Outdoor Alaska

The Official publication of the Alaska Outdoor Council and Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund.
"Protecting your hunting, fishing, trapping, and outdoor heritage since 1955"

Volume 20, Issue 2 **www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org** **Winter 2012-13**

Alaska's Landscapes - Deciding who gets to be on it

By Rod Arno, Executive director AOC

How much use can Alaska's outdoors take? Prior to President Jimmy Carter's campaign to "save" Alaska's Crown Jewels back in the later 70's, I don't remember much talk about landscape-scale conservation outside of universities. These days federal land managers are focused on determining the human influence on natural resource conditions and trends over broad landscapes.

What is the **carrying capacity** for trappers, guided big game trophy hunters, anglers, and wildfood gathers on public lands in Alaska? What is the carrying capacity for recreational tourism, snowmachining, ATV travel, mining, logging, or energy development before functional landscapes become unsustainable? Who gets to decide who can be on publicly owned landscape?

It's being decided now through federal and state legislation, US Department of Interior Secretarial Orders, and a number of state and federal land management plans.

To date Alaska's legislature has already created 32 Legislative Designated Areas; (Game Refuges, Critical Habitat Areas, and Wildlife Sanctuaries) totaling over 3 million acres of state land. Plus the Alaska Board of Game has adopted 26 Controlled Use Areas (CUA).
http://www.adfg.alaska.gov/index.cfm?adfg=protectedareas.controlleduse

Madge Kelleyhouse - Nice Rack

These are all examples of restriction on human use based on conservation or social issues that threaten an interpretation of what the landscape should look like. The State legislature and its authorized regulatory arm, The Alaska Board of Game (BOG), have determined what the human use carrying capacity is for a specific activity, in a specific area, for a number of years.

Continued on Page 4 - Alaska's Landscapes

Upcoming Events

MAT-SU Outdoorsman Show
Wasilla
Curtis D. Menard Memorial Sports Center
MARCH 22nd, 23rd, & 24th

The Great Alaska Sportsman Show
Sullivan & Ben Boeke Arenas
1600 Gambell St
Anchorage, Alaska
March 28 - March 31

AOC Annual Meeting & Awards Banquet
April 18-20th
Annual Meeting will take place at the TVSA Meeting Hall in Fairbanks

Fairbanks Outdoor Show
CARLSON CENTER
2010 2nd Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
April 19, 20, 21, 2013

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS.
contact:
president@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

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Presidents Message

By Bill Iverson, AOC President

HCR1 is a bill that relates to establishment and operation of a state food resource development working group. We need to add wild fish and game to this bill.
I now fish, dig clams, hunt moose, caribou and my wife grows a garden for vegetables which feeds generations of my family. This is all done in a state non-subsistence area. Being born in the territory of Alaska in 1951, I have lived off the land my whole life. I live a subsistence lifestyle but do so under the existing fish and game rules and therefore do not get included with subsistence user stats. We non-subsistence area users need to be included in this working groups mission.

Well it is another year and time to get ready for our **Annual Banquet, this year held in Fairbanks. See center spread with info.**

We have more challenges to our outdoor rights daily. The feds are on a mission to keep us off of "their" land. With the Nomination of Sally Jewell as the Interior Secretary things will not be getting any better.

Summer is coming
It is time to do some spring cleaning.
If you have an item to donate for our banquets please call me and we will make arrangements to get it. We can always re-use your stuff.

Banquets
Thank you to all who volunteered, contributed to and attended the banquets around the state. Without your help we would not be able to represent you.

Interior Airboaters Association has outdone themselves with more large donations to the AOC, both to the Fairbanks and Anchorage banquets. Thank you very much.

Donations and volunteers
Anyone who would like to help with any of our banquets or sports shows please contact me at 244-6285. 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 supporting the Sustaining Business Members and Advertisers in this newsletter. They have committed their time and reputation by aligning their names with AOC and deserve acknowledgement of their commitment to Alaska. By frequenting their business, it shows them you care.

I hope all had a great hunting season and a better one this year.

Rick & Bill

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

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Executive Director Report

By Rod Arno, AOC Executive Director

The Purpose for creating and continuing the Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) is pretty simple;

1. To perpetuate Alaska's natural resource base (fish, game, waterfowl, forests, mining, wildlife habitat, and waters) upon which AOC member's activities depend.

AOC is first and foremost a "conservation group" in the old sense of the term (as opposed to a "preservationist group" calling themselves conservationists). Meaning that AOC members are active participates on public lands and waters. They hunt, trap, fish, gather berries, fiddlehead ferns, mushrooms, and other edible plants, plus gather firewood on public lands and waters. They also just enjoy getting out (via; aircraft, snowmachine, boat, foot, ATV, and whatever else that could help propel them) and watching what's happening on the landscape.

AOC members want to continue their ***activities*** on public lands, not just preserve the natural resources as specimens of a sliver in time. As a politically active Non-Government Organization (NGO), AOC advocates for science based sustained yield management of all natural resources.

