

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

Summer 2011 Volume XXXIII, No. 2

40 Years of Activism and Advocacy...

...and things haven't changed yet! Most groups won't brag that their efforts result in nothing happening. Yet for the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, our work is guided by our vision for **"...a naturally thriving, biologically and culturally diverse, wildlands-rich, sustainable, inspiring and thoughtfully protected northern Alaska, forever."** In 40 years devoted to protecting Alaska's treasures from projects and policies that would permanently degrade wild lands, our success has often been measured by **no change** to habitats and landscapes. From the calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd on the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge, to the free-flowing salmon habitat of the Susitna River, Alaska remains wild like no place else on Earth because NAEC and our allies do the impassioned, incessant work of ensuring that your pristine public lands and wild rivers don't change into compromised industrial wastelands. Forever.

Of course, there are big changes that your Northern Center fully embraces! Right now, we are:

- changing Fairbanksans' dependence on expensive and climate-deteriorating gasoline (see p. 3)
- preparing for the change to tomorrow's conservation leaders by guiding teens (see p. 3)
- partnering with UAF students (see p. 4), and mentoring young interns (see p. 6)
- campaigning to change parts of the stunning Tangle Lakes region into a protected paradise (see p. 5)
- advocating to change the way we protect the public from toxic coal ash waste (see p. 4)
- calling for a change in federal policy to add additional protections across the Arctic and Interior, starting with the long-term priority of Arctic Refuge coastal plain wilderness designation (see p. 6 - 7)

2011 MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

As a valued member of NAEC, we are interested in knowing more about you and your relationship with us! Please take our survey when it comes to you through the mail, email, or in person at the Annual Meeting, June 3rd.

Your input is important to us – thank you in advance for the time and thought you put into answering our short questionnaire.

We want to know.

What do *you* want to see changed right now, or unchanged for generations to come? In Interior and Arctic Alaska, we still have opportunities—long lost elsewhere—to **conserve and protect habitats for wildlife, culture, environmental health and future generations.**

Karen Max Kelly, Executive Director

PS. I hope you will join us at our 40th anniversary members' potluck June 3 to celebrate the past, take action now, and plan for future conservation successes. Bring your 1971-era activist attitude and best bellbottoms! See you there!

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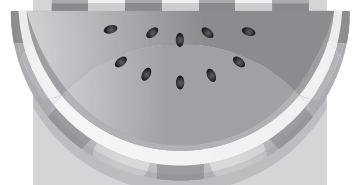


Receive Weekly Upcoming Community
Conservation Events & News:

Sign Up online @ www.Northern.org

JUNE 3, 2011

Annual
Membership
Meeting &
Potluck!



5:30 PM
830 College Road

JOIN US!

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 1640 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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Membership Notes

MEMBER PROFILE:

Erica Carroll

Where did you grow up: Rhinelander, WI

Where do you live now: Here in Fairbanks, AK!

Roles in life: Wife and Dog owner - who loves working with children – getting them active and outside!!!

Role at the Northern Center: Work as the new 2011 Camp Habitat Director – a nature education and ecology day camp for kids ages 4-11 at Creamers Field in downtown Fairbanks their lucky to have NAEC as one of their three main sponsors/partners! Getting our next generation to appreciate and respect their backyard in interior Alaska!

Where do you go when you want to get outside in the fresh air: ANYWHERE – especially in the mountains!

Favorite pie: Strawberry/Rhubarb (excited to grow those in my garden this summer and make it)

Outdoor recreation of choice: Skiing of any sort (Nordic/Alpine) and biking/running in the summer!

Why did you become a member of the Northern Center: Plain and simple - I want to support and be part of an organization that helps protect the unique natural environment of Interior Alaska. There is no better gift to give future generations than the beauty and adventure that the natural world will provide if we keep it in tip-top shape!

How long have you been a member: Only 3 months – but love EVERY minute of it thus far!

What is your favorite saying: "Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take but the number of moments that take our breath away."

