

THE NORTHERN LINE



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

NAEC Welcomes Karen Max Kelly as the New Executive Director

By Dan Adams
Interim Executive Director

We are very pleased to announce Karen Max Kelly as the new NAEC Executive Director. Karen will leave her position in the fundraising offices of Georgetown University Law Center where she completed a Non-profit Management Certification Program through the Georgetown Public Policy Institute. She is a former 20-year resident of Fairbanks and holds both a B.S. in Anthropology and an M.S. in Botany from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. Her graduate research focused on Arctic plant ecology and evolution and she has worked throughout Alaska as a field biologist on resource conservation issues including mining and oilfield reclamation, wetlands mapping, and ecological assessments. Karen's broad experience in the non-profit sector includes work as a fundraiser, board member, board chair, and political activist in Juneau working with groups advocating for progressive public policy on population, environment and health care. Karen is thrilled to be coming back "home" and the NAEC team welcomes her June 1st arrival and official start date.



Karen Max Kelly, new NAEC Executive Director

This issue of the *Northern Line* is more abbreviated for a couple reasons: 1) we continue to explore ways to conserve resources, and 2) staff have been busy writing and readying for the launch of the new and improved northern.org! It incorporates the latest technology to provide readers with a depth of information in a user-friendly format. We'll continue to add new photos, maps and information on topics of interest to NAEC members and the global environmental community to engage people in the issues they care about most. **The web site launch date is scheduled to be right around Earth Day, April 22. Check it out at www.northern.org, browse through, and learn something new!**

Once again the Northern Center's Staff and Board thank you graciously for your continued commitment to and support of our work for the environment.

Dan Adams, *Interim Executive Director*



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 © 2009 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 1680 members* members.

STAFF

Dan Adams, *Interim Executive Director*
 Pamela A. Miller, *Arctic Program Director*
 Jessie Peterson, *Local Issues & Energy Coordinator*
 Zak Richter, *Clean Water Program Director*
 Heidi Supkis, *Membership Coordinator*
 Laenne Thompson, *Communications & Development Director*

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*To accurately reflect number of household members who are residing at the same address as partners and spouses sharing similar environmental values and who read the Northern Line, it is standard practice to use a simple multiplier factor of 1.67.

Front Cover:
Aichilik River in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge © Pamela A. Miller

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Nature Education & Ecology Camp

Camp Habitat 2009



PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Half-Day Program 9am – 12pm

Ages 4 – 5 \$110

Nature Sprouts I June 15 – 19
 Nature Sprouts II June 22 – 26

DAY CAMP PROGRAMS

Full-Day Program 9am – 4pm

Ages 6 – 7 \$185

Nature Detectives I July 6 – 10
 Nature Detectives II July 13 – 17
 Nature Detectives III July 20 – 24

Ages 8 – 9* \$235*

Water Striders I July 6 – 10
 Water Striders II July 13 – 17
 Water Striders III July 20 – 24

Ages 10 -11* \$235*

Refuge Adventurers July 13 – 17

**includes 1 overnight campout*

REGISTRATION ONLINE

www.northern.org
 or Call (907) 452-5021

Denali Overflights Council to Meet in Fairbanks this Spring

By Nancy Bale, DCC President and Council member

The Denali Aircraft Overflights Advisory Council held its fifth meeting this April in Fairbanks.

The Advisory Council was formed as a mandate of Denali's Backcountry Management Plan of 2006, an amendment to Denali's General Management Plan. The plan identified the dramatic increase in scenic overflights and concession-permitted airplane landings since the 1986 General Management Plan, and the consequent substantial changes in the natural sound environment. The identification of natural sounds as a resource was a key element of the Backcountry Management Plan and reflected the growing recognition by NPS managers that natural sounds are a legitimate resource requiring protection along with landscape and wildlife.

The Council has 12 members representing a diversity of interests at Denali. Our mission is to advise the Secretary of the Interior on matters relating to mitigation of impacts from aircraft overflights at Denali National Park and Preserve," by developing "voluntary measures for assuring the safety of passengers, pilots, and mountaineers and for achieving desired future resource conditions at Denali National Park and Preserve."

