



Outdoor Alaska



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

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President: Bill Iverson,
Soldotna, Alaska
email: bill@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

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email: mel@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

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email: ralph@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

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email: bwhaley4@gci.net

Staff and AOC Office:

Executive Director: Rod Arno
AOC/AFWCF

310 K St., #200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Email: aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org
Ph: 376-2913 Fax: 376-7197
Cell: 841-6849

Bookkeeper/Accountant:
Warwick & Schikora, CPA
Fairbanks, Alaska
Phone: 907-456-1566

AOC Office:
Alaska Outdoor Council
310 K Street, Suite 200
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
Phone: (907) 264-6645
Fax: (907) 264-6602



"Food Security" - 100 pounds of sustainable, drug free meat to share with the family and friends.

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AHTNA PREFERENCE FOR NELCHINA CARIBOU RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

By Mike Kramer, Attorney for AOC

On July 9, 2010, Judge Carl Bauman ruled that the Board of Game could not provide guaranteed tags for Nelchina caribou to Ahtna villagers.

In 2009, with the advice and consent of Alaska's Attorney General, the Board of Game authorized sweeping changes to how moose and caribou hunts were managed in Unit 13, the Nelchina Basin. These changes were designed to provide eight Ahtna Indian villages with what the Board had identified as its goal of "virtually guaranteeing" a caribou permit every year to Ahtna village residents.

The Ahtna Community Harvest Permit (CHP) hunt was proposed by Ahtna in 2009.

Dozens of Ahtna villagers were brought to Anchorage to lobby the Board for a preference over all other users of Nelchina caribou.

The Board of Game had struggled with allocation issues involving Nelchina caribou and moose for decades because the thousands of Alaskans who desire to hunt these animals exceed the harvestable surplus. The Board unanimously approved "findings" in 2006 that lead to the 2009 CHP.

According to Judge Bauman: *"The theme throughout the Board's Findings in 2006 is that the customary and traditional subsistence uses established and practiced by local Ahtna community members are in line with a traditional subsistence way of life, but the practices of*

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Presidents Message

By Bill Iverson, AOC President

Our uses of public renewable resources are always under attack by those who think that they must protect those resources from us, rather than using them wisely, with conservation in mind. It is AOC's mission to fight for our right to use these resources responsibly.

I have always considered myself living a subsistence lifestyle. I was born and raised in Anchorage in the Territory of Alaska in 1951. I grew up on moose, caribou, salmon, trout, halibut, king crab and my mother's garden. I believe I was 14 before I had my first beef steak. To this day the bulk of my nutrition comes from those items above, although now it is my wife's garden. Pam and I jar up 10-20 cases of salmon every season for our family to eat during the winter. (see article in newsletter) We smoke up salmon into strips that never makes it past the next weekend.

I have watched over the years as my favorite hunting and fishing locations have been limited and restricted more and more. We keep getting more and more federal interference in the management of our fish and game. When I see our state employees aid the feds in circumventing the intent of our equal protection clause in our State Constitution, I just get angry. All Alaskans have the right to live the subsistence lifestyle, not just those with a certain zip code or skin color. The feds discriminate blatantly all the time but at the same time preach to the rest of us not to discriminate. The State continually compromises with the feds in hopes of getting back control of our fish and game management but instead we just give away ever more control. The State needs to realize that that ship sailed when we let them take the control in the first place. We should have fought it with every fiber of our body. It is time to draw the line in the sand and stop pandering to the feds. Enough is enough.

An example is our Board of Game (BOG) creating the Ahtna Community Harvest Program (CHP) with an allocation of 300 caribou and 100 moose for residents of 8 villages. The CHP was a good program, that AOC supported. It allowed local communities to pool their hunting license together and allows a few hunters to collect game for the community. A noble cause. Changing the CHP regulation to allow Ahtna to hand out harvest tickets based on residence violates the "common use clause" enshrined in our State Constitution. The caribou population in my neck of the woods doesn't support my needs so I have always had to go north for my caribou. My extended family and I pool our resources and car pool to the caribou hunting grounds. Now the State wants to give the public resource away to a select few because of where they live. Coincidentally, the communities happen to be dominantly native occupied. One of my long time hunting partners is half native. I am blind to race and I judge people by their actions. I am an advocate for all Alaskans. I don't profess to have more rights than anyone else.

Fortunately there is AOC to fight against this bias. All Alaskans need to come together, native or not and to fight for the rights of all. In a recent court ruling the warped CHP has been struck down and we have been vindicated in our efforts.



