



Outdoor Alaska



The Official publication of the Alaska Outdoor Council
"Protecting your hunting, fishing, trapping, and access to public lands since 1955"

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Gov. Dunleavy's "Unlocking Alaska" Initiative Asserts State Control of Navigable Waters

Access to the world's greatest outdoors is a big reason most members of the Alaska Outdoor Council choose to make their homes in Alaska.

But 62 years after statehood, that access remains hindered by the federal government's failure to acknowledge state ownership of much of the state's submerged lands, and control of the navigable waters flowing across them that should provide Alaskans free, unhindered access to these watery wilderness highways.

Governor Mike Dunleavy's "Unlocking Alaska" initiative is his declaration that Alaskans have waited long enough. His message: statehood gave these lands and waters to Alaska; Alaskans, not federal bureaucrats, will control them from now on; and the state will take Alaskans' side against federal efforts to limit their rightful access.

On the second anniversary of John Sturgeon's unanimous U.S. Supreme Court decisions defending Alaskans' access rights in federal conservation system units (CSUs) established by the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, Governor Dunleavy and DNR Commissioner Corri Feige shared this message with President Joe Biden, the heads of federal land management agencies, and the managers of ANILCA-created CSUs.

Upcoming Events

Fairbanks Home/Outdoor Show
Tanana Fairgrounds
Fairbanks, Alaska
May 14-16, 2021

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.
contact:
president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

The decision followed decades of federal foot-dragging, obstruction, and expensive litigation that, more often than not, resulted in state victories, albeit at a very slow pace. After Sturgeon's latest 2019 Supreme Court victory failed to spur faster federal



Rick Green & Governor Mike Dunleavy

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Presidents Message

By Bill Iverson, Alaska Outdoor Council President

It has been a good year so far, despite the economic, political and health problems. To Governor Mike Dunleavy, who is not beholden to interests that conflict with the missions of the Alaska Outdoor Council, AOC would like to thank you, for continuing to fight for what is right. Please do not let the vocal minority pressure you. Keep Standing Tall and keep your campaign promises.

With the U.S. Supreme Court's second 9-0 vote for the John Sturgeon v Frost case, we need to continue to pressure the Park Service to implement the rulings from the Supreme Court. They have yet to implement their policies to comply with the rulings. That may be a bigger challenge.

Covid-19 has made it a trying time, but it is time to get on with our lives and living. We had our Anchorage banquet in Palmer in February of this year. It was a great success. Thanks to all the generous vendors, donors, volunteers, and attendees who helped make this event great.

Alaska Outdoor Council, with Safari Club International, Alaska Wild Sheep Foundation, and Outdoor Heritage Foundation formed a coalition of non-profits to pool our Governor permits into one Super 7 Raffle. When all was said and done, we sold over \$535,000 in raffle tickets. Of that, 70% goes to the Department of Fish & Game with the remaining to be used by the coalition for projects related to the Department. The long-term goal, in my opinion, is to make the Department self-sufficient.

I would like to welcome our new board member Anthony Celia from Anchorage. See his bio in this issue. Rod Arno now becomes the Alaska Outdoor Council Public Policy Director, which is a new position in the reorganization of AOC.

I would like to congratulate Caleb Martin for landing the job of Executive Director for the Alaska Outdoor Council. He became ED in January and is doing an excellent job, of which the banquet in Palmer was his first to organize.

We are still looking for someone to fill the empty board seat from the Interior. If you are interested, please give me a call or email.

Please be sure to check your membership expiration date on the back of the newsletter in the address block and renew your membership today!

If you can, please send a donation to the Alaska Outdoor Council or Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund (tax deductible). If you are doing any estate planning, please remember us. Perhaps the amount you might have spent at one of our banquets.



Donations and volunteers

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

AOC Supporters

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

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Executive Director Report

By Caleb Martin, Executive Director

After a tough year in 2020, we are finally starting to return to normal in Alaska. Many of our members are aware that we had to cancel the Matsu banquet, The Fairbanks Banquet and many of outdoor events were canceled in 2020. While this has been challenging for our organization, 2021 has started showing by showing great promise. Our first banquet of the year was moved from Anchorage to Palmer. This event with only six weeks' notice turned out to be one of our largest ever and drew many member members and faces. We were able to partner with many small businesses that struggled through 2020 and help bring them new business and create a cohesive working relationship that only makes us stronger as a community. We highlighted some important issues going on in the Alaska outdoor community with the help of professionals from ADF&G and the State of Alaska. Governor Mike Dunleavy helped bring awareness of the issue of Allowing ATVs on certain roadways in Alaska that would inevitably help with access. An issue the Alaska Outdoor Council certainly supports.



Congressman Don Young, AOC Executive Director Caleb Martin, AOC President Bill Iverson

We recently were able to attend the first Sports show of the year in Palmer, AK. The Matsu Outdoorsman Show. This show brought us the opportunity to talk with many Alaskans and brought light the need for increased communication with the public on the management issues that Alaska Outdoor Council advocates for. While we are working on several different routes to communicate these issues with Alaskans, there is no better way to talk with the public than face-to face.

Spreading the Message

Hunter recruitment has always been an important issue in Alaska, but I believe there has not been a more important time than now!

As the generations metaphorically pass the torches from one to the other, it is important that we pass down the knowledge and history of issues facing Alaskans as well. After all it will be this next generation that will be the protecting the rights to fish, hunt, and access Alaska just as many of us have before them. It seems like, as the years pass, many of the battles over management and access issues get increasingly tougher. We must take the time to not only recruit and teach people to hunt and fish, but also inform them on the important issues that affect their ability to do so. Each new hunter, fisherman and outdoorsman is another ally that is vital to protecting our way of life in Alaska. This mindset is especially important when interacting with new hunters or even Alaskans who are open to hunting and fishing. This loss of communication of these important issues such as hunter access, land management and game management ultimately result of lack of public interest. As many of our members are aware public interest drives most of the conversation here in Alaska and our opposition has become increasingly good at pulling the heart strings of Americans when it comes to locking up land or protecting poor management strategies.

