



# Outdoor Alaska



The Official Publication of the Alaska Outdoor Council and Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund

"Protecting your hunting, fishing, trapping, and outdoor heritage since 1955"

Volume 17, Issue 1

[www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org](http://www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org)

Spring 2008

## Schedule of Upcoming Events:

**May 3 Fairbanks**  
Friends of NRA Dinner/Auction 452-8431

**May 4 Anchorage**  
Alaska Chapter; Safari Club  
International Annual Meeting 745-3772

**May 13, 6:30pm-8:30pm Eagle River VFW**  
AOAA Meeting

**May 17, 11am- 4pm Fairbanks**  
AK Dept. Fish & Game: 1300 College Rd  
Kid's Fish & Game Fun Day 459-7205

**May 17, 10am; 2pm BBQ Knik PUA**  
Jim Creek Cleanup 222-7676

**May 29-30 Wasilla/Anchorage**  
Midnight Sun Charity Shootout & Banquet  
745-6166

**June Fairbanks**  
AK Conservation Camp 3 M-F Camps  
Registration NOW Open  
[www.aimcomm.org](http://www.aimcomm.org) or 479-2340  
(see page 15 for more details)

**June 5, 7pm- 9pm Eagle River VFW**  
Alaska ATV Club Meeting

**June 10, 6:30-8:30pm Eagle River VFW**  
AOAA Meeting

**July 11-13 Fairbanks**  
Fairbanks Retriever Club AKC Field Trial  
488-1264

**June 13-15 Fairbanks**  
Fairbanks Retriever Club AKC Hunt Tests  
488-1264

**August 8-10 Juneau**  
Golden North Salmon Derby 790-2920

**August 26 Statewide**  
Primary Election: State & Federal Elections  
Ballot Initiatives  
<http://www.elections.alaska.gov>

### For schedules see:

Alaska Boards of Fisheries & Game  
<http://www.boards.adfg.state.ak.us>

Federal Subsistence Board Schedule  
<http://alaska.fws.gov/asm/deadline.cfm>

## BLM Making Plans for a BIG Bite of Alaska: Eastern Interior RMP Underway

By Executive Director Rod Arno & Mary Bishop

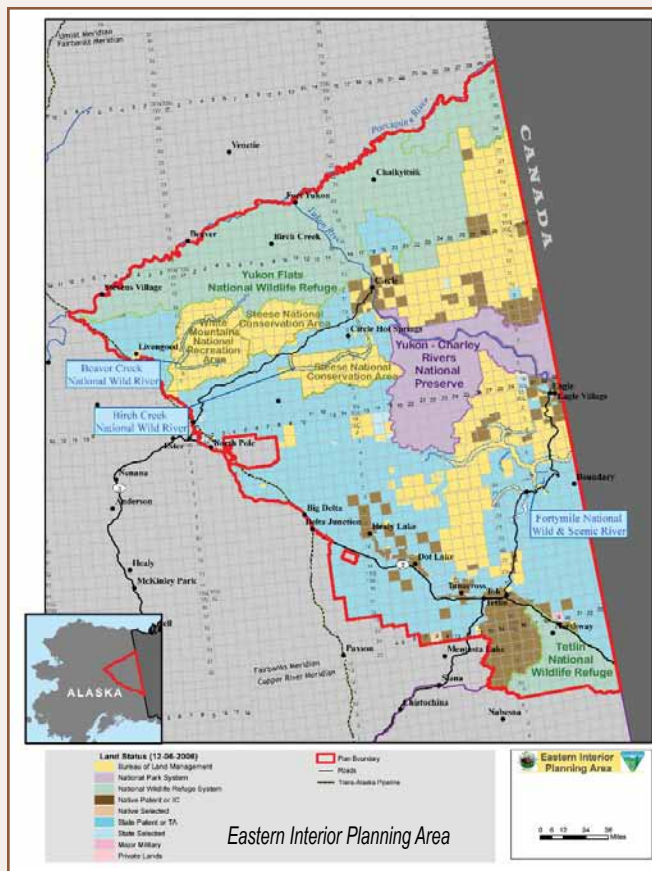
Public access regulations for residents to trails on and across BLM lands in a large area of the state will be determined in a planning process now underway by BLM. Trail access for motorized, non-motorized, horse, ORV, etc. users will be a part of the planning. Likewise, allowed river access and use by recreational and commercial users will be part of the plan. "It will identify lands available for certain uses, along with any restrictions on those uses, and will identify lands closed to certain uses."

The general public has until July 1, 2008 to submit comments helping shape the alternatives for the Resource Management Plan (RMP). Early next year, when these Draft alternatives or options to the RMP are made public, there is very little change that we, as the public, can put into effect.

**Take Action:** Participate in the process. Email AOC's Executive Director Rod Arno at [aoc@alaska.net](mailto:aoc@alaska.net) if you would like to be on an AOC committee for the next year or two helping to formulate the final RMP.

**More Information on the Eastern Interior Planning Area can be found on the BLM website:**  
[www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/east\\_int\\_rmp.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/east_int_rmp.html)

**Background:** Public "scoping" meetings were held in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Tok and Delta Junction during April. Others will be held in May and June. The planning process began in February of this year; the draft alternatives will be formulated during October-December of this year and made public for review and comment in 2009.



For graphic representation only

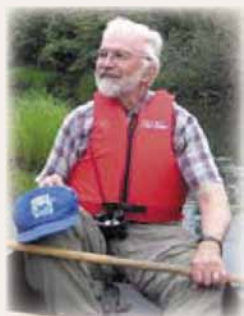
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# President's Message

By Richard Bishop, AOC President



## Notes & Quotes From "Here and There", "Back When" and "Now"

Regarding Alaska's land conveyances (see story on 17(b) easements). "For whatever reasons, much bureaucratic inefficiency has come between the people of Alaska... and the land that was promised to us both at statehood and in 1971 when the

Alaska Native Claims Settlement was passed".

...Gov. Jay Hammond, Aug. 12, 1977. *Testimony, House Merchant Marine & Fisheries Comm., subcommittee on fisheries, wildlife, and environment.*

Regarding subsistence: "Now 'subsistence' is but one more prime example of one of those labels which can be read from many angles. I have equated the word 'subsistence' to the word pornography: no one can define it, but we all know it when we see it".

... Gov. Jay Hammond, August 12, 1977, same testimony

"I believe the issue could be defused by amending the subsistence statute to grant preference only where resources were insufficient to meet the quantifiable "needs" of those truly most dependent. Imperfect yardstick though it is, income level may be the best and most acceptable "need" measure. "Customary and traditional" usage, on the other hand, defies definition, much less measure".

