



ALASKA CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

SUMMER 2005

Center News

BECAUSE YOU LOVE ALASKA

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Cover photograph: A Trailside
Discovery Camp participant -- for
information call 274-KIDS.



from the **DIRECTOR**

CURBSIDE RECYCLING BECOMING A REALITY

After years of ups and downs with recycling services in Anchorage, we have good cause to celebrate this year - curbside service is finally being offered city-wide by a commercial hauler.

A local company, Great Alaska Sanitation, is currently accepting subscribers for every-other-week pick up of mixed paper, which includes cardboard, paperboard (cereal boxes), office paper, and newspaper. The final arrangements are being made to order and ship the new equipment, and as of this writing the company is working toward a July 2005 roll-out of the service, which is expected to cost \$6.00 per month.

Additionally, Great Alaska has made an arrangement with another local business, Thermo-Kool, who will accept all of the recyclable paper picked up by Great Alaska for remanufacture into hydro seed mulch and home insulation.

As you might guess, the company is taking on substantial financial risk to offer this service. The capital outlay for bins, trucks, and other equipment is significant, and no one really knows how strong the market is. That's why ACE is working overtime to urge residents to sign up. This is the best opportunity we've ever had to demonstrate a real demand for curbside recycling in Anchorage, and the success of this program is critical to moving forward on all of our goals for recycling in Alaska.

Even though we couldn't be more excited about Great Alaska's commitment to curbside service, it's still just a start. Obviously, we'd like to see more materials collected curbside, and we'd like to see all of the trash haulers in Anchorage implement curbside recycling.

To get there, we need to grow the 'supply side' of recycling to get the volume of materials high enough to reach economies of scale for haulers. That includes "pay as you throw" variable rates for garbage collection, which charges customers by the number of cans they put out, in order to create the incentive for everyone to recycle. Today, only Great Alaska offers variable rate pricing.

We also need to continue growing the demand side for materials, which includes further development of local avenues for the re-use and remanufacture of recycled materials in state, as well as government purchasing policies that favor local, recycled material suppliers.

There's still a lot of work to be done, but it feels great to be moving forward again - after all those years of working just to keep recycling on life support through one-stop drop off events and other efforts.

So, if you haven't already signed up with Great Alaska Sanitation, please do so. And look for additional opportunities to support a comprehensive, city-wide program that sets the example for the entire state.

For more information and links to sign up for curbside service, visit www.akcenter.org.



WILD ALASKA



by Eric Uhde, Public Lands Advocate

JIM-SWAN LAKES - LOCAL GEM THREATENED BY RUN-AMOK VANDALISM

Located just south of Palmer, the Jim Lake watershed originates high in the Chugach Range and slowly flows toward Knik Arm. The glacial fed Knik River is the center of a wonderful wetland, which boasts streams filled with salmon, migrating birds, mountain goats, moose, bears, eagles, and cranes.

The Jim Lake area includes coastal habitat, sand dunes, over 7,500 acres of wetlands, and several anadromous streams that connect a labyrinth of ponds and lakes. Miles of world class canoe trails interconnect the ponds and lakes. Hunting, fishing, and birding opportunities abound. Framed by the rugged 6,000-foot peaks of the Chugach to the east, the area supports an amazing variety of biodiversity and top-notch recreational opportunities.

Trumpeter Swans are among the first waterfowl to head into the Cook Inlet Basin, and frequently the first open water of the season is found in the Jim Lake area, which is a natural rest stop for migrating swans.

The Jim Lake watershed has been nominated for National Park status, and probably in any other state it would be a prize park. Its status as a local treasure, however, is threatened by unregulated abuse from a disrespectful minority.

The primary problem is that the public land in the Knik watershed currently receives no active

management from the state agencies responsible for it. The proximity to the large urban areas of Anchorage and Palmer and the lack of oversight has given the area the dubious distinction as a place to dump stolen cars, vandalize property, and shoot anything in sight. And with increasing populations, the Jim Lake area experiences increased use (and abuse) each year. These problems cause significant harm to the wildlife habitat and recreational potential of the area, and is incredibly damaging to neighbors and community residents.

While the Department of Natural Resources does not have a plan for the

watershed, there is an active effort by local residents for some type of planning in the area. Predictably, state agencies do not have the resources to oversee the type of planning and management that this area is begging for, so legislation authorizing and funding a locally-based planning process may be needed first.

Before the Jim Lake watershed becomes forever synonymous with junk cars and lifeless creeks, a collective effort is needed so that the Jim Lake area can become a destination for all.

For more information, contact Eric at 274-3639 or eric@akcenter.org.



JIM SWAN LAKES area in the fall (photo by Jim Cox).



A LEGACY OF PARKS

ANCHORAGE PARKS: THE COMMUNITY BENEFITS



Guest Article by Jeff Dillon, Municipality of Anchorage Parks and Recreation Director with help from Beth Norland, Development Director, Anchorage Parks Foundation

Great cities are known for their great parks, and one measure of any city's greatness is its ability to provide recreation, natural beauty, and signature open spaces for its citizens. Successful parks pay dividends for their cities; they build civic pride, increase tourism and economic investment, and contribute to health and quality of life. Our parks serve a multitude of purposes. Collectively, they provide playfields, teach appreciation of nature, offer exercise trails, mitigate flood waters, host concerts, protect wildlife, supply space for gardens, give a respite from urban life, bring diverse cultural and economic groups together, and much more.