The absolute best way we can counter these efforts is by teaching new hunters and informing them how vital access and hunting is to conservation in Alaska. One of the many ways anti-hunting and preservationists' groups claim to be advocating for wildlife and outdoors is using the term "conservation". Hunting is a vital part of conservation and without it, can it actually be conservation? How does one affectively manage predator and prey populations without hunting? From Kodiak Mountain Goats to Wolves on the Westside of the Cook Inlet hunting is the only effective management tool that keeps over population from happening. While preservationists would tell the public that hunters are just looking to kill wolves and nature should be left alone. They have no real management plan for predators and overpopulated game herds. This can be seen time and time again in different states across the country and we see an increased push for this year after year in Alaska with the latest on the Kenai where antihunting groups described Brown bears as "threatened" and "vulnerable". They often use tourism and wildlife viewing as the reason to not hunting these populations as if using nature as a zoo is more important than balanced management. One has to wonder, why these group never advocate for the "vulnerable" caribou or moose calves and why their advocacy never discusses herd crashes.

Looking forward

As we continue to navigate out of this pandemic and into a new administration, we push forward knowing we still have a long uphill climb ahead of us. The very best way we can continue to protect our way of life is to spread our message and bring new people in our organization and members clubs. This year, members will be seeing a few new events we have in the works in the south-central area. These are designed to not only raise funding for the potential legal battles ahead, but also to spread the message to the whole generation that seemed to have missed out on hearing how they advocate for our way of life. We would like to encourage members to attend and also bring friends and family, the best way we can keep our message alive is to grow our community.

Continued on Page 7 - ED Report

Public Policy Director Report

By Rod Arno, Public Policy Director - AOC

First 90 days of the 32nd Alaska Legislature - 1st session



The Alaska House of Representatives is as dysfunctional as ever again this session. The first 90 days produced nothing for outdoors folks. Board of Fisheries and Game appointees continue to be verbally abused during Committee hearings for no justifiable reason other than some Representative wanting to appease constituencies. Many of the comments made by committee members, as well as

the tone of questioning asked volunteer appointees, show a clear lack of understanding of just what authority the legislature has granted the boards statutorily. Appointee hearings in the Senate were far less combative, but allocation of fish and game resources remains a contentious subject among Alaskans calling in. As of this writing +90 days into the session and no Joint House and Senate confirmations have been scheduled.

AOC supports confirmation of all of Governor Dunleavy's appointments to the AK Boards of Fisheries and Game.

Here is a list of AOC's top legislative priorities for this session:

HB179 An Act related to Firearms and other weapons

Representative Cathy Tilton introduced HB179 on April 16th. As of April 25th sixteen House Representatives have already signed on as co-sponsor. HB179 is in response to the March 24, 2021 decision by the Ninth Circuit Court, Young v State of Hawaii case to uphold the State of Hawaii law that bans open carry of firearms. In this case the 9th Circuit Court has clearly infringed on the right to keep and bear arms.

AOC strongly supports HB179 and thanks Representative Cathy Tilton for taking swift action to strengthen the right to carry firearms in Alaska statute..

SB22. Termination of the sunset clause on the Intensive Management surcharge.

The major hunting organization in the state; SCI, TSI, APHA, and AOC all came together in 2016 to raise Alaska's hunting licenses & tag in order to pay our own way without taking any General Fund money from the state. Part of that legislation also created a special sub-account in the Fish & Game Fund to charge residents \$10.00 (no charge to Alaskans paying the low income \$5.00 license fee) and nonresident \$30.00 for ADF&G programs to increase the harvestable surplus of prey animals that Alaskans eat.

SB22 passed the Senate with only one nay vote, Senator Bill Wielechowski. Apparently, the Senator isn't impressed with Alaskans willing to gather their own food sources or pay their own way. It will be noteworthy as to see how many Representative in the House will follow his lead.

AOC supports the IM surcharge and its membership never minded paying the extra \$10.00 fee on their hunting license.

SB101. An Act extending the termination date of the Citizens' Advisory Commission on Federal Management Areas in Alaska (CACFA)

If ever there was a time for more input from Alaskans on how the federal land managers rule federal lands in Alaska it's now. Alaskans need a citizen's commission to listen to Alaskans who are losing access to public lands/waters and then can work with the state and federal lands managers to assure folks access to public resources on federal lands given at statehood are not infringed upon. Funding for CACFA has been cut out of the budget since the Gov. Walker days notifying any good the commissioners may have been able to accomplish.

AOC supports the extension and reasonable funding of the commission.

SB44. An Act requiring the Board of Fisheries to prioritize personal use fisheries when implementing fishing restrictions to achieve a management goal.

Old subject for AOC, numerous times in the past supportive legislatures have introduced legislation to prioritize fish harvest for all Alaskans to eat. In the past the (H)FSH committee made sure the legislation did not go anywhere. Hopefully, this time will be different as legislators are becoming more aware of the importance to Alaskans of gathering wildfoods as part of their food security.

AOC is strongly supportive of SB44 and thanks Senator Kawasaki for introducing the bill.

HB80/SB60. An Act establishing the Sportfish Enhancement Account and surcharge.

Alaskan anglers came together and willingly agreed to a fishing license charge to pay back a bond debt adopted by the Legislature in 2005 to build two fish hatcheries to enhance sport fishing opportunities. The Alaska sport fishing enterprise account, a sub account of the Fish & Game Fund, was paid off in December 2020. HB80 would establish a new sub account, the Sport fishing hatchery facilities to continue funding of sport fish hatcheries for maintenance and operation. Alaskan anglers as well as Alaska's sportfish guiding industry benefit from fish enhancement projects.

AOC supports HB80 as another opportunity for Alaskan anglers to pay their own way for the privilege of harvesting public resources.

HB26. Allowing Board of Fisheries and Game to deliberate on proposals they have a conflict-of-interest in.

