



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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"Alaska's Outdoors is Yours!"

By Rod Arno, Executive Director

Nowhere else in the world is that statement more accurate than Alaska. No other state in the union comes close to Alaska in acres of publicly owned lands and waters. Alaska is home to half of all the U.S. National Parks, the largest National Forest in the nation (the Tongass at 17 million acres), National Fish & Wildlife Refuge lands, and BLM lands all adding up to approximately 215 million acres of federal lands reserved for public use.

And the Alaska State Legislature has been no slouch either in setting aside 12 million acres of state land into; Parks, Refuges, Sanctuaries, Forests, Recreation Areas, Critical Habitat Areas, and Public Use Areas. The Wood-Tikchik State Park at 1.5 million acres is the largest State Park in the nation. 63% of Alaska (230 million

acres) is open for regulated public use.

Dick Bishop wrote this winter "Mike Dalton coined the by-line Alaska's Outdoors is Yours for the Fairbanks AOC/Fund Banquet in the '90's, and it stuck. She wanted everyone to know that all Alaskans have equal rights to enjoy and benefit from all of Alaska's wild heritage... and that AOC is dedicated to promoting and defending those rights, privileges, and



Kathleen "Mike" Dalton
testifies before US Senate Resources
Committee on ANILCA, in DC, 1979/80

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Upcoming Events

Palmer State Fair
August 22- Septe 4th

AOC Mat-Su Dinner & Auction
Evangelos in Wasilla
October 12th

Fairbanks Dinner & Auction
AOC/AFWCF
Westmark Gold Room
November 2nd

**AOC Annual Anchorage
Banquet & Fund-raiser**
Sheraton Hotel
Anchorage, Alaska
Saturday - February 1, 2020

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.
contact:
president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

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Presidents Message

By Bill Iverson, AOC President

It has been a great year so far. We elected a new Governor who is not beholden to interests that conflict with the missions of Alaska Outdoor Council. He has appointed **Doug Vincent-Lang (DVL)** as the Commissioner of ADF&G and **Eddie Grasser** to the Wildlife Conservation Dept. Both will be good managers of the resource. Also, **Rick Green (Rydell)** joined the team. This year DVL bucked the commercial guys and managed the resource for the future instead of the short-term gain for the commercial fisheries. The local economy and the resource greatly appreciate the efforts of the department. The over escapement theory they have floated over the years will be tested in 2-3 years and we believe, will show total nonsense. This year's escapement should be the norm, not the exception. Thank you, **Governor Mike Dunleavy**, for continuing to fight for what is right. Please do not let the vocal minority pressure you. Keep Standing Tall and keep your campaign promises.

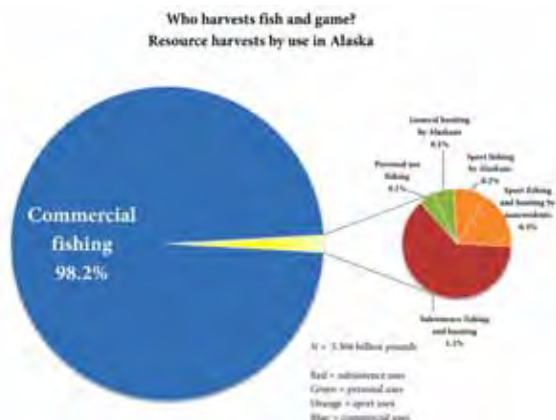
We had a great victory at the Supreme Court for the second time with a 9-0 vote for the John Sturgeon v Frost case. This was to protect Alaska's right to govern our navigable rivers and waterways in the State. Unfortunately, because of the House or Representatives inability to recognize the job they needed to do, we were not able to get John and all the donors to John's case reimbursed for the 1.2 million we had to spend to win this case, for the State of Alaska and all its residents. Now we need to press the Park Service to implement the ruling from the Supreme court. That may be a bigger challenge.

This summer's heat is taking its toll on our forests and the air quality has been horrendous. Here on the Kenai Peninsula we have had the Swan Lake fire burning since June 4. We want to thank all the brave fire fighters through out the state that have worked tirelessly to combat the many fires.

Hunting season is upon us so please be careful out there.

My daughter, my grandson and I went north, caribou hunting, with no luck so far this year. Everyone else headed to the Steese Highway and many had good luck. The area biologist said that he had never seen so many hunters in one place and that maybe over 1000 caribou were taken the first day.

Next is onto moose camp to get setup and hopefully get our winter meat.



Kenai Red Salmon 2019 - Teresa Burnett, Bill Iverson, Ralph Samuels, & Rick Green (Rydell)

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.

ALASKA OUTDOOR COUNCIL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President: Bill Iverson
Soldotna, Alaska
president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

1st Vice-President: John Sturgeon
Anchorage, Alaska
vp1@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

2nd Vice-President: Rob Mathews
Delta Junction, Alaska
vp2@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

3rd Vice-President: Ron Somerville
Juneau, Alaska
vp3@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Treasurer: Todd Clark
Big Lake, Alaska
treasurer@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Secretary: Teresa Burnett
Anchorage, Alaska
secretary@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

At Large: Theresa Woldstad
Fairbanks, Alaska
atlarge@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Staff:

Executive Director: Rod Arno
AOC/AFWCF
aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com
Cell: 841-6849

Administrative Director:
Pam Iverson
pam@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Certified Public Accountant:
Warwick & Schikora, CPA
Rick J. Schikora
1416 Gillam Way
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
Phone: 907-456-1566
Fax: 907-456-1569
schikora@wscpa-ak.com

Executive Director Report

By Rod Arno, AOC executive Director

The federal land managers continue to be the biggest obstacle to outdoor folks who choose to hunt, trap, fish, and recreate on 60% of Alaska's land.



Thanks to efforts lead by Alaska's Congressman Don Young, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) rulemaking to regulate non-subsistence hunting was repealed under the Congressional Review Act (CRA). Unfortunately, hunting and trapping restrictions adopted by the National Park Service (NPS) and the FWS Kenai National Wildlife Refuge were outside the timeframe that would allow Congress to revoke under the CRA.

In January 2017 the state filed a lawsuit, *State of Alaska v. Zinke and the U.S. Department of the Interior*, challenging both NPS and FWS hunting restrictions. Two AOC clubs, the Safari Club International (SCI) and the Alaska Profession Hunters Association (APHA) also filed separate suits along with the Sportsmen's Alliance Foundation challenging the NPS and FWS rulemaking. Litigation has been put on hold for the last two and half years, leaving us to wait and see what the U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) will do to revise these contested rules. Unfortunately, the state and many Alaskans are still spending a considerable amount of time, money, and effort undoing regulations that were promulgated under the Obama Administration.