QUALITY OF LIFE

Anchorage Bowl residents have an experience of city life in the wilderness that few other American metropolitan areas can match. Anchorage has over 10,000 acres of municipal parkland, 200 parks, and over 250 miles of trails and greenbelts that link neighborhoods with surrounding natural open space and wildlife habitat. The city is blessed with large expanses of natural open space within its boundaries, and is surrounded by Chugach State Park and the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge. Without these vast natural open spaces in and around the city, Anchorage would be a very different place to live.

Anchorage's parks are an important reason why many residents choose to live in our city. Anchorage prides itself on its all-season access to adventure and natural beauty. Our parks, natural open space, greenbelts, trails and access to thousands of acres of wilderness give character to our city. Parks add

charm to neighborhoods and give city living a balance between nature and development. That is why, for the second year in a row, Anchorage earned the highest five-star rating in Expansion Management Magazine's "Quality of Life Quotient."¹

HEALTH

Today we face a variety of health issues that result in higher medical costs and lost worker productivity. Reduced levels of participation and widespread inactivity of our youth lead to obesity and new childhood diseases such as diabetes and heart disease. The rise of obesity and the lack of physical activity in the young have prompted some health experts to predict that, for the first time in our country's history, life expectancy among today's children will be less than that of their parents.

Parks provide people with a wide variety of benefits for a well-balanced and healthy community. Medical studies have found if you live within a half mile of a park or trail you are 50% more likely to exercise the three times per week recommended by physicians. Health benefits are the #1 reason given by residents for recreating in Anchorage.

COMMUNITY

Parks are one of the quickest and most effective ways to build a sense of community and improve quality of life. Parks channel positive community participation by getting diverse people to work together towards a shared vision. Like barn raisings in rural America during the 1800's, people who come together to help maintain or build a play structure are empowered with an immediate sense of community and belonging. A recent survey found

that people who belong to groups have a 50% less chance of dying during the year.²

ECONOMY

Parks provide economic benefits to the community by improving real property values, attracting workers to live and work in the community and retaining retirees to stay in the area. Investment in parks enhances economic revitalization of neighborhoods and town centers by attracting private investment capital. The #2 reason for firms to relocate is quality of life issues, second only to good local schools. Our parks attract visitors to extend their stay and contribute to the local tourism markets. The Mayor's Marathon alone contributed more than two million dollars to the local economy in 2004 according to the Anchorage Visitor and Convention Bureau.

ENVIRONMENT

Parks provide good environmental stewardship of our natural areas by retaining and filtering storm water; serving as buffers between incompatible land uses; lending definition to neighborhood areas; providing links between residential areas, parks and schools; and protecting wildlife and fish habitat. Parks also provide healthy recreation opportunities close to home, a Smart Growth strategy for energy conservation.

OUR FUTURE

Parks are part of what makes Anchorage great, and they should be widely supported for all the public benefits they provide – health, community, economy, environment, quality of life and more. Recreation is not a luxury - it is an essential in the life

of the community, and opportunities for engaging in it rank substantially in the same order of importance as opportunities for education. Providing recreation for the whole community is the responsibility of the people of Anchorage³.

We need to commit our limited resources to ensure that our wonderful system of parks, open space, recreation facilities and trails is available to all Anchorage residents to enjoy today and into the future. To accomplish this we must recognize what is most important to a growing urban community and ask ourselves why are we doing the things we do as a community? Is it good for our children and for their children? The answer to these questions will allow our city to place a high priority on parks and recreation and make a commitment to provide a balanced future for our children based on common sense and compassion of which we can be proud.

¹Anchorage Economic Development Corporation Web Page.

²Bowling Alone, The Collapse and Revival of American Community, 1999, Robert Putnam

³Anchorage Recreation Plan, 1954, City Planning Commission, Vic Fischer, Planning Director

ANCHORAGE



PARK FOUNDATION

ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION

Mission: Advance parks, recreation opportunities, trails and conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all residents and visitors to Anchorage.

Working together to accomplish Anchorage's parks and recreation priorities, we can raise the money to improve services for our residents and visitors, and bridge the gap between growing needs and limited financial resources.

If you have a vision for parks, trails, open spaces and recreation in Anchorage, consider the Anchorage Park Foundation your opportunity to fund community projects through public-private partnerships.

Play a role in Anchorage's future quality of life by identifying a partnership opportunity with the Anchorage Park Foundation today. And please spread the word that the Anchorage Park Foundation is ready to make a difference in Anchorage when you are!