There is no justifiable reason for this legislation to amend the current Ethics Act Process. Public credibility of the board process will not increase by allowing members to participate in deliberations on proposals that they have a financial or personal interest. Currently board members are able to step down from the board and testify on proposals. Board members personal experience in a fishery or harvest of game can be conveyed to other board members during public testimony, just like every other person.

AOC strongly oppose HB26. Allowing board members to influence the outcome of actions during deliberations on proposals they have a financial interest will not add to the current transparency of regulating fish or game harvest.

HB128/SB77. Use of Internet for Charitable Gaming.

Conservation organization like AOC, that promote fish and game enforcement, management of hunted species, and use of game populations for hunting, have the ability to raffle off big game harvest permits available under AS16.05.343(c). HB128 is an important piece of legislation that would increase the income derived from the auction or raffle of big game harvest permits by increasing the number of folks who could participate nationally as well as internationally.

AOC supports HB128/SB77 as another tool for conservation organization to increase funds available for managing hunted species.

HB79. An Act creating Saltwater Guide Licensing.

HB79 has gone through a number of changes since its submission by (H)Rules at the request of the Governor. The debt on the bill has shifted from finding a funding source for the ADF&G saltwater logbook program, required by federal international treaties and the National Marine Fisheries, to one of requiring all sportfish guides to be licensed.

As of this writing AOC is monitoring the bill as it progresses through numerous House Committee hearings.

SB97/120. An Act relating to state lands.

Governor Dunleavy request House Rules to submitted SB97 in order to provide laws that would increase the opportunity for Alaska residents to access, use, or purchase state lands. The bill would also dilute many of the provisions in the legislatively created Susitna Basin Recreation Rivers Management Plan.

At the time of this writing AOC is monitoring SB97

Change in Administration in Washington (Trump to Biden) delays decision in Central Yukon Resources Management Plan (RMP).

Outdoor folks have the opportunity to increase road access to tens of millions of acres of public lands north of the Yukon River. The Central Yukon Resources Management Plan (RMP) public comment has been extended until next **June 9, 2021**.

This is your opportunity to add your support to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) preferred management **Alternative C2**.

Once adopted by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior this plan will be in place for the next 15-20 years. That would give you plenty of time to take the opportunity to reasonably access over 40 million acres of public lands north of the Yukon River. Highway corridors open to the public for access and camping would reduce the limitation of access that would otherwise only be available to the affluent who can afford the high cost of air travel.

The Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) staff has spent decades on the ground in the 56 million acres that the Central Yukon RMP covers, and years reviewing the BLM \$5 million draft management planning now out for public comment.

(The over 1,000 page document reviewing all the alternatives for management of the Central Yukon RMP are available on the BLM website;)

The AOC Board ask that you make the effort to provide public comment supportive of Alternative C2.

Alternative C2 would transfer the inner corridor along the Dalton highway to the State of Alaska. The land transfer of PLO 5150 over to the state would allow for future road access away from the 5 mile closed to hunting with firearms, by state statute AS17.05.789, along the Alaska pipeline north of the Yukon River. Meaning that millions of acres of public lands could become much easier for outdoors folks to access and enjoy.

It seems reasonable that the approximately 3,000 Alaskan residents living north of the Yukon River in the 56 million acres of the Central Yukon RMP area could share public lands with those Alaskans choosing to participate in outdoor activities. Your comments of support could help make that opportunity for yourself and others possible for the next 15 to 20 years.

Please comment in support of alternative C2 and ask all of your other outdoor friends to do likewise.

How to Comment on the Draft CYRMP/EIS

Comments can be made directly through the "Participate Now" button when viewing the draft RMP/EIS in the **DOCUMENTS** section found in the left hand tab

By email: CentralYukon@blm.gov

By fax: 907-474-2289

By Mail: BLM Central Yukon Field Office, Attn: Chel Ethun , 222 University Avenue , Fairbanks, AK 99709

Delays in the 2020/2021 Alaska Board of Fisheries & Game regulatory process because of the COVID19 pandemic

By Rod Arno, Public Policy Director

Alaska Board of Game postpones all meetings for 2020 and 2021.

The Alaska Board of Game (BOG) set out 2020 because of the pandemic, then voted to set out 2021 and kick the 2021 Central/Southwest Region and Statewide Regulations proposals down the trail to 2022. In fairness to all submitters of proposals for the 2021 board cycle the Board voted to allow them to modify and update their proposals should they chose to by submitting new proposals by May 28, 2021. Also agenda changes requests (ACRs) will be forwarded to 2022.

Also the BOG is accepting new proposals for hunting and trapping regulations for the Central/Southwest Region (Game Management Units 9, 10, 11, 13, 14A, 14B, 16, and 17) Additional topics: Proposals addressing the Mulchatna caribou herd will be accepted for the entire range, including Units 9A, 9B, 17, 18, the portion of 19A south of the Kuskokwim River, and 19B.

And Statewide Regulations cycles A and B in 5 AAC Chapter 92.

Additional topics: Proposals for amending 5 AAC 85.050(a) (3) to open a musk ox hunt in a portion of Unit 26A and proposals to amend portions of 5 AAC 85.025(a)(15) and (20) for the targeted hunt for Fortymile caribou in Units 20 and 25C will also be accepted.

