



## Your \$\$\$ at Work



### Bold Vision for the Tongass Creates Jobs & Advocates

**D**id you know that when you support ACF you are helping to create jobs in Alaska? It's true!

Your investment in Alaska encompasses more than protecting wilderness and wildlife, it includes meeting people's needs in a responsible way, building strong economies and preserving cultures. With your help, ACF is leading efforts to show local communities—from Bristol Bay to the Tongass—that doing well for the environment can create jobs and ensure Alaska's healthy future.

Enter Sarah Campen, an organizer for Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC), an ACF grantee. This spring, Sarah and other conservationists joined the Native village of Kake in a collaboration with the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) to rework the approach to timber sales in the Tongass National Forest that threatened the community's traditional resources.

Previously the USFS supported large-scale timber projects that involved cutting down trees and shipping whole logs out of Alaska. Resulting issues from those activities have been the invasion of roadless areas and jeopardized wildlife habitat. Not to mention the fact that the big logging firms typically hire few local residents.

Kake, a Native village in southeast Alaska, is urgently in need of better economic opportunities. The population shrunk from about 700 to 500, after loggers sawed their way through the region's economically valuable private timber and the local cold storage plant, serving local fishermen, shut down. Unemployment is estimated as high as eighty-five percent.

Campen and naturalist Bob Christensen helped Kake develop a Community Alternative for the Forest Service to consider. "Several of us have worked with USFS staff and folks in Kake for the last two years, trying to turn a money-losing 70 million-board-foot timber sale into an environmentally responsible project," Campen says. The goal,

### Preparing the Next Generation of Community Leaders

For those seeking a back-country Alaska experience, Bristol Bay is just the place. But imagine arriving to fish the largest wild sockeye salmon population in the world to find your guide is from the Lower 48. Not exactly what you expected!

With your support, ACF helps sponsor the Bristol Bay Fly Fishing and Guide Academy in preparing young people from the region for careers as fishing guides. The students are taught river and salmon ecology, conservation values and fly fishing skills that give them a foundation to pursue sustainable jobs based on healthy salmon populations.

As future guides, small business owners and community leaders, these newly empowered salmon stewards become the tether between visitors to the region and conservation challenges faced by Bristol Bay's salmon and people. It gives

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2010 Fly Fishing Academy graduates.



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## Letter from Executive Director



Nick Hardigg and son in the Tongass.

**This is an exciting issue** of our *Dispatch*. It is not “exciting” in a fear-provoking way—such as focusing upon paradises being lost, and global industry barreling down upon remnant wilderness. (We have shared that dark reality before.) What makes this issue exciting is that we share how ACF is using your support to build real, long-term power for Alaska’s conservation movement. With every victory we’ve achieved—from stopping Arctic drilling to the destruction of

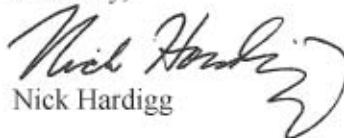
old growth forest in the Tongass—there have been casualties. The power and influence of Alaska’s conservation movement—our reach into Alaskan communities and ability to influence policy—are eroded by misguided perceptions that “conservation” is anti-people, anti-job, anti-Alaskan. Too many Alaskans fail to perceive that our work **is** all about protecting jobs, protecting long-term prosperity, protecting the environment upon which so many Alaskans depend. Those misperceptions are our charge and our great opportunity.

A successful Alaskan conservation movement must act beyond reactive defense. **If we are to win, we must build Alaska’s conservation movement**—to get communities on our side with our message of hope, of sustainable jobs, of empowered engagement and shared commitment and respect for diverse communities, health, and prosperity. ACF is leading that charge for a diverse, more strategic approach to conservation.

Our leadership role in advancing not only defense, but also winning offensive strategies is exciting: sustainable jobs in the Tongass, a Fly Fishing Academy for Native communities in Bristol Bay, training new leaders through our internship program.

Your support of ACF is leveraged to raise millions for conservation battles across Alaska—putting food and jobs before gold at the proposed Pebble Mine, keeping our massive coal deposits in the ground, keeping Tongass trees standing. Your gift also gives ACF the power to lead—to create a more powerful Alaskan conservation movement that won’t allow our common American heritage to be sacrificed. With a winning strategy, your gift lives on forever through the wilderness we cherish and a movement that protects it!

Sincerely,

  
Nick Hardigg

***Alaska Conservation Foundation builds strategic leadership and support for Alaskan efforts to take care of wildlands, waters and wildlife, which sustain diverse cultures, healthy communities and prosperous economies.***



## Bold Vision for the Tongass Creates Jobs & Advocates

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she says, was a project that would create local jobs through forest stewardship and restoration contracts, and provide timber to meet local demand in Kake through small and micro sales, rather than one large sale that would cause ecological problems and that was too big for anyone in Kake to buy.

