



# Sierra Borealis *alaska report*

SIERRA CLUB ALASKA CHAPTER  
SEPTEMBER 2017



Action  
Alert

## Trump Administration threatens Alaska fisheries and parks:

### Your Pebble comment to EPA needed by Oct 10

On July 19, 2017, The Trump Administration proposed to withdraw the July 2014 determination of preemptive ban on the Pebble development of a massive open pit mine in Southwest Alaska. (see **sierra borealis** June 2017.)

In accordance with the agreement between Northern Dynasty (the Pebble developer) and the Environmental Protection Agency, the EPA now requests public comment on two issues:

1. Whether EPA should withdraw the July 2014 proposed determination at this time; and
2. If EPA Region 10 decides to withdraw the proposed determination following the comment period, whether the EPA Administrator should review and reconsider that withdrawal decision as EPA's regulations allow.

Please comment, to stop the proposed Pebble mine development; for details, -- see our article on this itopic in the June **sierra Borealis**: <http://www.sierraclub.org/alaska/newsletters>.

To comment to EPA, please visit our FB: <https://www.facebook.com/SierraClubAlaska/>

Clicking the "no Pebble Mine" logo leads you to the site where you can provide comments to EPA **untii October 10**.

The comment should include something to the effect, "Due to many risks to area wildlife, including the sockeye salmon, I do NOT want the EPA to withdraw the July 2014 Proposed Determination to restrict mining of the Pebble deposit".

If you want more detailed information, visit this link—an information site provided by retired EPA professionals who are concerned about the current EPA: ❖

<http://www.saveepaalums.info/resisting-the-trump-de-regulatory-agenda-talking-points/defending-bristol-bay/>.

--Yasuhiro Ozuro

## Walls of Mountains

### Visit to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

-- by Alli Harvey



Hiking in the vast Arctic Refuge—at edge of the Coastal Plain

My notebook from Day One of an eleven-day, six-person trek through the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge includes the following scrawled notes:

WALLS of MOUNTAINS.

Dappled light.

Jagged peaks right out my window.

Cold!

Our tiny, four-person bush plane landed on a vast, flat stretch of tundra. We'd flown over the towering Brooks Range and made our way north, through lower foothills, until finally approaching the coastal plain. I was deposited in the middle of a swirling, snowy cloud only 25 miles south of the Arctic Ocean, the place often described as the world's air conditioner. The

-- continued next page--p. 2

## Walls of Mountains--the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Coastal Plain -- from page 1

wind was a reminder that the A.C. was turned on high.

Our pilot helped unload our equipment directly onto the ground, and then pivoted back into his plane. Waving goodbye, he departed within a minute. His plane disappeared into the fog, the buzz of the engine steadily quieter. Finally, silence. I looked down at my backpack. I sternly told myself I had everything I needed to survive. There was no second guessing my packing choices now.

I hefted my fully loaded backpack on, and started in on what we'd come to do: walking. We were tiny specks on a vast landscape extending over 19.3 million acres—our nation's largest wildlife refuge. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is more than 30,000 square miles--the size of South Carolina. If that sounds difficult to comprehend, it's because it is, and it should be.

There are no other places like this left in the world.



photo: Alli Harvey

Countless migrating birds nest in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Every step we took across the landscape reminded me we were visitors. Birds skittered along the Aichilik River drainage. Groups of caribou curiously paused and faced us in a bloc, standing completely still, before turning in unison and carrying on into the fog. The fog! It was thick, salty and ocean smelling, and shifting with the wind. One minute I could see back into the Brooks Range; the next I was surprised by a bird diving only feet away from me.

There were no trails. No cell service or internet. We navigated by paper maps. We encountered no other people for an entire eleven days until we saw our pilot again. We saw a musk ox, a wolf, and countless caribou. Superhighways of animal traffic showed up on muddy game trails where we would pause to experience the awe of looking at seamless lines of bear, wolf, musk ox, and caribou tracks.

My upbringing didn't set me up to visit a place like this.

I grew up in a northeast suburb filled with big box stores, fast food, and an enormous network of Anyplace USA roads and highways. I was hospitalized multiple times a year through the age of thirteen for asthma attacks. It seemed like I was allergic to everything. Instead of exploring the world outside of my room, I created collages out of clippings from magazines.

