

NorthernLine

"Behind is a great forest that goes to the Arctic...and here we must draw our line."

~ Gary Snyder, *Front Lines*



Northern
Alaska Environmental
Center

Spring 2012 Volume XXXIV, No. 1

David (Arnold) v. Goliath (Big Oil): NAEC's New Director Greeted with New Challenges

NAEC's strong staff, Board of Directors, and members have a 41-year history of working hard and prevailing against environmental destruction proposed by industrial forces. This spring, we face an unprecedented challenge from Big Industry: a subsidiary of oil giant Royal Dutch Shell sued NAEC and 12 other non-profit organizations that have a history of opposition to Shell's proposed drilling in Arctic waters. Shell's complaint is based on the fact that despite five years and billions of dollars invested, they still they have not been able to put their drills in our Arctic seas—because NAEC and our allies keep pointing out that their proposed spill plan is inadequate, and because we *might* continue to do so. We are being sued because we are doing our job to protect the Arctic Ocean, despite the odds!

Here's the lineup: Shell commands a paid workforce of over 90,000 people; NAEC commands a paid workforce of 7. In 2011, Shell made \$470.2 billion, making it the second most profitable company in the world; NAEC is a non-profit organization. Shell is headquartered overseas; NAEC is centered in Fairbanks. Shell is a global group of energy and petrochemical companies; NAEC is a local group of concerned citizens. This is David and Goliath.

You will recall from the biblical tale that David prevailed against the 9-foot bully because he had good aim and a strong sense of perspective. These are the strengths NAEC uses to face off against oil giants Monday-Friday from 9am to long after 5pm. We take our perspective from years of working on the ground in the Arctic and sub-Arctic, and direct knowledge of the power of our land. We have top strategists on our staff and our experienced, caring members represent good aim from all directions.

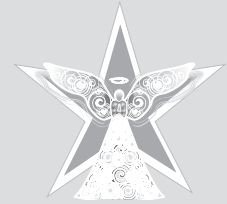
Now we've got a David too. Please welcome the Northern Center's next Executive Director, David L. Arnold, PhD. NAEC's Board and staff are looking forward to working with Dave. You can meet him on page 2, or I will introduce you to Dave on June 1 at our annual membership meeting! ♡

See you there!

Karen M. Kelly
Executive Director



Outgoing Executive Director Karen Kelly and incoming ED Dave Arnold have each other's backs for a smooth leadership transition!



Want to ensure Permanent Protection for Alaska's wild lands?

Consider leaving NAEC a gift through your will, or by contributing to the Northern Alaska Guardian Endowment any time. It's easy – call us at (907) 452-5021 for more information.



Receive Weekly Upcoming Community
Conservation Events & News:
Sign Up online @ www.Northern.org

SAVE THE DATE!

JUNE 1, 2012 Annual Membership Meeting & Picnic

Meet our New Executive Director!

5:30 Annual Meeting
6:30 Food & Klezmer Music
by Almost a Minyan

~

Bring a side dish to share.
Drinks & main dish catered
by Lemongrass.

Save your appetites and
bring some cash for the
dessert auction!

The Northern Line

Environmental News of Arctic and Interior Alaska

The Northern Line is published by the Northern Alaska Environmental Center (NAEC), 830 College Rd., Fairbanks, Alaska, 99701. EMAIL: info@northern.org WEB: www.northern.org Copyright © 2011 by NAEC. All rights reserved. Subscription rate is \$40 annually and includes membership. We encourage submission of letters and articles for publications. 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 and sustainable resource stewardship in Interior and Arctic Alaska through education and advocacy.

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center has 1577 members*
*To accurately reflect the number of household members who reside at the same address as partners and spouses sharing similar environmental values and read the Northern Line, it is standard practice to use a single multiplier factor of 1.67 to estimate members who have given in the past 18 months.

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Pamela A. Miller, *Arctic Program Director*
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A Long & Winding Road Home



Dave Arnold

On May 28th I will begin the great privilege of formally serving the Northern Alaska Environmental Center as its next Executive Director. My first order of business, even prior to taking the ED seat, is to express sincerest gratitude to the NAEC family for the warm welcomes my wife and I have received since agreement was reached for me to join the Center.

