



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 2

www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

Summer 2008

Schedule of Upcoming Events:

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

August 15
Deadline for Board of Game proposals

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

September **Statewide**
BLM hearings
Easements through Ahtna selected lands

October 8-10 **Fairbanks**
Board of Fisheries work session

October 17 **Mat-Valley**
Mat-Su AOC Banquet/Auction 376-2913

October 18 **Fairbanks**
UAF Museum of the North
Hunting & Trapping Exposition

October 18-19 **Fairbanks**
TVSA Gun Show

October 28-31 **Magdalena Bay, Baja, Mexico**
Juneau Alaska Billfish Association
Stripe Marlin Tournament

November 1 **Fairbanks**
25th Annual Auction 455-6151
AOC & AK F/W Conservation Fund

November 7-11 **Juneau**
Board of Game meetings

December 1-7 **Cordova**
Board of Fisheries

February 20, 2009 **Juneau**
AOC Dinner/Auction Fundraiser

For detailed 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>

Vote NO on Ballot Measure 2

By Richard Bishop, AOC President

Ballot Measure 2 is an anti-management measure disguised in "lawyer camo" which appears to allow aerial shooting of wolves and grizzlies in State predator management programs but actually would not. Its main effect would be to lower moose and caribou numbers, lower harvests by people, and put less wild food on Alaskan tables.

Aerial shooting is usually the most efficient method of reducing a wolf or bear population when it is cutting down – or holding down – moose, caribou or other big game populations. Although, BM2 says aerial shooting can be done under prescribed conditions, the prescribed conditions are unattainable according to the Alaska Department of Fish & Game.

Information on BM2 in the 2008 State Ballot Measures Voters Guide includes the required "Statement of Costs" (if the measure passed) prepared by the Alaska Department of Fish & Game. ADF&G estimated that it would cost about \$400,000 extra to attempt to meet the initiative's criterion of "biological emergency" for a predator control program. That's pretty pricey – but here's the punch line:

"The department believes that the definition of 'biological emergency' in the initiative is so narrow that the Commissioner would be precluded from ever determining that a biological emergency exists and from implementing any airborne predator control program." (Emphasis added)

ADF&G goes on to say, in essence, that it would be pointless to spend that money so passage of BM2 would have no direct financial impact.

Unfortunately, the required cost discussion ends there. How do you measure the cost of lost meat harvest for Alaskans? ...and the cost in non-renewable energy as meat is transported from the Lower 48 to put on Alaskan tables...and the cost to ADF&G as it scrambles to meet its statutory intensive management mandate with other, less efficient management tools.

But what if ADF&G decided to "go for it", collect the data, and propose a predator control program? The Answer: **"We'll see you in court."** That's when the "lawyer camo" coveralls come off. The Department of Law review (seen at www.wildlife.alaska.gov/management/control/05hunt.pdf) makes clear that BM2

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Interior Vice President's Message

By Patrick Valkenburg, Interior Vice President



Of Bears and Caribou

Of bears: Over the last couple of decades it has become apparent that effectively managing bears is going to be the key to providing higher harvests of moose in many areas. So far, the Board of Game and ADF&G have not had much success in increasing moose harvests by reducing bears, except at McGrath.

In other areas, particularly the Yukon Flats, high bear predation around villages is maintaining very low moose densities and poor moose hunting. ADF&G is now considering an experimental bear foot-snaring program around McGrath and Beaver. This program would take the McGrath experiment to the next step by having the public maintain the lower bear numbers by using highly selective foot snares that have recently been developed in Quebec. It would also be possible for the Board of Game to authorize ADF&G to pay incentives (i.e. bounties) for bears taken in these experimental control programs. There are other places where bear foot-snaring could contribute to management programs (e.g. the Delta caribou herd calving area in Unit 13, and perhaps in Unit 16 if there are sufficiently concentrated moose calving areas). The development of more effective ways of reducing bear numbers in key calving areas of moose and caribou will be even more important if aerial wolf and bear control methods are eliminated with the potential passage of Ballot Measure 2.

Of caribou: Recently, many Alaskans were shocked to see front page pictures of caribou calves trying to suckle from their dead mothers near Point Hope and Kivalina where vandals, apparently from those villages, shot and left at least 160 caribou. The last time this kind of large scale wasteful killing of caribou came to the public's attention was during the 1970s when at least a thousand wasted caribou were documented in one survey around Ambler, Shungnak, Kiana, Noorvik, Selawik, Kivalina, Kotzebue, and Point Hope, in the winter of 1976-77. Hundreds more wasted caribou were found the next year around Ambler. I was there, and I saw it and photographed it first hand and so did many other people. At that time it was a serious biological concern because the Western Arctic Caribou Herd had declined to about 75,000 and the existing harvest of 20-25,000 caribou a year was unsustainable. It was not the only wasteful hunting occurring with caribou during the 1970s, however. Road-crossing slaughter of caribou on the Taylor and Denali Highways was also wasteful, gross, and unsustainable.

These examples of large-scale wanton waste seem to reflect an unfortunate but basic human trait. When resources are abundant, they are often wasted. We currently live in one of the most wasteful societies of all time. We waste energy, trees, food, and other raw materials like never before.

