



TRUSTEES FOR ALASKA

ANNUAL REPORT FY14

DEAR SUPPORTERS:

Trustees for Alaska began celebrating our 40th Anniversary in Fiscal Year 2014. We've come a long way from our humble beginnings as a one-person operation. Many people played a role back in those early days, but none more than Anchorage icon, Peg Tileston, and the Environmental Defense Fund's Executive Director, Rod Cameron. They saw a gap in the Alaska conservationists' toolbelt—the ability to enforce the law to protect Alaska's environment. With foundation funding and local support, Trustees for Alaska went from idea to institution.

For four decades, Trustees for Alaska has taken on state and federal agencies and big industry to defend our natural resources. We don't always win, but we always make a difference. Those who would ignore constitutions, statutes, and regulations face legal enforcement by Trustees for Alaska.

In 2014, Trustees for Alaska took action for areas and issues crisscrossing the state: from protecting the Arctic and Izembek National Wildlife Refuges, to saving salmon in the headwaters of Bristol Bay to keeping Alaska's coal in the ground and not contributing to the world's greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

We couldn't do what we do without the steadfast support of our donors. It is because you have faith in us and invest your financial support in us that we can provide our legal services where it is needed most, free-of-charge. You are a critical part of the Trustees for Alaska legal team and can feel proud of our legal successes to protect Alaska's lands, waters, wildlife, and people.

Thank you!

Victoria Clark
Executive Director



LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

CLEAN WATER & AIR

Stopping the Pebble Mine

Trustees for Alaska attorneys appeared before the Alaska Supreme Court in December 2013, in an important constitutional case seeking to hold the State accountable for protecting the world's most productive salmon fishery from the decades of exploration activities at the Pebble Project. Trustees represents Nunamta Aulukestai ("Caretakers of our Land" in Yup'ik), Bristol Bay residents Ricky Delkittie, Sr. and Violet Willson (now deceased), former Alaska First Lady Bella Hammond, and Constitutional Convention Delegate and scholar Victor Fischer. The goal of the case is to obtain public notice and an evaluation of the impacts of large-scale industrial mining exploration at the Pebble Project before permits are issued.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) initiated an analysis under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act for the Bristol Bay watershed where the Pebble mining project is proposed to determine whether large-scale mining should occur in the headwaters of the world's premiere salmon fishery. EPA's Proposed Determination released in July 2014 would restrict environmentally damaging impacts on the salmon fishery. In response Pebble initiated several lawsuits challenging EPA's authority. Trustees for Alaska represents clients in these cases and continues to use the law to stop the Pebble Mine.



CLIMATE CHANGE

Seward Coal Loading Facility

The Seward Coal Loading Facility must now get a permit to control its coal discharges into Resurrection Bay. The US Court of Appeals unanimously decided the Seward Coal Loading Facility was violating the Clean Water Act (CWA) with unpermitted discharges of coal into the bay. Trustees for Alaska argued to the three-judge panel for our clients, Alaska Community Action on Toxics and the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club, to overturn the district court's decision that found the Facility in compliance with the CWA.

State Coal Program

Alaska's punitive "loser pays" rule for legal challenges to coal mining was knocked down by the federal Office of Surface Mining, Reclamation and Enforcement in response to Trustees for Alaska's petition that the rule makes the State's coal mining program inconsistent with federal requirements. Alaskans shouldn't be penalized for using the law to stop destructive coal mining practices harmful to our salmon streams and our health.





AMERICA'S ARCTIC

Defending the Arctic Refuge

Once again the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge was under attack. And once again Trustees for Alaska stepped in to protect the Arctic Refuge from oil and gas exploration. This time, it was a lawsuit brought by the State of Alaska against the Department of Interior's repeated denial of oil and gas exploration applications. We intervened in the case on behalf of nine groups and organizations.

National Petroleum Reserve - Alaska

A Federal Judge ruled the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers violated the law when it approved a permit for ConocoPhillips to build a road and several bridges through the ecologically valuable Colville River Delta. The court held that the Corps did not adequately explain its decision not to prepare a supplemental environmental analysis for the project.

