

A REVIEW OF 2009 AND DCC'S PRIORITIES FOR 2010

by Julia Potter

Each year the Denali Citizens Council board of directors reviews our priorities, typically established during our board retreats held in the fall. This year DCC's priorities were again reviewed during our board retreat held in November. Reviewing our priorities each year enables DCC to effectively tackle the major issues both inside Denali National Park and in the gateway communities. Here is a brief summation on a few of the major issues DCC tackled in 2009 and the top priorities for 2010:

The Stampede State Recreation Area legislation was one of DCC's top priorities in 2009. Senator Joe Thomas introduced SB 108 at the beginning of the legislative period in January and it quickly moved into the Senate Resources Committee. On April 10 the bill was referred to the Senate Finance Committee. DCC was hoping the bill would be heard in Finance prior to the end of the session, but this was not the case. The bill is slated to be heard in Finance in the next legislative session which begins January 2010. The Stampede SRA will be a top priority in 2010 for DCC.

The wolves of Denali have been studied since 1939 when Adolph Murie began his pioneering research. Others have followed and important knowledge of wolf movements has been documented. Protection of Denali's wolf packs when they travel outside the boundaries of the park is one of DCC's major priorities. Currently there is a **no-harvest wolf buffer** in the Stampede area and through Nenana Canyon established by the Alaska Board of Game (BOG) which sunsets in 2010. DCC has submitted a proposal to the BOG advocating the retention of the existing buffer and adding the remaining area of the Wolf Townships up to the Parks Highway. DCC will strongly support the no-harvest wolf buffers in 2010. If you haven't signed our petition to retain these important buffers please visit the following site:
<http://www.ipetition.com/petition/Denaliwolfbuffers/>.



The Denali Citizens Council office cabin, located at Mile Post 229 on the George Parks Highway, provides a cozy setting for researching issues, preparing our newsletter, and conducting the daily business of protecting the integrity of Denali National Park & Preserve.

Stop by for a visit, a hot cup of tea and chat about the issues that interest you the next time you're in the neighborhood...

DCC photo

The Denali park road continues to be a priority issue for DCC with the current **Road Rehabilitation Project** and the **Vehicle Management Plan EIS**. DCC supports maintaining the park road's unique character whenever a new project or planning occurs. Draft alternatives for the Vehicle Management Plan EIS will be developed in 2010. Big changes could be proposed and the involvement of experienced Denali advocates will be critical.

Energy was a hot topic in 2009 with the possibility of the **Healy Clean Coal Plant** (HCCP or Healy 2) coming back on-line as GVEA and AIDEA work out details of a purchase agreement. DCC contends that GVEA must conduct a complete review of the HCCP technology to ensure that it meet all applicable standards, including consideration of pollutants like mercury and greenhouse gases. On another note, we're concerned about proposals for natural gas line down the Parks Highway and intend to keep you informed and involved in this process.

For more in-depth information on these and other issues contact us at mail@denalicitizens.org or at 907-683-3396.

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Thank You
Alaska Conservation Foundation
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FROM THE BOARD: HOLIDAY GREETINGS AND THANKS

Dear Members and Friends,

As 2009 comes to a close and DCC is finishing its fall membership/donation drive, I am astounded as always by the generosity of our members. Your donations make the difference in so many ways for operations, publishing, communications, even providing part time income for our employee. Your donations have enabled us to help send a Denali Borough teen to the AYEA Civics and Conservation Summit in Juneau last spring, and we are poised to send another teen this spring.

But, it isn't simply about the donations. Your interest in what we do is valued and appreciated. We are touched by your emails of encouragement and copies of comments you've made. More importantly, your interest and involvement are **essential** to the success in our initiatives, whether to extend protection for Denali wolves outside the park, establish a State Recreation Area in the Stampede, protect the Wilderness character of lands inside the park, or to provide leadership in the future of lands at Denali's gateway.

This year, DCC lost two valued board members, Jenna Hamm and Joan Frankevich. Though we were sorry to lose their talents and dedication, we recognized the call of other priorities in their lives. What was wonderful and not expected was to find, within six months, two excellent volunteers to serve out their terms, Charlie Loeb and Hannah Ragland. Charlie is no stranger to DCC and has been helpful throughout the recent history of this organization. Hannah is new to some of our issues but brings energy and interest to her work with us.

Julia Potter is entering her fourth year as our Community Organizer. With foundation funding more limited, her hours have been cut. Still, her contribution to the success of DCC is formidable. Julia is your point of contact, she manages the member database and office operations, and she competently edits the *DCC News*.

But now, back to you. Important campaigns are already in motion as we move through into the New Year. We cannot be successful with them unless you are willing to write letters, testify and otherwise support them, both as local, regional and national Denali advocates. The Stampede State Recreation bill is poised to pass through to a floor vote in the State Senate, but only your support will help it succeed. Increased protection for wolves outside Denali is advocated in at least four proposals before the Alaska Board of Game, due to meet this February in Fairbanks, but only your willingness to write letters and testify in person will make this protection happen. And there's much more. An eight member volunteer board and one part time employee cannot do it all

Please make yourselves available for on-the-ground advocacy in the Denali region. Write or call and let us know you want to volunteer. There are a lot of things you can do. A few are listed below:

- ☞ Attend and advocate at borough meetings. Get to know individual Denali Borough Assembly members.
- ☞ Make calls to your friends and neighbors supporting our campaigns.
- ☞ Fill vacancies as they arise in local government (2 current vacancies on the Denali Borough Planning Commission).
- ☞ Help us write articles for *DCC News*. We are interested in starting an interview column, we could use local photos, and we're open to poetry and art.

Happy New Year. Let's work together in 2010,

Nancy Bale



Alaskan Native Knowledge Network

FROM THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZER


by Julia Potter

As I write on the eve of Winter Solstice, our shortest day of the year, those of us in the far north are celebrating the turning point of diminishing daylight to the sun-filled days soon to come. I always feel good on Winter Solstice. It brings about hope and optimism. 2010 will present DCC with challenges on many fronts, as have previous years. My optimism to meet those challenges in the coming year is high, as usual. Of course I do love a challenge.



Alaskan Native Knowledge Network

I am thrilled that Charlie and Hannah have volunteered to complete the terms of Joan and Jenna on our board of directors. The combined talents of our board members, along with their high energy and commitment to Denali, will make 2010 a year of great accomplishments. However, Nancy is correct - the board and I cannot do it all. So my optimism falls to you, our members. It doesn't take a lot of time to write letters, make phone calls or talk to your neighbor. The difference that can be made is astounding. You know it is. You've seen it work in the past.

In 2010 challenge yourself to be more actively involved with Denali Citizens Council. The rewards far outweigh the effort. What could be more rewarding than knowing the integrity of Denali National Park & Preserve will continue for future generations to enjoy and cherish? Take the challenge. Keep the optimism alive and well. 

THANK YOU

NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER

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HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE DCC BOARD AND STAFF
*Don't miss an issue of DCC News. Write to us at mail@denalicitizens.org,
or call us at 907-683-3396 and let us know your new address.*

JOIN US

Denali Citizens Council is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. Our mission is to protect the natural integrity of Denali National Park and to promote a sustainable future for lands surrounding the Park.
Please join by filling out this form and mailing it to the address below.

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*If you have a different address in winter/summer, please include both addresses.
Make checks payable to Denali Citizens Council and send to the address below.
Members receive our newsletter and other print material and email updates.*

