

WHAT'S UP

September 1, 2026

Compiled by Peg Tileston on behalf of Trustees for Alaska, The Alaska Center, and The Alaska Conservation Foundation.

****Marks added items in this issue.**

CONFERENCES, WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS, SPECIAL EVENTS

****September 12**

BELUGAS COUNT will be held from 10am to 1pm at multiple viewing stations along the shores of Cook Inlet from Anchorage to Kenai, bring your own binoculars and camera. For more information, go to [Belugas Count website](#)

September 21 (In-person & Live-streamed)

ANCHORAGE An **ALASKA GUBERNATORIAL FORUM on DOMESTIC ENERGY**, moderated by **LORI TOWNSEND**, will be held from 6 to 8pm in the Loussac Library, Wilda Marston Theater. This forum will provide Alaska voters an opportunity to hear directly from the four general election candidates for Governor about their visions for Alaska's energy future and ask them questions about how they aim to get there. [Learn more and reserve your seat here](#) Admission is free, but space is limited. You can learn more about this free event, submit your questions for the candidates, and register now to claim a seat at <https://www.eventcreate.com/e/2026-alaska-gubernatorial-energy-forum>. For those who are unable to attend in-person, the forum will be live-streamed on [Upper One Studios' YouTube channel](#).

September 22 – 24

CORDOVA – The **11th ANNUAL CONFLUENCE SUMMIT** will be held in the Cordova Center. Together, we are building a practical working gathering focused on these two tracks: Meet the people behind programs including the Land and Water Conservation Fund, Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership, Recreational Trails Program and SnowTRAC. Alaska Municipal League will also lead a discussion about recreation and the federal Rural Health Transformation Program. More partners are in the wings. Every attendee will receive a summary of our nine-session Regenerative Outdoor Visioning series before Confluence, so we can arrive ready to build on the ideas already planted. Don't expect lectures and keynotes; do expect meaningful conversations and connections where your voice helps shape ideas into action. Registration opens soon. Meanwhile, check out the [draft agenda](#).

September 24

ANCHORAGE – The **ANNUAL ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION CONSERVATION ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS EVENT** will be held at the Anchorage Museum from 6 to 9pm. At the event ACF honors conservation heroes who have and are doing

incredible work to keep Alaska and her people the state we love so much. Learn about the [2026 recipients here](#) and [purchase tickets to attend here](#).

****October 3**

PORTAGE – RUTS for DINNER will be held at the **ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER**. Your evening includes: * A gourmet dinner worth migrating for. Crafted with locally inspired dishes including like tender meat, fresh fish, berries, greens, and foraged flavors; * Up-close encounters with some of AWCC's wildest personalities (both animal and human); * Lessons in wildlife courtship that would make a porcupine blush; * Auction items so good, even a fox would bid; * Round-trip transportation from midtown Anchorage to AWCC; ensuring a seamless, scenic, and safe journey. This evening isn't for the cubs—it's cheeky, a little provocative, and strictly 21+. Hosted in partnership with [Salmon Berry Travel & Tours](#), The Velvet Antler transforms the breathtaking drive along Turnagain Arm into part of the celebration. Relax aboard a luxury motorcoach as you sip champagne, enjoy delicious hors d'oeuvres, listen to live acoustic music, and hear stories from an AWCC naturalist while traveling through one of Alaska's most spectacular landscapes. You'll get preferred seating at the event, wine at your table, and a few special surprises. **Secure Your Ticket(s) HERE.**

October 16 – 18

FAIRBANKS - The 9th SESQUIANNUAL ALASKA FOOD FESTIVAL and CONFERENCE, will be held at the Westmark Hotel. For this conference, the [Alaska Food Policy Council](#) is proud to collaborate with two amazing partners: [Native Movement](#), an Alaska-based Indigenous-led nonprofit that organizes grassroots advocacy, education, and movement-building around Indigenous rights, environmental justice, food sovereignty, and community-led social change, and [North American Traditional Indigenous Food Systems \(NĀTIFS\)](#), a Native-led nonprofit promoting Indigenous foodways education, food access, and food sovereignty through culinary training, resources, and community-based food systems work. Our theme this year is "Cultivating Community, Harvesting Hope." **Register now!** [Purchase your tickets here](#). Interested in participating in the conference as a speaker? For more information, go to <https://www.akfoodpolicycouncil.org/conference/>

October 26 & 27

ANCHORAGE – The 2nd COOK INLET WATER QUALITY SUMMIT will be held at the BP Energy Center. This free, two-day event will feature presentations and panel discussions on Cook Inlet water quality, biodiversity, research, regulations, policy, and opportunities for collaboration. Hosted by Alaska Wildlife Alliance, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Investigation Agency, Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, and the Tikhatnu Intertribal Fish Commission, the summit brings together researchers, agencies, Tribes, nonprofits, and community members to share information and address water quality issues affecting Alaska's most populated watershed. Space is limited. To register as a participant or presenter, please visit www.akwildlife.org/cook-inlet.

November 5 – 9

SITKA- WHALEFEST hosted by the **Sitka Sound Science Center**, the Sitka WhaleFest brings together scientists, educators, artists, conservation leaders, and community members to explore marine ecosystems, ocean conservation, and coastal culture through public presentations, wildlife experiences, educational programming, and community events focused on the North Pacific environment. For more information, go to [Event Link](#).

