

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

Fall/Winter 2011 Volume XXXIII, No. 3

40 Years of Keeping Alaska Wild!

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center was founded in 1971 as the Fairbanks Environmental Center by conservationists and residents concerned with the quality of Alaskan life. For 40 years, our members have been working toward environmental conservation and sustainable stewardship of the state's resources through public education, grassroots activism and professional advocacy.

We have helped in those 40 years to protect what we value—Alaska's unsurpassed wild lands, healthy air and clean waters—from threats posed by outsized industrial developments like the Rampart Dam; from water pollution caused by small- and large-scale mining activity; from habitat destruction by rampant oil and gas development; and from Arctic climate warming accelerated by burning fossil fuels to meet our burgeoning energy demands.



8 staff, 180 million acres of Northern Alaska wild lands to protect! Our 1577 members—that's YOU—are the core of our support and our success. Thank you for 40 years of keeping it wild!

But our job is far from done. This fall, the perennial fight to protect the heart of America's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge takes a hope-filled turn with an historic opportunity to win Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain that would permanently protect this wild national treasure from oil and gas development (p. 6, Yes Wilderness!).

Proposed large-scale mining activity threatens to unleash unprecedented levels of mercury into groundwater and air (p. 5, Donlin Gold),

while proposed new roads to reach other resources threaten to fragment Alaska's vast wild lands and deplete the state's coffers (p. 4, Ambler Access).

Hope keeps us going. Camp Habitat is instilling a passion for the Earth in tomorrow's leaders by getting kids out into Alaska's outdoors, (p. 3, Camp Habitat); and Fairbanksans are leading the way in battling climate change through personal choices about energy use (p. 11, Energy Efficiency).

And our members keep us going. Thank you for being part of our first 40 years. You can help us launch the next 40 by renewing your membership, testifying at a public hearing, making a gift to support NAEC's work that matches your passion for wilderness, volunteering in our office, or committing to personal energy efficiency and conservation.

Celebrate 40 years of Keeping it Wild by joining us for food and fun at our auction on November 12 at the Fairbanks Princess Hotel. See you there!

Karen M. Kelly

Karen Max Kelly, Executive Director

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**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 12**

Princess Hotel
5:00 - 9:00pm

"Still Wild at 40"



**our Annual Auction
always sells out**

~
reserve your tickets early!

Call 907-452-5021
or online at
www.northern.org

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

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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Edited by Jewelz Nutter
 Layout by 5th Avenue Design & Graphics, Inc.
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Khosrotl'odi

Everyone in the Interior of Alaska fixes on the tooth-shaped peak of Mount Hayes to gauge how the sun is changing its position. The Northern Center's logo features the sun rising behind the Central Alaska Range and Mount Hayes. Our appreciation for the vista of the Central Alaska Range sunrise is nicely enhanced when we know that the Athabascan name of Mount Hayes is Khosrotl'odi (in Lower Tanana) or Xasatl'aadi (in Middle Tanana and in Ahtna). The name means "the one at the headwaters of the upward sun." In Middle Tanana one says xasaghin'aa "the sun rose." The name for the mountain features the first two syllables of the verb form and the term for the headwaters of a stream. Thus Khosrotl'odi is a highly functional Athabascan place name.

There is a principle of Athabascan geography, whereby the stream most closely associated with a mountain has the same specific name. Little Delta River is Xaasaa Na' (in Middle Tanana) which can be translated as "upward sun river." The name of the archaeological site with the remains of a cremation burial of a child is from an area near the mouth of Little Delta River, has been named "the upward sun site." Khosrotl'odi is visible over a very large radius, from 150 to 200 miles away. Most certainly, this place name has been in use for at least 10,000 years.

By James Kari, Professor of Linguistics, Emeritus with Alaska Native Language Center. ☘



"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."



AUCTION FUNDRAISER

Join us in celebrating 40 years of protecting the clean air, water and Alaska we love!

\$40 per person includes a choice of the following dinner entree options

Herb Roasted Chicken: A moist chicken breast coated with a special blend of olive oil infused with fresh herbs and garlic.

Grilled Salmon with Lemon Caper Sauce: Wild Alaskan Sockeye sockeye grilled, served with a light lemon sauce and topped with capers.

Curried Vegetable Kebabs (Vegan): Assorted fresh vegetables skewered and marinated in a curry and herb sauce, grilled over an open flame, served with saffron rice pilaf.

We've got 3 easy ways to get your tickets by November 9th:

- 1) By Phone:**
907-452-5021
- 2) In Person:**
830 College Rd.
(M-F, 9am - 5pm)
- 3) Online:**
www.northern.org

Another Successful Summer at Camp Habitat

By Erica Carroll & Louise Foster, Camp Director & Assistant Director



Camp Habitat summer camps have provided Fairbanks youth with outdoor fun and nature education since 1990!