And now that we are being introduced to the Northern Center family, I would also like to share a little background about myself. Of course I encourage everyone to stop by and say “hello” in person once I take up residence in the ED’s chair at NAEC (not the “exact” same chair, as Karen is taking her chair with her!), and both my wife and I are very much looking forward to seeing many of you at the NAEC Annual Meeting and Picnic on June 1st.

I will begin by saying that although I was born and raised in Northern California, Northern Alaska has always been my “home.” Obviously, such a cryptic statement will require a little explanation, but since I don’t have enough column inches available for that today, I’ll be more than happy to explain it in person when you stop by. I also promise to tell my story in its entirety at the Annual Meeting and Picnic.

What I can say at this point is that after a 20-year career in academia as a climate system scientist, a field that integrates topical domains of the atmosphere, biosphere, lithosphere, and hydrosphere, and after a three-year career as a City Administrator (essentially a City Manager) for a North Slope village, I have clearly found my niche with the Northern Alaska Environmental Center. And now that the Northern Center has provided me the opportunity to contribute to sustaining and protecting these treasured lands that I hold so dear to my heart, I will be forever grateful that my life’s mission has been fulfilled; even though my work has only just begun. ♡

The New Northern Line: Scratch and Sniff

Jenna Hertz, Editor

Our world is fast paced. Our issues change daily. We take in information in nibbles, not potlucks. To continue to be effective, the Northern Center must work to spread our message on multiple fronts, but in the rush to keep up with “progress,” we fear that something more important can be lost- the personal connections that give grassroots activism its power.

Our newsletter is called the Northern Line, so we’re sketching a line here and heading in a new direction. We envision a publication that is less about the gritty details and more about the vision of our work. It should be about who we are: as people, as an organization, as a movement. It should come from many voices. It should include humor and textures and smells and sounds. It should inspire you to try something new. We hope that when you sit down to read our newsletter, you emerge feeling more connected to the people and places of our beloved Northern Alaska and that you spread that power to those around you. We welcome your contributions and comments and are excited to hear what you think! ♡

Parting Shot from NAEC Executive Director Karen Max Kelly, 2009-2012



For the past three years, it's been my privilege to work for you—the Northern Center's members—to protect the wild, pristine, and healthy Alaska we love! Your dedicated, hard-working, creative, all-volunteer Board of Directors has inspired me profoundly with their vision for our part of Alaska. In turn, I have guided, motivated, enabled, learned from, admired and otherwise “bossed” the strong, smart, effective, good-looking staff at the Center as they do the daily work of making that vision happen!

Although I am leaving this summer to follow my heart to DC, NAEC will remain on my mind. Those smart and hardworking activists I now work with will still be on NAEC's board and staff, and they'll be joined by our next Executive Director, Dr. David Arnold. I am absolutely confident that this team is going to take NAEC's conservation advocacy and education to the next level, and I know you will continue to be right there with them as they fight for northern Alaska. A million thanks to all of you who have supported the Northern Center's work by supporting me for the past 3 years! Keep it Wild.... ♡



WELCOME OFFICE MANAGER, KRISTEN!

Kristen moved from Placerville, Ca. to Fairbanks in 1998 to play volleyball at UAF. She has a B.S. in Psychology, an A.A. in CAD drafting, and most recently started an Alaskan dog biscuit company called Ruby Snacks. In July of 2009 she bought Hyperborea, a cabin compound in the Goldstream Valley area, which altered the course of her life. She is renovating the 5 acre compound to become a summer run hostel by summer 2014. In 2006, she did a fly in fishing trip to the Brooks Range and left her heart there. She is happy to be working for an organization that protects one of her favorite places on Earth. She never knows where this journey will take her, but sets forth with a smile and plenty of gumption.



WELCOME ARCTIC INTERN, MADELEINE!

Born and raised in Northern California, I am now a senior in Environmental Studies at The New School in New York City. My passion for the outdoors is rooted in my rural upbringing. My formal education has provided a new, urban lens at which to view my surroundings--both built and natural. The synthesis and connections between these inspires me both personally and professionally. I'm looking forward to the Arctic internship at NAEC because I believe it will provide the ideal setting for me to synthesize my academic training with real-life experience. I'm excited to learn more about Arctic environmental issues and experience Alaskan culture.

