
ALASKA CONFERENCE ON
MINING IMPACTS
and **PREVENTION**

A gathering of land and water guardians

Girdwood, Alaska | March 16-18, 2022



Alaska
CONSERVATION
FOUNDATION



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Welcome to the Alaska Conference on Mining Impacts and Prevention, A Gathering of Land and Water Guardians.

We are grateful for the opportunity to convene together in person on the unceded territory of the Dena'ina people for the first time since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. What a gift it is to be physically present with everyone again.

All of us at Alaska Conservation Foundation would like to thank the many speakers, organizing committees, contractors, and volunteers that have come together to pull an event of this scale together during the pandemic. We are so honored to have you all gathered here, and look forward to the next three days of relationship building, knowledge sharing, and storytelling that elevates the unique opportunity and challenges that Alaska is facing when it comes to mining. We hope that you leave this event with deep relationships, new skills, and connections that help you successfully pursue future funding. I have already found profound inspiration in the collective effort of so many that has allowed this event to happen.

I look forward to talking over the next three days.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Barber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Executive Director
Alaska Conservation Foundation

COVID-19 Protocols

We acknowledge the risk and responsibility that comes with participating in an in-person conference during a global pandemic. We are asking all participants to abide by the following rules to keep everyone, including our families and communities back home, safe:



All participants have been asked to show proof of full vaccination, plus one booster at check-in.



We have over 160 participants and with limited event space, 6 feet of social distance will not always be possible, so there is a need to have a masking protocol. All participants are required to wear a mask except while you are presenting, eating, or drinking. KN95 masks are available at check-in to all participants. Alaska Conservation Foundation staff will be enforcing the masking requirement that includes wearing a mask over your nose and mouth.



One rapid COVID test kit - two tests - is available to each participant at check-in and on a first come first serve basis. If you use the COVID test and have a “positive” result, you will need to isolate yourself and notify ACF by texting or calling ACF Deputy Director Mike Coumbe at (907) 258-2020.



If you are feeling ill or have a fever, you are asked to discontinue participation in the conference and notify Mike Coumbe at (907) 258-2020.



ACF will provide lunch on March 16 and both breakfast and lunch on March 17 and 18. Meals will be buffet-style with limited “to-go” options for those who don’t feel comfortable eating around others.

For any COVID-related questions, please contact Mike Coumbe at (907) 258-2020.

Conference Agreements

Alaska Conservation Foundation has been inspired by the Jemez Principles, Alaska Just Transition Principles, and First Alaskan Institute's meeting agreements to set the following agreements for the Alaska Conference on Mining Impacts and Prevention - A Gathering of Land and Water Guardians:

- ✿ Be present, engaged, and inclusive (uplift matriarchal, decentralized, marginalized, and oppressed leadership and voices).
- ✿ Create a safe space for people to speak for themselves, listen to understand, and when speaking, speak to be understood.
- ✿ Value our time together, build just relationships among ourselves with meaningful conversations.
- ✿ Takest thou hats off - work together in unity, solidarity, and accountability to each other.
- ✿ Be responsible for your experience; take care of yourself and each other.
- ✿ Be soulful while also knowing our value of humor helps us.
- ✿ Use this space to take steps towards a just and equitable transition away from an extractive, oppressive economy toward a regenerative, holistic, living worldview.

The Purpose and Objectives of the Conference

OBJECTIVES

- ✿ To identify and support potential collaborative efforts to prevent industrial-scale mining and associated activities in Alaska.
- ✿ To provide opportunities for participants to learn and expand their knowledge and skills in areas such as organizing, communication, legal and other technical expertise that is pertinent to preventing industrial-scale mining.
- ✿ To bring funders to Alaska to expand their knowledge around the issue of industrial-scale mining in Alaska and all that it entails and introduce them to those who are or will be impacted and advocates.

PURPOSE

- ✿ Elevate the experiences of those directly impacted by mining, especially Indigenous peoples, who are often the most affected and who have stewarded our land for generations.
- ✿ Establish funders' interest in mining issues by exposing them to the broad impacts and growing potential threats Alaska's people, lands, and waters face.

THE SHORT VERSION

- ✿ Relationship building: Gather in-person and foster connections
- ✿ Create space for knowledge sharing, storytelling, and learning
- ✿ Inspire potential funding

WHAT THIS CONFERENCE IS NOT

- ✿ The purpose of this conference is not to create a state-wide strategy to prevent industrial-scale mining efforts or a state-wide plan to address impacts from mining.
- ✿ The purpose of this conference is not to establish an ongoing coordinated effort such as a coalition or campaign.
- ✿ The purpose of this conference is not to be a traditional fundraising event. ACF will not make a direct pitch to any of the funders in attendance.
- ✿ The purpose of this conference is not to establish a conversation with the mining industry or regulators (state and federal agencies).
- ✿ The purpose of this conference is not to serve as a promotional event for ACF.

The Planning Process

As the host of the mining gathering, Alaska Conservation Foundation worked to ensure community involvement and input by forming and coordinating three working groups:

- ✿ Community Working Group
- ✿ International/National Working Group
- ✿ Alaska Non-Profit Working Group

We would like to thank the following individuals for helping ACF name the conference, design the agenda, establish COVID-19 protocols, and recruit attendees and panelists. Your ongoing encouragement and positive attitudes during the entire planning process have been refreshing and very much needed.

THANK YOU!

- ✿ **Community Working Group:** Bev Hoffman, Tis Peterman, John Gaedeke, Jones Hotch Jr. Richard “RB” Slat, Austin Ahmasuk, Gloria Simeon, and Christie Jamieson
- ✿ **Alaska Non-Profit Working Group:** Alex Johnson, Bob Shavelson, Guy Archibald, Maryann Fidel, Aaron Brakel, Pamela Miller, Natalie Dawson, Melissa Heuer, Loretta Brown, Vicki Clark, and Elisabeth Balster Dabney
- ✿ **International/National Working Group:** Bonnie Gestring, Dave Chambers, Sayokla Williams, Laura Pitkanen, Roger Flynn, and Aimee Boulanger

Agenda

Wednesday, March 16

11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	WELCOME PLENARY Emcee: Meda DeWitt, Senior Specialist in Alaska, The Wilderness Society Ida'ina K'eljshna, Dena'ina Friendship Dancers Plenary Speaker: Michelle Ravenmoon, Dena'ina Language Program Director, Village of Igiugig	Kahiltna Court
12:30 - 1:15 p.m.	LUNCH	Served in Ballroom Foyer, Seating in Kahiltna Court
1:15 - 2:15 p.m.	BREAKOUT SESSIONS ONE Mining Economics in Alaska/Role of Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) Understanding the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority and the role it plays in financing industrial-scale mining. Why is it so tough to influence AIDEA's decisions? <i>Lois Epstein, consultant, LNE Engineering and Policy; Alyssa Sappenfield, Energy Analyst, Alaska Public Interest Research Group and Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition</i>	Columbia Ballroom A
	Alaska BLM Lands and Mining Where are the 50+ million acres of Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands in Alaska? What's at stake? Learn about BLM regulation 3809. <i>Emily Murray, Vice President of the Norton Bay Intertribal Watershed Council, Rachel James, SalmonState, Roger Flynn, Director and Managing Attorney at the Western Mining Action Project (WMAP), and Bonnie Gestring, Earthworks Northwest Program Director</i>	Columbia Ballroom B

1:15 -
2:15 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS ONE *CONTINUED*

Industrial Scale Mining in Alaska 101

Columbia Ballroom C

How does mining work in Alaska? An overview of the permitting process, key players in the state, and critical policies to know.

Kendra Zamzow, Chickaloon Native Village Environmental Stewardship Department; Vicki Clark, Executive Director, Trustees for Alaska; Guy Archibald, Transboundary Watersheds Science and Policy Coordinator, Rivers Without Borders

2:15 p.m.

BREAK

2:30 p.m.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS TWO

Supporting Indigenous Led Actions and Groups

Columbia Ballroom A

Learn about existing Indigenous power building efforts in Alaska and how to support efforts moving forward.

Delores Larson, Deputy Director at United Tribes of Bristol Bay, Jones Hotch Jr., Vice President of the Chilkat Indian Village, Gloria Simeon, Citizen of the Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council, the Native Village of Bethel, Alaska, Born of the Peoples of the Kuskokwim River

Mining and Roads

Columbia Ballroom B

Learn about the impacts of AIDEA's current Roads to Resources projects in the Ambler Valley and Susitna Watershed and the community members fighting to protect their rural way of life and livelihoods.

Alex Johnson, Alaska Senior Program Manager, National Parks Conservation Association, John Horner, Sr. Kobuk Tribal Member, Melissa Heuer, Executive Director, Susitna River Coalition, Kirsten Dixon, Owner of within the Wild Adventure Co, Lodge Owner, Chef, and Cookbook Author

Western Mining Action Network (WMAN) 101

Columbia Ballroom C

Learn about how WMAN supports mining-affected communities with a Mini-Grant program, Indigenous Caucus, and free programs and services.