The 2011 Camp Habitat Season was truly a great one! Thanks to all of our partner agencies: Northern Alaska Environmental Center (NAEC), Friends of Creamer's Field (FoCF), and Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G) for their continued support and dedication, not only financially and logistically, but through a continued enthusiasm for Camp Habitat's mission. We thank the numerous parents and participants for their tireless donation of time and resources. Without your commitment we would not have been able to sustain our camp for the 21st year in a row!

Over half of the 2011 Camp staff returned from our previous season – some from as far away as Maryland. Excellent new faces rounded out the dynamic camp team. We had the opportunity to incorporate an AmeriCorp volunteer position, who compiled and organized historic Camp Habitat materials and created a timeless presentation to help promote Camp Habitat's vision. Our staff added new activities with something for every one of our 219 campers during five weeks this summer! Some highlights from camp included our youngest campers who made maps of all the areas they explored and our eldest campers helped pull vetch from the refuge. 🌱

A special thanks to the staff and members of the Northern Center for donating space for our staff "Camp Olympics" and for their continued financial support through generous donations and time to "spread the word about camp" at their Make a Difference Breakfast and the annual NAEC Auction. If anyone is looking to donate to Camp Habitat, please feel free to contact camphabitat@creamersfield.org.

Wish List for 2012 -Toxic Phase Out

By Lissa Hughes,
Local Conservation
Solutions
Coordinator



The Alaska Legislature has the opportunity this upcoming session to protect our health and our environment. Proposed legislation that would phase out the manufacture and sale of electronic products, furniture, textiles and mattresses containing dangerous toxics known as PBDEs (polybrominated diphenyl ethers) in favor of safe alternatives. PBDEs and other persistent toxics are having a profound effect on the environment and human health, particularly in Alaska and the Arctic. Health studies indicate PBDEs cause cancer and reproductive problems and lead to slower brain development in children. Alaskans are exposed to PBDEs at higher rates than people in the rest of the country because PBDEs accumulate in greater levels at northern latitudes and are persistent in many elements of our food chain. Testing among *Alaskans* show the highest concentration of PBDEs ever found in humans.

Senate Bill 27 and House Bill 63, introduced by Senator Wielechowski and Representative Holmes, would require that the phase out occur over a year and a half, with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation providing technical support to retailers and manufacturers in identifying safe and cost effective alternatives to products containing PBDEs. Many manufacturers and retailers have acknowledged that PBDEs are harmful and have identified cost-effective flame retardants that are less dangerous, as well as voluntarily stopped using PBDEs in their goods. Earlier this year, Wal-Mart, the world's largest retailer, stepped ahead of regulations by banning products that contain PBDE's in an effort to move away from a class of chemicals researchers say endanger human health and the environment. One study estimates a transition from PBDEs to less harmful flame retardants will only increase the cost of products by 1.5 to 2.5%. 🌱

For more information contact: Lissa Hughes, Conservation Solutions Coordinator at licsa@northern.org or call 452-5021 ext.22.

SAY NO TO PBDE

continued from page 3

A PBDE phase out protects Alaskans, especially children, in their own homes from a toxic class of outdated chemicals. Retailers in 12 other states have successfully made the transition to safer alternatives after passage of the same law being considered in Alaska. Now is the time to let legislators know that Alaskans deserve to be protected from products that pose threats to human and environmental health.



RARE EARTH ELEMENTS: HOPE OR HYPE?

Rare earth elements (REE's) have become part of the natural resource dialog in Alaska in the last few months. Much of the attention has come from Senator Lisa Murkowski, who is pushing federal legislation to make the hunt for these so-called "critical and strategic" minerals a national priority, while Governor Parnell hosted a major summit in Fairbanks on the issue that drew 250 people, including Alaska's federal congressional delegates and internationally renowned rare earth experts. The result: no one really knows.

NAEC was there, and found surprisingly little evidence that would suggest we are on the verge of an REE boom. In fact, the only project being pursued in Alaska is at Bokan Mountain in Southeast, while the 70 known REE occurrences in Alaska seem to be merely conceptual at this point. Many are in protected areas in the first place. Furthermore, major projects in Australia, South Africa and California are likely to be online soon, reducing the global price point and offering market alternatives to China's 97% hold on the global REE market.

The Northern Center will continue to closely watch REE exploration efforts in Alaska. Watch our website for further updates.