On state lands in Alaska that is a fairly simple task since the framers of the Alaska State Constitution went to great lengths in the record to make sure sustained yield principles got written into law, Article 8, Section 4 of the Alaska State Constitution. When the productivity of renewable natural resources falls below recorded yields for a consistent time, AOC's first duty as a public interest conservation group is to revive that resource's well-being. In the extreme case, if that means banning the hunting of game populations or closing the harvest of salmon stocks so be it. If it means conducting predator/prey management programs or enhancing fisheries, AOC works to persuade the state to take those actions and helps support the funding for such programs.

On federal lands conservation isn't so simple; the U.S. Organic Act won't allow enhancing one population at the expense of another. Look what happened on Unimak Island. Basically the federal land managers said let the caribou herd go extinct on the island. The feds didn't do much more to help start the recovery of the Southern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd but fortunately enough of the calving grounds were on state land and the state did reduce predation. ADF&G was successful at increasing calf survival which has led to herd recruitment. The state is the hunter's best hope for success at pushing the feds to manage above low-level equilibrium game populations. That is where AOC spends much of its efforts, supporting the state.

2. To insure equality in access and use of natural resources on public lands and waters.

Based on Article 8, Section 3 – **Common Use**. Of the Alaska State Constitution you would think that insuring equality in access and use of fish and game in Alaska would also be a simple task on state lands, but that is not the case. ADF&G seems compelled to advocate for a rural priority to fish and game. Unless they have finally taken it down, at AOC's insistence for the last year, on the ADF&G Subsistence Division website is a document "Subsistence in Alaska: A Year 2010 Update". *That document repeats several times that subsistence harvest pertains to rural communities only.* It would leave you to believe, if you choose to live in a state non-subsistence area, you cannot participate in a state subsistence fishery or hunt. Further evidence of ADF&G's preference for a rural priority can be found in the 2012 Alaska Sport Fishing Survey, where ADF&G Sport Fish Division defines subsistence fisheries as a "legally defined **rural** fisheries for community residents and their household only."

Of course under state law (thanks to the Common Use clause enshrined in the Alaska State Constitution) all state residents **can** qualify for subsistence uses of fish and game should they choose to participate.

On the federal side there is no equality in access to natural resources on federal lands. Title VIII of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), passed by the US Congress in 1980, gives a priority to all rural Alaskan residents, regardless of their customary and traditional use of the resource. If you have the right zip code you have a priority to a public resource on federal public lands in Alaska.

On the state side of this issue AOC attempts to advocate for equality in access to fish and game when the harvestable surplus of fish stocks and game population is above the maximum amount necessary (ANS) for subsistence. On state land AOC does this through the Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game. When the regulatory process before the boards fails, the Alaskan resident the litigation arm of AOC, the Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund (AFWCF) litigates. AFWCF took a heavy hit from the Alaska Supreme Court last year when we lost an appeal to reverse the lower court's decision that non-rural residents dip netting salmon in the Copper River could not qualify as subsistence users. A personal use fishery requires the Alaskan resident to have a sport fish license; they have no priority over commercial fisheries at the mouth of the Copper River. Again, AOC feels this ruling is contrary to state law. The Common Use clause should assure resident Alaskans have a preference over commercial use (many of which are non-residents).

On the federal side there is little hope for equality in access to fish and game, even in times of abundant harvestable resources on the 60% of federal lands, as long as the federal rural priority is in existence.

Continued on Page 4 - ED Report

Alaska's Landscapes - Continued from Page 1

The State just never called it **"landscape management"**, but the Federal land managers do.

Here are some current examples of federal land management plans in Alaska where the public is being asked to determine the carrying capacities of various activities that humans participate in:

- Chugach National Forest –

Snowmachines, ATVs, and helicopter landings (for all but federally qualified rural subsistence users) has been **banned** during the winter on National Forest Lands, out of Cordova and Valdez, where the Chugach National Forest Landscape Assessment showed those activities are inconsistent with "back country" primitive use values. Chugach NF has been evaluating the threat to resources and services caused by an influx of humans due to the opening of the Whittier tunnel and introduction of high speed ferry service in their Prince William Sound Framework study. Phase I of that study calls for creating GIS databases and spatial analysis of the **Human Use Hot Spots**. The Chugach NF Plan is currently opened up for revision, public comment will play a big part on who gets to participate on the landscape and how.

- The entire State of Alaska, parts of Canada, and ocean waters near shore -

In 2006 the U.S. Secretary of Interior created **Landscape Conservation Cooperatives (LCC)** covering all of the USA, parts of Canada and Mexico. "The purpose of these LCC is to design management plans that will sustain fish, wildlife and plant populations on the landscape at levels desired by the communities (people) that inhabit the land". www.doi/gov/lcc/index.cfm

The USFWS is currently out gathering data to determine "surrogate species" to manage LCC's based on a specific species wellbeing.

According to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), charged with implementing this new LCC program, it will be their job to get states, countries and private land owners to help combat risks to conservation arising from ecological factors such as;

- Climate change
- Habitat fragmentation
- Energy development
- Human population growth and development

The Department of Interior (DOI) is preparing to lead the charge on determining the carrying capacity of people on the landscape. This includes not just lands managed by DOI as conservation units but all the land and water in the landscape. With over 64% of Alaska already under DOI management and 95% of its landscapes still intact, Alaskans will be among the first in the nation to see how this new scheme well be implemented.