December 8 – 10

ANCHORAGE – The **21ST ALASKA BIRD CONFERENCE** will be held at the Marriott Anchorage Downtown. The theme for the conference is **NEXT STEPS for BIRDS**. This year's theme focuses on the major changes affecting bird populations and the ways we monitor them, emphasizing both the challenges and opportunities ahead. The conference sessions will explore three key areas: 1) Tracking the distribution and abundance of birds in Alaska, 2) Conserving Alaska's long-distance migrants in the Neotropics, and 3) Changes in funding and focus. The conference welcomes participation from students, Indigenous knowledge holders, scientists, and the public. **The deadline for the call for abstracts is October 1.** For the conference website, go to <https://alaskabirdconference.org/>.

January 25 - 29

ANCHORAGE – The **2027 ALASKA MARINE SCIENCE SYMPOSIUM** brings together scientists, educators, resource managers, students, and members of the public to discuss current marine research in Alaskan waters. More than 700 participants typically attend, with programming that includes keynote presentations, scientific sessions, workshops, and poster presentations covering marine ecosystems, fisheries, ocean conditions, and other research relevant to Alaska and the Arctic. [Event Link](#).

PUBLIC HEARINGS/MEETINGS/OPEN HOUSE

September 15, 16, 21

Public Open House meetings will be held on the **SOUTHEAST ALASKA TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE** to share the draft Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SEATP) Update and gather public feedback. in the following locations:

September 15 - SITKA from 5 to 7pm in the Harrigan Centennial Hall, Room 1

September 16 – JUNEAU from 5 to 7pm in the Mendenhall Valley Public Library, Large Meeting Room

September 21 - VIRTUAL OPEN HOUSE via Zoom from 11:30am to 1pm at www.SoutheastAlaskaTransportationPlan.com.

DOT&PF is updating the SEATP to guide transportation improvements over the next 20 years.: Considers both intercommunity travel and local transportation needs; Addresses all modes of transportation, including roads, ferries, airports, trails, and marine facilities; Identifies regional priorities and potential projects to meet those needs; and Helps inform the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Aviation Improvement Program (AIP). Join us to view the draft Plan Update, meet the project team, ask questions, and share your

feedback. The meetings will follow an open house format, allowing attendees to drop in at any time during the scheduled hours. Meeting materials will be available on the project website beginning September 15. Submit comments to SEATP@dowl.com. For more information, go to www.SoutheastAlaskaTransportationPlan.com. Contact the project management team at SEATP@dowl.com or call [Public Involvement](tel:9075622000) or call (907) 562-2000.

September 15 – October 29

The **Federal Subsistence Regional Advisory Councils** will meet at the following locations:

September 15 – 16 - UNALASKA – Kodiak/Aleutians Council

September 24 – 25 – KOTZEBUE – Northwest Arctic Council

September 28 – 29 – ANCHORAGE – Southcentral Council

October 1 – 2 – UTQIAĠVIK – North Slope Council

October 6 – 7 – FAIRBANKS – Western Interior Council

October 13 – 15 – FORT YUKON – Eastern Interior Council

October 14 - 16 – NOME – Seward Peninsula Council

October 20 – 22 – GUSTAVUS – Southeast Alaska Council

October 27–29 – BETHEL- Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council

October 28 – 29 – DILLINGHAM – Bristol Bay Subsistence Council

Individual teleconference numbers and passcodes, meeting times, and venues will be provided on meeting agendas when distributed as well as posted together with all meeting materials approximately two weeks prior to each meeting and may be found at <https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions>. You may also request to have the documents mailed (USPS) or emailed to you by sending your request to subsistence@ios.doi.gov or calling (800) 478-1456.

September 21

ANCHORAGE - The **ALASKA HISTORICAL COMMISSION FALL 2026 MEETING** will be held from 9:30am to 12:30pm at the Office of History and Archaeology to receive an update on America250-Alaska, deliberate on several resolutions recognizing distinguished individuals, and hear comments from commission members. The Commission will also review action items and confirm details for its next meeting prior to adjournment. For more information, please see the attached draft agenda. To see the full agenda, go to [DraftAgenda_AHC_2026Sep21.pdf](#). For more information, call 907-269-8700 or email dnr.oha@alaska.gov,

September 22 & 23

ANCHORAGE - A public meeting and virtual public meeting will be held on **SAFER SEWARD HIGHWAY** to present the process followed in determining the purpose and need statement, the concepts considered, and next steps in the environmental process. This meeting will explain the many ideas considered to date, analysis done, and the specifics of the proposed engineering design details and invite the public to provide feedback.

September 22 – Public Meeting will be held from 5 to 7pm, in the Loussac Library, Learning Commons. There will be a presentation at 5:30 p.m., followed by Q&A. Snacks will be provided.

September 23 - VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETING will be held from 5 to 7pm with a presentation starting at 5pm. The same information from the public meeting will also be presented virtually. The State is specifically asking for ideas to improve administration of the program, reduce unnecessary administrative burdens, and inform possible future regulatory changes. No regulations are currently being proposed. This is an early, pre-notice scoping process, meaning the public has an opportunity to help shape what the State considers before any formal regulatory proposal is written. The meeting will include an overview of the program, governing statutes and regulations, the administrative process and an opportunity for public comment.

To learn more or comment go to 907-802-3656, info@safersewardhighway.com
<https://safersewardhighway.com>, <https://linktr.ee/saferseward>.