Kasilof River is a jewel that has been forsaken. In the mid to late 1990's it had a King salmon run that was rivaled by none. I would like to know the reasons why the Kasilof cannot be brought back to its former glory? Why the King salmon stocking program that produced excellent fishing on the Kasilof can't be returned? What were the reasons for reducing it in the first place and what happened to the supposed 5 year study? Under the current plan the fishery has been virtually killed. I used to average 35-40 kings a season (catch and release) and in the past 5 years I have caught 4 kings total. This is disgraceful. Having this fishery took pressure off of the Kenai River and many other rivers in SouthCentral. It was one of the only places you could drive to and walk down the shoreline and catch a King salmon. It was a great place to take new fisherman and show them the ropes without costing an arm and a leg. For over 20 years the stocking program used to stock 220,000 fry that were raised to a super size and released into the Kasilof River. Since approximately 2002 the State has cut that program in half. Supposedly, they clip the adipose fin on all the fry, for identification, and raise them to a much smaller size. These are supposed to be the fish we can keep when they return. The net effect is what we have ended up with now. A dismal fishery.

The study is nowhere to be found. The reasons for reducing the program are moot. Please give us back our Jewel.

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Executive Director Report

By Rod Arno, AOC Executive Director



Food Security for Alaskans -Wild Fish & Game

To my knowledge, Alaska is the only state that has a source of food that is owned by the public, equally. Alaska has a wild supply of meat that could supplement the annual nutritional food needs of a portion of Alaska's population for many years to come. Assuming wild fish and game habitat stays intact. Sustained harvestable

surplus is the goal of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game (ADF&G).

The State of Alaska may be the only democratic state on earth that flat-out says, in its State Constitution (Art. 8, Sec. 3), that; *whenever there are fish or game populations in Alaska occurring in their natural state (aka. wild) they are reserved to the people for common use.*

When you become an Alaskan resident state law says you have a constitutionally protected right to wild food to eat. This right meant a lot to the people who wrote up Alaska's State Constitution. They pioneered Alaska at a time when imported food supplies dried up every winter.

Nobody expects a lack of food to ever happen again but today it is nice to know that if necessary you, as a resident of Alaska, could still survive on preserved wild fish & game, until you had another chance to put up some garden vegetables and berries before winter set in once again.

It is comforting to feel you are at least somewhat self-reliant when it comes to feeding your family and self. A number of Alaskans have traditionally filled a portion of their nutritional needs with wild fish and game resources since the first humans walked into Alaska from the Asian continent tens of thousands of years ago.

Today scientific fish and game management allows for a larger number of Alaskans to count on a wild food harvest than ever before. Un-managed fish stocks and game populations fluctuate greatly in northern latitudes. High populations occur for a short time period followed by years of scarcity as limiting factors are allowed to decimate wild food sources.

Of course, it does take a considerable amount of money to pay for efforts to minimize factors that lead to large scale declines in fish stocks or game populations. So, it's not like the public is given a free allocation of food. Renewable food stocks require management actions if they are to be made available to those Alaskans who choose to gather wild food resources.

Where does the revenue required to pay for fish & game management come from?

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT Revenues:

The commercial fishing industry is dependent on fisheries managers to assure a harvestable portion of fish stocks year after year. The commercial fisheries industry pays the state to manage the fish stocks for their commercial use.

State sport and personal use fisheries management is largely paid for by those who harvest fish for their own use.

The two principal sources of revenue available to the state for sport and personal use fisheries management come from **Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration** (also known as the Dingell-Johnson, Wallop-Breaux Act) and the **Fish & Game Fund**. Federal Aid revenues are derived from an excise tax outdoor people pay on fishing tackle, boats, motors, and motor boat fuel. The state is required to make a 25% match for federal funds spent in Alaska. The state collects the 25% matching revenue from the sale of fishing licenses and king salmon stamps which are deposited into the Fish & Game Fund. The greater the number of fishing licenses sold to residents and non-residents the greater amount of revenue available to the state for stock and habitat assessment, management, hatchery production, and assurance of access to public waters. In 2009 these two funding sources brought in over \$30 million to the Division of Sport Fisheries, which accounted for about 90% of their Actual Expenditures for the year.

GAME MANAGEMENT Revenues:

Unlike commercial fishing, federal law banned commercial big game hunting in the USA back in the early 1900s. Today, individual hunters pay for game management through the sale of hunting licenses & tags and federal excise taxes on outdoor sporting gear, firearms & ammunition, and archery equipment.

Like the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration revenues Congress created the **Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Fund**. (The Pittman-Robertson Act of 1937). These revenues, collected from federal excise taxes, are appropriated to each state based on the size of the State and the matching revenues from the state **Fish & Game Fund**.

What most Alaskan hunters are unaware of is the fact that Non-Resident hunting license & tag sales pay for over 70% of the Fish & Game Fund allocated to the Division of Wildlife Conservation for game management. (In the past Non-Resident hunting license & tag sales paid over 90% of the revenues, but as non-resident hunting opportunities decline in Alaska so does the budget for game management. Since 1999 non-resident hunting license sales have declined by 12% and tag sales are down 26.7 %. This resulted in a loss for game management funding to the State of over \$1 million over a ten year period)

Fortunately for Alaskans, the framers of the State Constitution made the State Legislature responsible for developing natural resources such as fish and game. (Article 8, Section 2) Therefore, whenever Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration revenues or license sales fall short the state legislature

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McDonald v. Chicago

By Rod Arno, AOC Executive Director

AOC joined in with over forty other state firearm associations in an Amici Curiae in support of *Otis McDonald, et al.* being heard before the Supreme Court of the United States. (The brief for the state firearms associations as Amici Curiae can be viewed on the AOC website)

Otis McDonald is a retired union worker and community organizer who wanted to keep a handgun in his Chicago home for self-defense. The City of Chicago bans the ownership of handguns within its city limits. Otis sued, and on June 28, 2010 the U.S. Supreme Court issued an opinion on his case.