Meanwhile the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) continues to create more conservation areas, Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). These are BLM lands where the Feds don't believe the state will properly management public resources. ACECs restrict a number of traditional activities including motorized access. Alaska's Delegation made it clear in the drafting of ANILCA that enough lands would be placed into Conservation System Units (CSU), and only future Congresses would be able to add additional lands to conservation areas. Had not Sections 1326(a) and (b) of ANILCA, part of what is known as the "No More Clauses," been written into ANILCA it's unlikely that the legislation would have passed during the waning days of the Carter presidency.

While the Alaska Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) threatened legal action against BLM after they published their Record of Decision (ROD) on the **Eastern Interior** Resource Management Plan (RMP), nothing came of it under the Walker Administration. And now once again BLM has prepared a draft for the **Bering Sea - Western Interior** (BSWI) RMP, at a cost to tax payers of \$6 million that recommends more lands be placed in ACECs. The State can only submit their disapproval and wait to see if BLM chooses to include ACECs in their ROD before considering a legal challenge. The draft BSWI RMP recommends that in ACECs all non-locals be considered "casual users" and be restricted to motorized travel only on BLM approved trails. To date BLM has placed over 7 million acres in additional conservation ACECs since the passage of ANILCA. When will it end?

A bright spot for outdoor enthusiasts, Alaska Native corporations, and Alaska Native villages with inholdings in CSUs is the John Sturgeon win (for the second time) before the U.S. Supreme Court. Instead of creating postage stamp sized National Parks within large ecosystems, ANILCA encompassed large areas that included millions of acres of state and private lands. These inholdings would be of little value to land owners if you could only get there by air. The Sturgeon win at least opens up access corridors on all state managed navigable waterways to state and private lands within NPS boundaries. At the time of publication of this

issue of the AOC Newsletter, NPS has not changed their regulations to reflect the U.S. Supreme Court's unanimous decision. How long must we wait before NPS honors the decision handed down by the nation's highest court?

Another threat to state management (and allocation) of fish and game on federal lands and waters has been put on hold since the defeat of the Democratic Party and the change in presidency in 2016. Under the Obama presidency the DOI signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Ahtna Intertribal Resource Commission to allow them to co-manage federal lands and resources. The Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) approved the agreement and Ahtna submitted proposals to allow them to allocate moose and caribou harvest on federal lands in the Copper River Basin. Nothing has come of this effort since the Trump Administration appointed their own Secretary of DOI. The Alaska Federation of Natives (AFN) made it clear in written testimony to the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, chaired by Alaska Senator Lisa Murkowski, that;

"AFN's goal in advocating for co-management projects is to have a meaningful seat at the management table where fish and game are concerned".

The Alaska Outdoor Council supports state management of fish and game and the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game process which allows all Alaskans to share their traditional knowledge before hunting and fishing regulations are adopted. All Alaskans currently have a meaningful seat at the management table where fish and game are concerned and have had for decades.

It's understandable why AFN has been advocating for placing Alaska Native lands into trust with the Federal government regarding fish and game harvest. On federal lands in Alaska, since 1992, the FSB has been authorized by the U.S. Secretaries of Agriculture and the Interior to allocate fish and game harvest to residents who choose to live in areas they have deemed "subsistence areas." The federal priority, based on where you live, to harvest fish and game does not apply to state and private lands in subsistence areas. It's questionable whether or not private Alaska Native lands once transferred to lands in trust with the DOI would then be regulated by DOI or remain under state fish and game management as they presently are.

The major subsistence food sources of fish (salmon) and game (caribou, moose, deer) migrate across state, federal, and private Alaska Native lands as well. Knowing this, the Alaska Outdoor Council has consistently advocated for a cohesive management regime under state authority for conservation's sake. The Alaska Outdoor Council is following a bill in Congress, H.R. 375, which has passed the House (May 15, 2019) and in June was referred to the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs. Should HR 375 pass into law it would reaffirm the authority of the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934 and amend the act to include the 229 Federally recognized Alaska Native tribes. The question still remains as to what affect passage of this bill into law would have on management of fish and game on private Alaska Native lands. The Alaska Outdoor Council will continue asking Alaska's Congressional Delegation that question.

State actions:

The Alaska Outdoor Council is pleased to have a new Governor of Alaska, Mike Dunleavy, who is truly an outdoorsman with experience living in rural Alaska. That means a lot for all of us who hunt, trap, fish, and recreate on public lands and waters in Alaska. Governor Dunleavy and his Commissioners Corri Feige of DNR and Doug Vincent-Lang of ADF&G have chosen staff well acquainted with outdoor pursuits as well as being knowledgeable in and supportive of fish and wildlife

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‘Thanks a Million’ victory cruise for John Sturgeon legal fees

By Suzanne Downing / Must Read Alaska

HEAD TO FAIRBANKS AND GO ON THE RIVERBOAT DISCOVERY II WITH A FOLK HERO

John Sturgeon battled for over a decade for Alaskans and their right to use the navigable waters of the state as their highways. He took the National Park Service to court and fought all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court — not once, but twice — to make the case that “Alaska is different.”

His case, *Sturgeon v. Frost* (National Park Service) is now legend after he won 9-0 this year on his second appearance before the nation’s highest court.

But the legal fees were \$1.2 million.

Sturgeon, a hunter who had used his hovercraft to access the Nation River in the Yukon Charley National Wildlife Preserve, is a folk hero, and his friend Craig Compeau of Fairbanks is putting together a fundraiser to help him with the legal fees.

[Read: Breaking: Sturgeon wins 9-0 at Supreme Court]

Called “Thanks a Million,” the event will be held on the Riverboat Discovery II in Fairbanks on Aug. 6. Tickets, which are \$50, can be found at this EventBrite site. There will be a short auction with great outdoors toys to bid on.



Meet the man who spent 12 years and \$1.2 million fighting for the rights of Alaskans.

Also meet Robert Barnes, a reporter for the Washington Post since 1987, who will be on hand to cover the story of John Sturgeon and the Alaskans who have assisted with his historic court case.

Must Read Alaska’s editor Suzanne Downing will be there as well, and will be happy to hear your point of view on issues of the day.

There’s limited space available on Riverboat Discovery II. Dress is casual. Dinner will be prime rib sandwiches, side dishes, and a cash bar.

Before the event, a private cocktail party for donors who bring a \$2,000 check with them will take place at a private home along the Chena River. Contact craig@compeaus.com to reserve your spot in this small-group event with Sturgeon and some of his loyal supporters.

Compeau set the fundraising goal at \$60,000 net, he told Must Read Alaska.

Alaska Outdoor Council editor note: I was told they raised \$80,000 net.



Alaska Yours- Continued from Page 1

responsibilities. Contributing this by-line is just one of Mike Dalton's many contributions to AOC."

