Dear Friend of Alaska,

As we approach a new year, we hope you enjoy this Annual Report for FY 2008 and 2009 Calendar. We think of this report, filled with magnificent donated photography illustrating a month-by-month tour of Alaska’s natural heritage, as a small “thank you” to our supporters. We offer it as that, and as a meaningful and cost-effective way to connect you with our important work.

As an investor in Alaska, you can take pride in the year’s successes at your foundation. In our central role of providing financial support, we exceeded our grantmaking goals through a combination of cost cutting and successful fundraising. Grants in the critical area of operating support—the essential funds our grantees find most difficult to raise—increased by 24 percent.

Perhaps most important, we began a fundraising effort in 2008 that has recently secured more than $3 million in targeted project support for two of Alaska’s new and highly critical conservation campaigns: protecting Bristol Bay from mining (page 35) and stopping development of Alaska’s vast coal reserves (page 34). With these exciting new programs and funding commitments, next year promises to be our strongest grantmaking year ever.

Despite these new campaign-restricted funds, however, the need for your continued support is stronger than ever. Just as this has been a financially challenging year for many Americans, related challenges mount for Alaska. The surge in energy costs increases pressure to develop Alaska’s oil and mineral wealth. The jolt to financial markets has placed the organizational stability of our grantees at risk after the most difficult fundraising year in a decade. Consequently, the need is clear: we must maintain a strong and coordinated statewide grassroots conservation community in order to face these challenges effectively.

The combination of such factors means the need for supporting Alaska conservation is urgent. ACF is comprehensively positioned to systematically turn these challenges into opportunities on Alaska’s behalf. As the only public conservation foundation in Alaska, we are truly the hub of the state’s conservation community, working to make sure each issue is addressed by the best local or regional organizations possible.

Before you read this report, we will mention a few highlights. Our Strategies for Alaska’s Future effort (page 39) brought strategic statewide focus to Alaska’s conservation groups, enabling them to raise $350 million from the legislature for sustainable energy. Operating support and Rapid Response grants provided some of the most difficult-to-raise funding for Alaska’s grassroots community. ACF is also working to attract more investment for Alaska’s most important conservation issues—supporting Alaska Native groups like Nunamta Aulukestai and promoting solutions-based efforts such as the Tongass Conservation Collaborative. To learn more, please take a look at our program summaries on pages 34-41.

In these uncertain times, America’s energy, resource, and financial challenges are felt especially strongly in Alaska, and your ability to truly make a difference here is equally powerful. We thank you for your confidence, your continued investment in our work, and the privilege of counting you as a friend of the Foundation and an advocate for Alaska.

Sincerely,

April E. Crosby
Chair, Board of Trustees, 2006-2008

Nick Hardigg
Executive Director
TODAY’S CHALLENGE: Global Demand Threatens Alaska’s Resources

Now, more than ever, your help is needed to protect Alaska.

Nowhere is the growing threat to Alaska’s pristine wilderness more apparent than in its soaring natural resource prices. Fueled by increasing demand from Asian economies, oil, gold, copper, and zinc prices have all more than doubled since 2001.

The pressure for increased mining activity is equally zealous. At present, more than 40 mining projects are proposed around the state—industrial-scale projects that will each cover thousands of acres of what is now intact, healthy wilderness.

This growing, diverse threat shapes the strategy of ACF to strengthen support for Alaska’s healthy future.

The concern about large-scale statewide mining is not simply its development, but Alaska’s extraordinarily lax mining regulations as well. If Alaska is truly the last opportunity for the United States to “get it right” by protecting and preserving ecosystems, we have a very, very long way to go. ACF is at the forefront of this effort.

“You bet we will drill, baby, drill. And we will mine, baby, mine.” ~Alaska Governor Sarah Palin, Reno, Nevada, November 3, 2008
Our Role

In our unique role as the only public foundation dedicated to conservation in Alaska, the Alaska Conservation Foundation serves as a funder and fiscal sponsor for nonprofit organizations that work to protect and wisely manage Alaska’s natural resources.

We focus on conservation challenges and on developing networks and partnerships to respond to conservation issues that threaten Alaska’s wildlife, waters, wilderness, and people. We provide leadership and coordination of sensible efforts to achieve this goal.

We are supported by foundations and individuals from Alaska and across the country who have joined us to protect and preserve Alaska. We then partner with grassroots conservation groups across the state and provide them with funding, as well as strategic and organizational assistance. The local groups do the “hands-on” conservation work required in their communities.

The Alaska Conservation Foundation is a focal point for the state’s conservation community, fostering collaboration among local, state, and national organizations on shared goals for environmental protection. We also serve as a source of information about Alaska resource issues for a national constituency—including donors and foundations—concerned about preserving the integrity of Alaska’s ecosystems and its natural beauty.

The Alaska Conservation Foundation—working to make sure Alaska’s wilderness and wildlife remain healthy and beautiful for generations to come.

Our Mission

The Alaska Conservation Foundation builds strategic leadership and support for Alaskan efforts to take care of wild lands, waters, and wildlife, which sustain diverse cultures, healthy communities, and prosperous economies.
This map illustrates the 12 most threatened regions of Alaska that are described and illustrated on the pages of our calendar—areas that you help protect by supporting ACF.

Each is unique in its ecology, habitat, wildlife, indigenous cultures, and challenges. All are significant in ACF’s conservation strategy for the survival of a healthy, robust Alaska for future generations.
Western Arctic

Stretching from the Colville River west to the Chukchi Sea and south past the Brooks Range, Alaska’s Western Arctic region is a complex network of treeless tundra, coastal lagoons, streams, and rivers hosting one of the continent’s largest, most unique arrays of wildlife. Here scientists have unearthed the skeletons of dinosaurs that adapted to survive in cold climates—an astonishing discovery that has changed how they view our planet’s ancient past.

Today, this region supports one of the Earth’s largest concentrations of raptors, as well as the 450,000 caribou of the Western Arctic Herd. The coastal waters provide refuge to seals, walrus, and polar bears, all essential to the survival of indigenous cultures that are thousands of years old.

Global warming now poses an ominous threat to this region, causing the retreat of sea ice, melting of permafrost, and increasing ferocity of winter storms that damage coastal habitats. The area holds massive reserves of oil, gas, and minerals, as well as half the nation’s coal reserves—increasing the threat of offshore oil development, industrial-scale mining, and coal development. The world’s largest lead and zinc mine, Red Dog Mine, is found here. According to the EPA, for the last five years this mine has been the single largest source of toxic pollutants in the country. Additional major mining projects are being planned.

Land protections in the region are limited primarily to a few designated “Special Areas” in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska identified for their extraordinary wildlife values. One such area is Teshekpuk Lake, which encompasses one of the most important waterfowl habitats in the Western Hemisphere.

ACF has provided grants to Pacific Environment to aid efforts to limit the impacts of offshore oil development on marine mammals on which local villages rely for sustenance and cultural survival. We have also supported the efforts of Northern Alaska Environmental Center and Alaska Community Action on Toxics to reduce the effects of Red Dog Mine on human health, fish, and wildlife. ACF’s Sportsman’s Alliance for Alaska program (see page 38) has engaged sportmen in Alaska and throughout the country in efforts to protect Teshekpuk Lake.

January 2009

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New Year’s Day
Birthday of Celia Hunter, co-founder of ACF
Quadrantid meteor shower
Birthday of Celia Hunter, co-founder of ACF
Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
Inaugural Day
Chinese New Year
Annular solar eclipse

This page, top left: Brooks Range © US Fish & Wildlife Service
This page, top right: Caribou buck grazing © Dave Menke, US Fish & Wildlife Service

ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
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### Cook Inlet

Extending north from the massive Gulf of Alaska, the 250-mile-long Cook Inlet is cradled between spectacular mountain ranges and flanked by a network of coastal estuaries and silt-laden glacial rivers. Massive geological forces continue to transform the inlet, from the ice fields of the Chugach Mountains to the active volcanoes of the Aleutian Range. At over 30 feet, the inlet's tidal fluctuations are the second highest in the world.

The inlet’s interplay of currents and glacial waters creates a rich, productive habitat for five species of wild Pacific salmon, halibut, sea lions, porpoises, and—notably—a recently listed endangered population of beluga whale.

Current oil and gas industry projects, proposed coal strip mines, inadequate shipping safety practices, and human waste are just a few of the threats to the inlet ecosystem. Some 16 offshore oil and gas production platforms currently operate there and, contrary to national guidelines requiring zero discharge, these platforms are permitted to discharge toxic waste directly into its waters so long as they document the volume and composition of the wastes dumped. Between 1987 and 1992, offshore platforms discharged nearly 7 trillion gallons of toxic wastewater into Cook Inlet.

Escalating this threat is the proposed Chuitna Coal Project, which would be the third-largest coal strip mine in the country. Up to a billion tons of coal would be stripped from the delicate Chuitna River watershed, just 45 miles west of Anchorage. Aside from the direct negative effects on the local habitat, the combustion of this coal will generate profuse greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, which has far-reaching effects beyond the immediate ecosystem.

ACF has long taken an active role to protect the waters of the Cook Inlet. Interns from our Conservation Internship Program have supported the water quality monitoring efforts of grantees such as the Anchorage Waterways Council. Our Operating Support Grants to key groups in the region, such as Cook Inletkeeper and Alaska Center for the Environment, have brought a comprehensive watershed approach to protecting this precious waterway. Please visit page 41 to learn more about ACF’s Conservation Internship Program.

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### February 2009

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**Groundhog Day**

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**Tu B'Shavat**

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**Penumbral lunar eclipse**

16

**Oil discovered at Prudhoe Bay, 1968**

17

**Presidents' Day**

18

**Ash Wednesday**

19

**Valentine’s Day**

20

**First winter ascent of Mt. McKinley, 1968**

21

**Cook Inlet and Mt. Susitna at sunset**

22

**February 2009**

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Photo generously donated by Carl Battreall.
Bering Sea

The Bering Sea— the name conjures up images of a severe and inhospitable environment: massive waves; deep, icy waters; and blustery, bone-chilling winds. For marine life, however, the waters of the Bering Sea are idyllic.

Set between the coasts of Russia and Alaska and spanning more than 875,000 square miles, the Bering Sea teems with phytoplankton that support a diverse and astonishing volume of marine life such as halibut, pollock, king crab, walrus, polar bears, tufted puffins, and the endangered short-tailed albatross and North Pacific Right Whale. The Aleutian Islands, which border the Bering Sea to the south, are home to some of the world’s densest populations of cold-water coral.

The Bering Sea’s wealth of fish has become the focus of massive fisheries that catch over four billion pounds of fish per year, primarily pollock. The fish are harvested by trawlers that deploy nets capable of snaring hundreds of tons at a time. Unfortunately, as the nets are dragged, they scrape along the ocean floor, capturing millions of additional pounds of non-targeted fish and marine life—such as cold-water corals. These plants and animals are needlessly killed and discarded. This enormous waste is misleadingly termed “bycatch.”

Aside from the senseless destruction of sea life, the impact of scraping coral, plants, and rocks from the bottom of the ocean has been likened to clearcutting a forest. It removes critical habitat, protection, and food from numerous fish and marine mammals that live or forage on the ocean’s floor. Allowing such destruction is contrary to Alaska’s goal of sustainable, well-managed fisheries. If we are not diligent, this ecosystem will be forever damaged.

A group of Alaska Native elders from 22 villages on the Bering coast are working to limit the expansion of the trawl fleet and its impacts on subsistence resources. ACF funded the initial meetings of the Bering Sea Elders Advisory Group (see page 30), and is now supporting a research project initiated by the Elders to gather information about regional subsistence activities. ACF also supports the Alaska Marine Conservation Council’s efforts to secure protection for essential fish habitats, including cold-water coral gardens along the Aleutian trench. Learn more about ACF’s Alaska’s Oceans program on page 36.
Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

In 1964, the Wilderness Act defined "Wilderness" as an area where the Earth and its community of life are unchanged by man, where man himself is merely a visitor. To this day, the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge remains one of the most pristine wilderness areas in the world. An almost mystical place in its remoteness, the refuge's vast expanse supports an amazing diversity of animal species including gray wolves, polar bears, caribou, musk oxen, arctic grayling, Dolly Varden, and 195 species of birds.