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Outdoor Alaska

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Better Trails Coming – With Your Help

Tools and opportunities to keep your favorite riding areas open & protect natural resources

By Blain Anderson, Trails Specialist for the National Park Service, and a board member of Alaska Trails

As more and more vehicles head into Alaska's backcountry each year for hunting, fishing, for fun and work, land managers across the state are struggling to balance allowing access and protecting natural resources for future generations. Riding through rearing habitat for salmon is an obvious no-no, as is harassing wildlife. But what can you do when one fall a sign sits in the middle of your favorite hunting trail saying "TRAIL CLOSED"?

This scenario has happened recently on some highly valued public trails. The brighter news is that many folks around the state are trying to figure out other management alternatives to simply closing trails when they get damaged.

The tools and resources to create better trails are coming to Alaska. The National Park Service has experimented extensively with trail hardening techniques and sustainable trail building in several parks, including some of the first applications of geotextiles and GeoBlock®. Kevin Meyer of the NPS Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program made it his mission to seek and test working solutions for improving trails in wet lowlands. His publication (available free on the web at [www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/fpubs/02232821/Managing Wet Degraded and Sensitive Trails for Off-Highway Vehicles](http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/fpubs/02232821/Managing%20Wet%20Degraded%20and%20Sensitive%20Trails%20for%20Off-Highway%20Vehicles.pdf)), and a larger upcoming publication should be required reading for anybody interested in trails in Alaska.



Jon Underwood of Happy Trails Inc. creating a sustainable ATV trail at Glacier Gap Lake



Photo courtesy of Kevin Meyer, NPS

Jon Underwood in his SWECO trail dozer off the Denali Highway.

What we've learned as we've applied trail management has been shared with other agencies, municipalities, soil and water conservation districts, villages, and trail groups. Far from thumping our chests though, we realize we still have a long way to go to effectively manage our OHV trails. The gears of government may move slowly, but they are moving forward.

Just a few years ago, little funding and know-how existed to tackle the daunting problems of heavily degraded motorized trails in remote parts of Alaska. However, as agency employees came up to speed on sustainable trail design, we began to see better trails --

trails that were purposely designed to accommodate vehicles without destroying soils and wetlands.

Good examples

You may be aware of some of the recently re-built trails in Chena River State Recreation Area and those along the Denali Highway that incorporate sustainable design. They are enjoyable rides and protect the natural resources we go into the wilds to harvest by utilizing well-drained gravelly soils, side slope locations, and controlling the grade of the trail. By placing the trails on the best soils, we can solve the problems of erosion, mud, and ruts.

These trails were built with technical assistance and interagency cooperation by the NPS. The deadline for applying to NPS-RTCA for technical assistance is August 1 of every year, and application materials are available at www.nps.gov/rtca.

The NPS has also been aggressive in mapping trails within park units over the last few years, not just with GPS-accurate locations but with measurements of grades, soil types, drainage issues, and width. In some areas where multiple trails go to the same location, such as Dry Bay in Glacier Bay NP, with input from local users, we picked the most durable trail and let the others re-vegetate. A similar effort is underway at Port Alsworth in Lake Clark NP to find the most sustainable routes. For the NPS, like any manager, this suite of information will allow for better management of both natural resources and recreational opportunities, while protecting other values like cultural artifacts and fisheries.

Nonprofits Step Up to the Plate

There is ample training available through several non-profit trail groups. One of the most effective ways you can ensure good trails, and continued access is to organize a club, or get involved in one of the many good groups around the state building better trails. Alaska Trails keep a current list of trail-related groups, training opportunities, trail events, funding sources, and technical resources from around the state on their website www.alaska-trails.org.

In addition to volunteer groups, Alaska also has several trail building professionals who can assist with trail layout, alternative development, trail construction, and planning.

Finally, a great opportunity to learn more and participate in the process is the upcoming Statewide Trails Conference in association with the Alaska Recreation and Parks Association in the spring 2009 in Anchorage www.alaskarpa.org. ■

Vote NO on Ballot Measure 2 *continued from page 1*

provisions virtually assure court challenges or simply preclude some activities. BM2 demands but does not define “adequate data” on which to recommend a program, so the data will be challenged as inadequate to demonstrate a “biological emergency”. And, as the ADF&G noted, there is no way they can meet the definition of biological emergency, which is: “a condition where a wolf or grizzly bear population in a specific geographic area is depleting a prey population to a point that if not corrected will cause an irreversible decline in the prey population such that it is not likely to recover without implementing wolf or grizzly bear control.” If ADF&G did declare a “biological emergency” a legal challenge would soon follow.

BM2 is not a biological or management initiative. It is an ideological initiative supported by people who just “love wolves” and/or oppose any game management. Even though over 60% of Alaska if off limits to management of predators due to federal agencies’ policies, BM2 backers just don’t like people managing wild populations in other parts of the State. Their arguments in the voter pamphlet claiming that past abuse of airplane use, enforcement difficulties, and the “image of responsible game management in Alaska” demand passage of BM2 don’t hold water.

Laws regulating predator control programs are being enforced. Violators have been busted. Potential violators backed off. For those who have outgrown the Farley Mowat mentality, it’s clear that “responsible management” of big game predators must, as preeminent international wolf expert, Dave Mech, has noted for wolves, include “compromise between wolf and human interest”.

