



Outdoor Alaska



The Official publication of the Alaska Outdoor Council

"Protecting your hunting, fishing, trapping, and access to public lands since 1955"

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Fall 2014

Room to Roam - Creating a Susitna State Forest

By Rod Arno, AOC Executive Director

Most Alaskans (61% or 434,781 Alaskan residents in 2012) live in one drainage, Cook Inlet.

Much of the outdoor recreation land accessible to these folks is federally owned; the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, Denali National Park & Preserve, Kenai Fjords National Park, Wrangells St. Elias National Park, Lake Clark National Park and the Chugach National Forest, all of which come with access restrictions unless you are walking, paddling, or on skis or snowshoes. Which means you can't roam far on federally owned lands without a motor or unlimited time to travel. Few Alaskans have the luxury of unlimited time and money, therefore motorized access is the way most folks get the opportunity to roam across the landscape.

The greatest opportunity for regulated motorized off road travel occurs on state owned lands and waters. For residents of the Cook Inlet drainage who choose to hunt, trap, fish and recreate that means ensuring access now and in the future to state owned lands and waters in the Susitna and Matanuska River valleys, is critical

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An ATV trail in the woods, isn't it great

Alaska Outdoor Council Candidate Endorsements

State lawmakers will need to be extra vigilant during the waning years of the Obama administration, based on what we have seen from the US Secretary of the Interior. From our experience AOC believes these candidates now running for office will most likely fight to preserve state management of fish and game and your "common use" of publicly owned resources in Alaska. Candidates seeking public office in the November general election that have AOC's support are

Listed on Page 7 - Endorsements

Upcoming Events

General Election
Get out an Vote
November 4th

Fairbanks Dinner & Auction
AOC/AFWCF
Westmark Gold Room
November 8th

AOC Annual Anchorage Banquet & Fund-raiser
Egan Center
Anchorage, Alaska
Saturday - February 7, 2015

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.
contact:
president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

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Presidents Message

By Bill Iverson, AOC President

It has been a very interesting year. I live on the Kenai River and the Red salmon fishing was poor at best and King fishing was nonexistent. If you listened to the fishing numbers reported by the commercial fish division (oh yea, they are in charge of counting our Red salmon) everything was fine. Does anyone else see any conflict of interest there? By my unscientific methods (I fished every day during Red season) we are being shorted by the amount we need to reach our maximum escapement goal. The problem is, when they changed to the new fish counter, they came up with a multiplier of 1.4 to compensate for the more accurate fish counter now being used. By my estimation it should be 4 instead of 1.4, to get to the same number of fish being allowed to escape into the river, that we had before. It is important to both in-river and commercial fisherman to get **back** to this escapement number for the future of us all. I have seen the new, more accurate counters and don't have a problem with their new counting method. **What I have a problem with is the multiplier they chose to reflect the accuracy the new counter.** Our problem is convincing the commercial division and board of fisheries of this problem. We are on the crux of a major collapse if we do nothing and don't change our path. This is not just an in-river problem, as it will affect the commercial fishery as well. We need to get together on this for all of our futures.

In May we nearly got burned out when 197 thousand acres of Kenai National Wildlife Refuge burned to within 2 miles of our home. After years of warning the Feds of the fire danger and lousy moose habitat in the refuge, it finally happened. We tried to get the Feds to allow small controlled burns or allow some roller choppers in to knock down vegetation, but they had their let nature run its course. Fortunately, the fire fighters did a fantastic job and no lives or homes were lost.

Within a few years the area will be great moose habitat as long as we stay diligent on predator control. The Federal government policy is NO predator control on the refuge. They keep forgetting that Man is part of nature and without our participation, it all goes haywire. The bear and wolf populations on the Peninsula had been getting out of control for years, but again we got the blind eye from the Feds. They finally did a study and found that the bear population was at least 2.5 times higher than they had been stating for years. By most local experts, the number is much higher still. We fortunately got the Alaska State Board of Game to increase the number of brown bears allowed to be taken and have slowed their growth. Unfortunately, the Feds have shut down the hunt on federal land, "temporarily" until next May, which is a majority of the land available for hunting on the Kenai Peninsula. They are in discussions to make it permanent. This is being done after almost all the public testimony was against this direction. They have their own agenda and it is all about stopping sound wildlife management in Alaska. Our Governor needs to direct our Attorney General to fight this on all fronts or we will lose it forever.



Bill with this years moose - 60" rack
Shot by Scott Miller from Trustworthy

Donations and volunteers

Anyone who would like to help with any of our banquets or sports shows please contact me. We still need donation of items for each of our banquets, so if you have that item sitting around your home, that you could part with, we could re-purpose it to a new user and help support AOC.

AOC Supporters

I would like to stress the importance of you supporting the Sustaining Business Members in this newsletter. They have committed their time and reputation by aligning the names with AOC and deserve acknowledgement of their commitment to Alaskan's. By you frequenting their business it shows them you care.

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Executive Director Report

By Rod Arno, AOC executive Director



Feds tighten the noose on public access and resource management in Alaska, making State Lands all that much more important to Alaska's Outdoor Folks.