- 75 million acres of US Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Alaska -

Currently the U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM) is conducting a **Hunting Guide Capacity** Environmental Assessment (EA) on 75 million acres of BLM managed lands in Alaska. The reason for the EA is attributed to public interest in reducing "social issues" and user conflicts due to overcrowding.
http://www.blm.gov/ak/st/en/prog/planning/Hunting_Guide_Capacity_Study_EA.html

The stated goal of the BLM analysis it to determine the proper allocation of commercial hunting guide permits based on the social issues that are driving the scope of the EA.

Landscape management by the federal land managers in Alaska appears to be a step past managing for conservation concerns to more of an emphasis on what do the people want to happen on federal public lands. What if the majority of Americans who will never get here decide that they would prefer nobody be allowed out on the landscape on federal lands in Alaska?

For Alaska's out of doors folks, it falls on us to publicly advocate for a "carrying capacity" high enough to allow for humans to still experience what it's like to be part of the landscape. That is what the AOC board and staff does every day, AOC could use your help. Please participate in the federal lands planning public process. Otherwise outdoors folks could get left out of the "landscape."

ED Report - Continued from Page 3

There are 10 points under Article 3 of the AOC Bylaws; numbers #1 and #2, listed above, consume most of AOC staff time, funding, and efforts lately. You may view AOCs bylaws online at the AOC website. www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com

The AOC Board and staff remain committed to advocating for conservation and public access to Alaska's renewable natural resources for all Alaskans as well as supporting opportunity for nonresidents hunting and fishing. AOC's Club delegates vote on members to the AOC Board of Directors as seats come open at the AOC Annual Business meeting each year. AOC members are welcome to attend the AOC Annual meeting to vote on AOC board members and on resolutions and policies. Information on this year's AOC Annual meeting up in Fairbanks can be found in this newsletter.

Snomads' Community Enhancement

By Steve Parizek, Snomads President

Winter time is the Snomads busiest period of the year. This means grooming, plowing, event planning and execution. Our Southern Kenai trail system encompasses almost 60 miles of grooming. When combined with our associate club, Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers, the total system is over 160 miles of groomed trails. Come visit the Peninsula for a riding experience you won't forget!

Trail and trailhead acquisition is one of our priorities. We work with landowners, both public and private for these projects. Currently, we lease 2 year-round multi-use trailheads for the public and one for members use only. Maintaining these lots takes a lot of our budget, and we would like to have them made permanent for the public. If not for these short-term leases, by both Snomads & Cabin Hoppers, there wouldn't be any legal maintained parking lots from Soldotna to the end of the road in Kachemak Bay for winter purposes.

Snomads became involved in a court case in 1999 called Price v. Eastham over prescriptive easements which ended this year. This precedent setting case will be an asset for those seeking trails as it will provide a way to acquire and hold a trail easement.

We have recently found 2 things of value regarding trail acquisition: aerial photography and notarized affidavits. Photos have proved our area trails existence to 1961, and there are probably other sources out there which remain to be found. As our senior citizens age, memories fade and pictures disappear. These persons can be the foundation of a trail system with their memories and other documents. Snomads encourages you to collect affidavits from them as soon as you can.

Snomad volunteers and sponsors make our events possible. Our 2 largest fundraising events are the FunRun and the Caribou Lake Ice Fishing Derby. The FunRun was held on March 9th at the Snomads Palace (our clubhouse). Our Derby will be held on March 30th at Caribou Lake - no augers required as we drill holes for you. Just bring your gear and a license! These events, combined with the support of all involved, allow us to be proactive in the Homer area. More information can be found at www.snomadsonline.org.

Mining and how it affects us all

By Sheldon Maier

The Alaska outdoors community is composed of people from many walks of life sharing a common aspiration: for our children and grandchildren to enjoy the same back country exploration and hunting opportunities that we are privileged to enjoy. The key word here is "privilege". Using back country trail systems is a freedom which can be easily usurped by environmental lawsuits and government bureaucrats tending a "lock up the land" agenda. Many of the existing trail systems in Alaska today have historical uses dating back in some cases more than 100 years. Many of the trails were originally constructed to serve as utility corridors and access routes for trapping and mineral resource extraction.