The Court found that Chicago's ban on handgun ownership was unconstitutional; the case has now been sent back to the U.S. Seventh Circuit Court for further proceedings consistent with the Supreme Court's opinion. (The Courts opinion in the McDonald v. City of Chicago case can be viewed on the AOC website) The 5-4 decision reiterates and expands the Supreme Court conclusion that individuals have the right to own handguns for their protection.

While the 2008 Heller case assured individuals the right to own handguns in the District of Columbia the McDonald case sets the legal precedent for protection of individual 2nd Amendment

rights over state and local government statutes and regulations. The court's decision is a clear victory for law-abiding firearms owners.

The attorney for the state firearms association, James W. Hrykewicz, cautioned gun owners not to assume that states and local governments could not continue to prohibit the possession of firearms in sensitive places such as schools and government buildings. State and local governments will continue to be able to require firearms owners to obtain permits that may include requirements such as taking firearms training. Individuals convicted for violent crimes, mentally ill, or with drug or DWI convictions could still be forbidden from possessing firearms.

AOC will continue to work with other state firearms associations to assure the 2nd Amendment rights bestowed on Americans are not unnecessarily infringed upon by state or local governments. All law abiding firearms owners have good reason to be thankful for the contributions made by the NRA, numerous firearms associations, and legal attorneys for their time and financial support in defending the individual right of citizens to defend themselves with the use of firearms.

Your contributions as an AOC member helped pay for our defense.

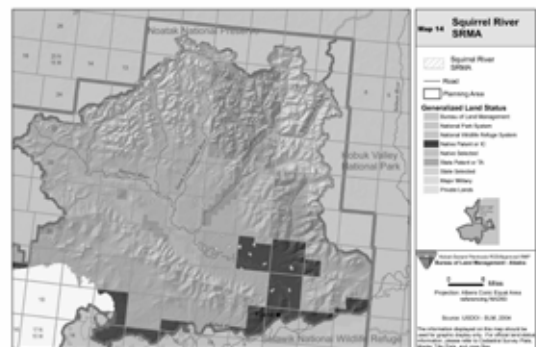
Kobuk Seward Resource Management Plan (RMP) Amend - Squirrel River Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA)

BLM posted a Notice of Intent for an amendment to the Kobuk Seward RMP regarding the Squirrel River SRMA in the Federal Register. The scoping input will be used to help create an Environmental Analysis (EA) focusing on developing implementation level decisions (travel management, recreation management) for the Squirrel River Special Recreation Management Area. To the feds that means determining the number of non-local hunters that won't negatively affect subsistence hunting users. Section 810(a) of ANILCA requires that an evaluation of potential impacts to subsistence users be completed for the amended Kobuk Seward Resource Management Plan regarding Squirrel River drainage. The Squirrel River drainage is located NE of Kotzebue and has been a popular hunting destination for Alaskans from outside the region for decades. The Squirrel River was an area of interest for the GMU 23 Working Group which was formed in early 2008 to discuss fall hunting conflicts between local hunters, nonlocal hunters and commercial operators (guides, transporters) in GMU 23 in northwest Alaska.

The Federal Register notice also informed the public that scoping meetings would be held in Kiana, Noorvik, Kotzebue, Fairbanks and Anchorage. Two months later no meeting dates, times, or locations have been announced. Word is that BLM has decided to wait until late September or October to conduct the public scoping meetings, at this time no notice has been given. AOC has been following the alleged hunter conflict issue in the area for years,

knowing that if non-local hunters were unwelcome to participate in hunts of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd (WAH), which has a harvestable surplus annually in the tens of thousands, non-local hunters would not have much of a chance harvesting game on federal lands in areas where the harvestable surplus is numbered in the hundreds.

AOC will inform members when BLM does announce public meetings are being held, even if they are during statewide hunting seasons. It will be critical for Alaskans who don't have the opportunity to always harvest game locally to attend these meetings and express your desire to hunt on federal public lands. AOC staff will be at the scoping meetings defending hunting opportunities for ALL Alaskans.



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urban-based subsistence users and subsistence users from other rural areas are not.”

