10am starting @ the Carlson Center down 1st Avenue. This year's theme "49th State, 49th Year: Celebrating in the Golden Heart". Please come and help us parade our human-powered float through downtown. Call the NAEC to volunteer.

August 1 – August 9 Tanana Valley State Fair

Gates open at 12pm @ the Tanana Valley Fairgrounds. This year's theme is Pirates of the Carrots and Beans. Visit us at our booth in the Borealis Pavillion, and call the Northern Center to volunteer at the booth.

August 12 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.

August 17 Run for the Refuge

1pm @ UAF West Ridge Ski Hut. 5km & 10km Run or Walk on hilly UAF trails. Day of Race Sign-up starts at Noon. Advance registration; Entry Fee - Adults \$15, Children \$10; Day of Race, add \$5 to Entry Fees. Entry Fee includes T-shirt and food after the race. Fun for the Entire Family! Celebrate the Arctic and Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuges.

August 24 Tex-Mex Dinner: Camp Habitat Benefit

5 – 7pm @ Creamer's Field. Come on out to this fiesta-filled evening to enjoy south-of-the-border style foods and groovy Latin music as we celebrate the fall migration of Sandhill Cranes from Alaska to Texas and parts of Mexico! All proceeds go to support Camp Habitat Summer Camps.

Taking Root

By David van den Berg
Executive Director



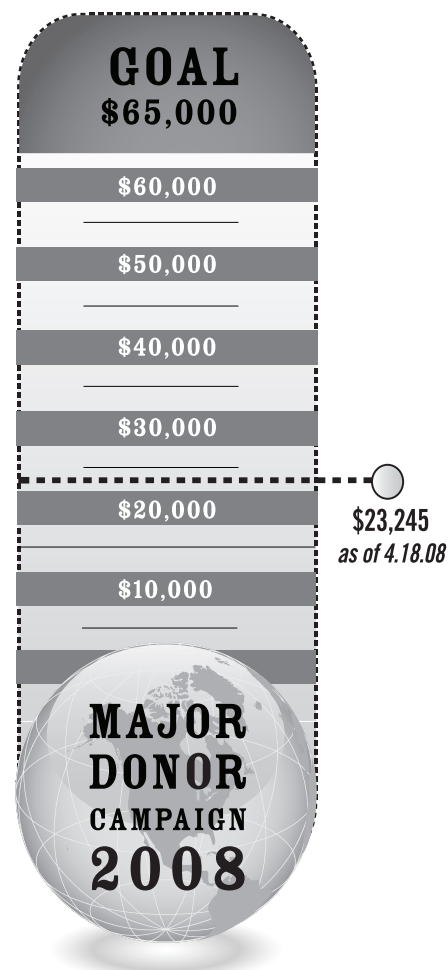
WHILE ALASKA HAS RESPONDED TO GLOBAL WARMING UNEVENLY, it has responded to the skyrocketing cost of oil sensibly. As we go to print, Governor Palin proposed a \$1.2 billion energy subsidy. A grant to utility companies would reduce utility bills by 60%; each qualifying Alaskan would get an “energy debit card” worth \$1200 per year for fuel oil or gasoline purchase. This proposal will be considered at a special session of the Alaska State Legislature. Recently-signed legislation will help Alaskan families use less oil through household efficiency retrofits, reducing their bills for years to come. Further, the state has made a long-term commitment to clean, renewable energy that has no fuel cost.

Alaska is a late entry to an international shift from fossil fuels wherein oil companies own solar companies, sales of hybrid vehicles are up, incandescent bulbs are phasing out and national governments cut carbon emissions for their national security.

Alaska’s small shift from fossil fuels reminds us that conservation values are taking root in Alaska. We’ve seen a conservation ethic expressed serially in Palin administration commission recommendations and in legislation. In April and May, Governor Palin signed into law SB289 and HB152. SB289 made changes in law to direct \$300 million to home energy conservation and weatherization programs for long-term energy savings. HB152, with significant last minute changes, now gives \$50 million per year for five years to renewable energy projects. In sum, Alaska’s leaders are pointing over half a billion dollars at reducing oil consumption to make our communities prosperous and secure.