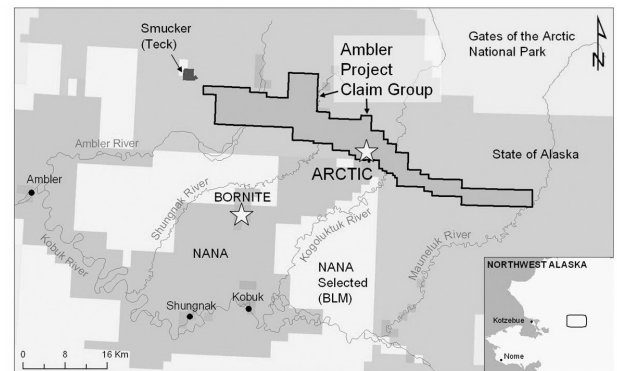
Ambler Mining District Access

By Pete Dronkers, Clean Water and Mining Program Director

Earlier this year, the Northern Center was at the table regarding the widely opposed road to Umiat – on the eastern edge of the National Petroleum Reserve – during both the budget appropriations and the scoping process for an Environmental Impact Statement. Just months later, we're taking on another one of Governor Parnell's major "Roads to Resources": the 220 mile proposed road to the Ambler Mining District, near Kobuk Valley National Park. By the end of the 2012 legislative session, we believe there is a strong chance that the legislature will act to appropriate funds to begin an EIS, putting the road on the same trajectory as the road to Umiat. Parnell has stated many times he plans to have a road to Ambler built by 2016.

In the last few years, the Department of Transportation has received \$5.25 million in Capital Budget appropriations to compile information and score the various pros and cons of about eight different corridor options into the mining district. In September, DOT released thousands of pages on their findings to the public. DOT has also conducted over a dozen stakeholders meetings in the tri-village region of Ambler, Kobuk, and Shungnak. Meanwhile, the Northwest Arctic Borough held the third annual Arctic Mining Conference, sponsored in part by NANA regional corporation and NovaGold, in 2011 entitled "our future in mining."

We believe the most probable route to be selected will be the "Brooks East" corridor, which starts on the Dalton Highway east of Bettles, crosses Gates of the Arctic National Park, and continues to the mining district about 20 miles northeast of Kobuk. This route is the least expensive at \$430 million, but crosses 161 rivers or streams (26 of which host anadromous fish), one Wild and Scenic River, one National Park, and would require about 5,000 feet of bridge structures. It would have at least 20 large gravel quarries as well, plus maintenance camps and cost \$8.5 million to maintain every year.



Map art from <http://www.novagold.com>

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The Northern Center is tracking this project now so we're strategically prepared before additional appropriations may be allocated and an EIS scoping process begins. The Clean Water and Mining Program condensed the thousands of pages of technical reports into a usable 24 page format that is useful to future advocates concerned about the impacts to wildlands from the road and the resulting large scale mining operations it would enable. Although a formal comment process has not yet begun, you can call DOT's project Manager, Ryan Anderson, at (907) 451-5129 (Fairbanks), or DOWL HKM's project manager, Steve Noble, at (907) 562-2000 (Anchorage) with comments or questions.

Check the "mines in Alaska" section of the Clean Water and Mining Program web pages at Northern.org for more. The reports, meeting notes, and other information are available online at http://www.dowlhkm.com/projects/Ambler_Mining_District_Access/new_website/documents.html.

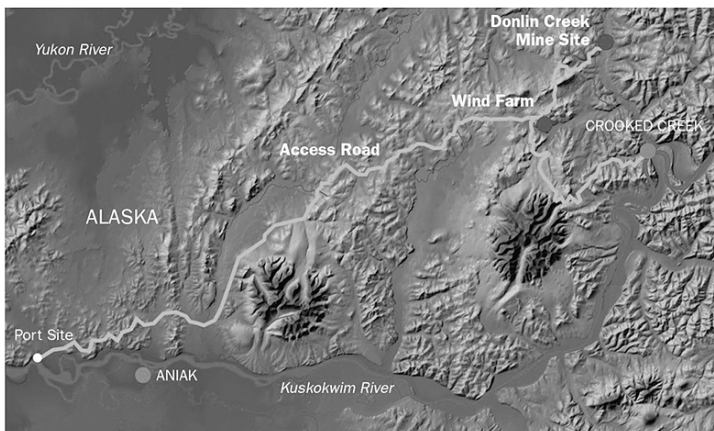
Donlin Gold: *Name Changes...Price Tag Jumps... Mercury Still Not Addressed*

By Pete Dronkers, Clean Water and Mining Program Director

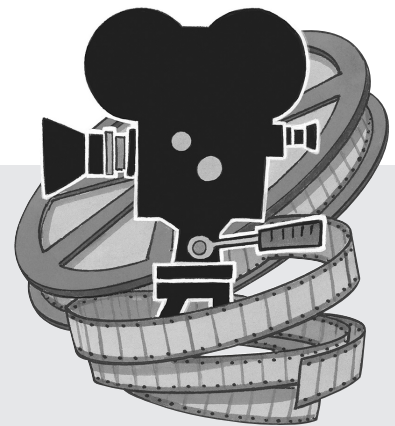
There is a lot going on over at the proposed Donlin Gold Mine. Let's start with an important one: the price tag. Although the revised feasibility study is still not out, Donlin LLC – owned 50/50 by Barrick and NovaGold – has recently announced that their projected capital costs for mine construction have jumped from \$4.5 billion to \$7 billion, mostly due to the realization that their proposed 320 mile long gas pipeline from Cook Inlet would cost more than \$1 billion. NovaGold shares have reacted accordingly, and many in investor circles are wondering if this mine will ever be built.