Current Park Foundation Projects:

- \$400,000 from Rasmuson Foundation for parks and trails capital improvement projects
- partnership with Skatepark YES (www.muni.org/projectmgmt/SkatePark.cfm) to raise money for an Anchorage Skatepark
- \$250,000 contribution from Wells Fargo Bank (www.muni.org/iceimages/parks/WellsFargo.pdf) for the building of a Community Pavilion, a sledding hill and a playground at the Abbott Loop Community Park
- partnership with the Scoop the Poop Committee to raise money for refuse stations

WHAT YOU CAN DO

PARTICIPATE

- Stay involved in the planning process
- Serve on an advisory committee to the Parks Commission
- Recreate

VOLUNTEER

- Adopt-a-Park
- Adopt-a-Trail
- Participate in Trail Watch—help keep our trails safe
- Volunteer at a recreation center and help provide healthy recreation opportunities to underserved youth

ADVOCATE

- Voice your support: State funding, Federal funding, grants and other sources of funds require advocates.

MAKE A FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTION

- Contribute for a specific project, or fundraise for a project in your neighborhood.
- Partner with the Anchorage Park Foundation today!



TAKE PRIDE IN ANCHORAGE



by Andre Camara, Anchorage Issues Coordinator

THREE OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOU TO SHAPE THE FUTURE OF YOUR COMMUNITY

Reorganization of the Parks department, city-wide curbside recycling, new development standards for Anchorage - things are changing in our city! As Anchorage continues to grow, public involvement is going to be the key to building a GREAT city for future generations.

ACE launched its "TAKE PRIDE IN ANCHORAGE" campaign to keep Anchorage livable as it grows, with new investments in old neighborhoods, streets that are walkable, frequent bus service, protected open spaces and neighborhood parks for children to play.

This summer, there are three major planning efforts underway: parks, development standards, and transportation. Needless to say, the community will be setting the mold for Anchorage's future through these efforts, and this is your best chance to have a say in how Anchorage matures.

PARK PLAN

Our parks, natural open space and recreational opportunities provide a major community asset and play a vital role in the development of Anchorage. The unique natural features in Anchorage are one reason many residents choose to live here.

The Municipality of Anchorage is revising the Park, Natural Open Space and Recreation Facility Plan for the Anchorage Bowl. The creation of great parks, natural open space and recreation facilities means a collaborative community effort including neighborhoods, businesses, and citizens. The existing Anchorage Bowl Parks, Greenbelt and Recreation Facility Plan was adopted in 1985 and needs to be updated to reflect current and future recreation, economic, demographic and land use trends.

Your participation is important! You can help protect our great parks, natural

open spaces and recreational facilities by getting involved in the public process. Contact Andre (274-3668 or andre@akcenter.org) for an update on when and where the next opportunity for the public to participate will be.

DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS

Title 21, the section of city code that governs development, is currently undergoing a major rewrite. Title 21 sets the standards for how we build our community - including subdivision design, big box stores, landscaping requirements, and more. The rewrite of Title 21 began two years ago, and few would argue against the need for a rewrite. The basic structure of Title 21 is essentially the same as it was when first adopted in 1969, with some changes made in the 1970s. The problems became more obvious after the city adopted the Anchorage 2020 comprehensive plan.



ACE STAFF ARE ALL SMILES WHILE CAMPAIGNING FOR THE ROADS AND TRANSIT BONDS on the recent Anchorage ballot. ACE joined with Anchorage Tomorrow and the Alaska Conservation Foundation in linking the road and transit bonds behind a single message to voters, and voters responded by passing a transit bond for the first time in many years.

This plan introduces planning ideals and policies that didn't meld with the current code.

We have a progressive comprehensive plan that provides the vision and outlines the needed tools and techniques to make Anchorage the kind of place that matches the splendor of our setting. Achieving this vision will take stronger development rules, despite the concern and difficulties they may cause. Good rules are fair to all and a means of raising the bar for everyone. The plan calls for town centers, more pedestrian connections, less sprawl, better transit, more landscaping and clustered but visually appealing high-quality development.

Making all that happen requires Anchorage to break some long-standing habits. Due to the importance and complexity of this rewrite, the schedule for the Title 21 rewrite has been extended. The extra time will allow the public more time to decipher the code and to issue their comments. The first public drafts are due to be released in May and November of 2005 with public comment periods following each release. The final draft of the new Title 21 should be available in the fall of 2006.

With your help, we can indeed become a world-class city in a world-class setting.

LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Anchorage has an opportunity to think, plan and act boldly in planning how to move goods, services and people in a growing city. The city is writing the first long-range transportation plan for Anchorage since 1991, a plan to take the city to 2025. These solutions to traffic problems will make a big difference in what kind of city Anchorage becomes. With a bad decision, traffic could overwhelm the city and make getting around a daily trial. The quality of life here -- the noise levels, the ability to walk to a park or store, the cleanliness of the air -- will be affected by the long-range traffic decisions.

How do you see getting around Anchorage twenty years from now? On freeways or streetcars? Driving



ALASKA CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEMBERS GATHER IN APRIL TO TESTIFY AT THE ANCHORAGE ASSEMBLY regarding changes to the pesticide notification rules. The Assembly passed the notification rules in the summer of 2004, but have come under pressure from local pesticide applicators to roll back the notice provisions. Conservation groups worked with pesticide applicators to hammer out a compromise ordinance which keeps the most important notice requirements in place, while addressing the concerns of applicators.

to parks and schools or walking? High speed traffic downtown or wide sidewalks full of people on their way to work and shopping? Decisions made this spring/summer will guide the next twenty years of transportation investments. The first LRTP draft is due out this summer and your voice is needed to stand up for the northern city envisioned in Anchorage 2020, our adopted comprehensive plan.