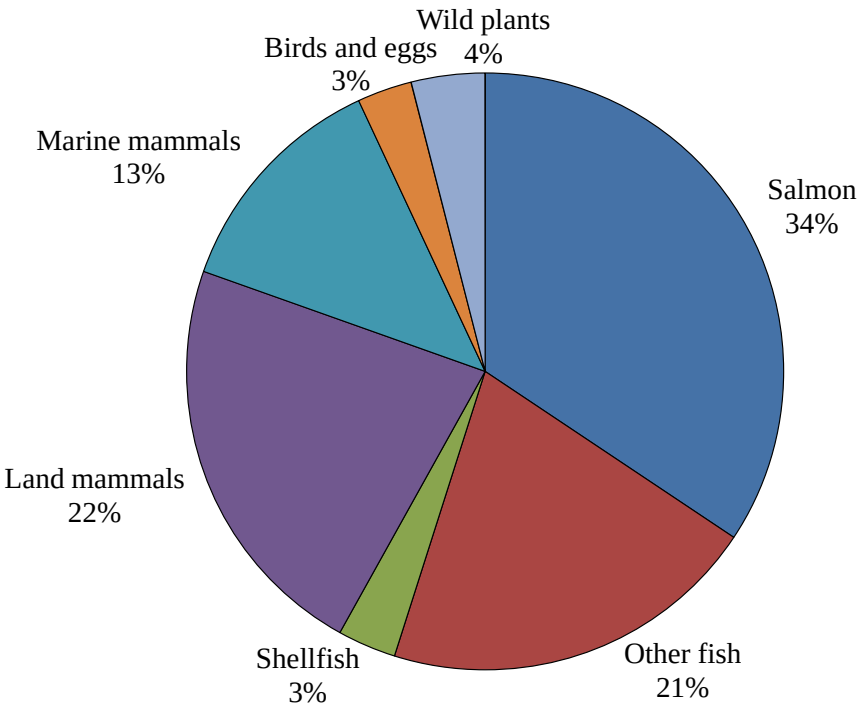
Through the last 20 years of hunting and placer mining in the Fortymile Mining District we have suffered many trail closures and increasingly more inflexible restrictions on trail uses. The trails in our area serve many users who are not miners, but the current tightening of restrictions is mainly applicable to the miner who must have a permit to use these trails. That said, the restrictive trend will eventually affect all trail users if inaction and strife continues to rule the different user groups.

Unfortunately the mining and the outdoor communities appear entrenched on opposite sides of the fence. Reports from some members of the hunting community cite blocking trails and unfriendliness as sources of discord. From fellow miners, trail degradation, litter, careless firearms discharge, and mine site trespassing by some hunters are key complaints and a source of conflict. This friction plays the ball perfectly into the hands of organizations intent on tighter restrictions on land use for all of us.

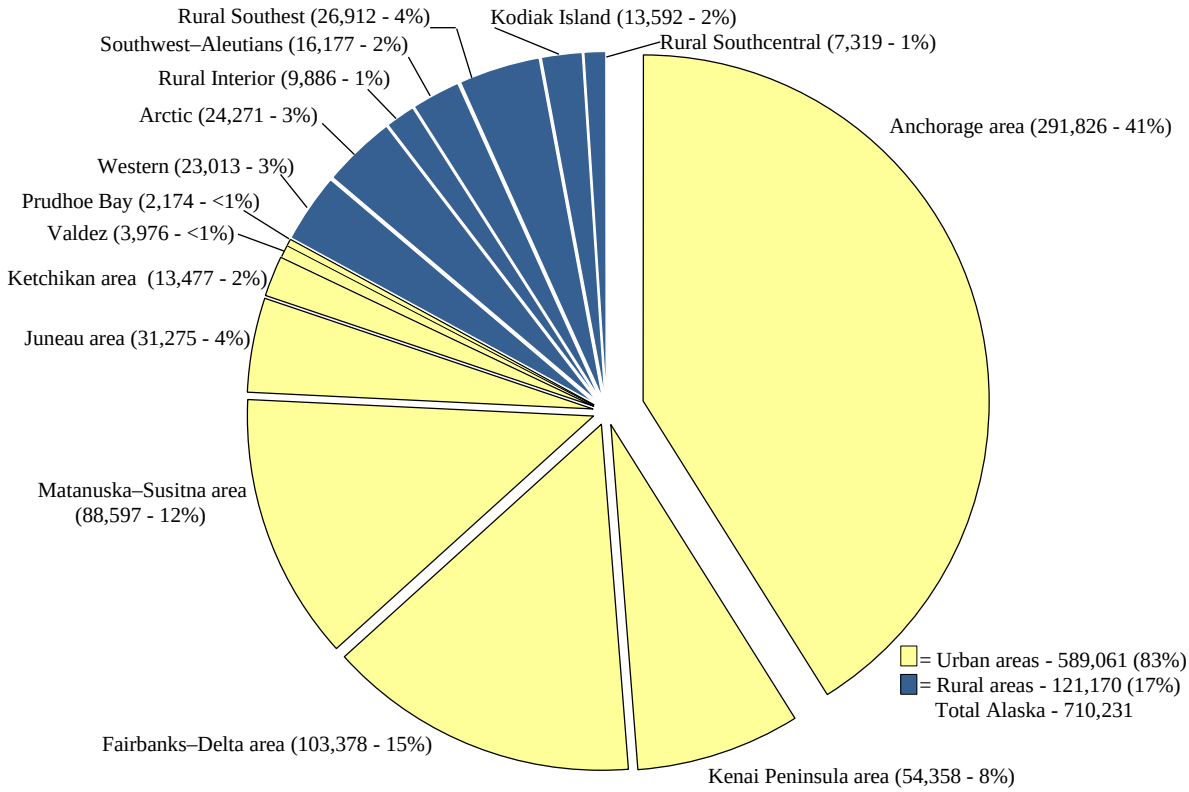
Heeling the rift between the hunting and mining communities is paramount to ensuring continued back country access for us all. The mining community is fighting hard to keep trails and roads opened. The miners have built many of these trails, and the maintenance on the trail system in the Fortymile is done by users, miners and hunters both. Help from the hunting community with regards to trail maintenance and litter control is a good starting point for a more cooperative relationship between the user groups.