The subsistence law in Alaska has been shaped by decades of court decisions and minor legislative tinkering. The fundamentals of this law can be summarized as follows:

1. All Alaskans enjoy equal access to our commonly owned fish and game resources, except when demand exceeds harvestable surplus. When this occurs (Tier II) access may be restricted to those most dependent on the resource based on individual characteristics and historic participation in the harvest.
2. Community harvest permits (CHP) may be authorized when a distinct community is willing to pool their available permits for a communal harvest and distribution (i.e. “party hunting”).
3. All Alaskans must be on equal footing for participation in Tier I hunts. (when demand does not exceed harvestable surplus)

AOC’s sister organization, the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund (AFWCF), does not have the resources to challenge every regulation passed by the Board of Game that illegally provides preferences to certain classes of Alaskans while discriminating against all others. It had no choice but to challenge this blatantly discriminatory CHP. As a former AOC and AFWCF Board member and life member of AOC, I was honored to be asked to be AFWCF’s attorney to fight this important battle to preserve what is left of our Constitutional right to equal access to our commonly owned fish and game resources.

The Alaska Attorney General is sworn to uphold the laws and Constitution of the State of Alaska. At the 2009 Board meeting, an Assistant Attorney General met with Ahtna representatives and ADF&G employees to strategize on how to implement the Ahtna CHP.

Before the Ahtna CHP could be authorized, the Board had to reclassify Nelchina caribou as a Tier I hunt, rather than the Tier II hunt it had been for more than a decade. The judge found that the Board did not give the public adequate notice that such a drastic change might occur, and therefore held that the Board violated the Administrative Procedures Act. In addition to violating the Administrative Procedures Act, the Court found that the Board’s decision to change the Unit 13 caribou hunt from a Tier II to a Tier I hunt “was arbitrary and unreasonable because it was not supported by evidence in the Administrative record.”

The State Attorney General defended the Ahtna CHP in court by arguing that only Ahtna villagers were “true subsistence users.” The Attorney General disparaged all other Alaskans who have customarily and traditionally hunted Nelchina caribou when he described urban Alaskan hunters as follows:

“these hunts, in which relatively well-off long-time Anchorage, Mat-Su Valley, Fairbanks, and other non-local residents are privileged

to be the vast majority of participants, have become epitomized in the public mind by the utilization of large, luxurious recreational vehicles as base camps or “motherships” for daytime forays by multiple high-tech four-wheeler operators... whether one agrees with the use of these methods or not, such hunts cannot or should not be viewed as subsistence hunts...”

Judge Bauman’s decision overturning the Board’s special allocation of our commonly owned resources to a narrowly defined group of Alaskans is an undisputed victory for AFWCF.

Until policy makers in Juneau question whether the ADF&G Division of Subsistence, the Boards of Fish & Game, and especially the Attorney General’s office who advises them, are protecting our fundamental rights, these entities will continue to pander to interest groups seeking discriminatory preferences to harvest our fish and game. There will be no Tier I hunt this year for moose or caribou in Unit 13 unless the Attorney General appeals the decision and asks Judge Bauman to allow the CHP for 2010 while the appeal takes its course. We need to let our elected officials know that it is unacceptable to conduct an illegal hunt for another year, and unacceptable to continue to legitimize an illegitimate hunt.

Thank you AOC and AFWCF for the honor of helping secure this important legal victory, a victory that will help preserve what is left of our way of life.

ED Report *Continued from Page 3*

can be successfully lobbied to approve General Fund revenue needed for game management.

Why does the State need to manage wild stocks of fish or populations of game at all?

The answer to that question is simple for fisheries management; without adequate data regarding escapement of spawning salmon or poundage of commercially harvested saltwater species of fish the commercial fisheries fleet could, and has in the past, over harvested Alaska’s fish resources.

The answer is equally simple for game populations important to Alaskans as a wild food source; without predator management 80,000 of the 120,000 moose calves born every year are killed by wolves and bear. Predation is the limiting factor for most populations of moose, caribou, Dall sheep, and musk ox in Alaska. As long as Alaska’s abundant wildlife habitats remain intact game managers can provide a greater opportunity to gather a highly nutritional source of meat year after year.

Is food security, in the form of wild renewable fish and game meat, something you and your family would like to be able to count on for decades to come in Alaska? AOC has been advocating for just that, **for all Alaskans**, since before statehood.

Your membership in AOC and your continued financial support keeps AOC at the table whenever regulations affecting your ability to harvest wild food resources come up in the public process, during the legislative session, and in court. Each year AOC’s work in the regulatory process becomes that much more important to you. Be sure and do your part when called upon to help out.

Salmon Canning Procedures

By Pam Iverson, Administrative Director

Bill, my parents and I decided to find a way to preserve our salmon since Bill was such a good fisherman and we did not like frozen fish. We thoroughly researched the University of Alaska Extension Service advice on canning fish, read books and recipes including the ones that came with the large canners we bought.

We found that fish that have been cleaned and the skin removed, setting overnight in the refrigerator, are the easiest to handle. We always rinse the fish before handling, and wash our hands and utensils thoroughly. If you have the type of canner that has a rubber ring, follow the manufacturer's procedures. We use the All American model.