Our transportation planners need to hear that you want them to follow Anchorage's adopted comprehensive plan and build a northern city with: less traffic congestion; more housing and commercial development in the central business districts so more people can walk to work; major investments in street cars, commuter rail and buses so families are not forced to drive so often; linked sidewalks and trails that are maintained all year around and transportation investments that improve the city, not divide neighborhoods and bring more pollution to the city.

Anchorage should be bold and broad-minded in planning how we'll all get around in a growing city.

For more information, or how to get involved, contact Andrea at 274-3668 or andre@akcenter.org.



RECYCLE MY CELL PHONE

Don't Trash Your Cell Phone
Recycle It!

Help keep toxic metals out of the environment.

Did you know that:

- More than 500 million used cell phones are lying around in people's drawers, or worse, the trash?
- Cell phones contain toxics like lead, mercury and arsenic that can leach out of landfills, or pollute the air if incinerated?
- Today less than 2% of cell phones are being recycled?

The solution is easy, free, and tax-deductible...recycle your old cell phone with the Recycle My Cell Phone campaign! ACE is a designated recycling drop-off location. Bring your phones to the ACE office at 807 G St #100.

For more details, go to:
<http://www.recyclemycellphone.org/>

FEATURED BUSINESS

GREAT ALASKA SANITATION

750 E. Int'l Airport Rd • Anchorage, AK 99518
(907) 569-4271 • www.gas-alaska.com

Curbside recycling in Anchorage and Eagle River:

Great Alaska Sanitation started with two former Waste Management employees, Bob Lindquist and Mickey Poppino, who wanted to start a curbside recycling program that could be self-sustaining. Curbside recycling for paper products is currently being offered to Anchorage and Eagle River at \$6/month. Contact GAS to sign-up.

What is your take on environmental stewardship?

GAS believes it should conduct its business under the principle of causing the least known harm to the environment. The business is driven by the desire to aid in the restoration of a healthier environment through curbside recycling.

What is the future of recycling with GAS?

Once curbside recycling of paper products in Anchorage and Eagle River has been established, we'll look into recycling other items, such as glass and aluminum cans. GAS will always take into consideration whether any recyclable product we pick up can be re-manufactured into a usable product by a local Anchorage manufacturer.

Why is recycling important to Anchorage?

The recycling industry creates jobs, and recycling can be the least expensive waste management method for Anchorage. In most cases, making products from recycled materials creates less air and water pollution than making products from virgin materials.



Where does the mixed paper go once it is collected?

Paper products collected by Great Alaska Sanitation will go to Thermo-Kool, a local company that processes the paper into useful products, such as hydro-seed mulch, insulation and animal bedding. According to Dick Divelbiss, co-owner of Thermo-Kool, they go through more than 40 tons of the of recycled paper a day. If 1,000 people sign up for curbside recycling, it would bring in about one day's worth of paper per month. So, by signing up for curbside recycling, you can support not one, but two local businesses.

Additional Comments:

GAS welcomes public comments and suggestions that will improve its operations and offerings to the public. Please submit all comments and suggestions by e-mail to customerservice@gas-alaska.com.

8th World Wilderness Congress

Wilderness, Wildlands and People:
A Partnership for the Planet

30 September – 6 October 2005
Anchorage, Alaska

Join over 1000 delegates from many nations — from all perspectives and professions, Native and non-native communities — at the world's longest-running, public, international environmental forum, and take action on:

Climate Change • Forests • Local Communities • Science
• Traditional Knowledge • Wild Salmon • Tourism •
Marine Sanctuaries • Public Sector Agencies • Private
Sector Models • Native Lands & Wilderness Council •
Natural Resource Use & Management • Conservation •
Photography • Music, Writing, Dance • and More

8th WORLD WILDERNESS CONGRESS
30 SEPTEMBER - 6 OCTOBER 2005 ANCHORAGE, ALASKA

To register or for more details:
visit www.8wwc.org or contact
The WILD Foundation: info@8wwc.org