In Alaska, that means recognizing that on the federal 60% of Alaska no active or intensive habitat or game population management is likely in the near future, and that opportunities for Alaskans to continue the tradition of putting wild food on their tables should be enhanced where feasible. That’s not much of the State. By the time the “unfeasible” areas of rocks and ice, habitat limitations, municipalities, and closed areas of various kinds are deducted, only 10-15% of Alaska’s lands are actually available for active or intensive management.

There’s plenty of room for “nature to take its course” elsewhere. Give hunter-gatherers a break where intensive management can help put food on the table. ■

Vote NO on Ballot Measure 2.

Of Bears and Caribou *continued from page 2*

During the early 1900s, the conservation movement promoted by Teddy Roosevelt and other sportsmen led the way to instilling a new ethic among hunters of respect for wildlife, frugality, and enjoyment of the hunting experience. Our hunter education programs continue to try to promote this ethic in new hunters today.

The recent example of wasteful killing in northwestern Alaska actually goes beyond any of the previous examples because it

occurred in summer when young calves are dependent on their mothers for milk. It was therefore not only wasteful but inhumane, inconsiderate, and disrespectful.

Problems cannot be solved until they are recognized and acknowledged to exist. It seems to me that the most productive course of action for leaders in northwestern Alaska would be to acknowledge there is a problem and help to identify those responsible. ■



NRA Board of Directors Remove Membership Requirements for all NRA Competitive Shooting Activities

In an effort specifically designed to open up NRA’s tournaments to the members of every shooting organization worldwide and to enhance participation by the shooting public in NRA competitive shooting programs, the NRA Board of Directors made the decision to remove the membership requirement to compete in NRA tournaments. NRA’s rules will change for Competitive Shooting Division and Law Enforcement Activities Division sanctioned tournaments including State Championships, Regional Tournaments, and National Championship. Effective date of this change is July 1, 2008. This decision is designed to enable more people to participate in NRA tournaments and will increase the opportunity for increasing NRA membership as more people become involved in our competitive shooting activities.

Who Owns the Fish?

By Kimberly Tebrugge, Charter Halibut Task Force

"Who owns the fish?" is the debate between commercial halibut fishers and guided recreational charter boat operators.

In October, the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC), the advisory body to the US Secretary of Commerce, is scheduled to recommend an allocation of halibut for guided recreational anglers. The State of Alaska plays a key role in the Council's decisions. The 11 voting members on the Council include the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and five other Alaskans recommended by Governor Sarah Palin.

Unfortunately, most of the allocation proposals in front of the Council will result in a one halibut daily limit immediately in Southeast Alaska, and eventually in Southcentral Alaska. To add insult to injury, the proposals would give recreational anglers, through their charter operators, the "opportunity" to pay to catch a second halibut by leasing fish from a commercial IFQ holder.

If the NPFMC sets the precedent of some recreational fishermen compensating commercial fishermen for an increase in recreational catch, Alaskan anglers better get ready to dig deeper in their wallets every time the halibut biomass declines or the number of anglers increases.



Photo courtesy of Bob Anderson of Fireweed Lodge

Take Action: Your help is needed to tell Governor Palin and the NPFMC that recreational fishermen deserve more than 11 percent of a public resource. Contact Governor Palin and the NPFMC and ask them to adopt measures that will apply equally to all recreational anglers, allow recreational anglers to catch two halibut a day absent a statewide conservation emergency, and oppose measures requiring recreational anglers to pay commercial fishermen to catch a second halibut.

The Honorable Sarah Palin, *Governor State of Alaska*
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001
sarah.palin@alaska.gov

Eric Olson, *Chairman North Pacific Fishery Management Council*
605 West 4th Avenue, Suite 306
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-2252
Fax: 907-271-2817

Background: In recent years, both commercial and charter harvests of Pacific Halibut, that tasty white flatfish that feels like a barn door when you're reeling it in, have increased. Since 1995, commercial harvests have increased from 33 million pounds to over 60 million pounds, and guided recreational harvests have increased from 3.8 million pounds to over 5.6 million pounds. Halibut are now considered a "fully utilized resource" which means if one group of fishermen increases their harvest, another group must take less to maintain healthy stocks.

Commercial fishermen are allocated about 89 percent of the halibut taken off Alaska, through Individual Fishing Quotas (IFQ) and bycatch—halibut caught while commercial fishing for another species of fish. The remaining 11 percent is caught by recreational anglers and subsistence fishermen. The question no one seems to be asking is, "Who granted the commercial fishing industry indisputable rights to harvest almost 90 percent of the fish?"



Photo courtesy of Holly Van Pelt at Winter King Charters

The Northern Pacific Halibut Act of 1982 requires that allocation of halibut fishing privileges be fair and equitable and consistent with other applicable Federal laws.

Demand for guided sportfishing has grown because more and more people are discovering what coastal and interior Alaskans have always known—nothing beats Alaskan fishing. According to Governor Palin, "Sport fishing is a significant element of Alaska's economy, creating more than 12,000 jobs and with a total annual economic impact of more than \$1 billion." Yes, that's billion and many coastal communities rely on these tourism dollars. Who wants to curtail that?

This past June, Alaska charter boat operators filed a lawsuit against a US Secretary of Commerce decision to impose a one halibut daily limit for guided anglers in Southeast Alaska, and won a preliminary injunction. As a result, for 2008, guided and unguided anglers can keep two halibut a day, which is how it has been the last three decades. But, the ruling is only temporary.