Then I switched schools and my asthma abruptly disappeared, leaving a personality-sized vacancy. Who was

I without sickness to define me? Shyly, and very slowly, I scoped out my options.

One day, I made my way up to the top of a mountain in New Hampshire's White Mountains on my first ever backpacking trip, organized through my high school. Trip leaders told me later they weren't sure if I'd make it. But the feeling of my own capability, taken one manageable, wobbly-footed, heart-pumping step at a time, was addictive. This backpacking trip made me determined and confident I would be exactly the person I wanted to become, even if I wasn't sure who she was yet.

In college, in 2005, I was introduced to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Well, sort of: a professor pointed it out to me on a map, and he suggested I write a letter to the editor to demand protections for this place. At the time and under direction from President George W. Bush, Congress was seriously considering opening up the Refuge for oil development. I learned that the coastal plain, the biological heart of the Refuge, was often referred to as the "1002" (ten-oh-two) area. This number referred to the section in the 1980 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) that left the coastal plain in a kind of limbo between wilderness and oil development. Ultimately, it was (and is) up to the U.S. Congress to decide whether the coastal plain should join the majority of the Arctic Refuge as formally designated and protected wilderness, or be drilled for oil.

I didn't know much about the Arctic. But I knew that I'd had a transformative experience outside, in the mountains, that gave me a critical sense that wild places were important for small individual connections like mine, but also for something much bigger than the suburban world I'd grown up in -- that had a bottomless appetite for oil-fed consumption. Did I find solace in *Bed, Bath, and Beyond*; or in knowing that a place as wild, remote, and fragile as the Arctic Refuge existed?

I felt angry at the idea that leaders in Congress would allow the amazing qualities of this place to be destroyed for short term gains; only enough oil to supply the U.S. for at most six months' worth of energy consumption. It believed we should take the longer view as a country, invest in renewable technology and protect those few wild places we had left. I wrote my letter, one of countless others from people like me across the country. The coastal plain wasn't opened to drilling that time. But it also wasn't permanently protected, which brings us to a similar looming fight today.

I thought about my letter as I walked in 2017 on coastal plain itself, awed by how incredible it felt to have an opportunity to be here at all. I could see with my own eyes that oil drilling would destroy the coastal plain, but now I also have data to back that up. Proponents have said that development would impact only a "mere" 2,000 acres of the coastal plain's 1.5 million. That's only the literal footprint of development -- where a pad actually meets tundra, for instance, not the vast tangle of connected roads and structures--where the pipeline hovers -- continued next page, p 3

## Walls of Mountains--Arctic Refuge -- from page 2

above; where the polluted air hovers, where spills occur, the noises that scare caribou away.

In 2001, then-Senator Frank Murkowski described the coastal plain as "barren as a white sheet of paper". True, the coastal plain did seem paper-thin in its fragility. But it was rich with wildlife and wildness, not to mention cultural heritage.

The indigenous Gwich'in peoples of the Arctic are tied deeply and firmly to the coastal plain through grandparents, and their grandparents' grandparents, back through time. The coastal plain is the bedrock of their food source; the caribou have sustained the Gwich'in since time immemorial. The Porcupine caribou herd, those creatures that paused to stare at us, are critical to the survival of the Gwich'in Nation and for Inupiat people who subsist on these animals. The calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd are in the coastal plain, and since the coastal plain was first targeted for development 30 years ago, the Gwich'in people have tirelessly advocated to protect it. It takes incredible tenacity to keep up the fight for all of those years. It's hard, hard work.

Now that I've seen the Arctic coastal plain, I feel a sense of responsibility to share and inspire in others what I have experienced there, and what I think is a universal human experience of what is important in life: Wonder. Awe. Gratitude. The mystery of Nature greater than us. Humble and complete respect for elemental places that we have not created or manipulated -- something that was always there. It is in our trust now to keep it that way.

In a world and in a country where attacks on the environment are launched on all fronts and daily, the Arctic Refuge is a critical landscape. Do not let it become a casualty of greed. Please join me in doing everything we can together to ensure this place, for itself and for the people it sustains, is not drilled and its wild values forever destroyed.