Kathleen "Mike" Dalton passed away this past January after a lifetime of adventures and service to Alaska. She and her husband Jim, for whom the Dalton Highway to the North Slope is named after, were Alaskan pioneers who dedicated most of their lives to opening up access to Alaska's natural resources.

While Mike's by-line is true enough it does need an asterisk after it. "Alaska's Outdoors is Yours" -- * but only if you are willing to continually fight to keep it so.

The U.S. Congress changed how federal lands were to be managed with the passage of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA) in 1976. The decades - old mandate of federal lands being open for resource use changed to one of protectionism. Four years later a U.S. Congress with similar views as those who pushed through FLPMA were able to pass the largest lands bill in American history, the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). ANILCA was a compromise between preservationist - backed (or intimidated) representatives and senators and Alaska's Congressional Delegation who knew Alaska's future depended on its ability to access public resources for the benefit of its people. Section 101(d) of ANILCA spelled it out pretty clearly:

"ANILCA provided sufficient protection for the national interests in the scenic, natural, culture and environmental values on the public lands in Alaska, and at the same time providing adequate opportunity for satisfaction of the economic and social needs of the State of Alaska and its people"

For the last 35 years, since the passage of ANILCA, federal land managers have continually violated the compromise between "Protection" and the people of Alaska through policies and regulations that further restrict the opportunity for public uses of public resources.

The Alaska Outdoor Council has been at the forefront of the battle to ensure that opportunities such as hunting, trapping, fishing, and recreational activities continue to be available on public land/waters in Alaska. "Alaska's Outdoors is Yours" only if you, as the public, continue to insist it should be so. Federal land managers, pressured by Preservationists and

Alaska Native sovereignty advocates, continually chip away at the compromise agreed upon with the passage of ANILCA, reducing the public's ability to enjoy Alaska's outdoors. Many times, in the regulatory process of determining who Alaska's outdoors really belongs to the Alaska Outdoor Council is a constant but sometimes lonely voice when it comes to accessing federal public lands/waters in Alaska.

Mike Dalton was a vital part of the Alaska Outdoor Council team when she documented the legal legitimacy of hundreds of RS2477 trails all over Alaska. Mike Dalton knew that Alaska's outdoors would remain yours only if you were willing to fight for it. Her efforts helped the Alaska State Legislature place hundreds of RS2477 access trails into state statute. Now it's our responsibility to make sure that the state fights

to defend every one of those public access corridors to provide adequate opportunity for the satisfaction of the economic and social needs of the State of Alaska and its people.

Individual Alaskans like John Sturgeon know full well what it takes to continue the battle to assure that Alaska's

outdoors is yours and that you can get there to enjoy it. John fought right up to the U.S. Supreme Court, not once but twice, to successfully assure our legal ability to travel on state managed navigable

waters to access

public resources belonging to all Americans. As a member of the Alaska

Outdoor Council you have helped contribute over a quarter of \$1 million to his legal fees. Hundreds or thousands of other Alaskans also contributed, and there's still a big bill to pay off. It takes efforts like that to ensure that Alaska's outdoors remains yours.

If you are interested in participating in outdoor activities on Alaska's public lands its best that you fight for that opportunity. There is an organized effort to reduce your enjoyment and access to public lands/waters in Alaska. To keep Alaska's outdoors yours you need to participate in the public process of regulating access, there is no guarantee that it will remain yours otherwise.

Add your voice to advocate for public access to public lands/waters by joining the Alaska Outdoor Council or any of its statewide member clubs.



Rob Mathews w/ Kenai Red Salmon



Theresa Woldstad at work

Winter SAD

By Craig Medred on June 25, 2019

In a state with more public land than any other and a pathetically small population compared to most of the world, yet another dispute has erupted over access to wildland recreation. This time a plan by one of the least known of Alaska land management agencies to impose a recreational-use fee of up to \$500 on snowmobilers crossing its lands next winter has angered the state's largest outdoor organization.

The Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority wants riders to pay to help fund its operations and/or compensate the trust for "documented recreational use patterns on Trust land... that are causing negative impacts to Trust land."

Which issue actually sparked the fee proposal is unclear in the Trust's notice of a "Best Interest Decision" involving winter use of Trust lands by both recreational snowmachines and all-terrain vehicles (ATVs).

The Trust controls about 1 million acres in mostly small parcels scattered widely around the state. Most of the land is near the road system. Some of it is near areas regularly used by snowmachine riders such as in the areas around Big Lake, a resort community just north of Anchorage, and Cleary Summit, a recreation area just north of Fairbanks.

In a Monday message to Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority CEO Mike Abbott, Alaska Outdoor Council director Rod Arno says his group can't figure out what the Trust is thinking.

"AOC agrees wholeheartedly with the purpose of the Alaska Mental Trust Authority whose mission by law is to benefit the mental health of Alaska's residents," AOC executive director Rod Arno wrote. "(But) nowhere in the Best Interest Decision proposed by the executive director of the Trust Land Office, is there any mention of the benefit to numerous Alaska residents to get out and ride on undeveloped lands."

"While the number of Alaskans whose behavioral health is fortified by getting out of town to snowmachine and ATV seasonally may be hard to quantify, it is a factor that should be taken into account when determining the best of Alaskans uses of 1 million acres of Trust lands scattered throughout the state."

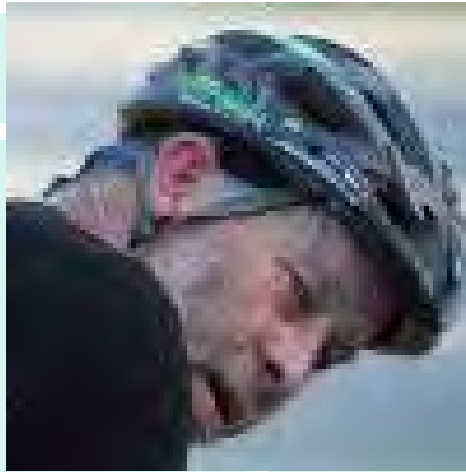
Alaska is a state famous for SAD – seasonal affective disorder – in winter.

"People with SAD experience mood changes and symptoms similar to depression. The symptoms usually occur during the fall and winter months when there is less sunlight and usually improve with the arrival of spring," according to the American Psychiatric Association.

Spending time outside catching whatever little sun is available helps in dealing with SAD, the association says. As does "taking care of your general health and wellness (with)...regular exercise, healthy eating, getting enough sleep, and staying active and connected."

On general principle, Arno argued, the Mental Health trust should be trying hard to get Alaskans up and moving in winter rather than putting up disincentives to doing so.