In October, the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council (NPFMC) will take steps to set a guided halibut fishery allocation. Unfortunately, all but one of the allocation amounts being considered will immediately limit guided anglers in Southeast Alaska to one halibut a day.

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Fairbanksans See Old Clubhouse Replaced

By Grant Lewis, TVSA president

On the evening of July 8th the Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association held it's first summer potluck since the old clubhouse and shooting range burned up on March 31, 2007. About 30 people came out to enjoy "sloppy joes" and see firsthand the progress on our new facility on the banks of the Chena River.

TVSA has spent over \$500,000 to date on the replacement clubhouse/range. Most funds came from insurance and sale of some TVSA land. The community and AOC also pitched in. The Legislature and Governor approved a \$100K grant in '08.

We had the debris from the old building removed and disposed of, cleared and excavated for the new building, installed a septic system and water service and have a good start on the concrete portion of the new building. Radiant floor heating tubes were installed under the concrete floor by our mechanical contractor prior to pouring the concrete, and a work party placed the footing insulation prior to backfilling. Our goal is to have the building enclosed prior to freeze-up and continue with interior work, again to be done mostly by

volunteers during the winter. We hope to be able to start our Junior rifle club, and high school teams as soon as practicable after we get the building closed in, though we will be limited to air rifles until we can install the air handling and treatment system. This system is a vital necessity to protect our shooters from lead hazards.



Grant Lewis, TVSA president, evaluates progress on the new TVSA building.

We have arranged for the roof trusses to be built and erected, but have volunteer work to be done in conjunction with this. We'll have work parties Tuesday and Thursday evenings of every week for the rest of the summer; they started on Tues. July 15th. Members and others who can donate time are encouraged to report to the building site at 6pm each workday.

We continue to solicit any and all contributions thru the Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Foundation, our 501(c)(3) arm. The more contributions we receive the sooner we can complete our facility and resume our educational and competition programs.

Thanks to all who have helped us on the road to recovery. ■

Who Owns the Fish? *continued from page 5*

This will encourage more anglers to fish in Southcentral Alaska, where the daily bag limit will be two halibut, until that area exceeds its allocation and gets a one fish limit, too.

Commercial fishermen argue a one halibut daily limit in Southeast Alaska, is needed for conservation reasons, but the International Pacific Halibut Commission and the National Marine Fisheries Service have stated this is not correct. Any fish "saved" by a lower bag limit for recreational anglers increases the amount available for commercial fishermen – meaning the 89 percent going to commercial fishing becomes 90-plus-percent.

The scale doesn't tip so heavily toward commercial halibut fishermen in other states. The 2008 catch sharing plan for Washington, Oregon, and California

allocates the non-tribal share of halibut as follows: recreational fisheries north of the Columbia River get 27.8 percent, recreational fisheries south of the Columbia River get 31.7 percent, and commercial fisheries get 40.5 percent. Furthermore, the value of commercial IFQ shares in Southeast Alaska has increased 288 percent since 1995, with halibut market prices climbing over \$22 per pound. Even with recent reductions in the commercial quota in Southeast, a commercial fisherman who received an initial allocation of IFQ in 1995 would make 38 percent more money in 2007, landing 31 percent less fish. While commercial fishermen push for further restrictions on recreational fishing, the question needs to be asked, "What's fair and equitable about commercial industry harvesting 90 percent of Alaska's halibut resource?"

For more information and updates on the charter halibut decisions, visit the Charter Halibut Task Force (CHTF) website at www.CharterHalibut.org. The Charter Halibut Task Force is an organization devoted to uniting charter operators and business owners committed to stable, long-term management of the halibut resource as a vital part of Alaska's tourism industry. In this effort, CHTF works closely with the Alaska Outdoor Council, Alaska Travel Industry Association, Alaska Charter Association and Southeast Alaska Guides Organization. ■



Carlson Memorial Scholarship goes to Jeff Wells

The University of Alaska Statewide Scholarship Selection Committee chose Jeffery Wells to receive the annual \$500 Lyle Carlson Scholarship award for the 2008-09 academic year. Jeffery is a senior attending UAF with a 4.0 GPA majoring in Wildlife Biology.

Jeff is working near Tok this summer for the US Fish & Wildlife Service. He plans to work seasonally for several years gaining experience before going back to graduate school. Meanwhile, he is enjoying weekend hiking and river trips in the state.

Lyle Carlson, a Fairbanks attorney and Delta farmer, was on the original board of the AOC in 1982. Lyle died in a farming accident in 1991. Funds for the memorial scholarship in wildlife management were primarily accumulated through the efforts of the Tanana Valley Bar Association and the Alaska Outdoor Council. ■



AOC Board Boosts Locals

The AOC board of directors took a new approach in supporting the efforts of local clubs. The Board decided that 25% of the net profit from the February 2008 Juneau AOC fundraising dinner/auction should be contributed to the Juneau Shooting Sports Foundation effort. (see story p. 11)

The support for this approach convinced the AOC board to make the same arrangement with the Alaska Outdoor Access Alliance (AOAA) for the Outdoor Council's October fundraiser in the Mat Valley. ■

17b Easements on Ahtna Selected Lands BLM Invites Public Input thru October 31st

"Response to BLM open house events regarding Ahtna region easements earlier this year was robust," according to BLM officials. BLM will be providing additional opportunities to obtain easement information in September throughout the state. The public is invited to attend any of the following open house events, each beginning at 4 pm and lasting 2 hours – except in Fairbanks where the event will last until 7 pm.