****September 24 (Virtual Public Meeting)**

Public meeting will be held via Zoom from 10am to Noon on the **NPR-A IMPACT MITIGATION PROGRAM** that helps North Slope communities address impacts from oil and gas development and this early stage gives communities an opportunity to influence the process before any new regulations are proposed. The existing program recognizes impacts beyond roads and physical infrastructure, including subsistence, fish and wildlife habitat, air and water quality, social and cultural values, municipal finances, and essential community services. The meeting will include an overview of the program, applicable statutes and regulations, the administrative timeline and process, and an opportunity for public comment. For more information, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/jc/81794960646>. **Written comments will be accepted through October 8.** Submit comments to ced.grants@alaska.gov.

September 29, 30, October 1

ALASKA SUBSISTENCE HEARINGS on the PROPOSED 2001 ROADLESS RULE will be held by the Forest Service in the following dates & locations:

September 29 – KETCHIKAN from 5 to 7pm at the Southeast Alaska Discovery Center

September 30 - ON-LINE& CALL-IN from 11am to 1pm. online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/r10> and via call-in at: 202-650-0123, Passcode: 844934670#

October 1 – ANCHORAGE from 5 to 7pm at the Loussac Library.

The Forest Service will take oral testimony at each hearing, and that testimony will be included in the record considered for the final rule and its supporting environmental analysis. The agency will not accept written comments at the hearings. Written comments on the proposed rule and draft environmental impact statement are being accepted separately until September 21. For more information, go to the Forest Service Roadless webpage at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/managing-land/planning/roadless>.

October 5 – 13

ANCHORAGE - The **NORTH PACIFIC FISHERY MANAGEMENT COUNCIL** will meet in person at the Egan Center to discuss crab and groundfish harvest specifications, the 2027 observer deployment plan, and other management issues. The [eAgenda, schedule, and](#)

[pre-meeting review documents](#) are now available. The comment period will open in early to mid-September, and the deadline for written comments is **October 2**.

WEBINARS & VIRTUAL

September 9 (Webinar)

VAWS – SCALING NORTH AMERICA’S HIGHEST PEAK: INSIDE the DENALI CLIMBING FORECAST will be presented from 11 to Noon with EVAN KUTTA, NWS Science and Operations Officer, and **JASON LANEY**, NWS Warning Coordination Meteorologist. Imagine forecasting weather for a place where a single mistake can mean the difference between an unforgettable triumph and an absolute tragedy. Rising 20,310 feet into the subarctic sky, Denali stands as North America’s ultimate mountaineering test, drawing roughly 1,000 to 1,200 ambitious climbers to its slopes every single year. Yet, the mountain is unforgiving: only about 52% of those who attempt the summit ever stand at the top, and in particularly brutal seasons—like the tragic summer of 1992 when 11 climbers perished—Denali serves as a stark reminder of the ultimate stakes involved. This presentation pulls back the curtain on the high-stakes world of the National Weather Service (NWS) Fairbanks Denali Climbing Forecast. Discover the immense scientific and logistical challenges of predicting extreme weather for a massive, remote peak where traditional data is nearly non-existent, forcing meteorologists to rely on a sparse network of automated weather stations, satellite soundings, and real-time ranger dispatches. You will also learn how this lifesaving data is distilled into clear, non-technical updates and transmitted to the mountain via satellite phones, public radio, and hand-written whiteboards at isolated high-altitude camps. Join us to explore how a dedicated team of NWS Fairbanks forecasters acts as a critical lifeline, mapping out precious “weather windows” that allow climbers to conquer the peak safely and return home. [Register Here.](#)

**September 10 (Webinar)

WINTER RAIN in INTERIOR ALASKA: LOCAL IMPACTS and PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS will be presented from 11 to Noon by **ELEANOR GREENBAUM**, ACCAP Policy Fellow. As winter rain becomes more frequent in Alaska’s Interior, communities must understand the risks associated with these events and remain prepared. This ACCAP webinar will explore takeaways from various entities across several sectors who have been impacted by the hazard, ranging from infrastructure maintenance to hazard mitigation planning. We’ll discuss key concerns, highlight the impacts of the December 2021 “Icemageddon” event in the Fairbanks area, and explore options for direct response and long-term planning for winter rain events. [Register for Webinar.](#)

**September 18 (Webinar)

SEPTEMBER ACCAP ALASKA CLIMATE OUTLOOK BRIEFING will be held at Noon with **RICK THOMAN**, Alaska Center for Climate Assessment and Preparedness. During this month’s Climate Outlook Briefing, Rick will review recent and current climate conditions around Alaska, discuss forecasting tools and the strong El Niño now underway, and finish up with the Climate Prediction Center’s forecast for October and the upcoming winter. Join us online to see how

recent conditions are shaping Alaska's seasonal outlook and what may lie ahead in the months to come. [Register for the webinar.](#)

September 22 (Webinar)

THE HIDDEN ENVIRONMENTAL and HEALTH THREATS of AI: DATA CENTERS and ALASKA'S FUTURE will be held at 10am with **LENNY SIEGEL** and **KRYSTAL LAPP**. Explore what data center development could mean for Alaska's energy systems, natural resources, communities, and public health, and what Alaskans need to know as these projects move forward. RSVP at akaction.org/webinars/2026-9-22/.