### ⇒ WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Right now we need you to contact your members of Congress and let them know you want them to stand up and defend the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from drilling. Also – in addition, since Alaska legislators have not been supportive of Arctic protection, we need to influence legislators from other states. Please contact your network of friends and relatives in other states so that they urge their members of Congress (at Capitol switchboard 202-224-3121) and let them know we want them to stand up and defend the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from drilling. ❖

## Alaska Chapter Elections Ahead YOUR chance to help run the show



Whale: Starbird Studios

The Sierra Club has the largest, most effective grassroots activist network of any conservation organization in the nation. Sierra Club policy and conservation priorities are set by its active volunteers in democratic processes. In the Alaska Chapter, policy and priorities are decided by Executive Committee members--who are elected by the Club's Alaska members.

The 2017 elections will soon be held for three 2018 positions on the Executive Committee of the Alaska Chapter.

Simply voting in the elections lets you help decide policy indirectly, but how about going a step farther and running for office yourself? Or nominating someone else? The Executive Committee makes all the major decisions on how this Chapter allocates our resources (e.g., hiring staff, joining or filing lawsuits related to environmental protection, planning other major events such as trainings, educational sessions, outings, social gatherings, or submitting comments to government agencies such as the National Park Service). In other words, Executive Committee members make decisions on the future of the environment, conservation, and outdoor life in Alaska by influencing Sierra Club Alaska Chapter policies and activities in the next few years.

Executive Committee terms are two years, with terms staggered so that half the committee is elected each year.

If you are a Sierra Club member and would like to run for Excom, or would like to nominate another member who is willing to run, please contact one of these members of the Chapter Nominating Committee for the 2018 term:

Susan Hansen: [skhansen@ak.net](mailto:skhansen@ak.net);  
Suzanne Schafer: [suzeqzin@gmail.com](mailto:suzeqzin@gmail.com);  
Julie Wahl [akfrogprincess@gmail.com](mailto:akfrogprincess@gmail.com);  
Lindsay Hajduk: [lhajduk@earthlink.net](mailto:lhajduk@earthlink.net)  
Cynthia Wentworth: [cynthiawentworth@me.com](mailto:cynthiawentworth@me.com)  
Pixie Siebe  
Mike Finnigan  
(To contact Pixie Siebe and Mike Finnigan, please send an email to Julie Wahl at [akfrogprincess@gmail.com](mailto:akfrogprincess@gmail.com)).

The deadline to submit names to the Nominating Committee is Tuesday, October 17, 2017. The Nominating Committee will report the names of nominees to the Executive Committee on Sunday, October 29. Members who wish to run but are not nominated may run if they submit to the nominating committee a petition to run signed by fifteen (15) members of the Alaska Chapter. The deadline for candidate petitions to be received is Tuesday, November 7. This is also the deadline to submit ballot issue petitions.

The Chapter Executive Committee will appoint an Election Committee at its regular meeting on Sunday, November 26; no candidates may serve on the Election Committee. Ballots will be printed and mailed on Friday, December 8. Marked ballots must be received at the Sierra Club office in Anchorage by Monday, January 8, 2017, and will be counted by the Election Committee starting at 5 pm. (This notice and schedule are in compliance with Sierra Club bylaws.) ❖

## National Park Service rule to protect wildlife in preserves

On November 23, 2016 the National Park Service published a final rule that protects bears, wolves, coyotes, and caribou in national preserves from incompatible sport hunting and trapping methods allowed under regulations issued by the Alaska Board of Game\* pursuant to the state's intensive management law. The NPS had asked the Board to exempt national preserves, but the Board refused the request.

