

## WHAT'S UP

**October 5, 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

**October 16 – 18**

**FAIRBANKS - The 9<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.akwildlife.org/cook-inlet).

**\*\*October 27- 29**

**FAURBANBS - The 2026 ALASKA RURAL ENERGY CONFERENCE** will be held at the Westmark Hotel. The Alaska Rural Energy Conference is Alaska's premier gathering dedicated to the unique energy challenges and opportunities facing rural communities. Held once every two years, this conference is an opportunity for community leaders, policymakers, industry partners, researchers, and other rural energy stakeholders to share practical knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and advance reliable, affordable energy solutions for Alaska. Rural Alaska is home to some of the world's most complex and innovative standalone energy systems. From isolated microgrids and diesel powerhouses to renewable energy integration and emerging technologies, communities continue to develop solutions that improve reliability, reduce costs, and strengthen local resilience. Sessions focus on practical, solution-oriented

discussions that help rural utilities and communities operate smarter, plan more effectively, and prepare for the future. The agenda combines technical presentations, panel discussions, and peer-to-peer learning, with opportunities to hear directly from communities implementing innovative energy solutions throughout Alaska. [Learn More.](#)

#### **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. 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**

#### **October 8**

**PALMER – An Open House** will be held on **MATSU 2050** from 4:30 to 6:30pm with a brief presentation at 5:30pm at the Gateway Visitor Center, [2764 S. East Matanuska Spur Road](#). The Mat-Su Valley is growing quickly, and MatSu 2050 is the new regional plan to keep people moving safely and reliably. MatSu 2050 is the Valley's newest long-range transportation plan; a roadmap for the roads, intersections, and pathways that will carry people and goods throughout this region over the next 25 years. Congestion management aims to improve the performance and reliability of the transportation system and reduce the negative effects of congestion on moving people and goods. Stop by our open house to see the transportation projects on the table, talk with the people who built the plan, and tell us what you think. Drop in anytime. Snacks and refreshments provided. Kids welcome. Can't make it? A formal public comment period opens in October. Visit [mvppmpo.com](http://mvppmpo.com) to stay in the loop or email us at [info@mvppmpo.com](mailto:info@mvppmpo.com).

## **October 9 & 10**

### **ANCHORAGE – The CITIZEN’S ADVISORY COMMISSION on FEDERAL AREAS (CACFA)**

will meet from 9am to 4 pm each day at the Anchorage Legislative Information Offices. The public is invited to participate with public comment period each day at 10 to 11am. Agenda items: \* Trapper Cabin Permitting; \* Mining claim patent issues; \* CACFA Bylaw revisions (attached for 30-day review, to be voted on in Oct. meeting). Full agenda and meeting links will be updated at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/opmp/cacfa>. CACFA meetings are recorded. Written comments may be submitted to CACFA at [dnr.cacfa@alaska.gov](mailto:dnr.cacfa@alaska.gov), and any comments received will become public records and are subject to inspection. For more information, contact Kim Griffith, Executive Director, at 907-301-2738 or email [kim.griffith@alaska.gov](mailto:kim.griffith@alaska.gov) or go to [Existing Amended Bylaws\\_2016.pdf\\_&\\_Proposed\\_Amended Bylaws\\_8.13.26.pdf](#). Full agenda and meeting links will be updated on CACFA website at <https://dnr.alaska.gov/commis/opmp/cacfa>.

## **October 13 – October 29**

The **FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCILS** will meet at the following locations:

**October 13 – 15 – FORT YUKON** – Eastern Interior Council

**October 14 - 16 – NOME** – Seward Peninsula Council

**October 20 – 22 – GUSTAVUS** – Southeast Alaska Council at the Community Center

**October 27–29 – BETHEL-** Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Council meet at the Yupiit

Piciryarait Cultural Center

**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](mailto:subsistence@ios.doi.gov) or calling (800) 478-1456.

## **WEBINARS & VIRTUAL**

### **\*\*October 14 (Virtual)**

**ALASKA SEABED MINING: THREAT to OCEAN LIFE and FISHERIES** will be presented from 6pm to 7pm. Alaska’s oceans host incredible wildlife, world class fisheries, and coastal communities that rely on a healthy ocean. Last January, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management announced it was considering a new proposal to issue leases for seabed mining near the seamounts in the Gulf of Alaska, the Aleutian Arc, Good News Bay, Norton Sound, the Chukchi Borderlands and the Canada Basin. Seabed mining could destroy seafloor habitats, harm marine mammals like whales, impact fish, and release pollution trapped in the seafloor. The webinar will feature experts describing the process and potential impacts on our ocean and fisheries. It is cohosted by Alaska Environment Research & Policy Center, Alaska Longline Fishermen’s Association, Alaska Sustainable Fisheries Trust, Commercial Fishermen for Bristol

Bay, Intertidal Consulting, Kawerak Inc., and Ocean Conservancy. Register at <https://alaskaenvironment.org/center/events/alaska-seabed-mining-threat-to-ocean-life-and-fisheries/>.