EVENTS & MEETINGS in the ANCHORAGE AREA

September 9

WASTE to ENERGY: TALKING TRASH will be held in the following locations:

September 9 – CHUGIAK at 7pm at the Beach Lake Ski Chalet

September 9 – EAGLE RIVER at 6:39pm at the Alpenglows Elementary School

****September 11 (In-person & virtual)**

REPLACING WEEDS with WILDFLOWERS, BIRD VETCH, and RAMPION BELLFLOWER will be presented at the Wildflower Gardening Club of Alaska by **GINO GRAZIANO**, faculty member UAF, Institute of Agriculture Natural Resources & Extension, from 10:30 to 11:30am at the Central Lutheran Church, [1420 Cordova Street](#) or via Zoom (Email akwildflowers@gmail.com for details). Diverse flowers and wildflowers create better habitat for pollinators which provides benefits local flora and fauna. We will discuss pollinators and wildflowers that are more attractive to diverse insects than bird vetch. Then we will discuss strategies for controlling bird vetch and rampion bellflower when the goal is to maintain a diverse wildflower garden.

****September 15 (In-person & virtual)**

FROM KODIAK to the ALEUTIANS, RESEARCHING EMPEROR GEESSE at the EDGES of THEIR WINTER RANGE will be presented at a watch party by [Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges](#) in the REI, Community Room presented by **ROBYN THOMAS**, wildlife biologist remotely from the Morris Thompson Visitor Center in Fairbanks. Come hear about these elegant, uniquely Alaskan birds as Robyn shares what she discovered about Emperors on their winter range. Although much research had been done on their nesting grounds on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, almost nothing was known about what happens in winter. Unlike other geese species nesting in Alaska, these birds also winter in Alaska and are found only in the Bering Sea region. The hope is that winter research would shed more light on the wild population fluctuations this species has endured. Winter research on Alaska's Coast is tough. Come hear her stories and learn what she found out or ZOOM from wherever you are with the link and recording to be posted at <https://alaskarefugefriends.org/emperor-geese/>.

****September 16**

ALASKA'S MUSHROOMS ID WORKSHOP will be held from 7 to 9pm at the Campbell Creek Science Center. If you are curious about how to find and identify mushrooms in the Anchorage area, join us for a walk with mycologist **CHRISTIN SWEARINGEN**. We will collect, identify, and learn about mushrooms. Bring a basket if you have one and any mushrooms from your backyard you want to know more about. Space is limited and registration is required. Cost: \$30. A \$5 cancellation fee applies to all cancellations; no refunds given to cancellations requested within 2 business days of the workshop. We will be walking on forest trails and uneven ground for approximately 30 minutes. The class takes place rain or shine; please prepare accordingly. Registration <https://bit.ly/FungiSept16>.

****September 17**

WHAT IS DRIVING the POPULATION TRENDS of ALASKA BREEDING BIRDS will be presented at 6 pm by **Dr. MEGAN MILLIGAN**, Alaska Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Research Unit at UAF at the Anchorage Audubon Society meeting. Megan is a wildlife biologist and has worked with birds across western North America and internationally, in Kenya, New Zealand, and Australia. She currently studies a variety of topics across Alaska and elsewhere on birds and large mammals. Megan will share photos and stories of the wild places she has worked, give an update on how she is learning about what may be causing changes in Alaska bird populations, and discuss how this information is being used. We will also share some general updates, have a raffle for cool prizes, and of course, there will be cookies!

September 19

PAINT the VIEW: PLEIN AIR PAINTING with artist **DON KOLSTAD** at Bird Treatment and Learning Center, 15510 Old Seward Hwy., at 10am (class lasts up to three hours). Capture the view of Potter Marsh and Cook Inlet in this Plein Air painting class! This class is good for beginning and advanced painters. Students will need to bring their own materials. \$25 per student. [Save your spot here!](#) For more information, go [to https://givebutter.com/pleinair2026](https://givebutter.com/pleinair2026).

EVENTS & MEETINGS OUTSIDE of ANCHORAGE

****September 15 (In-person & virtual)**

FAIRBANKS - FROM KODIAK to the ALEUTIANS, RESEARCHING EMPEROR GEESE at the EDGES of THEIR WINTER RANGE by **ROBIN THOMAS**, wildlife biologist, at the Morris Thompson Cultural Center by the [Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges](#) at 5p.m. Hear about these elegant, uniquely Alaskan birds as Robyn shares with us what she discovered about Emperors on their winter range. Although much research had been done on their nesting grounds on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, almost nothing was known about what happens in winter. Unlike other geese species nesting in Alaska, these birds also winter in Alaska and are found only in the Bering Sea region. The hope is that winter research would shed more light on the wild population fluctuations this species has endured. Winter research on Alaska's Coast is tough. Come hear her stories and learn what she found out. Or ZOOM from wherever you are with the link and recording to be posted at <https://alaskarefugefriends.org/emperor-geese/>. Light refreshments will be available.

****September 15 (In-person & virtual)**

HOMER/SOLDOTNA - FROM KODIAK to the ALEUTIANS, RESEARCHING EMPEROR GEESE at the EDGES of THEIR WINTER RANGE will be presented by **ROBYN THOMAS**, wildlife biologist, at 5pm in **Soldotna** at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and in **Homer** at the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge by the y the [Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges](#). Hear about these elegant, uniquely Alaskan birds as Robyn shares with us what she discovered about Emperors on their winter range. Although much research had been done on their nesting grounds on the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, almost nothing was known about what happens in winter. Unlike other geese species nesting in Alaska, these birds also winter in Alaska and are found only in the Bering Sea region. The hope is that winter research would shed more light on the wild population fluctuations this species has endured. Winter research on Alaska's Coast is tough. Come hear her stories and learn what she found out. ZOOM from wherever you are with the link and recording to be posted at <https://alaskarefugefriends.org/emperor-geese/>.