The money isn’t worth much without proper implementation. In the months and years ahead, we’ll persuade that the hundreds of millions of dollars be put to the strict definition of their intended uses. Alaska’s leaders have expressed energy conservation’s bottom line: when we consume less oil, we need less oil, and when we need less oil, we’re less needy.

This route toward reducing oil consumption means our campaign to be less dependent on fossil fuels is taking root. Yay! Thank you for your help getting here - to achieve long-term energy savings and energy security as a matter of state policy and practice. And thank you for your help protecting Arctic wild lands. We surely have challenges ahead protecting the Arctic’s sensitive ecosystems from drilling and mining. But it’s an encouraging development that in an “oil state” we understand the costs of oil to Alaska’s families and that we’re making the transition to consume less.



Yukon Flats Land Trade Slowed: Standing Up for Alaska's Wildlands

By Pamela A. Miller

"Let the record show that the public just went wild for Alaska's wildlands," said Ed Alexander. The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in tribal council member began his testimony at the Yukon Flats land trade hearing in Fairbanks by asking hundreds crowded into the library to stand up.

"Our tribal council felt eight hours of public hearing testimony was not adequate to represent our 25,000 years of land use in the Yukon Flats," he continued. "See this smile," he said, "this is salmon, this is moose meat." So, for the second night in a row, first in Fort Yukon, now in Fairbanks, Alexander spoke to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and again, the crowded hearing lasted past midnight.

In most communities, and in Alaska's two largest cities, most hearings testimony opposed the land trade. This land swap would remove lands from the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge to allow for-profit corporation Doyon to drill for oil there – an activity that is not compatible with the purposes of the refuge. Part of the plan is to snake a road and pipeline corridor along Beaver Creek Wild River and through remote Victoria Creek in White Mountains National Recreation Area.

In Fairbanks, 43 people opposed the trade and discussed the major deficiencies of the draft environmental impact statement. Dog mushers, paddlers, skiers, hikers, trappers, birdwatchers, and many Gwich'in and other Alaska Natives

told Fish and Wildlife that this deal was not in the public interest. Only 3 people testified in favor of it in Fairbanks.

Edna Carroll, who operates a tour company in Fort Yukon, said that the biggest compliment the visitors give is "how clear the air is, how clear the sky is," and that drilling threatens this. Joe Matesi, a former North Slope oil worker, said he's seen the "brown smudge" of air pollution at one of the newer fields, Badami, and that due to the inversions in the Yukon Flats it would hang in there as cancer-causing smog.

Tribal council member Georgina Solomon said, "I grew up on Beaver Creek and on the river. At fish camp you have everything you need, all summer, no need to go back to town." Marilyn Savage, whose family lived in the Beaver Creek area said, "I

don't want to tell my grandkids we gave it up."

"The Yukon River is an international treasure," said Rob Rosenfeld, Yukon River Intertribal Watershed Council. "Beaver Creek Wild River and White Mountains are a national treasure," noted author Carolyn Kremers.

"The Yukon Flats land trade risks the national wildlife refuge system, a wild river and proposed wilderness," said Fran Mauer, retired U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service biologist. He summed it up saying, "It should be immediately suspended and buried in the graveyard of bad ideas along with Rampart Dam." 🌿

**"It feels good to stand up
for your wildlands."**

— Ed Alexander



Great turnout at the Fairbanks Yukon Flats land trade hearing. © Pamela A. Miller

COMMENT PERIOD RE-OPENS!

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service re-opened the public comment period! They saw the need to invite more scrutiny thanks to so many requests from communities, tribes, Tanana Chiefs Conference (representing 42 interior Alaska tribes), conservation groups and the public. Congressman Rush Holt from New Jersey and eleven other Representatives wrote the Interior Secretary with many concerns and had requested 120-day extension.

Protect the Yukon Flats Refuge! WHAT YOU CAN DO

Send your comments in right away!

Yukon Flats Refuge lands set aside for the protection of wildlife, clean water, and subsistence should not be traded for oil and gas development! If you already commented, please find a new angle or experience, and if you can, mention deficiencies in the EIS. To oppose the land trade, support "No Action," Alternative 3.