ALASKA OCEANS



by Butch Allen, Oceans Program Coordinator

BELUGA WHALE CONSERVATION PLAN RELEASED

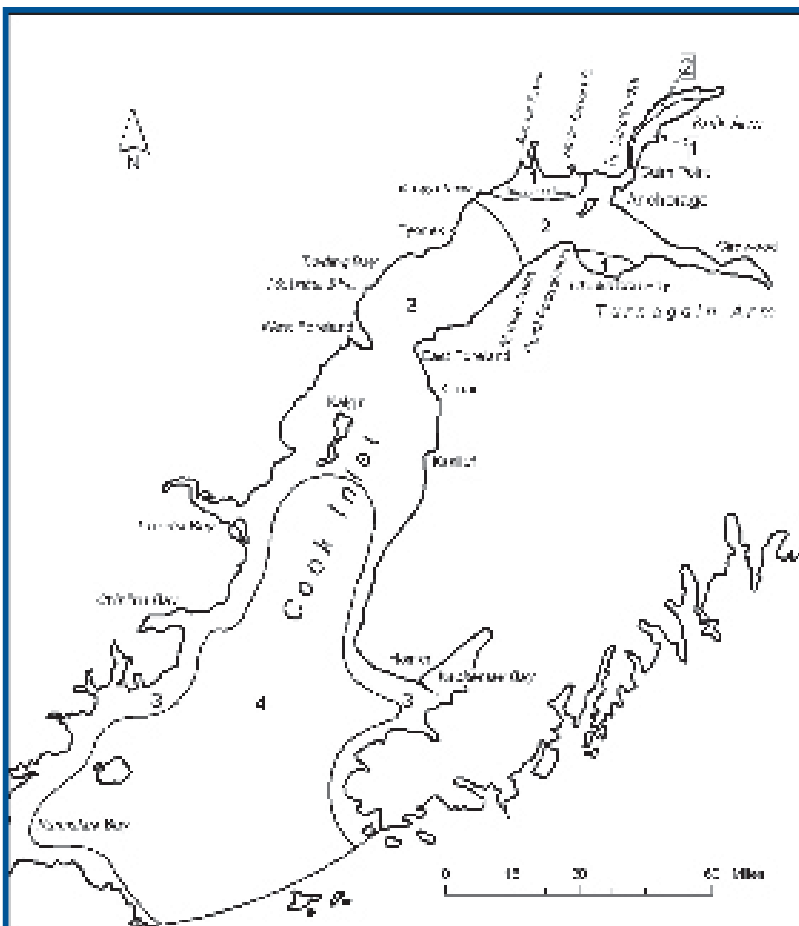
On March 16th, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) released the long-overdue draft conservation plan for the Cook Inlet beluga whale population. The plan is mandated by the Marine Mammal Protection Act for any species that is listed as depleted, and has been on the drafting board for 4 years.

The NMFS conservation plan is the federal government's blueprint for ensuring recovery of the species, and the strength and implementation of the plan may prove decisive for the belugas.

Cook Inlet sustained beluga numbers approaching 1300 animals as recently as the 1980's. Only a decade later, an estimated 350 animals remained, prompting the U.S. Congress to take action. At that time, the feds looked to only one cause for depletion - native harvesting.

In 1999, the federal government mandated that native subsistence hunting be halted. Since then, however, the whale population has not rebounded, and their count still hovers precariously just above the 300 mark - requiring the agency to examine all potential barriers to beluga recovery - including commercial fishing, pollution, vessel traffic, tourism and whale watching, coastal development, noise, oil and gas development, and research.

Under the conservation plan's guidelines, Cook Inlet belugas will be considered for removal from "depleted classification" only when their number reaches 780, which represents the "maximum net productivity level" (MNLP), or 60% of the historical high population count. The Cook Inlet beluga population is currently well below this number at an estimated 366 whales.



Protecting Cook Inlet beluga habitat is the most critical building block upon which the conservation plan is based. Therein, NMFS characterizes 4 levels of beluga habitat that are ranked based on importance to beluga recovery. Type 1 habitat, "high value/high sensitivity," should be protected as it is the most critical, while the remaining three classifications descend in order of importance (see map).

Noise produced by humans is of critical concern to an animal that navigates, communicates, and hunts solely by sending out sound waves and "reading" the sounds that bounce back. The conservation plan recommends that NMFS reviews applicable permits of those engaged in noise increasing activities in the inlet. Preventing such increases helps to ensure that belugas do not abandon important habitats.

The areas of the proposed Knik Arm Bridge, the Anchorage port expansion, and Port McKenzie projects are all acknowledged as critical to Cook Inlet beluga recovery. While identifying sensitive habitats to preserve is critical, NMFS recommends, not requires, that "major project sponsors conduct thorough research on the effects of their work on these whales." It seems contradictory to claim the Knik Arm is extremely important to recovery and then merely suggest that further studies by construction sponsors in the arm take place.

The draft conservation plan for the Cook Inlet beluga takes a huge step toward identifying and regulating the factors which may contribute to the animals' stalled recovery. While specifying which inlet regions must be protected as critical beluga habitat helps to prevent further depletion, only mandating actual protections will guarantee recovery. ACE will keep members informed of their opportunities to help shape this important policy as we approach the end of the public comment period in June.

MAP OF COOK INLET, ALASKA. National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) characterizes 4 levels of beluga habitat that are ranked based on importance to beluga recovery. Type 1 habitat, "high value/high sensitivity" should be protected as it is the most critical while the remaining three classifications descend in order of importance.



WILD CHUGACH

by Bobbie Jo Skibo, Wild Forest Program Coordinator

CONTROVERSIAL FLOATING GAS STATION IN PRINCE WILLIAM DENIED- FOR NOW

In April, Alaska Department of Natural Resources denied an application submitted by Water World LLC to place a floating fuel barge, convenience store, and lodge in Herring Bay, on Knight Island in Prince William Sound. Overwhelming public opposition was a key reason for rejecting the application. At hearings and in written testimony, boat owners, tour operators, fishermen, scientists, state and federal agencies, and coastal residents voiced concerns about the impacts of development and fuel spills in the heart of the Sound.