Dave Chambers, geophysicist, Center for Science in Public Participation; Heather Evoy, Indigenous Engagement Lead, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council

Wednesday, March 16

3:30 p.m.	<p>BREAK/ARTS IN ACTION</p> <p>Get creative by screen printing and/or block printing a custom Jessica Thornton design</p> <p><i>Jessica Thornton, Arts in Action Coordinator, Native Movement</i></p>	Harding
4 p.m.	<p>BREAKOUT SESSIONS THREE</p> <p>Arts in Action</p> <p>Get creative by screen printing and/or block printing a custom Jessica Thornton design</p> <p><i>Jessica Thornton, Arts in Action Coordinator, Native Movement</i></p> <p>Mining Communication Strategies</p> <p>Learn from past and present communication strategies on place-based mine fights. Explore the national and Alaska communications landscape. Additionally gain skills in how to develop a winning narrative.</p> <p><i>Liz Banse, Sr. Program Director, Resource Media, and Ryan Schryver, Executive Director, Progress Alaska</i></p> <p>Building People Power: A Community Organizing Workshop</p> <p>Learn about how WMAN supports mining-affected communities Learn how to build community power through grassroots organizing.</p> <p><i>Jessica Girard, Founding Director, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition</i></p>	<p>Harding</p> <p>Columbia Ballroom A</p> <p>Columbia Ballroom C</p>
5:15 p.m.	<p>DINNER ON YOUR OWN</p> <p>OPTIONAL: EVENING FILMS</p>	Kahiltna Court
5:30 - 6:15 p.m.	<p>When The Salmon Spoke</p> <p>When The Salmon Spoke is a digital production featuring cinematic imagery, indigenous music and visual art, and captivating life stories from community members of the Stikine River, this project connects coastal Tlingit and Haida communities and inland Tahltan communities of Alaska and British Columbia.</p> <p><i>Guy Archibald, Transboundary Watersheds Science and Policy Coordinator, Rivers Without Borders; Trixie Bennett, Treasurer, Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission, President of Ketchikan Indian Community</i></p>	Kahiltna Court

OPTIONAL: EVENING FILMS *CONTINUED*

- 6:25 - 7:10 p.m. **Rock-Paper-Fish** Kahiltna Court
2019 documentary Rock-Paper-Fish offers a vivid look into the lives of Alaskans grappling with questions as immense as the place they call home. Industrial mining threatens the Chilkat Valley, home to the Tlingit community of Klukwan, all five species of salmon, and the largest annual gathering of bald eagles in the world.
Aaron Brakel, Inside Passage Waters Program Manager, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
- 7:20 - 8:05 p.m. **Paving Tundra** Kahiltna Court
2021 documentary on the proposed Ambler Road and its impacts on the people who live on the Koyukuk and Kobuk Rivers of Northwest Alaska
Alex Johnson, Alaska Senior Program Manager, National Parks Conservation Association; Elisabeth Balster Dabney, Deputy Director, Northern Alaska Environmental Center

Thursday, March 17

- 9 a.m. **BREAKFAST** Served in Ballroom Foyer, Seating in Kahiltna Court
- 10 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS FOUR**
Mining and Climate Impacts Columbia Ballroom A
How do industrial-scale mining projects contribute to the climate crisis?
Hal Shepherd, Principal Water Policy Consulting, LLC, Edda Mutter, Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, Dave Chambers, Geophysicist, Center for Science in Public Participation, Crystal Bergman, Tribal Environmental Coordinator and Candice Saunders, Tribal Environmental Assistant, Allakaket Village Council.
- Litigation as a Tool** Columbia Ballroom B
This panel will touch upon the state and federal administrative processes for permitting of mines, how the public can engage in substantive ways, and how lawyers can use litigation to ensure compliance with our environmental laws.
Brian Litmans, Legal Director, Trustees for Alaska; Loretta Brown, Legal & Policy Analyst, SalmonState; Olivia Glasscock, Senior Associate Attorney, Earthjustice

Thursday, March 17

- 10 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS FOUR *CONTINUED*** Columbia Ballroom C
- Lessons from Bristol Bay**
- Lessons from the Pebble Mine efforts: coalition building, communications, campaign strategy & tactics, litigation, and policy reform.
- Tim Bristol, Executive Director, SalmonState, Delores Larson, Deputy Director, United Tribes of Bristol Bay*
- 11 a.m. **BREAK**
- 11:15 a.m. **MIDDAY PLENARY** Kahiltna Court
- Decolonization: Building Organizational Practices**
- A plenary panel discussion on the responsibility of organizations and individuals building practices of decolonization. How do we operationalize justice, equity, and right relationship with our collective history, with the earth, and ultimately with the first stewards of these lands.
- Enei Begaye, Executive Director, Native Movement; Ayyu Qassataq, Vice President, First Alaskans Institute; Jessica Girard, Founding Director, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition*
- 12:45 p.m. **LUNCH/ARTS IN ACTION** Lunch served in
Ballroom Foyer, Seating
in Kahiltna Court
- Get creative by screen printing and/or block printing a custom Jessica Thornton design
- Jessica Thornton, Arts in Action Coordinator, Native Movement*
- Arts in Action: Harding
- 1:45 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS FIVE** Columbia Ballroom A
- Policies, Laws & Initiatives that Allow You to Fight Back & Influence Mining Decisions**
- Current antiquated federal law makes it difficult to stop a mine, but there are policies/laws and political pressure that allow the communities the ability to fight a mine, such as CWA, State Laws, ANILCA Title 8 & IRMA. Come learn about some options, and share your experiences.
- Blaine Miller-McFeeley, Senior Legislative Representative, Earthjustice; Rebecca Noblin, Policy Justice Lead, Native Movement; Adan Olivares Castro, Latin America Special Projects Coordinator, Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance; Jones Hotch Jr., Vice President, Chilkat Indian Village; Lindsey Bloom, Campaign Strategist, Salmon State*

Thursday, March 17

- 1:45 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS FIVE** *CONTINUED*
- Social & Health Impacts from Mining** Columbia Ballroom B
- This session will explore the overlap of Industrial-scale mining and social and health impacts, including inter-generational trauma; adverse effects on community health and limitations of health impact assessments within the Environmental Impact Statement process
- Elisabeth Balster Dabney, Deputy Director, Northern Alaska Environmental Center; Shawna Larson Special Projects Manager, Chickaloon Native Village; Pam Miller, Executive Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxics (ACAT)*
- Mining and Salmon** Columbia Ballroom C
- Understand the impacts of mining on salmon and the people who rely on them
- Sue Mauger, Science & Executive Director, Cook Inletkeeper; Bev Hoffman, Community Activist, ONC Tribal Member, Calista shareholder; Esther Aston, Tribal Administrator, Wrangell Cooperative Association*
- 2:45 p.m. **BREAK/ARTS IN ACTION** Harding
- Get creative by screen printing and/or block printing a custom Jessica Thornton design
- Jessica Thornton, Arts in Action Coordinator, Native Movement*
- 3:15 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS SIX**
- Permitting and Tribal Consultation** Columbia Ballroom A
- Tribal Consultation: Good and bad examples, tips & best practices, and laws and policies to know
- Matt Newman: Senior Staff Attorney, Native American Rights Fund, Maryann Fidel: Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council*
- Mining and Cultural Sovereignty** Columbia Ballroom B
- How mining threatens or is currently impacting food sovereignty and/or other cultural resources (example: sacred sites)
- Eva Dawn Burk, Owner, Rock Crossing Consulting; Gloria Simeon, Citizen of the Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council, the Native Village of Bethel, Alaska, Born of the Peoples of the Kuskokwim River*

Thursday, March 17

- 3:15 p.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS SIX** *CONTINUED* Columbia Ballroom C
- Industrial Mining in Alaska-British Columbia Transboundary Watersheds**
Southeast Alaska's largest salmon producing watersheds, the transboundary Taku, Stikine, and Unuk rivers are under threat as several acid generating mines, some that rival the size of the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, are underway in northwest B.C. See how Tribes, First Nations, municipalities, business, and community organizations throughout Southeast Alaska and British Columbia have come together to take action in preventing human rights violations of the tribes/communities who live and work, downriver of these mines, in BC and across the borders into Southeast Alaska.
- Chris Zimmer, Alaska Director, Rivers Without Borders; Trixie Bennett, Treasurer, Southeast Alaska Indigenous Transboundary Commission, President of Ketchikan Indian Community; Heather Evoy, Indigenous Engagement Lead, Southeast Alaska Conservation Council; Jill Weitz, Director, Salmon Beyond Borders/SalmonState*
- 4:15 - 5 p.m. **ARTS IN ACTION** Harding
- Get creative by screen printing and/or block printing a custom Jessica Thornton design
- Jessica Thornton, Arts in Action Coordinator, Native Movement*
- 4:30 p.m. **DINNER ON YOUR OWN**
- 5:30 p.m. **FUNDER-ONLY GATHERING** 891 Vail Dr.
- Exclusive space for funders to build relationships with one another - not a fundraising event
- 5:30 p.m. **INDIGENOUS-ONLY GATHERING** Sadie Romo's Restaurant
- Exclusive space and time for connection between Indigenous conference participants