Currently we also need each other's help to stem the tide of tighter regulations on land use. Public lands in Eastern Interior Alaska are currently being considered for re-designation by the BLM in the Eastern Interior Resource Management Plan. It is crucial that we all stay alert and oppose the new plan and any new restrictions on land use proposed by the plan. The Fortymile Mining Association has made a formal objection at a meeting with to State Director of BLM. The meeting was also attended by representatives of our congressional delegation, AMA, and representatives from the Circle and Fairbanks mining districts. State Director Cribbly was uncooperative, but the meeting served to clarify to our plight to our congressional delegation. The comment period on these changes is open till the end of the year. I know the AOC has already objected, and I urge your membership and your board to continue the efforts. United we stand divided we fall.

Composition of subsistence harvest by rural Alaska residents, 2010



Alaska's population by area, 2010



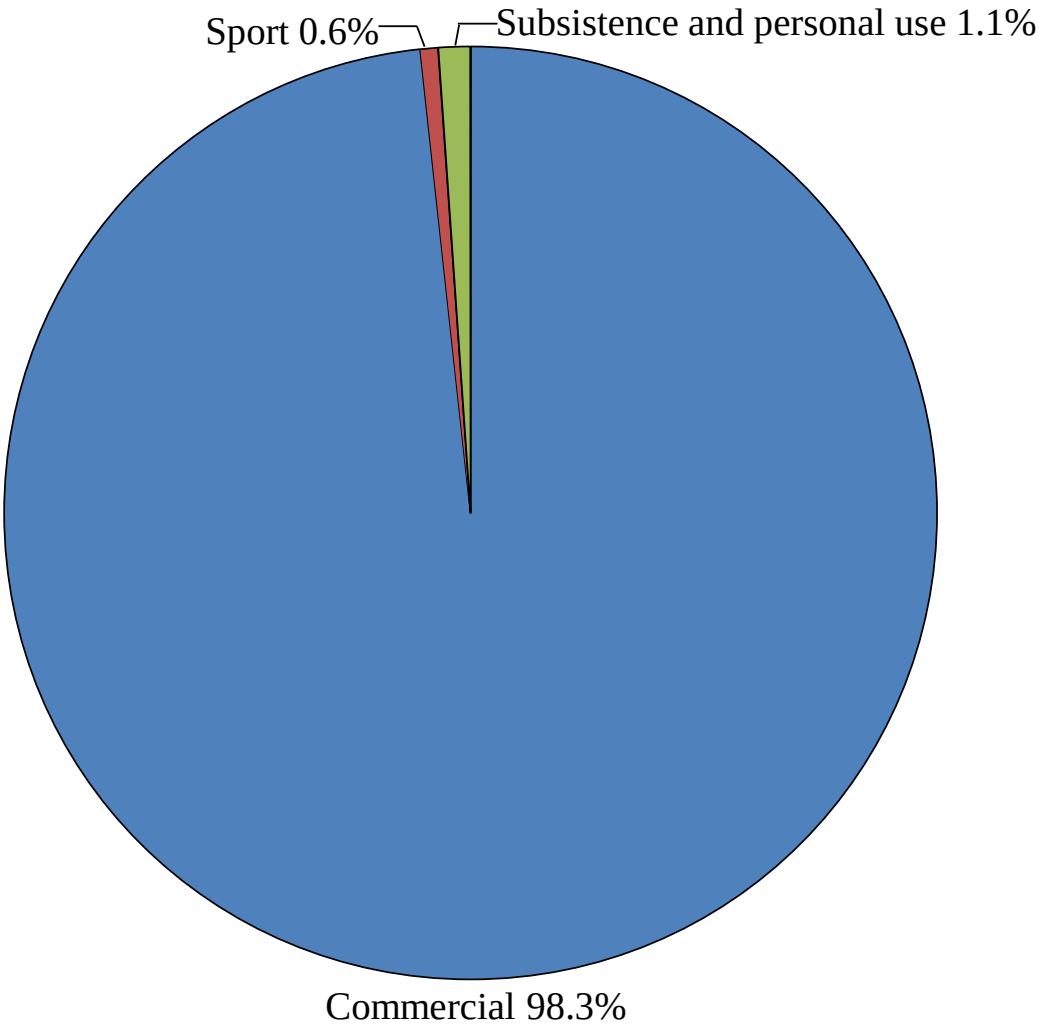
Your Fair Share of a public resource?

No matter what they call it, Sport, Personal Use or Subsistence fishing, it is still putting fish in Alaskans freezers for your consumption.
See the chart below and ask yourself if you think we are getting our fair share.

Annual Harvests of all the fish and all the game by user groups in Alaska.