And though the Trust has suggested the fee is necessary to make up for "negative impacts" to Trust lands by snowmachines and ATVs,



Arno noted, the agency has offered no evidence of damage.

At least what the Trust's land office considers "negative impacts" should be made clear, Arno argued, before the Trust imposes permit fees that are "exorbitant and not consistent with current motorized use on private lands" in the state."

Fight over almost nothing

The disagreement between the AOC and the Trust comes in the wake of a years-long battle between moose hunter John Sturgeon and the National Park Service on the seldom-visited Nation River in unroaded and remote northeast Alaska.

The Park Service did not impose a prohibitive fee on Sturgeon, but instead tried to simply kick him off the waterway in the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve because the agency didn't like his preferred type of boat – a hovercraft.

Because hovercraft are uniformly banned from heavily visited national parks in the Lower 48, the park said, they shouldn't be allowed in the wild parks of Alaska even though the park-enabling legislation – the Alaska National Interest Lands Act – said Alaska parks were to be treated differently.

Yukon-Charley is such a hard place to visit that the Park Service reported only 1,272 recreational visitors there last year, up from 952 the year before.

The Golden Gate National Recreation Area, the country's most visited park unit, averaged more people than that for every hour of every day last year, according to Park Service statistics.

But land disputes can get very contentious in Alaska no matter how few people are involved.

Sturgeon and the Park Service paid attorneys millions of dollars during the course of a 12-year-long legal battle that twice reached all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States, which eventually held that the Park Service had overstepped its authority.

Similar and related cases have followed. The state and Ahtna Inc., an Alaska regional Native corporation, are now in court fighting over who gets to control the access corridor along a rough, four-wheel drive road to Klutina Lake in northeast Alaska.

Ahtna sees the road as a low-investment, money-making opportunity. If it controls the land along the road, it can prohibit people from doing anything in the road corridor unless they pay an "access fee."

The road is adjacent to the Klutina River, a popular salmon fishing stream by the standards of the area. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game reported 3,734 anglers – or about 42 per day – fished the 63-mile long river over the course of the 2017 fishing season.

Most of the fishing took place near a Richardson Highway bridge that crosses the river near the community of Copper Center. Ahtna would not appear to stand to make much money off access fees, but a dollar is a dollar.

Trust's gold mine?

How much the Trust hopes to make off snowmachine riders is also

unknown. The agency offered no estimate.

Arno said in an interview that he has been unable to find anyone the Trust consulted on costs for the program or potential revenues. The Trust already collects tens of thousands of dollars indirectly from snowmachine riders.

It in 2013 agreed to rent the Matanuska-Susitna Borough easements protecting public use of several of the borough's most heavily traveled snowmachine trails – including the “Iron Dog” trail – through 2033 at a cost of \$67,000 per year.

Snowmachining is considered an economically important tourism activity in the Mat-Su Valley.

The easement corridors are limited to a width of 25-feet, and there are open areas where snowmachine riders clearly spread out behind the 25-foot width of the corridor.

Whether the Trust would try to require snowmachine riders using those trails to pony up for an access fee is unclear. Likewise the response of riders to such a demand.

“Compliance with such an exorbitant permit fee may be minimal, and enforcement would be problematic,” Arno wrote.

“The bad thing is that the parcels are all broken up,” Arno added in an interview. “There’s so many places here in Southcentral that you hit a piece of it.”

He has suggested the Trust might spend more money than it stands to make if it actually tries to post all of its and lands then enforce winter fee collection.

Opposition was already rising in independent-minded Fairbanks where local snowmachine dealer Craig Compeau called the fee crazy and credited Wyn Menefee, the director of the Trust’s Land Office in the Department of Natural Resources.

“Menefee never met a fee he didn’t like,” Compeau said.

Others questioned why, if snowmachine riders are being charged, mushers, fat bikers and others who followed snowmachine trails almost everywhere they go in Alaska these days aren’t being charged. The Trust is charged with managing its 1 million acres of Alaska land to raise maximum long-term revenues to help fund efforts to deal with the state’s serious mental health issues.

That’s all well and good, Arno wrote to Abbott, but “it is unclear from the notice whether TLO (Trust Land Office) is trying to collect funds to mitigate snowmachine and ATV use or whether the intent is to provide funding beneficial to trust beneficiaries.”

AOC, which represents about 10,000 members and 48 other non-government entities including several snowmachine groups, suggested the agency “withdraw its decision to charge recreational motorized users and clarify exactly what is the intent of permitting motorized use of snow machines and ATVs (less than 1,500 pounds) on Trust land.”

Sturgeon, who now sits on the board of directors for the Trust, said the organization’s board was never consulted about the plan.

“I don’t know anything,” other than what he’s heard from the AOC and snowmachine dealer who contacted him, he said in Tuesday interview.

“That’s first I heard about it,” he added. He has asked to have the issue put on the agenda for the board’s next meeting in hopes of clearing up the intent of the new fee. He admitted the proposed charge of \$250 to \$500 seems awfully high.

“A lot of people are kind of upset about this,” he said.

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conservation and public access to public lands.

Soon after his appointment, January 2, 2019, ADF&G Commissioner Doug-Vincent-Lang wrote to then-U.S. Deputy Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt, in response to two Secretarial Orders 3347 and 3356 directing DOI to improve consistency with state fish and wildlife management authority. The 40 page response laid out not only a series of issues with how DOI continues, through their policies and regulations to subvert the State’s regulatory authority over fish and game management, but also provided suggestions on how federal land management agencies could comply with current federal law in Alaska. ADF&G staff have continued to reiterate those concerns when federal land management plans and rulemaking are open for public comment. The latest example of the state’s efforts to regain fish and game management authority can be read in ADF&G’s comments to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on proposed rulemaking 2019-2020 Station-Specific Hunting and Fishing Regulations.

On January 25, 2019 Governor Dunleavy’s recently appointed Alaska Attorney General, Kevin Clarkson informed the Deputy Solicitor for the Department of the Interior (DOI) that the state of Alaska objected to Solicitor Opinion M-37043, “Authority to Acquire Land into Trust in Alaska.” No decision has yet been publicized by DOI, but in the meantime HR-375 was introduced in Congress that would allow all [229 Alaska Native tribes](#) to place their now-private lands into trust with the federal government. Along with a yes vote from Alaska’s lone Congressman, Don Young, the bill has passed the House and is waiting to be considered in the Senate. No effort has been made by Alaska’s Congressional Delegation to exclude a takeover of fish & game management on Native Trust lands, to my understanding.