MARINE ECOSYSTEMS

Bering Sea Elders Group

Trustees for Alaska represented the Bering Sea Elders Group, in conjunction with the Native American Rights Fund, to negotiate an agreement with the Alaska Seafood Cooperative to help reduce halibut bycatch in the Bering Sea. The agreement lays a foundation for understanding the yellowfin sole and halibut fisheries, establishes trawl boundaries, and a 20-mile protective boundary around Cape Newenham to protect walrus. Trustees also works with the Bering Sea Elders and Alaska Marine Conservation Council to protect the Northern Bering Sea trawl boundary.



WILD LANDS & WILDLIFE

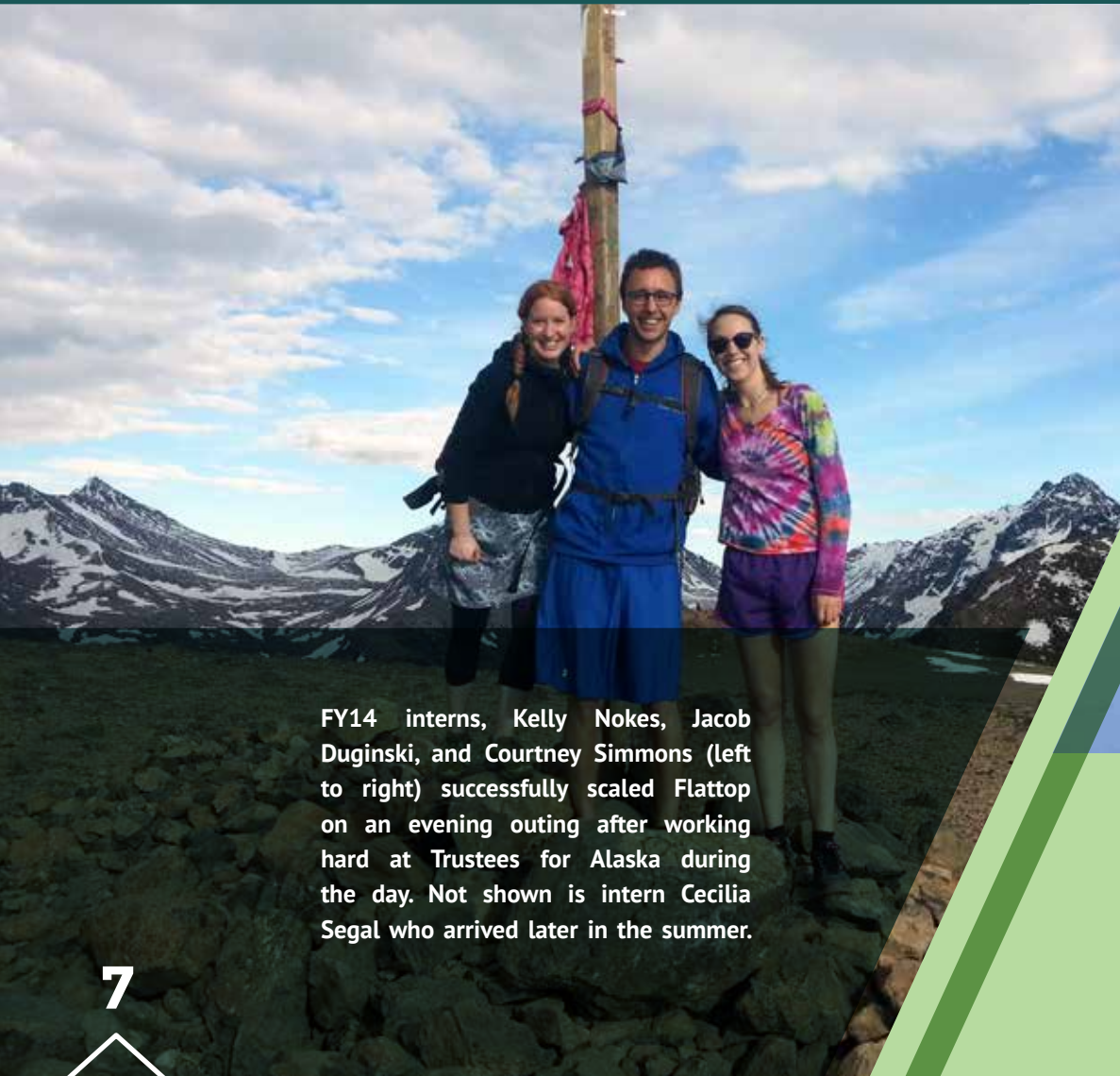
Protecting Izembek

Wilderness protections remain for an internationally important waterfowl migration stop in Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, following Interior Secretary Sally Jewell's decision that a road and land swap would be too harmful. Trustees for Alaska worked with a coalition of conservation groups to provide legal comments on decision documents, including the extensive Environmental Impact Statement for the project. We are now defending that decision in court on behalf of coalition groups.



THE NEXT GENERATION

Each year interns arrive to spend their summer with Trustees for Alaska. They conduct legal research, draft pleadings, participate in client meetings, and assist with litigation. Interns provide critical legal support to Trustees while they gain valuable on-the-ground legal experience for their future careers.



FY14 interns, Kelly Nokes, Jacob Duginski, and Courtney Simmons (left to right) successfully scaled Flattop on an evening outing after working hard at Trustees for Alaska during the day. Not shown is intern Cecilia Segal who arrived later in the summer.