In 1980, under the Alaska National Interests Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), Congress doubled the size of the Arctic Refuge while simultaneously sealing its fate as an area requiring constant vigilance toward its protection. While 80 percent of the refuge's 19.2 million acres is presently designated as Wilderness, Congress left open the decision about whether to allow oil and gas development in 1.5 million acres of the refuge's coastal plain along the Arctic Ocean. The ultimate fate of this area lies at the heart of the drilling controversy.

As fuel prices continue to rise across the globe, pressure to drill in the coastal plain grows proportionately. Politicians and others who support opening the Arctic Refuge to drilling speak of the need to reduce our nation's dependence on foreign oil, instilling the fear that the cost of fuel will continue to rise—while downplaying the importance of this critical ecosystem by describing it as "barren" or "a wasteland." They do not mention who really stands to gain most from the drilling.

The Gwich'in Nation has a much greater stake in—and respect for—the refuge and in particular the coastal plain, which is far from barren. They refer to the plain as "Izhik Gwats'an Gwandaii Goodlit" ("The Sacred Place Where Life Begins"), as it is the birthing and nursery grounds of the massive Porcupine Caribou Herd, on which they have relied for millennia.

In fiscal year 2008, ACF continued to support the important work of the Gwich'in Steering Committee to address the heightened threat of oil and gas development on this culturally significant and life-sustaining land. For more information about ACF's work in the Circumpolar Arctic region, see page 40.
Southeast Alaska

Beautiful, lush, and remote, Southeast Alaska scribes a thousand-mile arc along the Pacific coast between Yakutat and Ketchikan. The region is a reservoir of biodiversity and wilderness. It is home to glacier-dredged fjords and small islands covered in temperate rainforest inhabited by some of the world’s healthiest remaining populations of salmon, grizzly bears, bald eagles, and giant old-growth trees—some more than a thousand years old.

Southeast Alaska includes part of the historic Inside Passage, as well as Glacier Bay National Park and other national monuments, historic parks, and preserves. Sitka National Historical Park, Alaska’s oldest federally designated park, features Northwest Coast totem poles donated by Native leaders from villages in the region, lining its scenic coastal trail.

This area is the traditional homeland of the Tlingit people; it also housed a prehistoric settlement of Haida and is home to a modern settlement of Tsimshian. The region is dotted with diverse coastal communities that depend on the forest’s resources for survival. Commercial fishing and tourism are mainstays of the local economy, and the bounty of the land and sea continues to feed rural families who live a traditional subsistence way of life. Travel in the area is enabled only by boat or plane; roads are very few.

The heart of Southeast Alaska is its incomparable rainforest, the Tongass, one of the most compelling conservation opportunities in the world. Temperate rainforests have suffered an even worse fate than the world’s decimated tropical variety. Extensive logging has destroyed half the ancient temperate rainforests; the Tongass represents over 40 percent of the world’s remaining old-growth coastal example of this ecosystem.

ACF strives to protect the rainforest through leadership in the Tongass Conservation Collaborative (TCC). The TCC is working to move the Southeast conservation agenda toward a community-supported, solutions-based future founded on permanent protection for areas of high biological and community value, restoration of damaged watersheds, and sustainable local economies. To this end, ACF has awarded grants and internships to Discovery Southeast, Lynn Canal Conservation, Sitka Conservation Society, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, and Trout Unlimited. Learn more about ACF’s Rainforest Conservation efforts on page 37.
Prince William Sound

Prince William Sound’s 10,000 square miles extend north from the Gulf of Alaska in Southcentral Alaska. It is separated from the Cook Inlet by the Chugach Mountains, one of the tallest coastal mountain ranges on the continent. Held in the frozen grip of a vast complex of ice fields and glaciers, these mountains form a nearly impenetrable barrier that has shielded the area from extensive development.

Affectionately referred to as “the Sound,” this body of water is a kayaker’s paradise. Some of Alaska’s most iconic residents live in its waters, including humpback and killer whales, sea otters, and Dall porpoises, while bears and deer thrive on its many islands. Millions of birds rest on its mudflats each spring on their journey to Arctic nesting grounds. Meanwhile, all five species of Pacific salmon, shellfish, and the once-plentiful herring can be found in its waters.

Many remember March 24, 1989 as the dark day when the huge oil tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground, disgorging almost 11 million gallons of crude oil into the pristine waters of the Sound, contaminating a thousand miles of shoreline. Millions of oil-soaked birds and marine mammals perished. The Sound’s productive herring fishery collapsed. For Alaskans, the spill and its aftermath will never be forgotten. For residents of the Sound and the clean-up workers—the nightmare continues.

It has been nearly 20 years since the Exxon Valdez oil spill (EVOS), and Exxon’s promises of “total cleanup” have gone unfulfilled. There is a now a well-documented health crisis among hundreds of EVOS workers who suffer from respiratory and central nervous system problems.

The vitality of the Sound has not been restored, and the communities that relied upon it have not recovered. For all its breathtaking beauty, Prince William Sound is likely to be remembered as a symbol of the irreversible damage—to ecosystems, health, and economies—that can result from the irresponsible influence of man.

ACF grantee Alaska Community Action on Toxics is addressing the EVOS worker health crisis through their Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Legacy Project. Please refer to page 36 for more information about ACF’s Alaska’s Oceans program.
Bristol Bay Region

Alaska’s Bristol Bay watershed is one of the most biologically productive marine ecosystems in the world. The watershed is a network of pristine rivers, lakes, and streams that sustain the largest runs of wild salmon on Earth. About 40 percent of the total US fish harvest comes from the Bristol Bay, which includes not only salmon, but halibut, king crab, herring, pollock, and cod. The bay provides essential habitat for walrus, whales, and nesting colonies of over a million seabirds.

The Bristol Bay region remains largely undeveloped and intact, due in great part to its remoteness. The primary source of income comes from its world-renowned commercial and sport fisheries. About 85 percent of the region’s residents are Alaska Native—primarily Athabascan and Yup’ik—who still depend on the harvest of salmon and other wild foods for physical and cultural sustenance.

In 1989, Congress issued a moratorium banning oil and gas development in the bay, but this ban was lifted in 2007, and the area is now a major target for development. Offshore oil and gas exploration brings the very real potential of pollution and habitat destruction. Onshore, the greatest threat is the proposed Pebble Mine project. If developed, this would be one of the world’s largest copper and gold mines. It is slated to sit squarely at the headwaters of the region’s most critical rivers, leaving the residents of the Bristol Bay area to ask, “Is it really worth the risk?”

ACF funds the Alaska Marine Conservation Council’s work to stop an offshore oil and gas lease sale proposed by the US Minerals Management Service and to ban oil development in the bay. We also manage a grant program for a campaign to block development of the Pebble Mine. The organizations engaged include Nunamta Aulukestai, Trustees for Alaska, Earthworks, the Renewable Resources Coalition, Trout Unlimited, The Wilderness Society, the National Parks and Conservation Association, the Center for Science in Public Participation, and Resource Media.

ACF also serves as fiscal sponsor for Nunamta Aulukestai, an association of Alaska Native village corporations united to manage their lands for sustainable uses. Learn more about ACF’s Hard Rock Mining program on page 35.

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This page, top left: Boats in Nelson Lagoon, Bristol Bay © Kelly Harrell, Friends of Bristol Bay, Alaska Marine Conservation Council
This page, top center: Exploration drill rig, Pebble Mine East © Erin McKittrick, Ground Truth Trekking
This page, bottom right: Monkshood, Upper Talkeetna Creek © Erin McKittrick, Ground Truth Trekking

ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
www.akcf.org
Southcentral Alaska

Southcentral Alaska is a dynamic world in motion. Dramatic mountain ranges touch the ocean and glaciers tumble into placid fjords. Massive brown bears converge on salmon-filled rivers. Braided rivers cut channels through productive wetlands and active volcanoes dot the horizon, a reminder that this land is still very much in flux.

Chugach State Park (our nation’s third largest park) is found in this region and the boundaries of the park lie right above Anchorage—Alaska’s largest city. Wildlife abounds here, and black bears and moose can often be found wandering the mountains and foothills—not to mention the streets of Anchorage. Southcentral is probably one of the few places in the state where high-rise office workers can catch a king salmon during their lunch break.

This is Alaska’s most populous and fastest growing region, home to more than 60 percent of the state’s nearly 700,000 residents. Pressures on Southcentral Alaska are prolific, stemming primarily from rampant development that threatens the area’s rich biodiversity, bountiful wildlife habitat, and access to public lands.

Nowhere are these pressures greater than with energy development. As Cook Inlet natural gas supplies dwindle, some local governments and utilities continue to consider archaic fuels such as coal and oil rather than embrace a future of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Meanwhile, Southcentral Alaska is poised to become a leader in renewable energy development. The region’s power needs are matched by its geothermal potential, powerful winds, extreme tidal fluctuations, and other renewable energy sources. This region could serve as a national model and laboratory for emerging energy technologies, helping drive a sustainable economy and transitioning Alaska away from the extractive fossil fuel industries that have devastated wilderness and led to recent political corruption.

ACF is helping organize and support the coordinated effort of the Alaska Clean Energy Campaign, which advocates for renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy planning as a means to transition Alaska toward a sustainable economic and environmental future. To learn more about ACF’s Energy and Climate program, see page 34.

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August 2009

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Friendship Day

Perseids meteor shower

Mt. Spurr erupts, 1992

Ramadan

Alaska becomes a US territory, 1912

Penumbral lunar eclipse
The Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta

Located in southwest Alaska within the boundaries of the 19-million-acre Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta is one of the largest river deltas in the world. Formed where the Yukon and Kuskokwim Rivers meet the Bering Sea, the delta consists primarily of tundra less than 100 feet above sea level.

With lakes, ponds, and streams scattered as far as the eye can see, the delta is considered the most critical shorebird nesting area in the nation, based on density and diversity of species. One of the largest concentrations of waterfowl in the world (a combined 1.5 million ducks and geese) breeds here annually, including the endangered Steller’s eider. It is also the breeding ground for the continent’s most concentrated population of golden eagles.

Because the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta includes both coastal areas and 4,000-foot mountain peaks, it is also home to polar and grizzly bears, caribou, bearded seals, and bowhead whales. There are nearly 60 small villages in this region where cultural traditions are strong and traditional languages still spoken. Residents of this area are primarily Yup’ik who rely on fish, wildlife, and wild plants for their physical and cultural survival.

Unfortunately, major forces are threatening the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta watershed and its wildlife and people. Hard-rock mining, oil and gas development, and a nuclear reactor are among the projects proposed. Fortunately, many residents of the delta are looking beyond the short-term positive economic impact, and toward the long-lasting threats to the environment, which is inextricably tied to their culture. These threats include the transportation of toxic chemicals and fuel through the sensitive watershed, the location of storage ponds for toxic mining waste, and the enormous energy demands to complete and maintain these projects.

ACF operating support grantee Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council is working diligently to protect and preserve this important watershed from further contamination and degradation. The protection of the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta is critical—its rich wilderness has sustained Alaska Native cultures for thousands of years. See page 29 to learn more about ACF’s Operating Support Grants.

September 2009

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Labor Day

Rosh HaShanah begins

Grandparents’ Day

International Day of Peace

Yom Kippur begins at sunset

Autumnal Equinox

Rosh HaShanah begins at sunset

Native American Day

Yom Kippur ends at sunset

This page, top left: Reyna, Madrona, and Mary in Kwethluk © Toby Smith
This page, bottom right: Subsistence fishwheel, Yukon River © Polly Wheeler, US Fish & Wildlife Service
ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
www.akcf.org
The Seward Peninsula—Ancient Beringia

The Seward Peninsula's western tip, Cape Prince of Wales on the Bering Strait, is the westernmost point of the North American mainland. Its northernmost tip lies within the Arctic Circle. The narrow Bering Strait now separates the peninsula from Siberia, but in prehistoric times both were part of Beringia, a vast subcontinent that linked Asia and North America when glaciers covered much of the Earth.