THANK YOUs

The Auction Committee
and Volunteers

Larry Landry for
significant research
and strategic advice on
the Ambler and Umiat
Road projects

Doug McIntosh and
Marilyn Richardson for
office help.

Stan Justice for HRV
maintenance.

Fishing the Kobuk: Worth the Effort

by Kristen Sullivan

From the float pond in Fairbanks to the headwaters of the Kobuk is roughly two and a half hours by air. The remoteness makes it a special place. When you land, there's a good chance you may step where no one has before, and the beauty is stunning. I'll never lose the vision of the giant underwater boulders in the clear water that dwarfed our boat, the awe-inspiring purple mountains looming in the distance, Arctic wildflowers in bloom, wild green onions growing in the river sand, and osprey watching us closely as we floated by their lofty nests.

All the native species of fish on the Kobuk are in ecological perfection. The dorsal fin and body of the Kobuk arctic grayling sparkle dark blue, matching the blue-grey river bottom. Sheefish have the most beautiful eyes which tell the story of their amazing lives that can last 20-30 years, sometimes more. They are great fighters, known as the tarpon of the North, but are delicate and require finesse to catch and release safely. Curious brown bears popped out of the brush as we floated along. They were scavenging for the last of the blueberries, which were much bigger than the interior berries I had known. There is a reason I love Alaska – it is wild and should stay that way. The road to Ambler would put a road through this pristine wilderness currently only reached by those who take the extra effort and the fine people who call it home. I'll return to Kobuk country again, and I hope to find it just as I left it. ♡

Youth Report: Environmental Bonds Hold Strong

By Madeline Rafferty, Fairbanks Alaska Youth for Environmental Action

As High School graduation nears, many of my senior friends prepare to separate from peers they've grown up with. While there are people they're set on keeping in touch with, for the most part, they understand that many relationships won't be maintained as they head in many different directions.



AYEA teens meet with Fairbanks Rep, Scott Kawasaki

In contrast, despite spending only a week at the 2012 Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) Civics and Conservation Summit, the youth delegates are committed to keeping our bonds strong.

At the summit, we spent a week hearing lectures from lobbyists, studying legislative bills, and visiting our senators at the state capitol. Over twenty of us stayed together in a hostel, and were up by seven o'clock every day, ready for the day's agenda. Our time was perfectly divided between diligently researching our bills, and having fun.

There is an incredible strength when you gather interested, passionate teens who care about the future and our environment. With the tools we acquired at the summit and the connections we established, we now have the power to fight for our common cause and keep our relationships and issues alive into the future. ♡



FAYEA!

Fairbanks Alaska Youth for Environmental Action is a local chapter of Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, a group that inspires and trains diverse youth leaders to impact environmental issues through community action projects and campaigns; skills training in leadership, environmental education, civic engagement, and community organizing; and green jobs that sustain our communities and future. Youth ages 13-18 are welcome to join the fun! FAYEA meets at the Northern Center on Tuesdays at 4:30.

www.ayea.org

Contact

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Walking the Talk

by Michael Engelhard

This summer, Alaskan author and guide Michael Engelhard is chasing a dream: a solo, 1000-mile traverse of northern Alaska, on foot and by inflatable raft, from the Yukon border to the Bering Sea. With this Arctic Walkabout, he hopes to raise awareness for the importance of wildlife refuges and for the need to wean our society from fossil fuels. You can be part of the action by contributing to Michael. Contact NAEC to learn how! Here's a sample of his work:



Musk ox and calf by Kyle Campbell

Cogs and Wheels

Eyes watering in a breeze that snatched its sting from the pack ice, I scan the Coastal Plain for signs of life. My binoculars frame horizon segments blurred by the midsummer sun, a mindbender like Prudhoe Bay's gas flares, which snap and yaw above industrial installations. Distant "lakes" separate then coalesce, dissolving terra firma into quicksilver, a landscape of uncertainties. When polar fronts straddle warm ground, light flexes into mirages like this, supple and transient as tundra denizens. More than other places perhaps, and not without irony, the continent's farthest north suggests limits; its luminous emptiness unmoors assumptions, urging us to reconsider the scale of things, their importance, and beyond that, the scope of our ambitions.