What's your signature potluck dish: Famous Wisconsin Beer Cheese Dip! (Back to my roots)

Do you have any special talents: I am a yoga instructor – was a gymnast and can still do back flips & I speak Swedish!

Please finish this sentence, "I want...": I want to always have a sense of adventure to explore my natural surroundings all over this beautiful planet, a smile on my face, and people to share both of those things with! 🌿



Living her life as a balancing act between work and play at the Turnagain Pass!

NAEC HISTORY QUIZ

Be the first to answer and win a pie at our annual meeting! Call or e-mail Jenna (452 5021 or Jenna@northern.org) to play!

1. Name that Alaskan politician:
 "My goal is to make a map of Alaska look like a plate of spaghetti." Bonus points for the context!
2. Where was the first meeting of the then Fairbanks Environmental Center held?
3. Name all of the people in this photo and what they're doing!

Answers, pie, and HISTORIC PHOTO SLIDESHOW to be revealed at the Annual Meeting, June 3rd!



Changing Fairbanksans' Dependence on Fossil Fuel

2011 Don't Be Fuelish Competition



Are increasing fuel prices stressing you out? Do you wish you could do something about it? Here's your chance! Organizations around Fairbanks are rivaling with each other in the annual "Don't Be Fuelish Competition." The idea is to see which group of employees can save the most fuel traveling to and from work without driving alone in a motor vehicle. The organization with the best combination of fuel saving when ranked by a weighted average of total miles, miles per capita, and days per participating employee will receive the prestigious Fuel Can Award.

The competition began on April 1st and continues through September 30th, so it is never too late to sign up and start saving fuel! To save fuel on behalf of your organization: consider car pooling with a co-worker or neighbor, riding the bus, biking, walking, running or a combination of these methods to get to work. Registering with the Northern Center will provide the necessary documentation and list you/your organization as part of the competition. Keep track of the number of miles saved using these fuel-efficient commutes, recording those miles on the handy Don't Be Fuelish Calendar. At the end of each month report your non-fuelish ways on the supplied tracking spreadsheet. At the end of the competition, we tally the results to determine which group has the least fuelish employees and wins the competition. Remember, any number of miles you save on your commute using the above mentioned methods helps your organization in pursuit of the prestigious Fuel Can Award.

Join in this effort to save fuel this summer. Since 2007, The Don't Be Fuelish Competition has conserved over **305,350 miles**, saved **153 tons of CO₂** that would have been released into the atmosphere, conserved **15,190 gallons of fuel**, and saved its participants **\$57,850**. It's good for our health, it's good for the air, and it's good for your wallet! ♻️

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

Youth Speak Up Event Report

By Jenna Hertz

On the morning of March 12, a group of dedicated Alaskan teens from Fairbanks Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (FAYEA), mentors, and Northern Center staff and board crossed the frozen Tanana River by foot, sled, and ski to find 88-year old Athabaskan Elder, Howard Luke, hard at work using a long pole to scrape snow off the roof over the entry to his Gallee'ya spirit camp. The teens took turns trying their luck with the pole and settled around the woodstove to learn tools to make their voices count on Alaskan conservation issues.

Luke's credentials include an illustrious career in dog and boat racing (he won the Yukon 800 in 1965) while providing years of guidance and counseling to Alaskans of all ages. "I think about young people more than anything else," he told the group. Today Howard Luke worries that many people are "going against nature," and causing harm to our planet and each other. His remedy is simple: respect. Linking in with FAYEA's campaign to protect wild Alaskan salmon, Luke explained that even fish know when they are being disrespected, and it is important to treat others and our environment with respect.

"You can do anything you want to do," Luke told FAYEA teens. After lunch, he modeled this by participating in a lobbying game as a Hawaiian senator. Decorated with a lei and sun hat, Luke played the part graciously and smiled as participants worked on their advocacy skills. He listened intently as NAEC legislative liaison, Lissa Hughes, explained the basics of advocacy work. And he laughed hysterically as participants created a letter to the editor "mad lib style" and read it with varying accents. Luke even took up the cause, by signing one of FAYEA's pledge cards to protect wild Alaskan salmon. By the end of the afternoon, everyone was humming with inspired energy. We crossed the river again with a new friend, new ideas, and new eyes. ♻️



FAYEA meets on Tuesdays at the Alaska Bird Observatory from 6-7. Contact Joseph at fayekids@gmail.com for information.