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

WRITE CONGRESS TO OPPOSE THE YUKON FLATS TRADE:

The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20510

E-MAIL A COMMENT:

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

LEARN MORE:

See the Refuge Map:
http://yukonflats.fws.gov/pdf/waterfowl_map.pdf

Read tribal concerns:
www.fortyukon.org/swap.html

Find maps and more:
www.northern.org

Protecting the Polar Bear Seas

By Pamela A. Miller

With the long spring days, polar bear mothers have emerged from their dens on the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. From this most important denning area in the U.S., they lead their tiny cubs out to the Beaufort Sea ice to stalk their favorite prey, the ringed seal.

Unfortunately, their sea ice habitat receded farther than ever last year, and the National Marine Fisheries Service is considering listing four species of ice seals under the Endangered Species Act.

On top of that, their ocean realm may soon be filled with booming seismic oil exploration ships, drilling rigs, ice breakers and even a tanker with up to 10 million gallons of fuel. So far, Shell Oil's exploration has been halted by the court as it considers a case brought by Alaska Native and conservation groups regarding insufficient environmental impact review. The Northern Center successfully appealed EPA's Clean Air Act permit last year but since a modified version still does not require the corporation to use Best Available Technology to reduce air pollution, we continue to press the agency to uphold the law.

In the Chukchi Sea to the west, the Bush administration held an oil and gas lease sale in February opening nearly 30 million acres of prime polar bear habitat. It moved in quickstep for the oil industry – but missed its deadline for ruling whether to list the polar bear as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. In May, Interior Secretary Kempthorne listed the polar bear – but industry still plans to mount seismic activities in the Chukchi this summer to prepare for oil drilling there.



WHAT YOU CAN DO

Noting this backwards approach to resource stewardship, members of Congress have put forward bills to draw attention to the Polar Bear Seas.

Representatives Inslee (D-WA) and Hinchey (D-NY) introduced the Polar Bear Seas Protection Act, H.R. 6057, which will require a National Academy of Sciences review of wildlife, cultural, public health and climate change information and addressing the oil spill response gap prior to further oil leasing in these seas.

In the Senate, Sen. John Kerry (D-MA) introduced S. 2568 to help protect the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas, together known as the Polar Bear Seas. This bill would prohibit oil and gas exploration activities in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas until potential impacts are better understood.

Write Congress asking them to co-sponsor these bills:

*H.R. 6057
The Honorable _____
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510*

*S. 2568
The Honorable _____
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515*



Climate Change Commission's Final Report

By Lori Hanneman

The legislatively-appointed Alaska Climate Impact Assessment Commission released its final report in March 2008. The report comes from two years of investigation into the impacts and potential effects of climate change on the state's citizens, communities, natural resources, state assets, and its economy. Despite findings of economic benefits, such as the increased exploration and shipping opportunities from the opening of the Northwest Passage, the threats to communities and the ecology of Alaska's lands will be significant. The Commission found the melting of the Arctic ice cap and the late freeze-up of coastal ice to be two of the most significant indicators of the impact of global warming on Alaska.

The economic impacts will take root in all state departments as the grim impacts increase, creating political challenges in

determining funding and assistance options. Recommendations include a coordinated process for village relocation, public infrastructure assessment, residential needs for homes at risk, and research. Perhaps most importantly, the Commission

"Successful adaptation strategies that recognize the environmental, cultural, and economic factors will be the keys to reducing the adversity of climate change."

Report concluded that "continued identification of potential challenges, threats, and planned responses needs to occur within the Administration...to enhance the development of policy, ...funding priorities, program management, and inter-agency collaboration, especially with federal agencies".

To do this, Governor Palin established a sub-cabinet for climate change to work on adaptation and mitigation. Northern Center staff have been appointed to task forces of the Sub-cabinet. For more information on the Sub-cabinet or to read the Commission's report, visit this website: www.climatechange.alaska.gov

WE want to HEAR from YOU!



We're always looking for ways to encourage our members to be more involved in the Center's efforts to protect our local, statewide, national, and global environment. Remember, the NAEC is your Center; we want to hear what you are thinking and what you may be doing.

Beginning with the next issue of the *Northern Line*, we will allocate space for member's comments. Your thoughts on the issues and how they can be most effectively addressed are welcome. But please keep in mind that the Center's resources are already stretched to the limit; staff time is fully committed to issues that the Board of Directors has identified as the most critical.