I focus on a boulder pair adrift amongst tussocks on this inland sea. Changing position ever so slightly, the mounds look too bulky to be grizzlies as well as the wrong shade of brown. Propelled by a "Forward, hard!" our blue rubber raft scrapes across gravel, its blunt snout nuzzling shore. Ravines

More than other places perhaps, and not without irony, the continent's farthest north suggests limits; its luminous emptiness unmoors assumptions, urging us to reconsider the scale of things, their importance, and beyond that, the scope of our ambitions."

and willow clusters downwind from two grazing musk oxen allow us to sneak up on them single-file and hunched over in an effort to reduce our silhouettes, to appear small and non-threatening. Screened by topography as much as by the animals' poor eyesight we pause frequently, considering how far we should push our luck. Afraid they'd attack, we also don't want to harass the roaming haystacks—this is their home after all.

One hundred yards. Fifty. The bulls raise their prizefighter heads, sampling the wind. Catching sight of us, they neither charge nor turn tails but step away, nimble as dancers despite their weight, the hemlines on their wool skirts trim and swaying in sync with dainty white-stockinged feet.

Outlining a philosophy of sound land management, Aldo Leopold cautioned that we preserve every cog and wheel when tinkering. The realization that we don't even hold all the blueprints or fully grasp the interlocking of parts can be as humbling as a face-to-face encounter with Ice Age beasts. ♡

2012 DON'T BE FUELISH COMPETITION KICKS OFF!

AND THEY'RE OFF! From April 1st-September 30th, local businesses and organizations are in a race to save fossil fuels. Competitors all over the borough are utilizing revolutionary methods of: biking, running, bussing, car pooling and the old standby: walking to work.

SINCE 2007, The Don't Be Fuelish Competition has conserved over **383,829 miles**, saved **192 tons of CO₂** that would have been released into the atmosphere, conserved **18,757 gallons of fuel**, and saved its participants **\$71,762**. It's good for our health, it's good for the air, and it's good for your wallet!

ITS NOT TOO LATE to join the race where everyone wins! All you have to do is contact lissa@northern.org to register and keep track of the number of miles saved on the handy Don't Be Fuelish Calendar.

FOR MORE INFORMATION contact: Lissa Hughes, Conservation Solutions Coordinator at lissa@northern.org or call 452-5021 ext.22.

Road to Umiat Not Welcome

*By Lillian Gordon Stone, council member
of the Naqragmiut Tribal Council in
Anaktuvuk Pass.*



Lillian Gordon Stone

During the past few months, I have become more “political” than I ever imagined. The reason for this is because I am fighting something close to home: a road that would impact the caribou migrations my village depends on. Strong support to protect our caribou and our people has grown across the North Slope of Alaska because we do not want this Road to Umiat to be built.

Not only is this road a bad deal for Arctic villages, but it is a bad deal for Alaskans all over. I delved so deeply into the facts and figures about this road that my head spins and I can see this road should not be so. Everything is uncertain at this point: where the road will go, how much it will cost, what it will accomplish. What is certain is that this road will impact our way of life.

We’re up against a lot with this road, and now we’re up against millions of dollars. Already, the state has spent \$25 million in public money.

With money comes influence, but that is nothing compared to the voices of our people. From across the North Slope, we have heard one thing: do not build this road to Umiat, so do not fund this road to Umiat. ♡

Legislature Rubber Stamps Road to Umiat

By Lissa Hughes, NAEC Legislative Liaison



Colville River by Pamela A. Miller

Conservation organizations and Native leaders from the North Slope are deeply disappointed in the legislature’s decision to approve the Governor’s request of \$10 million of state funds for EIS work on the proposed road to Umiat.

While the stated goal is to connect industry with oil, gas and mineral leases, no actual commitments for development projects have been made. The State’s North Slope Foothills Area-wide lease sale in December of 2011 received no bids, despite the proposed road to Umiat.

The state should not support subsidies for transportation projects, while the industries that stand to benefit the most have invested the least. If the State builds the proposed roads ultimately costing anywhere from \$1.7-2.3 billion, it will be Alaskans who then pay to operate and maintain them.