... Gov. Jay Hammond, State of the State address, Jan. 12, 1982

"In our villages, I see mostly government-built homes. Some people do what they can to catch a few fish, maybe get a moose and very few are setting traps. I see an increasing dependence on government handouts: housing, energy assistance, food stamps, and welfare. In comparison to when I was younger, when people really depended on the land to survive, there is very little activity on that land today."

...Sidney Huntington of Galena, Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, 4/13/08

Regarding wolf management: "In short and crude terms, the number of people who love wolves has increased, but the number of those who understand its ecological context has probably decreased. From the excesses of indiscriminate wolf killing, we often moved to excesses of wolf protection...after decades of advocacy for wolf conservation using all possible means to sell the goal of wolf recovery, it is now necessary to start advocating for compromise between wolf and human interest."

...L. David Mech and Luigi Boitani, "Wolves: Behavior, Ecology & Conservation" 2003

In Wyoming federal agents are aerial shooting wolves after receiving a permit from the State. "...the federal government received a kill permit from the state... The US Fish and Wildlife Service killed 63 wolves in Wyoming last year..."

...Fairbanks Daily News Miner, April 10, 2008, AP, Lander, WY

"Oh, the times, they are a changin"

... Bob Dylan ■

## Outdoor Alaska

...is the official quarterly publication of the Alaska Outdoor Council Inc. and the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund.

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Contact (907) 376-2913.

### AOC Offices:

**Main Office:**

P.O. Box 73902

Fairbanks, AK 99707

ph 455-4262 • fax 455-6447

aoc@alaska.net

**Wasilla Office:**

P.O. Box 87-1069

Wasilla, AK 99687

fax 376-7197

**Juneau Office:**

Assembly Bldg. 211-4th St.

Suite 302A

Juneau, AK 99801

### AOC Staff:

**Executive Director:**

Rod Arno

ph 376-2913

**Bookkeeper:**

Barbara Konecny



# 2008 Legislative Session Wrap Up

By Rod Arno, AOC Executive Director



Like it or not, maintaining our outdoor lifestyle is a political endeavor. It would be nice if we could just go about our hunting, fishing, trapping and enjoying the experiences Alaska has to offer, but “they” just won’t leave us alone. When the state legislature gavel into session we never know what we’re going to get, or where it’s going to come from. We could define a “good year” as a legislative session where nothing happens. Fortunately, there are a number of people in the legislature who enjoy the Alaska outdoor lifestyle and look after us.

After watching the Board of Fish neglect escapement shortfalls in the Yentna River drainage, the legislature expressed their lack of confidence in the board by establishing an Upper Cook Inlet Task Force to examine the problems. Senators Lyda Green and Charlie Huggins started the task force in the Senate; Representatives Bill Stoltze and Mark Neuman put the finishing touches on in the House. AOC looks forward to a forum where our members can speak directly to legislative leaders about the board’s failed process, their lack of attention to sustainability, and their failure to recognize demographic and social changes in making allocation decisions. Membership on the task force will include five senators and five representatives. As we went to press there was no word on who might be appointed, or when they would meet, but we’ll keep you informed.

The other good news in the fisheries area is the failure of the Board of Fish Conflict of Interest bill. Com Fish legislators have been trying for years to allow members of the Board of Fish to serve even if they have a conflict of interest. AOC has always opposed this bill, and we’ve stopped it before. This year AOC members can thank Senator Lesil McGuire for holding the bill in her committee. AOC wants to see fish board members who want to serve for the public interest, not their own interest.

Legislators also addressed key game management issues. At the AOC annual meeting delegates voted to support HB 256/SB 176 – the bills sponsored by AOC member Governor Sarah Palin combining the laws on predator control and aerial shooting. The bill passed the House with good support but ended up languishing

and finally dying in the Senate Judiciary Committee, chaired by Senator Hollis French, an Anchorage Democrat.

Another bill supported by the delegates was SB 306/HB348, legislation defining wildlife as an asset of the state. Courts have already ruled that fish are an asset. The senate bill passed on adjournment day, thanks to help from the sponsor, Sen. Charlie Huggins. Representative Wes Keller, sponsor of the house bill, also helped keep the ball moving. The anti’s promised a lawsuit over this one, so stand by.

Along with legislation AOC members and clubs had an interest in a number of capital budget appropriations. Some of the most important are: \$388,000 for completion of the Juneau Indoor Shooting Range; \$340,000 for site selection, planning, design and construction of a Mat Valley Shooting Range; \$245,000 for the Tanana Valley Shooting Range and Clubhouse; \$25,000 for Petersburg Shooting Range improvements, and \$3,100,000 for Sportfish Recreational Boating Access. Even though this money was appropriated by the legislature, it can still be cut out of the budget by the Governor. If you support these projects, call the Governor’s office at 465-3500 and let her know.

One of the most controversial issues in the budget was funding for construction of new fish hatcheries in Anchorage and Fairbanks. The legislature funded these projects two years ago, but constructions costs have risen so dramatically that the amount appropriated would not have completed the projects. The legislature initially appropriated \$62

million dollars for the projects; in the capital budget for the upcoming fiscal year the legislature appropriated another \$70.6 million. Construction of the Fairbanks hatchery is expected to begin first, as site preparation has already begun.

This was the first time the legislature had to work within the new 90-day session limit approved by voters in the fall 2006 general election. In order to get their work done on time legislators moved bills through the system much faster. Luckily, AOC members and clubs were quick to respond to our alerts so we could make our voice heard. We look forward to continuing our work with our legislature so you can pass your outdoor traditions on to your kids and grandkids. ■



Photo courtesy of Foy Nevers

These fellows have “stepped up to the plate”, working hard to protect your outdoor interests –

**The Council and Fund Boards of Directors and Executive Director**

Back row: Foy Nevers, Sitka; Ex. Dir. Rod Arno, Palmer; Dave Ausman, Anchorage; Todd Clark, Anchorage  
Front row: President Dick Bishop, Fairbanks; Byron Haley, Fairbanks; Wayne Nicolls, Juneau; Tom Lamal, Fairbanks.  
Not present: Patrick Valkenburg, Fairbanks