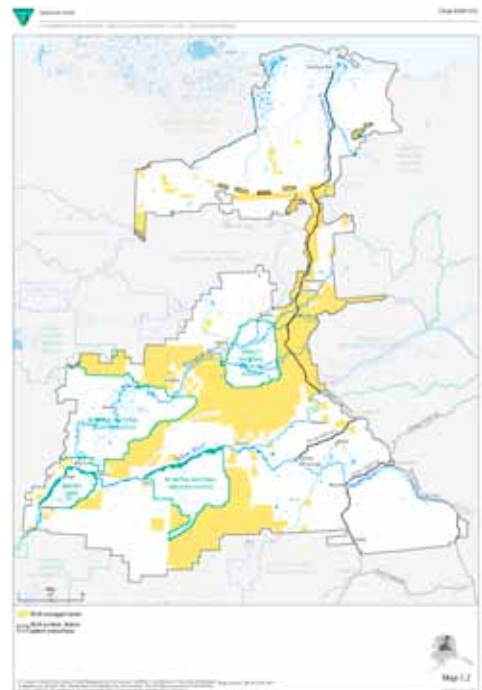
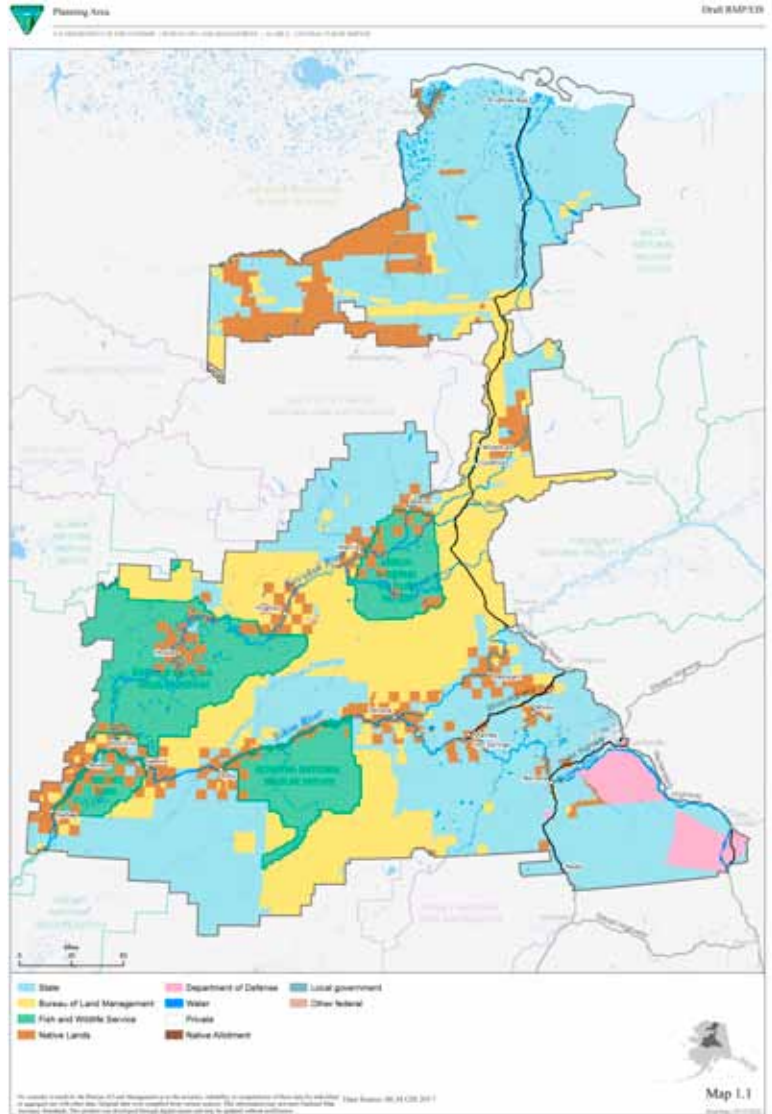
Alaska Board of Fisheries doubles up on meetings for 2021/2022 in order to catch up.

The Alaska Board of Fisheries (BOF) did not meet in 2020, again because of the pandemic. But instead of skipping 2 years the BOF voted to shift the 2020/2021 proposals to 2021/2022. So the BOF will meet in person next fall twice and four times in 2022.

Check the ADF&G website for specific meetings dates. The BOF did not reopen the call for proposals. The deadline was April 24, 2020. The Proposal deadline for Agenda Change Requests is August 23, 2021.

For detailed information on the board's schedule of meetings check the ADF&G website.

Central Yukon Resource Management Plan



Unlocking Alaska- Continued from Page 1

action, the governor decided enough was enough.

What does this mean for the Alaska outdoorsman and waterman? For most recreational boaters, hunters and fishers, floating navigable waters under state management will fall under state generally allowed uses, and require no permit. While the state will honor commercial operators' federal permits for the rest of this year's open water season, such operators should contact DNR to get next year's permits.

To help educate the public, the Department of Natural Resources will soon publish maps and supporting data showing where the state is asserting control of navigable waters. To help bolster the state's position, DNR's website will also invite outdoorsmen to share details on their water trips, including put-in and take-out points, type of boat and loads, number of people, water conditions, photographs, etc. The webpage will also have advice for how to deal with any federal rangers, agents or authorities that might interfere with Alaskans' access rights on these waters – and a commitment that the state will extend its shield of protection over citizens peacefully resisting illegitimate federal interference.

Gov. Dunleavy's "Unlocking Alaska" initiative is the first phase of his larger agenda to protect and support Alaskans' access to their resources. For more details on this effort, be sure to attend the upcoming meeting of the AOC board of directors, where Jim Walker, director of DNR's Public Access Assertion and Defense section, will discuss the initiative and answer questions.



Photo Courtesy of Jeremy Collison

ED Report - Continued from Page 3

After all that us what Alaska Outdoor Council is, it is a community.

We will be back in the Matsu in October for our annual banquet and then back to Fairbanks in November. We would like to invite our small business members to reach out and participate in the new banquet style. In our last Banquet, we worked with over 30 small businesses and we hope to keep this trend moving forward as we continue to grow this community.

For members in the different parts of the state I would encourage you to reach out to the Vice President for your region with any issues that may arise or just to introduce yourself. Our board structure has changed a bit and there are some new members that area eager to listen and help out. As always, every member's opinions and issues are important and I would encourage all to reach out to me personally if the need. I want every member of our organization and member clubs to know that I am always available to them. I can be reached at ed@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

Check out our new Logo's designed by Jamin H. Taylor.