Friday, March 18

- 8 a.m. **BREAKFAST/ARTS IN ACTION**
Get creative by screen printing and/or block printing a custom Jessica Thornton design
Jessica Thornton, Arts in Action Coordinator, Native Movement
Breakfast served in Ballroom Foyer, Seating in Kahiltna Court
Arts in Action: Harding
- 9 a.m. **BREAKOUT SESSIONS SEVEN**
Mining, “Critical Minerals” and the Energy Transition
Learn about the role key metals and minerals will play in the clean energy transition and the policy changes that are needed to better protect communities and the environment against the increased demand for certain metals.
Bonnie Gestring, Northwest Program Director, Earthworks; Dave Chambers, geophysicist, Center for Science in Public Participation; Adan Olivares Castro, Latin America Special Projects Coordinator, Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance
Columbia Ballroom A
- Addressing Mine Impacts to Wetlands and Streams**
Join us in a discussion on the opportunities and challenges we face ensuring the Clean Water Act Section 404 program is effectively implemented.
Jess Kayser-Forster, Sustainable Solutions; David Krause, Audubon Alaska
Columbia Ballroom C
- 10 a.m. **BREAK**

Friday, March 18

- 10:15 a.m. **CLOSING CEREMONY PLENARY** Kahiltna Court
- Just Transition - Remembering Forward, Building Regenerative Economies**
- Plenary Panel: Learn about how Alaskans can work to shift away from an extractive economy and what regenerative economies look like across Alaska.
- Closing Thank Yous and Final Acknowledgments
- Emcee: Meda DeWitt, Senior Specialist in Alaska, The Wilderness Society*
- Dune Lankard, Founder and President, Native Conservancy; Eva Dawn Burk, Owner, Rock Crossing Consulting, Nelli Williams, Alaska Director, Trout Unlimited; Margi Dashevsky, Regenerative Economies Coordinator, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition and Native Movement; Nauri Toler, Environmental Justice Organizer, Native Movement*
- 11:45 a.m. **LUNCH (GRAB AND GO)** Ballroom Foyer

Plenary Speaker Profiles



MEDA DEWITT

Senior Specialist in Alaska, The Wilderness Society

Meda's Tlingit names are Tsa Tsée Naakw, Khaat klaat, adopted Iñupiaq name is Tigigalook, and adopted Cree name is Boss Eagle Spirit Woman "Boss." Her clan is Naanyaa.aayí and she is a child of the Kaach.aadi. Her family comes from Shtuxéen kwaan (now referred to as Wrangell, AK.) Meda's lineage also comes from Oregon, Washington, and the BC/Yukon Territories. Currently she lives on Dena'ina lands in Anchorage, Alaska with her fiancé James "Chris" Paoli and their eight children. Meda's work revolves around the personal credo "leave a world that can support life and a culture worth living for." Her work experience draws from her training as an Alaska Native traditional healer and Healthy Native Communities capacity building facilitator. Meda's work has led to extensive travel to Rural and Urban communities in Alaska, Yukon Canada, and the Lower 48.



STEVEN HOLLEY

Leader, Ida'ina K'eljeshna (Friendship Dancers)

My name is Teqin K'iega (Wolf Shadow), Steven Holley, and I am Dena'ina, The Many People. For my fellow Dene', I am Nulchina (Sky Clan). I am a landsman by trade, currently assisting rural Native landowners to develop agricultural operations or conservation practices on their property. For 10 years I've led a group of mostly Dena'ina to learn our culture. The dance group I lead is the Ida'ina K'eljeshna, the Friendship Dancers, and we use songs, dances, and other cultural practices to teach the youth (ages 5-24) our Dena'ina ways and represent our people with our friends, to show the world that we are still here. We are from many dialects of Dena'ina, but the majority are from Upper Cook Inlet ht'ana. The songs we will sing today are from the area we sit in for this event. Qua'



MICHELLE RAVENMOON

Dena'ina Language Program Director, Village of Igiugig

Michelle Ravenmoon, Daghetti'i Degh K'isen - Strong Woman, Raven Clan, Dena'ina Athabaskan, Dena'ina shet yagheli ~ "proud to be Dena'ina" Michelle Ravenmoon comes from remote Alaska where she enjoys a lifestyle living close to the land.

Through her work in various capacities, she brings together understandings of past and present, of traditional Dena'ina life and modern life. Michelle works as the Dena'ina Language Program Director for the village of Igiugig, where she is helping create Dena'ina language curriculum and a language app for youth. Prior to her current role, she worked at Lake Clark National Park & Preserve, as a subsistence coordinator and promoted the National Park Service among Alaska Natives and American Indians. Michelle's educational background is in Early Childhood Education and Rural Development – Community Research and Cultural Documentation. Michelle has assisted in numerous archeological and anthropological projects, including grave identification in Kijik, and identifying traditional fish pits in the Kijik Historical District.

Michelle also works as an independent cultural consultant and travels around her region teaching cultural and outdoor activities. Michelle has co-developed an outdoor learning camp for youth called Quk' Taz'un, "The Sun is Rising," which teaches Dena'ina culture, anthropology, outdoor survival skills, and photography. Quk' Taz'un was created in an effort to renew hope in language revitalization, traditional culture, healing from generational trauma, and teaching appreciation and respect for the wilderness.

Michelle has studied her Native language of Dena'ina and had been involved in teaching and sharing her language. She has co-taught Dena'ina in Kenai as part of University of Alaska Fairbanks Alaska Native Language Center's Career Ladder program. Michelle worked for Lake Clark National Park and Preserve where she had the opportunity to work on mapping Dena'ina place names, assist in publications such as, *Nanutset Ch'u Q'udi Gu Before Our Time and Now*, an ethno-history of Lake Clark National Park, *Dena'ina Etnena, a Celebration*, a collection of essays and documented place names, *Dena'ina Chalyahi "Talking pictures,"* a picture dictionary; and created interpretive programs on subjects such as Native place names, Dena'ina sewing, and how museums and archives benefit local people.

Michelle is an artist making traditional style Dena'ina birchbark baskets, clothing, and jewelry. She hunts and tans much of her own leather in the traditional style of her ancestors. Michelle makes and sells jewelry and clothing made from natural materials through her business, "Ravenmoon Dena'ina Art."

Being a person who loves her state and region and the amazing people that thrive there, Michelle volunteers on several boards. She is currently on the Lake and Peninsula Borough, Bristol Bay Native Corporation Education Foundation and the Justice Equity Diversity Inclusion committee of the Alaska Conservation Foundation.



AYYU QASSATAQ

Vice President, First Alaskans Institute

Ayyu Qassataq (Iñupiaq) of Uᅇalaᅇtiᅇ is mother to four incredible children: Kutuukhuᅇ, Talialuk, Qanigluk and Inuaatuuraᅇ, daughter of Doug and Vernita Herdman and granddaughter of Stanton and Irene Katchatag. Ayyu joined First Alaskans Institute (FAI) in 2010, and currently serves as Vice President. She believes deeply in the power of our Ancestral knowledge and dedicates her life to advocating for our right to live the fullness of our Indigenous ways of life in perpetuity. With many years of convening community in dialogues, think tanks and strategic planning sessions, Ayyu is dedicated to centering our Native values throughout society, and has grown expertise in power-building + advancing self-determined, community-based solutions that advance healing, awareness, equity and advocacy around the issues that impact us.



ENEI BEGAYE

Executive Director, Native Movement

Enei is of the Diné & Tohono O’odham nations. Enei is a longtime community organizer, educator, facilitator, and dedicated advocate for justice and healing. For the past 12 years Enei has been the executive director of Native Movement, an Alaska-based grassroots advocacy organization. Enei is a co-founder of the Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition and the Black Mesa Water Coalition (Arizona-based). She has served on various national social justice boards and foundations. Enei is a queer dirt loving, vegetable growing, fabric addicted, bookworm, and a fierce mother. She was educated on Dinéᅇah (the land of her people), the halls of Stanford University, and every day on the lands of Alaska Native peoples. She lives on Dena’ lands in the Alaska interior -- in the community of Fairbanks -- with her partner and children.



JESSICA GIRARD

Founding Director, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

Jessica is an auntie before anything. After serving 10 years and 3 combat tours in the Air Force, she practices grieving and healing from the military industrial complex as a means to achieve social justice. She holds a graduate degree in Sustainable International Development from the Heller School of Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University and has spent 7 years of listening and learning in Alaska. Jessica is a co-founder and the Executive Director of the Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition (FCAC) working with her community on the lands of the Lower Tanana. She focuses her energies on organizing volunteer-led campaigns, facilitating trainings and supporting statewide movement building spaces as critical components of addressing the climate crisis.