The FNSB has rolled out a **"SPLIT, STACK, STORE & SAVE"** campaign to remind residents who burn wood to start getting their wood ready now for next winter. **SPLIT** the wood in half at least once. Your wood should be less than two feet in length. **STACK** in a pile to allow for adequate air flow. **STORE** your wood for six months to two years in an area exposed to the sun; cover the top of the pile. **SAVE** money and our air. ♻️



Annual Meeting

The GVEA Annual General Meeting, held April 26th, offered utility members the opportunity to learn about future energy projects, meet board of director candidates, and voice their comments and concerns through member testimony. Nearly 1300 members attended. The dominant themes of the

evening included discussion of the dormant, experimental Healy coal plant as well as discussion of how GVEA plans to bring wind energy online. The GVEA board of directors is slated to make a final decision about a wind project at the June board meeting. Ratepayers are always welcome at the monthly board meetings.

Attending a board meeting is a fantastic opportunity to **learn more and provide feedback on GVEA's current and future energy projects.** ♻️

TAKE ACTION:

Attend GVEA June board meeting: June 27, 7pm, 758 Illinois Street

NAEC Petitions ADEC for Stronger Regulations on Coal Ash

By Lissa Hughes, Conservation Solutions Coordinator

In Fairbanks, coal-fired power plants generate tens of thousands of metric tons of waste each year, known as coal combustion wastes, of which a major component is coal ash. Coal ash throughout the nation is found to contain concerning levels of toxic chemicals that pose serious risks to both human and environmental health.

NAEC is gathering signatures for a petition urging the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to implement stronger regulations that prioritize healthy communities by

ensuring safeguards for the handling, transport, storage and reuse of coal ash.

Recommendations for improved regulations regarding coal ash include:

- 1 Transportation:**
Covered trucks and protective measures to reduce fugitive dust during handling
- 2 Storage:**
Composite liners for landfills, water runoff controls and groundwater monitoring

3 Reclamation:
Appropriate safeguards for reuse and applications

4 Disposal:
Define "storage" time periods to limit erosion and mitigation

Sign the online petition and learn more at <http://AKcomments.org/coalashinterioralaska.html>

Contact Lissa Hughes, NAEC
Conservation Solutions Coordinator
@452-5021 ext.22

Student Leadership Paves the Way for Energy Awareness at UAF

By Jessie Peterson, Renewable Energy Program Director

Two years ago, if you asked the average student at the University of Alaska Fairbanks to identify the source of campus heat and electricity, the most likely response would be one of uncertainty. Even though Fairbanks experiences harsh winters and UAF relies heavily on coal, this topic was not on the radar of the majority of busy students. Most were shocked to learn coal was the primary energy source. Fortunately, in two short years, UAF has taken major strides to reverse this lack of energy awareness on campus and to elevate the need for clean energy solutions. As the 2010 – 2011 academic year swiftly comes to a close, it is worth celebrating and reflecting on the noteworthy changes at UAF to proactively educate students and address UAF's energy future.

There is no doubt that the student group **Beyond Coal** has played an instrumental role in not only raising awareness of the UAF coal plant, but in pressing for UAF to find viable clean energy solutions. This group originated at UAF in 2009 by passionate students who wanted to see UAF, recognized as a top research organization, take leadership and seek clean energy solutions. The current combined heat and power plant is nearing its projected 50 year lifespan, and the students in **Beyond Coal** recognized this as an ideal opportunity to implement energy improvements. Campus-wide energy efficiency and conservation measures, coupled with small-scale renewable projects such as solar panels on select buildings, are first-step solutions advocated by the student group.