We always do the exhausting step, but know many people who skip that step. We recommend that you do it to prevent botulism. We never add anything to the fish other than the salt brine, because the fish is so good all by itself it doesn't need anything else, but that is up to you...perhaps you like peppers or other additives. The Extension Service recommends that you can (or jar) fish in no larger than a pint jar.

Our final procedures are shown below.

- 1) Use tail section of Salmon for smoking (because of fewer bones). Cut remainder in chunks for canning.
- 2) Soak Salmon chunks for 1 hour in brine of 1 cup salt to 1 gallon water.
- 3) Mix Salt and fish thoroughly.
- 4) At the same time sterilize the jars by running them through a full cycle in the dish washer.
- 5) Heat lids in pan of water
- 6) Mix Salt and fish thoroughly one last time.
- 7) Drain & stuff the chunks in the jars (up to 1 pint size) leaving at least 1/2" clearance to top of the jar.
- 8) Exhaust the filled jars with lids off in enough water to come approximately half way up the jar, until a thermometer reaches 170 F. (time will vary).
- 9) Dump off small amount of excess water on top of jars (or top off if needed with excess water from exhaust canner.)
- 10) Clean thoroughly the lip of jar and lay sterilized lids on the clean lips and screw on caps snugly.
- 11) Put 2 to 2 1/2 inch of water in canner and one tray. (Water level should be half way up first layer of jars)



- 12) Set jars in canner layered staggered (do not touch sides or other jars).
 - a) (24) 1/2 pint wide mouth jars (3 layers X 8 jars)
 - b) (24) 1/2 pint reg. mouth jars (2 layers X 12 jars)
 - c) (16) 1 pint jars (2 layers X 8 jars)
- 13) Oil rim of canner lid and secure tightly unless you use canner with rubber ring.
- 14) Turn on full heat until steam rises from vent.
- 15) Set timer to 8-10 minutes and let vent steam escape.
- 16) Close vent.
- 17) Bring Pressure up to 10 lbs and maintain (med. to low burner).
- 18) Set timer to 90 minutes for 1/2 pint and 100 minutes for 1 pint jars.
- 19) Turn off heat and allow to cool down to 0 pressure.
- 20) Open canner and remove jars.
- 21) Set on layers of towels and allow to cool. (Wash jars when cool)

Makes approximately 1/2 case of 1/2 pint jars per Red Salmon.

Makes approximately 1 case of 1/2 pint jars per med. King Salmon.

Alaska 2010 Primary Election

By Rod Arno, Executive Director AOC

On August 24th Alaskans will have the opportunity to vote for many key positions: One US Senator, our only US Representative, the Governor and Lt. Governor, ten of the twenty State Senators and all forty of the State Representatives. These elected officials will have a great influence on outdoor people's ability to access public resources in Alaska for years to come.

Alaska is at the crossroads regarding the federal takeover of fish and game management on federal lands and waters. In no other State in the Union do the federal managers have this authority. Access by the public to federal lands, sixty percent of the state, and waters is being eroded away at an alarming rate.

State land and resource managers are at the mercy of the elected governor and legislature concerning the appropriation of revenues needed to conduct agency activities which are necessary to provide management and allocation of fish and game resources. The state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) can do very little to assure public access to public state and federal lands and waterways without funding to create transportation facilities and defend existing trails and off road right-of-ways.

Alaskan voters should ask candidates running for public office how they feel about protecting access to public resources. Below are a number of questions the AOC Board of Directors will ask of candidates who will appear on the August 24th Primary Election Ballot. AOC members may want to ask candidates running to represent them in state office how they would respond to these same questions. Candidate contact information is available on the State of Alaska. Division of Elections website www.elections.alaska.gov then click on Candidate Information.

AOC questions for candidates running for Alaskan public office in **2010:**

- 1) Have you gathered wild food harvest of fish and/or game to supplement your family's annual nutritional needs?
- 2) Do you spend time hunting, fishing, trapping, or recreating on state and/or federal public lands in Alaska? If so, how often?
- 3) Do you use a motorized recreational vehicle, boat, or plane in your outdoor activities? Which type?
- 4) Do you support the individual right to keep and bear arms without licensing or registration?
- 5) Do you support the allocation of fish/game to meet the documented subsistence needs of both rural and urban Alaskans over general use seasons/bag limits, open to all hunters and anglers?
- 6) Do you support all Alaskan citizens having a priority to harvest their own fish and game over the commercial harvest of public resources?
- 7) Does the State of Alaska have management authority for fish/game on federal lands? Do you support asserting state management of Alaska's fish/game resources including direct legal action against federal intervention?