**\*\*October 16 (Webinar)**

**OCTOBER ACCAP ALASKA CLIMATE OUTLOOK BRIEFING** will be held from Noon to 1pm with **RICK THOMAN**, Climate Specialist, AK 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 finish up with NOAA's Climate Prediction Center forecast for November and the upcoming winter. Join the gathering online to learn what's happened and what may be in store with Alaska's seasonal climate. [Register for Webinar](#).

**October 21 (Online)**

**NGWA'S HYDROGEOLOGY of STATES WEBINAR SERIES: ALASKA** will be presented from 9 to 10am (NGWA is an approved education sponsor). Dr. David Barnes, UAF, will discuss the unique hydrogeology of Alaska, including: Alaska has six different hydrologic regions. The characteristics of these regions span a wide range of conditions. In the Arctic, permafrost can extend as deep as 1,600 meters separating seasonal groundwater near the ground surface from groundwater below the permafrost. In contrast, southern areas of Alaska are dominated by coastal and fractured rock island groundwater systems. Permafrost features can exert a dramatic influence on groundwater flow. The topography of the permafrost table can alter flow paths in unpredictable directions, while areas where permafrost has thawed completely, known as open taluks, create pathways that connect suprapermafrost and subpermafrost groundwater systems. Artesian conditions can exist within certain regions of Alaska's discontinuous permafrost zone. In these areas, heat dissipation around groundwater production well casings can thaw the surrounding ground, resulting in nearly uncontrollable artesian flow to the surface through the thawed annulus. For more information, go to <https://www.ngwa.org/detail/event/2026/10/21/default-calendar/ngwa-s-hydrogeology-of-states-webinar-series-alaska>.

**EVENTS & MEETINGS in the ANCHORAGE AREA**

**October 8**

The **ALASKA TRAILS FALL FUNDRAISER** will be held at the Hilltop Ski Area from 6-8:30 pm. Tickets are \$50 and food and drinks will be provided. All proceeds go to support Alaska Trails' mission of building trails for Alaska's people, communities, and economy. There will be a silent auction with unique items from local businesses and a live band. It's also an opportunity to learn more about our programs, including the Alaska Long Trail and the Alaska Trail Stewards Volunteer Program and see stunning images and videos from our most exciting 2026 trail projects. Buy tickets at <https://www.alaska-trails.org/fall-fundraiser>.

**\*\*October 10**

A **WINTER PREAPREDNESS WORKSHOP** will be held at Noon at the Fairview Recreation Center, [1121 E. 10th Avenue](#). Stop by between Noon and 4pm for free food and home weatherization kits; family-friendly activities and demonstrations; and the chance to connect with local nonprofits that offer the programs and resources that can help keep you safe and warm this winter without breaking the bank. For more information, contact Sarah Breu, REAP's Operations Manager at [sbrey@realaska.org](mailto:sbrey@realaska.org).

**\*\*October 13**

Anchorage Audubon Society will meet at 6pm at the BP Energy Center featuring **KATIE CHRISTE** and **ALFREDO NAVAS** who will talk about **ALASKA'S LONG-DISTANCE MIGRATORY SONGBIRDS** and their perspectives from both the breeding and wintering grounds. Katie will talk about the Olive-sided Flycatcher and Blackpoll Warbler and what we know about their ecology and population dynamics in Alaska. Alfredo is based in Columbia and will talk about the conservation projects on the Guajira Peninsula, including one that benefits thousands of Blackpoll Warblers, as well as the community development work that has grown from the conservation projects. The Guajira Peninsula is a major stopover site for migratory songbirds at the northern tip of South America. We will also share some general updates, compete for door prizes, and of course, there will be cookies!

**\*\*October 19**

The **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION of ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS – ALASKA CHAPTER** will meet from 12:15 to 1pm at the BP Energy Center and on Teams at <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/244957855081978?p=OOvTXNynVonxDFWG4r>. For more information, contact Anna Kohl, CEP at [anna.kohl@hdrinc.com](mailto:anna.kohl@hdrinc.com).