## Byron Haley - "Anchorman"

By Richard Bishop, AOC President

Photos courtesy of Rob Hams

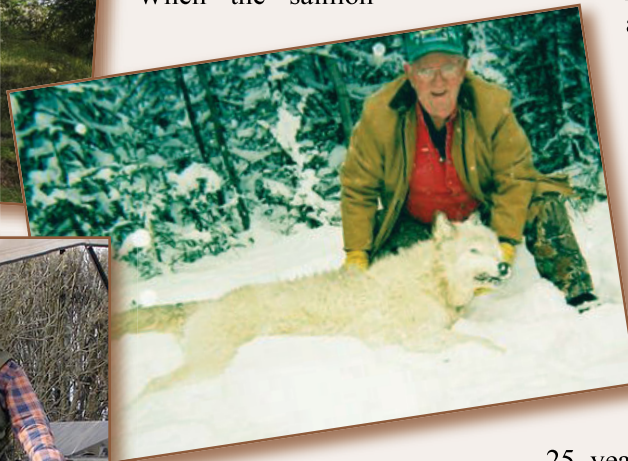
Most small non-profit special interest outfits are perennially challenged by shortages of volunteers and dollars. Folks' interests wax and wane depending on the importance of current issues to them.

Every once in a while there's someone who makes a commitment to conservation and sticks with it through thick and thin. One of those people is Byron Haley.

Byron came to Alaska from Duluth in April 1948 after Navy service in World War II. He and a buddy cranked up his old truck and headed North. Soon after reaching Fairbanks, Byron went to work for the Alaska Railroad. He stuck with the ARR for 30 years, working his way up from brakeman to conductor to yardmaster and eventually to General Yardmaster in Fairbanks by the time he retired in 1978.



All during this time Byron was an avid fisher and hunter, and still is. When the salmon



run in Susitna River tributaries, Byron's there. Long an active dipnetter, he is President of the Chitina Dipnetters Association. After salmon fishing, he's off to his cabin on the Goodpaster River looking for moose. A few years ago he was a key "crewman" in his partner's successful Delta bison hunt. For nearly 20 years Byron served on the Fairbanks Fish & Game Advisory Committee, 15 years as secretary.

Byron's not one of your flashy orators, but he's a stickler for getting the facts and making sure they're known to fish and game boards, agencies, legislators and his fellow volunteers.

When AOC reorganized in 1983, we also established the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund with its Trustee program. Byron signed up as a Trustee. At the time, Trustees pledged to donate \$1,000 per year.

This year, 2008, marks Byron's 25th year as a Trustee and Byron has faithfully kept that pledge every single year. Even though the minimum Trustee donation in recent years was reduced to \$250, Byron has continued his annual \$1000 donation. Practically no other member has matched his financial support of the Trust Fund, and none have matched his long-term, consistent support.

Like his steady financial support, Byron has worked for AOC and the Fund as a Fund Board member, Trustee Advisory Board Vice-Chair and on all kinds of volunteer jobs during those 25 years. He's accomplished all of this with good humor, diplomacy and respect for others, including those with whom he may not agree.

Thank you, "Old Salt", for being our "Anchorman"!!! ■



## BLM Making Plans for a BIG Bite of Alaska: Eastern Interior RMP Underway *continued from page 1*

BLM Eastern Interior Field Manager Lenore Heppler explained the purpose for these meetings as an "informal process of two-way information sharing and gathering between the BLM and the public. It gives the public a significant voice and opportunity to help shape and direct the BLM planning process."

The results of the planning process determine the actions BLM will take on federal lands within an 8 million acre area depicted in yellow on front page map. The planning area includes, in part, these federally designated areas.

- White Mts. National Recreation Area
- Steese National Conservation Area
- Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve
- Beaver Creek National Wild River
- Birch Creek National Wild River
- Fortymile National Wild & Scenic River
- Parts of Yukon Flats NWR
- Parts of the Tetlin NWR ■

# Wildlife Management in Rural Alaska — Getting Beyond ANILCA & ANCSA Controversies

*By Patrick Valkenburg, AOC Vice-President (Interior)*

Together, the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) in 1971 and the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) in 1980 caused a great upheaval in the way Alaskans view land and in the way wildlife in rural areas can be managed to benefit people. Like all major upheavals there has been a mix of positive and negative consequences, many of which were not foreseen when these laws were contemplated and eventually passed. Many Alaskans who experienced Alaska during the 1960s and 1970s view that period as the “good old days” when the land was wild and Alaska’s relatively small population had great personal freedom to use it for subsistence, recreation, and profit. State management agencies like the Alaska Department of Fish and Game did not have to be concerned about land ownership—land was largely either BLM managed or state owned and the concept of state management of resident wildlife was unchallenged.

Although passed in 1971, the initial effects of ANCSA were subtle and changes in land status were slow to occur, but the law has gradually resulted in a paradigm shift in how Native people view the land and in how other Alaskans are affected. Previously, Native people did not view land as a commodity or something that could be owned but as something that was entrusted to people for sustenance. ANCSA forced a change to mainstream American ideas of private ownership, trespass concerns, profit making, and control. Many older Native people were not comfortable with those changes and opposed ANCSA from the beginning for those reasons.

Although that battle is over now, controversy over the effects of this changed land ethic will continue for many years. In Southeast Alaska, for example, a younger generation of Native Alaskans is unhappy with the way regional and village corporations engaged in early, poor and unsustainable logging practices to maximize short-term income. In Interior Alaska, in recent years, village and regional corporations have taken measures to keep non shareholders off Native lands. Popular moose hunting areas around Manley Hot Springs used for generations by both Native and non native Manley residents were recently closed to trespass by non shareholders. Even remote, undeveloped corporate lands in the Brooks Range have been closed to trespass. It will be years before these conflicts play out and appropriate compromises and solutions may be reached.

The effects of ANILCA were much more sudden than those of ANCSA but they have been no less traumatic, especially for older Alaskans who remember the good old days of the 1960s and 1970s. Unnecessary closure of hunting in huge areas of the Wrangell Mountains and Brooks Range as National Parks will rankle many Alaskans for life.

The imposition of the unwieldy and inefficient dual wildlife management system is one of the major unforeseen negative consequences of ANILCA that seems to defy logic (and resolution).

However, rather than continue to dwell on the negative consequences of ANCSA and ANILCA, I think it time for Alaskans to come together and take advantage of possibilities that these laws have presented by creating programs that will benefit all Alaskans and perhaps one day lead to solutions to some of the more intractable problems.

One area that we might be able to make real progress in is wildlife management in rural Alaska.