The consistent efforts of **Beyond Coal** have been remarkable. The spring 2011 academic semester was filled



with activity, as **Beyond Coal** collaborated with the UAF Sustainability Office, Facilities Services, other student groups, the NAEC, and the Chancellor's office to spark meaningful dialogue on the realities of transitioning from the current combined heat and power plant to cleaner energy choices. On April 8th, **Beyond Coal** hosted a forum called "Powering UAF: Our Energy Options Today and in the Future." This event provided a discussion on how UAF is proactively addressing the needs of the aging power plant, and pressed the panelists to discuss alternatives to burning coal. Following this event was

a tour of the campus coal plant, given generously by Charles Ward of Facilities Services. As Christiana Wright, **Beyond Coal** student president notes, "the individuals who came to the Power Plant tour have sparked the discussion on the issue Fairbanks and UAF face in relation to our energy consumption, and the faces in that room are the faces of people who have chosen to start questioning what is really happening around us, and what we want for our energy future."

It is clear the students recognize the complexity of the issues, and are eager to work with the UAF administration to share ideas and question current practices – all for the purpose of moving their university into a position of national leadership with campus energy management. If UAF, America's arctic university, can transition away from coal combustion, then arguably any campus can do the same. Stay tuned to the activities of **Beyond Coal**, as this is a group of passionate, articulate students who are dedicated to developing clean energy solutions for UAF. ♻️

Mining Update

By Pete Dronkers, Clean Water and Mining Director

Donlin Creek Update

In the last Northern Line, we told you about some of the issues at the proposed Donlin Creek gold mine, on the Kuksokwim River near Crooked Creek. In early March, Bjorn Olson and Kim McNett of Homer began their Donlin Expedition on fatbikes to explore part of the proposed gas pipeline route that parallels the Iditarod Trail and would supply the mine's power plant. Their mission: to speak with people involved with the Iditarod sled dog and Iditarod Invitational (human powered) races and collect materials for a possible documentary.

During their ride from Knik to McGrath, there was a lot of talk about a new ice road that was mistakenly associated with the Donlin pipeline efforts. The new 60 mile ice road leads to another gold prospect seeking to establish itself in the region – the Whistler Gold prospect being pursued by Kiska Metals along Portage Creek, northwest of Skwentna. A meeting later occurred in Skwentna in which representatives from Kiska and Donlin LLC were present and addressed stakeholders concerned with the road and its current and future impacts to the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

The Northern Center believes one thing has become clear as a result of the Whistler Gold road: it is arousing deep concern among people in the region, yet represents only a fraction of the development activity that will be required to lay the 320-mile long gas pipeline and its associated road to the Donlin prospect. Donlin hopes to complete their feasibility study for the pipeline later this summer, and we will keep you posted with the news. You can learn more about the pipeline at www.tinyurl.com/donlin and click on "energy discussion." 🌿

Tangle Lakes gets new supporters, new boots on ground

The push to save Tangle Lakes is getting stronger by the day. We just turned a corner by getting several local and national groups to sign our letter to the Alaska Legislature. We've worked with the Denali Citizens' Council, Arctic Audubon Society, Fairbanks Paddlers, Center for Biological Diversity, the Rewilding Institute, and Friends of Stampede to help spread the word to get more people and groups on the letter. Many more groups are teeing up to sign the letter as I write this, joining a list of over 275 Alaskans who have gone on record supporting a Wildlife Refuge at the lakes before they become industrialized.

We're also getting an infusion of new energy when the Clean Water and Mining Program Intern begins on May 15. We received 35 well qualified applicants and chose Sam Wohms from Harvard University to be our 2011 intern. Sam brings great enthusiasm and energy to the table, having traveled the world volunteering for humanitarian causes and exploring. His experience in journalism (which won him a lengthy interview with Charlie Sheen) will also be well suited to the Tangle Lakes campaign. Together, we expect to bring it to the next level!

If you haven't already, please go to www.AKcomments.org/tanglelakes and sign the online petition, then forward it far and wide. We've also produced flyers to share at events and in mailings, so feel free to stop by and get a few if you can put them to use! 🌿

Umiat Road North Slope Communities Speak Out

In late April, the Alaska Legislature was called into a special session over the lack of resolution on the Governor's proposed \$2.9 billion Capital Budget. Included in the budget was \$8 million that would complete the Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed 90 mile road from the Dalton Highway near Toolik Lake to the oil and gas fields near Umiat as part of the Roads to Resources spending package. In response, three North Slope entities signed formal resolutions opposing the road and requested that their state delegates introduce amendments to the budget bill that would remove the funding for the road's study.