****September 15 -16**

UNALASKA - The KODIAK/ALEUTIANS SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL will meet at the public library in Unalaska beginning at 9am each day. The Council will develop recommendations on proposals to change federal subsistence fisheries regulations and fisheries closures, and discuss other issues related to subsistence in the Kodiak/Aleutians Region, including 2028 Fisheries Resource Monitoring Program Priority Information Needs.

The public is encouraged to attend and participate in this meeting, and will have a chance to share their thoughts on current fisheries proposals and closures in the region, found at https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/fisheries/2027-2029_Proposals_and_Closure_Reviews. To join the meeting via Microsoft Teams go to [Click Here To Join The Meeting](#). All meeting materials are available at https://www.doi.gov/subsistence/regions/ka_materials.

DEADLINES

****September 7**

Deadline for **SUBMISSION of PERSONAL STORIES** or to nominate a storyteller for the **SHAPED by WILDLIFE**, a live community storytelling event hosted by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game in collaboration with Arctic Entries. ADF&G invites community members, hunters, gatherers, conservationists, and everyday nature lovers to share personal, true stories about interactions with wildlife that have shaped their lives. Selected storytellers will have an opportunity to polish their seven-minute stories with coaches from the Arctic Entries team and share them before a live audience at the beautiful Glenn Massay Theater in Palmer 13th. See the [Full event details on Facebook](#). For more information, contact Burl Dickman at burl.dickman@alaska.gov or call 907-861-2113.

****September 10**

Deadline for scoping comments for the **TRANS ALASKA PIPELINE SYSTEM** is a request for a 30-year renewal of the system's right-of-way. This begins the environmental review process needed to unlock decades more of safe transport of oil through the 800-mile pipeline. This action comes in response to a 30-year right-of-way renewal application from Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, which operates the pipeline on behalf of its three owner companies: Harvest Alaska, LLC; ConocoPhillips Transportation Alaska Inc.; and ExxonMobil Pipeline Company LLC. The Trans Alaska Pipeline System was first authorized in 1974 and constructed between 1974 and 1977. Since construction, pipeline transported over 19 billion barrels of oil from Alaska's North Slope to in-state refineries and the Valdez Marine Terminal. In 2025, the Trans Alaska Pipeline System transported an average of 463,000 billion barrels per day. For more information on this project and how to comment, go to [BLM National NEPA Register](#).

September 14 (Extended)

Deadline for comments on the **PROPOSED LAND TRANSFER to the ALASKA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT and EXPORT AUTHORITY (AIDEA)** for approximately 20,000 acres of State-owned land near Houston. The proposed purpose is to create a multi-use industrial and energy development district. To obtain a copy of the Preliminary Decision, Amendment to the Southeast Susitna Area Plan, Land Classification Order, Mineral Order, or instructions on submitting comment, go to <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/> The process for submitting comments is included on the public notice for the preliminary decision posted at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=224879>. For more information, contact Dan Jenkins at (907) 269-8609 or dmlwprogramsupport@alaska.gov. Also go to [AIDEA_.810_Application_Complete_R.pdf](#); [Houston Industrial Park .810 Decision_PD.pdf](#); [Vicinity Map - ADL 234762.jpg](#).

September 17

Comments are due on the **Notice to Begin Engineering and Environmental Studies** for the **DENALI HIGHWAY MP 117.8 REVETMENT**. DOT&PF is soliciting comments on the proposed installation of a riprap revetment along the Denali Highway near Mile point 117.8 (Mile post 118.4) and the Nenana River to prevent further erosion. The proposed project activities include riprap placement, riverbank restoration, and vegetation clearing and grubbing. The Panorama Mountain near MP 216.5 on the Parks Highway and MP 118 Pit on the Denali Highway material sites will be made available for construction of this project. We are currently working on conceptual designs, engineering, and environmental studies. Construction is currently planned for spring 2027. DOT&PF requests information and comments on resources in the project area that may be affected including historic properties, archaeological sites, wetlands, and floodplains. For more information or to submit comments contact David Fischer, Engineering Manager: at (907) 451-5357 or email david.fischer@alaska.gov.

September 21

Deadline for comments on the proposed rule to **RESCIND in its ENTIRETY the NATIONAL 2001 ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE**, U.S. Forest Service seeks public comment on the proposal and on a draft of the environmental impact statement filed in the Federal Register. The rescission removes national designation of roadless areas but does not mandate

timber cutting or road construction. To comment on the proposed rule and draft environmental impact statement, go to [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). More information is available at the Forest Service [Roadless Areas webpage](#).

October 5

HEALY – Comments are due on the proposed **FIVE-YEAR RENEWAL OF USIBELLI COAL MINE'S TWO BULL RIDGE SURFACE COAL MINING PERMIT** that covers approximately 2,522 acres northeast of Healy in the Hoseanna (Lignite) Creek area. Because the mine is located in the Hoseanna/Lignite Creek watershed, the renewal raises important questions about long-term and cumulative impacts to water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, public infrastructure, and nearby communities. DNR is currently reviewing whether the application meets the technical requirements of Alaska's surface coal mining law. Comments can be emailed to coalprogram@alaska.gov with the subject line "2026 Two Bull Ridge Mine Renewal." Read the public notice and supporting documents at <https://aws.state.ak.us/OnlinePublicNotices/Notices/View.aspx?id=224778>.