The final NPS rule bans:

- Using artificial light in hunting any black bear, including cubs and sows with cubs, at den sites;
- Baiting, trapping, snaring, and netting brown and black bears;
- Hunting and trapping wolves and coyotes from May 1 through August 9;
- Taking swimming caribou and taking caribou from a moving motorboat by those other than local rural residents\*\* in those portions of Noatak, Gates of the Arctic, and Bering Land Bridge Preserves that are within GMUs (game management units) 23 and 26; and
- Using dogs to hunt black bears.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in August 2016 published a similar final rule designed to protect the wildlife refuges, but that agency's rule was revoked earlier this year by congressional Republicans using the Congressional Review Act (CRA) of 1996, which allows members to review and possibly cancel final rules issued during the last 60 days that Congress is in session. Timing of Congressional recesses and other non-session days meant the majority members could review rules published after May 31, 2016, including the FWS's rule.

Because the NPS's rule was final in November of 2015, the GOP's CRA attack couldn't touch it.. But the rule is far from secure; more bullets are being loaded against it: The new team at the Interior Department is currently reviewing it as part of the Administration's overall review of federal regulations, the Alaska Congressional delegation is sponsoring bills to overturn it, funding to implement it could be cut off—(Alaska's Senator Lisa Murkowski chairs the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee) -- and a state lawsuit challenging it, which is pending in federal court, may now be viewed favorably by the Trump Administration. ❖

--Jack Hession

\* The Board of Game regulates sport hunting on the public lands, except national parks.

\*\* Local rural residents, most of whom are federally qualified subsistence users, can continue these practices in the preserves if they have state hunting licenses. Federal Subsistence Board regulations also allow these subsistence users to shoot caribou from a boat under power.

## Help Protect the Chugach National Forest and Prince William Sound

The Chugach National Forest surrounding Prince William Sound is one of Alaska's great wilderness landscapes. It is an enchanted blend of ancient rainforest, remote islands, and glacial fiords that wind through rugged mountains. More glaciers reach the ocean here than in any other part of Alaska, and it is home to bears, wolverines, rare plants, dozens of bird species, and streams full of wild salmon. The area also drives economic activity across south-central Alaska, through subsistence, recreation, tourism, and a thriving commercial fishing industry. All this against the towering backdrop of the Chugach Mountains.

Yet, despite its remarkable value, the area lacks enduring protections. Since 1980, two million acres of western Prince William Sound has been stuck in an interim "Wilderness Study Area" status, a murky classification with few defined standards. It remains open to mining potential and habitat alteration schemes. And its growing popularity has degraded conditions, caused a sharp decline in black bear populations (see ADFG reports), and spawned growing motorized uses, including unregulated chainsaw and snow machine activities.



Prince William Sound's dramatic land and seascapes are popular for kayak trips near remote inlets and islands.

Although the US Forest Service has promised since 1980 to protect the area's wilderness character, its commitment appears lax. The agency currently recommends splitting the Wilderness Study Area into two smaller protected units and removing today's already slim protections from nearly 600,000 acres of old-growth forest and scenic coastline. In its latest proposal, released in 2015, the agency also recommended weakening overall management. This would harm the Wilderness Study Area and even jeopardize lands specially acquired by the Chugach Forest as restoration following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

The agency's draft proposal was heavily criticized in more than 1,700 public comments submitted in early 2016. Sierra Club's Alaska Chapter and the Alaska Wilderness League hosted a public meeting at the time and hand-delivered hundreds of comments to the Forest Service. (See *sierra borealis* March 2016, June 2015.)

### Get ready for action

Soon [date still uncertain] the Forest Service will release an updated proposal. The public will have an important opportunity to comment. A few issues to carefully watch include: ---Will the Forest Service improve its

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# My 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip to Alaska

Summer is over and so is my month-long journey to Alaska—30 years after my first trip to the Great Land. (See *sierra borealis* June 2017). A full month of travel from California for my son and me-- and joined for two weeks by two friends from Oregon and for one special week – our visit to Denali National Park—by my grandson Denali Hoover Wilson—newly graduated from high school in California and thrilled to enjoy his first trip to Alaska—and to *his* national park.

From the moment we embarked on the Alaska state ferry Kennicott, in Bellingham, WA, magic enveloped us: a few hours touring Ketchikan, two days in Juneau, Haines for a special cycle relay my son rode in, Anchorage, Denali Park, Homer, Kodiak, Seward, Hope, Girdwood for the Forest Fair.