But if you have thoughts on these issues you'd like to share with other members, or if you'd like to alert members to other threats, please write. And if you are working on an environmental issue and looking for others to join you, send a short description to the *Northern Line*. Submissions need to be limited to 200-250 words, be in good taste, and be consistent with the Center's broad environmental mission. Send them to david@northern.org.

Success! Conservation Blooms in Juneau!

By Lori Hanneman



Important energy and environmental bills took root in the 2008 legislative session in Juneau, anchoring conservation legislation to the governor's desk. Legislators passed bills on renewable energy and home weatherization which will put millions into clean, renewable, and efficient energy practices in Alaska. This is an enormous success for Alaska's energy future! House Bill 152 passed unanimously in both houses, creating a Renewable Energy Fund of an initial \$50 million, with plans for appropriating \$50 million each year for the next four years. Senate Bill 289 passed and is funded with \$300 million for home weatherization projects and rebates. The capital budget also includes funding for the Fire Island wind farm and other wind projects, a rail belt energy study, and geothermal research.

The other legislative priorities did not fare as well. House Bill 74 'Banning Toxic Mixing Zones' did not pass. There were many letters, emails, and phone calls supporting reform of Alaska's mining practices, but it failed to get a hearing. House Bill 288, a bill banning pesticides at schools, went through several changes but did not make it through to the Governor.

However, the 25th Legislature was a landmark session for conservation with the passage of the renewable energy and weatherization bills. These bills and funding wouldn't have been possible without the fantastic support of Alaskans speaking up. It's a terrific time to make an appointment to visit your Senator and Representative about following through on these bills to fund renewable energy and household energy efficiency. www.legis.state.ak.us for your legislators' contact information. 🌱

Weatherization Windfall

By Lori Hanneman

Legislators recently passed Senate Bill 289, Home Energy Conservation and Weatherization, and it was funded with \$300 million dollars going to Alaska Housing Finance Corporation (AHFC). AHFC will work with five state weatherization providers around the state and fifteen state designated regional housing authorities on implementing conservation programs.

\$200 million will go toward the income-based Weatherization program. AHFC is significantly increasing the income eligibility levels so more Alaskans can qualify and become eligible for free home weatherization services. Contact AHFC to schedule an eligibility intake. Once approved, energy raters will assess your home, make recommendations of retrofit needs, and improvements will be done with no out-of-pocket expense to the homeowner.

There is also a rebate program which received \$100 million, which many homeowners will be able to utilize as there are no income limits. Call AHFC to sign up for the rebate program, and an energy rater will audit your home and make recommendations. The owner, or a qualified contractor, can perform the work to raise the home's energy rating. The raters do a follow-up inspection to determine the level of rebate based on AHFC criteria.

These funds will also include training programs and education. According to AHFC's website the phases for their new budget include:

- 1) Adoption of regulations and program guidelines
- 2) Agency and energy rating training
- 3) Implementation of the weatherization and rebate programs

- 4) Education, marketing and contractor training

Contact AHFC for current program details:
1-800-478-AHFC
www.ahfc.state.ak.us



Alaska's Clean Water Initiatives

By Zak Richter

Author's Note: My intention with this article is to provide the reader with an introduction to the history, scope, content, and purpose of the Clean Water Initiatives and their current status on the journey to the August 26, 2008 ballot. I have done my best to present the information in its plainest, most unedited form in an effort to provide balance to the information that is currently being presented to the public. At press time, Clean Water 1 was withdrawn by its sponsors..

HISTORY

The first Clean Water Initiative (Clean Water 1) was submitted to the State by on April 25, 2007. The Lt. Governor rejected the initiative on the grounds that it is an unconstitutional appropriation of land and water because it would preclude certain uses of land and water. Subsequently, two other versions of the Clean Water Initiative that attempted to address these issues were submitted. The second version was also rejected as an unconstitutional

appropriation, but the third version (Clean Water 3) was approved.