GRANTS/AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS/CONTESTS/RFP

October 16

Deadline for applications for a NOAA jointly funded for the **BRENNAN OCEAN MAPPING FUND**. Register at <https://vimeo.com/event/5912341>. Selected non-Federal partners benefit by leveraging NOAA's contracting and data management expertise.

October 30

Deadline for application for the **MULTI-USE TRAILS APPLICATIONS FOR FY2027 RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM CALL for PROJECTS** from the AK Dept. of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF). This notice applies only to the Multi-Use Trails Program, a competitive, reimbursable matching-grant program supporting eligible recreational trail maintenance and development, trail-related facilities, and trail safety and education projects. The Multi-Use Trails Program may reimburse up to 90 percent of eligible project costs. Award recipients are responsible for providing the remaining 10 percent as eligible non-federal match. Eligible applicants include nonprofit organizations, educational institutions, state agencies, local governments, federal agencies, Native corporations, and Tribal governments. Program information and a link to the application are available on [the Multi-Use Trails Program - Alaska DOT&PF](#).

October 31

Deadline for applications for the **LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND GRANTS** from the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation (DPOR) for development or enhancement of facilities related to public outdoor recreation. Eligible applications include state, regional or local governments (cities, boroughs, or tribal entities) that have the legal authority to provide park and recreation services on public lands. The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program provides up to 50 percent matching assistance for the cost of a project. DPOR anticipates \$1.5 million may be awarded to eligible Alaska projects. Grant requests are limited to

\$25,000 minimum and \$250,000 maximum in LWCF federal share. The total project cost must be at least \$50,000 to justify a \$25,000 grant request. Submit your application at [LWCF Grant Applicant Resources](#).

The ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION is REBRANDING THEIR DISCOVERY GRANTS PROGRAM to ALPENGLOW GRANTS (up to \$2000). Along with the new name, several improvements designed to make the program more accessible and useful across our network have been made. The Alpenglw Grant program will help foster a more effective Alaska conservation movement by helping support opportunities that strengthen the movement's leadership base, encourage collaboration, and help leaders, organizations, and Tribes navigate changing political and economic climates. Major changes in the grantmaking program rebrand include; * Removed organizational budget constraints; * Shortened and simplified the application and reporting requirements; * Shifted the decision-making time period to a rolling basis; and * Added the ability to use up to 15% of the grant for administrative fees. The grant program will now support training opportunities, meeting facilitation, legal assistance, travel, conference fees, outreach, and advocacy efforts. For more information, contact grants@alaskaconservation.org.

ITEMS of INTEREST

The WATER QUALITY ATLAS, published online by the AK Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC is a mapping application that provides the public an opportunity to explore the health of Alaska's waters, developed to make water quality information more easily accessible. Because many remote areas of Alaska lack on-site monitoring data, ADEC developed a model from statewide spatial datasets to predict watershed health. The Atlas also includes a map of waterbodies assessed against water quality standards, a map of locations where monitoring has occurred, and options for users to download associated data. Utilizing these maps, datasets, and modeled outputs, the Water Quality Atlas provides a more complete picture of water quality conditions across Alaska. For more information, contact jenny.petitt@alaska.gov.

IMPACTS of MINING on the MENTAL HEALTH of INDIVIDUALS in INTERIOR ALASKA is a newly [published study](#) from the University of Alaska Anchorage examines an often-overlooked impact of large-scale mining and the mental health of people who live nearby. Researchers interviewed 19 residents of Fairbanks, Delta Junction, Tok, and the Native Village of Dot Lake, many of whom had lived in their communities for decades. The study identified four recurring themes: environmental change, distrust of mining companies and government systems, economic and infrastructure tradeoffs, and negative mental health impacts. Participants reported experiences including stress, anxiety, frustration, hopelessness, fear, sleep disruption, and worry about the future. Nearly all participants described their connection to the land and access to outdoor recreation as central to why they live in Interior Alaska. The authors conclude that mental health should be considered alongside environmental and economic impacts when evaluating mining projects and recommend stronger community consultation, greater

transparency, and mental health impact assessments as part of mine permitting and land-management decisions.

The **ALASKA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION** announces the establishment of the **BART KOEHLER RAPID RESPONSE FUND**, a living tribute to a master strategist, a relentless community organizer, and a giant of the conservation movement. The Bart Koehler Rapid Response Fund will provide targeted grants through ACF's existing Rapid Response Grant Program to frontline organizations for unforeseen opportunities or threats to the conservation landscape. For more information, go to <https://alaskaconservation.org/2026/07/alaska-conservation-foundation-launches-bart-koeehler-rapid-response-fund-to-celebrate-a-lifetime-of-wildlands-organizing/>.

ANCHORAGE - Register for the **6th ANNUAL MOOSE LOOP TRAIL CHALLENGE** to be held **September 12 to 19**. This is a community challenge to walk, run, or bike the amazing Anchorage 32-mile Moose Loop trail system that loop around the city before the snow flies. This family-friendly event is a fundraiser for the Anchorage Park Foundation. Register today and spend the summer exploring local trails, building up your Moose Loop miles, and getting ready for a fun week of adventure this fall. Bike, walk, or run a 5K, 10K, Mini Moose or mighty Moose (51.5K) [Register](#).