**\*\*October 20**

Join [Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges](#) for a watch party for **TESSA HULLS: GIVING VOICE to the ARCTIC REFUGE** at 5 p.m. at REI Community Room. Tessa will be presenting at the UAF Schaible Auditorium in Fairbanks. A unique artist experienced a unique residency when Tessa packrafted the Marsh Fork of the Canning River embedded with two Arctic National Wildlife Refuge staff. She will give an overview of refuge history and talk about my own experience of being humbled into action by the scale of the land." Come see this on the big screen with like minded folks and get your free copy of the 15-page graphic "zine" One River: Many Braids: Paddling the Complexity and Connection of the Marsh Fork of the Canning River which Tessa wrote and illustrated as a result of her residency. Or ZOOM from wherever you are. Details, zoom link and post-event recording are posted at <https://alaskarefugefriends.org/tessa-hulls/>.

**October 21**

**Fireside Chat – The LAND THAT SUSTAINS US** will be presented from 7 to 8pm at the Campbell Creek Science Center. "It's different in Alaska." Subsistence is part of what

makes Alaska so unique and different. It is the traditional practice of living off land. Subsistence use is food, clothing, fuel, and so much more. Brent Vickers, the Bureau of Land Management Subsistence Program Lead will talk about what subsistence is, why it's important for Alaskans, and how it's managed. Join the talk and share your stories of being out on public lands and harvesting different wild things. This event is free and open to the public.

#### **October 27**

**EARTH'S GREATEST ENEMY**, a groundbreaking anti-imperialist environmental documentary revealing the military industrial complex as one of the world's greatest environmental threats will be shown at the Loussac Library at 8pm Join Alaska Community Action on Toxics for the next film in our Mother Earth Justice Film Series, featuring ACAT's **PAMELA MILLER** and **VI WAGHIYI**. The film exposes the Pentagon's devastating environmental footprint, from carbon emissions and contaminated water to the destruction of communities and ecosystems around the world. Come for a meet & greet at 4pm and stay after the film for a Q&A session. Pizza provided in the lobby. Costumes encouraged in honor of Halloween week.

### **EVENTS & MEETINGS OUTSIDE of ANCHORAGE**

#### **October 10**

**FAIRBANKS – RENEWABLES & LABOR in ALASLA: An Afternoon of Speakers, Food, & Live Music** from 1 to 3:30pm at the IBEW Union Hall. What could Alaska's renewable energy future look like with workers and good union jobs at the center? [Join](#) community members for an afternoon exploring the role of organized labor in renewable energy projects, including Delta Wind and other projects on the horizon.

#### **\*\*October 13, 20, & 27**

**CORDOVA & virtual** – The **PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND SCIENCE CENTER** will present the following programs from 5:30 to 6:30pm at the Center and via Microsoft Teams [Join the meeting now](#) Meeting ID: 268 932 344 489 2 Passcode: M7z24gV2

**\*\*October 13 - GROWING ALASKA'S KELP ECONOMY: PROCESSING, MARKETS, and MARICULTURE DEVELOPMENT.**

Join us for an update by the Prince William Sound Economic Development District on growing Alaska's kelp economy as they will discuss kelp processing, kelp markets, and mariculture development in Alaska.

**\*\*October 20 - REVENTING BIRD WINDOW COLLISIONS on the UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA CAMPUS through OUTREACH, COLLABORATION, and DATA COLLECTION** will be presented by

**LLE HENSON**, Univ. of Florida. The University of Florida Bird-Friendly Building Initiative is a coalition of UF students, faculty, and staff, along with community members from the Alachua Audubon Society, Wild Birds Unlimited, and more, who work to prevent bird-window collisions on the UF campus and around Gainesville. The project involves outreach on campus and in the community, data collection through monitoring of collision sites, and direct conservation efforts, funded by grants, to install collision solutions on UF buildings.

**\*\*October 27 - SOIL ENHANCEMENT WITH KELP: HOW KELP CAN HELP YOUR GARDEN** will be presented by **Dr. ERIN OLIVER** (Washington State Univ.) and **CAITLIN MCKINSTRY** (Native Village of Eyak). Join Dr. Oliver and Caitlin Mckinstry to hear about the Native Village of Eyak and Washington State University's Kelp-based Amendments to Increase Agricultural Carbon Storage project. They will share their research into understanding what happens to Alaskan soils when you add kelp and how it affects vegetable growth.