Fairbanks on 9/11 at BLM District Office

Cantwell on 9/9 at Cantwell School

Valdez on 9/17 at Prince Wm. Sound Comm. College

Eagle River on 9/15 above Garcia's

Delta Junction on 9/19 at Community Hall

Glennallen on 9/22 at BLM Field Office

Outdoor users have expressed concern over potential lack of easement through Ahtna lands to state lands along the Parks and Denali Highways. 17(b) easements must go to and from public areas, such as from a highway to a public lake or piece of state or public land. They do not provide hunting, trapping, etc. rights on lands they cross.

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..."

To view maps that show expected Ahtna land ownership patterns, please visit BLM website at www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/lands_realty/17b_easements/17b_Easements_on_Ahtna_Lands.html

The website also contains links to the Notice of Proposed Easements for Ahtna regional lands and other information regarding easements.

Input on access for lands to be conveyed to Ahtna region or village corporations will continue to be accepted through October 31, 2008. Final easement recommendations are expected to be determined by the end of the year which will enable BLM to proceed with the conveyance process in 2009.

BLM encourages your continued interest and participation. If you do not have access to a computer, please visit BLM Public Information Centers in Glennallen, Anchorage or Fairbanks, or call the Glennallen Field Office at 822-3217 to request information in other formats. ■

AOC Goals Reflected in Candidate Survey

On July 17th, the Outdoor Council mailed a survey to all candidates for the State Legislature participating in the August 26th, Primary Election. About a quarter of them responded by deadline time.

The survey questions reflect what the Council would like to see the next State

Legislature achieve in order to further the Council's goals.

If incumbents from your District do not appear on the survey results, perhaps they were tied up in the special sessions. Please review their voting records, legislative home pages or ask questions of them individually.

Before the November elections AOC hopes to provide you with additional information on issues from our state and federal candidates.

Dear Candidate:

The Alaska Outdoor Council advocates the goals of sound, scientific state management of Alaska's wild renewable resources, and common use of and equal access to those resources by all Alaskans, consistent with the Alaska Constitution.

The AOC invites your response to the enclosed questionnaire. The questions are based on AOC's judgment as to what State actions are needed to accomplish those goals.

The AOC will summarize and publish candidates' responses in forthcoming publications and public commentaries.

We hope that candidates for public office share our appreciation for the importance of Alaska's wild, renewable resources to Alaskans and Alaska's visitors. If you have questions please contact Rod Arno, Executive Director, at 907-376-2913, or email at aoc@alaska.net.

Survey Questions:

1. Fish and game are important state assets yet their management is receiving a diminishing percentage of state general fund dollars. In the forthcoming Legislature, would you vote to invest more general fund dollars for the following:
 - a) ADF&G, Division of Wildlife Conservation, to ensure that big game populations, predator populations, and habitat are managed intensively to improve wild food harvests by / for Alaskans in areas where data support intensive management, and land ownership allows it (generally not allowed on federal lands – 60% of Alaska's lands)?
 - b) ADF&G, Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries Divisions, for salmon research and management to restore spawning populations (escapement) in rivers where escapements have chronically been unacceptably low?
 - c) ADF&G, Statewide ANILCA Implementation Program, and Department of Law, to gather necessary data and litigate when necessary to assure federal land managers' compliance with federal laws regarding public access (such as ANCSA 17b and RS 2477 easements, State navigable waters) and fishing, hunting, and trapping opportunities?
 - d) Public Safety (DPS), for Alaska Wildlife Troopers, to restore fish and wildlife law enforcement staffing level (now lower than 20 years ago) and operational effectiveness?
 - e) ADNRR, Division of Mining, Land and Water, to advocate, promote, and properly manage public access on and to State navigable waters and State lands, across federal and municipal lands, and in addition ACROSS large blocks of private lands as specified by federal law (ANCSA, 17b easements)?
2. Would you support strengthening sustained yield salmon management by placing, in statute, the directives of the Board of Fisheries' Sustainable Salmon Fisheries Policy?
3. Would you support legislation to a) allow the Department of Natural Resources to regulate Off Road Vehicle access on state lands and; b) to provide for State enforcement to ensure continued habitat and trail integrity?
4. Would you support an aggressive effort by the State Administration and Legislature to combat the state's "brain drain" of highly qualified fish, game, and other natural resource professionals by being more competitive in attracting and retaining these valued employees?
5. In a recent survey of AOC members, the three issues below stood out as the most important for AOC to place its efforts. Please rate your interest in these three subjects by noting whether you consider them "not important", "somewhat important" or "very important".
 - a) support individual right to bear arms:
 - b) provide public access to public lands and waters:
 - c) change the State subsistence priority law and Tier II regulations to make opportunities for harvest of fish and wildlife more fair:

Primary Candidates Answer AOC Survey

Question Summary (see previous page for complete question)