RESEARCHER WOULD LIKE HELP with a research project that will look at public use cabin logbooks and entries from specific dates to gather information around how people are using third-spaces unprompted to talk about things happening in the world. With an aim to better understand the operations and activities regarding continued access to public use cabins during the pandemic. If you are staying at any public use cabins this summer and would be interested in helping to collect data (taking photographs of the logbooks) please fill out the following form: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfLV2JYm730vXvWPwNwEyCyrP4rY7O9UaFdZSA8_jtjeWfBUg/viewform?usp=sharing&oid=112790346030263055437.

FELLOWSHIPS/INTERSHIPS

October 5

Deadline for applications for the **CORNELL K. LISA YANG CENTER for WILDLIFE HEALTH FELLOWS PROGRAM 2026-27**. For this cycle: applicants with at least a DVM or equivalent veterinary degree who have been out of veterinary school for at least one year at the time of application will be given preference. Applicants without a veterinary degree but with a PhD conferred prior to the fellowship start date are also encouraged to apply. Fellowship description: We are committed to training the next generation of wildlife conservation and One Health leaders with an emphasis on applying sound science to influence real world policy and practice, from local to global, through the support of postdoctoral fellowships focused on wildlife health and related One Health challenges over the next decade. For more information, go to <https://academicjobsonline.org/ajo/jobs/32044>.

NATURALIST FELLOWSHIP for the **ALASKA WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER (AWCC)** at **Portage** provides a unique opportunity for individuals seeking a temporary, full-time volunteer experience at the AWCC. With a minimum commitment requirement of two months, working a minimum of 32 hours per week, participants are given the short term and rigorous opportunity to live on site, join our team, learn about AWCC operations, and gain valuable career skills. These dedicated volunteers are interested in learning about our organization, mission, and wildlife and desire to share their knowledge with others. Fellowship candidates may secure funding through their university, a grant, scholarship, or similar and work as sponsored volunteers. While preference is given to applicants being sponsored for a fellowship, we will accept volunteer applications without sponsorship. Applicants should indicate their sponsorship status in the Fellowship application form and will be considered on a case-by-case basis. While applicants can indicate departmental preference in their application, participants will have duties in both our Education and Animal Care departments, with tasks such as presenting daily talks and tours, assisting with school programs, preparing animal diets, and cleaning habitats. Tasks in this program are given on a scale of earned responsibility, starting with a training and orientation that includes learning about the animals in our care and shadowing staff. Apply here <https://awcc.bamboohr.com/careers/31>.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

September 26 – Help with the **SUNNYSIDE FLAT TOP TRAIL TUNE UP** with **ALASKA TRAILS**. In addition to making the trail safer and more pleasant, volunteer events bring together people who want to make a difference in Chugach State Park.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

****DEVELOPMENT and GRANTS MANAGER** for **SEE STORIES**, an Alaskan non-profit organization whose mission is to build inclusive communities with film and story. See Stories works to ensure that diverse Alaskans and youth are given the media skills to craft stories representing the Alaska they know. We lead documentary film and podcast workshops for teens, empower teachers to lead multimedia projects in their classrooms, and share student-produced media with the public to foster a more inclusive Alaskan story and community. To see the full position description, go to <https://seestories.org/news/2026/08/21/jobs/>. To apply and for more information, contact Seth Bader & Marie Acemah at seth@seestories.org and marie@seestories.org. For more information, contact Seth Bader & Marie Acemah.

Applications will be accepted through September 30.

ALASKA STATE PARKS HAS SEASONAL JOBS for **ALASKANS THROUGH the ALASKA CONSERVATION CORPS (ACC)**. Tasks will vary and may include trail work, maintenance, fee station, or office work. ACC workers work a 20 - 40-hour week. To apply, fill out the application and return it to the park office(s) of your choice (addresses listed below). To see current positions available, go to <https://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/misc/accinstr.htm#interp>.

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT for SEACC (Southeast Alaska Conservation Council) to assist in SEACC's daily administrative work. This is a part-time (20 hour per week) non-exempt position. This role will report directly to the Operations Director and will assist with the day-to-day administrative operations of SEACC. See full job posting at www.seacc.org/hiring_

CO-EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT for COOK INLETKEEPER to work closely with the Co-Executive Director of Operations to guide the organization at the intersection of conservation, advocacy, and science. \$65,000–\$75,000 DOE, plus generous PTO, 18 paid holidays, sick leave, healthcare benefits (ICHR for a Premier Gold 1500 plan), communications reimbursements, and retirement benefits with employer match. [Co-Executive Director of Development job description](#). For full position description and application information, go to <https://inletkeeper.org/we-are-hiring-co-executive-director-development/>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR for the KENAI WATERSHED FORUM to serve as the organization's Chief Executive Officer and chief development officer, providing visionary leadership to advance the mission, financial sustainability, and long-term success of the Kenai Watershed Forum. Additional information regarding the Kenai Watershed Forum and a complete position description may be found at www.kenaiwatershed.org. For more information, contact KWFHiringCommittee@kenaiwatershed.org.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR for the PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND STEWARDSHIP FOUNDATION to plan and direct PWSSF's operations and projects, including the PWS Natural History Symposium and hands-on stewardship projects. To see the full position description, go to <https://www.princewilliamsound.org/job-opportunities>.