The sponsors of Clean Water 1 challenged the rejection by the Lt. Governor in Superior Court in Dillingham. The judge in Dillingham found that Clean Water 1 is not an unconstitutional appropriation and that it should be put on the ballot. The State has appealed that ruling. Most recently a complaint against Clean Water 1 and 3 was filed in the Fairbanks Superior Court. The court issued a ruling finding

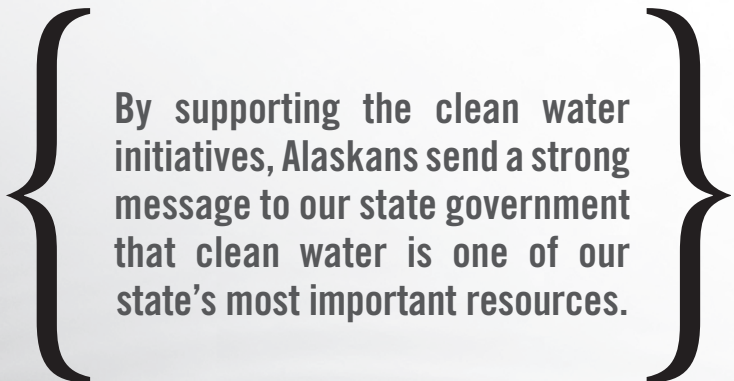
that Clean Water 3 is constitutional and may be placed on the ballot. However, the ruling found that Clean Water 1 is an unconstitutional appropriation. The rationale for the ruling followed the Lt. Governor's: that by not allowing toxic pollutants to be present in a waste water discharge Clean Water 1 eliminated a mine's ability to discharge water and took away a mine's right to use the water, which appropriates the use of that water. That decision has also been appealed to the Alaska Supreme Court, and the cases have been consolidated. A ruling by the Supreme Court is expected in June, which will be a final determination of the constitutionality of both Clean Water 1 and 3 and whether they appear on the August ballot.

SCOPE

These initiatives only apply to large scale metallic mineral mining operations, defined as mining operations that extract metallic minerals or deposits and utilize or disturb in excess of 640 acres (one square mile) of lands or waters, either alone or in combination with adjoining, related or concurrent mining activities or operations. Additionally, Clean Water 3 states, "this Act does not apply to existing large scale metallic mineral mining operations that have received all required federal, state, and local permits, authorizations, licenses, and approvals on or before the effective date of this Act or to future operations of existing facilities at those sites." Clean Water 1 has a similar provision that does not include the language "or future operations of existing facilities at those sites."

CONTENT

Primarily Clean Water 1 and 3 address two major issues: first, are releases or discharges of toxic pollutants into surface or subsurface water; and second, is the disposal of metallic mineral mining wastes which include



By supporting the clean water initiatives, Alaskans send a strong message to our state government that clean water is one of our state's most important resources.

overburden, waste rock, and tailings

Clean Water 1 states: “a person or entity may not, for large scale metallic mineral mining purposes, engage in any activity that directly or indirectly:

(a) releases any toxic pollutant into, or causes or contributes to any toxic pollution of, any surface or subsurface water, or tributary thereto that is utilized by humans for drinking water or by salmon in the spawning, rearing, migration, or propagation of the species; or that

(b) uses, releases or otherwise generates, within any watershed utilized by humans for drinking water or by salmon in the spawning, rearing, migration, or propagation of the species: (1) cyanide, or (2) sulfuric acid, or (3) compounds of cyanide or sulfuric acid, or (4) other toxic agents that maybe harmful directly, indirectly or cumulatively to; human health or to the spawning, rearing, migration, or propagation of salmon;

(c) stores or disposes of metallic mineral mining wastes, including overburden, waste rock, and tailings that may generate sulfuric acid, dissolved metals, chemicals or compounds thereof.

(d) stores or disposes of metallic mineral mining wastes, including overburden, waste rock, or tailings in, or within 1000 feet of any river, stream, lake, or tributary thereto, that is utilized by humans for drinking water or by salmon in the spawning, rearing, migration, or propagation of the species.