No space here for more than a quick “thank you!” to our hosts—Jenny Pursell, Mike Tobin, Irene Alexakos and Ben Kirkpatrick, Pat Fort, Tom Kizzia, Russ Maddox, Ben and Diane Richardson; and fine special short visits with Richard Hellard, Pam Brodie, Yasuhiro Ozuro, Cynthia Wentworth, and Barbara, Tim, and Stella Lydon—and even a quick reunion with Alli Harvey at the Club office in Anchorage. ❖



The Mountain from the bus ride across Denali Park



Denali in Denali National Park

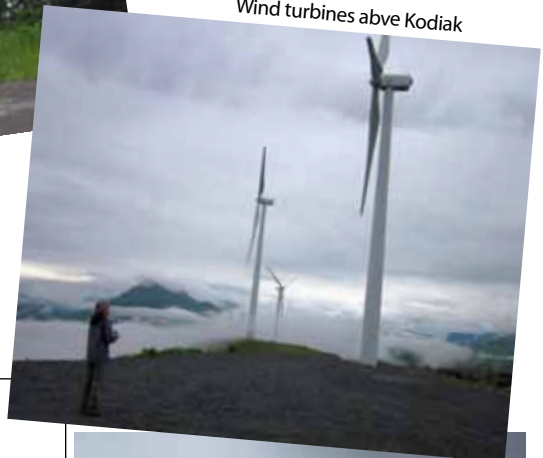
photos this page from Vicky and Nathan Hoover



Yasuhiro and Vicky in Anchorage



Walking in Chenega Bay, while the Kennicott stops there *en route* Whittier



Wind turbines above Kodiak

## Chugach Forest/Prince William Sound protection

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Congressional protection of the area?

(Recommending most of the Wilderness Study Area for formal protection would safeguard subsistence, fishing, hunting, recreation, tourism, and commercial fishing, along with forests and wildlife.)

--Will the Forest Service clarify and strengthen its stated commitment to managing the area as wilderness?

(Maintaining a natural, undeveloped, non-motorized environment protects subsistence, recreation, tourism, commercial fishing and the wild landscapes Alaskans value.)

--How will the Forest Service protect lands acquired after the Exxon Valdez oil spill?

(In its latest proposal, the Chugach Forest abandoned its legal obligation to manage these lands “in perpetuity for conservation and wilderness purposes.”)

Alaskans are strongly connected to Prince William Sound. It is where generations of families have come to fish, hunt, explore, and enjoy solitude and renewal. It’s where local businesses thrive. Stay tuned for your opportunity to remind the Forest Service to protect this special place. ❖



Solarium sleeping arrangement on the Kennicott

## Chair's Column, Comment by Yazuhiro Ozuro

I have been the volunteer chair of Sierra Club's Alaska Chapter for almost eight months now. I am still somewhat overwhelmed by my responsibilities; nevertheless I am grateful that I have an opportunity to serve. I would like to share some facts and honest thoughts about the current state of our Chapter, to give our members some insight into our activities and goals. As of now, our Chapter has about 1700 members.

### Fundraising Response—thanks to donors

When we sent a fundraising letter in June, 33 people contributed a total of approximately \$1650. I deeply appreciate those donors and their crucial help for our cause, and I would like to express my gratitude by listing their names here. Thank you very much for your support, I feel deeply humbled that you entrusted your precious financial resources to our Chapter.

Betty Atkinson	Patricia Blank
Julia Bockmon	Earl Boies
Marsha Buck	Shirley Carlson
Thomas Choate	Ralph Comellas
David Duffey	Sandra Estenson
Matthew & Aran Felix	Mary Green
Nancy Groszek	Thomas Hamilton
Arnold Harder	Sean & Laurie Holland
Morris and Lorrie Horning	Joel Hubbard
Leroy Jones	Lisa Kramer
Joyce Landingham	Nancy Levinson
Jim Mayers	Mike O'Meara
M O'Neil	Annie Olson
Joyce Potter	Sara Ramuglia
Jeanne Schaaf	Martin Sherman
Gary Short	Robert Thomas
William Undergrove	