EDUCATOR for the ALASKA ZOO in Anchorage to connect visitors and listeners of all ages with wildlife and conservation. They develop and deliver tours, community outreaches, on-site animal presentations, and homeschool programs. In partnership with the Alaska Zoo Husbandry Team, this position is responsible for coordinating and delivering Outreach Education Programs, including participation in weekly animal training sessions, development of educational content, and presentation of engaging programs featuring ambassador animals. Educators collaborate closely with the husbandry team to develop accurate programs for the public. For full position description and application information, go to focussolutions.us/Careers/UserPortal/job-description.aspx?enc=SmVzqKkk3RY85szUn3vt2FnAV6WS87juBR5Kw6MwpKfPLFGGrGCtE9kWGvQe2GCVugj2n6JwLm0+gm4BfmpoDg==.

STAFF ATTORNEY for TRUSTEES for ALASKA located in **Anchorage** to help protect a wild and vibrant Alaska where fish, wildlife, and people thrive. The Staff Attorney candidate must have at least 4 years of legal experience overall. Ideal candidates would have at least 2 years of experience working in environmental law, including litigation, as well as experience working on Alaska-specific issues. All candidates should have a proven ability to foster coordination and cooperation among diverse groups to achieve goals. To see the full position description, go to https://trustees.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/07/2026-07-15_StaffAttorneyAnnouncementFinal.pdf. To apply, E-mail cover letter, resume, and writing sample to Lang Van Dommelen at

lvandommelen@trustees.org, with “Staff Attorney Application” in the subject line. Applicants offered an interview will be asked to provide references at that time.

ADMINISTRATIVE & DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANT for the **NORTHERN ALASKA ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER (NAEC)** in **Fairbanks**. This is a 32-hour-per-week position, Monday through Thursday, with pay ranging from \$20–\$25 per hour and benefits including paid leave, holidays, a healthcare stipend, and Fridays off. To apply, email your resume to klapp@northern.org by **August 10**. Interviews will begin August 12. To see a full position description, go to <https://northern.org/news/now-hiring-administrative-development-assistant/>. Email your resume to klapp@northern.org.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZER. For **SEACC (Southeast Alaska Conservation Council)** to advance campaigns by strengthening our outreach and relationships throughout Southeast Alaska. This role is responsible for public outreach and engagement, relationship building, planning and supporting community events, and driving Alaskans to take action on SEACC’s campaigns to protect Southeast Alaska’s air, lands, and waters. To see full position description, go to <https://seacc.org/about/hiring/>

STAFF ATTORNEY for the **SOUTHEAST ALASKA CONSERVATION COUNCIL (SEACC)** who will work independently and as part of a team, including with staff, community members, and partner organizations such as Alaska Native Tribes, commercial fishermen, business owners, local government officials, hunters and fishers, and other conservation groups. To see the full position description, go to <https://seacc.org/about/hiring#job>. To apply, submit your cover letter, resume, and a writing sample of no more than 25 pages to admin@seacc.org. Please put ‘Job Application – Staff Attorney’ and your last name in the email subject line.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION COORDINATOR for the **ANCHORAGE PARK FOUNDATION** to connect people of all ages to Anchorage’s parks, trails, and natural spaces through environmental education, outdoor learning, and community engagement. This position leads hands-on education programs, builds partnerships with schools and community organizations, supports stewardship opportunities, and helps create meaningful outdoor experiences for youth, families, and community members. The ideal candidate is an organized, collaborative, and passionate outdoor educator with experience in youth programs, community engagement, or related fields. See the [full job description](#) for position details, qualifications, benefits, and application instructions.

RURAL ENERGY MANAGER for the **RENEWABLE ENERGY ALASKA PROJECT (REAP)** to work with remote Alaska communities, national laboratories and other partners to support the transition to cleaner and more resilient energy systems. The Rural Energy Manager is a new position that will support rural communities in advancing their energy goals and increasing adoption of renewable energy and energy efficiency solutions – from utility-scale projects to building-level improvements. To see the full position description and application information, go to <https://alaskarenewableenergy.org/reap-is-hiring-rural-energy-manager-i-or-ii/>.

RECRUITMENT LEAD for **OUTER COAST** in **SITKA** to drive the recruitment of students to Outer Coast. and is all about relationship-building: engaging with students, educators, counselors, families, and community partners; traveling across the state to connect with communities; and supporting young people as they navigate their next steps and explore opportunities in higher education. Through this work, the Recruitment Lead helps connect students with Outer Coast's place-based educational programs and supports students through the application and admissions process. Though travel is a component of the role, this position is in-person and based in Sitka. For more information, contact rachel@outercoast.org. [Learn more and apply here.](#)

STEWARDSHIP ENGAGEMENT SPECIALIST for the **COPPER RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT (CRWP)** to provide educational stewardship experiences for youth and adult participants throughout the Copper River watershed. Programs will largely be field-based and involve hands-on stewardship activities, including stream and lake clean-ups, habitat restoration, removal of invasive species, and collection of native seeds involving youth and adults in activities that result in positive, tangible impacts to the watershed. For more information go to <https://copperriver.org/about-us/job-opportunities/> or contact executivedirector@copperriver.org or call (907) 424-3334.

To RECEIVE What's Up, ADD items, CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS or UNSUBSCRIBE, contact Peg Tileston at pegt@gci.net.