If it is built, the Northern Center remains committed to holding Donlin Gold – formerly Donlin Creek – accountable for what could be a 100-fold or more increase in Alaska's mercury pollution. The problem is that no one really knows for sure

how much of the 20-40 tons of mercury likely to go through Donlin's mill each year will end up in the groundwater or in the air, and we don't think this mine should be permitted until that question is thoroughly answered. That's why we're trying to help secure funding for a major study using data from similar mines in Nevada and assembling a team of geochemists to take a closer look. We don't believe the current hard rock mine permitting system in Alaska is set up to address the issue, which is unprecedented in Alaska, so we will continue to push for a mercury study. If the results indicate a problem, we will push for corporate accountability or for permitting reform until we know the proposed mine won't jeopardize human and ecosystem health. Permanent damage has already happened in far too many places elsewhere with mercury contamination. We still have an opportunity to keep Alaska's air and water safe. 🌱



Left, Donlin Gold Access.
Source, www.novagold.com



FILM PREVIEW...

Finally, progress is being made on the Donlin Expedition documentary. In August, the Northern Center secured funding for the professional editing of some of the footage from Bjorn Olson and Kim McNett's 750 mile journey that covered the mine's energy and supply footprint from the start of the gas pipeline at Cook Inlet through downstream villages to Bethel. We hope this compelling documentary will eventually tell the whole story behind this controversial megaproject and help elevate it to the same level of public awareness as the Pebble Mine or Susitna Dam.

Tangle Lakes: Growing Number of Supporters Ensure Our Legislators Are Aware

By Pete Dronkers, Clean Water and Mining Program Director

Thanks in large part to the Clean Water and Mining Program's summer intern, Sam Wohns, we wrapped up the summer with outstanding progress on the campaign to keep industrial mining away from Tangle Lakes — a cherished fishing, bird watching, boating and hiking destination for Alaskans and visitors. There are now over 1000 people on the record to protect Tangle Lakes from mining, plus 61 businesses (including 17 hunting and outfitting companies), 18 member organizations, and lots of individual letters sent directly to legislators from concerned Alaskans. Furthermore, the Northern Center has conducted four formal meetings with key legislators and has participated in a conference call with senior level managers at both the Alaska Departments of Natural Resources and Fish and Game. We think there is little question left about where the public is on this issue, and we've started direct dialog with the project proponent, Pure Nickel, as well. Visit www.savetanglelakes.com for the whole story and to take action now.

Yes Wilderness! Speak Up for Arctic Refuge, Again

Imagine Wilderness forever...

By Pamela A. Miller, Arctic Program Directory

Loud voices in Fairbanks are clamoring for oil drilling in the Arctic Refuge these days – they clearly understand the significance of the pending Arctic Refuge decision on Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain. Every day another batch of letters to the editor opine “No Wilderness,” “Explore ANWR,” and “ANWR work,” and a pickup drives around carrying signs stenciled black and white, “Open ANWR for Oil & Gas Exploration.”

In these tough economic times, it may be hard to stand up for the visionary future of one of our wildest places left on earth. But if you don't speak up for Wilderness in the Arctic Refuge, who will?

In August, the draft Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) opened for comment. The Obama Administration made an important decision to formally consider Wilderness for the crucial Coastal Plain area for the first time. The draft CCP includes various alternatives: Alternative C recommends Wilderness for the priority Coastal Plain area, while Alternative E puts forward a Wilderness recommendation for the Coastal Plain as well as two other areas (Brooks Range and Porcupine Plateau) encompassing lands to the south added in 1980.

I am excited by a truly historic opportunity for Arctic Refuge managers to take a pro-active step by recommending Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain because it will strengthen management of the whole refuge. It is the only part

of the original 1960 refuge not protected as wilderness.

This is the first time the Coastal Plain Wilderness Review has been done, and we have a good chance to get the Recommendation sent by President Obama to Congress.

Decades ago, I participated in the planning process as an agency insider and witnessed how the 1988 CCP left out the Wilderness Review required by the Alaska Lands Act (ANILCA) for the Coastal Plain's as its fate was shunted into the political realm. It is time to correct the 1988 CCP's mistake by

make the Coastal Plain a formal Wilderness Study Area by the recommendation for Wilderness designation in the Plan.