### State of Alaska Chapter

Now I would like to address the state of our Chapter from my perspective. Honestly, we are still struggling to keep the Chapter afloat and fully functional. Most of our Chapter's work is currently done by the ExCom and very few other volunteer members. For example, it is ExCom members who organize member events and meetings. In addition, two of our three active outings leaders are ExCom members. We currently have no paid staff in our Chapter; yes, there is a national staff person here, funded to work on the Club's national "Our Wild America" campaign, but not directly for our Chapter. This, I believe, is why we volunteers find it a struggle to keep our website updated and to develop effective communications. All of our ExCom members are motivated and have issues that they are individually interested in, such as protecting wildlife and public land from irresponsible development, doing community outreach to spread environmental awareness, lobbying state politicians to influence environmental policies, or developing robust and inviting outings to get people outdoors. However, we face a serious shortage of volunteers. In short, our Chapter seeks more volunteer help from interested members.

### Outings Leaders

We live in a big state with many beautiful areas that can be explored by members and non-members. Currently our outings program is led by three volunteers in the Anchorage area. Our goal is to lead an outing every weekend throughout the year,

and, if possible, in many different areas. We need more people interested in leading outings, including family outings, in a range of skill levels and locations, including ideally the Mat-su valley, the Kenai area, Homer, Fairbanks, and Juneau. This is a chance to take a love for the outdoors and share it with people who might not be able to do it on their own power.

### Social Organizers

We are a grassroots organization based on networks of friendship and community. We are only as strong as our local communities, so lasting bonds of friendship and mutual goals form the foundation of our Chapter. We would like to host more social events, including formal and informal gatherings to increase this sense of community, inclusivity and social responsibility. So--we are looking for people who can organize events of various types and sizes. If you like to host a party or meet new people, this is a good way to help us!

### Communicators

Attractive and functional websites and social media pages are a necessity for any organization these days. These online resources help increase our ability to communicate effectively with members and non-members. If you have experience with social media, website building or content management, the Chapter could use your help. We also seek a good writer to craft articles, letters and general copy. If you have experience and ability in writing and editing, we could use your help with things like op-eds, emails and letters to the editor.

### Activists

We are proud to call Alaska one of the most beautiful places on the planet, yet our unparalleled land, sea, and wildlife face serious threats. Just a few of these include the possible opening of the Arctic Wildlife Refuge for drilling, a resurgent Pebble Mine that would irreparably harm Bristol Bay, and the removal of federal protections for Alaskan wolves and bear. We welcome the help of any activists who love Alaska and are willing to spend some of their time and energy advocating on these or other issues related to protecting our state.

As a concluding note: one critical role that the Sierra Club Alaska Chapter can play is to help like-minded people connect with each other to create actual change and movement towards a cleaner, stronger Alaska. It will invariably take time and strong communal effort for a movement to take place, but I believe it is crucial for the future of Alaskan communities and natural habitats. We have some financial resources and some support from Sierra Club National, but the number of people actively engaged in the local Chapter is quite limited. Right now we have about 10 people actively helping, and more volunteers could dramatically increase our impact. Don't think you have nothing to offer: no matter your skill set or background, we would love to hear from you. If you are interested in anything related to wild nature and conservation in Alaska or the Sierra Club, or even if you just want to talk about your ideas or questions, please send me an email at [yasozuru@gmail.com](mailto:yasozuru@gmail.com). I also work at UAA, you can look me up on UAA's psychology department website. Thank you again for reading, and we hope to hear from you soon! ❖

-- by Yazuhiro Ozuro, with Jonathan Ross

## Alaska Chapter Outings Program 2017

### What a fabulous summer it was for hiking new trails!

We visited so many beautiful places! It's hard to pick which trails were the best. This summer the Alaska Sierra Club outings group reached a number of new heights! We did several hikes that featured 3,000 foot elevation gains. Thanks to the cool overcast days we were seldom overheated. Offering at least one hike a weekend all summer we made an impressive foot print on South Central's trails.

All summer long the trails just got more spectacular. We Alaskans are so fortunate to have incredible trails everywhere we turn. I'm so grateful to all who took time out of their busy lives to venture down the path less trodden and connect with our wild places.