The agency heeded the community's wishes and revamped the sale. Now, it emphasizes more forest restoration work and small timber sales that are better suited to Kake's mom-and-pop saw mills. It was also the agency's first chance to follow through on the bold, new, more sustainable vision it had laid out for managing the Tongass. In May of last year, the Forest Service said it would

transition away from old-growth logging in roadless areas and instead emphasize projects that repair past damage from logging and speed the development of second-growth timber stands.

Campen says the Forest Service now has a project that aims to create local jobs in Kake, rather than creating a flow of timber to multinational companies. With this project there won't be any logging in roadless areas or the sensitive Castle River watershed. Only five miles of new

road will be required, versus forty in the original proposal. The project has a strong focus on activities like fixing culverts that block fish or cause erosion, thinning dense stands of young-growth trees, and enhancing recreation opportunities through trail building.

Announcing the decision, Forest Service district ranger Chris Savage said, "We're trying to develop opportunities for businesses in Kake so they will be able to gain stewardship contracts and create some jobs for the community of Kake, both on the timber side as well as the restoration side."

Community leaders in Kake have given the revamped project good reviews. "We have been fortunate to work with local partners, the Forest Service, and SEACC to make the Central Kupreanof project something that works well for our local people," says Casimero Aceveda, president of the Organized Village of Kake, which

is the tribal government.

Gary Williams, Executive Director of Organized Village of Kake, agreed. "Our position has always been to protect

our resources for customary and traditional use and also create sustainable development that benefits our people. We think this project strikes that balance well."

Local businesses are encouraged, as well. "I am looking forward to the opportunities for work in forest restoration that this project will create and the positive impact it will have on

my community," says Kevin Merry, who owns a small local sawmill.

Says SEACC organizer Campen, "Nothing is perfect, of course. But I feel this is a very strong step forward towards more holistic and balanced management of our National Forest." After all, protecting the environment means protecting jobs for a sustainable future.



Photo courtesy Bristol Bay Fly Fishing Academy.

## Next Generation of Leaders

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them the tools to become effective storytellers for their region.

While salmon populations in other parts of the world decline, Bristol Bay salmon numbers remain steady due to healthy habitat, clean water and effective management. But, Bristol Bay is threatened by the proposed Pebble Mine, making the future for local communities and salmon uncertain.

The Academy was launched in 2008 and continues due to support from organizations and individuals. Because wild salmon are integral to daily life in Bristol Bay, it is essential to teach local young people how they can make a difference and be engaged in what we hope is a wild salmon success story for Bristol Bay.

Your support helps to make this program possible year after year. To learn more, visit [www.bbflyfishingacademy.org](http://www.bbflyfishingacademy.org).



Naturalist Bob Christensen and elder Ruth Demmert. Photo by Bob Christensen.



## Meet Our Greatest Supporters

*“My husband and I first visited Alaska in 1982. A friend of ours from Germany was visiting the U.S. for the second time and wanted to go somewhere no one ever goes. We picked Alaska and it was love at first sight. The travel industry in Alaska was in its infancy so we really felt like we were on a wild trip. With all its variety and grandeur no photo could do Alaska justice. We vowed to come back as often as we could. Our subsequent trips reinforced our amazement with the expanse and diversity of the land. However, we also found that our own personal photos were documenting some disturbing changes to the Alaska environment: large sections of forests had been cleared, glaciers we had visited in 1982 were greatly diminished or no longer in existence; and Sitka spruces were dying because of the effects of climate change on permafrost.*

### Donor Profile: “Mickey” Bickford

A visit  
to Alaska  
inspires  
stewardship!

Because of our interest, we began supporting local Alaska conservation groups, one of which was ACF. When the fight over drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge intensified, our support for local groups also intensified. As firm believers in the power of education, we were drawn to ACF’s intern program and were impressed with its scope and record of success. ACF supplies all of the donors to the intern program with details on the intern’s progress and what they take away from the program. As donors we feel that we actually can help with the protection of Alaska, particularly through educating the next generation of conservationists.

Alaska belongs to us all. It is under siege from many directions, both external and internal, and it is essential for groups like ACF to be able to take a leadership role in educating the public about the consequences of these attacks for the future. It is especially important for me who has lived in a big city my whole life to know that the wild is out there and will continue to be out there.

When the proponents of drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge were describing it as a meaningless wasteland, we knew we had to help dissuade people of this misinformation. In 2005 we were able to camp out in the refuge with Carol Kasza, an ACF board member. My best memory of that trip was a visit to our camp from an interested Grizzly Bear. Three of us sang and danced around to get the bear’s attention. Our off key singing and wild gyrations were apparently so terrible to listen to and watch that we scared the bear off. It was quite an exciting event and a highlight of our Alaska experience!”