DUNE LANKARD

Founder and President, Native Conservancy

An Eyak Athabaskan Native of the Eagle Clan, Dune grew up in Cordova, in southcentral Alaska. Born into a fishing family, his life education as a subsistence and commercial fisherman began at age five. He later earned a living as a fishery and processing consultant and commercial fisher in the Copper River Delta and Prince William Sound. The Exxon Valdez oil spill transformed him into a social change activist and Native Rights leader. He had founded/co-founded several key organizations, including the Eyak Preservation Council, the FIRE Fund (Fund for Indigenous Rights and the Environment); the RED OIL Network (Resisting Environmental Degradation of Indigenous Lands), and the Native Conservancy. His work helped win the preservation of more than 1 million acres of the Copper River Delta and wide recognition, including Time magazine's Hero of the Planet; and fellowships with the Ashoka Foundation and Hunt Alternatives Fund, Future of Fish, among others.



EVA BURKE

Owner, Rock Crossing Consulting

To restore her Denaakk'e and Lower Tanana Dene' Athabaskan traditional hunting, fishing, trapping, and gathering practices, Eva Dawn Burk is returning to a semi-nomadic lifestyle, living in relationship with her family's ancestral lands and waters. To help make this transition, she spent the last few years volunteering and working for her village of Toghotthele (Nenana) as a Wellness and Culture Camp Leader, Fisherwoman, Cook, and Laborer.

EVA BURKE *CONTINUED*

She is a graduate research assistant and is working on a Master of Science in Natural Resources and Environment with a focus on “Healing Through Food and Culture.” Eva Dawn is dedicated to improving food sovereignty and security and community well-being through maintaining traditional lifestyles, advocacy, and opening educational spaces on ancestral lands.



NAURI TOLER

Environmental Justice Organizer, Native Movement

Nauri is Iñupiaq and Irish born in Utqiagvik Alaska. She was raised between Nuiqsut, Utqiagvik and Fairbanks. Nauri is OHST (Occupational Hygiene and Safety Technician) certified, and has worked in the arctic oil fields for six years in the health, safety, environmental and training departments. She has her associate’s degree and would like to complete her bachelor’s in rural development. She has also volunteered with various organizations with interests in environmental and health concerns in Alaska. Nauri is an artist in photography, drawing, painting and music (specifically the guitar, piano and singing), she has also worked with computer coding as a hobby.



NELLI WILLIAMS

Alaska Director, Trout Unlimited

Nelli works to keep Alaska’s rivers clean, cold, and full of fish through conservation efforts from Bristol Bay to the Tongass National Forest. She has also been central to establishing and growing the Bristol Bay Fly Fishing and Guide Academy, which is now in its 13th year. Nelli developed a passion for the outdoors while growing up camping and fishing in Wisconsin, and later earned a degree in Natural Resource Management and Conservation Education. She fell in love with Alaska while working here seasonally during college, and now calls Anchorage home. Nelli spends every spare moment on the water fishing, playing with her husband and two kids on gravel bars, and exploring new places.



MARGI DASHEVSKY

Regenerative Economies Coordinator, Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition and Native Movement

Margi Dashevsky, is a lifelong Alaskan who descends from white settler colonizers and is committed to Black and Indigenous land justice, reconciliation, and reparations. Margi is the regenerative economies coordinator for Native Movement and the Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition, and has a bachelor's degree in environmental studies from Dartmouth College, and a master's degree in education equity from University of Colorado Boulder. Margi facilitated statewide youth advocacy through Alaska Youth for Environmental Action, and has taught place-based field ecology and outdoor leadership skills on extended wilderness expeditions at the High Mountain Institute. On most winter days you can find her out on the ski trails, and in summer months she seeks out the alpine tundra, especially in the golden light of Alaskan evenings.

Map of Venue



ENTITIES

Alaska Clean Water Advocacy

ACWA is a project of the Earth Island Institute, works to prevent the degradation of public waters through advocacy, education, litigation, legislation and market campaigns in support of the fundamental goals of the federal Clean Water Act. All Alaska waters should protect aquatic life and be safe for recreation. The discharge of all pollutants into public waters should be eliminated.

Alaska Community Action on Toxics

ACAT is a progressive, statewide environmental health and justice organization that advocates for the right to live in a healthy environment. ACAT believes everyone has a right to clean air, clean water, and toxic-free food. Driven by a core belief in environmental justice, ACAT empowers communities to eliminate exposure to toxics through collaborative research, shared science, education, organizing, and advocacy. Science and the precautionary principle guide our work. We work with individuals, tribes, and communities to find effective strategies to prevent harmful exposures to toxic substances, protect the ecosystems that sustain them, and hold accountable those responsible for the contamination. Because existing remedies are so often inadequate to address Alaskans' concerns, we also work to achieve systemic policy change at the local, state, national, and international levels.

Alaska Conservation Foundation

Founded in 1980, the Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF) is the only public foundation solely dedicated to conservation in Alaska, connecting thousands of committed donors and businesses worldwide with more than a hundred grassroots conservation organizations in Alaska. Alaska Conservation Foundation serves as a funder and supportive resource for a diverse community of nonprofits working to protect and wisely manage Alaska's natural resources. Over the last four decades, Alaska Conservation Foundation has awarded more than \$52 million in grants to hundreds of Alaskan organizations and individuals. Through strategic funding, Alaska Conservation Foundation supports

Alaska's most critical issues, fosters problem-solving and innovation, and protects Alaska's incredible yet vulnerable ecosystems, communities and economies.

Alaska Environment

Alaska Environment is dedicated to protecting our water, air and open spaces. We investigate problems, craft solutions, educate the public and decision-makers, and help the public make their voices heard in local, state and national debates over the quality of our environment and our lives

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association

ALFA promotes sustainable fisheries and thriving fishing communities through research, education and policy engagement

Alaska Marine Conservation Council

AMCC works to protect and restore the marine environment through sustainable fishing practices, habitat protection, and local stewardship. We support an ecosystem-based approach to research and marine resource management that incorporates the best science available, experiential knowledge, and the wisdom of tradition.

Alaska Venture Fund

AVF is a philanthropic partner and social-change incubator building a more sustainable future for Alaska and beyond.

Alaska Wilderness League

Alaska Wilderness League galvanizes support to secure vital policies that protect and defend America's last great wild public lands and waters, so that Alaska's wildest places are protected for generations to come.

Alaska Wildlife Alliance

Alaska Wildlife Alliance is a grassroots nonprofit organization founded by Alaskans in 1978. Our mission is to protect wildlife for its intrinsic value, as well as for the benefit of present and future generations of Alaskans. We advocate for healthy ecosystems, scientifically and ethically managed to protect wildlife in an increasingly dynamic world.

Batani Foundation

The Batani Foundation deals with the protection of the rights of the Indigenous peoples of Russia, develops cooperation between the Indigenous peoples of the United States and Russia.

Bristol Bay Native Association

BBNA is a Tribal Consortium, made up of 31 Tribes and is organized as a non-profit corporation to provide a variety of educational, social, economic and related services to the Native people of the Bristol Bay region of Alaska. The Mission of BBNA is to maintain and promote a strong regional organization supported by the Tribes of Bristol Bay to serve as a unified voice to provide social, economic, cultural, educational opportunities and initiatives to benefit the Tribes and the Native people of Bristol Bay. BBNA's Natural Resources Department is dedicated to protecting, maintaining and preserving the land, ecosystems and natural resources of Bristol Bay; while empowering our Tribes to enhance their subsistence, cultural and economic opportunities as described in the Bristol Bay Vision.

Chickaloon Native Village

Nay'dini'aa Na', our name in Ahtna, meaning "the river with the two logs across it", is a vibrant, innovative, and culturally rich Ahtna Athabascan Tribe located in Sutton. Our mission is to perpetuate our ancestors' beliefs, customs, traditions and values and steward our environment to help our citizens thrive. Our vision: A Tribal Government that stands sovereign with all nations, utilizes our land responsibly, has a sufficient resource base, and prepares our future generations, to fulfill our core purpose and long-term goals.

Clemmer Law Office LLC

Clemmer Law Office is headed by Teresa Clemmer, an Alaskan attorney with more than 20 years experience litigating, representing, and counseling clients on all aspects of environmental and natural resources law and policy and advocating on their behalf in a wide range of contexts. Ms. Clemmer serves a variety of clients, including non-profit organizations, Tribes, private companies, and individuals.
www.clemmerlaw.net

ClimateWorks Foundation

ClimateWorks Foundation is a global regrantor tackling climate mitigation to end the climate crisis. Our mission is to grow climate philanthropy and we do so using our three functions: global intelligence, global grantmaking and global collaborations.