Candidate	Legislative Districts	1(a) = \$ for Game res/mgmt	1(b) = \$ for Salmon res/mgmt	1(c) = \$ for Law Dept., watchdog on Feds	1(d) = \$ for Fish & Game Enforcement	1(e) = \$ for DNR public access	2 = Salmon policy in statute	3 = ORV Reg/Enforce	4 = fix state "brain-drain"	5(a) = right to bear arms	5(b) = public access	5(c) = change State Tier II law
Linda Menard	Senate G	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Dave Harbour	Senate K	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Need Information
Cathy Munoz	HD 4	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Schaeffer Cox	HD 7	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	?	?	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Karl Kassel	HD 7	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important
Sue Hull	HD 9	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
John S. Brown	HD 10	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	?	Yes	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Not Important
Jay Ramras *	HD 10	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important
Frank A. Turney	HD 10	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	?	?	?	Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
John Coghill *	HD 11	?	?	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Carl Gatto*	HD 13	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Wes Keller *	HD 14	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important
Mark Newman*	HD 15	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Bob Roses*	HD 19	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	?	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	More information
Mark Fish	HD 22	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Very Important	Very Important	Somewhat Important
Les Gara*	HD 23	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	More information
Bob Buch *	HD 27	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Bob Lewis	HD 27	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	?	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Bruce D. Webb	HD 30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Jonathan Becker	HD 34	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Tim Evans	HD 34	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Yes	Very Important	Very Important	Very Important
Andy R. Lundquist	HD 36	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	?	Very Important	Very Important	More information

* Denotes Incumbent

? Denotes Candidate's need for more information or clarification of the question

Clear Sky Sportsmen Celebrate 40th Anniversary

Clear Sky Sportsmen's Club is celebrating their 40th Anniversary this year. The club celebrated their milestone on July 12 with a public pig roast and "shoot" at the clubhouse behind Clear Sky Lodge, Mile 280 Parks Highway. The *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* featured a story by Kris Capps about the club on July 9.

Kris kindly said we could use information from her story to tell our readers a bit about Clear Sky's contributions to the quality of life south of Nenana. Lolita Valq, club treasurer and enthusiastic photographer, provided the pictures. Other club officers are Paul Van Dyke, President; Myron Stokes and Jim Anderson. Clear Sky has been a member of AOC going on 20 years.

The Club is one of those local organizations that keeps a low profile, while doing good things for the community, according



Photos courtesy of Lolita Valq

to Capps who lives in the area. This is the group that provides and maintains waste barrels at strategic points along the



Parks Highway between Healy and Anderson. Most just presumed the borough or state took care of that. Nope. Volunteers from the Club took on the civic duty years ago.

Throughout the years, the Club has included members from Anderson, Healy and even outside the borough. They've sponsored hunter safety courses and safe shooting courses, promoted responsible sportsmanship and fed the incoming spring geese.

"I really appreciate what they do," said Denali Borough Mayor Dave Talerico, a longtime member of the Club. "In particular, with that cleanup, it really makes a difference. It makes driving up the highway pleasant." ■

A Gift to Alaska — Support Our Heritage

By Mal Linthwaite

The Alaska Trust Fund is an endowment fund providing permanent and long-term funding for the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund, the sister corporation to the AOC. The principal of the Alaska Trust Fund is protected from invasion in perpetuity.

The Trustee Advisory Board (TAB) mission is to develop a core of members, or “Trustees” who make a tax-deductible donation of \$250 or more per year to the Trust Fund. Trustees elect 7 from among themselves to comprise the TAB. The TAB is an advisory body to the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund Board of Directors. The AOC Board of Directors along with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the TAB, are the actual governing body of the Fund, and are the Fund Directors.

The Trust Advisory Board (TAB) met by teleconference Tuesday, July 22nd, and elected two more trustees to the TAB, Teresa Sager Albaugh of Tok and Mal Linthwaite of Juneau. The Board re-elected Byron Haley as Vice Chair and elected Mal as Chair, and Teresa as Secretary. The other TAB members are Mary Bishop, Ron Somerville and Warren Olson.

It was decided at the meeting on July 22nd, that a new fundraising program would be undertaken this year. The program will be explained in the next issue of Outdoor Alaska.

There is one seat open on the TAB, and any AOC member that is a Trustee of the Fund is qualified to be on the TAB. Any Trustee that is interested in serving on the Trust Advisory Board, should contact Mal Linthwaite (907)789-3289 or by e-mail at malburro@gci.net. ■

Waste Not

By Les Palmer

The following was previously published in the “Peninsula Clarion” (July 4, 2008) Outdoor Section.

Earlier this week, I heard someone call a local radio station to say he needed to empty his freezer of red meat and fish. He was looking for a dog team owner to take it off his hands.

It happens every year, fish going to the dogs. More often, I suspect, it ends up in the garbage.

It’s doubtful that anyone purposely sets out to kill more fish or game than they can eat. Instead, this waste of a precious resource probably happens due to a lack of planning. Either that, or by commission of one of the Seven Deadly Sins. Say, greed. With a little planning, you can avoid waste.

It’s easy to estimate how many salmon you will consume in a year. My estimate for one person — myself — is 50 meals (including leftovers) at 1/2 pound each. That means 25 pounds of fillets. With an average weight of about 7 pounds, a sockeye will yield about 3 pounds of fillets, so just 8 sockeyes satisfies this need. Adding a couple of fish for entertaining dinner guests, that makes an even 10.

I also smoke a few sockeyes, about six per year. And I give another 10 to local friends who no longer fish. In total, I usually use about 26 sockeyes per year. In years when I catch king salmon before the reds start running, I reduce my harvest of reds accordingly.

