

Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Local Clean Water and Mining Community Organizer
Scope of Work

Organizational background

Since 1971 the Northern Alaska Environmental Center (Northern Center) has employed grassroots activism, legislative advocacy, legal intervention, and public education to protect the ecological integrity of public lands in Northern Alaska. The Northern Center advocates for a more responsible and sustainable approach to resource development on subarctic and arctic wildlands and the surrounding seas, and addresses environmental issues that impact Alaskans' quality of life.

We envision a Northern Alaska far into the future that remains a land of superlatives—as inspiring, healthy and supremely beautiful as it is today. Our globally important wildlands will remain biologically diverse and productive, with abundant fish and wildlife that support vigorous subsistence traditions and an extraordinary, increasingly sustainable quality of life for Alaskans.

We envision a Northern Alaska Environmental Center that plays a leading role in achieving this promising future through strong grassroots organizing, defensive work, exploring solutions, and by building broad coalitions that translate Alaskans' passion for our home into an environmentally and culturally sustainable future.

Position Summary

The Community Organizer is a contracted position that works directly with the Northern Alaska Environmental Center and Fairbanks community members to develop strategies, goals and objectives to address recent mining concerns in the region. The Community Organizer reports directly to the Northern Alaska Environmental Center Clean Water and Mining Manager and will help develop a plan on how to address current and future mining activities in the region mentioned in the Problem section below.

Problem

Two foreign mining companies--Millrock Resources and Felix Gold-- are in a strategic partnership to explore for gold in the Fairbanks area, specifically around Ester Dome, Treasure Creek and Old Murphy Dome Road, North Fox, Pedro Dome, and Cleary Summit. These areas contain a significant number of trails that see heavy use year round. Ester Dome, in particular, is a hub of recreational activity in the Fairbanks area. Community members are concerned with the possibility of a gold mine operating in a highly residential area and are alarmed at the speed of which the leasing has occurred, the Alaska Mental Health Trust's assertion that the best use for their land is mineral exploration, and the lack of public input.

Community members are concerned that any development will interfere with recreation trails, increase noise levels from operations including truck traffic, and create air pollution and potential water pollution. Organizing now, educating the community, and informing them of their potential rights will help support people new to environmental advocacy, community organizing, and the associated state and federal permitting processes.

The Community Organizer will help streamline opposition by remaining focused on the issue, following all permitting and lease processes, ground-truthing the findings of the company, continuing to put pressure on the Mental Health Trust Authority, Felix Gold, and Millrock to listen to residents and maintain momentum for the community's opposition efforts. The Community Organizer will also help develop strategy for long-term opposition to mineral extraction in the area.

Goals

- Aid community efforts in building a robust group in opposition to development
- Act as liaison and point of contact between different entities, such as The Alaska Center, Northern Center, etc.
- Watchdog exploration companies and promote transparency and community engagement
- Secure legal expertise and support from an environmental law group such as Trustees for Alaska or Earthjustice.



- Create a strategic plan for long term opposition, including securing further funding if needed.
- Develop/explore zoning and the FNSB Comprehensive Plan or other planning avenues to change land status

Deliverables

- Organize community in opposition to mine
 - Host at least 2 Q+A Sessions with mining representatives
 - Host at least 2 Call to Action rallies
 - Host at least 4 educational sessions on the process of gold mining including history of mining in the region including impacts
- Develop opposition group cohesion as an entity to oppose development in the mid to long term
- Coordinate with opposition group to draft a strategic plan guiding the group's actions through the exploration phase
- Contact legal partners to investigate potential legal challenges and hurdles
- Analyze feasibility of public outreach campaign steps and costs

Required Skills and Experience

- Working knowledge of computer systems MS Word/ Excel etc.
- Working knowledge of virtual meeting platforms - Zoom, Google Meets, etc.

Preferred Qualifications

- Experience in Community Organizing efforts
- Local knowledge about mining history in Fairbanks and surrounding areas
- Knowledge of mining industry practices including lease sales, remediation requirements etc.
- Current resident of Ester, Murphy Dome, or Golstream areas

Compensation



830 College Road
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701-1535
(907) 452-5021
www.northern.org

This is a part-time non-permanent independent contractor position.

Compensation will be at a rate of \$20.00 per hour up to a maximum of 500 hours with the potential to increase maximum hours depending on funding. Contractor will be compensated on a twice monthly cycle.

Timeline

Hire immediately

January 2022:

- Contractor hired and onboarded
- Familiarized with the issue
- Meet with local opposition group
- Construct work plan

February 2022:

- Opposition group meets to decide on organizational structure
- Contact exploration companies to set up Q&A sessions
- Host first educational session

March 2022:

- Host first Q&A Session
- Host Second Educational Session
- Opposition Group goals and objectives finalized

April 2022

- Host second Educational Session
- Opposition group Strategic plan developed
- Legal partners contacted
- Public outreach campaign feasibility assessed

May 2022

- Host Third Educational Session



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Host first call to action rally
Host Second Q&A session

June 2022

Host 4th Educational Session

Host Second Call to Action rally

Opposition group prepared to move forward independently

Assess feasibility of increasing maximum hours and extending contract

To Apply

Email resume and cover letter to Program Director Lisa Baraff at lisa@northern.org.