On May 16, 2019 Attorney General Kevin Clarkson announced that the state had settled the long-standing dispute over the RS-2477 access on the Klutina Lake Road in the Copper River Basin. The agreement established a 100 foot public right-of-way from the Glenn Highway to Klutina Lake, just like the law says it should be. The agreement also dealt with the Gulkana River boat launch. Details are still being worked out as to how to provide a safe boat launch for the public use of the Gulkana River while at the same time respecting the Gulkana Native burial site located near the boat launch.

The Alaska Outdoor Council is pleased to see that the ADF&G Commissioner continues to monitor the salmon runs of Cook Inlet to assure conservation of all species of salmon while at the same time adhering to management plans regarding the allocation of harvest for all Alaska. Changing sea conditions in the Northern Pacific have certainly made salmon fisheries management statewide more complicated than in the past. AOC is supportive of Governor Dunleavy’s team’s efforts to provide harvest opportunities for Alaskan residents on a sustainable basis during changing sea conditions.

On May 22, 2019 Alaska’s Attorney General informed now-Secretary of the Interior, David Bernhardt, that Alaska is expecting full implementation of the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in the Sturgeon v. Frost case. That means statewide implementation on all federally-owned lands and waters, not just those lands managed by the National Park Service. It’s now been 6 months since the U.S. Supreme Court voted 9-0 to confirm that yes, Alaska land laws are different from the rest of the nation and that the federal land managers had best start following the law. Alaskans are still waiting to see the regulatory changes that DOI agencies and the US Forest Service are required to make.

The fate of Fish & Game Fund, AS 16.05.100, expenditures in next years state budget is still undetermined at this writing. AOC will continue to monitor and report back to the membership once we are assured the \$416,000 of dedicated funds is available to be used for the 3/1 PR match.

Who Owns/Manages Alaska?

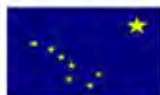
Private Ownership - 12.1%
45.2 million acres

State of Alaska - 24.1%
89.8 million acres



U.S. Government - 63.8%
237.8 million acres

Russian traders arrived in Alaska in the mid-1700's and established small, scattered trading posts and settlements. Alaska Natives (the Eskimo, Indian, and Aleut peoples) continued as the primary landowners during this period of Russian occupation. On October 18, 1867, Russia sold Alaska to the United States government. As a result, the federal government owned the Alaska Territory, approximately 373 million acres - about one-fifth the size of the rest of the U.S.



State of Alaska - 89.8 million acres

Under the terms of the Alaska Statehood Act of 1959, the federal government granted the new state 28% ownership of its total area. Approximately 103,350,000 acres were to be elected under three types of grants:

- 1) Community - 400,000 acres
- 2) National Forest Community - 400,000 acres
- 3) General - 102,550,000 acres

Additional territorial grants for schools, university and mental health trust lands, totaling 1.2 million acres were confirmed with statehood.

All grants combined gave the State of Alaska approximately 105 million acres. To date, 89.9 million acres has been granted with the balance expected to be granted by 2009.

ANCSA Native Corporation (Private)
39.3 million acres

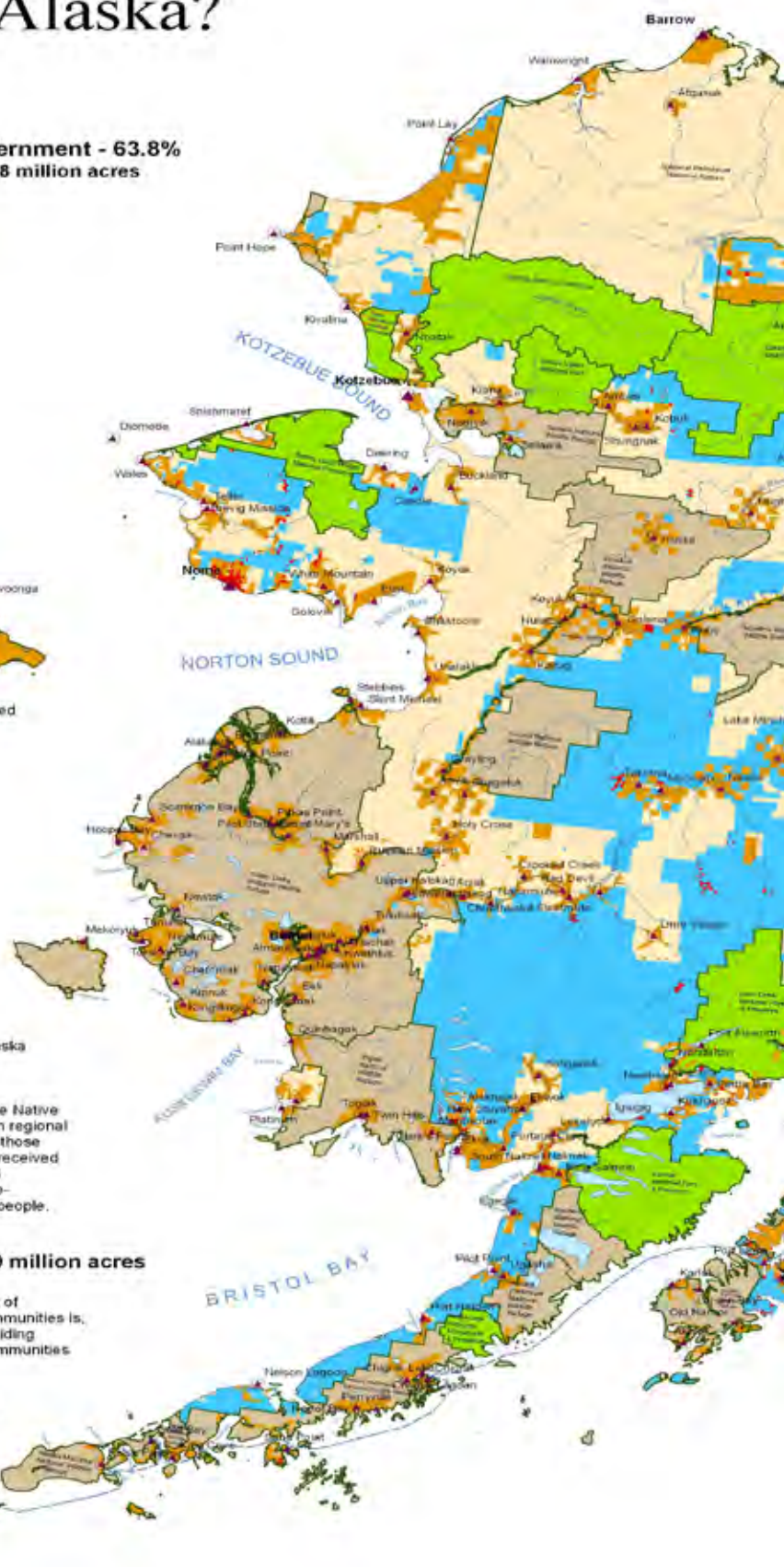
On December 18, 1971, P. L. 92-203, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act was signed into law. The purpose of ANCSA was to legislate the terms by which Alaska Natives could acquire title to their lands. This claim had been unresolved for more than 100 years since the United States purchased Alaska from Russia in 1867.