The April meeting will provided Fairbanks area citizens a unique opportunity to view the Council in action and to express their views on this important topic during public comment periods. To find out more about the Council, please go to <http://www.nps.gov/dena/parkmgmt/currentprojects.htm>. ☘

So Long from Sara Elzey

After 7+ years and fulfilling many different roles throughout my time at the NAEC—from part-time bookkeeper to Controller and Assistant Executive Director—I'm moving on. I have learned and grown a lot and so has the NAEC! I am proud of this organization, its staff, board of directors and members and the work we have done together. I have enjoyed working with all of you. I am confident that the Center will continue to do great work on behalf of my beloved Alaska. **Thank you all!**

Arctic Changes

By Pamela A. Miller, Arctic Program Director

Arctic Refuge – On the eve of the 50th anniversary of America's wilderness refuge, we have the best chance in decades to designate wilderness for the coastal plain in bills introduced by Rep. Markey (HR 39) and Senator Lieberman (S.231). Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich put a new wrapping on a drilling package to open the Arctic Refuge coastal plain to harmful oil exploitation. Their media spin about "directional drilling" from state lands and waters belies the full extent of leasing, seismic, drilling, and production activities that could take place in the coastal plain. Dirty, disruptive oil operations would harm wild coasts critical to polar bears, birds,

caribou, and subsistence and the wilderness would be gone forever. Murkowski's drilling bill is a distraction away from a clean, renewable energy future for Alaska. Check out the new web site for maps, photos, fact sheets and updates about the Arctic:

WESTERN ARCTIC We seek permanent protections for Teshekpuk Lake and other special places.

ARCTIC OCEAN New Interior Secretary Salazar slows process for new Five-Year offshore leasing plan; we seek an Arctic Ocean energy and conservation plan to better protect polar bears, bowhead whales, and marine ecosystems Alaska

Gift Memberships

Birthdays or Anniversaries, gift giving is simple and easy! \$25.00 will introduce someone to the mission of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center. Call us at (907) 452-5021 to give the gift of conservation to others!

Natives depend on.

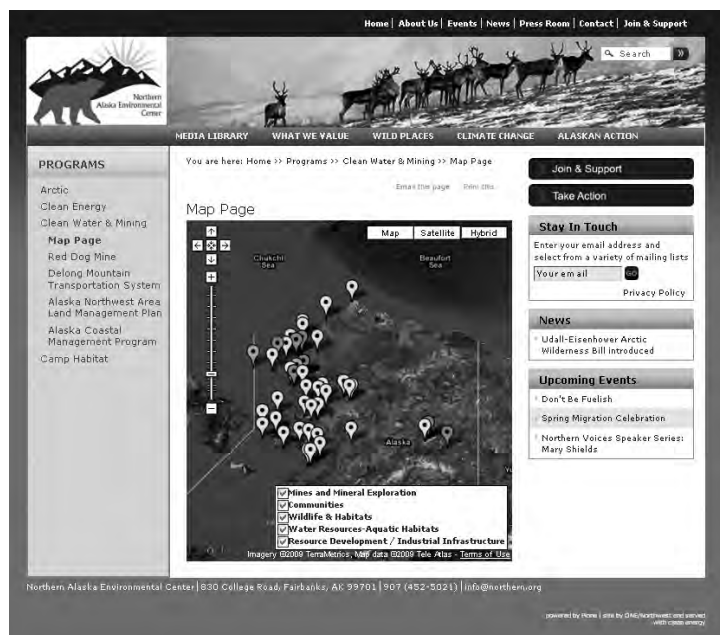
YUKON FLATS REFUGE We request U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service to halt the land trade.

ARCTIC CLIMATE CHANGE Dramatic coastal erosion at Kaktovik reveals ancient glacier.

DRILLING IMPACTS Since 2007, number of toxic spills is increasing on Alaska's North Slope averaging 453 spills per year. 🐻

Come visit the Clean Water and Mining Program Web Pages!