With the backing of federal solicitor's interpretations and federal court judge decisions the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) continues to usurp control of access and state management of public resources in Alaska. The

Federal Register abounds with proposed rulemaking to not follow state laws and regulations regarding wildlife hunting and trapping in National Preserves and in USFWS Refuges, as well as proposed rulemaking to allow Alaska Native lands to be transferred from a fee simple ownership of private lands to one where the federal government is given a trust responsibility. A federal judge has ruled that instead of waiting for the state to complete its review of the status of the Alexander Archipelago wolf it has ordered the USFWS to submit its recommendation regarding the listing of the wolf under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) before next year runs out. The 9th Circuit Court earlier this month has affirmed the Alaska District Court's summary judgment in favor of federal appellees in the Sturgeon v. Masica case regarding the ban on hovercraft on the Nation River within the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve. This latest 9th Circuit Court decision could lead to **federal control of most salmon producing waters in Alaska.**

If that isn't enough to show Alaskans where the federal land managers are heading there is the USFWS Landscape Conservation Cooperatives program that overlays all of Alaska (it's coastal waters, and parts of Canada) that we have yet to see what effects it could have on state resource management.

As the DOI continues to implement a strategy of preservation by blocking public use of public resources and disallowing wildlife management on over 60% of the state's lands and much of the state's waterways the need for the state to provide outdoor folks with access and an abundance of harvestable game populations and fish stocks escalates.

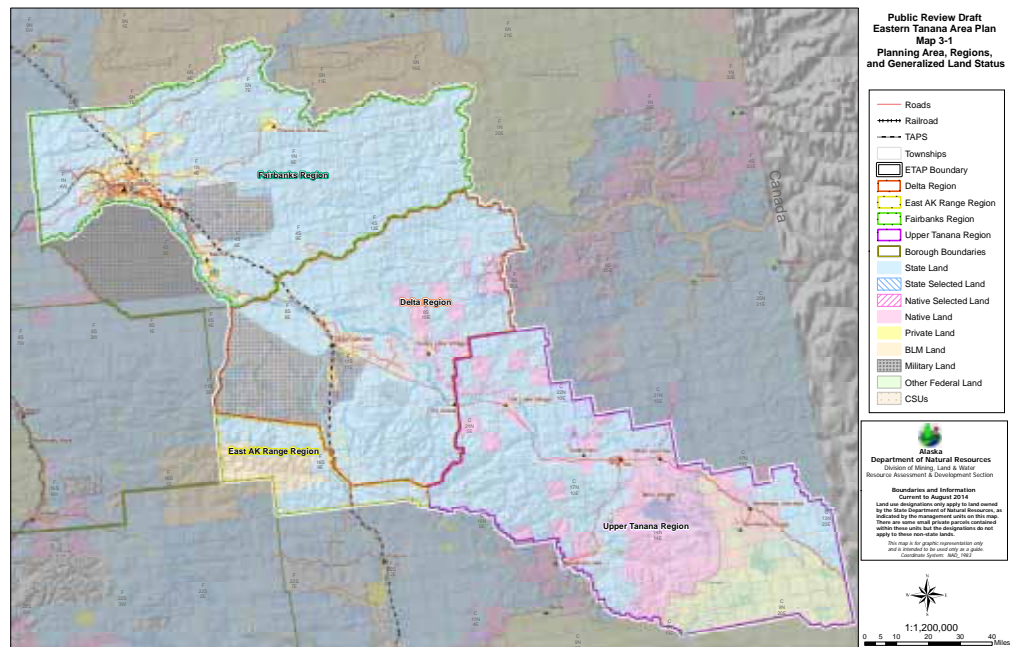
Currently there are a number of management planning processes on state lands underway across the state. One very important update is the Eastern Tanana Area Plan. This area extends from west of Fairbanks all the way along the Alaskan and Richardson highway to the Canadian border covering 6.8 million acres of state owed lands. The Public Review DRAFT is available from DNR on their website and public comments on the draft

will be excepted through November 14, 2014.

Another important planning process underway by ADF&G is a review of Legislatively Designated Areas (LDA). These areas include game refuges, critical habitat areas, and sanctuaries that are co-managed by ADF&G and DNR. In 2011 \$1 million of Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration was granted for a statewide review of these areas, 53-D-1 Refuge Access & Public use Facility Development. The objective of the review is to "Provide the public with the facilities, knowledge and encouragement to access and use special areas and to protect wildlife habitats and populations, and to maintain existing public uses by restoring impacted areas." The first phase will revise the plans and regulations for the Anchorage Coastal Wildlife Refuge, Izembek State Game Refuge, McNeil River State Game Refuge and McNeil River State Game Sanctuary, Mendenhall Wetlands State Game Refuge, Minto Flats State Game Refuge, Tugidak Island Critical Habitat Area, and Yakataga State Game Refuge with the objective of completing this phase by December 2014.

ADF&G will solicit input and provide an opportunity for informal comments on the existing plans and potential revisions, and will solicit formal comments for each revised Special Area management plan. Information on when and where to submit public comments will be noticed and made available on the ADF&G website page, "Special Area Management Planning".

AOC will review state land management plans as we become aware of them and they become available for public comment. We will then draft revised plans for ADF&G and DNR. It is important for individual AOC members to comment personally on state lands management plans in areas where they access state public lands and waters. The state agencies generally revise land management plans for up to a 20 year period and those revisions are based on the acted upon text of the legislation creating the Special Use Areas and YOUR public input.



Passing on our Outdoor Heritage

By *Becky Schwanke - Owner of Tuff Kids Outdoors and former wildlife biologist with the State of Alaska*

No matter who you are or where you are from, you have some sort of heritage that you and your kids can be proud of. As Alaskans we come from diverse backgrounds. Some are transplants, some of us were born here as 1st or 2nd generation Alaskans, some have a long and rich family history of native Alaskan culture. Regardless of your background, we are neighbors, and we share common threads.