Across this 1,000-mile sweep of land traveled hunters, the first people to enter the Americas. They followed the migrations of fantastic creatures—woolly mammoths and mastodons, giant beavers and great bears, steppe bison and saber-toothed tigers. Many of these creatures are the ancient ancestors of some of Alaska's most recognized wildlife species—brown bears, musk ox, caribou, and moose.

Today, the Seward Peninsula hosts a rich diversity of indigenous cultures and wildlife still integrally linked to the land. Recent human migrants, however, came to the land to exploit its mineral wealth, from the Nome Gold Rush of the early 1900s to the present-day beginnings of the massive Rock Creek Mine—an open-pit cyanide heap-leach mine north of Nome.

Highly toxic even in extremely small doses, cyanide can be deadly—but it is the substance that allows the extraction of minerals such as gold from low-grade ore. Once the mine is fully operational, the potential for groundwater contamination and toxic spills poses serious threats to plant, animal, and human health.

Equally significant is the toxic legacy left by military facilities built during World War II and the Cold War that now threatens the region's environmental and human health.

Alaska Community Action on Toxics, an ACF operating support grantee, is working with 16 Alaska Native villages in the region to identify former defense sites and have them cleaned up. ACF also supports the efforts of Trustees for Alaska, who provide legal counsel to the residents of Nome as they fight to limit the negative impacts of Rock Creek Mine. For more on ACF's Hard Rock Mining work, see page 35.

October 2009

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Halloween

This page, top: Musk oxen, Seward Peninsula © Nichole Andler, National Park Service

ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION
www.akcf.org
### November 2009

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**All Saints’ Day**

**Daylight Saving Time ends**

**Veterans’ Day**

**Guppy Fawkes Day**

**Leonids meteor shower**

**All Souls’ Day**

**Thanksgiving Day**

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**Interior Alaska**

The Interior region of Alaska sets the imagination into motion. Views extend seemingly to the infinite, with the highest peaks on the continent soaring above twisted, braided, glacial rivers. With summer temperatures topping out near 100 degrees and winter lows plummeting to more than 60 below, the Interior has some of the most extreme temperature fluctuations on the planet.

The Interior is also home to Alaska’s only current operational coal mine and coal-fired power plants, and is the center of numerous ill-conceived coal development projects. It is also feeling the disproportionate effects of climate change, with melting permafrost destroying forests and homes while parasites in warming rivers are depleting once-vibrant salmon runs.

Coal is the most polluting of all fossil fuels, contributing greatly to elevated levels of CO2 in the atmosphere, asthma in our children, and mercury contamination in our fish. It is a 19th Century solution to 21st Century problems, and Alaska has the renewable energy sources—and the definite need—to move well beyond such archaic technology.

Fortunately, there are some exceptional examples of renewable energy research and technology in the Interior. The Cold Climate Housing Research Center in Fairbanks focuses on research to improve the durability, health, efficiency, and affordability of shelter for people in Alaska and other circumpolar regions around the globe. The nearby Chena Hot Springs Renewable Energy Center is developing renewable energy and sustainable development projects, and forming partnerships within the community and across the country to promote and implement renewable technologies.

Alaska has roughly half of the nation’s coal reserves, which translates to as much as one-eighth of global reserves. With an eye toward mitigating the devastating impacts of global climate change, in fiscal year 2008, ACF brought 25 conservation and tribal organizations together to address the rising threat of coal. This body, with ACF’s support, has formed the Alaska Coal Working Group, a coalition whose goal is to fight climate change by keeping Alaska’s vast coal reserves in the ground. The Working Group makes up the “no” prong of the Alaska Clean Energy Campaign. See page 34 for more information on ACF’s work on Energy and Climate issues.
The Copper River Basin

Just east of the Chugach National Forest lies the Copper River Basin, one of the most diverse and significant wetlands ecosystems in the Western Hemisphere. Each year more than 15 million shorebirds and waterfowl stop in the 700,000-acre basin as they migrate to nesting areas throughout the Arctic.

During peak migration, up to 250,000 shorebirds per square mile feed in the basin’s tidal flats, and millions of ducks, geese, and swans rest there each spring. It is a summer nesting habitat for many other birds, including bald eagles, Arctic terns, northern phalaropes, cranes, and passerines.

The lush wetlands are also home to an incredible variety of animals, including bears, moose, weasels, mink, wolverine, muskrat, porcupine, and the world’s densest concentration of beavers. Harbor seals haul out and give birth on barrier island bars, swimming upstream to feed in the river. Other mammals dine offshore, including gray, minke, humpback, and killer whales; Dall and harbor porpoises; and sea lions.

The most critical facet of the Copper River ecosystem, however, is its five species of wild Pacific salmon. Salmon enrich the river’s health, economy, culture, and subsistence wealth. For thousands of years, salmon have been a cornerstone of life for the region’s Eyak and Ahtna people. Many of the basin’s wolf packs also rely on salmon for survival—more so than any other wolves in the world.

Much of the land in the basin is federally owned and protected, but a high percentage is privately held and a portion of state and federal land is open to mining. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline runs through the region, and while oil spill prevention and response has been vastly improved for oil tankers, spill response along the aging pipeline is sorely inadequate.

ACF provides support to the Copper River Watershed Project, which works to keep the region’s development sustainable and its wild character protected. ACF has awarded Opportunity Grant funding (see page 31) to Cascadia Wildlands Project to support effective oil spill response planning for the pipeline and pumping stations in the region. ACF also supports Alaskans for Responsible Mining, which helps the Copper Country Alliance address the development of an industrial-scale nickel mine near Tangle Lakes.
Strategic Grantmaking—Up 24% since 2007!

Of ACF’s many roles in our work to ensure Alaska’s healthy future, none is more central to our purpose than grantmaking. Funds generously entrusted to us by individuals, foundations, and conservation-minded businesses are strategically granted to dozens of local and regional, Alaska-based nonprofit conservation groups and projects for the greatest impact possible. We invest in conservation solutions, broadening the base of support for conservation both in and outside of Alaska, and staunchly defending Alaska’s most precious and important wild lands.

Since its beginning in 1980, ACF has never had a stronger team of program officers to guide its grantmaking investments. Our three program officers possess a combined background of 50 years of Alaska conservation experience; two are former executive directors, and all have served on Alaska NGO boards (see “Our Program Team,” at right).

Our team of conservation leaders objectively tracks the issues, threats, and opportunities that will determine Alaska’s future. The program team works closely with our board and grantees to develop and implement effective strategies that further ACF’s conservation goals, ensuring that your philanthropic investments facilitate the greatest possible outcome. By supporting the Alaska Conservation Foundation, you become a vital partner in our efforts to address and resolve the most pressing and significant conservation needs across the state.

On the following pages are reports regarding the progress of our largest grantmaking programs. (For a chart of ACF’s grantmaking history, including projections for 2009, please see page 54.)
Operating Support Grants—$200,000 awarded (20 grants)

In the world of nonprofits, the most difficult type of fundraising is that for unrestricted operating support. The impact of operating support on Alaska conservation as a whole, however, cannot be overstated—which is why the Alaska Conservation Foundation believes so strongly in providing this vital support. ACF is often the largest single provider of unrestricted operating support to our grantees.

Unrestricted operating support allows Alaska’s nonprofit conservation organizations to remain true to their missions. It affords them the freedom to address Alaska’s most pressing conservation and environmental justice issues proactively and strategically, while allowing them the flexibility to address the practical needs any business requires to be successful—like keeping the lights on and the doors open, making sure the staff is trained and competitively compensated, or purchasing the equipment they need to do their jobs efficiently and effectively. Ultimately, operating support allows Alaska’s competent and committed nonprofit conservation organizations to attain the long-term goals and objectives of their strategic plans while ensuring accountability to the many stakeholders invested in their success, including their members, foundations, and the conservation and broader communities.

Operating support is truly the life blood of any organization. Without it, the many distinctive and capable groups in Alaska—including this Foundation—would not survive, let alone thrive. The operating support grants we made in 2008 helped sustain 20 of the state’s most critical conservation organizations for another year so they could continue their important work on behalf of Alaska conservation, which in the end allows ACF to remain true to its own mission.
Rapid Response Fund Grants—$43,053 awarded (4 grants)

ACF developed the Rapid Response Fund (RRF), the only fund of its kind in Alaska, as a means to respond to urgent environmental threats and opportunities. Through an expedited process utilizing a committee of staff and board members, RRF grants are awarded within two to four days of applying.

Because Alaska is rich in public lands, it is especially vulnerable to adverse actions—sometimes sudden and unexpected. Wild areas, biological diversity, and intact ecosystems can be eliminated or severely compromised by "stealth" legislation in the form of riders, and it is critical that such legislation be brought to the attention of those who want to preserve our remaining wild places. In other cases, crucial issues might not be adequately publicized or quickly addressed without the availability of Rapid Response funds.

It is essential that the public is aware of proposed legislation and administrative actions so that conservationists can communicate our views to our elected representatives. Our system relies on an informed response from the people who care about the future of our natural treasures. The Rapid Response Fund helps ensure that the conservation community is able to act immediately when time is of the essence.

Since 1995, ACF has awarded over $1 million from the RRF. Among the grants awarded this past year, funds were granted to successfully expose the Minerals Management Service’s attempt to fraudulently distort scientific evidence to keep the polar bear off the Endangered Species list. RRF funds were also used to coalesce a movement to address the rising threat of coal development across Alaska, as the state feels the disproportionate effects of climate change and the world’s rush for cheap energy sources.

Watchable Wildlife Conservation Trust Grants—$12,300 awarded (3 grants)

The Watchable Wildlife Conservation Trust was established in 1991 as a donor-advised fund in cooperation with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. The trust provides crucial support for wildlife education, interpretive materials, wildlife viewing, and other conservation activities. One of the highlights this year was a grant to Trout Unlimited that funded broad outreach efforts—through public service announcements and educational materials—aimed at reducing human-bear encounters during fishing season. Such encounters, if not handled properly, often lead to unnecessary killing of bears or wounding of people.
Opportunity Grants—$51,750 awarded (33 grants)

ACF maintains an Opportunity Grants Fund focused on helping organizations take advantage of emerging opportunities. Grants from this fund are made monthly, and are often geared toward increasing an organization’s effectiveness—allowing groups to provide special training for staff, attend or participate in important conferences, coordinate key efforts, conduct workshops, increase membership, and produce needed printed materials.