Brandon Cobb, a third-year law student at Lewis & Clark Law School spent the fall semester at Trustees for Alaska in exchange for class credit.

FINANCIALS

REVENUE



Grants 55%	\$519,500
Individuals 16%	\$149,117
In-kind Revenue 17%	\$165,343
Interest <1%	\$1,270
Other 1%	\$11,602
Colleen Burgh Fund for Science and the Law 11%	\$100,000
Total:	\$946,832

EXPENSES



America's Arctic 25%	\$288,622
Clean Air & Water 17%	\$194,666
Climate Change 30%	\$345,050
Marine Ecosystems 7%	\$78,695
Wild Lands & Wildlife 6%	\$68,942
Administration 8%	\$96,869
Fundraising 8%	\$96,463
Total:	\$1,169,307

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION

September 30th

ASSETS

Current Assets:

Cash and cash equivalents

\$ 293,117 \$ 381,152

Receivables:

Foundation grants

70,000 192,500

Other receivables

11,222 24,777

Prepaid expenses

20,729 25,764

Total Current Assets

395,068 624,193

Property and equipment

106,117 106,117

Less accumulated depreciation

(87,915) (82,407)

Property and Equipment, Net

18,202 23,710

Total Assets

\$ 413,270 \$ 647,903

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities:

Accounts payable

\$ 8,318 \$ 3,798

Accrued payroll liabilities and leave

25,119 33,331

Current portion, capital lease payable

4,280 4,793

Total Current Liabilities

37,717 41,922

Long Term Liabilities - capital lease payable, net of current position

9,880 14,160

Total Liabilities

\$ 47,597 \$ 56,082

NET ASSETS

Unrestricted:

Designated by the board for operations

153,405 339,943

Undesignated

8,475

Temporarily restricted

212,268 243,403

Total Net Assets

\$ 365,673 \$ 591,821

Total Liabilities and Net Assets

\$ 413,270 \$ 647,903

OUR THANKS

FY14 DONORS

Trustees for Alaska thanks the generous individuals and foundations that make our work to defend Alaska's lands, waters, wildlife, and people possible.