Bison Stew Ak Style

By Caleb Martin



- 2LBS Bison Roast
- 1 1/2 Lrg Onion
- 2/3cup diced carrots
- 2/3cup diced celery
- 1 sprig Fresh Rosemary
- 3-4 sprigs Fresh Thyme
- 2tblsp Minced Garlic
- Salt & Pepper to taste
- 2tblsp Granulated Garlic
- 2tblsp Granulated Onion
- Pinch Cayenne pepper Ground
- 1gal Beef Stock / Beef Base
- 1/4 pound butter
- 1/2 cup of flour
- 2-16oz cans of Guinness beer
- 3-4 Yukon Gold Potatoes
- Cube the Bison into 1/2" pieces
- Dice onions and celery and carrots into 1/2" pieces
- Season the Bison with Salt, Pepper, Garlic, Onions, And Cayenne.
- In a stew boiler heat your oil and once it's heated add the Seasoned Bison until everything is Brown.
- Add your veggie mixture sauté them until Translucent
- Add your butter an once the butter is melted add all the flour cook for about 4-5 minutes
- Add one can of Beer
- Add your Beef Stock into the pot and mix until loose and no lumps in the pot. Add your garlic. An add your fresh herbs
- Once all lumps are out add potatoes and let it cook down for about 1hr and then add the last beer and cook down until your soup/stew consistency.

Non-Federally Qualified Restrictions

By Rod Arno, Public Policy Director – AOC

The areas in red denote where the Federal managers have implemented their own regulations for hunting in Alaska as of July 2020. Add to that temporary closures to all federal lands in GMU13A and B, plus proposals to ban all nonlocal moose and caribou hunters in GMU26 and you can see that the promises of fish and game management authority granted to the State of Alaska by the U.S. Congress at statehood are rapidly eroding.

Why, because in 1980 Alaska’s Congressional delegation allowed the passage of a bad piece of legislation in Congress, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). ANILCA is the largest lands bill ever passed by U.S. Congress and it only applied to Alaska. The act placed 157 million acres in various degrees of protection, doubling the size of the Nations National Parks system. The flaw in ANILCA was how to allocate fish and game resources on federal lands.

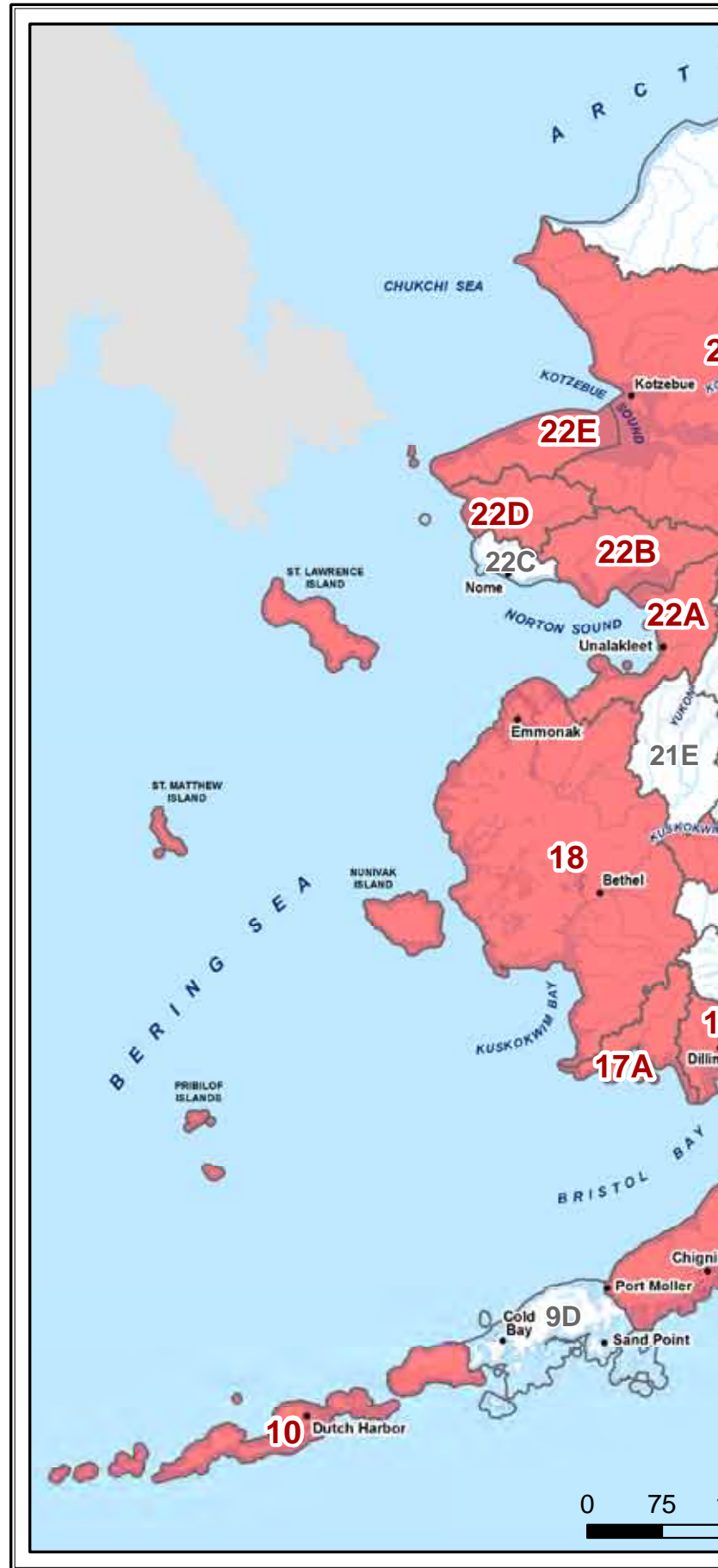
Fish and game on federal lands throughout the rest of the nation are public resources, meaning hunters, trappers, and anglers share an equal opportunity to harvest. That is not the case in Alaska where a priority to harvest on federal lands Title VIII of ANILCA, goes to those who live in the area. Alaska’s Subsistence law, AS19.05.258 gives a priority to harvest fish and game to all Alaskan residents who depend on a wildfood harvest for their food security.