Native lands are private lands. ANCSA mandated the creation of regional and village Native corporations to manage 44 million acres and payment of one billion dollars. Thirteen regional corporations were created for the distribution of ANCSA land and money. Twelve of those shared in selection of 16 million acres, the thirteenth corporation, based in Seattle, received a cash settlement only. 224 village corporations, of 25 or more residents, shared 26 million acres. The remaining acres, which include historical sites and existing Native-owned lands, went into a land pool to provide land to small villages of less than 25 people. To date, 39.3 million acres have been transferred to ANCSA corporations.

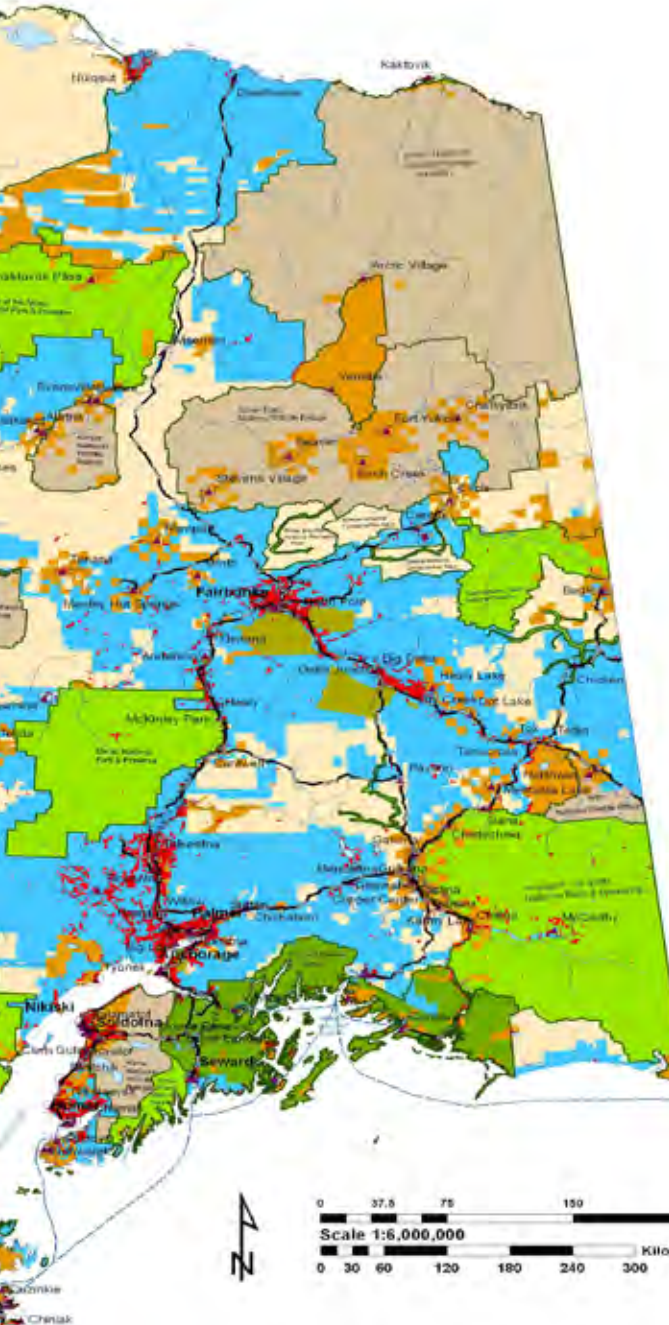
Non-ANCSA Private & Local Government - 5.9 million acres

Land in private ownership (other than Native land) comprises less than one percent of the total land in Alaska. Much of the best land for development around Alaska's communities is, or will be, privately owned. Private land development meets people's needs by providing places to live, work, shop and recreate. It also provides a tax base for cities and communities to help support public services.

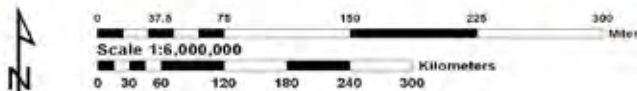
Because local governments in Alaska have individual methods of transferring land into private ownership, land currently owned by them is grouped into this category.







Alaska is one-fifth the size of the conterminous 48 states.



-  **Bureau of Land Management - 82.5 million acres**
In Alaska, BLM's focus is conveying land, wildland fire management, overseeing the Joint Pipeline Office (a partnership with the state and other federal agencies with oversight responsibility of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline), and responding to the public demand for use of the land they manage.
-  **U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service - 78.8 million acres**
The USFWS manages 16 wildlife refuges in Alaska. The two largest are the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge and much storied Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), both of which are approximately 19 million acres.
-  **National Park Service - 52.4 million acres**
There are eight national parks in Alaska, including the five largest in the national park system:
 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park & Preserve - 13,175,901 acres
 Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve - 8,472,506 acres
 Denali National Park & Preserve - 6,075,030 acres
 Katmai National Park & Preserve - 4,093,229 acres
 Lake Clark National Park & Preserve - 4,030,025 acres
-  **U.S. Forest Service - 22.3 million acres**
The USFS manages two National Forests in Alaska. The Tongass NF, 16.8 million acres, and the Chugach NF, 5.5 million acres are the two largest national forests in the U.S. The USFS manages these lands for a wide range of goods and services while conserving and protecting them.
-  **Department of Defense - 1.7 million acres**
Dept. of Defense lands in Alaska provide for a unique training environment, most notably at the Northern Warfare Training Center in the Tanana Valley in the Interior.



-  Highway
-  Alaska Marine Highway System (state ferry) Route
-  Town, population more than 2500
-  Town, population less than 2500



Maps produced by the
Alaska Dept of Natural Resources
Division of Forestry

Dual “Dueling” Fish & Game Management

Are you hunting, trapping, or fishing under State of Alaska or Federal Regulations?

By Rod Arno

No other state in the union has two sets of hunting and fishing regulations. Alaska is different because of the largest lands bill ever passed by the U.S. Congress. The **Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act** (ANILCA) passed in 1980, created two different sets of citizens, based on where you live. Dividing hunters wasn't the main issue that Congress was trying to fix with the passage of an Alaska lands bill, hunters just got caught in the crossfire. The battle over the passage of ANILCA was between resource developers and preservationists. Preservationist found a local ally with Alaska Native villagers by supporting a rural priority to all fish and game on federal lands and waters. They won and that is the law today (ANILCA Title VIII Sec.804(2)) a different set of rules to hunt and fish on federal lands/waters based on where you live.