As parents, we have a phenomenal opportunity to help shape our kids into the respectable “outdoorsy” adults we hope they will be. As Alaskans, we are surrounded by vast outdoor resources that await every trek and adventure, just waiting to help us with this incredible educational journey.

I firmly believe that how we fill the gaps in our life, otherwise known as ever fleeting “spare time” should be re-evaluated on a regular basis. Often weeks and even months go by, when we look back and think, where did the time go? Were there places you wanted to explore, trips you wanted to take, grand children you wanted to teach to fish?

I think we can all agree, a lifetime in this state doesn't immediately equate to being an accomplished hunter, likewise living along the banks of a scenic river doesn't equate to being a seasoned fisherman. We have to step outside, into the great outdoors, and it has to be on a regular basis.

We all know that time flies, and kids grow up fast. During the first 3 years of life, infants and toddlers look to answer some very important questions, including ‘Am I important to others?’, ‘What should I be afraid of?’, and ‘What interests me?’ (Dombro, Colker and Dodge, 1997). Consider for a moment the differences between the child that gets to go on outdoor adventures from day one versus once they are ‘old enough to keep up’. Those early experiences may be brief and wrought with hurdles, but when little ones experience things like sleeping under the stars with loving parents or grandparents, playing by the water's edge hunting for grubs, or seeing wildlife harvested for purposes of filling the dinner plate, they grow and learn to respect the outdoors on their own. And their future will forever be changed.

If the weather doesn't cooperate, maybe we should leave the kids home. We have all thought this at one time or another, but I encourage you to think about the consequences. If you only take kids outdoors on nice warm days, how will they learn how tough they really are? And I'm here to tell you that kids are tough, you just have to help them along the way. Whether it's a cold rainy September week or a crystal clear 10 below day in January, there are clothes out there to help you keep your kids toasty warm (and don't forget

extras, because somehow kids always get wet).

We all try to teach our kids good manners and how to be respectful, but we all know how repetition is important in actually getting these lessons to sink in. Learning to be resourceful outdoors is very similar. If you have ever taken a child out fishing for the first time, you have tied on the swivel, attached the lure, flipped the bail, cast the line, untangled the line, and then it's all repeated, and maybe repeated again for as long as the child remains interested. The second time you take the child fishing, they have a little more confidence, and you may still have to do all the set-up, but you maybe only need to untangle the line once that day. And so on. Next thing you know, the child understands the process and the reward. Patience is a virtue, and it will pay off.

Whether you're teaching a child how to start a fire, breast a duck, or find just the right tree to rake the antler against for calling moose, the experience is one surely not to be forgotten soon. But it won't last forever. Kids need repetition, they need to have multiple opportunities to

be part of your outdoor family, to learn on their own just how to tie up the boat so that when your dad runs off in a hurry (to see about a bear) you do it right. Ya, I have personal experience with that one. I think I was 7. And yes the boat was still tied tight to the bank after the bear was

down, and my dad was back to collect me. Though there were some tense moments that day, overall we had a great father-daughter day on the river and the events of which are forever ingrained in my memory.

Make trips often and make them memorable. Give your children a great start by including them in your outdoor lifestyle. Our outdoor heritage is a compilation of all we have learned and all we have been taught about surviving in and utilizing the great outdoors. It is not something that can be taught in a camp or a class, or on that one trip.

Kids are the future. If they are to act respectful, behave responsibly, and carry on our outdoor heritage as adults, it is up to each and every one of us to make sure we give them the best outdoor education we possibly can, as early and as often as possible. Remember, just because your kids grow up in Alaska doesn't mean they're going to know anything about the outdoors or how to protect it for future generations. Nature and nurture, both play a critical role in how our kids will turn out. Here's to your next family adventure, may you have a grand time both you and your children will treasure for years to come.



Caden, Becky and lynx - family trapline



Swhanke Family Moose hunt

Room to Roam - Continued from Page 1

for Alaska's outdoor folks. Past Alaska Legislatures have recognized this and over the years, since statehood, they have designated over 3 million acres of state owned land within the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan (SMAP) for public use.

The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) has advocated for public use of renewable publicly owned resources since before statehood. AOC believes more state land needs to remain in public ownership to provide reasonable opportunities for all Alaskan residents to experience what Alaska's great outdoors has to offer.

AOC's main purpose is to ensure the chance for all Alaskans to continue to gather a wildfood harvest on a sustained yield basis and enjoy accessing public lands and waters far into the future.

As the U.S. Departments of Interior and Agriculture continue to use federal regulations, laws and Presidential Executive Orders to further restrict public access to public resources on over 60% of Alaska that is federally owned, the demand for public access on state owned lands and waters continues to escalate. Assuring public access to the 24% of Alaska lands that is state owned should be of the highest priority to all state elected officials and agencies.

Bills to create a Susitna State Forest have been introduced in the Alaska Legislature by individual legislators and the governor, respectively, during the last session. Neither of these bills were passed. AOC opposed both bills on the grounds that the discontinuous parcels of land in the bills, adding up to only 700,000 acres, did not provide enough assurance for public access west of the Susitna River.

AOC representatives have spent years in DNR's public process regarding state management of undeveloped lands west of the Susitna River, knowing that once resource development project planning began, public access would be a key factor to include. This spring the Alaska Department of Transportation & Public Facilities released its West Susitna Access Reconnaissance Study 2014 to identify resource development opportunities for hard rock mining, coal development, oil & gas exploration, forest harvest, settlement, agriculture, and recreation on millions of acres of state lands west of the Susitna River. All of these development and use opportunities could be included within a legislatively designated State Forest.