**\*\*October 16**

**PALMER** - Celebrate Alaska's wildlife with **Alaska Wildlife Alliance** and **Trustees for Alaska** for our **annual Hibernation Celebration!** Come raise a glass at Bleeding Heart Brewery and enjoy an evening of great conversation, good company, and a silent auction, all in support of Alaska's incredible wildlife. Connect with fellow wildlife lovers, celebrate the animals and wild places that make Alaska so extraordinary, and help support the work to protect them for generations to come. Event starts at 6 pm. [RSVP Here](#) or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/events/1372922281689197/>.

**\*\*October 16**

**FAIRBANKS – FIGHTING for the CLIMATE in an OIL STATE** will be held at 7pm at the Fairbanks Distilling Company. Join **ZACH BROWN**, PhD, for an evening of storytelling about his 2,300-mile journey from Stanford University back home to Alaska, the founding of [Tidelines Institute](#), and the work to move Alaska beyond the fossil fuel era. This is a free event sponsored by the Northern Alaska Environmental Center.

**October 18**

**TALKEETNA – Susitna River Coalition's 10TH ANNUAL WILD SU FEAST EVENT** will be held at Denali Brewing Co., Mile 2 from 5 to 8pm on October 18th, 2026. This event celebrates the foods that grow, run, fly, and swim in the Susitna Watershed with a community cook off. Bring a dish, share a story, and help us create a community cookbook. All proceeds go to SRC. [Learn more details & RSVP here.](#)

**\*\*October 20**

**FAIRBANKS** - Join [Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges](#) for **TESSA HULLS: GIVING VOICE TO THE ARCTIC REFUGE**, Artist in Residence at the Arctic Refuge at 5pm at the UAF Schaible Auditorium. Light refreshments and a free copy of the 15-page graphic "zine" One River: Many Braids: Paddling the Complexity and Connection of the Marsh Fork of the Canning River which Tessa wrote and illustrated for her residency. A unique artist experienced a unique residency when Tessa packrafted the Marsh Fork of the Canning River embedded with two Arctic National Wildlife Refuge staff. She will give an overview of refuge history and talk about my own experience of being humbled into action by the scale of the land." All are welcome. Or ZOOM from wherever you are. Details, zoom link and post event recording are posted at <https://alaskarefugefriends.org/tessa-hulls/>.

**\*\*October 23**

**FAIRBANKS - TRUSTEES for ALASKA** is having a meet and greet from 6 to 8:30pm at the Ursa Major distillery. Come hear about the great work that they are doing. For more information, contact Christin Swearingen at (907) 891-6875.

**\*\*October 24**

**HOMER & SOLDOTNA** - Join [Friends of Alaska National Wildlife Refuges](#) for watch parties for **TESSA HULLS: GIVING VOICE to the ARCTIC REFUGE** at 5pm. Tessa will be presenting at the UAF Schaible Auditorium in Fairbanks with watch parties in Homer and Soldotna. Come see this on the big screen and get your free copy of the 15 page graphic "zine" One River: Many Braids: Paddling the Complexity and Connection of the Marsh Fork of the Canning River which Tessa wrote and illustrated as a result of her residency. In Soldotna meet at the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center and in Homer come to the Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge Visitor Center. Or ZOOM from wherever you are at <https://alaskarefugefriends.org/tessa-hulls/>.

**\*\*October 24**

**FAIRBANKS -CUT YOUR ENERGY COSTS** will be held from 10am to 3pm at the J.P. Jones Center, 2400 Ricketts Street. This is an event that will help you find ways to save money on energy costs in your heating and electric bills. Hear presentations, join workshops, and get tips and resources from experts and agencies.