A road to Umiat has not been justified adequately based on economic returns, so why should the state gamble with its own general funds when industry is sending a clear message that it’s too risky to finance by private means?

NAEC supports building infrastructure that strengthens our communities. We express solidarity with the many communities on the North Slope who oppose the road because of the risks it poses to their subsistence way of life. A road to Umiat does nothing more than take focus and working capital away from other statewide priorities that provide long-term direct benefits to Alaskans. ♡

FERC Hears from the Public on Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project

By Lissa Hughes, NAEC Conservation Solutions Coordinator

Hundreds showed up to testify at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) scoping meetings on the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project in six Alaskan communities this March. This was the last chance for Alaskans to meet face-to-face with FERC staff until 2015.

Public comments ranged from “build it now” to concerns about effects of winter water flows on juvenile salmon, river ice stability and catastrophic dam failure. Additional questions were raised about the high cost of the dam and whether the new power generated will benefit current ratepayers or used as an incentive to spur large scale development.

NAEC supports the development of appropriately scaled, environmentally sound, and truly renewable energy projects that serve the needs of Alaska communities, are cost-effective in benefiting the greatest number of Alaskans, and create the fewest substantial, lasting environmental impacts. Thus, for a variety of reasons, we are very concerned about this proposed dam.

Aquatic habitat will be impacted both upstream and downstream of the dam from altered hydrology, temperature variations, changing riparian areas, and the potential

impacts to fish including five species of salmon. Many of the hydrological and aquatic species impacts are not well understood and NAEC is concerned that the proposed studies will not be adequate because of the compressed timeline of the chosen FERC Integrated Licensing Process.

The estimated \$4.5 billion price tag of the proposed dam is a huge cost by itself and does not include necessary transmission grid upgrades. It also does not include the opportunity costs incurred by displacing lower priced, regionally appropriate, and truly renewable projects to come on line.

Finally, the Susitna-Watana dam only addresses approximately half of the Railbelt’s electrical needs and none of its heating or transportation needs. Thus, the dam appears to be an extremely expensive energy solution that leaves critical needs still unmet.

While NAEC applauds the Alaska Energy Authority for seeking long-term energy solutions and alternatives to traditional fossil fuel based energy, we do not think this dam, as it is currently proposed, is the best investment for providing low cost energy for Alaskans. ♣

Chandalar Lake: What’s In Store?

By Pete Dronkers

Although the Chandalar Lake area about 50 miles east of Coldfoot has seen over a century of small scale placer gold mining, a new future for this region may be developing soon as explorers continue drilling to find the source of the gold.

This April, Goldrich Mining Company signed a joint venture agreement with Alaska-based placer miner Nyac AU, giving Goldrich the \$8.5 million in capital it needed to continue drilling. The deal clears the way for Goldrich to expand the scope of placer opera-

tions, using revenue generated from placer gold to pay back NyacAU’s loan and fund future drilling. Since Goldrich has found an investment partner with these terms, we expect more placer development, more drilling and regional road-building, and more pressure to build a new highway from the Haul Road to Chandalar Lake on a state and federal approved Right of Way.

Also in April, the village of Venetie hosted the first annual Environmental and Natural Resources Conference, and the Northern Center—among other

groups—was invited to give an overview presentation on mining at Chandalar Lake. As the first community downriver of the Lake, Venetie residents are particularly concerned about future impacts to water quality, and we are grateful that the Native Village of Venetie Tribal Government and the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments are engaged early in the process. The Northern Center and our colleagues in the region look forward to continued dialog at the next conference. ♣

TAKE ACTION

THE WHITE MOUNTAINS NEED YOU!

When BLM announced its new plan for the White Mountains and other areas in the Interior this March, we were surprised to the agency favoring the extractive industry over recreation uses. This shift was reflected in the agency's preferred Alt. C. Since the draft Plan was published, BLM buckled under State pressure and is now considering opening White Mountains to new mining leasing, along with Alt. C's existing plans to offer oil & gas leasing. The public hearings took place in early April, but the comment period remains open until July 23. The following is a great example of testimony from NAEC member, Laura Grage. Follow her lead and take action today!