Some people forget that another salmon run comes after the reds and kings — the silvers. At one time, before I learned how to catch reds, I put up nothing but silvers for the winter. Now, I usually limit my silver harvest to just a few. In years when I can’t catch enough reds, I can usually make up for it with silvers. In addition to salmon, I eat halibut and other fish.

Things I’ve learned the hard way:

- I seldom send or take fish Outside anymore. It wasn’t appreciated enough to justify the work and expense. Worse, it often ended up in the bottom of a freezer, wasted.

- Giving away last year’s fish ensures that it won’t be appreciated.

- I used to can a lot of salmon, but no longer do so. To me, it’s too expensive and time-consuming, and I don’t like what it

does to the flavor and texture of fish. Now I vacuum-pack and freeze all my fish, including some of the smoked fish.

- Putting fresh, raw fish on top of frozen fish in a freezer thaws the frozen fish. I now have a large, upright freezer with cooling coils under the shelves for freezing, and a small, upright freezer for storage. I keep the small one at 20 degrees below zero (F).

- I found that haphazardly throwing food into the freezer was a bad idea. It meant taking more time to find things, so the door was open longer. It also meant more handling of frozen packages, which invariably caused some to leak and the contents to become “freezer burned.”

By knowing how many fish you can use, and by taking proper care of those you keep, you’ll stand a better chance of not wasting any.

For free brochures on how to properly cook, care for and process fish and game, visit the Cooperative Extension Service office or, visit the free publications website at www.uaf.edu/ces/publications/fhepubs.html#fnh. ■

Juneau Shooting Sports Foundation: Works on Local Shooting Range

By Tom Boutin

The Juneau Shooting Sports Foundation, Inc was established in 2006 as a nonprofit organization to promote use of the Juneau ADF&G indoor shooting range. Paul Maki, of AIMCOM in Fairbanks, came to Juneau to help us put together a very similar outfit. Territorial Sportsmen paid Paul's way to Juneau, and Juneau attorney Bruce Weyhrauch donated his time to apply for 501(c)3 status (which was obtained without a glitch).

Our initial focus has included obtaining funds to complete construction of the range, estimated to cost over \$300,000. While the rifle-pistol portion of the facility has been open and operating for about 2 years, approximately half of the building is simply a shell with a dirt floor. The plan is to have a new classroom, additional rest rooms, and an archery range to complete the facility.

Essential state capital budget funding has been secured after a long tough process through the appropriation and veto segments. In addition to state funding, we've received money from the Alaska Outdoor Council, Territorial Sportsmen, Juneau Rifle and Pistol Club, Juneau Gun Club, Friends of NRA, the Juneau Archery Club, the Archery Trade Group, and the Easton Foundation. In addition to construction funding, money from these groups is going to establish a JSSF endowment and to promote archery

in schools. ADF&G has been especially helpful in several ways including helping ensure a cost-effective construction and contractor process.

Our first public event was a turkey shoot last November, held jointly with the Juneau Gun Club. About 100 people shot in the indoor range and/or shot archery in the yet-to-be completed archery range, and about 70 turkeys went home with shooters. We also held the pistol leg of the annual Legislative Shoot this spring – also in conjunction with the Juneau Gun Club as well as the Alaska Correctional Officers' Association. We have had 6 formal meetings so far this year – chiefly directed at funding and construction – and had several meetings with contractors. We expect that the range will be substantially completed by December but needed finishing and accessories must await the coming FY10 state capital budget and possibly other funding sources.

We sincerely appreciate the support of the many organizations, the Legislature and the Governor in advancing completion of the facility. ■

*The JSSF mailing address is:
PO Box 35583, Juneau, AK 99803*

AOC Supports Meat Care at Ella's Cabin

By Dick Bishop, AOC President

ADF&G has checked Koyukuk River moose hunters' paperwork and success for 26 years at the cabin. The cabin is a landmark at the site of Ella Vernetti's fish camp. Ella and her husband, Dominic, ran Vernetti's Trading Post for decades in the village of Koyukuk.

Since 2002 ADF&G has also evaluated the condition of meat brought out, recommended good handling practices, and provided meat bags and tarps for sale to help hunters improve meat care. Numbers of moose checked ranged from 199 in 2003 to 84 in 2007.

Glenn Stout, Area Biologist, has documented a trend of improved meat care between 2002 and 2007. The trend reflects shorter time in the field and better protection of the meat from rain and dirt. Glenn says providing meat bags and tarps has contributed to this improvement.

AOC was pleased to provide \$500 this year to purchase the meat bags and tarps. Money from sales will eventually come back to AOC. It's great to see a program that helps hunters get the most out of their catch through good care of the meat. ■



Photo courtesy of Glenn Stout



Area biologist Glenn Stout measures the antlers of successful hunters at Ella's Cabin

Tarps and meat bags for sale at Ella's Cabin

Nabesna Trails Project Update

By Bruce Rogers, Wrangell St. Elias NP

Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve is developing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that considers management options for nine motorized trails that originate from the Nabesna road.