AOC would like to see as much of the state owned, unencumbered lands west of the Susitna River kept open to the public as possible. AOC believes no state land designation other than a State Forest would insure public access for a majority of Alaska's hunters, trappers, anglers, and recreationalists now and in the future.



Alaska Outdoor Council



& Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund

31st Annual Fairbanks Dinner & Fundraiser

Saturday November 8, 2014

London Broil & Seafood Dinner with Wine at 6:30 pm

Doors open at 5:00 pm

Door prizes, Raffles and Auctions



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The Alaska Outdoor Council is (and has been since before Alaskan statehood) Pro-Hunting, Trapping, Fishing and Pro-Public access to publicly owned lands/waters and resources.

Please come and support your "Outdoor" Voice

There are good reasons for a majority of Alaska's voting public to ask their elected officials to support a large, contiguous State Forest in the Upper Cook Inlet drainage. Many Alaskans living in Cook Inlet depend on healthy salmon runs returning to Susitna River drainages to spawn. Many Alaskans depend on the harvest of wild meat that healthy habitats have sustained in the Susitna drainage. Recreational opportunities create jobs, as do non-renewable resource developments within the Susitna River basin today. Regulated logging could be expanded while the best-management practices continued to protect critical fisheries habitat. Land management under one Legislatively Designated Area plan makes a lot of sense.

Please consider these factors and ask your legislators to support a bill creating a Susitna State Forest during the upcoming 29th Alaska Legislative Session.

Fee to Trust Indian lands

By Mary Bishop

What happens when the secretary of the Interior takes lands into trust for Indian tribes? A recent national report recommends doing so to improve social conditions in our rural Alaskan villages. While I do not presume to be an Indian law expert I do know the issue is enormously complex.

In the Lower 48, when ownership of land is transferred to a tribe, the tribe can ask the Secretary to put it in trust status. According to a 2013 Pepperdine Law Review article the process, known as fee-to-trust, is fervently opposed by many affected communities because the land is no longer subject to state and local taxation or zoning, planning, fish and game and other regulatory controls. Alaskan tribes are asking for this fee-to-trust privilege. Trust status would provide a territorial land base for tribal governing authority -- two acres here, 5 acres there, 40 or 400 acres somewhere else. Presumably, lands could be given or sold to a tribe by regional or village Native corporations, by Native allotment owners (allotments exist extensively throughout Alaska), by any Native or non-Native individual or business interested in establishing a tribal business free of state taxation and regulation within the trust lands.

Those who understand Indian law best are those who passionately and patiently advocate for increased tribal authority and financial benefit available through judicious use of this complex body of law. They do not necessarily have the broader interests of all Alaskans in mind.

Why might Alaskan tribes want lands to be put into federal trust? Several reasons come to mind. To improve the social and economic status of tribal members is the most frequently stated reason. But this seems illogical; virtually all reservations in the Lower 48 are on Indian country trust lands and they do not generally seem to be good models for social or economic health.

Second, to have jurisdiction over domestic disputes within villages is another stated reason. However, the Alaska Supreme Court in 1999 has already confirmed some of that tribal authority in the *John v. Baker* case. Alaska tribal governments, even without the territorial base designated as “Indian country”, retain sovereign power to regulate internal domestic affairs such as determination of membership, regulation of domestic relations among members, and regulation of inheritance. However, Alaskan tribes do not now have jurisdiction over non-members.

A third important reason may be to gain territory, called “Indian country”, over which tribes have governmental authority. In 1998 the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the *Venette* decision that no “Indian country” existed in Alaska except on the Annette Island Reservation. Lands transferred through the 1971 Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) were not transferred to tribes. Instead Native corporations received land in fee title.

Congress declared in ANCSA that the settlement should be accomplished “without establishing any permanent racially defined institutions, rights, privileges or obligations, without creating a reservation system or lengthy wardship or trusteeship, and without adding to the categories of property and institutions enjoying special tax privileges...” Just before President Nixon signed ANCSA, village representatives voted overwhelmingly in favor of the legislation— 511 to 56.

The *Venette* court decision did not prohibit Indian country in Alaska in the future. If Indian country is established then tribal courts would have jurisdiction within the confines of that territory—jurisdiction consistent with that allowed in certain other states. Would this be the unraveling of ANCSA?

To uphold ANCSA surely all the settlement lands should be exempt from federal trust status. This could best be clarified by Congress, through efforts of our congressional delegation. If the Lower 48 is any example, otherwise years of litigation can be anticipated.

A fourth important reason for gaining fee-to-trust benefits likely is to gain business and political advantage for tribes and their associates. Alaska is one of six states that are subject to federal Public Law 280 which means that the state and its municipalities have no regulation and taxation authority on trust lands. That authority resides with the tribe. In addition tribes hold sovereign immunity from suit on most tribal business endeavors existing on trust lands. As examples, they cannot be sued for breach of contract or for injury to a customer in their business establishment open to the public unless a formal “waiver of sovereign immunity” has been signed.

Thus, tribal businesses that sell taxed products gain a substantial advantage over their neighboring non-tribal businesses. The Lower 48 has seen a boom in the Indian casino business. As a result some tribes are now among the largest contributors to political campaigns and spend millions on lobbying efforts.