One of the benefits that Native people hoped to gain from ANCSA was greater control and involvement in management decisions on lands in the immediate vicinity of villages. Most of these lands are now owned by village or regional corporations and non shareholders are generally not permitted to hunt there except on the state-owned navigable waters that pass through them (below the ordinary high water level). However, wildlife management decisions on those lands are entirely the responsibility of the Alaska Board of Game and ADF&G. Traditionally, and because of cost and lack of personnel, ADF&G has not focused management efforts on a scale that small. There are some exceptions, like the experimental management program at McGrath, and local Fish and Game Advisory Committees have provided useful local input, but there is a growing frustration in the bush that village lands are not delivering the tangible benefits or the sense of local control and involvement that were envisioned with the passage of ANCSA and ANILCA.

One approach would be for the Board of Game and the Legislature to delegate some of the responsibility for management and administration to local government entities. The exact structure of such programs will require considerable thought to make them provide what local people want, yet maintain the protections afforded to all Alaskans under the common use clause of the state constitution.

One idea would be for the Board of Game to designate areas around villages as “Village Wildlife Management Areas” and use existing regulatory mechanisms like Community Harvest Quotas with long seasons to accommodate local uses. Local governments could be given administrative responsibility for monitoring harvest (with oversight by ADF&G), and the Board could provide villages with discretionary and transferable “landowner permits” for hunting, similar to those provided to large land holders in the lower 48 states.

*continued on page 6*

## Wildlife Management in Rural Alaska — Getting Beyond ANILCA & ANCSA Controversies *continued from page 5*

In some cases, the federal government is already funding local wildlife management programs by providing grants to tribal governments for wildlife surveys and other management activities. So far, these programs have met with mixed success because the federal grant process is cumbersome and burdened with paperwork. In addition, a fundamental flaw with these federal grants is that although the federal government provides the money, the state has the responsibility for management of wildlife and harvest on private lands.

The initial funding for new programs for village wildlife management would likely require some general fund money from the state and/or federal government and help from ADF&G in developing basic wildlife management plans. Obviously, a major long-term goal for such programs would be financial sustainability. To maintain as much local control as possible, it

would be best if the money for these programs and local salaries could be generated locally. One mechanism for doing this might be the sale of some “landowner permits” to outside hunters to generate the money to run the program. It would be important that most of the money generated by these permits goes to the community and not to individuals.

Whatever the exact mechanism for providing better village wildlife management programs, it is clear that the state needs to address this issue soon. The potential long-term benefits to all Alaskans are huge, and successful village wildlife management programs could help reduce the conflicts over use of remote state and federal public lands. Now that the land ownership system in Alaska has changed forever, it is time for the state to embrace the change and modify its management practices for the benefit of its new large private landholders and others. ■

## ANCSA 17(b) Easements: Can you get there from here?

*By Richard Bishop, AOC President*

Do you have favorite trails and access points to them and to rivers and lakes? Do you know if those trails and access points are on lands selected by Native Corporations? Public lands may be inaccessible when no easement goes through Corporate land.

The public has already lost several popular access points as lands were conveyed by the state and feds to private ownership. The public must express interest in retaining traditional public access routes.

17(b) easements are public access rights reserved to the United States on lands conveyed to Village or Regional Native Corporations through the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA). Their purposes are to provide “...a full right of public use and access for recreation, hunting, transportation, utilities, docks, and other such public purposes...”

BLM is holding public meetings around the state on 17(b) easements across Native Regional and Village Corporation lands. The meetings are to inform people of the process and get input before deciding which lands are conveyed and which easements will be reserved for public use. Currently, easements on Ahtna selected lands are under review. Next are Doyon lands.

Reports exist of Corporations posting popular traditional trails and trailheads with signs that imply the trails and adjacent lands are off limits because of Corporation land selections. Some people have been convinced to go elsewhere. However, BLM points out on its website that “public lands” includes not only federal, state, and municipal lands (and waters) but “also includes lands selected by, but not conveyed to, a Native Corporation”. Signs suggesting otherwise are a deceptive disservice to the public.

**Take Action:** Call BLM. Ask how to convey your views on 17(b) easements for Ahtna and Doyon selected lands — and when public meetings are planned. BLM phone numbers are Anchorage 267-1203; Glennallen 822-3217 and Fairbanks

474-2251. For general info on 17(b) easements - [www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/lands\\_realty/17b\\_easements.html](http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/lands_realty/17b_easements.html)

**Background:** ANCSA, Section 17(b) authorized the easements. Years ago, the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission identified most of the trails and sites being considered now. BLM is responsible for deciding what specific access routes or sites should be reserved, and is required to consider the public’s interest as well as corporate interests.

17(b) easements must go to and from public areas, such as from a highway to a public lake, river, or piece of state or public land. They don’t provide hunting, fishing or trapping rights on the easement or on lands they cross. They are important because large blocks of Native Corporation selected lands line many miles of highways, rivers, and other established public access. Without access through lands conveyed to Corporations, the public may not be able to exercise the “full right of public access and use” of public federal and state lands and waters mandated by ANCSA.

Like any private landowner, Native Corporations are concerned about how public easements affect their interests. The Corporations regularly inform BLM of their preferences, which may or may not accommodate the general public’s interest.

Congress passed “The Alaska Land Transfer Acceleration Act of 2004” to “get ‘er done” on conveying federal lands to Native Corporations as mandated by the 1971 ANCSA. Conveyance of state land selections authorized by the 1958 Alaska State Act are also expedited. All these selections, plus Native allotments, are mandated to be done by the end of 2009. Once federal lands are officially transferred to Regional and Village Corporations, it will be virtually impossible to establish 17(b) easements through those lands. ■

# Knik River Update

By Todd Clark, AOC Vice-President (Southcentral)

Representatives of AOC and the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance have spent thousands of hours working with our legislators and DNR to preempt suggested closures and regulations in the Knik River Area. The Knik River Public Use Area legislation passed in 2006 and is designed to give OHV compatible management guidelines to DNR. However, DNR has not currently included enough of our management ideas in the plan and in spite of the legislation has included several undesirable restrictions to current motorized activities.

**Take action:** Written comment is due at 5 pm on Friday, May 2nd. We need comment from our members that emphasizes the following:

- The Trail Management Plan (TMP) of the Knik River PUA Management Plan needs to define the general approach to trail management and be consistent with the intent of the legislation
- The proposed non-motorized Rippy Trail designation is not consistent with the legislative intent and a new and distinct non-motorized trail should be developed instead of closing an existing multi-use trail to motorized use.
- The proposed water body restrictions are a poor method of implementing safety. Signage, awareness and education should be given a chance to work prior to imposing restrictions. The awareness and education should be included in the plan regardless of the restrictions.
- Shooting should be allowed in the Upper Knik River Flats and the proposed Public Use Site at the glacier.