## **DEADLINES**

**\*\*October 9**

Deadline for comments on the proposed changes to the federal Clean Water Act protections. On September 4, 2026, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) administration proposed changes to the [Clean Water Act's](#) definition of "Waters of the United States" (WOTUS) that would significantly narrow which streams and wetlands receive federal protection. Previously, in 2025, the EPA applied changes to WOTUS that excluded from federal protection: All ephemeral waters - those that are primarily surface water or pools that appear only during, and briefly after, direct precipitation or snowmelt and contribute at least 55% of the total discharge in the U.S. Nearly 80% of the nation's wetlands. An unknown number of seasonally flowing streams. In September 2026, the EPA is now trying to redefine terms for the remaining 45% of freshwater streams. Under this proposed approach, federal protection would generally be limited to waters that flow continuously year-round, such as those defined as "perennial," "relatively permanent," and "continuous surface connection." This proposal would exclude from protection small streams, intermittent streams, ephemeral streams, and wetlands—all of which perform critical functions of the larger watersheds by filtering pollutants, storing and absorbing water, which reduces flooding, recharging groundwater, providing fish and wildlife habitat. To submit comments, go to *Email: [OW-Docket@epa.gov](mailto:OW-Docket@epa.gov)*. Include Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2025-0322 in the subject line of the message. To see the Federal Register notice, go to <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/09/09/2026-18317/updated-definition-of-waters-of-the-united-states>.

**\*\*October 14**

Comments are due on the **UPDATE of the SOUTHEAST ALASKA AREA CONTINGENCY PLAN**. The purpose of the Southeast Alaska Area Plan is to provide guidance to area planners and Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) members. You may comment on the draft plan by submitting written comments to: Julie Liford-Parker, ADEC at [decsparplanning@alaska.gov](mailto:decsparplanning@alaska.gov). For more information, go to [RFAITable.docx](#) and [SEAK 9.3.2026 \(1\) \(2\) \(3\).pdf](#).

**October 19**

Deadline for comments on the **DRAFT SOUTHEAST ALASKA TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE(SEATP)** to guide transportation improvements over the next 20 year. The Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities (DOT&PF) has released the draft Southeast Alaska Transportation Plan (SEATP) The draft SEATP and appendices are available on the project website at [www.SoutheastAlaskaTransportationPlan.com](http://www.SoutheastAlaskaTransportationPlan.com). Submit comments to [SEATP@dowl.com](mailto:SEATP@dowl.com) or call Public Involvement at (907) 562-2000.

**\*\*October 19**

Deadline for comments on the **DRAFT SOUTHEAST ALASKA TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE**. DOT&PF is updating the SEATP to guide transportation improvements over the next 20 years. The plan: • 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; • Helps inform the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the Aviation Improvement Program (AIP); • Covers the Southeast Alaska planning area, which is characterized by unique geography and a reliance on diverse transportation modes. The draft SEATP and appendices are available on the project website at [www.SoutheastAlaskaTransportationPlan.com](http://www.SoutheastAlaskaTransportationPlan.com). Submit comments to project website at [www.SoutheastAlaskaTransportationPlan.com](http://www.SoutheastAlaskaTransportationPlan.com) or to project email at [SEATP@dowl.com](mailto:SEATP@dowl.com)

**\*\*October 23**

Comments are due on the Notice Of Flood Encroachment & Intent To Begin Engineering And Environmental Studies for the **MOOSE CREEK BRIDGE and MOOSE CREEK FLOODPLAIN**. The proposed project would encroach into the base (100-year) floodplain associated with Moose Creek. No regulatory floodways are present in the project area. Bridge replacement activities may result in transverse encroachments into these mapped floodplains. These encroachments are expected to be minor and will not alter base flood elevations. For more information or to submit comments, contact Heidi Zimmer, Regional Environmental Manager, at [Heidi.Zimmer@alaska.gov](mailto:Heidi.Zimmer@alaska.gov).

**\*\*October 30**

Comments are due on the **MATSU PLANNING for TRANSPORTATION'S METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION PLAN MATSU 2050**, the area's first Metropolitan Transportation Plan

(MTP), is the Mat-Su Valley's 20+ year roadmap for building a safe, connected, and thriving transportation future through 2050. This long-range transportation plan guides federal transportation investments based on community needs and realistic funding.

The Mat-Su has grown more than 20% since 2010, making us Alaska's fastest-growing region. MatSu 2050 identifies the region's transportation goals, priorities, and projects for the future. Having an adopted MTP unlocks federal funding. Projects must be included in the MTP to receive federal dollars. Without this plan, we lose access to millions for road improvements, safety upgrades, and infrastructure. The MTP offers the Mat-Su local control over federal investments, ensuring projects match the needs of our growing community. There are three ways to comment on MVP's MatSu 2050 Draft: Via MVP's website at [www.mvmpmo.com/contact/public-comment](http://www.mvmpmo.com/contact/public-comment) or [View our Virtual Open House](#) and comment on the plan as well as specific projects. For more information, contact [info@mvmpmo.com](mailto:info@mvmpmo.com) include MatSu 2050 in subject line.