The *Venette* case concerned the village’s effort to tax a contractor building a state school on land owned by the village pursuant to ANCSA. Lower courts had upheld the tax. If these lands had been in federal trust, would the Supreme Court have also upheld the tax? Sometimes a non-Indian business entity in the Lower 48 joins with a tribal group to establish a non-taxable business on tribal lands. I don’t think this would relate to the lucrative federal 8(a) contracting in which many Alaskan Native corporations engage—but it’s another item to have clarified.

Tribal members living on trust lands are full citizens of the state, must receive all state benefits, and can vote on state and county/ borough bonding issues. But members living within Indian country cannot be taxed to support them. Members can be elected to state or municipal office and vote on budgets for which many of their constituents would have no tax responsibility.

Is this “representation without taxation”? It may make good business sense to gain this privilege – but is it good public policy? How would this impact the “rural-urban” divide and racial relations in Alaska?

These are only some aspects to be considered when supporting or opposing the proposal to take Alaskan tribal lands into trust status. I suggest interested parties check the internet for a “fee-to-trust introduction” by Citizen’s Equal Rights Alliance and study “American Indian Law in a Nutshell”, 5th edition by Ninth Circuit Judge William Canby. But no text will have all the answers; masses of litigation are ongoing constantly. The Pepperdine Law Review article stresses the need for comprehensive reform of the fee-to-trust process.

I encourage readers to comment on this federal proposal “to take land into trust for Alaska Native tribes. Please send copies to Governor Sean Parnell and our congressional delegation.

**The Alaska Outdoor Council endorses the re-election of
Sean Parnell as Governor of Alaska
And Dan A. Sullivan for Lt. Governor
In the November 2014 general election**

Dan S. Sullivan is AOC's endorsed choice for the U.S. Senate from Alaska

AOC endorses the election of the following candidates for the State House and Senate.

State House Candidates.

Incumbents -

Tammie Wilson - District 3
Lynn Gattis - District 7
Mark Neuman - District 8
Wes Keller - District 10
Mike Hawker - District 28
Pete Higgins - District 5
Shelly Hughes - District 11
Craig Johnson - District 24
Bob Lynn - District 26
Charisse Millett - District 25
Steve Thompson - District 2
Cathy Munoz - District 34
Geran Tarr - District 19

New candidates -

Dave Talerico - District 6
Cathy Tilton - District 12
Liz Vasquez - District 22
Jerry McCune - District 32
Jim Colver - District 9

State Senate candidates.

Incumbents -

Pete Kelly - District A
Mike Dunleavy - District E
Click Bishop - District C
Anna Fairclough - District G
Peter Micciche - District O
Cathy Giessel - District N

New candidates for State Senate seats.

Bill Stoltze - District F
Mia Costello - District K

Paid for by the Alaska Outdoor Council
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This NOTICE TO VOTERS is required
by Alaska law:
This publication is not authorized, paid
for, or approved by any candidate.

AOC 2014 General Election Candidate Questions

Dear Candidate, running for state office in the 2014 general election,

The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) Board of Directors has prepared these ten questions for candidates running for state office in the November general election. A member of the legislature is not prohibited by the Legislative Ethics Act, AS 24.60.160, from soliciting or accepting campaign endorsements. AOC's intent by providing candidates with these questions is to;

1. Inform candidates of what AOC's current interests are legislatively.
2. Provide AOC membership with a summary of candidate responses in order to help them make informed decisions at the polls this November.

For those candidates who are unfamiliar with AOC please look at AOC's bylaws and past positions on the AOC website, www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

For additional information, you may wish to review the state's comments to the U.S. Department of Interior regarding question #1.

Q1: Recent Federal Court rulings have stirred the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) to propose rulemaking that would allow the Secretary of Interior to take Alaska Native lands into trust status. DOI taking Alaskan tribal-owned lands into "trust" status would be analogous to establishing Indian reservations or "Indian country". Tribes could receive many lands from regional and village native corporations by gift or sale - and then request their transfer to trust status. Historically DOI has accepted virtually all requests. The state and municipalities would then be precluded from any taxation (property, liquor, cigarettes, most gasoline, etc.), licensing or regulation (fish, game, environmental, most gaming, liquor, tobacco, marijuana, etc.) on these lands. Such a regulatory action by DOI would negate the clearly stated intent of the 1971 Alaska Native Lands Claim Settlement Act (ANCSA).

Would you, if elected to state office, request that Alaska's congressional delegation introduce and support legislation in the U.S. Congress to amended Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) to prohibit further federal acquisition of Alaska Native lands into trust status?

Q2: While federal law, ANICLA Title VIII, established a full-time fish and game subsistence use priority for rural residents on federal lands and waters, the State's law is quite different; it provides a priority to fish and game to all Alaskan residents for subsistence use only when the harvestable surplus falls below the amounts necessary for subsistence use (ANS), established by the Alaska Board of Game (BOG). The BOG, however, has supported/adopted/proposed maintaining a subsistence priority even when the harvestable surplus is above the ANS. This favors some Alaskans over others.

Would you oppose re-confirmation of Board members who vote to provide a subsistence priority game regulation when the harvestable surplus is above the "amount necessary for subsistence"?

Q3: The most popular non-commercial fishery in the state for Alaska residents is the Upper Cook Inlet personal use fishery, with over 34,000 Alaskans participating in 2011 harvesting over 600,000 salmon.

Would you support legislation to give this fishery a priority over other fisheries when the predicted allowable harvest cannot sustain the expected combined harvest by all user groups?