**"I don't have to choose.
We need them all, and
we can have them all."**

Governor Parnell, when asked what his priority would be if he had to make an austerity and fiscal decision regarding roads to resources, Susitna Dam, and the north slope gas line.

Bravo for the White Mountains

By NAEC member Laura Grage.

Adapted from testimony given to BLM at the April 9, 2012 public hearing.



Laura and Sven Grage in the White Mountains near Colorado Creek Cabin; photo courtesy Eduardo Wilner

"There are large and complex ecosystems and habitats in all of these areas that no doubt would be disrupted to a much greater extent the more mineral leasing and entry and oil and gas exploration and leasing are allowed. It seems to me that there is little to be gained from opening up lands to mineral leasing and extraction and very few who profit from it. It will be a short-term gain, with consequences that will far outlive gains. Many more people will profit and gain from keeping these lands and ecosystems intact for a long time in the way of rich life experiences and increasing the quality of life here in the interior and the consequences will be positive and something that interior residents can continue to enjoy through their lifetimes and beyond.

I believe it is time that we begin to focus our energy on conserving energy resources and creating energy that does not destroy and derange the land and ecosystems that we have so close to Fairbanks and offers a wonderful way to appreciate and experience the subtle beauties of interior Alaska. I think the BLM should take a progressive step now and demonstrate a commitment to something with a very lasting value which would in turn, demonstrate a commitment to the public interest as well." ♣

FREEZING IN THE DARK

That's right, NAEC is getting back to its roots—the tree sort. We're planning a series of fun and educational outdoor day trips in the fabulous Fairbanks area. The trips are open to members and friends and will be focused on getting people outside and connecting them to the wild places and values NAEC works to protect.

Look out for upcoming trips in 2012:

JUNE

White Mountains hike with Clean Water and Mining Program

JULY

Susitna Area with Local Issues Program

AUGUST

Wickersham Dome berry picking with the Arctic Program

SEPTEMBER

Granite Tors Backpack with Arctic Program

Interested? Got ideas?

Contact Jenna@northern.org

PUBLIC LANDS PLANS CALENDAR

Don't miss your opportunity to take a stand for your public lands!

These plans may last for decades with policies yielding permanent consequences for places you love.

Learn more about these the details plans at www.northern.org or by calling us at (907) 452-5021.

NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE-ALASKA AREA-WIDE PLAN

WHAT BLM's first comprehensive plan for all of the Reserve (NPR-A).

AT STAKE Black brant, caribou, Teshekpuk Lake, Utukok Uplands/DeLong Mountains, Upper Colville River, Kasegaluk Lagoon, Peard Bay and other special areas, wild rivers, wilderness values, cultural and subsistence values.

ALT. B provides best balance for conservation of Special Areas and protection from new oil and gas leasing.

WHEN ASAP! Comment period on Draft Plan ends June 1 2012.

YOU Submit comments at: <http://nprcomments.engage-sites.com/>

EAST INTERIOR RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHAT BLM's plan for future direction of 6.7 million acres of public land including White Mountains National Recreation Area, Steese National Conservation Area, and Fortymile area, and BLM lands in upper Black River and the greater Fairbanks area

AT STAKE Wild lands recreation in BLM's only Recreation and Conservation Areas in Alaska; three Wild & Scenic Rivers; wildlife, and subsistence lands like Salmon Fork and upper Black River area that were nominated as an Area of Environmental Concern by the village of Chalkytsik and others.

ALT. B provides best balance of conservation and resource uses and protects the White Mountains NRA from being opened to mining leasing.

New mining in the White Mountains is a real threat, as BLM plans to consider opening the area to mining leasing and may add this to its preferred Alt. C which already would offer areas for oil & gas leasing.

WHEN Comment period on BLM's Draft RMP/EIS ends July 23, 2012.

YOU Submit comments at: <http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en.html>.

GATES OF THE ARCTIC NATIONAL PARK GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

WHAT The National Park Service is preparing a draft general management plan/Wilderness Review/EIS for a plan to provide direction for managing the park and preserve for the next 15-20 years.

AT STAKE Wilderness qualities of park lands. Should new wilderness be designated in preserve?

WHEN The draft plan is expected out spring 2013.

YOU Submit comments at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/gaar>, attend public meetings.