Alaska Bird Observatory
Fairbanks, AK • $2,500
Environmental Education for K-8 Teachers

Alaska Center for the Environment
Anchorage, AK • $2,500
Mat-Su Timber Defense

Alaska Center for the Environment
Anchorage, AK • $500
Alaska Citizens for the Chugach Meeting

Alaska Center for the Environment
Anchorage, AK • $1,000
Trailside Discovery Invest in Youth Scholarship Program

Alaska Center for the Environment
Anchorage, AK • $1,900
Leadership Transition Assistance

Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Anchorage, AK • $900
Women’s Health and the Environment Conference

Alaska Conservation Alliance
Anchorage, AK • $1,300
Bethel Mining Workshop

Alaska Conservation Alliance
Anchorage, AK • $500
Participation in Resource Development Council Meeting

Alaska Conservation Voters
Anchorage, AK • $2,500
Energy Relief Special Session Contract

Alaska Interfaith Power and Light
Wasilla, AK • $1,500
Steering Committee Meeting

Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Anchorage, AK • $2,500
Bering Sea Elders Subsistence Working Group Meeting

Alaska Public Interest Research Group
Anchorage, AK • $2,500
Alaskans for Clean Elections

Alaska Public Interest Research Group
Anchorage, AK • $1,700
Public Transportation Research and Outreach

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action
Anchorage, AK • $1,500
Power Shift Gathering

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action
Anchorage, AK • $2,500
Youth Legislative Organizer

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action
Anchorage, AK • $1,000
Alaska Urban League Civic Engagement Collaboration

Alaskans for Responsible Mining
Anchorage, AK • $2,500
Alaska Native Village Mining Forum

Campaign to Safeguard America’s Waters
Haines, AK • $2,500
Protecting the Alaska Cruise Ship Ballot Initiative

Cascadia Wildlands Project
Eugene, OR • $500
Copper River Trans-Alaska Pipeline System Contingency Plan Hearings

Council on Foundations
Arlington, VA • $150
Membership Support

Excellence in Political Science Fund,
University of Alaska Anchorage
Anchorage, AK • $2,500
Climate Change Action Plan for Municipality of Anchorage

Friends of Mat-Su
Palmer, AK • $1,000
Board Retreat to Address Expanding Organizational Capacity

Green Star—Renewable Energy
Alaska Project
Anchorage, AK • $2,500
Implementation of House Bill 152

Gwich’in Steering Committee
Fairbanks, AK • $700
Participation at Alaska Inter-Tribal Council Annual Conference

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability
Oakland, CA • $1,500
Alaska Participation in Nationwide Summit

Matanuska Electrical Association Ratepayers’ Alliance
Palmer, AK • $2,500
Utility Co-op Organizing

Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Fairbanks, AK • $300
Travel—Alaskans for Responsible Mining Annual Meeting

Sitka Conservation Society
Sitka, AK • $2,700
Rockfish Project

Sitka Whalefest
Sitka, AK • $1,100
Sponsorship of Annual Whalefest

Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
Juneau, AK • $1,500
Board Retreat

Valley Community for Recycling Solutions
Wasilla, AK • $1,000
Recycling Feasibility Study

Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom
Chugiak, AK • $1,000
The Consequences of Mining Forum

Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment
Copper Center, AK • $1,400
Earth Discovery Days Program

Eskimo Potato, Chugach Mountains © Carl Battreall
Donor-Advised Funds Grants—$92,285 awarded (25 grants)

Each year, ACF makes restricted grants using funds from donors who have specific intentions for their gifts. These donor-advised funds allow concerned individuals to be directly involved in the grantmaking process. ACF has two types of donor-advised funds: the field-of-interest fund that supports a particular area of concern or objective, and the directed fund, which channels donations to a particular organization on an annual basis. Donor-advised funds may or may not be permanently endowed. For information on setting up a donor-advised fund, please call ACF at 907-276-1917.
Conservation Achievement Awards

For more than 20 years, ACF has recognized exceptional conservation efforts through its annual Conservation Achievement Awards program, which honors remarkable work and extraordinary contributions to conservation in Alaska. For descriptions of the individual grants, please visit our website at www.akcf.org.

2008 Conservation Achievement Award Recipients

**Tom Meacham—Lifetime Achievement Award**

Tom Meacham has practiced environmental and natural resources law in Alaska since 1971. He was the assistant Alaska attorney general for land and conservation issues during the ANILCA enactment process in 1976-82. He has been a legal volunteer on issues involving federal and state parks, wildlife, public land management and access, and more. He has been involved in public-interest litigation on snowmachine use, mining claims, and Board of Game issues. Tom was appointed in 1975 as the first non-hunter on the Alaska Board of Game. He also served on the Alaska Water Resources Board, the Chugach State Park Citizens Advisory Board, and as vice-chair of the Fair North Bicentennial Park Task Force. Tom is a co-founder of the Hans Van Der Laan Brooks Range Trust, the Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition, the Friends of Bicentennial Park, and the Chugach Park Access Coalition.

**Amy Gulick—Daniel Housberg Wilderness Image Award for Excellence in Still Photography**

Amy is a photographer and writer specializing in conservation and natural history. For the past decade she has been committed to educating the public and decision makers on Alaska conservation issues, advocating for Alaska by publishing her images and stories, speaking nationally, and as vice-chair of the Fair North Bicentennial Park Task Force. Tom is a co-founder of the Hans Van Der Laan Brooks Range Trust, the Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition, the Friends of Bicentennial Park, and the Chugach Park Access Coalition.

**Judy Alderson—Lowell Thomas, Jr. Award for Outstanding Civil Service**

Born and raised in Madison, Wisconsin, Judy attended the University of Wisconsin and graduated with a degree in wildlife ecology in 1974. As a Girl Scout from grade school through college, she acquired her passion for wilderness during trips to the Isle Royale and Sylvania Wilderness areas. She began a career with the US government in 1975 as a wildlife biologist in Ohio. She worked at the Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge in Minnesota, and then transferred to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in 1980. In 1983 she became the first chief of resources at Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, then moved to Anchorage to work on natural resources policy and management, and wilderness issues. She currently serves as regional wilderness coordinator for the National Park Service in Alaska.

**Bryce Timm—Denny Wilcher Award for Young Environmental Activists**

Bryce became involved with Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) at the age of fourteen, while in the eighth grade. He attended AYEA’s Civics and Conservation Summit in Juneau in 2003 and then served as a peer leader for the annual training for three years. Bryce has been part of the Statewide Advisory Group for three years. This past summer, he served as an assistant crew leader with the Youth Employment in Parks Program, a partnership between AYEA and Anchorage Parks and Recreation. Bryce is an avid athlete, having been a member of both the high school wrestling and football teams. He recently began his freshman year at the University of Indiana in Evansville, Indiana (his home state) and hopes to return to work in Alaska after college. He says the cross-cultural experiences have been the most influential aspects of his involvement in AYEA.

**Marilyn Sigman, Ph.D.—Jerry S. Dixon Award for Excellence in Environmental Education**

Marilyn is the executive director of the Center for Alaskan Coastal Studies in Homer. During her tenure, she has increased the center’s capacity, developed high-quality environmental education programs, and extended outreach through web-based instruction. She helped sponsor the annual Shorebird Festival and the Kachemak Bay Coastweeks celebration, and led in organizing two Kachemak Bay Science conferences and an Alaska Coastal Stewardship Conference. She previously worked with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game as Southeast Alaska regional nongame coordinator and statewide coordinator of the Alaska Wildlife Week program. She has been a founder of organizations such as the Alaska Natural Resources and Outdoor Education Association, Southeast Alaska Coalition for Outdoor Education, and Kachemak Bay Environmental Alliance. She was a board member and president of the Alaska Natural History Association.

**Jim Stratton—Olaus Murie Award for Outstanding Professional Contributions**

Jim has been the Alaska regional director for the National Parks Conservation Association for nearly 6 years. Previously, he spent 8 years as director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation for the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and 11 years as the program and finance director for Alaska Conservation Foundation. He started his Alaska conservation career in 1981 as the executive director of the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council. Jim is a founding board member of Training Resources for the Environmental Community and was the founding board chair of Alaska Community Share, Alaska’s first statewide alternative workplace giving organization. He is currently board chair of the Great Land Trust and sits on the advisory board for the Brainerd Foundation.

**Andrew Keller—Celia Hunter Award for Outstanding Volunteer Contributions**

For thirty years, Andy has primarily been a volunteer in grassroots efforts to protect public lands in Alaska. He worked in a campaign leading to ANILCA and continued the ongoing efforts to protect the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from oil development. Andy’s Refuge connection stems from his work as a biological technician for the US Fish and Wildlife Service. He has spoken to members of Congress numerous times concerning the Refuge, and has traveled across the country to speak and present against legislation that would open the Refuge to oil development. He is currently the chair of the Denali Group of the Sierra Club.

**Tom Meacham**

He is currently the chair of the Denali Group of the Sierra Club.

**Bryce Timm**

Bryce became involved with Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) at the age of fourteen, while in the eighth grade. He attended AYEA’s Civics and Conservation Summit in Juneau in 2003 and then served as a peer leader for the annual training for three years. Bryce has been part of the Statewide Advisory Group for three years. This past summer, he served as an assistant crew leader with the Youth Employment in Parks Program, a partnership between AYEA and Anchorage Parks and Recreation. Bryce is an avid athlete, having been a member of both the high school wrestling and football teams. He recently began his freshman year at the University of Indiana in Evansville, Indiana (his home state) and hopes to return to work in Alaska after college. He says the cross-cultural experiences have been the most influential aspects of his involvement in AYEA.

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**Judy Alderson**

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**Amy Gulick**

Amy is a photographer and writer specializing in conservation and natural history. For the past decade she has been committed to educating the public and decision makers on Alaska conservation issues, advocating for Alaska by publishing her images and stories, speaking nationally, and collaborating with conservation organizations. Her work has appeared in publications such as Audubon, National Wildlife, National Geographic, Sierra, and National Parks. She is a founding fellow of the International League of Conservation Photographers and a member of the Society of Environmental Journalists. She is a Mission Award recipient of the North American Nature Photography Association, which also awarded her its Philip Hyde Grant for her project showcasing the Tongass National Forest.
Our Program Work

Energy and Climate—$68,500 awarded (8 Clean Energy Campaign grants)

Alaska is feeling the disproportionate impacts of climate change. From warming salmon streams and massive bark beetle infestations, to melting glaciers and shrinking sea ice, Alaska is the poster state for rapid global warming. At the same time, political and industrial leaders are touting Alaska’s vast coal reserves as a viable path toward “energy independence,” with the prospect of jobs and revenues from domestic and export markets alike.

Coal is the dirtiest of fossil fuels and a major contributor to the greenhouse gas pollution responsible for climate change. Alaska’s coal deposits are massive, representing roughly half the total reserves in the United States and one-eighth of total global reserves. At present, Alaska has just one family-owned coal mine that has been in operation since the 1940s, and less than 10 percent of the state’s power is generated from coal (compared to 50-60 percent in the Lower 48). While the coal industry has yet to gain a significant foothold in Alaska, rapidly expanding Asian markets coupled with skyrocketing energy prices are making coal mining and use increasingly attractive.

At the same time, Alaska holds an unparalleled wealth of renewable energy. Alaska has incredible reserves of wind, geothermal energy, tidal power, wave power, and other potential sources of clean energy. Combined with a small population and a strong perception and history of being an energy state, Alaska can serve as the center for research and development of these important energy sources, meeting power needs while reducing pressures on Alaska’s wild lands and setting an example of renewable energy utilization for the rest of the country.

During the last state legislative session and ensuing special session on energy, ACF grantees were instrumental in the passage of $685 million worth of bills for new renewable energy development, and energy efficiency and home weatherization programs. ACF believes that Alaska can serve as a model for the nation to follow for clean, affordable, locally produced energy solutions.

Bringing both fronts of this effort together, ACF helped create, convene, and financially support the emerging Alaska Clean Energy Campaign. This critical effort is working to address the threat of climate change and seize the opportunity to transition Alaska away from fossil fuel production. In the coming year, the Alaska Clean Energy Campaign will continue to seek the solutions of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and energy planning as a means to keep Alaska’s immense coal reserves in the ground.

ACF also awarded an Operating Support Grant to Green Star/Renewable Energy Alaska Project, which is listed on page 29, and a Rapid Response Grant to Alaska Conservation Alliance, which is listed on page 30.
Hard Rock Mining

Alaska is experiencing a tremendous surge in demand for its mineral resources as a result of the exponential rise in mineral prices on the world market. Currently, nearly 40 new mines are under exploration or development in Alaska. These are industrial-scale mining projects, each of which will cover several thousand acres. The technology used in these proposed mines can achieve such economies of scale that it will be profitable to extract more than 100,000 tons of ore each day to recover fractions of ounces of precious metals per ton over the typical 40- to 50-year life of a mine. These mines will require more power to operate than is presently used by any of Alaska’s cities.

Such mining activities could have significant, long-term impacts on water quality, air quality, and productivity of aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems that extend far beyond the mined area—impacts that will continue long after mining activities have ended. These can include altered landscapes, extremely low soil and water pH, changes in slope of land and rates of erosion, abandoned mine tailings, alterations in groundwater regimes, contaminated soils and water, and significant changes in plant communities. These impacts, in turn, cause damage to fish and wildlife populations and changes in river regimes, render land no longer useable due to contamination or loss of soil, and threaten to cause air pollution from dust or toxic gases, surface subsidence, and landslides. The industrial-scale mines proposed for Alaska will bring dramatic change to the character of Alaska’s lands and to Alaskans’ ways of life.