Cook Inletkeeper

Cook Inletkeeper is a community-based organization using a unique blend of advocacy, science and outreach in its mission to protect Alaska's Cook Inlet watershed and the life it sustains. Our long-term goals are to empower change and civic engagement to protect healthy salmon habitat and clean water; accelerate the transition to an equitable, decarbonized energy future; build strong climate-resilient local communities; and increase our organizational effectiveness at achieving our vision of thriving and equitable communities in a resilient Cook Inlet watershed.

Crooked Footprint Productions

CFP is focused on raising awareness around social and environmental justice concerns in Alaska and beyond through visual storytelling.

Cultural Survival

Cultural Survival advocates for Indigenous Peoples' rights and supports Indigenous communities' self-determination, cultures and political resilience since 1972. Cultural Survival is part of a coalition to ensure Indigenous rights in the transition to a green economy, especially in the mining for transition minerals.

Earthjustice

Earthjustice is a premier nonprofit public interest environmental law organization. Since 1978, the Alaska regional office has fought destructive oil and gas drilling, mining, and logging that threatens the region's communities, lands, waters, and wildlife.

Earthworks

Earthworks is a non-profit organization dedicated to protecting communities and the environment against the adverse impacts of mining and energy development, while seeking sustainable solutions.

Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition

Formed in November 2015, FCAC seeks to amplify Alaskan voices for climate action and build momentum for a just and equitable transition to a new way of living with each other and with our environment. With a local and state-wide community organizing strategy, FCAC utilizes volunteer-led initiatives to implement bold and effective local climate action in the Alaska interior and beyond.

Fireweed Collective

Fireweed Collective is a statewide alliance of young Alaskans dedicated to community building, leadership development, and activating our generation for a just and sustainable Alaska

First Peoples Worldwide

First Peoples Worldwide's mission is to work from a foundation of Indigenous values to achieve a sustainable future for all. We work at the intersection of business, law and finance to forward corporate accountability to the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

For The Wild

For The Wild Podcast is an anthology of the Anthropocene; focused on land-based protection, co-liberation and intersectional storytelling rooted in a paradigm shift away from human supremacy, endless growth and consumerism.

Friends of the Earth

Friends of the Earth is an environmental non-profit that fights for a more healthy and just world. Together we speak truth to power and expose those who endanger the health of people and the planet for corporate profit. We have fought the proposed Pebble Mine since 2017 by engaging our members and activists from across the United States.

Initiative for Responsible Mining Assurance (IRMA)

IRMA is the globe's most rigorous standard describing best practices for environmental and social responsibility where mining happens. It is the only voluntary standard program governed equally by nonprofit organizations, community groups and labor working alongside the private sector. Communities affected by mining, including

Indigenous rights holders, can use the IRMA Standard to increase access to information on mining impacts, hold accountability for improved practices, and express Indigenous free, prior, informed consent.

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

The Kachemak Bay Conservation Society's mission is to protect the environment of the Kachemak Bay region and greater Alaska by encouraging sustainable use and stewardship of natural resources through advocacy, education, information, and collaboration.

Ketchikan Indian Community

Ketchikan Indian Community is a federally recognized Tribe of 6,400+ tribal citizens.

LNE Engineering and Policy

Lois Epstein is a technical/policy consultant for environmental and tribal organizations. My work focuses primarily on problematic industrial and infrastructure projects in Alaska.

Lynn Canal Conservation

For 50 years Lynn Canal Conservation has been committed to fostering responsible stewardship of the Chilkat Valley watersheds as well as the coastal areas of the upper Lynn Canal. We monitor proposed projects that could have an impact on the integrity of local ecosystems. We work to mitigate potential environmental impacts, to build coalitions with other concerned groups, and to increase community awareness of such impacts. As we conduct our work, we recognize that we work within the boundaries of unceded Tlingit Territory, and honor the thousands of years of good land stewardship by the Tlingit people. We strive to conduct our work mindful of tribal sovereignty, the impacts of colonization, and the ongoing place-based knowledge of the Chilkat and Chilkoot tribes.

The Mobilization Center

The Mobilization Center works to reach, educate, and mobilize Alaskans to take civic action to protect their ways of life. We are a locally-operated canvass program with services that include: phone and door canvassing; literature dropping; peer-to-peer text services; data services/list purchasing; and, digital

organizing support, including email follow-up and email acquisition programs.

National Parks Conservation Association

NPCA is a 102-year-old national non-profit organization with 1.4 million members and supporters working to advocate for national park landscapes. National Parks Conservation Association's mission is to protect national parks for the enjoyment of current and future generations, with a recognition that our national parks must welcome all Americans and tell their stories and that protecting parks requires protecting the larger ecosystems of which they are a part. We are committed to defending and promoting cultural and ecological resilience and connectivity in the face of climate change and various landscape-scale threats.

Native American Rights Fund

NARF is a nonprofit law firm serving Tribal Governments and Organizations

Native Conservancy

Native Conservancy was established in 2003 to empower Alaska Native peoples to permanently protect and preserve endangered habitats on their ancestral homelands. We strive to maintain and secure titles to Native lands in conservation trusts to strengthen our inherent rights of sovereignty, subsistence and spirituality. Native Conservancy's reason for being is to protect and restore Alaska Native ecosystems for coastal communities. Native Conservancy is the very first Native-led, Native-owned land conservancy in the United States

Native Movement

Native Movement is dedicated to building people power, rooted in an Indigenized worldview, toward healthy, sustainable, & just communities for ALL. Native Movement supports grassroots-led projects that align with our vision and endeavor to ensure social justice, Indigenous Peoples' rights, and the rights of Mother Earth.

The Native Village of Ambler

The Native Village of Ambler is a sovereign Tribe, predating the State of Alaska and the United States

Constitution and is a federally recognized Indian Tribe. The Ambler Traditional Council is the governing body of the Tribe.

Northern Alaska Environmental Center

The Northern Alaska Environmental Center promotes conservation of the environment and sustainable resource stewardship in Interior and Arctic Alaska through education and advocacy. We understand the unique challenges of living in Alaska and seek to balance natural resource development with conserving what makes Alaska special. We work to protect lands in the Interior and Arctic from pollution, increased carbon emissions, industrial-scale surface and hydrologic disturbances, and especially new roads that would forever compromise these places and Alaska's natural heritage. We monitor operations at priority mines, advocate against controversial and environmentally irresponsible projects, participate in state and federal plan revisions that govern environmental management guidelines, engage in and encourage others to participate in permitting processes that will minimize impacts, and help to litigate cases when necessary. The Northern Center believes that reaching out to diverse constituent groups, and personnel in industries and agencies is a key aspect to the advancement of our mission.

The Norton Bay Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

NBITWC is a 501(c)(3) non-profit tribal organization focused on protection and sustainable management of water and subsistence resources, climate change adaptation planning, Alaska Native tribal sovereignty and environmental human rights in the Norton Bay Watershed, located on the Seward Peninsula, Alaska.

Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council

The Mission of Orutsararmiut Traditional Native Council is to promote the general welfare, enhance independence, encourage self-sufficiency/self-motivation, enhance quality of life, and preserve cultural and traditional values of the Tribe, and to exercise tribal authority over resources through educational, economic, and social development opportunities. Through the work of the Natural Resources Department, ONC also aims to "Preserve

and enhance the integrity of regional fish, wildlife, or other populations and habitat to fully provide for subsistence use needs in perpetuity.”

Pacific Environment

Pacific Environment seeks to nurture the courage and creativity of local leaders to find new ways to protect all of us from climate breakdown, air pollution, water loss, and plastic waste. And we advocate strong protections for people and the planet at the highest international levels of government.

Renewable Energy Alaska Project

REAP is an Alaska-based non-profit supporting development of renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts through education, collaboration and advocacy.

Resource Media

Resource Media is a nonprofit communications firm that exclusively takes on mission-oriented work. Resource Media uses strategic communications to broaden the base of support for policies and actions that promote healthy, just, sustainable, and prosperous communities.

Rivers Without Borders

Rivers Without Borders raises awareness of the outstanding ecological and cultural values of the Alaska - British Columbia transboundary watersheds and promotes conservation and ecosystem based stewardship to sustain those values. From north to south, these storied mountains-to-sea river systems are the Alsek-Tatshenshini, Chilkat, Taku, Whiting, Iskut-Stikine, and Unuk. We work with First Nations, tribes, commercial fishermen, scientists, community leaders, businesses, conservation advocates, legal and technical experts, media, and others to keep the transboundary region wild and thriving.

Rock Crossing Consulting

Rock Crossing Consulting provides professional, scientific and technical consulting services. Our areas of expertise include stakeholder engagement, scientific research support and community development. We focus on developing collaborative partnerships, community capacity, leadership,

strategic business plans, feasibility studies, conceptual designs and front end engineering designs.