FY14 FOUNDATIONS

444S Foundation
Alaska Conservation Foundation
The Brainerd Foundation
Brenden Mann Foundation
The Campion Foundation
The Endurance Fund
The Harder Foundation
The Leighty Foundation
New-Land Foundation
Patagonia
True North Foundation
West Wind Foundation
Wilburforce Foundation



COLLEEN BURGH FUND FOR SCIENCE AND THE LAW

Trustees for Alaska was saddened by the passing of Colleen Burgh in 2014. She served on Trustees' Board of Directors in the 1980s and shaped our legal and conservation efforts during that period. We are touched that Colleen and her husband, Jim Stratton, wanted to recognize her dedication to conservation science with the establishment of the Colleen Burgh Fund for Science and the Law. The fund is dedicated to acquiring scientific expertise to help Trustees win cases critical for Alaska conservation. Thank you to all the wonderful donors that contributed to Colleen's fund!

CLIENTS AND PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS

Trustees for Alaska works alongside many organizations in defense of Alaska's most valuable assets—its natural heritage. We never charge for our legal services. Groups that we represented and helped Trustees make a difference in FY14 include:

Alaska Center for the Environment
Alaska Community Action on Toxics
Alaska Marine Conservation Council
Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition
Alaska Wilderness League
Alaskans for Energy Freedom
Ambler Traditional Council
Association of Village Council
Presidents
Audubon Alaska
Bering Sea Elders Group
Castle Mountain Coalition
Center for Biological Diversity
Chuitna Citizens Coalition
Conservation Lands Foundation
Cook Inletkeeper

Curyung Tribal Council
Defenders of Wildlife
Earth Island Institute
Earthworks
Ekwoik Tribal Council
Eyak Preservation Council
Friends of Alaska National Wildlife
Refuges
Gwich'in Steering Committee
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
Koliganek Village Council
National Audubon Society
National Parks and Conservation
Association
National Wildlife Refuge Association
Native Village of Point Hope

Native Village of Port Graham
Natural Resources Defense Council
Northern Alaska Environmental Center
Nunamta Aulukestai
REDOIL (Resisting Environmental
Destruction on Indigenous Lands)
Resurrection Bay Conservation Alliance
Sierra Club
Southeast Alaska Conservation Council
The Wilderness Society
Trout Unlimited
Wilderness Watch



FY14 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Stephen E. Cotton, *Board Chair*

Chase Hensel, Ph.D., *Vice Chair*

Jerry Liboff, *Treasurer*

Robert Childers, *Secretary*

Robert Armstrong

Susan Hackley

Michelle Meyer

Robert H. Nathan

M. James Spitzer, Jr.

FY14 STAFF:

Victoria Clark, *Executive Director*

Valerie Brown, *Senior Staff Attorney*

Brian Litmans, *Senior Staff Attorney*

Nancy Wainwright, *Senior Staff Attorney*

Brook Brisson, *Staff Attorney*

Katie Strong, *Staff Attorney*

Susanne Bostrom, *Staff Attorney*

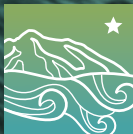
Jean Clarkin, *Paralegal*

Britany Hales, *Office and Communications Manager*

Lisa Oakley, *Development Director*



To see a list of our current Board and their bios, go to www.trustees.org/board-of-trustees/ for staff, go to www.trustees.org/our-team/



TRUSTEES FOR ALASKA

SUSTAIN | PROTECT | REPRESENT

MISSION STATEMENT

Trustees for Alaska, a nonprofit public interest law firm, works to protect and sustain Alaska's natural environment on behalf of Native villages, community groups, and local and national conservation groups by providing legal services, policy advice, and strategic counsel free of charge.

TRUSTEES FOR ALASKA

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Trustees for Alaska is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. Contributions are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. Tax ID: 92-6010379

Trustees for Alaska thanks the talented photographers that contributed their images for this report:

Cover photo, Jim Spitzer; page 1, Clark James Mishler; page 2, top to bottom: Carl Johnson, Clark James Mishler, Amy Gulick; page 3, clockwise from top: MtnBoy Media, Russ Maddox, National Park Service; page 4, US Fish and Wildlife Service; page 5, top to bottom: Amy Gulick, US Fish and Wildlife Service; page 6, right to left: photos courtesy of Kelly Nokes, Jake Duginski, Courtney Simmons and Brandon Cobb; page 8, James Stratton; page 10, inset: Clark James Mishler; page 10 & 11, Amy Gulick.