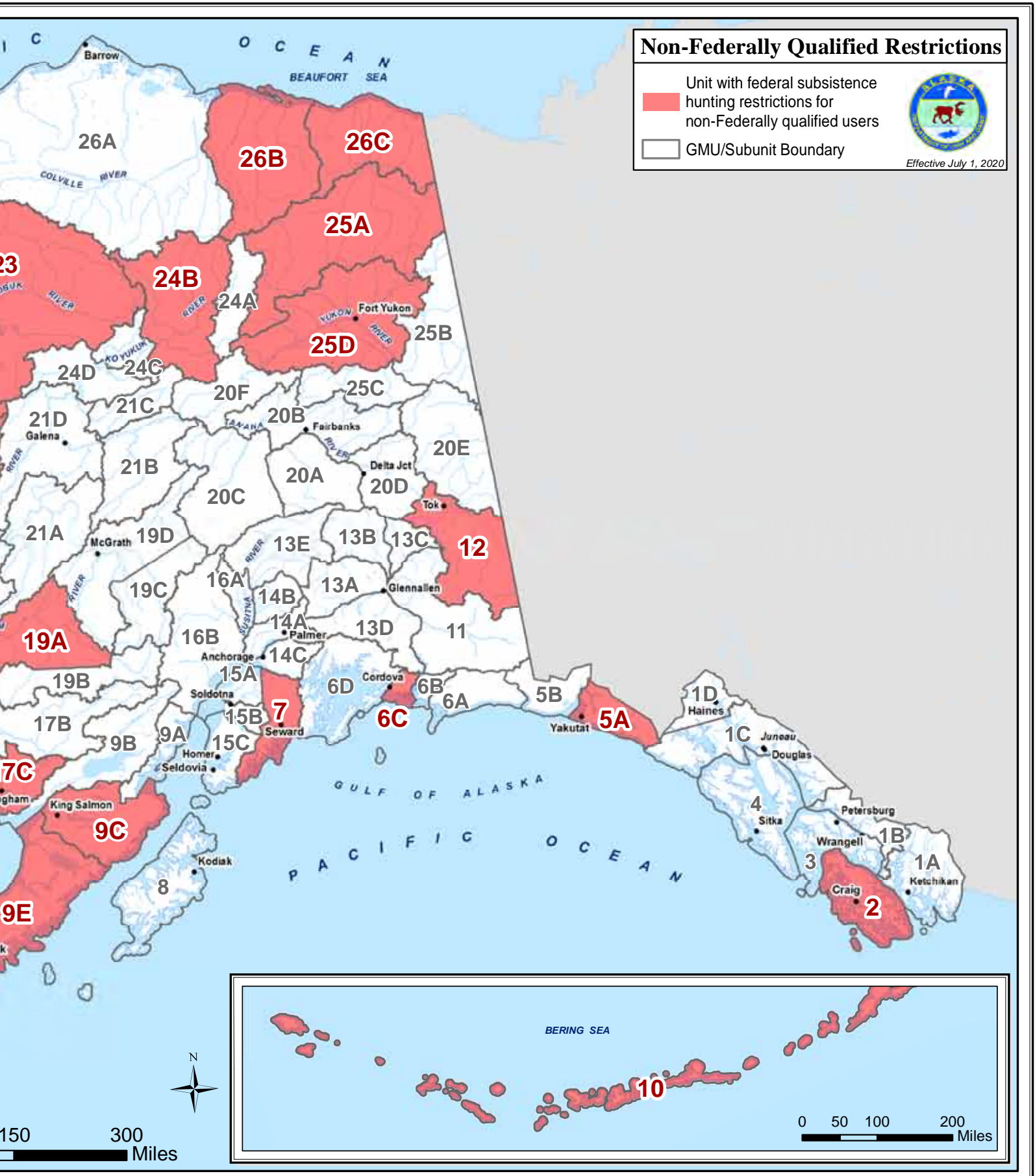
The difference between the state and federal laws governing who has a priority to hunt and fish on federal lands, 60% of Alaska, has created a conflict that spans 4 decades and there appears to be no end in sight. The latest battlefront is occurring in northwestern Alaska, GMU23 and GMU26 where the local Regional Advisory Committee (RAC), operating under the federal law, have proposed banning all nonlocal moose and caribou hunters temporarily on over 40 million acres of publicly owned federal lands. The federal law allows anyone to comment on the proposed closures before the federal regulatory board (FSB) takes action to enforce the closure or not. The Alaska Outdoor Council and other Alaskan hunting organizations have encouraged folks to submit their comments to federal managers and we now wait for their decision.

The bottom line is - until the federal law is changed there is no stopping the expansion of areas closed to nonlocal hunters (the red areas on the map) across the state. The battle for access to public resources (fish and game) on federal lands has only intensified as time passes. Can a large public outcry of opposition stop the loss of access to public resources on federal lands even if ANILCA mandates it?

Will it take a public outcry every time a RAC submits a proposal to the federal regulatory board (FSB) to ban nonlocal hunters when there is no conservation concern? Even amending the Alaska State Constitution won’t stop that from happening. It would just move the allocation battle to federal court.

Continued on Page 10 - Federal Restrictions





Alaska's Congressional delegation can stop these allocation battles and they should. Congress giving a preference to harvest fish and game, a publicly owned resources, based solely on where you live was a flaw. Contact our Alaskan Congressional delegation and ask them to amend ANICA and put a stop to these battles over who has fish and game management authority in Alaska.