SalmonState

SalmonState works to ensure Alaska remains where salmon thrive.

Salmon Beyond Borders

Salmon Beyond Borders is a campaign driven by sport and commercial fishermen, community leaders, tourism and recreation business owners and concerned citizens, in collaboration with Tribes and First Nations, united across the Alaska/ British Columbia border to defend and sustain our transboundary rivers, jobs and way of life.

Sitka Conservation Society

The Sitka Conservation Society works to protect the natural environment of the Tongass National Forest, while supporting the development of sustainable communities across Southeast Alaska.

Salmon Nation

Salmon Nation, the organization, exists to accelerate a vibrant and growing movement towards healthier, localized, more regenerative economies and communities. Our region already is a hotbed of creativity and experimentation. Salmon Nation identifies who and what you need to know to invest time, energy, and money towards building a bioregion where people, culture and nature all thrive.

Sovereign Inupiat For A Living Arctic

Sovereign Inupiat for a Living Arctic’s mission is to create space for healthy communities, spiritually, mentally, and physically; fostering the connection between people, culture and land. We are empowered as frontline communities and those who have inherent connection with the land and what it provides.

Susitna River Coalition

The Susitna River Coalition support the 312 mile long, free-flowing Susitna River and the healthy communities and ecosystems it sustains from the headwaters in the Alaska Range to the outflow in

Cook Inlet. SRC is one of the only Alaska based, grassroots conservation organizations between Anchorage and Fairbanks. We recognize that our strength comes from a sustained and committed grassroots voice that reflects a diverse view of issues affecting the Susitna region – one of the fastest growing regions of Alaska.

The Alaska Center

The Alaska center engages, empowers, and elects Alaskans to stand up for our clean air and water, healthy communities, and a strong democracy.

The Conservation Fund

The Conservation Fund, working with public, private and nonprofit partners, protects America's legacy of land and water resources through land acquisition, sustainable community and economic development, and leadership training, emphasizing the integration of economic and environmental goals.

Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

As the nation's largest coalition of hunting, fishing, and conservation organizations, the TRCP unites and amplifies our partners' voices to advance our shared conservation priorities. In Alaska, the TRCP focuses on representing the interests of hunters and anglers in federal land use plans.

Trout Unlimited

Trout Unlimited works with anglers, hunters, businesses and communities to take care of the rivers in Alaska so many people depend on -- keeping them clean, cold and full of fish.

Trust for Mutual Understanding

The Trust for Mutual Understanding was established in 1984 by an anonymous American philanthropist as a private, grantmaking organization dedicated to promoting improved communication, closer cooperation, and greater respect between the people of the United States, the Soviet Union, and other countries in Central and Eastern Europe. We continue to support professional exchanges, reflecting the founder's appreciation of the importance of culture and ecology in people's lives. It remains our goal to enable talented people to come together

from different countries to freely share ideas and stimulate creativity in a nonpolitical context.

Trustees for Alaska

Trustees for Alaska fills an important niche in protecting Alaska's environment and communities by providing the legal expertise and ability to hold decision makers and polluters accountable in court. We provide free legal services to Alaska Native organizations and communities, conservation groups and individuals. Though Trustees is a small organization, our attorneys have set significant legal precedents in Alaska and nationwide since our founding in 1974. Our mission is to use the law to protect and defend Alaska's lands, waters, wildlife, and people.

United Tribes of Bristol Bay

United Tribes of Bristol Bay is a tribal consortium working to protect the traditional Yup'ik, Dena'ina, and Alutiiq ways of life in Southwest Alaska that depend on the pristine Bristol Bay Watershed and all it sustains. Our membership consists of 15 federally recognized Tribes in Bristol Bay, representing over 80 percent of the region's population.

Within the Wild Adventure Company

WTW is committed to sharing wild places with our guests, hoping to enrich their respect for the fragile balance of the natural world.

Wrangell Cooperative Association

The mission of the Wrangell Cooperative Association is "to support the cultural, ceremonial and subsistence lifestyle for all Alaskans, and to promote the safe use and availability of a healthy environment for present and future generations"

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council

The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council (YRITWC) is a treaty organization, created in 1997 by Indigenous leaders from the Yukon River Watershed (YRW) in Alaska and the Yukon Territory, Canada. Members include 57 Alaska tribes and 17 Canadian First Nations. YRITWC is dedicated to the protection and preservation of clean water in the YRW for the continuation of our traditional Native way of life.

Lay of the Land

ALASKA MINING: LAY OF THE LAND

Disclaimer: The following information was compiled by Alaska Conservation Foundation (ACF) staff. ACF staff do not claim to be mining experts and/or proficient in any one or all mining projects in Alaska or British Columbia. We apologize in advance if any of the following information is not 100% accurate.

Ambler Access Project

What: The Ambler Access Project (AAP) is a proposed 211-mile, controlled industrial access road that would provide access to the Ambler Mining District in northwestern Alaska. The road would stretch from the Dalton Highway through the Brooks Range ending near Ambler, with 26 miles of the road going through the Gates of the Arctic National Preserve. The road would be built to specifically access the Upper Kobuk Mineral Projects (Arctic and Bornite Mines) that at this time are still speculative with no mines having undergone permitting processes. The Biden Administration (Feb. 2022) agreed with Tribes that the cultural review of the project was flawed (failed tribal consultation and insufficient analysis of projects potential impacts to subsistence uses) and the Department of the Interior will review the federal right-of-way permits granted under the Trump Administration. The right-of-way for the road will be suspended during the review process.

Resource: Copper, Zinc, Gold, Cobalt, Lead, Silver

Who: Ambler Metals, a joint venture owned by Trilogy Metals (Canadian company formerly NovaCopper Inc.) and a subsidiary of South32 LTD (Australian company). Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) is a public corporation of the State of Alaska. AIDEA approved a \$15.4 million budget for the 2022 work season, matched by Trilogy Metals, and in 2021 AIDEA transferred \$35 million into the Arctic Infrastructure Development Fund and signed a 50-50 cost-share agreement with Trilogy Metals. NANA is the regional Alaska Native corporation.

Bokan Mountain/Alaska Strategic Metals Complex (Alaska SMC)

What: The Alaska SMC is a planned rare earth separation and processing facility that would initially process mixed rare earth concentrates from third parties into commercial purity rare earth elements (REE) oxides, specifically for REE permanent-magnet applications. UCORE has proposed to put the SMC in Ketchikan but has not obtained a property. The proposed mine project is on the Southeast side of Prince of Wales Island above Kendrick Bay near the old Ross Adams uranium mine. The Bokan Mountain deposit could be radioactive (containing Thorium). Kendrick Creek is anadromous for pink salmon. ADF&G operates a remote rearing station in Kendrick Bay for coho and chum and is considered a terminal fishery. The US Forest Service has approved a one-year sampling permit, UCORE currently plans to implement a sampling program in the summer of 2022.

Resource: Rare Earth Elements and Zirconium, Hafnium, Niobium, Beryllium

Who: UCORE (Canadian company), UCORE acquired Innovation Metals Corp. which developed the Rapid SX (solvent exchange) technology UCORE plans to use at the SMC. AIDEA (issued a \$145 million bond financing for the Bokan Project infrastructure and construction costs).

Donlin Project

What: A proposed large open-pit gold mine located in Southwest Alaska's Yukon-Kuskokwim region, roughly 10 miles north of Crooked Creek, Alaska. The project site would occupy a total area of approximately 14 square miles (9,000 acres). Additional potential infrastructure for the proposed project includes the Donlin Pipeline, a 315-mile natural gas pipeline from Cook Inlet to the proposed project site as well as marine cargo port near Bethel, an upriver port near Angyaruaq (Jungjuk Creek), a 30-mile access road from the upriver port to the mining site, a permanent camp, and an airstrip.

Resource: Gold

Who: Donlin Gold LLC, which is owned equally by subsidiaries of NovaGold (Canadian company) and Barrick Gold Corporation (Canadian company). Calista, the regional Alaska Native for-profit corporation (owns the mineral resource), and Kuskokwim Corporation, a village Native for-profit corporation (signed a surface rights agreement with Donlin Gold).

Fort Knox

What: The Fort Knox mine is an operating open pit gold mine. It's Alaska's largest producing gold mine located 9 miles east of Fox and 26 miles north of Fairbanks on primarily State of Alaska and private lands.

Resource: Gold

Who: Fairbanks Gold Mining, Inc. (FGMI), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kinross Gold Corporation (Canadian company)

Fort Knox Expansion: Manh Choh

What: The open-pit project is expected to commence production in 2024 on Tetlin Alaska Native Tribal lands, with ore from Manh Choh (near Tetlin) being hauled to and processed at Kinross's Fort Knox mill (north of Fairbanks), utilizing the existing mill and infrastructure to benefit both the project and the mine. The plan is to have up to four trucks per hour heading from the mine to the refinery 24 hours per day, 365 per year and the same amount of trucks heading back from the refinery. This equates to eight trucks per hour rolling through Delta Junction and Fairbanks.