A short break at the Knik Glacier

Photo courtesy of David Griffin, DNR

- DNR is recommending user fees for the area which we do not agree with. All of the proactive measures we've asked for can rely on the current volunteer efforts or be funded by grants available for trail creation and rehabilitation. The Boating Safety Office already operates under its own budget.

Written comment is due at 5:00 PM on Friday May 2nd. Comment can be submitted to <http://www.knikriver.alaska.gov> or mailed to: Brandon McCutcheon, Department of Natural Resources, 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1050, Anchorage, AK 99501-3579

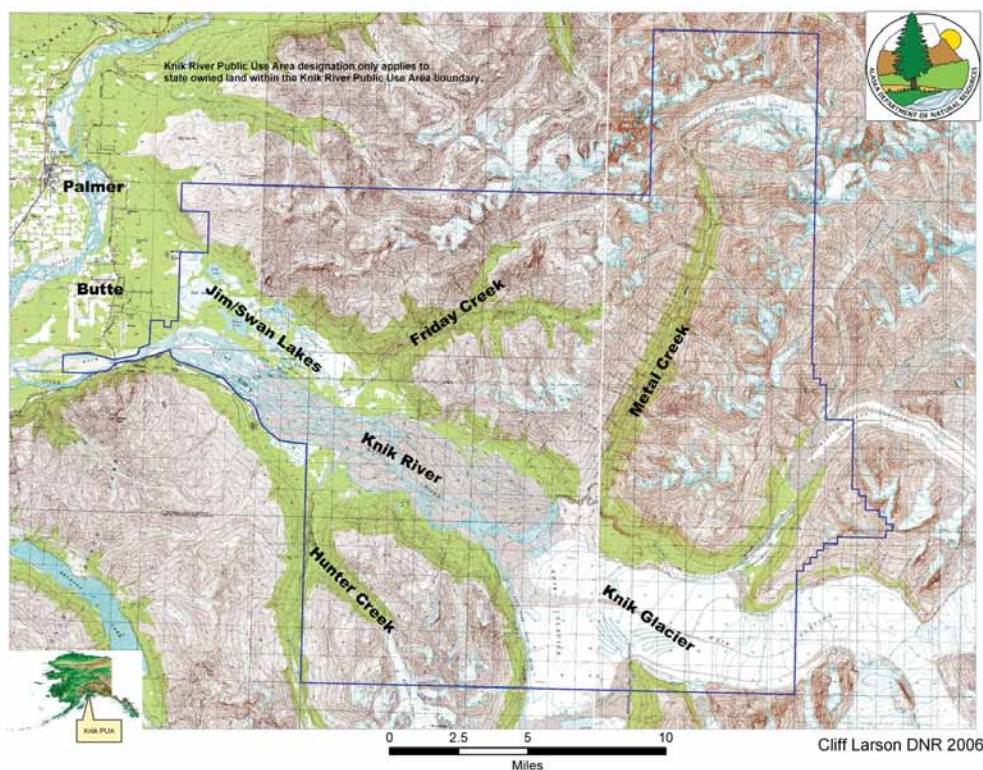
**Background:** In late 2004 representatives from AOC and the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance (AOAA) met in Palmer with Representative Stoltze, Senator Huggins and representatives from DNR regarding the Knik River area. In early 2005 we made a written request for a Public Use Area (to Senator Huggins) with the intent of proactively managing the area to sustain the existing and future motorized use. Eventually legislation was introduced as both HB 307 and SB 197. SB 197 was eventually dropped as Representative Stoltze championed HB 307.

We were looking for help with the following issues:

- Vandalism
- Illegal dumping
- Safety education & training
- Public awareness
- Better law enforcement
- Proactive management for motorized use

We specifically stated in our original official request to Senator Huggins: "We recognize that without a thoroughly conceived and effective management strategy the issues above, when unaddressed, can result in motorized access restrictions. We are focusing our efforts on addressing the above issues in a timely fashion before they cause problems for the legitimate users of the area."

## Knik River Public Use Area



For graphic representation only

continued on page 8

## Knik River Update *continued from page 7*

All of the efforts we've put in to this process were in an attempt to solve problems as a means of averting any proposed restrictions. The motorized community stepped forward to get involved and preempt the issues that could arise from a lack of management of the area.

The Knik River Public Use Area legislation had the immediate benefit of preempting a movement to have the area designated as a State Recreation Area (SRA) which would have been managed under State Parks.

The public comment during the scoping process was extensive and exhaustive. While there is some contention between motorized and non-motorized (with continued motorized use being a great majority), everyone commenting expressed the plan needs to address the following issues.

- Illegal dumping
- Car abandonment and burning
- Trail maintenance
- Non-motorized trail additions (not reclassification of existing trails)
- Education of users

In fact, during the public comment meetings on the final plan in 2008, DNR's presentation and photographs focused on the top two items above. The motorized community has rallied overwhelming support for DNR to address the above issues. Our advice to DNR in the scoping and planning process was to focus on management action that would result in the most opportunity in the area now and in the future.



Burned & abandoned vehicles on Knik River Flats near Jim Creek 2006

*Photo courtesy of David Griffin, DNR*

We hope in the end to preempt potential restrictions that could result from lawlessness, lack of education or public awareness; and to harden trails, educate users, provide waterways training and other activities that help sustain the full and increasing spectrum of uses.

Please help by providing your comment prior to the May 2nd deadline. ■

## August 26 Primary Election Ballot Initiative: Would ban predator/prey management in Alaska

*By Richard Bishop, AOC President*

On August 26, state voters will decide whether to ban effective predator-prey management in Alaska. They'll decide whether we can manage Alaskan's – rather than protect Alaskan's.

Alaskans for Professional Wildlife Management (APWM) is again spear-heading protection of State predator-prey management programs.

The anti's are back with 05HUNT, a ballot initiative to virtually ban use of aircraft for predator control. ADF&G biologists say if 05HUNT passes, managing wolf or bear numbers where needed won't be possible

**Take Action:** Learn more about the issue at APWM's website [www.protectmoose.com](http://www.protectmoose.com) and at the ADF&G website [www.alaska.gov](http://www.alaska.gov). Click on *management/research*.