Federal Restrictions - Continued from Page 8

Region	Species	Unit	Summary	Region	Species	Unit	Summary
Southeast	Deer	2	POW closed Aug.1-15, except by FQSUs; NFQUs may only harvest 2 bucks	Seward Peninsula	Moose	22	Unit 22D, Kougarok, Kusitrin, Pilgrim drainages - closed except by Unit 22C and 22D residents
Southeast	Moose	5	Unit 5A, except Nunatak Bench - seasonal closures to NFQUs	Seward Peninsula	Moose	22	Unit 22D, W. Tisuk and Canyon drainage - closed except by Unit 22C and 22D residents
Southcentral	Moose	6	Unit 6C closed to moose hunting by NFQUs in Nov. and Dec.	Seward Peninsula	Moose	22	Unit 22E - closed to NFQUs
Southcentral	Moose	7	Unit 7, draining into King's Bay closed to moose hunting except by residents of Chenega Bay and Tatitlek	Seward Peninsula	Muskox	22	Unit 22B closed to muskox hunting by NFQUs
Bristol Bay	Moose	9	9C, Naknek River - Dec. closure to NFQUs	Seward Peninsula	Moose	22	Unit 22D, remainder closed to moose hunting by NFQUs
Bristol Bay	Caribou	9	Unit 9C, remainder closed to caribou hunting except by residents of Unit 9C and Egegik	Seward Peninsula	Muskox	22	Unit 22D, west of the Tisuk River drainage and Canyon Creek closed to muskox hunting except by residents of Nome and Teller
Bristol Bay	Caribou	9	Unit 9E closed to caribou hunting except by residents of Unit 9E, Nelson Lagoon and Sand Point	Seward Peninsula	Muskox	22	Unit 22D, remainder closed to muskox hunting except by residents of Elim, White Mountain, Nome, Teller, and Brevig Mission
Kodiak/Aleutians	Caribou	10	Unit 10, Unimak Island closed to caribou hunting except by residents	Seward Peninsula	Muskox	22	Unit 22E closed to muskox hunting by NFQUs
Eastern Interior	Caribou	12	Unit 12, east of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier and south of the Winter Trail running southeast from Pickeral Lake to the Canadian border closed to caribou hunting by NFQUs (Chisana caribou)	Seward Peninsula	Muskox	22	Unit 22D, Kuzitrin River drainage closed to muskox hunting except by residents of Council, Golovin, White Mountain, Nome, Teller, and Brevig Mission.
Eastern Interior	Caribou	12	Unit 12, within WRST that lies west of the Nabesna River and the Nabesna Glacier closed to caribou hunting by all users (Mentasta caribou)	Northwest Arctic	Sheep	23	Unit 23 - Baird Mtns - closed to NFQUs
Bristol Bay	Caribou	17	Nushagak Peninsula - closed to NFQUs unless pop. > 900 caribou	Northwest Arctic	Muskox	23	Unit 23 - CAKR - closed to residents of Point Hope
Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta	Moose	18	Unit 18 (Kuskokwim River hunt area) closed to moose hunting except by residents of Tuntutuliak, Eek, Napakiak, Napaskiak, Kasigluk, Nunapitchuk, Atmaultluk, Oscarville, Bethel, Kwethluk, Akiachak, Akiak, Tuluksak, Lower Kalskag and Kalskag	Northwest Arctic	Caribou	23	Unit 23 - Noatak - closed to NFQUs
Western Interior	Moose	19	Unit 19A, remainder closed to moose hunting except by residents of Tuluksak, Lower Kalskag, Upper Kalskag, Aniak, Chuathbaluk, and Crooked Creek	Northwest Arctic	Muskox	23	Unit 23, south of Kotebue Sound and west of and including the Buckland River drainage closed to muskox hunting by NFQUs
Seward Peninsula	Moose	22	Unit 22A North- closed to NFQUs	Western Interior	Moose	24	Unit 24, Kanuti CUA closed to moose hunting by NFQUs
Seward Peninsula	Moose	22	Unit 22A Unalakleet drainage - closed except to Unalakleet residents	Eastern Interior	Moose	25	Unit 25D west - closed except by 25D west residents
Seward Peninsula	Moose	22	Unit 22A remainder - seasonal closure to NFQUs	Eastern Interior	Sheep	25	Unit 25A, Arctic Village Sheep Management Area closed to sheep hunting by NFQUs
Seward Peninsula	Moose	22	Unit 22B, W. Darby Mtns - Fall - closed to NFQUs	North Slope	Muskox	26	Unit 26C - closed except by Kaktovik residents
Seward Peninsula	Moose	22	Unit 22B, W. Darby Mtns - Winter - closed except by White Mtn. and Golovin	North Slope	Moose	26	Unit 26B, remainder and Unit 26C closed to moose hunting except by Kaktovik residents

Alaska Railroad Corporation land grab tramples justice to Alaskans

By Chuck Kopp, Anchorage, Alaska

Friends, I write this today with the urgency of one seeking to protect his own family. A grievous injustice is happening right now to thousands of Alaskans. Let me share what I fervently hope will kindle the white-hot flame of justice in your own heart.

Many ancient proverbs warn and exhort us of the individual and collective duty to protect and not harm our neighbor. This wisdom is grounded in the principle of doing justice, and its virtue is self-evident - we are not to plot harm against our neighbors who live trustfully near us.

Today in Alaska we have a severe and ongoing abuse of justice and due process to vulnerable neighbors who do not have the resources to stand up to protect themselves from the predatory interests of a State of Alaska entity, the Alaska Railroad Corporation. Yes, our own state railroad has decided it's economic business model cannot survive without annexation of stolen property from all its neighbors along 500 plus miles of railroad right of way.

So, what is happening? The ARC is currently engaged in a high-stake winner takes all effort to convince a federal district court judge to side with their unlawful premise, that they own a land grant for the entire right of way, rather than the standard railroad easement in America since 1875, a surface easement across someone else's property.

Why is this so critical to Alaskans? Because the distinction between the Alaska Railroad Corporation right of way being a fee strip of land versus a surface easement is the difference between private property owners being forcibly dispossessed of access to and use of their own property, or not; Native land sovereignty undermined, or not; outdoor recreation users having access to parks, trails and public lands, or not; our natural gas, electric and phone utility rates being extremely high, or not; sorely needed economic development of private land, or not; municipalities being allowed to develop their lands in the best public interest, or not; and taxpayers paying costly fees to the railroad, or not. That's the difference, and that's why it matters.