Today there are two types of Alaska resident hunters, trappers, and fish gathers;

1) A federally qualified subsistence user (FQSU) as determined by your zip code.

Under ANILCA Title VIII these residents have a hunting and fishing priority on federal lands (220 million acres) under Federal Subsistence Board (FSB) regulations.

Plus, they also can hunt, trap, and fish under State of Alaska regulations.

2) All Alaskan resident regardless of where they live can hunt, trap, and fish under Alaska Boards of Game & Fisheries regulations; general, personal use, or subsistence regulations on state and private lands. (144 million acres) Today the majority of federal lands in Alaska are open to hunting under State general hunt regulations. Meaning it's possible FQSU folks are hunting the same animal as non-rural residents on the same federal lands but with different seasons, bag limits, or sex and antler configurations harvest restrictions.

You have to wonder how Alaska's congressional delegation and governor ever thought dividing hunters by where they lived in the Alaska Lands bill would be a workable law?

Alaska Senator Mike Gravel knew an Alaska lands bill crafted by Congress in the mid-'70s would not be in Alaska's best interest. Gravel did everything he could to kill it. Alaska's other Senator, Ted Stevens and Governor Jay Hammond were convinced on November 16, 1978 when Secretary of the Interior Cecil Andrus closed 110

million acres of Alaska to development under the Federal Lands Policy Management Act (FLPMA) Sec. 204(e) followed a couple of weeks later by President Jimmie Carter invoking the Antiquities Act to turn 56 million acres of that into national monuments, that the state had no choice but to give in before it got worse. They did and ANILCA with a rural resident priority to public resources (fish and game) became law December 1980.

Will dual management of fish and game in Alaska be forever?

The FSB has been managing subsistence use on Alaska federal lands/waters for over 25 years. The only way to get federal management of subsistence uses away from federal land managers is to have the State of Alaska allow the same rural resident hunting and fishing priority on state and private lands.

Plus, the state would then need to allocate subsistence harvest based on what was customarily and traditionally practiced, not just give rural residents a reasonable opportunity to harvest, *Bobby v State of Alaska*, 1989.

Alaska's Congressional Delegation allowed hunters, trappers, and fish gathers to be separated into two groups based on where they live, it appears that they are unable to fix that. The state has tried

working with the FSB, as well as challenging the FSB in federal court, 9th Circuit Court, *State of Alaska v. FSB* in 2008, for not follow their own laws (50 CFR 100.1). The FSB won in federal court and non-rural resident hunters, trappers, and anglers continue to lose harvest opportunities when a reasonable opportunity to harvest fish and game is available.

Since Alaska's Congressional delegation has been unable to remedy the conflicts caused by federal fish and game management the Alaska Outdoor Council supports

adding a voting seat on the FSB for the Alaska Commissioner of the Department Fish & Game. At least that way the state's long-time expertise in conserving fish and game for the benefit of all Alaskans can be part of the discussion during FSB deliberation.

As long as it appears dual fish and game management is here to stay, and you support adding a seat for the state on the FSB it would be helpful if you would contact Governor Dunleavy and Alaska's Congressional delegation and ask for their help.



Benjamin J. Mulligan

Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G)

There is nowhere else like Alaska when it comes to the outdoors. Rich hunting, fishing, trapping and public access opportunities are still available in the 49th state, in large part, because users play an active role in how our resources are managed. It's part of the legacy of Alaska and one I'm proud to share with members of the Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC).

As the newly appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), I anticipate we will be working together and I want to take this opportunity to introduce myself.

I am a lifelong Alaskan. I grew up in Palmer surrounded by a family that loved to be outside and plenty of opportunity to take advantage of what Alaska has to offer. On any day growing up you might find me cross-country skiing in Crevasse Moraine, hiking in Hatcher Pass, hunting in the Talkeetna Mountains or fishing in nearly any lake or stream I could find.

When I wasn't outside, I was involved in the outdoor community. I remember volunteering at my first AOC annual banquet and fundraiser at Lake Lucille. It was the first of many AOC, and other outdoorsmen, events I would assist with over the years.

Given my upbringing, it was no surprise that by the time I went away to college at the University of Wyoming, I knew I was going to make the outdoors my career. My first job as a student was at the ADF&G. It was a month-long summer position as a fish technician—I loved it. From that year forward during my college years, I spent every summer break working on fisheries-related projects for the department across the state. I counted sockeye salmon from a scaffolding tower out in Bristol Bay, I worked on an in-river test fishery on the lower Copper River and sampled cutthroat and rainbow trout on the eastside of the Copper River Delta. When I graduated with my B.S. in Biology, my emphasis in fisheries was a given.

Soon after college, I went to work as a legislative aide for Rep. Bill Stoltze, who represented a portion of the Mat-Su Valley and Chugiak/Peters Creek/Birchwood areas. Rep. Stoltze was a stalwart of the sportsman's community and I was honored to work with him on outdoors issues. I spent my days talking to constituents, attending meetings and handling any fish and game issues that arose.

My work with Rep. Stoltze was a great opportunity to learn more about Alaska's fish and game issues. It also led to my position as legislative liaison for the ADF&G.

I spent nearly five years as the ADF&G legislative liaison. During those years, I traversed the legislative arena and tried

to learn as much as I could about everything the department does. The work was exciting, full of surprises and full of passionate people both inside and outside the department who felt strongly about the issues and loved Alaska's outdoors as much as I do.

In August 2015 I left the department for a short period. But I didn't leave my love for Alaska's outdoors behind. I stayed engaged in the issues impacting Alaska's fish and wildlife resources and connected to the people utilizing the resource by sitting on the boards of the Alaska Chapter of the Safari Club International, the Outdoor Heritage Foundation of Alaska and the Sportsmen's Conservation Alliance.

Today, I've rejoined the department and it's great to be back. Commissioner Vincent-Lang is an excellent choice to lead



the ADF&G given his extensive history and expertise. He's building a great team that I'm already finding is a pleasure to work with.

As we move forward under this new administration, I look forward to working with the AOC. I hope see you at the Anchorage banquet on February 9th.

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Annual Awards Banquet 2019 in Fairbanks, Alaska

By Bill Iverson, President - Alaska Outdoor Council

Awards Recipients

Sydney Huntington Award - Teresa Sager-Albaugh

Outstanding Supporter - Interior Airboaters Association

Outstanding Supporter - Emerald Isle (Dave Lambert)

Outstanding Member of the Year - Tammi Linn

Business of the Year - Castle Rock Storage

Member Club of the Year - Delta Sportsman's Association, Inc.