- 8) Do you support the state's current lawsuit under appeal in the 9th Circuit Court (Katie John v. Ken Salazar and State of Alaska, Case: 09-36122) challenging the federal government's interpretation of "where" and to what extent the federal government has management authority over state navigable waters?
- 9) Would you support amendments to AS 38.04.200. Traditional means of access that would define reasonable standards for motorized access to state public domain lands that were enforceable? (Different standards are usually provided for legislatively designated areas such as State lands set aside as legislatively designated areas such as State Parks, Refuges, Public Use Areas, and Recreational Areas.)
- 10) Would you support legislation that would allow the Department of Public Safety to enforce reasonable motorized trail use regulations on state public domain?
- 11) Would you support increased funding for DNR to identify and assert state right-of-ways on recorded RS2477 roads/trails and assert navigability classifications on State waterways?
- 12) Do you support conserving, restoring and enhancing wild fish/game resources consistent with the sustained-yield principle, enshrined in Alaska's State Constitution Article VIII, Section 4, through active management programs adopted by the Alaska Boards of Fisheries or Game?
- 13) Would you support an increase in hunting license and tag fees for non-residents? Would you support an increase in resident hunting license fees and the creation of tag fees for residents?
- 14) Should the Alaska Board of Fisheries be restructured by the legislature to promote an increased opportunity for harvest of anadromous fish for individual use?
- 15) As a state legislator would you support confirmation of the governor's nomination of a qualified individual to the Board of Fisheries who would vote to restrict longlining, as a gear type, within the State's three mile limit of jurisdiction in marine waters? Limiting the commercial catch of federally managed halibut in near shore waters would increase the opportunity for the non-commercial catch of halibut by individual license holders.

Joe Miller.us

US Senate

No one will fight harder to get the federal government out of our game management and protect our constitutional rights

- ★ Active Sportsman
- ★ Life Member of the NRA, Benefactor
- ★ Member of the West Point Rifle Team
- ★ Avid Gun Collector
- ★ Former FFL Holder
- ★ Former Army Officer
- ★ Desert Storm Veteran
- ★ Bronze Star Recipient
- ★ Graduate of Yale Law School
- ★ Former Judge
- ★ Graduate of University of Alaska
- ★ Master's Degree in Economics



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- Strongly supports increased access to lands
- Second Amendment advocate; NRA rated "A+" as a legislator
- 100% Alaskan - lifelong resident
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AOC Legislator of the Year – Rep. Mike Kelly

By Dick Bishop

The Alaska Outdoor Council presented Rep. Mike Kelly with its Outstanding Legislator of the Year Award at the Council's 2010 Annual Meeting in Fairbanks.

The Outstanding Legislator Award expresses our appreciation to Rep. Kelly (and previous recipients) who, in the midst of all the other pressing matters, have made special efforts to look out for Alaskans' traditional fishing, hunting, trapping and outdoor access.

Mike is a life-long fisher and hunter, and has trapped. He also flies, boats and snowmachines.

From the beginning of his work as a legislator Rep. Kelly has been an effective advocate for outdoor users. Early on he took an active interest in ensuring traditional land and water access in the Chena River Recreation Area. Rep. Kelly soon sponsored, co-sponsored or supported legislation to recognize and protect Alaskans' heritage of fishing, hunting and trapping. He supported legislation to protect those activities from interference by anti-use advocates, to support state management of fish and game, and to promote public access on state lands and waters.

Most recently Rep. Kelly successfully sponsored the Alaska Firearms Freedom Act, which asserts the state's right to regulate the production and sale of firearms retained in the state. He also supported permanent status for the popular Goldstream Public Use Area near Fairbanks.



The Legislature deals with "big issues" – the economy, resource extraction, public safety, education, etc. It would not be hard for fishing, hunting, trapping and access issues to get lost in the crush of those big issues. Rep. Kelly has not allowed our issues to get lost in the legislative arena.

Thank You, Rep. Mike Kelly

Gary Stevens *New Board Member*

I have lived in Alaska since 1974, and, in spite of traveling extensively, I have yet to find anyplace I would rather live. I do truly love our incredible state. In 1983 I graduated from UAA with a Bachelor's degree in Public Communication and a minor in Criminal Justice. I have been a full time Manufacturer's Representative since September of 1989. During my first week "on the job", I spent three days packing moose with the boys from LAR Manufacturing. In August of 2006, I purchased the company that I had been working for, so, I am officially self employed. I feel very fortunate to be the Alaska representative for twenty of the finest companies in the Hunting and Fishing Industry.

I am a life member of the NRA (Endowment level) as well as the Alaska chapter of FNAWS. I firmly believe in equal opportunity for all Alaskans regarding hunting and fishing rights and access to our public lands. Too much time and money is being spent "managing" the different users while our fragile, valuable resources suffer. We must enable the Department of Fish & Game to manage our renewable resources in a healthy, science based way. It has to be done!

I feel that it's my responsibility to become involved. After reviewing the Mission, Vision, Goals, and Commitments of the AOC, I am sincerely honored to be affiliated with you and help fight these battles.



Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, CACFA

By Rick Schikora, Chair

The Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Areas, CACFA, was established in late 2007 as the result of a bill championed by Representative Mike Kelly (R, Dist #7) of Fairbanks after he saw the need for someone to ride herd on the feds. The original CACFA was terminated during the Knowles administration in 1999 after 18 years of keeping track of federal proposals regarding access, activities and subsistence, etc. related to federal conservation units expanded or created by the Alaska National Interest Lands Act of 1980. Stan Leaphart was the Executive Director of CACFA for those many years. He performed his job admirably, first having to learn about ANILCA and the compromises that Alaska made prior to its implementation and then studying plans, proposals and proclamations by the federal land managing agencies under the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture (NPS, USFS, USFWS, BLM). Stan spent many a late night developing needed challenges to the management agencies' directives. From 1999 until the re-established CACFA got under way in early 2008, the agencies did not have total free reign, as there were various agencies within the State of Alaska that were attempting to keep track of and challenge items of interest in their departments.

CACFA was established in 2007 with the appointment of a dozen members. Governor Palin appointed six commissioners (Mark Fish of Anchorage, Ken Kreitzer of Juneau, Charlie Lean of Nome, Susan Smith of Chitna, Alex Tarnai of Tanana and Frank Woods of Dillingham). Then President of the Senate, Lyda Green, appointed three members (Rod Arno of Wasilla, Rick Halford of Eagle River and Senator Charlie Huggins). Then Speaker of the House, John Harris, appointed three members also (McKie Campbell of Juneau, Representative Wes Keller of Wasilla and Rick Schikora of Fairbanks). At the Commission's first meeting in Juneau in February 2008, the Commission elected Rick Schikora Chair. It took until mid-2008, shortly after a Fairbanks meeting in June, to hire an Executive Director. The Commission was very fortunate in being able to hire Stan Leaphart to fill his old shoes. It allowed the Commission to hit the ground running, with lots of knowledge of the distant past, but lots of catching up to do on the interim. Stan has been up to the job. He recently hired an assistant, Clarissa Hammond, who is very dedicated to the mission of the Commission. Rick Halford resigned from the Commission a while back to work on another commission for the State. McKie Campbell resigned to work in Washington, DC and Senator Huggins was replaced with Senator Linda Menard of Wasilla. Mike Meekins of Palmer was recently appointed to the Commission, but Ken Kreitzer has decided not to continue now that his term has expired. So, there are two vacancies, if you or someone you know would be interested. Please get your information to Stan Leaphart.

CACFA is responsible for identifying and reducing potential negative impacts on Alaska and its citizens on any of the 239 million acres of federal land in the state. As a result, the Commission has had a variety of topics to deal with since its establishment. These topics are emailed out by the Executive



Director to the Commission members for advice and updates. The Commission holds three meetings per year, typically February/ March timeframe meeting in Juneau, a mid-summer meeting in Fairbanks and a November/December meeting in Anchorage. Topics of discussion have included, but not limited to: local hire of temporaries by the agencies and how the Office of Personnel Management has messed up that process, 17(b) easement issues under ANSCA, US Forest Service determination that the Territorial Sportsmen can't use chainsaws or power tools for maintenance of Forest Service cabins in wilderness areas, the Sealaska Lands bill (S881), gull egg gathering in Glacier Bay National Park, the Eastern Interior BLM management plan, ORV issues in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and miner access issues on the Mosquito Fork of the 40 Mile River to name a few. One of the goals of the Commission is to help with access and other federal issues that relate to groups of people. CACFA tries to get involved on the front end of issues, in the scoping process if possible, in order to address the issues so that its work is most helpful to many Alaskans. If you have an individual issue, CACFA may be able to help, even if it is to refer you to someone who deals with your issue in particular.

Recently, CACFA Assistant Clarissa Hammond has developed an electronic newsletter, Alaska Lands Update, that explains recent and upcoming federal actions and plans. She has also continued the development of a website: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/cacfa/index.htm> where you can go for more information. Check it out. Executive Director Stan Leaphart is available at 907-347-3737 and Clarissa at 907-451-2035. The CACFA office is located in Fairbanks at 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709. If you wish to get a hold of a particular Commission member, you should email Stan.leaphart@alaska.gov or Clarissa.hammond@alaska.gov, who will pass along the email.

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By Mary Bishop, Chair, Alaska Trust Fund

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Please reflect with me on the decades of success of the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund and the Alaska Outdoor Council. These corporations form the organization that has protected the outdoor heritage of Alaskans since before statehood -- and they continue to promote the future outdoor heritage of Alaskans who treasure the bounties of the Great Land.

In 2002 the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund or “parent Fund,” established an endowment account called the **Alaska Trust Fund** for the purpose of building a corpus large enough so the interest alone would cover the operating costs of the Parent Fund. We are renewing our effort to achieve the core purpose of the Alaska Trust Fund by building its principal to the endowment level of \$1 million.

Similar to other trust funds, the principal is protected from invasion in perpetuity. Every dollar invested in the Trust stays



there- and only the interest it generates can be used for operations. Every dollar donated to the Trust stays right here at home - protecting the outdoor heritage you and I have grown to love and enjoy.