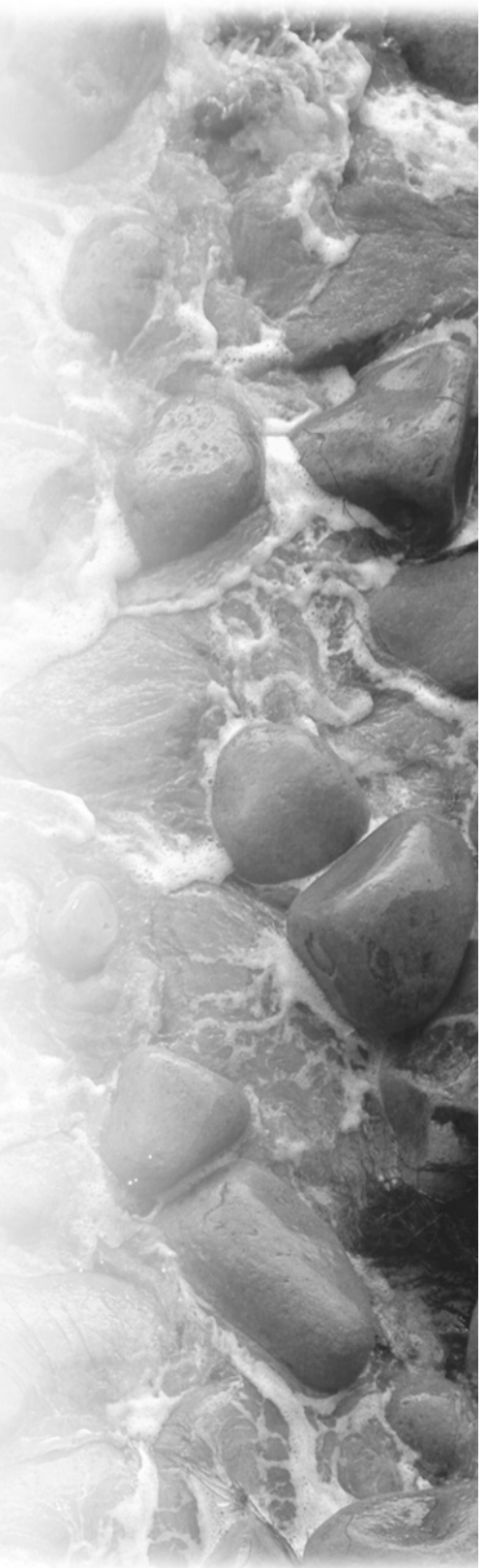
(e) causes acid mine drainage, heavy metals or dissolved metals to enter directly into, or indirectly by subsurface water into, any river, stream, lake, or tributary thereto, that is utilized by humans for drinking water or by salmon in the spawning, rearing, migration, or propagation of the species.

Clean Water 3 states: “licenses and permits for a prospective large scale metallic operation may not be granted

or issued to a person or entity to allow activity that directly or indirectly:

(1) releases or discharges a toxic pollutant or pollutants, in a measurable amount that will effect human health or welfare or any stage of the life cycle of salmon, into, any surface or subsurface water, or tributary there to; or that (2) stores or disposes of metallic mineral mining wastes, including overburden, waste rock, and tailings in a way that could result in the release or discharge of sulfuric acid, other acids, dissolved metals, toxic pollutants or other compounds thereof that will effect, directly or indirectly, surface or subsurface water or tributaries thereto used for human consumption or salmon spawning, rearing migration or propagation;”

Ultimately, both initiatives seek to protect the statewide public interest in clean water and ensure that the water quality of Alaska’s water ways, streams, rivers and lakes are not adversely impacted by new large scale metallic mineral mining operations. Even if Clean Water 1 or 3 are voted into law, there will undoubtedly be post-election challenges in Alaska courts of any initiative that is enacted. Additionally, two years from the enactment date (2011 legislative session), the AK Legislature could repeal any initiative that is passed into law. The process of protecting clean water in Alaska is far from over. By supporting the clean water initiatives, we keep the process alive and, as a community of Alaskans, send a strong message to our government that clean water is one of our state’s most important resources. We have an opportunity to take a stand and provide our land management and conservation agencies with the statutory authority necessary to implement more appropriate and necessary policies to protect our water and preserve our most valuable renewable resources, clean water. ♻️



Stampede State Recreation Area Bill Fails to Move

by Denali Citizens Council

Bills to establish the Stampede State Recreation Area (SSRA) have not progressed much during the 90-day legislative session. HB 241 was heard in the House Resources Committee on March 26. However, debate on a different subject took most of the committee's time and left only 15 minutes for consideration of the SSRA. Denali Borough Mayor Dave Talerico and Assembly Chair Armeda Bulard were able to express their support for the bill along with Division of State Parks and Outdoor Recreation Director, James King. However, at least four others, including Stampede property owner Stewart Cubley, waited for over an hour to testify and were not able to participate when the clock ran out. Initial reaction from Resources Committee members was not supportive of the bill; some expressed concern about effects on private landowners within the proposed recreation area, such as alleged heavy-handed management by State Parks and the problem of fees.

