



Ryan Schryver
Deputy Director

As we sped toward the culmination of our end of year giving campaign in December, I couldn't help but feel proud of everything we accomplished in 2015. **It was a big year.**

Thousands of kids got outside through our Trailside Discovery Camp programs, our teen organizers in Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) engaged more than 1,300 Alaskans in their campaign to combat climate change, and Alaskans like you—from Barrow to Ketchikan and everywhere in between—spoke up for our clean energy future.

We couldn't have done any of that work without your support. **And as the 2015 calendar came to an end you all stepped up again, helping us raise more than \$70,000 to carry our efforts into 2016.** THANK YOU!

The year is already off to a brisk start. The Alaska State Legislature kicked off the new session January 19th and so far it has been a wild ride. Declining oil revenues have left the State with a massive budget shortfall. Everyone seems to have different perspectives on how exactly we should dig ourselves out of this mess, but one thing should be obvious: **we need to maintain our sustainable fisheries and continue to diversify our economy through investments in clean energy if we're going to have a fighting chance of turning our economy around.**

Our Legislative Liaison Louie Flora made the trek down to Juneau last month. Louie is quite literally our eyes, ears and voice in the Capitol. With the massive budget deficit sucking up most of the legislature's attention, his job is going to be tougher than ever. But if you know Louie, you know he isn't one to back down from a challenge. He'll be there, probably with his trademark grin on his face, fighting to ensure we maintain and improve programs designed to protect our fisheries and promote clean energy.

Luckily, Louie won't be fighting alone. **From March 28th to April 1st, 21 teens from across Alaska will join him in Juneau for the AYEA Civics and Conservation Summit.** The teens will learn all about the inner workings of our state government, and apply that knowledge directly to their "30 by 30" campaign to reduce carbon emissions 30% by 2030. It's awe-inspiring to watch these kids speak truth to power and move the needle in different ways than our traditional advocacy campaigns can.

In other news, after years of delays in the application process, **it appears that PacRim Coal will be submitting the paperwork to move forward with the notorious Chuitna coal mine.** In addition to mining directly through and permanently destroying 14 miles of productive salmon streams in Cook Inlet, the mine would open the door to a giant coal field. If that coal is burned, it could be a nightmare scenario for our climate. This project sets the dangerous precedent of allowing mining directly through salmon streams AND dramatically increases Alaska's carbon footprint. It's an understatement to say that we'll be fighting Chuitna tooth and nail in the coming year. ACE Organizer Kristen Collins will be leading that charge, contact her at kristen@akcenter.org or (907) 793-8671 to get involved.

Thanks for supporting our work as we continue into 2016!

Ryan Schryver
Deputy Director

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ALASKA CONSERVATION VOTERS: YOUR VOICE IN JUNEAU



Louie Flora
ACE/ACV Legislative Liaison

The 29th Legislature is underway in Juneau, and everyone knows these next few months are going to be tough. Recurring fiscal dilemmas are back, pounding at the door. Budget cuts loom, as do new taxes for Alaskans.

This session is occurring during the warmest recorded year on planet earth. Whether our legislators want to admit it or not, our current financial woes will only be compounded by the impacts of climate change: infrastructure damage, firefighting costs, healthcare costs due to poor air quality, social costs from mass displacements, and job loss associated with fisheries collapse—it's a dire picture, but a probable one.

At Alaska Conservation Voters (ACV) we believe that good fiscal leadership is inseparable from good conservation leadership. Pushing towards a clean energy future for our state will help Alaska create jobs and reduce carbon pollution. That's why addressing climate change before its costs get out of hand and protecting our sustainable salmon economy are fundamental to our legislative agenda this session.

Our legislators are considering a suite of clean energy bills this session. Given what is at stake, we cannot afford to let these bills fall by the wayside. With your help, we can and should pass this important legislation to keep Alaska thriving for generations to come.

We'll also be keeping track of bills that could jeopardize our salmon and sustainable fisheries—like HB 220, which puts our wild salmon at risk. Stay tuned for ways to take action on this and other important legislation.

ACE/ACV PRIORITY BILLS FOR 2016 INCLUDE:

- **HB 233:** Creates a climate change commission in the Governor's office.
- **HB 220:** This "bucket biology" bill could have devastating effects on our wild salmon populations.
- **HB 78:** Incentivizes independent renewable power generation.
- **HB 187/SB 105:** Establishes an independent system operator (ISO) for our Railbelt electric transmission grid.