Donate to APWM, send check to APWM at PO Box 4053, Palmer, AK 99645 OR donate to AOC at PO Box 73902, Fairbanks, AK 99707 and we'll pass it on. Donations are NOT tax-deductible.

**Background:** 05HUNT, if passed, would prohibit same day airborne, and aerial, shooting of wolves unless a prey population has declined due to predation and only predator control can allow the prey population to recover. The initiative wording is tailor-made "by a lawyer, for a lawyer" to file endless lawsuits

challenging the adequacy of data supporting predator control proposals.

APWM is a coalition of pro-hunting, pro-management groups. It includes Alaska and Kenai Chapters of Safari Club, Alaska Trappers Association, Alaska Outdoor Council and many others.

The Alaska Legislature recently confirmed in law (HB348) what Alaskans have always known: wildlife is a state asset held in trust for Alaskans. State assets cannot be allocated by the initiative process under Alaska's Constitution. This law, if signed by Governor Palin, may render 05HUNT obsolete. But desperate anti-management advocates will challenge HB348 in court.

A court decision may not happen prior to voting on 05HUNT, so beating the initiative on August 26 is essential. Support APWM with your dollars and your vote. Ask your friends to join you. Protect predator-prey management in Alaska.

Did you know? Federal agents are aerial shooting wolves in the Lower 48 – to protect livestock. Moose, caribou and deer provide meat for thousands of Alaskans...and they grow in a lot more environmentally friendly manner than cows, sheep and pigs grow in the Lower 48. ■

# Personal use Halibut “Buy-Back” from Commercial Operators

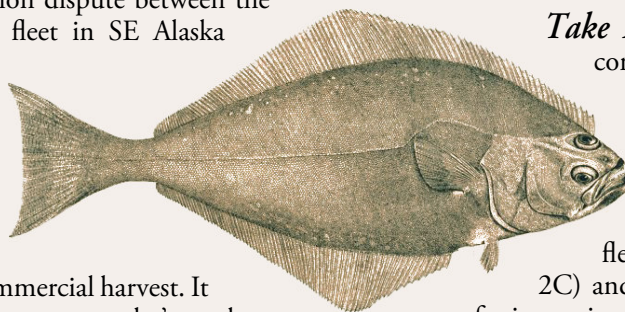
By Rod Arno, AOC Executive Director

The North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC) is headed in the wrong direction attempting to create a halibut “buy back system” to resolve the allocation dispute between the commercial longliners and the charter fleet in SE Alaska waters.

Selling shares of a public resource back to the public adds a new spin on dishonoring the Public Trust Doctrine. The Guideline Harvest Level (GHL) for charter caught halibut in SE Alaska (Area 2C) is less than 15% of the total commercial harvest. It is just not enough halibut shares to meet current angler's needs.

Unfortunately, the State, which has a seat on the NPFMC, is going along with the majority of Council members who continue toward an Individual Fishing Quota (IFQ) for the charter industry. What this means is an ever growing number of anglers who fish

on charter boats will have to pay higher prices in the future and continue fishing under low bag limits.



**Take Action:** AOC encourages Alaskans to contact the Palin Administration and air their concern over allowing commercial fisheries permit holders to sell halibut shares back to charter operators for their clients use. AOC supports an increase in the GHL for the charter fleet in near shore waters of SE Alaska (Area 2C) and SC (Area 3A). Without State support for increasing the charter GHL individual Alaskans who harvest halibut for themselves have very little voice before the NPFMC. We need the State to be behind us when our ability to harvest public resources is being so limited. ■

## Juneau AOC Fundraiser

Photos courtesy of Ron & Jan Somerville

Juneau AOC supporters held a successful fundraising banquet for AOC on February 22. These pictures are of the balloon raffle, the sponsor print by Ed Tussey and a hand carved inlaid king crab that was one of the more popular items donated to the event.

The event grossed about \$54,000, one of the best banquet totals to-date. AOC agreed to grant the Juneau Shooting Sports Foundation one-fourth of the net proceeds this year for the Juneau Indoor Shooting Range completion project and for start-up funds for the new shooting Foundation.

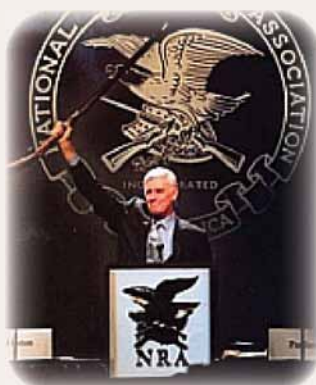


## The NRA Family Mourns the Passing of Charlton Heston 1924 - 2008

By Wayne LaPierre, Executive Vice President of the National Rifle Association of America

Today, my heart is heavy with the loss of Charlton Heston. America has lost a great patriot. The Second Amendment has lost a faithful friend. So have I, and so have four million NRA members and eighty million gun owners. And so has every American who cares about the Bill of Rights, individual liberty, and Freedom.

My heart is heavy, but not without a sense of pride. Pride in a man who devoted his life to his profession with grace and dignity. Pride in an American who devoted himself to civil rights, to correcting injustices



around him, and to standing up for what he knew was right. Pride in a friend who stood with me and stood with fellow NRA members to preserve our freedom for future generations. Pride in a patriot who believed with every fiber of his being that our Bill of Rights is the foundation of our freedom that makes Americans singular among the masses of nations.

And now, Charlton Heston has passed that duty to us – the next generation. I am as proud to continue his cause as I am to have known him as my friend. ■

## A Gift to Alaska

Share the vision of Bob Rausch, Duane Goodrich, Lyle Carlson and other Alaskans. Please consider supporting the Alaska Trust Fund, an endowment fund providing permanent and long-term funding of the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund, which is the sister corporation to the AOC. The Conservation Fund supports the education, litigation and research interests of AOC members.

The principal of the Alaska Trust Fund is protected from invasion in perpetuity. Every tax-deductible dollar you invest in the Trust stays there, protecting the outdoor heritage we've grown to love and enjoy. Only the interest the Trust generates can be used for operations.

Donations can come in many forms: cash, stocks, estate gifts, annuities, land, or by including a bequest to the Alaska Trust Fund in your will. Make a bequest by giving the following language to your attorney: "To the Alaska Trust Fund I give \_\_\_\_% of my residuary estate." – or you can name a fixed amount.

