



2023 Annual Report

MISSION

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

BY THE NUMBERS

In 2023 we had...

887 donors (including individuals and organizations).

135,000

comments submitted to the Bureau of Land Management as part of the Ambler Road Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement comment period.

3 large gatherings for Save Our Domes.

2 publications of *The Northern Line*.

Raised

\$10,000

for Jim Kowalsky Youth Engagement Fund, which supports Camp Habitat and the Northern Center summer intern.

4 in-region listening sessions in Kotzebue and Upper Kobuk villages that would be affected by extractive mining.

2 No Ambler Road information sessions in Fairbanks, co-organized by Native Movement.

In 2020, the Northern Center helped to craft the Arctic Protocols, which were informed by the Jemez Principles. We adopted these protocols to guide our organizing in northern Alaska.

1. Include Arctic Indigenous Peoples in advocacy about Arctic lands, waters and wildlife, whose survival depends on their protection.
2. Include local organizing from local people as a critical strategy.
3. Be curious and don't assume: Clarify roles, representation, and accountability structures regularly.
4. Make efforts to meaningfully align visions.
5. Support just and equitable resource sharing amongst coalition members.
6. Engage in ongoing organizational and individual learning and unlearning for transformative and adaptive change.
7. Be accountable to each other for group growth.

STAFF

Elisabeth Balster Dabney
Executive Director

Lois Barger
Deputy Director

Sarah Frampton
Chief Financial Officer

Emily Sullivan
Communications Director

Ryan Arash Marsh
Director and Head Guide for Adventure Borealis

Katie McClellan
Mining Impacts and Energy Manager

Emily Hikes
Mining Impacts Response Coordinator

Christin Swearingen
Manager of Donor Joy (Development Officer)

Sean McDermott
Arctic Program Coordinator

Emily Mesner
Communications Coordinator

BOARD

Molly Nakayama
Vice President

Kasey Keogh
Secretary

Chad Brown
Board Member

Shannon Busby
Board Member



ARCTIC PROGRAM

- In 2023, the Arctic program continued to build trust and relationship with the communities of the Arctic region, listening and learning, hearing concerns directly from people who are most affected by the oil and gas industry and climate change.
- 10 days in the Arctic Refuge: Communications Director Emily Sullivan attended a third place-based dialogue with the Imago initiative, which brings Indigenous peoples and environmental groups together to re-imagine conservation of the Arctic Refuge through an Indigenous lens.
- We celebrated the cancellation of the last remaining oil and gas leases on the Arctic Refuge coastal plain. Northern Center remains focused on organizing to deter the mandated upcoming lease sale in 2024.
- Run for the Refuge drew participants in Fairbanks and around the world, including people running in solidarity from a research vessel on the Pacific!

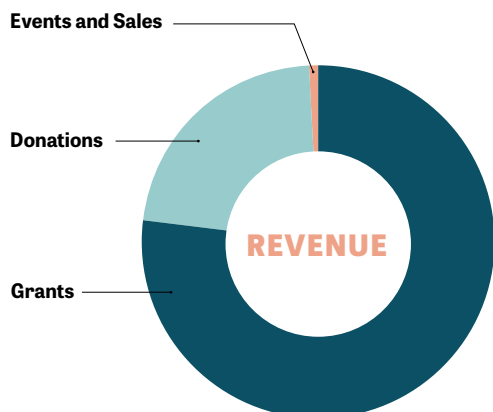
CLEAN WATER & MINING PROGRAM

- Emily Hikes joined our Clean Water and Mining program in a new position aimed at lending capacity to Katie McClellan, with particular focus on the Manh Choh ore haul. She helped Advocates for Safe Alaskan Highways write a charter and plan their tactics and strategies which are being implemented in 2024.
- Organized a groundswell of opposition to the Ambler Road.
- Staff met with 10 different agencies/legislators in D.C., and attended the Arctic Circle Summit in Iceland with the message that Northern Alaska issues are global issues.

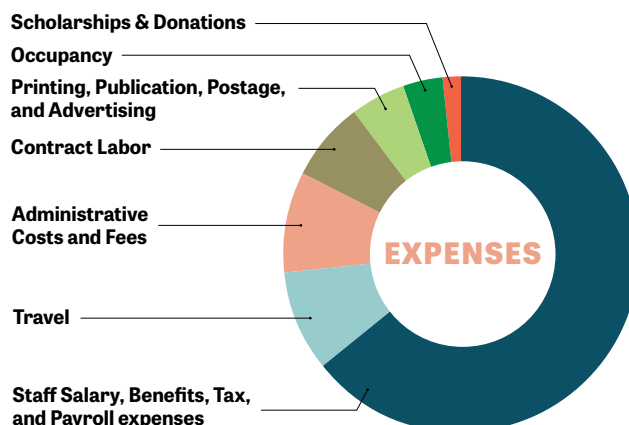
ADVENTURE BOREALIS

- Launched website and branding.
- Held three guided natural history trips on birding, mushrooms, and berries.
- Provided guide support for the American Lands Project and at two shorebird festivals (one in Kachemak Bay and one in Utqiagvik).
- Laid the groundwork for affinity programs in 2024, including a BIPOC Bird Club.
- Adventure Borealis director Ryan Arash Marsh attended the American Lands Project educational trip to Arctic Refuge with federal legislators as a subject matter expert.

FINANCE



REVENUE	\$1,259,780.03
Grants	\$968,053.11
Donations	\$282,124.93
Events and Sales	\$8,122.40
Other	\$1,479.59



EXPENSES	\$1,305,520.25
Scholarships & Donations	\$18,054.00
Occupancy	\$49,399.30
Printing, Publication, Postage, and Advertising	\$64,211.89
Contract Labor	\$95,474.19
Administrative Costs and Fees	\$117,958.75
Travel	\$120,230.36
Staff Salary, Benefits, Tax, and Payroll expenses	\$840,191.76

THANK YOU TO OUR GRANTORS!

444S Foundation
 Alaska Community Action on Toxics
 Alaska Community Foundation
 Alaska Conservation Foundation
 Alaska Wilderness League
 Amalgamated Fund
 Holdfast Fund
 Marin Community Foundation
 Marshall and Yuko Hung Foundation
 NorthLight Foundation
 The Wilderness Society

Tortuga Foundation
 True North Foundation
 Western Organization of Resource
 Councils

HOW TO GIVE SMARTER

Many of our supporters are choosing to include gifts to the Northern Center in their wills, trusts, or retirement accounts. Contact Christin at christin@northern.org or 907-452-5092 to learn more about tax-smart ways to give.

**DONOR BILL
 OF RIGHTS**



2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

Details at northern.org/events.

Run for the Refuge (virtual event)

JUL. 12-14

Fairbanks Fungi Festival

AUG. 25

Night for the North

NOV. 9

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS!

Thank you to our supporters! Please scan the QR code below to see a list of members and supporters who make our work possible.