It is clear from the experience this session that a much more active approach will be required to shepherd the SSRA bill through the legislature, including providing more information to key committee members prior to the start of the session. Gathering more information (e.g. regarding the support/opposition of private landowners in the proposed recreation area) will also be key. Local citizens who support the SSRA are be grateful to their mayor and Borough Assembly, and also to Representative Guttenberg and staffer Christian Gou-Leonhardt for spending time on this bill. If area citizens remain interested, our legislators are willing to introduce an SSRA in the next legislature.

Volunteers interested in working on this issue should contact Julia at the DCC office at (907) 683-3396. ☘

Thanks to the Volunteers who Participated in Wilderness Week!

Joe Matesi for his many insights on Arctic and Yukon Flats Refuges, **Chris Cannon** for wildlife and rivers information, **Lindy Alexander** from Fort Yukon for his graciousness sharing Gwich'in culture with the youth, **Paul Edwin** from Chalkyitsik for sharing knowledge about boreal forest fires and global warming.



Joe Matesi, Pamela A. Miller, and Paul Edwin at Wilderness Week in D.C. in March.

BIG THANK YOUs

Cara Brunk for facilitating our website architecture re-design, **Kerynn Fisher** for help choosing new software and for enhancing our database, **Stan Justice** for ongoing, endless work maintaining our facilities, **Franziska Kohl and John Lyle** for their letters to the editor on Renewable Energy legislation, **Laurel & Ed McLaughlin** for putting stamps on & mailing NVS post cards, **Ritchie Musik** for serving as NAEC board representative on Camp Habitat Advisory Board, **Marilyn Richardson** for making calls for the Earth Day Fair, **Sandra Sedwarf and Terry Glendinning** for making calls at the Legislative phone bank, **Mary Shields** for serving as NAEC board representative on Camp Habitat Advisory Board, **Lieutenant Jules Toraya** for assistance in writing small grants, **Sylvia Ward** for steering the Advisory Board, **Suzy Fenner** for volunteer work related to sustainability, **Mary Zalar** for Annual Report layout, and **Henrietta Rexroad** for her elbow grease on the rental apartments.

The Northern Center THANKS all those who helped to make the Yukon Flats hearings a success!

Fran Mauer for technical expertise and calling hundreds of members, **Kaarle Straley** for calling hundreds of members, **Gwichyaa Zhee Tribal Government**, especially **First Chief Dacho Alexander** who traveled to Anchorage, and **Nancy James, Executive Director; Shirley Fields, Realty Director;** council members **Ed Alexander, Georgina Solomon**

Marilyn Savage for networking, traveling and being on the radio, **Matthew Gilbert** for his pizza party and powerpoint in Arctic Village, **Rochelle Adams** for her artwork and lending her graphic design talents, **Anne Gore, The Wilderness Society** for videotaping for 11 hours, Many others who gave comments, posted YouTube videos, and sent in letters to the editor.

Meet the 2008 Summer Camps Director!

Erinn Hatter



© Leanne Thompson

Erinn Hatter, Camp Habitat Director, hails from Pennsylvania where she earned her B.S. and M.A. in Fine Art and Visual Arts Education in 2005. She first came to Fairbanks in 2007 to enjoy the endless days of summer on an opportunistic whim, after spending two years teaching art in New York City. After readjusting from the initial culture shock that goes along with moving from a four story walk-up in Manhattan to a dry cabin in Goldstream Valley, she realized she just couldn't stay away from Alaska for long. She is very excited to be back, and even more so to be spending this summer in Fairbanks as Camp Director. Erinn hopes to bring those memorable summer programs to the youth of Fairbanks with the same success as her predecessor, Jenny Day, and in her free time take advantage of all that the community has to offer. Erinn makes prints on reused paper, paintings on old canvases, and stories of real life on the web. 🍄



Discovering Alaska: A Summer Lecture Series

Wednesdays, 7pm @ Schaible Auditorium

May 28 David Mollett

Landscape Painting in the Brooks Range

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.

June 4 Bill Brody

Painting in Glacier Country

Bill Brody, artist, addresses all the phases of working in the wilderness as a landscape painter; how to get there, how to do the work while there, how to live there while working.