Statewide harvest by commercial fishing industry -	3.5 billion pounds
General hunting and sport fishing by Alaskans living in non-subsistence areas and non-residents	21.3 million pounds
Subsistence hunting and fishing (Estimated by ADF&G Subsistence Division)-	52.1 million pounds

Who harvests fish and game?
Resource harvests by use in Alaska



Graph Harvest Chart source of Harvest Data
Subsistence in Alaska: A Year 2010 Update
Division of Subsistence, Alaska Department of Fish and Game
333 Raspberry Road, Anchorage, Alaska 99518 (907) 267-2353

See the whole report on our site www.alaskaoutdoorcouncil.org

Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear Hunters Slog through Soggy 2012, but See Sunshine Ahead

Ken Marsh, ADF&G

(SOLDOTNA) – Widespread flooding on the Kenai Peninsula last fall didn't help hunting conditions, but brown bear hunters aren't made of sugar. Participants in the peninsula's brown bear registration hunt RB300 persevered by harvesting a respectable 27 bears in Game Management Units 7 and 15 while enduring frequent rains, high waters – and a hunting season that was halted temporarily by emergency order.

Alaska Department of Fish and Game Area Wildlife Biologist Jeff Selinger said that of the brown bears harvested in RB300, hunters in Game Management Unit 15 reported taking 16 bears with three animals harvested in GMU 15A, eight in 15B, and five in 15C. The remaining 11 bears were taken in Game Management Unit 7.

The registration hunt, sanctioned in January 2012 by the Board of Game, was scheduled to run from October 1 through November 30. However, the Kenai Peninsula brown bear harvest in recent years has been managed so that human-caused mortalities of adult sows – including bears killed in defense of life or property, struck down by automobiles, illegally hunted bears, and those taken by legitimate hunters – does not exceed 10. As it happened, that number was reached last fall by early October, resulting in an automatic emergency closure of RB300, along with several previously scheduled brown bear drawing hunts, on October 10.

Photo courtesy Ken Marsh/ADFG

At the time, the department believed hunter success could have been higher prior to the emergency closure had the weather cooperated. Since going to the registration season, brown bear hunting is now managed under a three-year rolling average, and many felt significant hunting opportunity remained as long as additional bears harvested were not adult females. To provide this opportunity, RB300 was reopened to run from October 25 through November 30, 2012, allowing the generally early-denning adult sows to be soundly sleeping while late-ranging boars remained available to hunters.

"RB300 was the best opportunity people have had to harvest brown bears on the Kenai Peninsula since we had a general hunting season prior to 1997," said Selinger.

Indeed, for years now, efforts to maximize hunting opportunity for brown bears through education and conservation have been Selinger's overriding theme. And those efforts appear to be bearing fruit.

"Given the department's objectives, we weren't having hunting seasons because we were killing too many bears for other reasons," said Selinger.

Specifically, brown bears attracted by improperly stored refuse, birdseed, poultry and other potential foods were roaming into communities and being shot under claims of defense of life or property. In an effort to allocate bears to hunter harvest rather than have them killed by threatened homeowners, the department started a community program in 2003 to reach out to locals about proper refuse storage.

The effort, now in its tenth year, has required teamwork and plenty of out-of-the-box thinking.

"I was fortunate to have Wildlife Technician Larry Lewis on staff," said Selinger. "Larry has done the heavy lifting to make the Wildlife Conservation Community Program happen."

Lewis secured a grant from USFWS to provide residents with bear-resistant trash containers and stressed the importance of discouraging bears from entering populated areas by making refuse and other bear attractants unavailable.

The program was ramped up in 2006 and 2007, though results weren't seen right away. The number of non-hunting-related human killings of bears peaked in 2008 on the Kenai Peninsula at 40 bears. Since then, the numbers have been falling. Last year, only eight brown bears were killed by people who were not hunting.

Fewer bears drawn into settled areas make for safer communities and promises greater opportunities for hunters. In the end, more than 660 registration hunt permits were issued and 382 hunters reported participating in RB300 last fall.

Meanwhile, hunters will want to stay tuned as new peninsula brown bear hunting proposals are scheduled to go before the Board of Game in Kenai on March 15 through 19, 2013.

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2013 AOC Annual Meeting

Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association (TVSA) Meeting Hall, Fairbanks, Alaska - April 18-20th, 2013

The scheduling of the 2013 Alaska Outdoor Council (AOC) Annual meeting has been chosen to coincide with the ending of the 1st Session of the 28th Alaska Legislature. Action or the lack of, by this legislature will have a great influence on the battle with the federal land managers over "who" manages fish and game (public resources) in Alaska. AOC staff and invited legislators will review legislative actions regarding this issue and legislation affecting access to public lands & waters and allocation of fish & game. Also, we hope to have a NRA National representative speak to delegates regarding intrusions on our 2nd Amendment rights.

Schedule:

- **Thursday April 18th at 6:00pm - "Meet & Greet"** AOC delegates and members are invited for a tour of the Tanana Valley Sportsmen's Association Shooting Range, located on Boat Street north of Fred Meyers West, in Fairbanks.
- **Friday April 19th (8:30am – 5:00pm)** - The AOC 2013 Annual Meeting, at TVSA Meeting Hall, will provide an opportunity for you to meet other AOC Club delegates and active AOC members, talk to the current AOC Board members, Alaska Fish & Wildlife Conservation Fund Trustees, and invited speakers.