Q4: The past few state administrations have promoted programs they call "Roads to Resources." Simply put, these are new state-financed road corridors on state land providing access to significant natural resources, particularly minerals or oil and gas.

Do you believe Alaskans, citizens of the “owner state”, should be able to use these roads? Do you believe there are situations where the public should not have access on such roads?

Q5: While much is made of federal land managers restricting access to the public land they manage, there are also many areas where Alaskans’ access to state land is restricted. Access on State lands and waters is reasonably permissive, but there are areas where restrictions on state land access may be questioned.

Would you support legislation that would require the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to develop a plan to mitigate actual or potential trail damages before further restricting regulated motorized use on public domain?

Q6: Last session Senate Bill 201 passed the legislature and was signed into law repealing Alaska Statute 11.46.350(c), thereby removing the requirement that private property be posted in order for criminal trespass laws to be enforced. It is now the responsibility of the individual to know who owns the property that they want to access.

Would you support additional funding to DNR to 1) establish where public-private property lines are, and inform the public of such, and 2) identify easements and corridors where the public can legally access their public land without trespassing on private land?

Q7: The state land designation of “forest” allows resource development, conservation, habitat enhancement and public access. Since statehood the human population of Cook Inlet has increased from 100,000 residents to 450,000. The Susitna River drainage is the largest contiguous piece of state owned land in all of Cook Inlet and is surrounded by restrictively regulated federally owned lands.

Would you support applying an Alaska State Forest designation to a large tract of state land in the Susitna valley drainage?

Q8: A primary component of Alaska culture is the harvest of fish and game for personal consumption

by state residents. Similarly, long before statehood, a strong economy has developed around the taking of fish and game for its trophy value. Conflicts between the two user groups is made apparent by the number of proposals submitted to both the Boards of Fisheries and Game to restrict commercial guides/outfitters and transporters.

Do you believe that these two uses can co-exist? If so, would you support legislation establishing areas of use for commercial guides/outfitters and transporters—and providing for regulation of these uses?

Q9: Alaska Statute 16.05.340 establishes the cost of resident hunting and fishing licenses at \$25 and \$15, respectively. Other high profile hunting and fishing destinations charge residents more than Alaska in order to raise funds for maintenance and restoration of fish stocks and game populations. AOC believes Alaska’s resident hunting license fees are low and some tag fees would be appropriate. Also some non-resident tag fees should be raised.

Would you support increasing resident license fees and establishing certain game tag fees if there was a strong assurance from the Alaska Department of Fish & Game that increased funding would go toward providing for improved game management?

Q10: In 1975 the Alaska legislature voted to split the Boards of Fisheries and Game into two separate boards because of the excessive work load required to manage and allocate Alaska’s fish and game resources. Today, almost 40 years later, AOC feels the Commissioner’s job of managing and allocating fisheries resources leaves inadequate time to address game management with equal effectiveness.

Would you support legislation creating two separate commissioner positions within a single department - a Commissioner of Fisheries and a Commissioner of Game - to lead the ADF&G? Or as another alternative would you support requiring that a Deputy Commissioner be specifically appointed for both Fisheries and Wildlife with both having to be confirmed by the legislature?

Additional Information on Sheep Hunting Proposals

Attention Sheep Hunters:

During the last few board meetings, the Board of Game received several proposals requesting changes to sheep seasons statewide. Hunters are expressing dissatisfaction with Dall sheep harvest opportunities. Many of the concerns expressed have noted increasing conflict among Alaska resident sheep hunters, hunting guides, transporters, and nonresident sheep hunters. The board deferred Interior Region proposals until the March 2015 board meeting in Anchorage. However, given the need for lengthy discussions to address the various complexities, the Board of Game has chosen to address these proposals at the February 2015 board meeting in Wasilla. At that time, the board will consider changes to all aspects of sheep hunting seasons and bag limits for the Central/Southwest and Interior Regions. The SouthCentral Region sheep proposals will remain scheduled for the March 2015 board meeting in Anchorage.

The Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) has contracted with the University of Alaska to survey the public that may be impacted by potential changes, including sheep hunters, guides, transporters and air taxi operators. The survey will attempt to learn more about sheep hunter characteristics, behaviors and preferences, to quantify the extent of hunter satisfaction or dissatisfaction with current sheep hunting opportunities, and to quantify the extent of hunter approval or disapproval of potential changes to sheep hunting regulations and management.

The survey was distributed during the summer of 2014, and results will be available in late October or early November. The results will be available on the Board of Game website at www.boardofgame.adfg.alaska.gov. In addition, the results of the hunter survey and summaries of trends in sheep populations, harvest, and allocation will be presented to the public by ADF&G at venues in Fairbanks and Anchorage. The Fairbanks meeting will be held at the Murie Auditorium on the UAF campus on November 19, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. The Anchorage meeting will be held at the Loussac Library on November 21, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. These meetings are purely informational and are in no way Board of Game meetings or board sub-committee meetings.

At the February and March 2015 meetings, the board will consider potential changes including, but not limited to:

- Earlier seasons for residents
- Change all general season hunts to registration or draw permits
- Shorter seasons for nonresidents
- Drawing permits required for nonresidents
- Reduce permits for nonresidents
- Limit nonresidents hunting with a next-of-kin relative
- Resident only hunts
- Limit hunters to hunting only one area
- Smaller hunt areas with limited participation
- Require training or orientation for all hunters
- Changes to sealing requirement
- Changes to full-curl bag limit
- Reduce bag limit, (for example one sheep every three years, etc.)
- Changes to same-day-airborne restriction
- Restrict transportation used in some areas
- Youth, restricted weapons, walk-in only hunts

The public is encouraged to review the results of the survey and provide comments to the board by January 30, 2015 for the Central/Southwest meeting and February 27, 2015 for the SouthCentral meeting.