You may ask, “Didn't I already comment on that plan?” Yes, and you must do it again now! Your voice must be heard at each stage of the planning process. Thanks to you and nearly 100,000

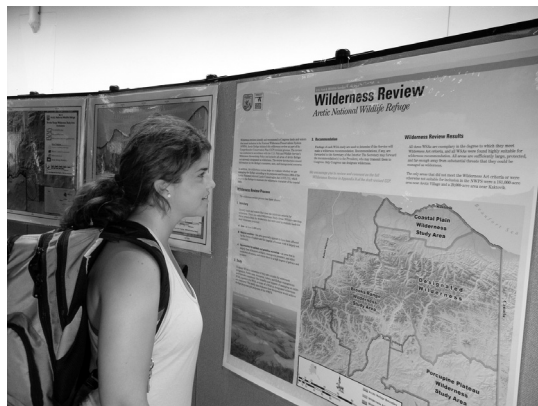
Americans who wrote comments during the scoping phase of the Conservation Plan, the Coastal Plain wilderness review was done. But now laser focus is on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make the decision to recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain, as Alternative C sets out.

Let's get busy in the days before the November 15 comment deadline. “Endless pressure, endlessly applied” is what we in the conservation community practice. Write your letter, and then find 10 more friends or relatives to join you in being an Arctic Hero! 🐾

The Coastal Plain is crucial because it is the area consistently at largest risk (to oil and gas development) and it is the refuge's biological heart with essential caribou calving, snow goose staging, and critical denning habitat for polar bears. It supports the traditional way of life of Inupiat people along its coast and Gwich'in people in the U.S. and Canada.

GRASSROOTS EFFORTS PAY OFF!

With a yearlong awareness campaign, the Northern Center educated membership and the general public through public displays, potluck dinners and hearty discussion on the importance of commenting during the Comprehensive Conservation Plan hearings.





Northern Center members showed up in force during the October 19 hearing at the Carlson Center to testify on behalf of supporting wilderness designation



1. Urge recommended Wilderness designation for the Arctic Refuge's Coastal Plain to protect its unique wilderness, wildlife, and subsistence values and enhance refuge management to best fulfill its purposes.
2. Support Alternative C, the alternative that would recommend Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain Wilderness Study Area.
3. Oppose any oil and gas leasing, exploration, and development in the Refuge because it is incompatible with the purposes of the Arctic Refuge and would permanently harm the wildlife, wilderness, and subsistence values.
4. Applaud the plan's strong Vision Statement and Goals
5. Support protection of the Arctic Refuge's Special Values.
6. Thank FWS for doing the Wilderness Review and urge that it be completed in the final CCP so that all areas maintain their Wilderness characteristics and suitability for the life of the plan. 🐾



TAKE ACTION

HELP KEEP THE ARCTIC REFUGE WILD AND FREE

Right now, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) is taking input on the Arctic Refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan that, for the first time, could recommend Wilderness for the Coastal Plain. Speak or write from your heart about why the Arctic Refuge wilderness matters to you and your connections to this place, whether or not you have been there. Your personalized comment matters!

SEND WRITTEN COMMENTS BY NOV. 15, 2011

**Arctic National Refuge
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Attention: Sharon Seim
101 12th Ave, Rm 236
Fairbanks AK 99701**

**EMAIL COMMENTS TO:
arcticrefugeccp@fws.gov**

Even if you are unable to attend the Auction, you can still make a tax deductible donation to allow the Northern Center to continue monitoring and advocating on behalf of urgent issues such as the CCP

Arctic Ocean Drilling Threat Intensifies

For the first time in nearly three decades, the federal offshore agency held a hearing in Fairbanks (stay tuned for your chance to testify at the next one later this winter). Half the people testifying opposed Chukchi Sea lease sale 193 and raised concerns about spill risks. Here is an excerpt from testimony by Daniel "Inulak" Lum, a long time Inupiat Eskimo tour guide in the Arctic, a husband and father of 5 children:

"As you read this, international corporations are positioning themselves to develop off shore drilling rigs in the Chukchi Sea of the Arctic Ocean.... Our hunters and whalers understand the dangers and the power of moving ice – that is why we are so opposed to it. The ocean ice in packs or in sheets is

unforgiving. The idea that any spill response in flowing pack ice, or underneath thick frozen sheet ice, is possible in any way is a lie! The industries simply cannot respond to a spill!... The sea is our garden. We understand that garden, and thus our skepticism about the industry's ability to clean an oil spill. It is impossible to clean an oil spill effectively in drifting pack ice and it is impossible to clean an oil spill underneath the large sheets of flat ice... The industry scientists tell us it is 100% safe – but they continue to blunder on giant scales across the globe. We do not want an oil spill like the Gulf of Mexico in our waters. That would mean the end of our subsistence ways, and our traditional lifestyle." 🐾

Susitna Dam Plans Speeding Ahead

By Lissa Hughes, Legislative Liaison

In 2010, the Alaska Legislature established the goal of having 50 percent of Alaska's power generation from renewable resources by 2025. The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) and other project proponents have argued that building the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project is the only way to meet this goal. A number of hydroelectric generation alternatives were studied recently on the Susitna River, of which the Susitna-Watana Alternative has become the selected Project: a 700-foot high dam with a 600 MW powerhouse, chosen because it provided the best combination of winter storage, lower environmental impact, and lower overall cost while meeting the 50 percent renewable goal by 2025. Energy would be generated using the glacial waters of the upper Susitna River, and transmitted north to the Interior and south to Southcentral Alaska along new and existing transmission lines.