Resource: Gold

Who: Kinross Gold (Canadian company)

Treasure Creek and Grant-Ester

What: Several mining exploration projects are being conducted in the surrounding Fairbanks area while the Grant-Ester project is located 12 Kilometers west of downtown Fairbanks. Although FelixGold is not currently conducting on-the-ground surveys on Grant-Ester, they are undertaking academic and data analysis using existing information that could lead to future exploration. Much of the land that Milrock and Felix have staked claims on is state land, but they are also looking to get exclusive rights to mine the areas from the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority. In Oct. 2021, after a public comment period: 3,851 acres on and around the Ester Dome area in Fairbanks were excluded from the mineral lease after residents and neighbors complained about the project, according to the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Land Office.

Resource: Gold

Who: FelixGold (Australian Company) and Millrock Resources Inc. (Canada company) sold the mineral rights to FelixGold

Graphite One Project

What: The plan is for graphite to be mined from the Graphite One Graphite Creek Property, situated on the Seward Peninsula about 37 miles north of Nome. Specifically in close proximity to the Iñupiaq communities of Teller, Mary's Igloo and Brevig Mission. The graphite will be processed into concentrate at a mineral processing plant located adjacent to the mine. The resulting graphite concentrate would be shipped to the second link in a proposed supply chain solution: a Manufacturing Plant where Coated Spherical Graphite (CSG) and other value-added graphite products would be manufactured.

Resource: Graphite

Who: Graphite One Inc (Canadian company)

Greens Creek

What: The currently operating Greens Creek Mine holds current proven and probable silver reserves of 107 million ounces, 840,000 ounces of proven and probable gold reserves, as well as 262,940 tons of lead and 706,500 tons of zinc in proven and probable reserves. The mine is located on the Northwest end of Admiralty Island within the National Monument in Southeast Alaska. Hecla is applying for its third expansion on an original 10-year life of mine, operating since 1989. The mine has contaminated a wide portion of the Monument and Kootznoowoo Wilderness area with lead from fugitive dust. Lead levels have increased in the marine environment in Hawk Inlet over the human health criteria. A spill of concentrate in 1989 contaminated a little more than one acre of marine sediments in Hawk Inlet.

Resource: Silver, Zinc, Gold, Lead

Who: Hecla Mining Company (Coeur d'Alene, Idaho)

Johnson Tract Project

What: The Johnson Tract Project is a poly-metallic project located near tidewater on the west shore of Cook Inlet in Southcentral Alaska. The property (20,942 acres) is surrounded by the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve. The Johnson Tract lands and mineral rights were acquired by Cook Inlet Region Incorporated (CIRI) through the Cook Inlet Land Exchange finalized in 1978 after the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act did not provide CIRI with adequate claims. In addition to mineral and surface rights in one parcel inholding, and mineral rights beneath a second contiguous parcel also within Lake Clark National Park, CIRI was granted port and transportation easement across adjoining parkland. The National Park Service has granted exploration permits and HighGold Mining Inc. is actively carrying out exploration with initial results indicating a large high-grade deposit.

Resource: Gold, Copper, Zinc, Silver, Lead

Who: HighGold Mining Inc. (Canadian company) spun out of Constantine Metals which originally signed a letter of agreement for lease rights with Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI), a regional Native for-profit corporation.

Kensington

What: The Kensington mine is an underground gold operation located on the east side of the Lynn Canal, near Berners Bay, approximately 45 miles north-northwest of Juneau, Alaska. The mine is accessible by either a combination of road vehicles and boat or by helicopter, floatplane or boat direct from Juneau. Kensington has a long track record of water quality problems, with more than 200 wastewater discharge violations, multiple effluent sampling violations, and unpermitted discharge of acid rock drainage into Lower Slate Lake. As a result, Coeur Alaska was fined over \$500,000 by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2019. A 10-year life extension was recently approved by the US Forest Service. With the life extension came several expansion projects such as raising the tailings treatment facility dam by 36 feet and constructing a 40-foot-high back dam between the facility and Upper Slate Creek. This would increase tailings disposal capacity by 4 million tons to 8.5 million tons.

Resource: Gold

Who: Coeur Mining (Chicago, IL)

Kerr-Sulphurets-Mitchell (KSM) Project

What: The KSM Project is a proposed gold/copper mine, located 65 kilometers northwest of the town of Stewart, British Columbia, 30 kilometers from the B.C.-Alaska border. The project site lies near the headwaters of the Bell-Irving tributary of the Nass River and the Unuk River, flowing through Misty Fjords National Monument to the communities of Ketchikan and Saxman.. The project is expected to be one of the largest open-pit mines in the world with an estimated life of 52 years. Roughly 2.3 billion tons of acid-generating tailings is expected to be dumped behind four earthen dams the tallest of which will be nearly 790 feet high and 4,600 feet long; taller and wider than Hoover Dam above the Nass River watershed. The project has been fully permitted since 2014. A recent (Nov. 2021) second extension of the 2014 Environmental Assessment Certificate was granted allowing two years to find a major partner or investor to begin construction of the mine.

Resource: Gold, Copper, Silver

Who: Seabridge Gold (Canadian company)

Niblack Project

What: The Niblack project is an advanced stage exploration project in Southeast Alaska on Prince of Wales Island. The Niblack property consists of 6,200 acres of federal and state mineral claims, 250 acres of patented (private) lands and related mineral exploration permits, equipment and infrastructure. On-site infrastructure includes 3,300 feet of underground development, a water treatment plant and discharge system, a dock and barge camp as well as 1.5 miles of road. The company recently (Feb. 2022) applied for an Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) permit which will include a change from a land application discharge to an outfall with an authorized mixing zone in Niblack anchorage. This permit would authorize a significantly expanded acute mixing zone for ammonia and a chronic mixing zone for copper. In 2009, Alaska DEC allowed Niblack to leave a potentially acid generating rock pile to be left uncovered. The effluent from that pile is now low in pH with high levels of aluminum, copper, and zinc.

Resource: Copper, Silver, Gold, Zinc

Who: Niblack Project LLC is owned by Blackwolf Copper and Gold Ltd, formerly Heatherdale Resources Ltd. (Canadian company)

Palmer Project

What: The Palmer Project is an advanced stage exploration project in Southeast Alaska upstream of the Alaska Native village of Klukwan near Haines. Palmer is a Volcanogenic Massive Sulfide deposit – acid rock drainage is a significant issue. Local community members are concerned that the mine will impact the Klehini river, which joins the Chilkat River at Klukwan, a few miles from the project. The Chilkat Valley is host to a biogeographically unique watershed that transitions between the far north end of the Inside Passage and the Interior. The valley is home to all five Pacific salmon species and the Alaska Chilkat Bald Eagle Preserve, a state park and wildlife refuge and the site of the largest gathering of bald eagles in the world which happens because of a unique late fall and winter salmon run.

Resource: Copper, Zinc, Silver, Gold, Barite

Who: Constantine Metal Resources LTD (Canadian Company) and DOWA Metals & Mining Co., Ltd. (Japanese company)

Pebble Mine Project

What: The Pebble Mine Project is a proposed open-pit mine located in the headwaters of the Kvichak and Nushagak Rivers, two of the eight major rivers that feed Bristol Bay. If built, Pebble would be one of the largest mines in the world which would produce up to 10.2 billion tons of toxic waste that would remain on the site forever. Bristol Bay is home to the world's largest wild sockeye salmon run, a \$2.2 billion annual commercial fishery, and over 15,000 Alaskan jobs. The EPA announced that it would resume work to establish permanent protections for the Bristol Bay watershed and reopen the 404(c) "veto" process. Local Tribes, businesses, and community organizations are asking the EPA to veto Pebble mine before the Summer 2022 fishing season begins.

Resource: Copper, Gold, Molybdenum, Silver

Who: The Pebble Partnership owned by Northern Dynasty Minerals (Canadian company)

Red Dog Operations Expansion

What: Red Dog Operations is one of the world's largest zinc mines, located about 170 kilometers north of the Arctic Circle in northwest Alaska, near Kotzebue. Teck Resources is exploring other deposits in the larger Red Dog District, specifically deposits on adjacent state land about five miles (eight kilometers) northwest of the Red Dog mill, as a likely source of future ore. According to the EPA's annual Toxic Release Inventory, Red Dog Mine released 543,282,317 lbs of toxic chemicals in 2020. The heavy metals lead and cadmium have been found at higher than normal levels in greens and berries gathered by Kivalina residents due to toxic releases from Red Dog Mine.

Resource: Zinc

Who: Teck Resources (Canadian company) is the mine operator and NANA, a Regional for-profit Alaska Native corporation is the land owner.