Speakers invited to date for Friday April 19th informative session at the TVSA indoor range:

- ✓ Dan Sullivan, Commissioner of DNR
- ✓ Ed Fogels, Deputy Commissioner of DNR
- ✓ Ben Ellis, Director of State Parks
- ✓ Clark Cox, DNR Guide Concession Program
- ✓ Jeanne Proulx, DNR Northern District, Rex Trail
- ✓ Stan Leaphart, Executive Director of CACFA
- ✓ Scott Ogan, PAAD, RS2477 right-of-ways
- ✓ Craig Fleener, Deputy Commissioner of Fish & Game
- ✓ Doug Vincent-Lang, Acting Director of Wildlife Conservation
- ✓ Sue Masica, Regional Director NPS

- **Friday evening April 19th at 6:00pm** - Our **2013 *Annual AOC Awards Banquet*** will take place at Pikes Waterfront Lodge.

  Tickets for the banquet are $55.00/singles and $100.00/couples may be purchased by emailing membership@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com or calling Pam Iverson (907) 260-5723 or Bill Iverson (907) 244-6285. With the marvelous meal there will be door prizes & silent auctions.

- **Saturday April 20th (8:30am- 5:00pm) - 2013** *Annual AOC Business Meeting* at the TVSA range. Each AOC Club has the opportunity to name one official delegate and, if desired, an alternate or proxy delegate to the Annual Business Meeting to represent them on Saturday, April 20th. In addition to reports of AOC activities this past year, the agenda includes election of AOC directors and voting on proposed changes to Bylaws, Policies or Resolutions.

  A registration fee of $25.00 is asked of delegates to help cover meeting arrangements.

  AOC Club delegates and AOC delegates-at-large will have the opportunity to vote on five AOC Board seats up for renewal during the AOC Business Meeting Saturday April 20th.

  Please consider attending whether you will be representing your club in an official capacity or not. As an individual member of AOC, you can be elected as a delegate-at-large at the annual meeting. Individual (associate) members will be

represented by one delegate from each region: Southeast, South-central, and Interior Alaska.

- **Sunday morning April 21st** is reserved for the AOC Board of Directors meeting with newly elected board members.

Current topics of interest to AOC delegates and members;

- Federal land agencies encroachment on state fish & game management and allocation.
- Continued litigation supporting the "Common Use clauses" enshrined in the Alaska State Constitution.
- Regulated motorized access to public lands, waters, and resources.
- ESA ramifications on fish and game management.
- New "Roads to Resources" projects.
- Creation of Big Game Guide Concessions on State and BLM lands.
- Salmon stock management.
- In-river salmon allocation.
- Federal gun ownership laws.
- ADF&G, DNR, and Alaska State Wildlife Troopers funding.

2013 AOC AWARDS:

Nominations are currently being solicited for our annual awards to recognize outstanding work in fish and wildlife management or other resource issues important to our members. The AOC Board will consider nominations submitted in the following categories:

AOC individual member of the year
Outstanding AOC member club
Sam McDowell award
Sidney Huntington award
Biologist of the year – fisheries or wildlife or habitat
Legislator of the year award
Outdoor educator of the year
Outstanding business of the year
Fish & wildlife protection officer of the year
and other awards by nomination

Email nominations to aoc@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com or mail to the AOC Office.

Room Reservations are available at **Pikes Waterfront Lodge**; AOC room rates of $65.00 per night (please call 907-374-7170 and reference #422843 to get the $65.00 rate).

This is your opportunity to participate in protecting your outdoor heritage and providing for your outdoor future. We believe that this event will be an outstanding chance to be better connected to your Alaska Outdoor Council and the issues that affect you as a member. We're looking forward to a great event, and hope that you will help us make this meeting one of the best yet by attending in person!

AOC staff and board members have had a productive year in 2012 representing fishers, hunters, trappers and members who access Alaska's outdoors. Numerous agenda topics from past AOC Annual Meetings have been addressed by both State and Federal courts, the State Legislature, or the Boards of Fisheries and Game. The Obama administration has had a profound effect on all aspects of federal land management in Alaska. Many topics are still unresolved and may come before state and federal courts and agencies this year.

Please return signed 2013 Delegate Certification form by mail or email to:
membership@alaskaoutdoorcouncil.com.
Or fax to: 1-888-932-3353 Toll free.

We are looking forward to seeing you in Fairbanks at the AOC 2013 Annual meeting.

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By Mary Bishop, Secretary, Alaska Trust Fund

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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.