Legislator of the Year - Sen. Pete Kelly



Tammi Linn
with Kenai Red Salmon

Alaska Trust Fund – A Gift to Alaska

-- investing the resources of today to protect fishing, hunting, trapping & access for the Alaskans of tomorrow.

By Mary Bishop, Secretary, Alaska Trust Fund

How can you and I be assured our younger generations can learn the values associated with harvesting wild foods? How can we defend the opportunity to harvest now and in the future?

The AOC and Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund help. And in 2002 the Fund established an endowment account called the **Alaska Trust Fund** to build an account large enough so the interest would cover the operating costs of the parent Fund. the goal of the Alaska Trust Fund is to reach the endowment level of \$1 million.

Every dollar invested in the Trust is protected - only the interest it generates can be spent. Every dollar



donated to the Trust stays right here at home - protecting the outdoor heritage you and I have grown to love and enjoy.

Trust Fund trustees Warren, Byron, Kenton, Ron, Dick and I **ask you to consider an annual gift to the Trust Fund.** Become a Trustee by donating \$250. Make it permanent by adding \$750 over 3 more years. Other

donation options are available.

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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Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund

Obituaries

Candy Waugaman dies

AOC lost another long-time friend and benefactor with the recent passing on January 12, 2019 of Candy Waugaman. Candy was the ultimate Alaskan collector and addict to Alaskan history, especially the Interior. She shared her knowledge and many parts of her collections whenever and wherever she thought there was good cause.

Candy's husband Bill raised substantial funds to found the reorganized AOC in 1983, and supported it the rest of his life. After his passing Candy continued supporting AOC's tax deductible sister organization, the Alaska Fish and Wildlife Conservation Fund, with generous donations from Bill's estate and her collections. She was undoubtedly the most generous individual donor to the AOC/Fund Banquet and Auction right up through 2018.

Each year as fall approached Candy would get in touch with me and say, "Dick, do you want some of my JUNK for your Auction?" Of course, I said "Yes." Her donations were amazing in volume, variety and value. But the best part of it was the great stories about Alaska history and the people who had lived and were living it that she enthusiastically dove into when I showed up to accept the donations. Often the stories were about some of the donations. For me, each visit included a unique glimpse of past and present Alaskan life.

Candy was not a hunter, fisher, or shooter but she always supported those who were, from her husband Bill right on through her remarkable life. AOC respects her contributions to all Alaskans and honors her memory.

Remembering John B. "Jack" Coghill By Dick Bishop

Jack Coghill of Nenana cut a wide swath in Nenana and Alaska life during his 93 years (1925-2019). He was a "get 'er done" guy. Many of his efforts directly or indirectly benefitted AOC, beginning with the Alaska Constitutional Convention in which he and other delegates provided for equal rights under state law and the common use and equal opportunity provisions regarding wild renewable resources such as fish and game. These provisions remain intact today, in spite of numerous attempts to compromise them.

As Lieutenant Governor, Jack initiated the project to document Alaska's RS2477 trails and hired Kathleen "Mike" Dalton to lead the project. The result was verification of the legal legitimacy of over 1000 trails around the State and recognition in state statute of several hundred of them. Unfortunately, the federal government has until recently consistently dodged its obligation to officially recognize those trails as public access.

Jack went on to help in the battle to moderate the effect of the Alaska National Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) on Alaskans' lives. In the course of that long and hot controversy Jack took a lot of criticism and even threats to his

Nenana business, but he stuck to the principles of equality among Alaskans and the right of the State to manage its fish and game. Both are principles that AOC continues to advocate.

My wife Mary and I were fortunate to attend the impressive memorial ceremony for Jack in Nenana -- impressive in its hometown traditions, faith, family, community tributes and hospitality to guests from around the state, including past and present legislators, Lieutenant Governors and Governors.

Kathleen "Mike" Dalton passes

"Alaska's Outdoors is Yours!" Mike Dalton coined this by-line for the Fairbanks AOC/Fund Banquet in the '90's, and it stuck. She wanted everyone to know that all Alaskans have equal rights to enjoy and benefit from all of Alaska's wild heritage...and that AOC is dedicated to promoting and defending those rights, privileges, and responsibilities. Contributing this by-line is just one of Mike Dalton's many contributions to AOC.

For years Mike volunteered for the toughest jobs at the annual Fairbanks fundraiser -- cleaning up the kitchen/serving areas before and after the 500 guest event. Each year she'd say "I'm getting too old for this!" Then she'd do it all again, using heaps of her own stuff to get the job done right.

When Lt. Governor Coghill launched the RS2477 trails documentation project, he hired Mike to oversee it. With a small but dedicated staff the project documented the legal legitimacy of hundreds of RS2477 trails all over Alaska. Mike then convinced the Legislature to recognize in statute over 500 of those trails, and to provide for future additions annually. When the Knowles administration eliminated the RS2477 project and Mike's job, the fate of all the work was in doubt. Mike and Lisa Harbo, on behalf of AOC, tackled the huge job of copying all the documentation, filing it with the federal BLM, placing a full set in the UAF Library Archives, and providing AOC with a full set. AOC's set is in fireproof locked storage in Fairbanks.

Mike staunchly supported the civil rights of all Alaskans and US citizens. She especially supported the individual right to keep and bear arms. Her revolver travelled with her--and she travelled a lot!

In September 2018 Mike, at age 93, presided at the dedication of an interpretive sign on the Dalton Highway honoring her late husband Jim Dalton, whom the highway is named after, who worked in oil and gas exploration for the Navy in National Petroleum Reserve #4 and the North Slope oil fields. It was Mike's last and most cherished project. Typically, she saw it completed, with the help of family and friends, before passing away on Jan 29, 2019, after a long life of adventures and accomplishments. A memorial service will be held on March 9 at Pioneer Hall in Fairbanks.

Few people have done so much for Alaska, Alaskans of all walks of life, and the Alaska Outdoor Council.

Theresa Woldstad

New AOC/AFWCF Board Member

I was born on Kodiak Island and spent much of my early childhood in Craig on Prince of Wales Island. I later moved to North Pole and spend my teenage years navigating the Interior road and river system. I grew up fishing, hunting, trapping, and camping with my family across the many communities and environments of Alaska. Over the years I helped my family build two hunting and fishing cabins at Birch Lake and Happy Valley. I attended the University of Alaska and earned a Master's of Science in Wildlife and certification as an Associate Wildlife Biologist by The Wildlife Society. I worked for over twelve field seasons as ADF&G fisheries technician and fisheries biologist on the Alaska Peninsula, Kodiak Island, and the Kenai Peninsula for both sport and commercial fisheries divisions. The history of fish and wildlife management and law in Alaska has always been my passion. I am currently finishing up a second masters in Native Arts with an emphasis on regulatory authority and history of customary native arts materials harvest and management.



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