As endowment account trustees Warren, Byron, Kenton, Ron, Dick and I are especially concerned -- and hope you are, too. **We ask you to consider an annual gift to our endowment account.** By making a yearly donation, you will solidify your relationship with the Fund and will also inspire potential new endowment trustees who seek to form a long term support relationship with the parent Fund, and indirectly with the Council.

There are many different ways to donate: cash, stocks, estate gifts, annuities, land, & more. Donors are also recognized with a level of distinction commensurate with their gift.

Please use the form below to donate -- or inquire by calling me at 907-455-6151

Thanks to hunter-artist Sue Arthur of Juneau who has created all 3 of our associate logos -- the AOC's goose, the parent Fund's leaping fish and the endowment account's muskox.

Upcoming Banquets

By Pam Iverson, AOC Administrative Director

The AOC annual banquet and fundraiser in Wasilla will be held

on October 16, 2010 at Evangelo's in Wasilla. We are currently looking for volunteers to help with our auctions and preparations and for donations to our auctions. Anyone interested please call or email to Pam @ 260-5723 or pam@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org.

We always appreciate hearing from our member clubs for suggestions and help with the banquet auctions.

On another note, I have been working on trying to find a suitable location to have an AOC banquet and fund raiser on the Kenai Peninsula. If anyone has suggestions, ideas, or donations please contact me.

The annual Fairbanks AOC & Fund banquet and fundraiser will be held Saturday Nov. 6, 2010, at the Monroe High School gymnasium. Volunteers and donors are always welcome and needed. Please call and leave a message at 456-4447 or 455-6151.

Continued from Page 2

The Kenai River has been snookered as well. Eight to nine years ago the State decided we needed a newer, more accurate, fish counter. This was done, but what they didn't do was increase the escapement goals to reflect this more accurate fish counter. Are you wondering why the returns are not as good these last few years, well this is one of the reasons. This affects both the King and Sockeye runs. If the old counter counted 10,000 fish and the new one, with the same fish going thru, counts 13,000 fish, then the same adjustment needs to be applied to the escapement goals. If 450,000 minimum escapement goals were with the old counter then the new minimum escapement goals should have been increased to reflect that, say to 600,000. So for years fewer fish have been allowed to escape into the river and we are now feeling the effects. Why we needed to take 20 years of historical data and throw it out the door I never understood. The accuracy was not the issue but it was a way to let fewer fish in to the river and make us feel like we were still getting the same numbers. The Kenai Classic was just held down here and in 2 days of fishing with professional guides 120 people caught 7 fish. That is dismal.

Unless you get the word out to your friends and family and start letting the BOG, BOF and legislators know how you feel we will keep losing ground. Of course your continued donations help us keep up the fight. Please go to our website or call and make donations to help toward our lawsuits.

Nelchina Caribou Hunts

Where do we go from here?

by Dick Bishop, past president, AOC/AFWCF

We won! Thanks to Ken Manning's efforts and AFWCF's attorney Mike Kramer, the misguided Athna Community Hunt Program (CHP) for Nelchina caribou has been rejected by Alaska Superior Court Judge Carl Bauman.

This may mean that for 2010 the Board of Game (BOG) will have to re-enact a Tier II hunt, which would limit participation to applicants who score highest based on resource dependency and history of use. The Tier II process has its own problems as to equity among applicants.

OR, the BOG might regulate harvest by enacting a registration permit hunt and an overall harvest quota, similar to 40-Mile Caribou Herd regulations.

Both of these approaches should be viewed as short-term, stop-gap measures which could allow a hunt this year without perpetrating discrimination against the majority of Alaskans as the Athna CHP hunt did.

In the longer term, other alternatives should be considered – such as a proposal from a few years back to designate much of GMU 13 as a non-subsistence area. This could establish a “level playing field” for all hunters, and be more in line with Alaska's constitutional provisions.

More basic is the need for a critical review of the state subsistence law which suffers from having been chopped up by advocates of the federal-style rural priority at its last revision some years back.

Directions are also in order to the Department of Law and the Division of Subsistence to follow the direction of the Alaska Constitution and State statutes rather than thinking up ways to get around them – seemingly to mimic the federal rural subsistence priority.

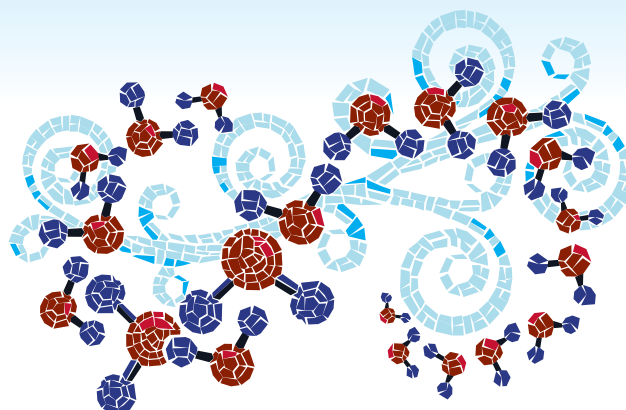


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