The Naqsramiut Tribal Council and the City of Anaktuvuk Pass both passed similar resolutions in April, citing concerns over subsistence resources from increased hunting the road may cause, environmental impacts of oil and gas drilling, and social issues as the village becomes more accessible by outsiders. The North Slope Borough Fish and Wildlife Advisory Committee distributed a resolution opposing the road. Then, the Tribal Council requested that Senator Donny Olson and Representative Reggie Joule – as both members of the Senate and House Finance Committees as well as delegates to North Slope communities – amend the bill to kill the funding. Days later, the Council sent a press release statewide to make their opposition clear, and Senator Olson sent all three resolutions to every State Legislator during budget negotiations.

Despite the clear objections raised by those Alaskans most affected by the proposed route, money to continue the Umiat road project remains in the capital budget passed by the Alaska legislature when they adjourned in mid-May. NAEC supports those local residents opposed to the Umiat project, and will continue to press the state to drop this unwelcome road to an uncertain resource.

Keeping the Magic of Arctic Seas

By Pamela A. Miller, Arctic Program Director

As marine ecologist Dr. Jane Lubchenco said, “Estuaries are where land and sea come together. They are magic in so many ways.” (PBS, *Saving the Bay*) For these vibrant nearshore waters of the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas so critical to migratory marine and coastal life, NAEC tracks threats from industrial activities in the state’s near-shore waters as well as harmful infrastructure or spills that span tundra and ocean. We had a successful court victory filed by Trustees for Alaska on the State of Alaska’s Beaufort Sea leasing program that now requires consideration of the public interest at each stage of development.

On the first anniversary of BP’s Gulf of Mexico disaster that gushed 208 million gallons of oil for 87 days, it seems like national amnesia has set in regarding the impacts of oil exploitation and the need to preserve our wild heritage. While long-term scientific study results will continue to trickle in over many years from the Gulf of Mexico, its warmer waters with oil-chomping bacterial capacity likely will yield different results compared with a major spill in colder, Arctic seas.

In the Arctic Ocean, NAEC continues to fight Shell Oil’s risky drilling just a dozen miles off the Arctic Refuge and in the remote Chukchi Sea. We are pressing for reform of federal agency management away from drilling and a continued “time-out” of new leasing, drilling, and new development in the Arctic Ocean until there is comprehensive ecological baseline and cumulative impacts science and proven oil spill response capabilities in place. Your voices calling for protection of special places across America’s Arctic and its surrounding seas are more critical than ever. Learn more at www.northern.org. ☞

Friends of the Stampede Road

News from Denali Citizens’ Council

Healy area residents who enjoy the public land surrounding the Stampede Road for its beautiful scenery, abundant wildlife, and great recreational opportunities have formed the Friends of Stampede. In all seasons, by foot, wheel or ski, locals and visitors explore the area and make use of its resources. Continued and changing use has led to noticeable changes, as networks of ATV trails criss-cross the tundra and the lack of sanitary facilities at popular pullouts is easily noted.

We’d like to ensure that this area will always be someplace we can explore and enjoy. As a group, we support designation of this area as the Stampede State Recreation Area, and bills are currently being heard in the State legislature to create it. Please talk to your legislators about supporting the bills, SB60 and HB113.

In the meantime, we are also working to help take care of the area. This summer, we plan to “adopt” the Stampede Road and pick up trash from the Parks Highway to 8-Mile Lake, at the end of the maintained portion of the road. We’ll be out there on May 22nd, and all are welcome to join us.

For more information, email friendsofstampede@gmail.com or visit our website <http://stampedefriends.wordpress.com>, where you can sign our online petition. ☞

MEET OUR NEW SUMMER INTERNS!