Jesse Vanderzanden

NPS-Alaska Sets Hearings for Sport Hunting Proposals

<http://www.nps.gov/akso/connect/newsreleases/10-10-14-nps-alaska-sets-hearings-for-sport-hunting-proposals.cfm>

Date: October 10, 2014

Contact: John Quinley, 907-644-3512, john_quinley@nps.gov

The National Park Service will hold 17 public hearings this fall on proposed regulations and environmental assessment related to sport hunting in Alaska's national preserves.

The proposals include prohibitions on taking wolf and coyote pups and adults in early summer when they den and their pelts have little commercial value; the taking of brown bears over bait stations; and the use of artificial light to take black bear cubs and sows with cubs at dens. Other procedural changes and wildlife harvest related changes are also proposed.

Recent authorizations by the State of Alaska's Board of Game have liberalized predator hunting practices in many areas. This includes national preserves, which are managed in the same manner as national parks, but by law are open to sport hunting. Liberalized predator hunting intended to manipulate natural population dynamics conflicts with National Park Service law and policy. National park areas are managed to maintain natural ecosystems and processes, including wildlife populations and their behaviors. While sport hunting is consistent with the purposes for which national preserves were established in Alaska, NPS policies prohibit reducing native predators for the purpose of increasing numbers of harvested species. The proposed rule would not restrict federal subsistence hunting on NPS managed lands.

An informational Facebook Chat will be held beginning October 20 and running through October 31. The regional Facebook address is www.facebook.com/AlaskaNPS. On October 21, from 10 a.m. to Noon, National Park Service staff will be available to post real-time replies to questions. On-line dialogue is not considered official public comment.

The proposed regulations would apply in the following national preserves: Denali, Wrangell-St. Elias, Glacier Bay, Yukon-Charley Rivers, Gates of the Arctic, Noatak, Bering Land Bridge, Lake Clark, Katmai, Aniakchak, and the Alagnak Wild River. On October 27, the NPS will hold a phone-in hearing from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. where callers will identify themselves and can provide testimony which will be recorded. The toll-free number is 1-888-921-5898; callers will use 5499349# as the access code and be connected to the hearing.

The in-person public hearing schedule is as follows:

October 21 Palmer Community Center, 610 S. Valley Way
3-7 p.m.

October 22 4:30-6 p.m.	Bettles, Gates of the Arctic NP Visitor Center	
October 22 5-6 p.m.	Denali NP, Murie Science & Learning Center	
October 23 p.m.	Healy, Tri-Valley Community Center	6 - 7
October 27 p.m.	Cantwell, Cantwell Community Hall	6 - 7
October 27 p.m.	Nome, Sitnasuak Building, Front Street	6-7:30
October 28 6-7:30 p.m.	Kotzebue, Northwest Arctic Heritage Center	
October 28 Springs Park	Anchorage, Lydia Selkregg Chalet, Russian Jack	
October 30 p.m.	Fairbanks, Morris Thompson Center	7 - 9
October 30 3-7 p.m.	Soldotna, Kenai Peninsula Borough Building	
November 1	Yakutat, Yak-Tak Kwaan Office	1-4 p.m.
November 5	Eagle, Eagle School	6-8 p.m.
November 5	Copper Center, Wrangell-St. Elias NP Visitor Center (Mile 106.8 Richardson Highway)	4-6 p.m.
November 6	Tok, Tok School	6-8 p.m.
November 18 6-8 p.m.	Port Alsworth, Lake Clark NP Visitor Center	
November 20 7-9 p.m.	Naknek, Bristol Bay Borough Assembly Chambers	

In addition to taking public comment in person and by phone, comments may be made on line by following the links at www.nps.gov/akso/management/regulations.cfm or by postal mail to NPS Regulations, 240 W. 5th Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501. A copy of the proposed rule may be requested at the same mailing address. A copy of the proposed rule, draft environmental assessment, economic analysis, news releases and other related material is available at www.nps.gov/akso/management/regulations.cfm





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Maud Road Shooting Range Ribbon cutting ceremony

By Patti Barber

The Alaska Outdoor Council and the Maud Road Shooting Range Committee partnered with the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to build the Maud Road Shooting Range within the Knik River Public Use Area. The legislature had secured money for the First Phase but needed \$500,000 more to complete the project with Phase Two. The 135 members of the committee wrote letters of support to Governor Parnell and the legislature to help secure funding for Phase Two of the project. The First Phase was under construction during the months of May and June.

On July 16, 2014, Governor Parnell and commissioners from various departments were on hand to cut the ribbon officially opening the First Phase of the range. Phase Two will begin in the spring of 2015. During this final construction the range will be closed for target shooting, the same as last season. When the range is complete there will be a total of 10 lanes for rifle at 100 yards and the addition of 6 lanes for pistol, 25 yards in length.

The range is open to the public from 10 AM to 8 PM, except on Wednesdays. There are 3 shooting benches and trash receptacles for used targets. Travis Jensen is the Knik River Public Use Area manager and is frequently there to answer questions and haul trash.



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By Mary Bishop, Secretary, Alaska Trust Fund

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Please use the form below to donate – or inquire by calling me at 907-455-6151 or Warren Olson @ 1-907-346-4440.