West Susitna Access Road & Estelle Mine

What: The West Susitna Access Road is a proposed 100-mile plus private gravel industrial road (estimated cost of \$450 million). The route for the proposed road would begin near Port MacKenzie, crossing the Susitna River and traveling through the roadless Yentna watershed, ending at the Whiskey Bravo Airstrip near the Nova Minerals Estelle Gold Claim on State of Alaska public lands west of Rainy Pass (110 miles northwest of Anchorage) in the Eastern Alaska Range. Governor Dunleavy added \$8.5 million for the West Susitna Road Project to the Budget during the 2021 legislative session. This \$8.5 million was accepted by AIDEA for Phase III of the West Susitna Access road in October of 2021. AIDEA is expected to complete pre-development work and advance to the 404 permitting process this summer. Public access has yet to be determined.

Resource: Gold

Who: Nova Minerals (Australian Company) and AIDEA (Invested \$415,000 on Phase I and Phase II so far), Mat-Su Borough (invested \$50,000 for Phase I and \$50,000 for outreach work in 2022), State of Alaska (invested \$8.5 million).

Red Chris Mine

What: The Red Chris Mine is located 18 km south of the town of Iskut or 80 km south of Dease Lake in northwest British Columbia in the Stikine River watershed. The mine has two large open-pits. The tailings pond at the Red Chris mine has a capacity of 305 million cubic meters – seven times more than the Mount Polley tailings dam. The tailings dam is 105 meters high, about the height of a 35-story building. Any failure of the Red Chris impoundment will likely have a much more significant environmental impact than the Mount Polley failure and will impact the Stikine River.

Resource: Copper, Silver, Gold

Who: Imperial Metals (Canadian Company) and Newcrest Mining Limited (Australian Company)

Galore Creek

What: The Galore Creek Project is a massive proposed mine located in northwestern British Columbia, between the Stikine and Iskut Rivers west of Highway 37 which is within Tahltan Traditional Territory and near the communities of Dease Lake, Iskut and Telegraph Creek. It is one of the world's largest undeveloped copper-gold-silver deposits. If put into production as contemplated in the 2011 completed pre-feasibility study, the Galore Creek mine would be the fourth largest copper mine in North America and the largest in Canada. The proposed Galore Creek mine is a source of potential contamination to the Stikine watershed. The proposed mine would impact the Galore, Scud, Scotsimpson, Sphaler, Porcupine, More and Iskut drainages, all of which flow into the Stikine River. The proposed Galore Creek mine will generate about 1.3 billion tons of waste rock and tailings, with roughly half of that waste rock being potentially acid generating.

Resource: Copper, Gold, Silver

Who: Owned by Teck Resources (Canadian company), and Newmont Mining Corporation (Denver, CO), managed by Galore Creek Mining Corporation (GCMC is a Canadian company). Note: Newmont recently (2018) acquired NovaGold's original 50% interests in the project.

Eskay Creek Revitalization

What: The Eskay Creek Revitalization project is located roughly 12 miles north of the Alaska-British Columbia border on the Unuk River across from the KSM proposed project. This project proposes re-opening an historic underground mine as an open-pit project. Eskay was the highest-grade gold mine in the world from 1994 to 2008. The project proposes a total annual production of 2.5 million to 3 million tons over the 13 to 16 year mine life. The Project would use existing facilities and infrastructure of the Eskay Creek underground mine, including adding 50.35 million tons to the Tom MacKay Tailings Storage Facility. The company expects to release a Feasibility Study in 2022.

Resource: Gold, Silver

Who: Skeena Resources (Canadian company) acquired from Barrick Gold (Canadian company) with investment from the Tahltan Central Government

Tulsequah Chief

What: The Tulsequah Chief is an abandoned mine, located 100 km southwest of Atlin, British Columbia on the Tulsequah River about 10 kilometers north of its junction with the Taku River. The mine is located in the traditional territory of the Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN). The mine produced base metals from 1951 to 1957. Since then, the mine has been releasing an estimated 400 million liters of acid rock drainage every year into the Tulsequah river, the largest tributary of the Taku. After several failed attempts to re-develop the mine, in 2016 the current owner was placed into receivership. Working collaboratively with the TRTFN and the State of Alaska, the Government of B.C. released a conceptual closure and reclamation plan for the Tulsequah Chief Mine in August 2020.

Resources: Copper, Lead, Zinc, Silver, Gold

Who: Chieftain Metals (bankrupt)

Pogo

What: The Pogo Mine is an operating underground gold mine. The mine is located 38 miles northeast of Delta Junction, Alaska on land owned by the State of Alaska.

Resource: Gold

Who: Northern Star LLC whose parent company is Northern Star Resources (Australian company) acquired the mine in 2018 from Japan-based Sumitomo Metal Mining Co and Sumitomo Corp

Usibelli

What: The Usibelli coal mine was founded in 1943 and has been in continuous production since then. The strip mine is located in the mountains of the Alaska Range, near the town of Healy, 115 miles south of Fairbanks.

Resource: Coal

Who: Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. (Healy, Alaska)

Wishbone Hill Mine

What: Wishbone Hill Mine, is owned and operated by Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. The Project is a surface coal mining and export development proposal for a bituminous coal resource located in the Matanuska Coal Field of South Central Alaska, approximately 40 miles northeast of Anchorage and 10 miles northeast of Palmer, Alaska, near the Buffalo/Soapstone Community.

Resource: Coal

Who: Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. (Healy, Alaska)

COMMON MINING JARGON

1872 Mining Law: The General Mining Law of 1872 regulates the mining of certain mineral resources on federal public domain lands. The 1872 law declared “all valuable mineral deposits in lands belonging to the United States...to be free and open to exploration and purchase.” It authorized placer and lode mining claims to be located by a procedure that is largely unchanged to this day. The act also requires that not less than \$100 worth of work be performed on each claim per year. Patents may be issued for land containing “valuable deposits” upon expenditures of \$500 worth of work.

404c: Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act authorizes EPA to restrict, prohibit, deny, or withdraw the use of an area as a disposal site for dredged or fill material if the discharge will have unacceptable adverse effects on municipal water supplies, shellfish beds and fishery areas, wildlife, or recreational areas.

Adit: a horizontal passage leading into a mine for the purposes of access or drainage.

Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (APDES) Program:

The National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Program originated under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), which requires that pollutant discharges to surface water be authorized by permit. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) administered the program in Alaska until permitting authority was transferred to the State, through the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) APDES Program, beginning in 2008 and ending in 2012. The APDES Program has five components:

- APDES Permitting, which includes developing, issuing, modifying, and renewing the permits.
- Storm Water Program, which consists of permitting storm water discharges from construction and industrial activities, as well as permitting the storm water collected and discharged by large municipal water systems.
- Compliance and Enforcement, which includes monitoring compliance with permit terms and conditions and taking enforcement action when necessary.
- Federal Facilities, which involves permitting of discharges from federally-owned facilities, such as Department of Defense installations.
- Pretreatment Program, which consists of regulating highly toxic discharges into sewerage systems.

ANILCA Section 810: A section within the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act that outlines the requirements for addressing impacts to subsistence uses of resources in the federal land use decision-making process in Alaska.

APEDS Permits: The Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of pollutants from a point source into the water of the United States unless the discharging facility has a wastewater discharge permit. The permit limits the types and amounts of substances that can be discharged and sets monitoring and reporting requirements and other provisions to ensure that the discharge does not harm water quality or human health.

Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act (DRIPA) Act: Passed by the provincial government of British Columbia, Canada in 2019, the act aims to create a path forward that respects the human rights of Indigenous peoples while introducing better transparency and predictability in the work we do together. It mandates the government to bring provincial laws into harmony with the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It requires the development of an action plan to achieve this alignment over time – providing transparency and accountability.

Rare Earth Elements (REE): Any of a series of metallic elements of which the oxides are classed as rare earths. Specifically: (Neodymium, Cerium, Yttrium, Scandium, Lanthanum, Dysprosium, Praseodymium, Europium, Samarium, Terbium, Gadolinium, Thulium, Erbium, Ytterbium, Holmium, Lutetium, Promethium.

Volcanogenic Massive Sulfide deposit (VMS): A type of metal sulfide ore deposit, mainly copper-zinc which are associated with and created by volcanic-associated hydrothermal events in submarine environments

ACRONYMS

ADF&G: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

ANCSA: Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act

ANILCA: Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act

BLM: Bureau of Land Management

CAA: Clean Air Act

CWA: Clean Water Act

DEC: Department of Environmental Conservation

DNR: Department of Natural Resources

EIS: Environmental Impact Statement,

EA: Environmental Assessment

EPA: Environmental Protection Agency

FEIS: Final Environmental Impact Statement

LIO: Legislative Information Office

NEPA: National Environmental Policy Act

ROD: Record of Decision

SEIS: Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

Thank You and Contact Information

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Notes



*After the conference,
please consider providing
us with feedback by taking
this short survey.*

THANK YOU!



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