In January 2011, Alaska Gov. Sean Parnell took a major step by introducing legislation promoting the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project, with a request of over \$65 million and the authority to begin the permitting process, financial plan, design and engineering. In April 2011, after many hearings and substantial public involvement, the Alaska Legislature overwhelmingly voted in favor of legislation necessary to move the Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project forward. Governor Parnell has signed legislation that appropriates \$67 million to the AEA to begin the required Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensing process.

The hydroelectric potential of the Susitna River basin has been studied for decades. A great amount of environmental base-line data was gathered in the 1980s, when a Susitna River hydro project involving more than one dam was under consideration. However, most of these studies need to be updated to include economic viability and impacts due to climate change. The old project was shelved due to the low cost of fuel, but since the initial studies, the price of fuel has risen over 800 percent, increasing energy costs for all Alaskans.

Project proponents hope Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project will supply half of the Railbelt's current energy needs at a stable or declining rate for the project life of more than 100 years. Susitna is envisioned to provide about half of Southcentral's power supply, but the driving force behind this project in the legislature has been the Interior Delegation.

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center (NAEC) staff and Board of Directors are committed to advocating for energy efficiency, fuel conservation and evaluating power generation alternatives to this mega-project that would forever alter Alaska's wild character. We want what is in best for Alaska's wild places and Alaska's people as we move towards meeting the goal of 50% renewable energy by 2025. We will continue to provide our membership with information about the Susitna Project and communicate opportunities to be involved in this process. 🌱

Susitna Fast Facts

- 700-foot-tall dam. The proposed dam would be the eighth tallest on earth, and the biggest built in America since 1966
- 600-megawatt capacity. (In comparison, the dam at Bradley Lake is 125 feet high and generates 126 megawatts).
- 550-foot difference between tail water and maximum pond elevation, with a pond level of 2,000 feet.
- Located approximately half-way between Anchorage and Fairbanks
- Mile 184 above the mouth of the Susitna River
- 39 miles long reservoir
- A maximum of two miles wide
- Average annual generation of 2600 GWhrs.

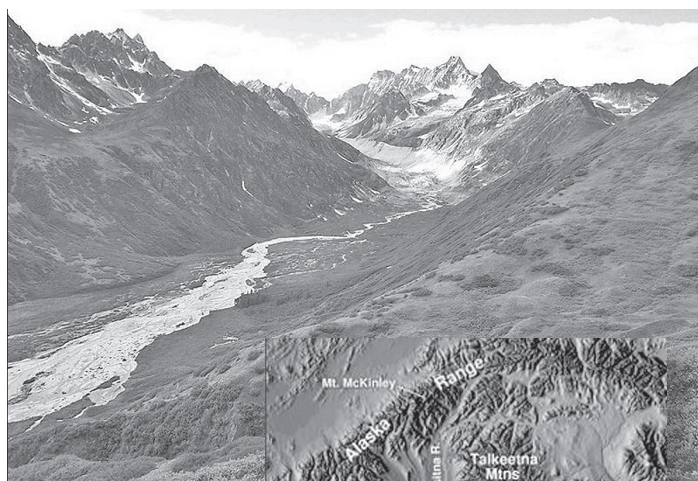


Photo from <http://susitnadamalternatives.org>



Give a Gift Membership

Your loved ones will adore receiving a gift that helps to protect one of America's most critical natural places.

When you give a gift membership now, your friend or family member will be welcomed into the Northern Center family of dedicated individuals.

We're working with you to make a positive impact in Northern Alaska, our backyard. Give a green gift this year and help others join the cause! Show you care about them and our earth by giving a gift membership to the Northern Center.

As a member, your gift recipient will also receive:

- A subscription to The Northern Line, our news journal, with hot topic environmental and conservation issues.
- Weekly E-News subscription to our various program and event updates.
- Discounts from Eco-Friendly Retailers

This unique gift idea helps protect the air, water and wild Alaska we love for future generations; and amplifies your loved one's voice for conservation.

Clip here



Fresh Air from the Arctic Refuge

By Jenna Hertz, Arctic Program Assistant

Times are getting tough for those of us who care deeply about wild places. Luckily, those very touchstone places that we must now defend have a way of filling us with inspiration when we need it most. If you feel the latest headlines of the daily news like a daily hailstorm, the best I can offer from my summer trip to the Arctic Refuge is a prolonged moment — a deep breath from my place of enchantment.