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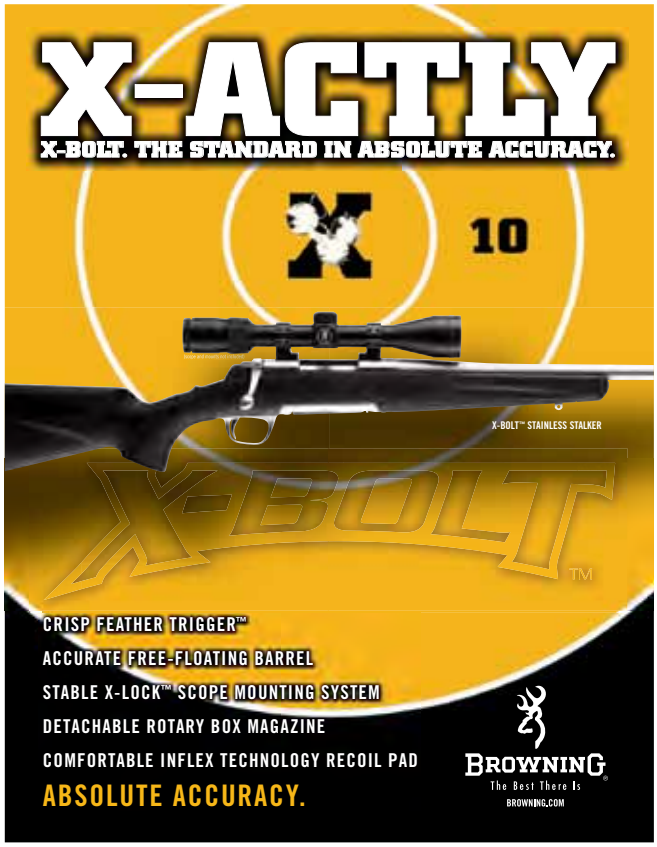

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Blueberry Pudding Cake

By Pam Iverson, AOC Administrative Director

2 cups of fresh or frozen blueberries (Alaskan blueberries may need more sugar)
1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
1 teaspoon lemon juice
1 cup all-purpose flour
¾ cup sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
½ cup milk
3 tablespoons butter or margarine melted
TOPPING:
¾ cup sugar
1 tablespoon cornstarch
1 cup boiling water

Toss the blueberries with cinnamon and lemon juice; place in a greased 8 inch square baking dish.
In a bowl, combine flour, sugar and baking powder; stir in milk and butter.
Spoon over berries. (This will be a bit lumpy)
Combine sugar and cornstarch; sprinkle over batter.
Slowly pour boiling water over all.
Bake at 350 degrees for 45 to 50 minutes, until cake tests done. Yield 9 servings. One of my Mom's favorites.

Bill Iverson - AOC President

AOC/AFWCF Board Member

I was born in the Territory of Anchorage, Alaska in 1951. My parents were born in Minnesota and move to Alaska in 1950. I went to school in Anchorage and on to college, UAA, and graduated with a degree as an electronics technician.

In 1970, I and 2 friends started selling stuff at flee markets and eventually open a store on Fireweed lane called Rajah's. A year later we moved to Spenard Road and stayed there for 11 years. We had a great time. One day I took myself off the payroll and never looked back. I was ready for a new challenge.

I started my current business, Professional Computing, in 1982 and have been doing it ever since. I also own a sawmill, and build custom birch cabinets for the people around me in my free time.

I have been an avid hunter and fisherman my entire life. I received my 30-06 Winchester Model 70 when I was 12 years old.

I am an AOC as well as NRA life member.

My wife, whom I have been married to for 30 years, and I live in our Log home overlooking the Kenai River.

We have 2 grown children and 2 grand children in Alaska.

Come by and see me at one of the Sports Shows this summer.

Iverson Family

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Passing of some of our long-time supporters.

David Alan White, an AOC Board member, died on August 29, 2012 at the age of 50. He is survived by his wife Carla and his two children, Holly and Kyle. For the past 14 years he worked at Western Auto Marine. He spent many hours involved with organizations such as Alaska Outdoor Council, Ducks Unlimited, TSI, and was a member of the NRA. He still managed to find time to follow his passions of hunting, fishing, cooking and supporting local youth sports. The family asks that any memorial donations be made to a trust being established for Holly and Kyle at Wells Fargo Bank. (Acct #5360824295)

LeNora Conkle, one of Alaska's grand elders among Alaska Outdoor Council's extended membership, passed away Feb. 7, 2013 at 103 years of age . LeNora was a life member of Slana Alaskans Unite. LeNora and her husband Bud built a great life guiding all over Alaska and homesteading in the Wrangell Mts. Area. After Bud's passing in 1985, LeNora went on to write 5 books about their lives and those of people she knew. She stuck to her motto that "There's too much to do to sit around and get old". An indomitable spirit, hard, great understanding and great compassion were her hallmarks. LeNora was an inspiration.

Don McCumby, long-time AOC supporter and volunteer passed away Dec. 6, 2012 at age 77. Don was an avid fisher and hunter who visited many near and remote areas in Alaska. During his time running the Pay and Save store and Sentry Hardware in Fairbanks, Don was a staunch supporter of AOC, was recognized as an Outstanding Business Supporter, and was a great volunteer and donor in support of the annual Fairbanks AOC/Fund Banquet and Auction. Don's word was his bond.

Carl W. Benson, AOC Life Member, passed away Nov. 15, 2012 at age 73. Carl was a retired Air Force master sergeant who ran Benson Tax Service. Carl was a dedicated fisher and hunter who supported AOC's advocacy of sound fish and game management and fair allocation of fish and game.

Our condolences also go out to Board member Al Barrette, whose wife Laura Barrette, passed away February 19, 2013.

3nd Annual Anchorage Banquet & Fundraiser

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