Rather than breathing new life into the Alaska communities they serve, the Alaska Railroad Corporation has been cutting off their airway and crushing their ability to economically survive. Continuing their decades long land grab from the rightful property owners, in September 2020 the ARC intentionally targeted a small group of homeowners in south Anchorage who live along the railroad right of way, suing them in Federal court for quiet title to their land. Why?

So the Railroad can monetize right of way land that does not belong to them, and because this small group of citizens is economically vulnerable to being financially wiped out as they fight to survive this legal assault on their most basic freedom, the right to possess and enjoy their own land. And the stakes are extraordinarily high - the outcome of this decision will extend to the entire right of way.

The simple truth is, the ARC knows it doesn't lawfully own the right of way land under either the original 1914 Alaska Railroad Act, or

the 1982 Alaska Railroad Transfer Act, and they are desperate to have unlimited authority to monetize the right of way. But first they have to dispossess the rightful landowners by seeking a special exemption from the 1875 United States Congress General Railroad Act, the law of the land for railways in America, which forever ended railroads being given land ownership.

From the passage of this Act forward, Congress said railroads could be given surface easements only over other peoples' property. Why? Because Congress found land grant railroads were a blight on our nation's history. The tyranny and corruption of the unbridled power of railroads to approve or deny access to cross or enter right of ways for numerous necessary public goods was nothing short of astonishing in its frequency and ultimately destroyed the viability of communities, businesses, and private landowners all across America. And this is exactly what the Alaska Railroad Corporation is now asking the court to give to them.

The reason lady Justitia wears a blindfold as she holds the scales of justice in one hand and a sword in the other, is so neither party, friendship or kindred will hinder a just outcome. At this critical hour Alaskans must rise up as one people and demand a committed response to this injustice in order to stop an irrecoverable loss to our citizens and communities from Seward to Fairbanks.



If you would like to learn more about this important topic or wish to help us in this effort to restore the property rights of Alaskans, please contact us at win@winfluencestrategies.com. Working together we will overcome, bad actors will be stopped, and justice will roll like a river.

- Chuck Kopp is a lifelong Alaskan, retired Chief of Police, former member of the House of Representatives, and CEO of WINfluence Strategies, LLC, a professional consulting firm.



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History:

The Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund (Fund) was certified as a 501c(3) charitable organization in 1983. The general charitable, educational, and scientific purposes of the organization include:

- Information on fish and wildlife resources, outdoor activities and resource conservation programs;
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- Litigation if necessary to protect hunting, trapping, fishing, access and scientific wildlife management;
- Promotion and explanation of wildlife conservation and scientific wildlife management through various media;
- To provide other organizations assistance in promoting these purposes;
- Provide information on critical issues affecting fish and wildlife and their uses.

The Fund was established with a recognition that public policy decisions are increasingly being made in the courts. In cooperation with Alaska Outdoor Council, the Fund allows us to address all three legs of the public policy stool: administrative, legislative, and judicial. Over the years, it has been directly involved in high profile and statewide precedent cases such as Babbitt v. Alaska and Katie John v. Alaska and the John Sturgeon case that we contributed substantially to.

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

Every dollar invested in the Trust is protected - only the interest it generates can be spent. Every dollar donated to the Trust stays right here at home - protecting the outdoor heritage you

and I have grown to love and enjoy.

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

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

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Fishing and Hunting Access

The Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, often referred to as the Pittman-Robertson Act, provides funds to state fish and wildlife agencies and territories for wildlife management and research, and also funds projects to restore, conserve, and enhance wildlife populations and their habitats. Projects also include providing public use and access to wildlife resources, hunter education, and development and management of shooting ranges.

The Wildlife Restoration Program is the nation's oldest and most successful wildlife conservation program. In 1937, legislation created this "user pay/user benefit" program through federal excise taxes and import duties placed on firearms, ammunition, and archery equipment. The tax revenue collected is transferred to the US Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, which is the federal agency responsible for administering the Wildlife Restoration Program. The money is then apportioned to state fish and wildlife agencies through a formula based on land area and number of hunting license holders. State fish and wildlife agencies then make their own management decisions as to how the funds are utilized.

Hunter access bridge in wilderness

In Alaska, after the federal appropriation has been determined it's up to the legislature to authorize the amount of Wildlife Restoration funds that may be spent. The Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G), Division of Wildlife Conservation is the only entity permitted to receive and spend Pittman-Robertson funds apportioned to Alaska.

The Wildlife Restoration Program covers up to 75% of the cost of an eligible project and requires a 25% non-federal match. Match funds may be met through revenue from the sale of hunting licenses and tags or other funds. ADF&G also often partners with other state agencies, local governments, and non-governmental entities to meet match requirements and help control project costs.

ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation staff work with state and federal land managers, local governments, and the public to identify and facilitate design and construction of projects that develop and enhance access to wildlife resources for hunting, trapping, and other recreation. These projects are diverse and include building, improving, and repairing public use trails, roads, parking lots, campgrounds, boat launches, bridges, and more. Projects provide additional or improved opportunity and access to Alaska's lands for hunters and other recreational users.

Since 2016, Pittman-Robertson funds have been used to help construct more than a dozen Hunter Access projects on public land. Several have been completed, with more in various stages of design and construction.

For more information, contact Hunter Access Program staff at DFG.DWC.HunterAccess@alaska.gov.

New Board Member

Anthony Celia

New AOC/AFWCF Board Member

Anthony Celia was stationed at JBER in 2008 while serving as an active duty Airman in the Air Force. Although his upbringing in Vermont and Florida gave him much exposure to outdoor pursuits, he quickly concluded that Alaska's superior wilds were no match for the Lower 48. At the end of his enlistment, he switched to the Alaska Air National Guard, and has never looked back.

His skill and knowledge in hunting, fishing, processing, and game management has continually expanded with each passing year. After so much success in his own pursuits, he is eager to give back. Alaska is the place where Anthony chooses to raise his family. This is why preserving and protecting Alaska's outdoors is so important to him.



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