Water World may appeal this decision to Commissioner Tom Irwin, but overwhelming public opposition has created a strong public record to back the decision.

Located offshore of Knight Island, the site would have been within the Nellie-Juan College Fjord Wilderness Study Area, an area heavily affected by the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. The proposal was also contrary to well-established state and federal management goals for the Knight Island area.

To view the hearing transcript, go to: <http://www.dnr.state.ak.us/mlw/hottopics/WaterWorld120904.pdf>

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact DNR and THANK them for respecting public input.

Robin Swinford, 269-8555 or robin_swinford@dnr.state.ak.us

Rick Thompson, Southcentral Region manager and the person who signed the decision, 269-8559 or rick_thompson@dnr.state.ak.us

SEEKING A BALANCE- WINTER RECREATION ON THE KENAI

Over the past few months, the Chugach National Forest held three community-based planning efforts to determine the appropriate long-term management for winter recreation access on the lower Kenai, in an attempt to strike a more reasonable balance between motorized and non-motorized management of popular recreation areas.

Overall, the meetings were constructive, and non-motorized users came out to show their support for a reasonable balance of use on the National Forest lands on the Kenai. Small diverse working groups were convened and set to the task of coming up with their best case scenario and sketching it on a map. Most of the maps produced at the meetings would constitute a significant improvement in non-motorized recreational opportunities on the Kenai.

Key areas that were discussed included:

Twentymile Valley, Resurrection Pass Trail, Johnson Pass Trail, Lost Lake, Carter-Crescent Lakes Area, South and North Fork Snow River, expand Manitoba Mountain to the south on both sides of road, close east of Moose Pass between highway and railroad tracks, and extend Russian River non-motorized area to Upper Russian Lake.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Comments will be collected throughout the next few months and an Environmental Assessment (EA) should be circulated by the fall. A decision is expected by next winter.

It is extremely important to send written comments to: Kenai Winter Access Plan (Attn: Bill Jackson), Chugach National Forest, 3301 C Street, Suite 300, Anchorage, AK 99503.



SNOWMACHINERS AND SKIERS DON'T MIX - ACE is working to achieve a balance between motorized and quiet recreation on the Kenai. (photo by Craig Lindh, AK Division of Tourism)

Keep Alaska's Bears Wild & Help Keep Our Neighborhoods Safe

Be Responsible With Your:



Pet Food:

Store pet food inside or in a bear-resistant container. Bring food bowls in as soon as pet is finished eating.



Livestock:

Install electric fences to keep bears out of corrals, chicken coops and rabbit hutches.



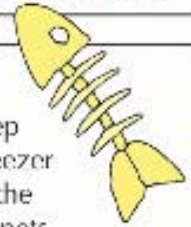
Garbage:

Use bear-resistant trash containers. Otherwise, keep your garbage airtight and odor free, and store inside until pick-up day or dispose of it immediately.



Bird Seed:

Take down bird feeders during active bear season (April 1st to November 1st). Birds don't need supplemental food at this time.



Fish Carcasses:

When you return from fishing, keep all fish waste inside a cooler or freezer until garbage pick-up day or take the fish waste to a landfill. Store fishy nets and line indoors and out of reach from bears.

For more information, go to
www.alaskabears.alaska.gov
Brought to you by: Kenai Brown Bear Committee

ALASKA YOUTH FOR ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION *making an impact*

AYEA is a high school environmental education and leadership program of the National Wildlife Federation. The mission of AYEA is to inspire, educate, and take action on environmental issues facing our communities.

SUMMER AYEA EVENTS:

- June 22: AYEA Summer Fun- Raiser!
1000 Botanical Heights, 5:30-9p.m. Tickets- \$45.
Hosts: ASD Superintendent Carol Comeau & Mayor Mark Begich.
- July 6-7: ANILCA Celebration
AYEA seeks 10-20 teens to volunteer during the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Celebration.
- August 9-14: AYEA Summer Get Together- Climate Change and Renewable Energy!
The Summer Get Together is a statewide training event for 30 high school and eighth grade students throughout Alaska. Tuition: \$260, not including travel costs. Some scholarships available.



For more information contact ayea@nwf.org or 339-3907, or check-out www.akcenter.org/take_action/youth_action.html.

TRAILSIDE DISCOVERY: THROUGH THE EYES OF A CAMPER



by Rebecca Michaelson

I woke up that morning in a wet tent on a soggy beach. It had been raining for three days, and as hard as it was to put on more layers of clothing without bumping the tent walls and creating a flood; it was even harder to remember when I last saw the sun shine. As my friends and I ate our oatmeal and drank as much hot chocolate as bodies would allow, we listened to our instructor excitedly talk about the paddle that we had in store for us that day.

Just as I was packing my kayak and thinking to myself that I was going to become an amphibian if I stayed in the rain any longer, the rain stopped, the clouds lifted slightly, and a little bit of sun spilled onto our tiny beach. I looked around and, for the first time since we had been there, really saw our surroundings as they were - a rainforest, home to a wide diversity

of life such as bald eagles, bears, sea lions, and sea cucumbers, in short: a little slice of heaven along the shores of Kachemak Bay.