Among the 40 mines proposed are 22 major projects. The largest of these is the massive gold and copper Pebble Mine in the Bristol Bay watershed, the world’s largest wild sockeye salmon fishery. The region is also an economic cornerstone of Alaska’s economy, a vital source of subsistence for rural communities and Native cultures, and a world-renowned sportfishing destination.

ACF has provided support to Alaskans for Responsible Mining (ARM), a coalition of 17 conservation organizations working together to address mining issues. ARM facilitates the exchange of information between member groups and helps coordinate release of information about mines and mining impacts to other organizations and communities facing mine developments in their areas. ARM also coordinates the assistance that member groups provide to communities on mining projects, including the Rock Creek Mine near Nome, the Boulder Creek Uranium Mine near Elim, and the Donlin Creek Mine in the Kuskokwim River watershed.

ACF also provided support to the campaign to work toward passage of Initiative 4 on the Alaska primary ballot. The initiative, which was unfortunately defeated, sought to prohibit the discharge of toxics from mining operations into Alaska waters in amounts that affect human health or the life cycle of salmon. It would also have prohibited storage of mining wastes in such a way that could result in the release of toxics in Alaska waters and detrimentally affect human health or salmon. The initiative would have prevented the use of pollution “mixing zones” for mining wastes discharged into Alaska waters. (A mixing zone is an area around a source of discharge where the levels of toxics in the water are allowed to exceed levels that are normally considered safe for fish and human health.)

Mixing zones were prohibited in anadromous fish streams until 2006, when Alaska Governor Murkowski issued a directive that eliminated this safeguard. ACF's support of this initiative was directed toward outreach to conservation groups and commercial fishermen outside of Bristol Bay, and to Native villages in northwest Alaska.

ACF’s support for grantees working on mining issues will expand significantly in FY 2009 in response to the issues mentioned above.

ACF awarded an Operating Support Grant to Alaskans for Responsible Mining, which is listed on page 29.
Now more than ever, Alaska’s oceans are coming under threat. The impacts of global warming, including rising ocean temperatures, ocean acidification, and disruption of ocean production cycles, are already altering the distribution of marine fish, and have threatened the survival of seabirds and marine mammals. Scientific evidence gathered to date indicates that there will be a significant decline in ecosystem productivity in Alaska’s oceans over the next 30 years, and the impacts of industrial development will hasten this decline. This evidence lends tremendous urgency to our work and the work of our marine grantees, which is focused on marine fisheries, offshore oil and gas development, marine shipping, and ocean contaminants. In addition, we have a “place-based” focus on Bristol Bay.

Our marine fisheries support has helped address the impacts of the massive Bering Sea bottom trawl fleet. The fleet has been pushing to expand the areas open to bottom trawling to include the Bering Straits and the Chukchi Sea. ACF grantees, together with Bering Sea villages, led a successful effort to convince the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council to set a northern boundary in the Bering Sea beyond which the trawl fleet cannot go. The boundary set by the council is temporary—it will be reconsidered in four years. The villages formed the Bering Sea Elders Advisory Group to gather information about subsistence resources in the Bering Sea in order to inform the council’s reconsideration. ACF has provided funding for the effort.

With support from ACF and other foundations, the Bering Sea Elders have begun a four-year study of subsistence uses of marine resources. The study involves interviews with elders about traditional areas for hunting and fishing, as well as interviews of others actively engaged in fishing and hunting activities. The study also involves compiling data regarding the abundance and distribution of subsistence species, and the size and composition of the trawl fleet’s bycatch.

ACF has addressed marine shipping through our Shipping Safety Partnership, an organization ACF helped to establish in December 2004 in the wake of the wreck of the bulk carrier Selendang Ayu, which resulted in the spill of thousands of gallons of heavy bunker crude oil in the Aleutian Islands. Because of the spill, the National Research Council is assessing the risks of shipping through the Aleutian Islands, from both an environmental and a marine safety perspective. At the same time, the Arctic Council, an organization formed by the eight polar nations, is examining the risks of shipping in the Arctic Ocean. As the polar ice cap recedes due to global warming, marine shipping along routes through the Arctic Ocean is being considered despite the lack of vessel traffic systems or oil spill prevention and response capability in the ocean.

The risk assessments for the Aleutian Islands and Arctic Ocean are proceeding. ACF has provided funding to Pacific Environment to organize a meeting of the Shipping Safety Partnership to review the status of shipping safety in the Aleutians, and to discuss expanding the partnership to include villages along the Arctic coast and address the Arctic Ocean Risk Assessment.
Rainforest Conservation—$120,000 awarded (3 grants)

ACF is continuing to provide leadership on Alaska rainforest issues through its partnership with seven conservation organizations working together as the Tongass Conservation Collaborative (TCC). The primary focus of the TCC is to move the conservation agenda in Southeast Alaska toward a community-supported, solutions-based future. The TCC includes ACF, Alaska Wilderness League, Audubon Alaska, the Nature Conservancy, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, Sitka Conservation Society, Trout Unlimited, and The Wilderness Society.

The core of this future vision for conservationists is permanent protection, through legislation, for areas containing the highest biological and community values in the Tongass. ACF is providing leadership and coordination for the organizations in the campaign and facilitating communication and collaboration among the groups for strategy development and implementation of the campaign work plan.

The goals of the Tongass Conservation Collaborative are:
- Gain permanent protection for the lands most important for salmon, wildlife, and sustainable use by local communities;
- Transition the timber industry from old-growth to young-growth as soon as possible;
- Support a forest restoration that improves salmon and wildlife habitat and provides jobs; and
- Promote a positive conservation ethic that is supported by a majority of people in the region.

ACF and our TCC partners are focused on collaborative efforts working with community leaders, timber operators, commercial fisherman, the US Forest Service, the State of Alaska (Forestry Division), and others to shift the debate around timber in the region. ACF has coordinated and participated in a series of stakeholder meetings to identify the general concepts that need to be included in a legislative solution. We have also continued our work in the Tongass Futures Roundtable and in communities, developing new relationships among diverse stakeholders and building support for additional land protections in the Tongass.
Sportsman’s Alliance for Alaska

The Sportsman’s Alliance for Alaska (SAA) is unique in that it is the only conservation entity whose sole focus is to engage hunters, anglers, hunting and fishing conservation groups, professional guides and outfitters, lodge owners, and companies in the sporting products industry from around the country in Alaska conservation campaigns. Vigorous engagement of the sporting community is the goal of SAA. Hunters and anglers and the groups to which they belong have considerable political influence, and SAA is working to channel that influence into positive conservation outcomes in Alaska.

In the past year, the SAA worked on three primary issues: the Tongass National Forest, Teshekpuk Lake, and Bristol Bay. As a follow-up to last year’s trip to the Tongass, during which representatives from hunting and conservation organizations visited Southeast Alaska to learn about issues facing our nation’s largest national forest, five of the groups submitted comments to the US Forest Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. This collection of findings and recommendations acknowledged the forest’s premier fish and game habitats and resources, which support world-class hunting and angling. The document urged the agencies to manage the Tongass in a fashion that protects its most valuable habitats yet allows for the timber industry to transition from old-growth harvest to a model that focuses on second-growth timber harvest and restoration.

The SAA also worked on the campaign to preserve the protected status of lands around Teshekpuk Lake in the National Petroleum Reserve–Alaska. Teshekpuk is a critically important wetlands complex that plays host to a number of waterfowl species. These waterfowl migrate through every North American flyway, supporting hunting opportunities across the nation. A number of the most well-known waterfowl hunting organizations such as Ducks Unlimited and Delta Waterfowl wrote to the Secretary of the Interior asking that the protections at Teshekpuk Lake remain in place. In spring 2008, the US Bureau of Land Management announced a 10-year moratorium on oil and gas development in the Teshekpuk Lake area.

The Bristol Bay campaign occupied the lion’s share of SAA activity last year. SAA recruited delegates from national sporting groups to visit the Bristol Bay area in late summer 2007. These groups wrote letters to Alaska’s governor, the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, and Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne, opposing plans to develop a massive mining district in the region. SAA also attended more than a dozen industry and consumer trade shows across the country to raise awareness about the Bristol Bay threat among hunters and anglers. SAA was even invited to attend and present at the largest fishing tackle industry trade show in Europe, demonstrating that Alaska is indeed a global sporting destination.

Thousands of sportsmen and women learned about the threats to Bristol Bay at these shows, and more have been informed through the magazine articles and internet features that SAA helped arrange and produce—resulting in increased involvement from the fishing and hunting product industries. In spring 2008, SAA hosted its inaugural online fundraising auction, which raised more than $50,000 in gross proceeds for Bristol Bay protection. More than 120 companies in the sportfishing industry have expressed opposition to the Bristol Bay mining plans and efforts are underway to engage the hunting products industry in a similar fashion.

Visit www.savebristolbay.org, and join these conservation organizations and sporting businesses in fighting to protect one of the world’s greatest angling and hunting destinations.
Strategies for Alaska’s Future—$77,500 awarded (4 grants)

The primary focus of ACF’s Strategies for Alaska’s Future effort is to help direct the conservation-related work of the Alaska Legislature toward positive outcomes. Its goal is to bring the conservation community together to identify shared priorities, thwart bills that may be destructive to those priorities, and pass progressive legislation that moves Alaska toward a stronger, more sustainable future. The Strategies effort spurs the grassroots into action and ensures critical coordination within the conservation community. ACF believes that speaking with a unified voice strengthens the movement and helps broaden the base of support for conservation in Alaska.

The 2008 fiscal year brought incredible success. ACF’s $77,500 investment in the Strategies program helped leverage more than $685 million of state funds for our top priority: renewable energy and energy efficiency across Alaska.

The Strategies effort was instrumental in the passage of a $250 million renewable energy fund that will provide $50 million per year for the next five years toward renewable energy production in Alaska. An additional $50 million of current-year support was added during the special session.

Another successful bill will make available $300 million for energy efficiency and weatherization, and the legislature added $60 million of current-year support to this program during the special session. That total figure—$360 million—represents more than double what the state has spent on efficiency and weatherization programs over the past 30 years.

Finally, the capital budget included a $25 million appropriation for infrastructure needed to move the Fire Island wind project forward. This project, situated on an island just three miles off the coast of Anchorage, will initially provide 50 MW of power to the railbelt grid (the rail route that stretches from Fairbanks through Anchorage to Seward, following major highways), with potential expansion to 120 MW over time. These achievements are not only beneficial to Alaska’s environment, they will also provide green-collar jobs for Alaskans.

The governor and state legislature indicated that the full session beginning in January 2009 will focus on long-term energy relief. For the first time, the top priority of the Alaska Legislature will likely mirror the top priority of the conservation community. This provides an incredible platform on which the conservation community can move a proactive vision—one that benefits Alaska and Alaskans—forward.

ACF also awarded Operating Support Grants to Alaska Conservation Alliance and Alaska Conservation Voters, which are listed on page 29.
Circumpolar Arctic—$15,000 awarded (1 grant)

For the Foundation and its grantees, climate change is very real and very threatening. Alaska’s Arctic environment is at the epicenter of climate change in the nation. We confront the impacts of global warming on a daily basis. In the last half century, average annual temperatures in Alaska’s Arctic have increased 4 degrees (as compared to a global average of 1 degree.) The polar ice cap has receded by more than 20 percent in the last three years. The area covered by permafrost has receded by nearly 10 percent in the last century. Changes in annual precipitation and seasonal temperatures, receding permafrost, rising sea levels, greater frequency and intensity of storms along the Arctic coastline, and changes in distribution and abundance of fish and wildlife have had profound impacts on Alaska Arctic’s ecosystems, and on the livelihoods and ways of life of Arctic indigenous peoples. The world’s polar region is in a state of crisis, a situation that lends tremendous importance and urgency to the work of our grantees engaged in Arctic issues and the need for our support of their efforts.