By Zak Richter



In the context of mineral resource development, we are working for an Alaska where environmental policies, statutes and regulations can provide for the protection, and conservation of the environment.

Sound conservation policies and strong, effective laws are essential for the protection of biodiversity, ecosystem connectivity and wilderness. At the state and federal levels, strong policies and laws have been the basis for protecting critical wildlife habitat, preventing habitat fragmentation, delaying or averting reckless resource extraction, and otherwise preserving our natural ecosystems.

FIND the resources you need to help you stay informed and what we are doing to:

- Safeguard the life-supporting capacity of air, water, soil, and ecosystems for all life.
- Sustain the potential of ecosystems to meet the needs of all future generations
- Preserve Wilderness in Alaska.
- Acknowledge that climate change is a major additional stress on arctic ecosystems.

FOCUS of Our Current Work:

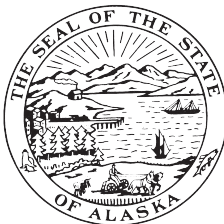
- Red Dog Mine: Aqqaluk SEIS, Fugitive Dust Impacts
- Delong Mountain Transportation System
- Alaska Coastal Management Program
- North West Area Land Management Plan

SEE our new Google map to navigate to resource and wildlife information.

DISCOVER how you can stay informed or get involved! 🐻

Legislative Round-Up

By Jessie Peterson



End of Session

Success!

Legislative Committee Approves \$100 Million in Renewable Energy Grants

On February 17, 2009 the Joint Legislative Budget and Audit Committee voted 8 to 2 to approve grants worth \$100 million for 77 renewable energy projects across Alaska. These funds are a result of HB 152, the bill passed last session for renewable energy projects. For a complete list of the 77 projects, including those in the Interior, check out the entire list at www.akenergyauthority.org

ACA/ACV Legislative Fly-In: Juneau, here we come!

March 8 – 10 marked the dates of the exciting Legislative Fly-In to Juneau. This was a fantastic opportunity for folks interested in conservation legislation to gain an overview of the legislative process, learn tools for effective community outreach, and to make their voices heard by attending constituent meetings with their legislators. The energy and excitement permeated the Fly-In, with exceptional participants from around the state collaborating and educating each other about relevant Alaskan conservation issues.

Legislators during the 2009 session were faced with a blessed dilemma: too many energy efficiency and renewable energy bills! During the summer and fall interim period, the NAEC will continue to collaborate with the sponsors of the bills and Fairbanks legislators to promote and refine the energy efficiency and renewable energy bills. On this page are summaries of SB 121 and SB 150 – two of the Alaska Conservation Alliance priority energy bills that need YOUR support to gain traction during the interim. Make sure to visit the “Alaskan Action” section on our *new website* (www.northern.org) to keep updated on the status of these bills, and to learn how you can make a difference.

HOT BILLS TO TRACK

SB 150: An Act Establishing an Emerging Energy Technology Fund.

SB 150 would create a renewable energy resource and development fund to increase the number of innovative renewable/energy efficiency projects across Alaska. This bill is especially important in uncertain economic times, as new economic opportunities will be created with the funding of new energy projects across the state. In particular, SB 150 can offer rural villages the opportunity to apply for funds to test new energy options that would otherwise be too expensive to implement.

SB 121: Energy Efficiency Buildings/Public Works

This bill was introduced by the Senate Resources Committee with the intent to reduce the amount of energy consumed by public facilities between 2000 and 2020 by 20%, which would reduce costs to the state and increase jobs in the energy efficiency industries. SB 121 will certainly be a hot bill to track and support during the 2010 legislative session. ♻️

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ➡ Contact your legislators by visiting www.legis.state.ak.us. Click on the link to ‘find your legislators,’ track bills, and review their actions during the session.
- ➡ Call your local legislators during the summer! They need the feedback from constituents in order to be more effective next year. In particular, urge them to support SB 121 and SB 150.
- ➡ Questions about the legislative process? Want to become more involved? Contact Jessie Peterson, *Local Issues and Energy Coordinator*, at the NAEC to learn more! jessie@northern.org



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