For more frequent updates from Juneau or to get involved with ACV, visit acvoters.org to subscribe to Louie's bi-weekly Conservation Watch email and check out our Conservation Watch blog, or follow us on Twitter @ACVoters.

Don't forget to *Pick.Click.Give.* to ACE Trailside Discovery when you apply for your PFD!



Apply for your Permanent Fund Dividend at pfd.alaska.gov and *Pick.Click.Give.* to donate to Trailside's Scholarship Fund. 100% of all donations fund camp scholarships for kids who otherwise wouldn't be able to attend.

Upcoming Camps:

- Spring Break Camp will run March 14th to 18th, registration opens online February 12, 2016.
- Summer camp registration is currently open at akcenter.org/trailside.

Contact us at trailside@akcenter.org or 907.274.KIDS with questions or for more information about our programs.

Six months ago, a group of our core volunteers created the Volunteer Leadership Committee (VLC)—these are the people who work hard behind the scenes to really make the magic happen! The Volunteer Leadership Committee is our all-star volunteer team, working to protect salmon habitat, advance clean energy solutions, and keep Alaskans engaged in the public process.

The volunteer members currently serving on the committee all bring unique perspectives and skills to our community organizing efforts, and they're developing new outreach and community engagement ideas every day.

For February, the VLC organized a brand new event: **Fish First Friday!** This First Friday Art Walk event at Brown Bag Sandwich Co's new location featured local artists whose work inspires conversation about protecting our wild salmon resources.

We're excited to see what this amazing group of volunteers has planned for the spring! Contact me at kristen@akcenter.org or 907.793.8671 for more information or to get involved with VLC.



MEET OUR VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE!

Kristen Collins
Community Organizer

It's "Fish First February" for our advocacy team and volunteers. Text FISH FIRST to 313131 to get breaking news, action opportunities and more from ACE!



VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE SPOTLIGHT

TRINA MUSLIU is the Student Outreach Officer of the VLC and engages students at the University of Alaska Anchorage with ACE and ACV's campaigns and priority issues. She continually brings creativity and enthusiasm to the committee, and she inspired our Fish First Friday event!



Our Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) program teens are working on the frontlines to build support for reducing carbon emissions as part of their climate change campaign. From organizing a climate walk along the coastline of Anchorage to collecting powerful letters to the editor from the community, AYEAs are stepping up and taking the lead to raise awareness and move the dialogue forward on finding solutions to climate change. We've even taken our cause to an international stage—one of our Youth Organizers, Esau Sinnok from Shishmaref, told the story of his village in Paris at December's United Nations Climate Change Conference.

AYEA TACKLES CLIMATE CHANGE! Allison Barnwell, Youth Training Coordinator

In March, AYEAs will travel to Juneau and ask state leaders to create a plan for Alaska to cut carbon emissions statewide. **Alaska still doesn't have a comprehensive plan for reducing carbon pollution, and it's past time to change that.** Our teens have a goal of cutting 30% of emissions by 2030 from the heating and electric sector. Together we can hold our state and community leaders accountable to real climate solutions for future generations in Alaska.

Do your part by signing the enclosed postcard and sending it back to us, or take two minutes to fill out the online petition at akcenter.org/ayea.



CONNECT WITH US ONLINE! Check out @alaskacenter on Instagram to see more of what we do every day or like Alaska Center for the Environment, Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, and Trailside Discovery Camp on Facebook.





ALASKA CENTER
FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

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SAVE THE DATE

Our annual Spring Auction
will be held **Friday, April 29th**
at the Anchorage Museum!



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEB
10

Member Forum: 2016 Legislative Lay of the Land
Wednesday, February 10th, 5 to 7 PM
The Boardroom, 601 W 5th Ave, Anchorage

FEB
12

Trailside Spring Break Camp Registration Opens
Camp runs March 14th thru the 18th
Campbell Creek Science Center
Register at akcenter.org/trailside

FEB
8-12

Alaska Forum on the Environment
February 8th thru the 12th
Marriott Anchorage, 820 W 7th Ave, Anchorage
More info at akforum.org

MAR
28

AYEA Civics & Conservation Summit
March 28th thru April 1st in Juneau
More information at akcenter.org/ayea

SAVE THE DATE: Our annual Spring Auction will be Friday, April 29th at the Anchorage Museum!