### **\*\*November 9**

Deadline for comments on a proposed rule regarding **NATIONAL PETROLEUM RESERVE in ALASKA PRODUCTION SITE DEVELOPMENT** to streamline its decision-making process for authorizing the construction and operation of qualifying oil and gas production sites and their associated rights-of-way (ROWs) in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska. This proposed rule would establish pre-defined criteria for defined and repeatable common activities with similar environmental effects that, when met by an applicant, would result in a streamlined permitting process for qualifying production sites. To see the full Federal Register Notice (which includes a lengthy Background section, go to <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/09/08/2026-18261/national-petroleum-reserve-in-alaska-production-site-development>. To submit comments, go to the *Federal eRulemaking Portal* at <https://www.regulations.gov>. In the Search-box, enter "BLM-2026-0133" and click the "Search" button. Follow the instructions at this website.

## **GRANTS/AWARDS/SCHOLARSHIPS/CONTESTS/RFP**

### **October 16**

Deadline for proposals for projects for the **ALASKA CLEAN WATER ACTIONS GRANT** that protect or improve the quality of Alaska's surface waters from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). Grant funds may be used to conduct watershed or stormwater planning; design and implement best management practices that protect or improve water quality; monitor water quality; or conduct public outreach and education. Projects must be completed between March 1, 2027, and Feb. 28, 2029. Visit DEC's website for more information or to apply at <https://dec.alaska.gov/water/water-quality/nonpoint-source-control/alaska-clean-water-actions/a-cwa-application/>.

### **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 18**

Deadline for applications for the **YOUTH CLIMATE ACTION FUND MICRO-GRANTS PROGRAM**. Young people in the Municipality of Anchorage, ages 15 to 24, can apply for microgrants to support climate-driven projects in Anchorage. Anchorage is one of 300 communities worldwide to receive funding from the Youth Climate Action Fund in 2026, sponsored by Bloomberg Philanthropies. Alaska Conservation Foundation has partnered with the Municipality of Anchorage Mayor's Office to help administer this grant program. [Help spread the word and encourage the youth you know to apply!](#)

#### **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](#).

## **ITEMS of INTEREST**

The **KACHEMAK BAY SHOREBIRD FESTIVAL** is looking for **NEXT YEAR'S SIGNATURE ARTIST!** Every year, we select one Alaskan artist to create a piece of artwork featuring our signature bird for the year, which becomes the cover of the festival program. The selected artist receives a cash stipend, two free tickets to the festival, merchandise with their design featured,

and a chance to host an artist's workshop during the festival in Homer in May. Any Alaskan artist may apply, but special consideration will be given to artists specializing in 2D artwork (painting, drawing, woodblock printing, digital artwork) due to the nature of the project. **Submit your artwork for consideration here by October 15** to <https://kachemakshorebird.org/become-our-next-festival-artist>.

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](mailto: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/>.

## **FELLOWSHIPS/INTERSHIPS**

**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**

### **POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

**\*\*PROJECT COORDINATOR** for the **KENAI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT** to serve as an events and natural resources coordinator. This role balances event planning, partner outreach and collaboration, grant management, and field operations. Position may be split into two part-time roles. FTE is seasonally variable. For more information, contact Carly Pierson at [kenaiswcd@gmail.com](mailto:kenaiswcd@gmail.com).

**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 CAMPS** to connect visitors and listeners of all ages with wildlife and conservation. They develop and implement camp curriculum while providing oversight to seasonal camp staff. This position designs and directs Zoo Snooze programs, on-site animal presentations and leads tours. In partnership with the Alaska Zoo Husbandry Team, this position is responsible for coordinating and delivering 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 the full position description, go [to](#)

<https://hr.focussolutions.us/Careers/UserPortal/job-description.aspx?enc=SmVzqKkk3RY85szUn3vt2FnAV6WS87juBR5Kw6MwpKfPLFGGrGCtE9kWGVqE2GCVugj2n6JwILm0+gm4BfmpoDg==>.

**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. The 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](http://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. 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](http://www.kenaiwatershed.org). For more information, contact [KWFHiringCommittee@kenaiwatershed.org](mailto:KWFHiringCommittee@kenaiwatershed.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/>.

**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](mailto:rachel@outercoast.org). [Learn more and apply here.](#)

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To RECEIVE What's Up, ADD items, CHANGE EMAIL ADDRESS or UNSUBSCRIBE, contact Peg Tileston at [pegt@gci.net](mailto:pegt@gci.net).