Paloma Garcia Simon

Arctic Multi-Media Intern

Paloma will bring video, artistic, and graphic design skills and Spanish fluency to a web-based Northern Voices project to raise web and social media outreach profiles to protect Arctic wild lands and waters as well as organize the Run for the Refuge. Paloma seeks both a BS in Environmental Studies and a BFA in Product Design at the New School, New York City, joining us as a Tishman Environmental Merit Scholar through Alaska Conservation Foundation’s internship program. She looks forward to the immersion in Alaska’s environment to become a basis for connecting with others seeking proactive environmental change.

Jessica LeClair

Arctic/Energy Intern

Jessica will bring her creative talents and expertise with climate policy to the NAEC to fill the exciting new role of Arctic-Energy intern. In this capacity she will explore and promote the connectivity between renewable energy solutions and protecting Arctic lands from fossil fuel development. Her breadth of educational experiences in both grassroots organizing and top-level policy development will add exciting perspective to the internship. Jessica is currently pursuing an MS from Bard College, focused on climate science and policy, and when not studying enjoys kayaking and fishing.

NAEC Remembrances

JOHN HAINES

John Haines, 86, former Alaska Poet Laureate, and author of 18 books of poems and essays, passed away March 2. His poetry championed the wildness and freedom of Alaska’s nature from the perspective of one living close to the land. He wrote, *A Requiem for the Arctic Refuge* (OnEarth Winter 2006) after Sen. Frank Murkowski waved a white piece of paper dismissing its beauty and value. One of his Northern Line essays about Susitna dam recently published in his book *Descent* said, “to see the world around us in terms of its utility alone involves us in a kind of spiritual surrender to one authority or another... The fate of a river is our own fate. The flow of a river is the flow of life in us all.”

PETER SOLOMON

Peter Solomon, 59, Gwich’in leader from Fort Yukon who worked tirelessly on behalf of protecting the Arctic Refuge passed away unexpectedly February 17. He had joined the Gwich’in Steering Committee to protect the sacred caribou birthplace and nursery grounds in the footsteps of his late brother Jonathon Solomon. He loved to sing and play guitar, and as an avid runner was a six-time winner of the World Eskimo Indian Olympics Race of the Torch. He had worked for the BLM Alaska Fire Service for more than 30 years.

Dangerous Drilling Schemes Threaten Refuge

By Pamela A. Miller, Arctic Program Director

Drilling from any direction is dirty and dangerous to the Arctic Refuge.

Already this year, eight bills to open the coastal plain to oil and gas drilling have been introduced by Alaska's Congressional delegation and others including the so-called directional drilling bill (S. 531) put forward by Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich. This scheme would crack open the Arctic Refuge coastal plain to oil leasing and development and undermine the fundamental purposes of the refuge to preserve wilderness and wildlife.

The bill's sponsors tout fictional claims of technological advances and speculative oil potential from the Refuge sought ostensibly through directional drilling and buried subsea pipeline technology. Development would target nearly 100 miles of Refuge coasts in the Beaufort Sea and the productive Canning River banks, if indeed all production drilling only took place from the adjacent state lands and waters.

Neither ecosystem function, nor the impacts of development stop at political borders, and the coastal lagoons and barrier islands, bays and sensitive shorelines and surrounding tundra both have extremely high productivity at risk. Increased development along the Refuge boundary will have harmful impacts from spills and noisy operations on the resources and habitats of the Coastal Plain including Porcupine caribou herd insect relief, marine mammals, and key subsistence areas.

Furthermore, the bill would allow surface activities such as intrusive seismic and exploratory drilling virtually everywhere in the Coastal Plain. This would, cause long-term damage to sensitive tundra vegetation, disturb denning polar bears, and harm wildlife habitats.

Like all Arctic Refuge drilling legislation, S. 531 would toss aside environmental laws and refuge purposes. For example, it would erase the fundamental "compatibility" standard at the heart of national wildlife refuge management, under which activities that impair refuge purposes cannot be allowed. It would demote the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service by giving key refuge management authorities to the Bureau of Land Management.