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AOC would like to introduce you to the new Executive Director of CACFA

My name is Sara Taylor, and I could not be more honored or excited to be the new Executive Director for the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas (CACFA). I have a degree in Environmental Sciences, as well as a law degree, which provides a combination of skills that I hope will enhance CACFA's ability to work with federal and state agencies on multiple and evolving fronts. I started my professional career as a bird biologist for the US Fish & Wildlife Service, which brought me and my family north to the Alaska Region in 2004. In 2005, I took a job with the State of Alaska as the Alaska National Interests Land Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA) Coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources. This position opened up a completely different world to me. I began to see how critical the promises of ANILCA are to the Alaskan way of life, and how much they are being casually eroded through misunderstandings, misinterpretations and misinformation. This genuinely inspired me to abandon a career in science and field work to become a vigilant and informed advocate for change, and I continue to be inspired every day! CACFA's mission is very precious to me. I am always on duty, looking for ways to make federal laws and policies honest and meaningful, and to ensure our amazing state, and

its incredibly imaginative, unique and fearless residents, are honored and respected. I want my children and their children to know what it means to be Alaskan. My door is always open and I look forward to sharing your stories, your passions, and working together to protect our home.



Sara Taylor
Executive Director of CACFA

Rob Mathews

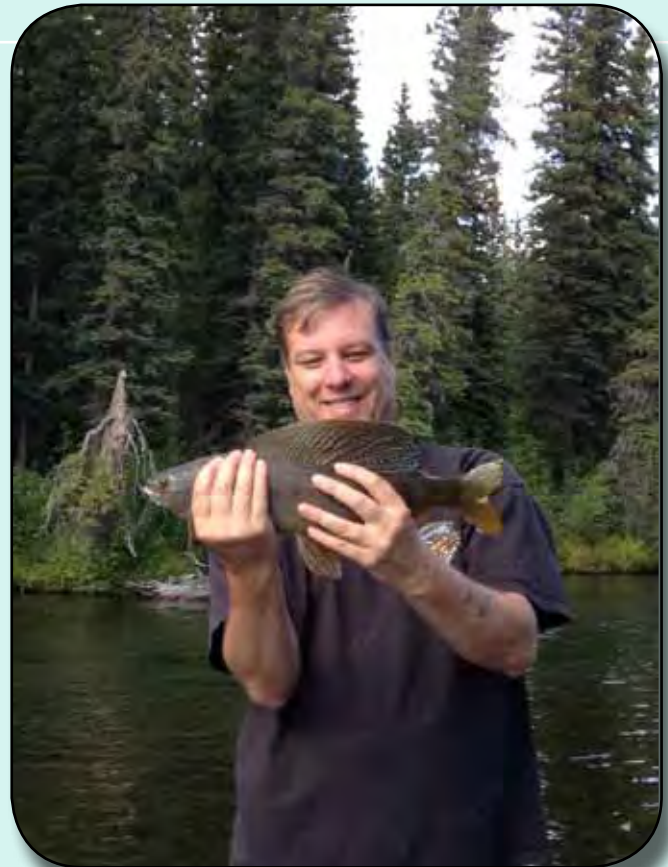
AOC/AFWCF Board Member

I'm originally from Kalamazoo Michigan and moved to Alaska in 2010 after retiring from the Army after a 22 year career. I currently live in Delta Junction, Alaska where I not only serve on the AOC Board but I also served on the Delta Sportsman's Board, as their Chief Range Officer.

I'm very active in junior shooting programs for both NRA and USA Shooting, along with assisting with the Delta High School Rifle Team. Even though I retired from the Army, I found myself not running very far, as I still work for the Army now as a Physical Security Specialist at Fort Greely.

I grew up both hunting and fishing and remember riding my bike miles just to fish. My first gun was a 16 gage shotgun and it opened up the world of hunting. I still think that first gun has dropped more game in the first few years I owned it than any other gun has since. My mother had to learn whole new recipes for small game and birds that I would bring home.

I got married to my lovely bride Karen Mathews in 1990 and have drug her all around the world on my many assignments and many times had to leave her on my many deployments. We have one son Alex.



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Moose-strone recipe

By Paula Caywood - My version of an Italian classic.

2-3 Moose Soup Bones
2-3 Bay Leaves
1 large onion – diced
5-6 stocks celery – diced
2-3 cloves garlic
2 tlbs. Butter
1 tlbs. parsley
1 tsp. basil
1 tsp. oregano
2 cans diced or stewed tomatoes
2 cups sliced carrots
1 cup fresh green beans - or 1 can green beans
1 cup sautéed mushrooms – or 1 small can
8 oz. small pasta – acini di pepe or any small pasta – I have used
stars, alphabet
Salt & Pepper to taste
2 or 3 moose (or other game) soup bones with meat left on
them. (I usually use neck bones), place in large pot with 8 to 10
cups water, bay leaves, boil until tender. Cool enough to pick
meat off of bones. Cut meat into bite sized pieces and return to
broth. Feed bones to dogs.
In a large frying pan, sauté the onion, celery and garlic, add
to broth with spices, carrots and green beans, simmer until
vegetables are tender, add mushrooms and pasta, cook until pasta
is tender. If you are using can green beans add with mushrooms
and pasta. Serve with grated parmesan cheese and garlic bread.

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Alaska State Snowmobile Association	Anchorage	Ruffed Grouse Society/SC AK Chapter	Anchorage
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