That awakening was one of the most profound experiences that I can remember, and it happened twelve years ago when I was on an Alaskan Quest sea kayaking trip with Trailside Discovery Camp.

On that day twelve years ago, I may have realized the connection that I was making with the environment and ecosystem around me, but what I didn't realize was that I was connecting with a program that had been providing children with environmental education experiences since 1982, and continues to do so today.

What started as a group of ten 6-12 year olds slogging through a bog in Anchorage has grown into 1500

children (per summer) aged 4-16 who explore the ecological wonders of the Campbell Tract, by the Campbell Creek Science Center, and beyond.

While Trailside's home base has been in various places, including the Mat-Su, APU, Tozier Track, and now Campbell Creek Science Center, Trailside's emphasis on providing interactive, hands-on activities for children of all economic, social, and cultural backgrounds remains the same.

So, while I won't be kayaking with any of our Alaskan Quest programs this summer, you will find me on staff, continuing the tradition of encouraging campers to explore the natural environment around them and discover personal and ecological connections of their own.



TRAILSIDE DISCOVERY CAMPERS mountain bike along Eklutna Lake.

A FAMILY'S HOME IS ITS CASTLE.

DO YOU HAVE EXTRA ROOM IN YOURS?

Trailside Discovery needs housing for its Instructors from mid-June until the end of August. Discounts on tuition are available in exchange for housing. If you have an extra room, or if you need a house sitter, please call Thomas Burek, Trailside Discovery Director, at 274-KIDS.

Trailside is also looking for donated mtn. bikes to help staff get to the Campbell Creek Science center this summer. Please call 274-KIDS if you have an extra bike.



JUNEAU WATCHDOG



by Abby Koszarek, Juneau Watchdog

2005 ALASKA STATE LEGISLATIVE SESSION WRAP-UP

Despite a sluggish start, the State Legislature picked up pace at the end of the session, discussing and voting on a multitude of bills. It is unclear who the big winners are this year, as industry, education, the environment, and public programs all made gains and suffered setbacks. However, thanks to involvement from citizens and communities around the state, Alaska's public lands and waterways fared well. Here is a rundown of some of the higher profile bills we were tracking this year:

PESTICIDES PUBLIC NOTICE BILL - VICTORY

Alaskans voiced their support for state-wide pesticide regulations, and our legislators listened. HB19 institutes a registration fee for pesticides in the state of Alaska, and also requires public notification of pesticide application in many public areas. These new regulations constitute the essential first step toward a public awareness of chemicals used in our communities, empowering citizens to make informed decisions about our personal health and the health of our families and environment.

UNIVERSITY LAND GRANT BILLS – PARTIAL VICTORY

The University Land Grant, HB130/SB96, was arguably the most controversial bill heard this session. Hundreds of individuals and communities wrote, called, or testified in opposition to this bill, which would transfer close to 260,000 acres of state

land to the University. The bill was introduced as a way to fund the University system, but in reality it aims to privatize and develop state lands. Some of the most controversial parcels were removed from the bill, and at press time it was awaiting the Governor's signature.

DALTON HIGHWAY ORV BILL – PARTIAL VICTORY

Citizens were successful in halting the Dalton Highway ORV Bill, SB 85, in Senate Rules for the remainder of the session. The bill, which would allow off-road vehicles in the five-mile corridor of the Dalton Highway, will be taken up again next session following public scoping meetings this summer in Fairbanks, Coldfoot, and Barrow. Committees heard public testimony and comments from individuals around the state, opposing the bill out of concern for fragile tundra habitat, implications to rural subsistence use and caribou

populations, and unidentified regulation and enforcement costs to state agencies.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY BILLS – POTENTIAL VICTORY

As the nation debates the Arctic Refuge and energy, Alaskan legislators are looking to alternative sources to provide energy to Anchorage and the rest of the state. Several bills began their journey through the state legislature this session, all of which would promote the development and production of energy from alternate sources, including hydrogen energy and wind power. Bills include a resolution in support of the Renewable Energy Alaska Program, creation of the Hydrogen Energy Partnership, an alternative energy loan program, and an appropriation to fund infrastructure to build a wind farm on Fire Island. None of these bills passed this session, but expect them to be revisited next January.

VICTORY IN THE VALLEY

Pioneer Resources has officially relinquished all coal bed methane leases in the Mat-Su Valley, pulling up stakes in a region that has been home to intense controversy over leasing and drilling rules. Unfortunately, while Mat-Su property owners can breathe a sigh of relief for now, the state has indicated that it intends to offer up the areas in question for leasing in the future. ACE member Paul Twardock, speaking in an Anchorage Daily News article, pointed out that with Alaska's fastest-growing population, it's time for the state to stop looking at the Mat-Su as a resource development region.

Leave a Legacy of Conservation in Alaska

You can provide a legacy of conservation that will protect Alaska's wilderness and wildlife through a planned gift to the Alaska Center for the Environment.

Planned gifts can be as simple as an outright gift of cash or as sophisticated as a charitable trust or foundation that is integrated into a multi-faceted financial and estate plan.

Your planned gift may:

- Reduce your income tax and capital gains liability
- Provide useful gift tax and estate tax reductions
- Provide an income stream for yourself and others

Please consult your financial advisor to find the planned gift that best fits you.