For more information contact Alaska Trust Fund, AK F/W Conservation Fund, PO Box 73902, Fairbanks, AK 99707 or visit [http://www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org/alaska\\_trust\\_fund.html](http://www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org/alaska_trust_fund.html) ■

## Keeping an Eye on the Candidates

By Mary Bishop, adapted from "The Sentry"

U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance, [www.ussportsmen.org](http://www.ussportsmen.org)



We harvesters of renewable resources — fish, game, berries, firewood, etc. — are a powerful political force. But our power lies in our willingness to take action and make our voices heard. This year we'll select a chief executive of the nation as well as legislative leadership at the local, state and federal levels.

For information about the presidential candidates, you can check their websites or phone their campaign offices and ask about the issues that affect our rights. Also, it is important to look at voting records and what candidates have said and done in the past. Below are websites and phone numbers for the presidential candidates as we go to print.

Hillary Clinton	<a href="http://www.hillaryclinton.com">www.hillaryclinton.com</a>	703-469-2008
John McCain	<a href="http://www.exploremccain.com">www.exploremccain.com</a>	703-418-2008
Barack Obama	<a href="http://www.barackobama.com">www.barackobama.com</a>	866-675-2008

For more information on where presidential candidates stand on key issues, their background and articles about them, visit: <http://projects.washingtonpost.com/2008-presidential-candidates/>

Even more important to outdoor interests than the presidential candidates are the local and state candidates who want to represent you. State and local representatives are the people who put into motion most of the laws and ordinances which could affect your rights.

The Alaska Division of Elections maintains a list of all candidates at <http://www.elections.state.ak.us/cand08p.php>. On the list you will find candidates for U.S. Congressional offices and for the State Legislature including name, address, phone, Party, email and website if the candidate has one. Deadline for state candidates to file is June 2.

**Take action:** Encourage your family and friends to investigate where candidates stand on the issues that affect you. A voter has power. Fulfill your obligation as an Alaskan and American citizen to help decide the future of our state and nation. ■

## 2nd Amendment Lawsuit

To read a copy of the 45 page amicus brief submitted to the U.S. Supreme Court by AOC and several member clubs go to:

[www.nraila.org/heller/proamicusbriefs/07-290\\_amicus\\_alaskaoutdoorcouncil.pdf](http://www.nraila.org/heller/proamicusbriefs/07-290_amicus_alaskaoutdoorcouncil.pdf)

# A Survey of Member Views

Please clip and mail to: AOC / Fund, P.O. Box 73902, Fairbanks, AK 99707

☐ I especially want AOC & the Fund to support efforts to (number in order of your priority).

\_\_\_ protect public access for hunting/fishing/trapping

\_\_\_ educate youth in regard to hunting, fishing and trapping

\_\_\_ change the state subsistence priority law & the state Tier II regulations

\_\_\_ protect our 2nd Amendment right to keep and bear arms

\_\_\_ oppose animal rights advocacy

\_\_\_ produce a greater allocation for hunters

\_\_\_ take wildlife management out of the initiative process

\_\_\_ produce a greater allocation for anglers

\_\_\_ other \_\_\_\_\_

☐ YES, I want to help support the Council & Fund efforts.

☐ I've enclosed a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ made to the Alaska Outdoor Council. I understand it is not tax deductible.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ of this check is to help efforts against the State Ballot Initiative that would preclude aerial shooting of predators.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ of this check is for my AOC membership (\$25/yr; \$60/3 yr or \$100/5 yr). Mailing label has expiration date.

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ of this check is for AOC lobby efforts — with f/g boards, elected officials and agencies.

☐ I'm including a tax deductible \$ \_\_\_\_\_ donation made out to the Alaska F/W Conservation Fund.

\_\_\_ to support the lawsuit challenging federal takeover of regulations on state-owned navigable waters and printing costs of our amicus brief in the 2nd Amendment case before the US Supreme Court.

\_\_\_ to support educational efforts: UAF Museum display on hunting and trapping, hunting/trapping oral histories project.

**AOC distributes occasional Email alerts—maybe ten/year.**

May we please have your email address to keep you updated? ***We NEVER share this list with anyone!!!***

☐ Yes, send me no more than 10 Emails / year.

☐ NO, do not send me any Emails.

☐ Yes, send me all your email alerts. My email address is \_\_\_\_\_

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

***RENEW OR JOIN TODAY – THANK YOU !***

*Note: Bulk Mail is not forwarded. If you're about to move, let us know your new address!!!*



# AOC Sustaining Business Members

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Attorney Wayne Anthony Ross introduced Governor Palin as a person of indomitable optimism. Ross's acronym, "WAR", aptly describes his life-long fight against infringements of citizens' rights.



Representative Bill Stoltz receives the well deserved AOC Rick Halford Legislator of the Year Award for 2008 from Governor Palin and AOC Executive Director Rod Arno. Rep. Stoltz remains one of the most effective state legislators advocating for continued traditional outdoor uses in Alaska. Bill has been unwavering in his support for our hunters, fishers and trappers, and recreational ORV users.

# AOC Annual Meeting Award Banquet

## March 8, 2008

*Photos courtesy of Rob Stapleton*



Dr. Curt Menard, Mayor of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, is recognized by Governor Palin and AOC President Dick Bishop as Alaska's Outstanding Fisheries Advocate. AOC recognizes his efforts over the past 20 years to ensure that our salmon stocks in upper Cook Inlet streams will be healthy, productive and enduring for generations to come. As a state Senator, he worked hard on the Susitna Recreational Rivers Plan and today we still benefit today. He set to work with legislation that addressed the challenges of managing a mixed stock fishery, and today we benefit from it. More recently, as Mayor of the Mat-Su Borough, Dr. Menard saw the problems facing the salmon stocks in the Susitna Drainage. He formed a Blue Ribbon Panel, which met with many people, produced recommendations, and forwarded them to ADF&G and the Board of Fisheries. Mayor Menard and the Panel are advocating for those recommendations before the Board of Fisheries.

*Thank You  
Governor Palin  
for participating in recognizing  
these outstanding conservationists*



Denny Hamann receives AOC's Member of the Year Award from Governor Palin. Denny's monthly Mat Valley Fish & Game Advisory Committee meetings in Wasilla regularly attract dozens of fellow hunters and fishers. For important feedback from harvesters, fish and game biologists know that these meetings can't be missed. Not many things set up by government work as well as intended, but the Mat Valley F/G Advisory Committee is one that does. Along with his work on the AC Denny is also a member of the Board of Game Tier 2 Subsistence Implementation Committee, the local Friends of NRA banquet committee, and the Mat-Su AOC Banquet and Fundraiser Committee.