Close your eyes and travel north with your mind, to the top of a conical peak overlooking the Coastal Plain. Slowly lift your eyelids and let the morning light streak between your eyelashes from every angle, spreading across your body like sun reflecting on a river bank. In this treeless tundra, your eyes can travel for miles. Great green ramps of dryas beckon you up mountains and you follow in a trance, tracing ridge to ridge, breathing deeper with each vista. Turn to face the four directions and taste the wind. Each arm reaches towards a choice, each direction a potential pilgrimage: a new flower, late season cloudberry, perhaps a bear. This is the freedom we've hungered for — life in balance.

Tomorrow morning, instead of turning on your radio or TV, I invite each of you to gather up your places of enchantment. Pick up your pen and speak. If we keep the magic to ourselves, how can we ensure that it will be there for future generations to discover? 🌿

Healthy Air Up In Smoke

By Lissa Hughes, Local Conservation Solutions Coordinator

On October 4th, Fairbanks North Star Borough (FNSB) voters shot down Proposition 2, the "Healthy Air Protection Act," which would have allowed bans on the use of coal and outdoor wood boilers within the densely populated part of the region currently in violation of federal air quality standards.

Over the past few years, numerous attempts have been made to address our local air quality problem and some voluntary measures have been successful. The FNSB wood stove change-out program has been very popular and can still be expanded with a \$3 million appropriation from the Alaska Legislature. The state also appropriated funds to research and test new pollution retrofit devices on outdoor boilers. The FNSB has engaged the public through education on clean burning and making sure enough dry wood is available to meet the demand for those who burn wood as a primary and secondary source of heating. These efforts may help, though a comprehensive approach would call for both voluntary measures and involuntary measures that target and fine the worst polluters.

With the defeat of the "Healthy Air Protection Act" Interior Alaska residents are faced with the question of how to improve our air quality by 2014, a deadline imposed by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). If substantial improvements aren't made, the EPA may impose economic sanctions that could have crippling effects for our economy. These economic sanctions may not be limited to the non-attainment area or even Interior Alaska for that matter. Our air quality problem could end up becoming an economic problem for the entire state. 🌿

Northern Alaska Environmental Center Gift Membership

If you would like to personally deliver the gift certificate for membership check this box: ☐
Otherwise, we will mail them their information and gift from you

DONOR INFORMATION

Name(s) _____

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Phone () _____

Amount \$40 Payment: ___ Cash ___ Check ___ VISA/MC

card # _____ exp. date ____ / ____ CVC Code _____ Signature _____



GIFT MEMBER INFORMATION

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone () _____

Email _____

Thanks!

Thanks for the H.E.L.P with NAEC's Mortgage

Kudos to these **Helpful Environmental Loan Partners** who had the foresight and generosity to loan the Northern Center money to buy its office building at 830 College Road in 2003. This spring, a generous anonymous donor paid off our remaining mortgage. Every day, we are grateful to these H.E.L.P.ers that we own our building free and clear!

**Maurine Canarsky
Teresa Glendinning
John Hagey
Jim Hunter
Frank Keim
Douglas McIntosh
Dan Adams
Michalina Bickford
Carol Klopff
Martha K. Raynolds
Bobbie Ritchie**

**Ken Whitten
Phil Wildfang
Sarah Campbell
Susan Campbell
James Chumbley
Clarice Dukeminier
Margaret Eagleton
Keith Echelmeyer
Stan Justice
David Klein
Alice Mural**

Annual Meeting Volunteers

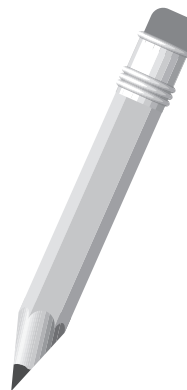
**Lou Brown
Cara Brunk
Erica Carroll
Sven Grage
Anne & Will Harrison
Jim & Marilyn Hunter
Doug McIntosh
Jon Miller
Karl Monetti
Ronn Murray
Carol Norton
Don & Tracie Pendergrast
Marilyn Richardson
Shane & Mary Walker
Mary Zalar**



Advisory board chair, Sylvia Ward Schultz, presents the Florence Collins award to Jim Hunter (center) and Jim Kowalsky (left) while celebrating on behalf of Ray Bane who was out of state and Gordon Wright, in memoriam, at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Annual Meeting Tremendous Tent Raising Team

**Dan Adams
Greg Barker
Erica Carroll
Dawson Fickus
Sven Grage
Larry Landry
Doug McIntosh
Don Pendergrast
Paul Reichardt
Don Ross
Jack Schmid
Bill Schneider**



**A big thanks to all our 2011 Membership Survey participants!
We appreciate you taking your valuable time to share your thoughts and feedback.
Survey results will be available on our website in November.**

Energy Efficiency is a Community Effort

by Jessie Peterson, Renewable Energy Program Director

This October marked the 2nd annual Energy Awareness Month in Alaska, and was filled with a host of activities and seminars to remind Alaskans of simple measures they can take during the long winter months to improve their energy efficiency, and as a result save energy, money and time. If you were unable to attend any of the Energy Awareness Month activities, don't worry: we all have an opportunity to spread the word and help educate friends and neighbors on the benefits of energy efficiency. Energy awareness is one of the best arenas for collaboration, creative thinking, and finding commonality within our diverse community.