ALASKA COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PLAN BALLOT INITIATIVE

WHAT A successful ballot initiative to restore Coastal Zone Program

AT STAKE Reclaiming Alaskan voice in decisions about development and protection of coastal lands and waters.

WHEN Coming to the primary election ballot, August 28, 2012.

YOU Can vote for it on the general ballot.

Why Plans Matter: Teshekpuk Lake's Future Threatened in NPR-A Plan

By Pamela A. Miller

We succeeded in preventing the Bush Administration from selling oil and gas leases in the vital wetlands around Teshekpuk Lake where brant molt, waterfowl nest, and caribou calve through advocacy and numerous court challenges. But the 10-year leasing deferral will expire in 2018. How disappointing that BLM's long awaited new comprehensive plan for NPR-A now has a middle choice, Alt. C, that would keep the Bush Administration plan in place. Only Alt. B provides stronger protection for the Teshekpuk Lake Special Area by designating it unavailable for leasing. And only Alt. B protects the southern NPR-A from oil and gas leasing across an expanded Utukok River Uplands Special Area encompassing DeLong Mountains foothills, and the Upper Colville River to protect the Western Arctic caribou calving grounds, insect relief and migration routes, the Reserve's wildest rivers, and wildlands where grizzly bear, wolves and wolverine thrive. ↓

Directional Drilling: Dirty and Dangerous

By Pamela A. Miller

Sen. Lisa Murkowski's Arctic Refuge "directional drilling" bill, S. 351, is back in the news since a Senate debate on a bill to end \$5 billion in oil subsidies (she didn't offer it). This Trojan Horse aims to crack open the entire Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain to oil leasing and full-scale development. A few facts:

1. The bill waives most major environmental laws protecting the refuge today and undermines its fundamental purposes: to protect wildlife and wilderness. Drilling would damage sensitive tundra vegetation, disturb polar bear dens, and leave long-lasting impacts.
2. Surface seismic and exploration drilling would be allowed throughout the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain, with no restriction on permanent facilities like water reservoirs, mines, ports, or airports if built for exploration.
3. It would allow for vast industrial complexes along the Canning River and across nearly 100 miles of coastal borders of the Coastal Plain that would cause air and water pollution and inevitably result in oil spills with impacts extending into key wildlife and subsistence areas of the refuge. ♣

What's Happening with Healy Coal Plant #2 (HCP2)?

By Karen Max Kelly

NAEC members value clean air everywhere, but we are especially feisty when protecting a national treasure right in our back yard—Denali National Park and its Class I airshed. Firing up HCP2—popularly mis-characterized as the "Healy Clean Coal Plant" poses significant threats to clean air. That's why NAEC and other citizen groups have been involved since 2009 in the public process to ensure that the permit for HCP2 adequately protects Denali's air. And that is why these same groups asked the Environmental Protection Agency in March 2012 to object to the air quality permit issued for HCP2 by the state of Alaska. We believe the state's permit violates important provisions of the federal Clean Air Act, and we want EPA to do its job to reduce air pollution caused by burning coal for electricity.

NAEC members are now being scapegoated for protecting Denali's air. Interior Alaska's regional electrical utility, GVEA, tells customers that lower rates depend on restarting HCP2.

Clean air should never be bargained away in exchange for cheap power

NAEC members value reasonable electric bills as much as anyone. But clean air should never be bargained away in exchange for cheap power. We have been working with GVEA since 2009 on an agreement to permit the utility to operate HCP2, while also making significant investments in clean energy to lead Alaska away from reliance on coal. GVEA abruptly withdrew from that collaboration in late 2012. We believe that the conservation and efficiency measures in the agreement remain solid, but without a long-term commitment from GVEA to implement clean air solutions by phasing out coal generation, we chose to preserve clean air through the petition process.

The EPA will rule on the air permit this spring. ♣



VOTE FOR CLEAN AIR, CLEAN ENERGY.

TAKE ACTION!

Get involved in OUR cooperative! Vote in Golden Valley Electric Association board elections by returning the ballot you received in the mail by June 5th by mail or online. Your voice as a member-owner matters. Check out the GVEA Ratepayers Alliance, local advocates for smarter energy solutions at www.GVEARatepayers.com.