With so many loopholes and exaggerated claims, Murkowski's bill is a Trojan horse aimed at opening the entire Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain to oil leasing, exploration, and development. This scheme, like other drilling bills Congress is considering, would destroy the very values for which the Refuge was originally set aside nearly 50 years ago – its unparalleled wilderness and wildlife.

Alaskans and all Americans deserve a cheaper, quicker, safer and cleaner energy policy that safeguards the wild places we care so deeply about. It's time for America to prioritize quicker, cleaner renewable energy involving the real new technology to transform our economy using sustainable solutions that preserve our priceless places. ♻️

Support Arctic Refuge Wilderness in Plan

The summer lures visiting friends, relatives, and people from all over the world to see Alaska's amazing wild lands, and this year it also brings the chance for them to join you in speaking out to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. For the first time since 1988, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is doing a Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) for the Arctic Refuge. The plan's draft Environmental Impact Statement is expected in June with a 90-day comment period and public hearings. This is an historic chance to shape refuge management for the better and to support the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to recommend wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain and for other suitable areas not yet wilderness.

Add your voice to the important plan by:

- Sending written comments to arcticrefugeccp@fws.gov or <http://arctic.fws.gov/ccp.htm>.
- Testify at your hearings.
- Spread the word! Help your friends, family, and community connect the dots between the birds you love and the arctic lands they rely on and invite them to comment.

Speak from your heart about why the Arctic Refuge wilderness matters to you. Your thoughtful public comments will help shape the future of the refuge.

Suggested points to raise:

- Urge the CCP to recommend wilderness designation for the entire Coastal Plain and also other suitable non-designated lands so that the wilderness, wildlife habitat and cultural values of the whole refuge are protected for future generations.
- Insist on safeguarding the integrity of the ecosystem of the refuge as a whole through appropriate stewardship.
- Oppose any oil and gas leasing, exploration and development because it would permanently harm the wildlife, wilderness, and subsistence values of the Coastal Plain and the refuge as a whole.

For more information visit: <http://northern.org/programs/arctic/arctic-national-wildlife-refuge>. ♻️



TAKE ACTION: HELP KEEP THE ARCTIC REFUGE WILD AND FREE



- ✓ Urge Congress and the President to support wilderness for the Arctic Refuge coastal plain and oppose any legislation that would open the refuge to oil and gas leasing and development.
- ✓ Support Arctic Refuge Wilderness Bills (H.R. 139 and S. 33).

Call Congressional Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

Call President Obama: (202) 456-1414



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Save the Date!

JUNE 3 Annual Membership Meeting and Picnic, 5:30 PM

Discover Alaska - A Summer Lecture Series

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

In cooperation with the UAF Center for Research Services, the International Arctic Research Center, the Institute of Arctic Biology, the Geophysical Institute and the UA Geography Program

- JUNE 1** Ann Roberts *Gardening in the Interior*
JUNE 8 Jan Hanscom *Peonies: Varieties & Horticulture*
JUNE 15 John Walsh *Climate Change*
JUNE 22 Ken Tape *The Changing Arctic Landscape*
JUNE 29 Pat Holloway & Tom Kuhn *All About Alaska Blueberries*
JULY 6 Derek Sikes *Rebirth in the Aleutians: Kasatochi Survivors: Insects After the Eruption*
JULY 13 Collin Craven *Thrice Warmed: Heating with Wood*
JULY 27 Lissa Hughes *Building Community Resilience and Self-Reliance through Local Food*
AUG. 3 Rose Meier *Ethnobotany: Traditional Uses and Knowledge of Native Plants*



Young people have the opportunity to enjoy guided explorations in the Boreal Forest, Farm Fields, Seasonal Ponds and other wetlands at Creamer's Field designed especially for them. 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 2011 Open Now!

- June 13 – 17** (ages 4-5)
June 20 – 24 (ages 4-5)
July 11 – 15 (ages 6-11)
July 18 – 22 (ages 6-11)
July 25 – 29 (ages 6-11)

For more information, visit
<http://northern.org/programs/camp-habitat>