Though the long days of summer are fast fading the trails will still call us out, out from our sleepy dens, out into the spectacular color pageants of fall and on into the crystal blue days of winter. This year we plan to hike all through fall and winter. Keep a close watch on our FaceBook page to find out all the great hikes planned from berry picking in the alpine to winter forays in our beautiful Chugach Mountains...and beyond! ❖

-- by Julie K Wahl,  
Alaska Chapter  
Outings Chair



photo: Julie K. Wahl



Peak Three  
behind  
Flat Top,  
Chugach  
State Park:  
misty

The floral carpeted  
Mountain sides of  
Falls Creek



photo: Julie K. Wahl



photo: Julie K. Wahl

- A special hello  
to our visiting  
Sierra Club  
National Outings  
friends from the  
Lower 48 who  
took time out  
from their rafting  
adventure to visit  
Arctic Valley with  
us. Paths crossed  
are friendships  
formed.



photo: Su Chon

The outings  
team also  
met with  
organizers of  
the Girdwood  
Fungus Fair and  
agreed on  
future  
coordination.  
So, next year  
our Chapter  
may plan a  
mushroom  
picking hike to  
help Fungus  
Fair organizers  
collect mush-  
rooms for  
their display.

Something about mushrooms piques interest! On August 27, the outings team led a mushroom hike in Girdwood to educate folks on safely harvesting wild edibles. 15 participants enjoyed a perfect day for identifying and foraging mushrooms—sun out and ground moist. Cooking and tasting followed the hike.



photo: Julie K. Wahl

# Sierra Borealis / alaska report

is the newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club

Sierra Club Alaska: 907-276-4088  
601 W 5th Ave, Anchorage, AK 99501

This is also the Chapter mail address.

## Chapter Directory

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Outing Chair: Julie K. Wahl: [AKfrogprincess@gmail.com](mailto:AKfrogprincess@gmail.com)  
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Chapter Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/SierraClubAlaska/](http://www.facebook.com/SierraClubAlaska/)



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## Invitation

### Fairbanks event-- "Touch the Wild" October 8

Sierra Club members are invited for a gala event in Fairbanks, on Sunday Oct 8 (4 pm - 6:30 pm). The theme is "Touch the Wild".

Come hear two inspiring speakers:

1. Rick Steiner, famed wildlife activist from Anchorage;
2. Nick Jans, writer and protographer from Juneau.

We will meet at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Fairbanks at 4448 Pikes Landing Road--**across from Princess Hotel**. This event is sponsored by "Alaskans for Wildlife" (see their facebook site).

Also: check the Alaska Sierra Club website or your emails after Oct. 8 for information on a Chapter "Wildlife and Advocacy" workshop in Anchorage mid-November with Alaska State Representative Andy Josephson and Rick Steiner.

### Protest held against wolf killing

On August 17, several local Sierra Club members joined a Fairbanks protest against wolf killing organized by Alaskans for Wildlife. About 50 protesters rallied in front of the Alaska Department of Fish & Game building. Local television channels and FM radio gave good media coverage.

Alaska Department of Fish & Game has killed more than 1,000 wolves in a region near the Yukon Charley Rivers Preserve and near the 40 Mile and Porcupine caribou herds (north and northeast of Fairbanks) since 2004. ADFG scientists report that the killing of wolves has not increased the 40 Mile caribou herd. They say the low weight of caribou calves is due to nutritional stress. Protesters say the continued killing of wolves by ADFG is not justified and is also very expensive (Aerial hunting of wolves plus research costs amount to \$37,000 per wolf.)

-- Susan Hansen

### The Sierra Club Alaska office has moved!

We are now located at the Boardroom, a co-working space in downtown Anchorage on 601 5th Avenue. The Boardroom is a thriving office space with lots of art, natural light, coffee, and of course a range of professionals from other nonprofits organizations, entrepreneurs, web designers, lawyers, and more, now sharing the floor with the Sierra Club. Sierra Club office hours are limited due to limited staff capacity and travel schedules, so we encourage you to set up an appointment by E-mail, with [alli.harvey@sierraclub.org](mailto:alli.harvey@sierraclub.org).



At Fairbanks protest against wolf killing

photo: Michael Haukedalen