ACF belongs to an alliance of foundations that support the work of non-governmental organizations in the eight nations of the circumpolar Arctic. These Arctic funders work with their grantees on a broad-based campaign to protect the resilience of the Arctic environment to adapt to climate change by limiting environmental stresses caused by human activities. ACF’s support of grantee efforts in the Arctic has focused on oil and gas development in the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), particularly the OCS lease sale in the Chukchi Sea conducted by the Minerals Management Service (MMS) in February 2008. MMS announced its intention to hold the lease sale on January 2, shortly before the Department of the Interior (DOI) announced it would miss a court-ordered deadline of January 9 to issue its decision on an Endangered Species listing for the polar bear. DOI indicated it would delay its decision for 30 days—until after the lease sale was scheduled to be held. DOI denied there was any link between the decision delay and the scheduling of the lease sale.

The Center for Biological Diversity filed a lawsuit over DOI’s failure to make a timely listing decision. A coalition of conservation groups, Native organizations, and the North Slope Borough filed a second lawsuit against DOI for its failure to adequately consider the impacts of the lease sale on Arctic marine species and the villages that depend on these species for subsistence. ACF grantees on the lawsuit include the Northern Alaska Environmental Center, Alaska Wilderness League, and Pacific Environment. DOI finally announced its decision to list the polar bear as “Threatened” on May 14, 2008.

During the course of these events, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) worked with DOI scientists to release internal documents that indicated the department intentionally delayed the listing decision until after the lease sale was completed. ACF provided a grant to PEER to fund their efforts, which included providing legal counsel to DOI whistleblowers.

The lawsuits over the Chukchi OCS lease sale are still pending. Meanwhile, the State of Alaska has filed a legal challenge of the polar bear listing decision, claiming that polar bear populations in the US Arctic are not threatened, that DOI’s science was faulty, and that oil and gas development on the North Slope and in waters offshore will be negatively impacted by the decision.

ACF provided funding to Pacific Environment for outreach to Native villages in the North Slope Borough to explain the issues raised in the lawsuit challenging MMS’s failure to adequately consider the impacts of offshore oil development to subsistence species. The outreach effort also includes sharing information about the impacts of offshore oil development and how to engage in opportunities for public comment on the permitting process for Shell Oil’s exploration work, including seismic surveys.
Conservation Internship Program—More than $84,000 awarded (19 grants)

ACF’s Conservation Internship Program continues to work toward developing the next generation of conservation leaders in Alaska, attracting highly qualified undergraduate and graduate students from Alaska and around the country. The need for this program has never been greater.

During fiscal year 2008, nine director-level positions in Alaska’s conservation community were vacated. In summer 2008 alone, the executive directors of all three Alaska regional conservation groups (Alaska Center for the Environment, Northern Alaska Environmental Center, and Southeast Alaska Conservation Council) left their positions. The ongoing development of leaders to sustain the conservation movement is increasingly crucial.

During 2008, ACF provided funding for 19 interns to work at conservation organizations throughout Alaska. Their projects spanned a broad array of pressing issues, including forest and wildlands protection, renewable energy advocacy, transportation priorities, and environmental education.

Each Conservation Internship Program assignment is created to help preserve and protect Alaska’s pristine environment, allowing students to gain practical job skills in the conservation field, add capacity that will enable host organizations to meet their conservation goals, learn firsthand about Alaska’s magnificent natural environment and diverse cultures, and acquire the leadership and professional skills needed to sustain the conservation movement.

The ACF Conservation Intern Program is a necessity for the future of Alaska’s wilderness and people. Our intent is to develop a pool of educated and energetic young leaders to manage conservation programs and inspire the nation to protect a biologically diverse and wild Alaska forever. A number of this year’s interns have indicated their desire to return to Alaska after completion of their degrees. ACF will work to foster their continued interest and professional development.
How You Can Help

Since 1980, Alaska Conservation Foundation has been at the center of conservation activity in Alaska. Through thoughtful grantmaking, ACF has taken major steps in preserving the last truly intact, healthy wild lands, waters, and wildlife in our nation. Through the Foundation’s strategic funding to local conservation groups across the state, we create powerful partnerships that are dedicated to caring for Alaska’s priceless natural resources.

This critical work is made possible through the investment of caring, dedicated people—our donors. Thousands of people from around the nation and beyond have provided the financial support to help keep Alaska wild, strong, and healthy for generations to come.

Our donors have a broad range of gifting opportunities through which to invest in protecting Alaska. These are designed to meet the individual needs of donors, and they include cash gifts, online donations through our secure website, the Great Land Giving Club, workplace giving, and a variety of planned and legacy gifts that can be customized for each donor.
Planned Giving

While the work of the Alaska Conservation Foundation and its partners often deals with immediate issues, our primary goal of protection for Alaska reaches far into the future. We take a long-range perspective and strive to fulfill present, anticipated, and even unexpected needs. A planned gift to the Foundation’s endowment allows us not only to meet today’s critical conservation goals, but also to sustain Alaska’s natural heritage well into the future. Thoughtful planned giving can also offer tax savings, and may provide needed income to donors and their families.

There are many ways a donor can help provide for Alaska and for their family’s future today. With the assistance of a personal attorney or financial advisor, the Foundation works to plan gifts that suit the unique personal needs of each donor. Following are some of the options for planned giving. If you have questions or would like more information about planned giving options, please call ACF at 907-276-1917, or speak with your attorney or financial advisor.

Bequest
Name the Foundation as a beneficiary in a will or trust.

Gift of Securities or Stock
Contribute appreciated stock or other securities directly to the Foundation. This may eliminate capital gains tax and reduce current year income taxes.

Gift of Life Insurance
Name the Foundation as the beneficiary of a life insurance policy, or purchase a policy naming the Foundation as owner.

Gift of Retirement Assets
Name the Foundation as the residual beneficiary of retirement plan assets, including IRA, SEP-IRA, 401(k), or other qualified retirement plan. Retirement assets can also be left to the Foundation via a will or trust.

Gift of Retained Life Estate
Deed ownership of a home or other valuable property to the Foundation while retaining occupancy. This may produce tax advantages while still enjoying your home or property during your lifetime.

Charitable Remainder Trusts and Lead Trusts
Create a trust that pays a fixed or variable income to the Foundation for a set term, and then passes on to heirs or the Foundation. Trusts are managed by financial professionals to guarantee proper rates of return.

Charitable Gift Annuities
The Alaska Conservation Foundation manages the annuity during the donor’s lifetime and pays the donor an annual sum. Upon the donor’s death, the Foundation keeps the remainder of the asset.
Denali Legacy Society

The Denali Legacy Society is a group of extraordinarily committed supporters who have included the Foundation in their wills, trusts, or other planned giving arrangements. Society members help increase the Foundation’s endowment fund and sustain our capacity to continue and expand critical conservation work. Their deep commitment to Alaska ensures a lasting legacy of care and protection that will endure forever.

Cynthia M. and John Luther Adams
Aileen T. Allen
Michael J. Ashworth
John and Jane Aspnes
Beth A. Baker, MD
Stephanie Barko
Betty E. Blumenkamp
Tim Bowman
Jean Bradshaw
Gerald R. and Janet E. Brookman
Katherine Buehler
Robert Bundy
Colleen Burgh and Jim Stratton
Nancy H. Carter
Mitchell B. and Hope Cline
David Colker and Alexis Mittman Colker
Amy E. Crook
April E. Crosby and Merritt Helfferich
Jerry S. and D. Lee Dixon

Gunther S. Fonken and Agnes J. Hughes
Martha E. Gregory
Ruthanne Harstad
JoAnne Heron
Linda Hulbert
Frank and Jennifer Keim
Leslie Kerr
Matt D. and Patty Kirchhoff
Grace M. Kirchner
Tina Kobayashi and Richard D. Monkman
William Lazar
Kenneth S. Leghorn and Susan H. Warner
Jay and Deborah Liggett
Mike and Marilyn Miller
Eric F. Myers
Richard and Maryellen Oman
Kimberley Pittman-Schulz and Terry Schulz

Alyson Pytte
Nathaniel P. Reed
David Rockefeller, Jr.
Hugh Rose
Jan and William L. Rutherford, MD
Harold A. Schessler
Michael Sirofchuck and Stacy Studebaker
Eleanor H. Stoddard
John Strasenburgh and Ruth Wood
Gordon Studebaker
Jean Tam
Lowell Thomas, Jr. and Tay Thomas
Jules V. and Margaret B. Tileston
Donald L. Turner
Nancy Wallace
Anne P. Wieland
Anonymous (8)
The Great Land Giving Club

The Foundation’s Great Land Giving Club is an easy, convenient way to help preserve Alaska’s wildlife and wild lands. It allows individuals to maximize their giving power over time. Club members indicate an amount they would like the Alaska Conservation Foundation to charge their credit card each month, and the number of months they would like to donate. Each member receives a statement for tax purposes at the end of the year.

Established in 2003, the club has grown each year because it enables members to more easily provide a substantial gift in support of the Foundation’s important conservation work for Alaska.

Karen Beardsley
Jane C. Blackwell
Stephen J. and Carmen J. Blakely
Charles O. and Mary L. Bowers
Troy Bowler and Ivy Spohnholz
Marsha Buck
Colleen Burgh and Jim Stratton
Kicab Castaneda-Mendez and Marta A. Chase
Stephen Charles
Marie Crowley-Mensack and Leroy Mensack
Susan Colwell
Michael L. and Maxine M. Denniston
Helen M. Drury
Michael and Diane Fisher
James M. Gambino, Jr.
Martha A. Hanns
Nick and Karen Hardigg
Irene F. Haughey
Scott Hed
David Irons and Ann Rappoport
Eric R. Jensen
Bob and Cari Johnson
Dennis G. and Joanne G. Keith
Maureen Knutsen
Tina Kobayashi and Richard D. Monkman
R. L. and Frances M. Latterell
Jack W. and Mary R. Lentfer
M. H. Lobell
Jane W. Lusk
Richard L. and Patricia A. Lynch
Ann E. Mallard and Stanley Read
Sarajane McInnes
George E. and Laurel McLaughlin
Mary Johrde Nefedov
Nate and Catherine Peimann
Pat Pourchot
Margie Pulliam
Dan Purnell
John W. Runyan
Stella B. Sargent
Shirley C. Seagren
Sharon Seim
Carl and Martha Siebe
Susan P. Stross
Jean Tam
Scott and Rebecca Thomas
Jules V. and Margaret B. Tileston
Stephen Valdes
Christina VanderWende
Ruth S. von Ahlefeldt
Richard Waldmann
Paulette Walton
Patricia G. Zebro
Scott Zehner
Anonymous (12)
Regional Councils for Alaska

Members of the Regional Councils for Alaska are conservation-minded individuals from the Lower 48 who provide a significant annual investment in Alaska conservation. Foundation staff travel numerous times each year to join Council members and friends for social, educational, and informational events that keep them informed about conservation issues in Alaska. In fiscal year 2008, Councils were active in New York, San Francisco, and Seattle.

Council members receive:
- Invitations to events in their area featuring prominent Alaska conservationists, authors, scientists, politicians, or others;
- Email reports from the executive director with current information about Alaska conservation issues and Foundation news; and
- Invitations to exclusive Alaska travel opportunities arranged by ACF.

Council members are asked to:
- Act as regional ambassadors for the Foundation and Alaska,
- Serve on host committees or as hosts for regional events highlighting conservation issues in Alaska and celebrating the friendships they have developed within the Council, and
- Make an annual financial commitment to ACF of at least $2,500 (per individual or couple).