June 11 Kes Woodward

Painting in the North

Kesler Woodward, artist, will discuss his personal connection to the northern landscape through images of his paintings of the circum-polar North from Hudson Bay to the Bering Strait and Siberian Coast.

June 18 Derick Burleson

The Poet's North

Poet Derick Burleson will read poems from his new collection *Never Night* and discuss poetic inspiration in the Alaskan Interior.

June 25 Susan Sharbaugh

Alaska's Amazing Avifauna (Birds)

Senior scientist with the Alaska Bird Observatory, Susan Sharbaugh will share the natural history of the Interior's avian summer visitors and sourdough residents. She will enlighten you on the how and why of migrating birds and how the resident birds survive 40 below and the extended dark of winter.

July 2 Peggy Shumaker

Geographies of the Land and of the Heart

Writer Peggy Shumaker will read work rooted in the vastness of Alaska, and will explore how our inner and outer landscapes merge. Images painted by Kesler Woodward will complement her readings.

July 9 Dan O'Neill

The Firecracker Boys:

The Story of Project Chariot

With accompanying slides, author Dan O'Neill will tell the story of how a small Eskimo village along with a handful of Alaskan scientists and conservationists thwarted Edward Teller's dream of using a massive nuclear explosion to create an instant harbor on the coast of Alaska.

July 16 Monique Musick

Painting with Light

Photographer and lifelong Alaskan Monique Musick will share photographic tips through a slide show lecture. Learn how to best capture the unparalleled beauty of Alaska on film or in digital format.

July 23 John Whitehead

Remembering The Statehooders—

The Legacy of Alaska's Greatest Generation

Former UAF historian and author of *Completing The Union* John Whitehead will share his interviews with many of the delegates to the Alaska Constitutional Convention of 1955-56, and highlight their accomplishments, particularly the Alaska Constitution, the Tennessee Plan, and their adroitness in maneuvering the U.S. Congress to approve the Alaska Statehood Bill in the summer of 1958.

July 30 Gary Laursen

Mushrooms of Alaska

With unbridled enthusiasm mycologist Gary Laursen will share with you his expertise on the critical role that fungi play in the northern environment. Gary will be showing slides of Alaskan mushroom species.

August 6 Jamie Smith

25 years of Cartooning in Alaska

Alaskan artist and UAF adjunct faculty member, Jamie Smith, who is said to be "afflicted with an unremitting sense of absurdity" will offer a window into the world of the Alaskan cartoonist. Jamie has published four collections of his Freeze-Frame and Nuggets cartoons.

August 13 Carolyn Parker

Alaska's Native Flora

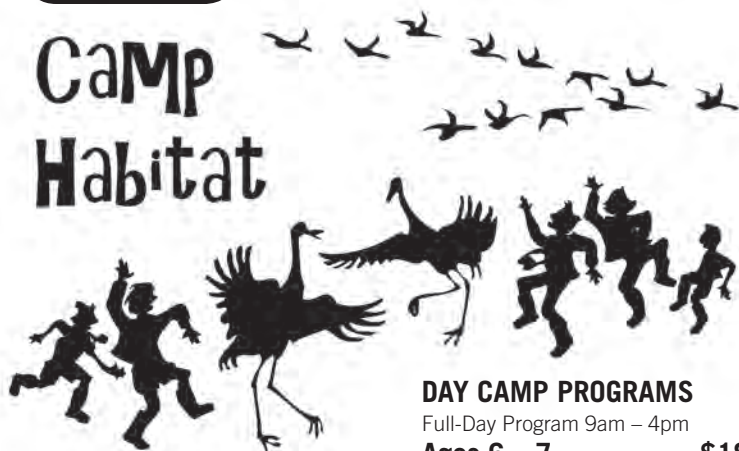
Through images and stories long-time Alaskan field botanist Carolyn Parker shares her exploration of Alaska's native flora—its origin, beauty, diversity, and mysteries.

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.



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 **Full** 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



May 30 NAEC Annual Members Meeting & Picnic

Annual Meeting 5 - 6pm

Picnic begins @ 6pm at the Northern Center. Come meet the board & staff, mingle with members and join us as we celebrate 37 years of conservation! Food, drinks, live music and games provided by NAEC. Be there!

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