Why I Serve

By Stacey Baldridge



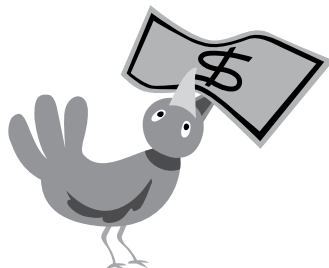
Stacey (right) and her twin sister Lindsey (left) at 2011 Run for the Refuge.

In the fall of 2011, Bill Schneider, a previous boss, current mentor, former board member and all around awesome person called and asked me to serve on the Board. I mulled it over, and decided that I could contribute not only a love for wild places and Alaska's pristine beauty, but also a passion for promoting local efforts and grassroots movements. I was greeted by a small sea of smiling, excited faces. Looking toward the future of the NAEC has gotten into my blood. I can't help but look at the hard work we've put in as a Board, and imagine the great things we can accomplish.

Scandal Sheet: Departing Executive Karen Kelly Divulges "Insider" Information!

Sometimes when leaders leave important organizations, they take advantage of insider knowledge to unfairly benefit their friends and supporters. I'm not above that kind of behavior, so here's my hot tip for you: Invest in the Northern Alaska Environmental Center now. The organization is stable, and poised for growth. The return on

your philanthropic dollars is guaranteed to be immediate (think Camp Habitat for little nature lovers this summer), as well as long-term (Wilderness Forever, any-



I have been involved with Northern Alaska Environmental Center since the summer of 2009, when I landed an internship with Pam Miller in the Arctic Program. Fresh out of UAF's Northern Studies Graduate program, I showed up to the interview, and it turns out that it was supposed to be a phone interview. Undeterred, Pam and I sat down and had a chat. This was the beginning of what has become a fruitful partnership with an organizational that I am proud to serve. In

one?) and huge (how about 100 Million acres of intact wildlife habitat?). Watch your money grow into clean water, breathable air and thoughtfully protected wild Alaskan lands! Just visit this top-secret web investment portal: www.northern.org and click on the "Donate Now" button. Now share, burn, or re-use this paper. ♻



WANT TO SEE YOUR FACE HERE?

JOIN OUR BOARD
OF DIRECTORS!

Contact Board President,
Jon Miller to learn how.
jonmiller@acsalaska.net

GET INVOLVED WITH NAEC'S COMMITTEES!

Talk to the following
committee chairs to
learn more

EDUCATION

Stacey Baldridge
smbaldridge@alaska.edu

FACILITIES

Karl Monetti
karlmonetti@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING

Cara Brunk
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Sneak Peak

The NEW Northern Line: NAEC is still hard at work producing factsheets, writing detailed reports, and trucking through ten-pound Environmental Impact Statements, but that's not what you'll find inside. Here's a sneak preview:

"Screened by topography as much as by the animals' poor eyesight we pause frequently, considering how far we should push our luck..."

and

"Departing Executive Divulges "Insider" Information"

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Discover Alaska

A Summer Lecture Series

Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.
Schaible Auditorium • FREE

NAEC SPONSORED LECTURES:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| MAY 30 | Ned Rozell
The Top 20 Things You Didn't Know About Alaska |
| JUNE 13 | Terrence Cole
Back in the Day...Before Oil |
| JUNE 20 | Don and Tracie Pendergrast
Gates of the Arctic |
| JUNE 27 | Mark Bertram and Vince Matthews
The Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge |

Save the Date!

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| JUNE 1 | Annual Membership Meeting and Picnic |
|---------------|---|



A great opportunity for young people to enjoy guided explorations in the Boreal Forest, Farm Fields, Seasonal Ponds and other wetlands at Creamer's Field. Through outdoor activities like sensory exploration, discovery hikes, ecology-themed games, songs and creative craft projects, young people learn about the ecosystems of Interior Alaska, the home of most of our participants.

Registration for 2012 sessions is open now!

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------|
| June 11-15 | (ages 4-5) |
| June 18-22 | (ages 4-5) |
| June 25-29 | (ages 4-5) |
| July 16-20 | (ages 6-11) |
| July 23-27 | (ages 6-11) |

Get more information and register now at:
http://www.creamersfield.org/Camp_Habitat.html