The Alaska Conservation Foundation extends sincere thanks to the members of the Councils for Alaska for their perseverance, extraordinary support, and generosity. They are truly dedicated, caring friends of Alaska.
Cascade Council

Honorary Chair Denis Hayes
Co-chairs Erik and Gretchen Jansen and William Lazar

Daniel Asher
Martin Behr
Annie Bellman and Michael Woods
Michael D. Burmeister-Brown
Michele M. Coad
Drs. Juliana and Paul Hansen
Robert and Phyllis Henigson
Ronald J. and Elizabeth Keeshan
Kenneth S. Leghorn and Susan H. Warner
Scott Lewis and Laura Rose-Lewis
Ruthann Lorentzen
Janet McAlpin
Kathy McCready and Paul Shearer
Gary Moresky
Kimberley Pittman-Schulz and Terry Schulz
Dan J. Purnell
Joanne M. Roberts
Margaret Rosenfeld and Daniel Weld
Howard M. and Manya Shapiro
Jerry Tone and Martha Wyckoff
Douglas W. and Maggie Walker
Nancy Weintraub
R. Dennis Wiancko
Anonymous (4)

San Francisco Council

Honorary Chair Edgar Wayburn, MD
Co-chairs Douglas G. McConnell and Kathleen L.J. Taft

Dr. G. William Arnett and Sally A. Warner-Arnett
Anne Bartley and Larry McNeil
Rhonda L. Bennon and Martin E. Brown
Dick Blum
David Bonderman
Shirlee Bromley and Ellen Webster
Allan F. and Marilyn Brown
Kevin and Dianna Callaghan
Kicab Casaneda-Mendez and Marta A. Chase
Daniel E. Cohn
Sandy Cold-Shapero and Rich Shapero
David Colker and Alexis Mitman Colker
Denise Danisch and Robert Hartmann
John C. and Leslie A. Dorman
Paul and Elizabeth Eisenhardt
Jerome and Linda Elkind
Russell and Carol Faucett
Robert B. Flint, Jr. and Susan Flint
Barry A. Graynor
Louise L. Gund
Thomas L. Hall
Totton P. and Joanne Heffelfinger
Vincent E. and Amanda Hoenigman
Phillip H. and Naomi Holm
Rhoda Makoff
Moore Family Foundation
The Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
Paul and Antje Newhagen
William A. Newsom
Robert J. Riddell, Jr. and Kathryn G. Riddell
Michael M. and Lenore L. Roberts
Robert and Dorene Schiro
Alan and Ellyn Seelenfreund
Jeanie W. Sherwood
Marti Spiegelman
Gordon Studebaker
Walter H. Sullivan III
Laura Tenner
Jerry Tone and Martha Wyckoff
Anonymous (2)

New York Council

Co-chairs Susan Cohn Rockefeller and David Rockefeller, Jr.

Michael J. Ashworth
Joanna Barsh and David Garbarsz
Peter and Michalina Bickford
Jonathan and Betsy Blattmachr
Paula Botstein, MD, and Robert Usadi
Putter and Nannie Brown
Richard M. Burns Jr. and Nonnie Burns
Bertram J. and Barbara Cohn
Cynthia Crane and Ted Story
David and Ide Dangoor
Laura DeBonis and Scott Nathan
George Eberstadt and Cynthia Young
Cornelia Erpf and Paul Forsman
Barbara Ettinger and Sven Huseby
Wendy W.P. Ettinger and Derek McLane
Peter L. and Carol N. Gluck
Eugene and Emily Grant
Agnes Gund
Marian S. Heiskell
Seth A. and Beth S. Klarman
Edward D. Kleinbard
Preston and Susan McSwain
Jack and Edee Mezirow
Ken Miller and Elizabeth Sweezy
Samuel F. Pryor III
Larry and Wendy Rockefeller
Andrew Rosenthal
Henry and Gertrude Rothschild
Diana N. Rowan Rockefeller
Steven and Rebecca Saldenberg
Matt and Jessica Sheehan
Jennifer Small and Adam Wolfensohn
Vanessa Smith and Don Weeden
Ellen I. Sykes
John L. Tishman
Anonymous (2)
Endowments—Providing Funding for Today and for Years to Come

To ensure we have the opportunity to keep Alaska healthy and vibrant far into the future, the Alaska Conservation Foundation has two types of endowments. All endowment funds are professionally managed and invested, using vigorous social and environmental screens. At the end of fiscal year 2008, ACF's endowment funds had an aggregate balance of $5,299,754.

The Endowment for Alaska was established to provide ongoing funding for stewardship of Alaska’s lands, waters, and wildlife forever. This endowment is the Foundation's permanent source of support for organizations, projects, and programs seeking to preserve the richness of Alaska's incomparable natural environment. Each year, funds from the Endowment for Alaska are allocated to the most deserving and critical conservation organizations and projects.

The Foundation’s named endowment funds provide a lasting legacy to perpetuate Alaska’s incredible natural heritage. Named endowments, which can be established by any donor, fund specific, significant conservation efforts around the state. Donors who establish these funds designate the conservation uses for the funds they establish. Named endowment funds help provide a strong, stable future for a particular conservation interest or passion.

Named Endowment Funds

The Alaska Fund for the Future Marine Coastal Conservation Internship Endowment endows annual internships to young adults interested in maintaining the ecological integrity of Alaska’s coastal and marine systems.

The Susan Cohn Fund for Outstanding Alaska Native Writing or Storytelling endows an annual writing award honoring Alaska Native writers and storytellers whose work reflects the importance of the natural environment in their lives and cultures.

The Jerry S. Dixon Endowment Fund endows an annual award for excellence in environmental education.

The Dick Erman Memorial Fund endows an annual grant to Alaska Conservation Voters.

The Hugh S. Ferguson Wildlife Protection Endowment Fund protects and enhances Alaska’s magnificent wildlife.

The Daniel Housberg Memorial Fund endows the Housberg Awards for environmental photographic and videographic excellence and advocacy.

The Celia Hunter Award Endowment endows an annual award for outstanding contributions to conservation by volunteers.

The Celia M. Hunter Alaska Conservation Leadership Fund sponsors high-quality positions for selected Alaska conservation leadership interns.

The Leghorn Family Fund protects Alaska’s intact, healthy ecosystems, magnificent wildlife, and sustainable communities.

The Debbie Miller Fund for the Arctic is dedicated to saving America’s Arctic.

The Olaus Murie Award Endowment sponsors an annual award for outstanding contributions to conservation by professionals.

The Sitka Conservation Society Living Wilderness Endowment Fund provides a perpetual source of support for the important work of the Sitka Conservation Society.

The Studebaker Family Environmental Education Fund provides sustainable support for environmental education in Alaska to cultivate future generations of conservation-minded people.

The Jean Tam Loon Conservation Endowment Fund is dedicated to protecting loon habitat, including Connors Bog, supporting loon projects, and educating the public to protect loon habitat in Alaska.

The Tom Walter Memorial Fund is dedicated to supporting ACF’s grantmaking, and provides a critical source of funds for conservation groups throughout Alaska.

The Edgar and Peggy Wayburn Endowment Fund is dedicated to protecting and enhancing Alaska’s public lands, especially those lands protected by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

The Deborah L. Williams Air Quality Fund is dedicated to protecting and enhancing Alaska’s air quality.

The Jeanne S. Williams Endowment Fund is dedicated to environmental health programs and environmental programs for youth.
Special Gifts—*In Honor Of*

Honoring a friend, relative, or colleague through a gift to the Alaska Conservation Foundation is a meaningful way to celebrate an occasion or recognize their commitment to Alaska. The Foundation is extremely grateful to those who made gifts during the past fiscal year in honor of the following individuals and events:

Sue Cohn and David Rockefeller, Jr. (*in honor of their wedding*)
Deborah Williams
Virginia Woods

Special Gifts—*In Memory Of*

Remembering friends or loved ones who have passed away with a thoughtful gift toward an important cause is a lasting way to pay them tribute. The Foundation extends sincere thanks to those who made contributions this year in loving memory of these individuals:

Robert W. Mullen
Milo and Billie Rousculp
Dominique Wenzel
Daphne Whire

Bequests—*We Will Always Remember*

The Alaska Conservation Foundation gratefully remembers the generous and thoughtful individuals whose estates provided us with crucial funds during the last fiscal year. We are honored to help perpetuate their love of Alaska and their deep commitment to its future.

Avis S. Goodwin
Anonymous (1)
Our Partners in Conservation

During the past year, the Alaska Conservation Foundation is fortunate to have been the recipient of many generous gifts and grants from thoughtful and concerned individuals, corporations, organizations, and foundations from around the nation. We are deeply indebted to them for sharing our commitment to a strong, healthy future for Alaska’s wild lands, waters, and wildlife; they are strategic partners as well as cherished friends. It is our deep pleasure to extend a heartfelt thanks to all those who supported our work during the fiscal year of July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008. It is because of our donors that all our successes have been realized.

**Presidents’ Circle $100,000+**
- William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
- Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
- Surdna Foundation, Inc.

**Champions’ Circle $50,000 to $99,999**
- Harder Foundation
- George H. and Jane A. Mifflin Memorial Fund
- Scherman Foundation, Inc.
- True North Foundation
- Anonymous (1)

**Benefactors’ Circle $25,000 to $49,999**
- 44S Foundation
- Brainerd Foundation
- Bullitt Foundation
- Currents of Change
- Eaglemere Foundation
- Earth Share
- Energy Foundation
- Agnes Gund
- George Gund Foundation
- Forrest and Frances Lattner Foundation
- Moore Family Foundation
- David Rockefeller, Jr.
- Sitka Conservation Society
- Gordon Studebaker
- Turner Foundation, Inc.
- WestWind Foundation
- Wiancko Family Donor Advised Fund of the Community Foundation of Jackson Hole
- Wilburforce Foundation
- Winslow Foundation
- Wolfensohn Family Foundation
- Anonymous (1)

**Directors’ Circle $10,000 to $24,999**
- Peter and Michalina Bickford
- Anissa Berry-Frick and Henry Clay Frick III
- Paula Bottstein, M.D. and Robert Usadi
- Berkeley and Carol H. Johnson
- The Henry P. Kendall Foundation
- Grace M. Kirchner
- National Audubon Society
- Northern Alaska Environmental Center
- Patagonia, Inc.
- Carolyn Shelton
- John L. Tishman
- The Wilderness Society
- Anonymous (5)

**Guardians’ Circle $5,000 to $9,999**
- American Conservation Association
- Michael J. Ashworth
- Joanna Barsh and David Garbacz
- Duane Beckmann
- Ruth H. Brown Foundation
- Robert Bundy
- Susan Cohn Rockefeller
- David Davis
- Barbara Eltringer and Sven Huseby
- Jack Harang
- The Hartford Foundation for Public Giving through the generosity of the Beatrice Fox Auerbach Foundation Fund
- Kirk C. Hoeslale and Gabrielle Markel
- The Lazar Foundation
- Kenneth S. Leghorn and Susan H. Warner
- Janet McAlpin
- Preston and Susan McSwain
- The Paul and Antje Newhagen Foundation, an advised fund of Silicon Valley Community Foundation
- Dan J. Purnell
- David and Janet E. Robertson
- Henry and Gertrude Rothschild SBF Foundation
- Gary and Sylvia Ward Schultz
- Sockeye Cycle Co./Thomas Ely Lowell Thomas, Jr. and Tay Thomas
- William B. Wiener, Jr.
- Anonymous (5)
Stewards’ Circle
$2,500 to $4,999
Abel Automatics, Inc.
Cynthia M. and John Luther Adams
Daniel Adams
Rhonda L. Bennon and Martin E. Brown
David Bonderman and Laurie Michaels
Shirlee Bromley and Ellen Webster
Putter and Nannie Brown
Richard M. Burnes Jr. and Nonnie Burns
Kicab Castaneda-Mendez and Marta A. Chase
Bertram J. and Barbara Cohn
Daniel E. Cohn
David and Ide Dangoor
Denise Danisch and Robert F. Hartmann
Carolyn C. Dilworth
George Eberstadt and Cynthia Young
Jerome and Linda Elkind
Eni Petroleum
Jeffrey M. Feldman
Robert B. Flint, Jr. and Susan Flint
The Gryphon Fund
Thomas L. Hall and Elizabeth McLoughlin
Graham O. and Joanne Harrison
Mike Hummel
Valerie Isley and Bruce Murray
Nathan F. and Elizabeth S. Johnson
The Leighty Foundation
Ken Miller and Elizabeth M. Sweezy
Nate and Catherine Peimann
Michael Porter
David Rockefeller, Sr.
Dr. William L. and Jan Rutherford
Steven and Rebecca Sadenberg
Matt and Jessica Sheehan
Marti Spiegelman
Philippa Strahm
Jan H. and Susan J. Suwinski
Jerry Tone and Martha Wyckoff