A planned gift to ACE helps to ensure the future protection of Alaska's clean air, water, and quality of life and backcountry recreation. ACE Founding Member Peg Tiesler

Our planned giving staff would be pleased to provide you with details concerning planned gifts to ACE. Contact our Membership Director clare@akcenter.org or 274-3626

ACE AUCTION

Thanks to everyone who supported the ACE auction! The auction raised \$43,000, including over \$7,000 raised for Trailside Discovery Camps scholarships. Auction proceeds go directly toward protecting Alaska's natural heritage and unique quality of life.

If you were not able to attend the auction, but would still like to make a donation to ACE or the Trailside Scholarship Fund, you can contact Clare at 274-3626 or clare@akcenter.org

A full list of auction donors can be found at www.akcenter.org/events/annual_events.html



Top right photo: **THE SILENT AUCTION GETS UNDERWAY** at ACE's spring auction.

Bottom right photo: **ALASKA CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT** staff and board at the auction.

Bottom left photo: **AUCTIONEER JIM STRATTON** works the crowd.



COMING TO A NEIGHBORHOOD NEAR YOU- THE ACE SUMMER MEMBERSHIP DRIVE TAKES TO THE STREETS

For the 10th year in a row, Alaska Center for the Environment membership organizers will go door-to-door in Alaskan neighborhoods to discuss important environmental issues in Alaska. The summer membership drive is an important way for ACE to reconnect with old members, renew current ones and reach new audiences. By going door-to-door, ACE is able to learn about the issues you care about and share information on our campaigns. So when you hear that knock at your door, be prepared for an informative discussion and opportunities to take action.



A GROUP OF ALASKA CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZERS take the message to neighborhoods.

Member Application/Renewal Form

Now you can donate online at www.akcenter.org.

- Individual \$35-\$99
 Family \$60-\$99
 Advocate \$240-\$499
 Champion \$750-\$999
 Student/Senior \$15
 Supporter \$100-\$239
 Leader \$500-\$749
 ACE Visionary \$1000+

Alaska Center for the Environment is Alaska's largest home-grown citizen's group working for the sensible stewardship of Alaska's natural environment. With 7,000 dues-paying members from around the state, Alaska Center for the Environment is your voice for public lands conservation, clean air, clean water, and livable places. The way we win is with our members (that's you). The more members we have, the louder our voice is to promote conservation in Alaska.

Name _____
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Give monthly or quarterly gifts by joining the Puffin Club

Monthly \$ _____ OR Quarterly \$ _____

I have enclosed a check for my first gift or have provided my credit card number above. Please transfer future scheduled gifts in the above amount directly from my checking account/credit card. I understand that future tax deductible gifts will be transferred directly from this account each month or quarterly as indicated above, and that a record of my contributions will appear on my monthly bank/credit card statements. If at any time you wish to increase, decrease, or suspend your giving, simply call ACE at (907)274-3639 and we will gladly accommodate your request.

REQUIRED FOR PUFFIN CLUB: Signature _____ Date _____

Return to: Alaska Center for the Environment • 807 G Street, Suite 100 • Anchorage, AK 99501



ANILCA

25th Anniversary Celebration
July 6 and 7, 2005
Hilton Anchorage hotel

Featuring Former President Jimmy Carter

For information and registration visit
Alaska Conservation Foundation at
www.akcf.org/ANILCA.htm
or call 907-646-9000

Celebration
of Wild Alaska
Town Square Park
4-9pm, July 6th

This evening festival features art and craft booths, food, music, and games to coincide with the 25th Anniversary of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act Conference. Alaska Conservation Foundation is sponsoring the 2-day long conference and the Emmylou Harris Concert, which will take place at the PAC on July 6th at 8pm. For more information, contact Clare Stockert at 274-3626 or clare@akcenter.org

Alaska Oceans Festival
Delaney Park Strip
July 16th

Celebrate Alaska's ocean heritage and learn more about how to protect this precious resource. This day long festival will feature Australian musician Xavier Rudd, local live music, food booths, art booths and more. For more information, contact Butch Allen at 274-3647 or butch@akcenter.org



CHUGACH DAYS

CELEBRATING 98 WILD YEARS OF THE CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST

CHUGACH CHALLENGE TRIATHLON

Sat., August 6, 9am-noon
Pioneer Village, Cooper Landing



Run, Bike, Boat
3 person teams and
individuals welcome
call Bobbie Jo Skibo 274-3652
Alaska Center for the Environment

FESTIVAL OF THE FOREST

Sat., August 6, 10am-10pm
Pioneer Village, Cooper Landing

Free, live music, local arts and crafts,
seminars, cultural dancing, kid's treehouse,
wild fish-ry, kayak and raft trip!

Chugach Artspace by Kelly Stone

WILD CHUGACH WILD SALMON WEEK

August 1-7 at participating businesses forest-wide

"you support Wild Salmon"
and would like to participate,
please contact
Katherine Fuselier, Sierra Club
at 276-1360 or
katherine@sierraclubalaska.org



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Give it to a friend, leave it at your dentist's office, take it to the coffee shop



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