One such Alaskan who is doing just that is Karl Kassel: 36 year Fairbanks resident, current Borough Assembly member, and energy efficient home-owner. Mr. Kassel presented at the NAEC's October Northern Voices speaker series on a "Holistic Approach to Home Construction." During an invigorating, impassioned presentation, Karl walked the audience through the journey of building consciously, with a focus on the energy system in its entirety. Karl's home has a synergistic system relying on energy efficiency and passive solar first, followed by renewable energy sources including wind, solar PV and solar thermal. Everything in the home has a purpose, with energy consumption being at the forefront of each decision in the design, construction and maintenance of the home. The audience left the evening with a clear message from Karl: his home is just the start for conscious, efficient building in Fairbanks and across Alaska. His home is a model for others to follow, or to use as inspiration as they embark on their own design. Energy efficiency does not mean doing without, and does not mean sacrifice. It is a sound investment of time and resources that will always result in a more comfortable, sustainable, healthy built

environment. Not in the market to build an efficient home? There are many programs and resources available to renters and homeowners to make energy efficient improvements to existing buildings. Check out gvea.com, or call (907) 452-1151 to learn about their HomeSense program. This is GVEA's electrical efficiency program, where you can receive an energy efficiency assessment to determine where you can cut the most electrical usage.

For example, eliminate phantom energy loads by using power strips, and make sure you've replaced all light bulbs with Compact Fluorescent Lights. CFLs use 75% less energy than regular bulbs. Simple steps can save you money and use less energy – all resulting in a more comfortable living environment to help you enjoy the long winter months. As the uncertainty of fuel prices and the awareness of our air quality issues escalate, we can all feel empowered to know we can control our energy usage through more efficient habits. Sharing success stories with fellow residents is the best way to build an energy efficient community. The NAEC will continue to highlight examples of energy efficiency done right, and we will be eager to hear more about your experiences. 🌱



The interior has an outdoors theme with tree sculptures, a free-form island in the kitchen and locally made birch cabinets with hand-picked rock handles. The house contains 16 tons of rock collected from river trips and a rock party. A blue river flows through sandy banks on the stained concrete floor and the living room is trimmed with plant beds containing two tons of dirt.





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Save the Date!

Saturday, November 12



AUCTION FUNDRAISER

NAEC Annual Benefit Dinner & Auction Fundraiser

5pm Doors Open/Silent Auction

6pm Sit Down Dinner

7pm Outcry Auction

Join us at the Princess Hotel for this year's theme, "Still Wild at 40!"

Come celebrate with us and enjoy a night of music, fine dining, socializing and generosity! Tickets are \$40 and must be purchased by Wednesday, November 9. Call (907) 452-5234 to purchase tickets by phone with a credit card or stop by the NAEC to pay with a credit card, check, or cash.

Northern Voices Autumn 2011 Series, 7:00pm Noel Wien Public Library

Monday, November 7 Arctic Marine Mammals and Their Changing World

Polar bear tour operator and marine mammal photographer Daniel Lum is an Inupiaq Eskimo from Barrow Alaska. He will discuss coastal marine mammals and their changing world with focus on threats from oil and gas. Includes a slideshow of his spectacular photos.

Monday, December 5 Adventure on Mt. Hayes

Join Pete Dronkers of the Northern Alaska Environmental Center on a wild expedition on the highest mountain in the Eastern Alaska Range – Mt. Hayes. Standing sentinel to Fairbanks, this majestic peak challenges and inspires, but sometimes things don't always go as planned. Come see why the Northern Center has chosen this group of peaks as it's logo's backdrop

VISIT www.northern.org for up-to-date events information.

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CONGRATULATIONS to 2011 NAEC Award Winners!

Volunteer of the Year

MARILYN RICHARDSON

Activist of the Year

**JON MILLER &
SYLVIA WARD-SCHULTZ**

Conservationist of the Year

RUSS MADDOX

Youth of the Year

CHRISTIANA WRIGHT

Business of the Year

NOMADIC STARS

Florence Collins Award

Recognizing Four of our early leaders

JIM KOWALSKY

JIM HUNTER

GORDON WRIGHT, in memoriam

RAY BANE

Outstanding Service Award

LOU BROWN

All awardees were recognized at the June
2011 NAEC Annual Meeting & Picnic.