On behalf of the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance Craig Saunders accepts the AOC Club of the Year Award from Governor Palin. The AOAA has shown their commitment to the wise use of our resources through their work with the legislature in creating the Knik River Public Use Area and DNR. The Knik PUA preserved traditional access for hundreds of Alaskans who enjoy motorized recreation and established opportunities to educate motorized users about how to enjoy their sport while respecting our land and water. The Access Alliance has organized "clean-up" days at Knik and in other areas, and constantly monitors trails and waterways with an eye toward policing their own.

# AOC Member Clubs

ABATE of Alaska*	Anchorage	Golden North Archery Assoc.	Fairbanks
ABATE of Chugiak*	Chugiak	Houston Chamber of Commerce	Houston
AIM-COMM	Fairbanks	Interior Airboaters Assoc.	Fairbanks
Alaska 2nd Amendment Coalition*	Fairbanks	Interior Alaska Gun Dog Assoc.	Fairbanks
Alaska ATV Club	Anchorage	Interior Alaska Trail Riders Assoc.	Fairbanks
Alaska Backcountry Adventure Tours	Palmer	Juneau Alaska Billfish Assoc.	Juneau
Alaska Boating Assoc.*	Anchorage	Juneau Gun Club	Juneau
Alaska Charter Assoc.	Homer	Juneau Rifle and Pistol Club	Juneau
Alaska Frontier Trappers Assoc.	Palmer	Matanuska Valley Sportsmen, Inc.	Palmer
Alaska Gun Collectors Assoc.	Anchorage	Mat-Su Motor Musers*	Wasilla
Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance	Palmer	McKinley Mountainmen Muzzle Loading Rifle Club	Eagle River
Alaska Rifle Club	Anchorage	Personal Watercraft Club of Alaska	Anchorage
Alaska State Snowmobile Assoc.	Anchorage	Ruffed Grouse Society, Interior Alaska Chapter	Fairbanks
Alaska Waterfowl Assoc.*	Anchorage	Ruffed Grouse Society/SC AK Chapter	Wasilla
Alaskan Bow Hunters Assoc., Inc.	Wasilla	Safari Club International, Kenai Chapter*	Soldotna
Anchorage Snowmobile Club, Inc.	Anchorage	Safari Club International/AK Chapter	Eagle River
Chitina Dipnetters	Fairbanks	Sitka Charter Boat Operators Assoc.	Sitka
Clear Sky Sportsmen's Club	Nenana	Sitka Sportsman's Assoc.	Sitka
Cook Inlet Archers	Anchorage	Slana Alaskans Unite*	Slana
Cook Inlet Sportfishing Caucus*	Willow	South Peninsula Sportsman Assoc.	Homer
Delta Sportsman's Assoc., Inc.	Delta Junction	Tanana Valley Rifle & Pistol Club	Fairbanks
Fairbanks Retriever Club	Fairbanks	Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Assoc.	Fairbanks
Fairbanks Snow Travelers Assoc.*	Fairbanks	Territorial Sportsmen, Inc.	Juneau
Fairbanks Trap Club	Fairbanks	Tok Shooters Assoc.	Tok
FNAWS/Alaska Chapter	Fairbanks		

*Clubs with an \* after the name have not yet paid their 2008 dues. Club dues are \$50 per year.*



*I finally remembered — red with hunter, white with fisherman.*




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## AIM-COMM— Alaska Interior Marksmanship Committee

... and Member Club of AOC

AIM-COMM is a non-profit and partner organization of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Range in Fairbanks, Alaska. AIM-COMM is Alaska's first NRA Gold Medal Club.

AIM-COMM's purpose is to foster the development of marksmanship, the safe and ethical use of firearms and to support and promote use of the ADF&G Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Range located on College Road across from Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.

AIM-COMM is affiliated with the National Rifle Association, the Civilian Marksmanship Program and the Alaska Outdoor Council. Paul Maki is president and chair of the competitive shooting division. See [www.aimcomm.org](http://www.aimcomm.org) for more information.

**2008 Alaska NRA  
Youth Hunter Education  
Challenge  
State Championship**  
held June 6-8 2008,  
in Fairbanks, Alaska



### REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!

Open to the first 50 youth competitors (including individuals and teams of five) who register and pay the entry fee. Youth competitors must have basic hunter education certification and be age eligible in order to participate as an athlete in the Alaska YHEC State Championship. Read through the Registration Packet for details. If you have additional questions contact Joe Nava at 479-2340 or by email at [yhecdirector@aimcomm.org](mailto:yhecdirector@aimcomm.org).



### Registration is Now Open for the 2008 Alaska Conservation Camps!

If you have any questions about registration contact: John Wyman at 459-7292 or by email at [camp@aimcomm.org](mailto:camp@aimcomm.org).

There are currently three camp sessions planned for the Fairbanks area in summer 2008, including two Basic Camps and one Advanced Camp. These three sessions will be day camps with one overnight (campout on Thr/Fri) included.

#### 2008 ALASKA CONSERVATION CAMPS:

**BASIC CAMP #1** - June 2-6 (Mon-Fri); ages 11-14; \$150

**BASIC CAMP #2** - June 9-13 (Mon-Fri); ages 11-14; \$150

**ADVANCED CAMP** - June 16-20 (Mon-Fri); ages 12-16, completed Basic Camp or AK Hunter Ed; \$150

The Alaska Conservation Camp is looking for sponsors and supporters. If you wish to help support this program, please contact us at [camp@aimcomm.org](mailto:camp@aimcomm.org) or by phone at 459-7292. Thank you!

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## AOC Membership Application

*AOC is the Official State Association of the NRA*

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### I WOULD LIKE TO:

- ☐ Renew my membership
- ☐ Become a new member
- ☐ Make a donation

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY:

- ☐ Annual Individual \$25 ☐ Annual Family \$30
- ☐ 3-year Individual \$60 ☐ 3-year Family \$70
- ☐ 5-year Individual \$100 ☐ 5-year Family \$110
- ☐ Club Membership \$50 annual
- ☐ Sustaining Business \$150 per year
- ☐ Life Membership \$400 one time
- ☐ Lobbying Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Education Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make non-tax deductible donations to "AOC" for membership and lobbying donations. Make tax deductible donations to AK F/W Conservation Fund for donations toward litigation and educational projects. Mail to PO Box 73902, Fairbanks, AK 99707