Advocates’ Circle
$1,000 to $2,499
Alaska Community Share
Aileen T. Allen
Ed Bailey and Nina Faust
Joyce Bamberger
Martha R. Beaver
The Charles and Charlotte Bird Fund at the San Diego Foundation
Allan F. and Marilyn Brown
Wendy Chase and Greg McCarthy
Mitchell B. and Hope Cline
Stewart and Judy Colton
ConocoPhillips Company
Conservation & Research Foundation
Michael F. and Catherine T. Coscia
Cynthia Crane and Ted Story
April E. Crosby and Merritt Helffrich
Strachan Donnelley, Ph.D.
John C. and Leslie A. Dorman
The Dorsey & Whitney Foundation
Clifton Eames
Paul and Elizabeth Eisenhardt
Cornelia Eryel and Paul Forsman
Jean Fregeau
David and Barbara Fromm through the Sequoia Philanthropic Fund of Jewish Community Endowment Fund, Fromm Family Foundation
Ethan Garber
Peter L. and Carol N. Gluck
Deborah Greenberg and Leonard Steinberg
Paul Gresswell-Wilkins
Carla Haefling and Pamela Johnson
David and Susan Hardenbergh
Totton P. and Joanne Helfefinger
Robert and Phyllis Henigson
Vincent E. and Amanda Hoenigman
IBM International Foundation (IIF)
Erik and Gretchen Jansen
Carol A. Jewell
Patrick M. Karkanen
Ronald J. and Elizabeth Keeshan
Robert Keith, Jr., and Margot Keith
Derek and Lisa Kirkland
Tina Kobayashi and Richard D. Monksman
Marcia Lamb
Jay and Deborah Liggett
Robert B. Loken
James R. and Dianne D.Mahaffey
Roslyn Mandel
Richard W. and Barbara F. Moore
William F. and Mary Sue Morrill
Myra M. Munson
Eric P. Myers
Sheldon W. and Susan Clinger Nash
Gayle E. and Helen D. Nienhueser
Susan Olsen
Sylvia Ann Ott
Mimi Elmore Peabody
Julia Pershan
Robert J. Riddell, Jr. and Kathryn G. Riddell
Larry and Wendy Rockefeller
Christopher duPont and Rosalind H. Rossevelt
Marian Rose
Margaret Rosenfeld and Daniel Weld
Andrew Rosenthal
Daniel Ross
Peter S. and Molly N. Ross
Mary Pat Schilly and John B. Siak
Jean Schiro-Zavela and Vance Zavela
Ruth A. M. Schmidt, Ph.D.
Donald Sirkin
Brian Specter
John W. Stockdale
Daniel W. and Ann W. Swift
Ellen I. Sykes
John L. and Elizabeth Carson Taylor
Clare Eddy Thaw
Jeffrey D. Thomas
Jules V. and Margaret B. Tileston
Anonymous (8)
Supporters’ Circle
$500 to $999

Alaska Discovery, Inc.
Ethan D. Alyea, Jr. and Sandra D. Alyea
Genie Babb and James Liszka, Ph.D.
Jenine Beecher
Marty and Ginny Behr
Stephen J. and Carmen J. Blakely
Troy Bowler and Ivy Spohnholz
Bob and Sherri Bray
Thomas W. and Ruth L. Brown
Colleen Burgh and Jim Stratton
Gordon Burnes and Suzie Tapson
Jeff E. and Andrea R. Butler
Linda M. Caigan
Careerbuilder, LLC
Kenneth W. Castner III and Nancy Lord
Timothy S. Clark
Jeffrey M. Clough, M.D.
Amy Cohen
Anne Diller
Kevin Finn
Gunther S. Fonken and Agnes J. Hughes
Marilyn G. Gelber
Paul Guttenberg
Nick and Karen Hardigg
Kathleen Harper
William H. Hazen Foundation
Jay Hiatt
Robert C. Hunter, Jr. and Kimberley B. Hunter
Kenneth and Krisztina Inskep
Paul Jarvis
Bob and Ciari Johnson
Johnson & Johnson
Stan Justice
Harriet A. Karkut
Marta Jo Lawrence
Emily S. Lewis
Maryon Davies Lewis
Michael Mach
Albert M. Manville II
Nancy Milliken and Sergei Smirnoff, Jr.
Sherry Modrow and Brian Rogers
John Mueller
Patricia H. Noyes
Edwin Ordway, Jr. and Christine Ordway
Nathaniel and Page Owings
Marion S. Pierson
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Grace Berg Schaible
Dennis and Verena Seisun
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Sierra Pacific Flyfishers
W. Kirk and Marian Snouffer
Thomas E. and Dee Stegman
Danny Steinmetz and Molly Rae Kraus-Steinmetz
Eleanor H. Stoddard
Henry S. Stone
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Carol Swarts, M.D.
Ronald and Mary Kay Teel
Thomas Fund of the Princeton Area Community Foundation
Chris Thurston
John and Meg Vande Guchte
Vernon F. and Gloria A. Vikingosn
Nancy Weintraub
Elizabeth B. Wheelwright
Cyrus H. and Lucia J. Young
Larry and Karla Zervos
Anonymous (9)

Aveda Earth Month Supporters

ACF is grateful to the following salons, which contributed to the work of the Foundation through the Aveda Earth Month fundraising effort.

Accent of Style
Cape Sarichef Salon
Chez Ritz
Darae’s Salon and Spa
Elements, LLC
Halo Salon
Notorious Hair Design and Esthetics
Salon 264
Tangles
Vizhunz Salon

Skiing through spruce-beetle-killed forest © Erin McKittrick, Ground Truth Trekking

Caribou near Devil’s Mountain, Seward Peninsula © Nichole Andler, National Park Service
The Alaska Conservation Foundation is truly grateful to our current, long-time donors who have supported our work for 10 years or more.
Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position

Audited Statement of Financial Position
Fiscal Year 2008: July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

Assets

- Cash and cash equivalents: 1,233,217
- Grants and other public support receivable: 100,000
- Prepaid expenses and other assets: 4,558
- Long-term investments: 5,510,740
- Cash surrender value of life insurance policies: 96,719
- Furniture and equipment, less depreciation: 10,792

Total assets: $6,956,026

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities:

- Accounts payable: 5,778
- Accrued payroll and related liabilities: 70,073
- Grants and awards payable: 0
- Capital lease obligation: 12,133
- Gift annuity liability: 61,730

Total Liabilities: $149,944

Net Assets:

- Unrestricted:
  - Designated for endowment: 498,545
  - Designated for programs: 120,528
  - Undesignated: 868,195
- Temporarily restricted: 670,647
- Permanently restricted: 4,648,167

Total Net Assets: $6,806,082

Total Liabilities and Net Assets: $6,956,026

28 Years of ACF Grantmaking History

*projected
Statement of Activities
Audited Statement of Activities
Fiscal Year 2008: July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public Support and Revenue</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Public support</td>
<td>808,985</td>
<td>134,527</td>
<td>155,588</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>282,000</td>
<td>1,077,700</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>2,779</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>20,415</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restriction</td>
<td>876,477</td>
<td>(876,477)</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Public Support and Revenue</td>
<td>1,990,656</td>
<td>335,750</td>
<td>155,588</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Expenses**

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Unrestricted</th>
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<th>Totals</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grants and Programs</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants and awards</td>
<td>808,374</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>808,374</td>
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<tr>
<td>Programs</td>
<td>718,699</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>718,699</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Grants and Programs</td>
<td>1,527,073</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,527,073</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Unrestricted</th>
<th>Temporarily Restricted</th>
<th>Permanently Restricted</th>
<th>Totals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Supporting services</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>218,793</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>218,793</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>364,625</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>364,625</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total supporting services</td>
<td>583,418</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>583,418</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$2,110,491</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$2,110,491</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Change in Net Assets**

(119,835) 335,750 155,588 371,503

**Net Assets at Beginning of Year**

$1,607,103 $334,897 $4,492,579 $6,434,579

**Net Assets at End of Year**

$1,487,268 $670,647 $4,648,167 $6,806,082

**Percentage of Expenses Spent on Programs**

Fiscal Year 2008: July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Program and Grants</th>
<th>Management and General</th>
<th>Fundraising</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Programs and Grants</td>
<td>1,527,073</td>
<td>218,793</td>
<td>364,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and General</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$2,110,491</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*(Percentages rounded)*

*In fiscal year 2008, we launched an ambitious development effort, including creation of a long-range development plan. This resulted in a single-year increase in our fundraising expense percentage, which will drop to historical levels of ~10% again next year.*

A respected charity you can count on, for nearly 30 years.

“**A-**” Rating: ACF currently receives an “A-” rating and is recognized as one of the nation’s Top-rated Charities by the American Institute of Philanthropy (www.charitywatch.org).

**Better Business Bureau:** ACF is an accredited charity, meeting all 20 standards for Charity Accountability (www.bbb.org).

**EarthShare:** ACF meets all eligibility criteria, and “operates with the highest possible ethical and professional standards.” (www.earthshare.org)

**Combined Federal Campaign:** ACF fully meets the eligibility for giving through the Combined Federal Campaign (#12062, http://www.opm.gov/CFC/).
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Peg Tileston, Anchorage, AK
William Wiener, Jr., Shreveport, LA
Stephan H. Williams, Anchorage, AK

Counsel
Jonathan Blattmachr, New York, NY

Advisors
T.A. (Tom) Barron, Boulder, CO
David Cline, Vashon Island, WA
Scott Nathan, New York, NY
David Rockefeller, Jr., New York, NY

Our Foundation Team
Tina M. Adair, Communications Manager
Leah M. Doney-Neel, Annual Giving and Events Coordinator
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Ramona Keebler, Donor Information Specialist
Brian McNitt, Program Officer, Tongass Permanent Protection Program, Sitka, AK
Matt Rafferty, Program Officer
Ann Rothe, Program Officer
Lynette Schroeder-Einwiller, Director of Finance and Operations
Danielle S. Williams, Program and Communications Associate

Under Mendenhall Glacier, Tongass National Forest © Carl Battreall

ACF staff members (l to r): Danielle Williams, Ann Rothe, Lorraine Guyer, Bob Johnson (former staff), Toby Smith (former staff), Nick Hardigg, Tina Adair, Matt Rafferty, Ramona Keebler, and Leah Doney-Neel. The staff gathers at a farewell event for former Director of Finance and Operations Toby Smith, who left the organization in September 2008 to become Executive Director of the Alaska Center for the Environment, an ACF grantee.
Photo & Art Credits

All photos in this publication were donated. ACF is extremely grateful to the generous photographers who donated the images for this Annual Report & Calendar. We are truly fortunate to be able to share these photos with our donors, all of whom—like these talented artists—are true advocates for Alaska.

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The Alaska Conservation Foundation is honored to feature the remarkable photographs in this Annual Report & Calendar. As a public, nonprofit foundation, we rely on the talent and generosity of photographers and artists like those listed here in order to illustrate the extraordinary nature of the places we work to protect. While our words serve to explain the threats and the solutions, there is no better way to convey the diverse beauty of Alaska than through such photographs. The time, work, talent, and expense that goes into producing them is beyond measure.

If you would consider donating your work for our next Annual Report & Calendar, please contact Tina M. Adair, Communications Manager, at tadair@akcf.org.

This Annual Report and Calendar was designed in-house and printed on recycled paper. Copies are available free of charge. If you would like one sent to a friend, please email us at acfinfo@akcf.org.

Cover photo: Sandhill crane © Julie K. Jessen
This page: Bush transportation © Damion Brook Kintz
Alaska Conservation Foundation:
A Conservation Journey Across Alaska in 12 Months

Now, more than ever, your support is essential to the healthy future of Alaska’s wilderness, wildlife, and waters. This Annual Report and Calendar are designed to inform you about the significant work of the Alaska Conservation Foundation and to enlighten you about some of the world’s most diverse, remarkable habitats, the creatures that inhabit them, and the issues that threaten their future.

These lands, waters, and creatures are truly our most precious “natural resources.” Your care and commitment are essential if we are to maintain Alaska’s legacy for future generations. Your support of ACF makes a great difference to Alaska—every month of the year.

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