If you wish to share your story and passion about Alaska with us, please do! Send it to [acfinfo@alaskaconservation.org](mailto:acfinfo@alaskaconservation.org)

## THANK YOU!

Thanks to you & all our supporters for being true stewards of Alaska.

## WAYS TO GIVE

1. Online at ACF website [www.alaskaconservation.org](http://www.alaskaconservation.org)
2. EarthShare CFC: 12062
3. Alaska Community Share
4. Volunteer with your local group!

## MATCH THIS!

Did you know you can double - even triple - your gift to ACF? Find out if your company will match your charitable donation by visiting ACF website: [www.alaskaconservation.org/matchinggifts](http://www.alaskaconservation.org/matchinggifts)



Mickey (L) with ACF Trustee & Arctic Guide Carol Kasza in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.



## Summer Brings Interns

As Alaskans eagerly anticipate summer's sunshine after a long winter, Alaska's conservation community similarly buzzes with anticipation of its annual infusion of fresh talent, known as the summer intern.

Over the past decade, ACF's Conservation Internship Program (CIP) has helped to develop the next generation of Alaska conservation leaders while increasing the capacity of Alaska's conservation organizations to carry out special projects and fulfill their missions.

With your help, ACF will sponsor 20 interns this summer at 18 organizations in communities such as Cordova, Yakutat, Haines and Sitka. Here are just two of the many diverse assignments:

- Copper River Watershed Project—creation of strategies and media items related to citizen oversight for the Trans-Alaska Pipeline; and
- Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council—collection of Traditional Ecological Knowledge in the Yukon River Watershed.

This year's highly qualified group of interns includes young people like Jennifer Hanlon, who is returning for a second internship at Southeast Alaska Conservation Council. She is a member of Alaska's Yakutat Tlingit Tribe. A recent college graduate, Jennifer is preparing to enter Law School in the fall, but will spend the summer focused on traditional use ("subsistence") management issues as well as providing assistance as requested to the Yakutat Tlingit Tribe on an effort to protect the Yakutat Forelands from future mining development. Meet all the interns at the ACF website and Facebook page this summer.

[www.alaskaconservation.org](http://www.alaskaconservation.org)

# Alaska Needs You!

## Lessons from the Past

By Ann Rothe

*ACF's Deputy Director recently spent a week in Washington DC with our grantees who are working to protect the Bristol Bay watershed. During their "Wild Salmon Week" in the nation's capitol, they met with administration officials and members of Congress to garner support for action by the EPA to close portions of the Bristol Bay watershed to industrial scale mining. At the end of the week, she flew to Seattle to join her husband on a camping trip in eastern Oregon and Washington in the Columbia River basin. Along the way she was reminded of what we are fighting for in protecting Alaska. Here is an excerpt from a letter she penned to one of our supporters.*

"For two avid birdwatchers like Tom and me, it was a spectacular trip. We were there at the peak of migration, and saw hundreds of thousands of snow geese, sandhill cranes and myriad species of ducks on their way to Alaska.

We also saw the results of more than a hundred and fifty years of environmental degradation—the effects of overgrazing in Oregon's high desert has changed the landscape and destroyed many of native species of plants; the accidental introduction of carp in to the watershed of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge is having a devastating impact on the refuge's wetlands ecosystem as the ravenous fish consume native vegetation that sustain migrating ducks and geese; the radioactive pollution from the Hanford Site in eastern Washington (a Superfund site and the most contaminated nuclear site in the nation) will affect the land, and wildlife

that live there, for thousands of years.

We followed local news stories about a protest organized by ranchers who wanted their legislature to order the killing of wolves in eastern Oregon despite their status as an endangered species. The ranchers were responding to the successful effort to reintroduce wolves into the Yellowstone ecosystem—so successful that wolf populations have expanded to Idaho and eastern Oregon, and have preyed on cattle and sheep. An effort to restore a damaged ecosystem has resulted in the same kind of conflicts that led to the extirpation of wolves in the West a century ago. Is there enough natural area left in the region to restore a natural balance?

Our observations served as a grim reminder of how lucky we are in Alaska to be able to secure protection for spectacular intact ecosystems before they are imperiled. It was also a reminder of how fortunate ACF is to have donors who help us support Alaskans working to make sure we learn from our past mistakes in the West, and take advantage of the opportunity to do things right in ensuring that Alaska's rich natural resource heritage is here for future generations."



Wolf. Photo by Alaskan Express.



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**Your Support Makes Our  
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