The EIS is the result of a lawsuit and subsequent settlement agreement that occurred in 2006 and 2007. As a result of the settlement agreement, three of the nine trails have been seasonally closed to recreational Off Road Vehicle (ORV) use. Trail assessment work done in 2004 and 2006 by National Park Service staff showed conditions on the three seasonally

closed trails to be degraded to severely degraded. At times, particularly when conditions are wet, these trails are almost impassable. The EIS will consider alternatives that incorporate good trail management concepts in order to maintain access for recreational use, access to subsistence resources, and access to inholdings, while protecting resource values.

The NPS held five public meetings last March and April. You may have attended one of these. The intent of the meetings was to inform the public about the planning process and the project and to generate public interest and comments. More than 90 people attended and many submitted written comments. These comments and a description of the public involvement process are summarized in a scoping report that will soon be available for public review. Look for it by mid-July on the Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve website at www.nps.gov/wrst. Go to the "Management" link, then the "Park Planning" link and you will see it posted as "Nabesna ORV scoping report".

By reviewing this report, you'll get a good idea of the public comments and perceptions regarding ORVs and access in the Nabesna District of Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

This summer, there are several field activities occurring. The NPS has entered into a cooperative agreement with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. An ADF&G crew will look at stream crossings associated with the nine trails and characterizing the fish habitat associated with those crossings. A cultural resources crew will complete surveys along

the nine trails. And, we have trail counters set up along the trails in order to accurately portray the trail use. This fall, we will send out a packet of draft management alternatives for public review and comment. ■

If you wish to be added to the project mailing list or if you have questions regarding the project, contact Bruce Rogers at (907) 822-7276.



A rutted section of the Pike Ridge Trail near King Salmon.

Photo courtesy of Kevin Meyer, NPS

A super-elevated turn built into the tread of the Glacier Gap Trail.



Photo courtesy of Kevin Meyer, NPS

Chitina Dipnetters: Start Subsistence Legal Fund

By Byron Haley, President CDA

The Chitina Dipnetters Association (CDA) sent a letter to some 8000 Alaska residents who received 2007 Chitina dipnet permits. The letter requests donations for the CDA legal fund, mandated by a vote of the CDA membership, to regain State subsistence classification for the Chitina Dipnet Fishery and also to regain full public access to the Copper River at O'Brien Creek.

The CDA was instrumental in getting the \$25 Chitina dipnetting permit fee removed in 2004 saving each permit

holder \$100 since 2004. CDA asks that each dipnetter donate back some of this \$100 permit savings to the CDA legal fund and that they consider joining the Chitina Dipnetters Association for a \$10 annual fee.

A one year membership in the CDA will be provided with a donation of \$25 or more. Make checks payable to the CDA and mail to: 1002 Pioneer Road, Fairbanks, AK 99701-2818. Please indicate whether your check is for the legal fund or for dues.



Chitina Success

Photo courtesy of Mike Dawey

If you have questions call Chuck at (907) 488-3093 or Byron at (907) 456-4426. ■

AOC Sustaining Business Members

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AOC Member Clubs

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

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

Attention!

The National Park service released a Scoping Report regarding the compatibility of recreational ORV use along the Nabesna Road. A Draft of Alternative Management Actions will be out for public review and comment by mid-September 2008. Comments gathered after a 60 day period will then be analyzed by the NPS and a Draft EIS should be available for public comment during the Fall of 2009.



It will be important for ORV groups and individual trail users to inform themselves on what direction the Park Services is headed by studying the Scoping Report prior to commenting on management alternatives. You can view or download the report at the following site:
www.nps.gov/wrst/parkmgmt/upload/Scoping_Report_WRST_NabesnaTrails_EIS-2.pdf



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features

Hunting & Trapping in Alaska's Interior: Our Stories, Our Lives Continues through Sunday, November 30th, 2008

This exhibit explores the history of the hunting and trapping tradition in Alaska – and speaks to its importance in Alaska today. Personal stories, contemporary and historic photographs, community loans and objects from the museum's collections (including an historic firearm collection).



Photo courtesy of Barry McWayne



*An Old Bull's Thoughts Turn to Love
Photo by Michio Hoshino*

Hunting and Trapping Expo Saturday, October 18th, 2008

Celebrate the rich legacy of hunting and trapping in Alaska's Interior at this museum expo. See demonstrations related to hunting and trapping and visit with local experts. Free with museum admission.

Visit the museum online at www.uaf.edu/museum for more information on the hunting and trapping exhibit and related events.

Exhibit made possible with funding from BP and ConocoPhillips, through the University of Alaska Statewide Office of Academic Affairs; FurBearers, Unlimited; Outdoor Heritage Foundation of Alaska; Safari Club International, Alaska and Kenai Chapters; Sportsmen's Warehouse; Alaska Outdoor Council; Alaska Trapper's Association; Usibelli Foundation; Northern Alaska Environmental Center.

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- managing our fish and wildlife to produce healthy, locally grown meat & fish
- reducing the use of petroleum products to transport foods to and throughout Alaska

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Vote Absentee - follow the links at www.elections.alaska.gov/abinfo.php

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www.wildlife.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=wolf.control for predator control information
www.wildlife.alaska.gov/management/control/05hunt.pdf for Department of Law analysis



☐ Yes, I'd like to join the Alaska Outdoor Council; \$25 is enclosed.

☐ This is a renewal of my membership; \$25 is enclosed.

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Please mail to: AOC, PO Box 73902, Fairbanks, AK 99707 or join
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