

## DCC BOARD SETS AMBITIOUS AGENDA FOR 2011 DURING ANNUAL RETREAT

by Charlie Loeb

For the past several years, DCC's board of directors has held an annual board retreat in November or December. We spend an entire weekend taking stock of the organization, looking at what we've accomplished over the past year and discussing priorities for the year to come. Camp Denali graciously loaned us space for this year's board retreat, for which we are very appreciative.

Hanging over the board for this December's retreat was the problem of the Healy Basin Gas Only Exploration License. Given a final AKDNR-DOG Best Interest Finding that did not respond positively to any of our priority issues, the organization was at a watershed moment. Do we appeal the finding? Do we start preparing to be the gas watchdog in the Denali Borough? Do we commit to the changes in DCC that would be required to succeed? Or do we decide our capacity is more limited, our concerns not so broad?

In the end, the board decided that the organization has to rise to meet the challenge. The issue is just too important.

Does DCC care about land use decisions in the Denali Borough? We have a 10-year history of working for a thoughtful approach to local land use decisions that will protect the local rural landscape and quality of life. If gas development builds out like it has in other places, no amount of thoughtful decision-making about the disposition of Borough lands or local land use planning will make much of a difference in the overall sense of the community. The Healy area will look, smell, and sound like an industrial gas field.

Does DCC care about habitat for Denali's wildlife? We have more than 30 years of history working to protect Denali's wildlife, starting with the park expansion that was achieved in 1980. However, the expansion left out a critical piece of winter habitat – the Wolf Townships – a portion of which is in the gas license area. DCC has invested years of work in protecting the townships from railroad development, land disposals, wolf trapping and more. There is presently no more critical habitat protection issue for Denali National Park than what happens in this border area.

Gas cuts across our primary interests. So the board decided that we must step up to the challenge, or gas development could easily swamp all of our efforts.

DCC cannot succeed as it exists currently, with a very-part-time community organizer and 7 board members. Concurrently with deciding to appeal the state's Best Interest Finding to the Alaska Superior Court, we made the following key decisions.

- We are expanding the board to 9 members, to bring in some additional perspective and volunteer effort to enable a portion of the board to focus on gas and Stampede issues while others tackle our traditional national park issues.
- We set a goal for the new year of involving non-board volunteers more effectively in our work. Yes, that means we will be asking you to help out!

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## FROM THE BOARD

In the years that I have called Denali at least a part-time home, I've largely chosen to stay away from the politics of this place. This is not because of apathy or fear of conflict, but because I wanted to avoid the emotional exhaustion that all too often accompanies working to create change. It was actually that exhaustion that brought me here in 2004, when, as a disillusioned college activist, I bought my first one-way plane ticket to Alaska in a somewhat unoriginal but ultimately life-shaping attempt to escape the negative political culture in which I'd engrossed myself in Arizona. And it worked. I spent that summer staring into the faces of tiny tundra flowers whose names I didn't yet know and promised myself I'd never join another organization with a seemingly hopeless mission again.

I was only somewhat successful in keeping that resolution, but I did keep returning every summer to see those flowers, whose names I learned and have since had the opportunity to teach to others, and eventually, when the logistics of life allowed it, I came back to stay. It still sometimes surprises me to realize that for almost the entirety of my adult life, Denali has been at the center, and in the same way that Tucson once shaped my convictions, this place has taught me an infinite amount about what truly matters (and also regularly humbles me with how little I know). But, that has often stopped short of action, of deliberate work on behalf of those things that I've learned matter. I recently read Ed Abbey's advice to Earth First! activists in the 1980s, reminding them to get out and play in the wilderness, and not to get so caught up in the struggle for it that they forget what they're working towards. Here, I've felt like the challenge is to keep from getting so caught up in playing that we forget that there are threats to the ecosystem and way of life we all value.

Recently, though, I've been reminded that without constant vigilance, those threats can grow into very real dangers, and I could feel my own energy begin to shift again. Earlier this month, I was given the chance to join the Denali Citizens Council board. I feel honored to join this group of passionate, creative, and dedicated people whose work celebrates and defends the places and resources that have shaped many of our lives. As the newest DCC Board member, I have a lot to learn about the details and subtleties of the proposals and policies that could negatively and irrevocably harm the Denali region, both inside and outside the Park.

The other night, I walked down the Parks Highway towards home after meeting with other Board members at the DCC office. The full moon was spectacular in a clear sky, one of those nights that every little ice crystal seems to produce its own light. I realized that I felt none of that hopeless exhaustion that I once associated with activism, but rather a sense that any time and energy I spend with DCC is worthwhile, and that after all this place has given me, it's time to give back. I hope that I can do it justice.

*Erica Watson*



*Alaskan Native Knowledge Network*

## FROM THE COMMUNITY ORGANIZER by Julia Potter

It looks like 2011 will be an exciting year for DCC. The decision to appeal the state's Best Interest Finding on the Healy Gas Exploration License will certainly make the year interesting. I'm excited about the House and Senate both introducing bills on the Stampede State Recreation Area. I'm also very excited to be starting off the year with our new board member, Erica Watson. She is a great addition to our exceptional board of directors. We also have a new staff member, Molly McKinley working as our Gas Organizer. I'm very thrilled to see the many wonderful donations we have received for memberships and for the legal fund. This year, more than ever, we need the support of our members and you've shown just how much the issues we face mean to you. Thank you. ☘

### THANK YOU

#### NEW AND RENEWING MEMBERS SINCE OUR LAST NEWSLETTER

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Ray Kreig	Ed Vorisek
Claudia & Pete Martin	River White

## AMBITIOUS AGENDA FOR DCC *continued from page 1*

- We set up a committee of the board to pro-actively engage the National Park Service on the Park Road EIS and frontcountry development activities, as well as to request accountability on backcountry plan implementation. We are committed to not losing our original mission in the midst of addressing new challenges, and we welcome volunteers to join this group. Are you interested?
- We prioritized our existing effort to foster the Friends of Stampede to be the lead organization working to establish the Stampede State Recreation Area and otherwise seeking better management of state lands in the Wolf Townships.
- We will seek funding to hire a full-time, year-round community organizer.
- We will seek funding to support our role as gas development watchdog, and partners who can help.
- We established a separate account to collect donations specifically for legal assistance related to gas development.
- We formally established board and staff commitments to serve as liaisons with various local, state, and federal agencies including Denali Borough; Department of Fish and Game; Department of Mining, Land, and Water; and others.
- We reemphasized the need for DCC to serve as an information clearinghouse to track and share proposed government actions that would impact the Denali area.
- We described other issues we wanted to follow and influence where we can, such as state wildlife management, gateway growth and development, and the Healy Clean Coal restart. Fortunately some of these issues are quiet while other groups are leading the way on others, allowing DCC to be in a supporting role while we take the lead on national park issues, gas development, Stampede and Borough lands.

Is this an ambitious agenda for DCC?

Yes, but if we aren't going to tackle the big stuff, why bother?

We hope you will continue (and increase) your support for us in 2011. ☘



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# STAMPEDE STATE RECREATION AREA GAINS MOMENTUM IN THE 27TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

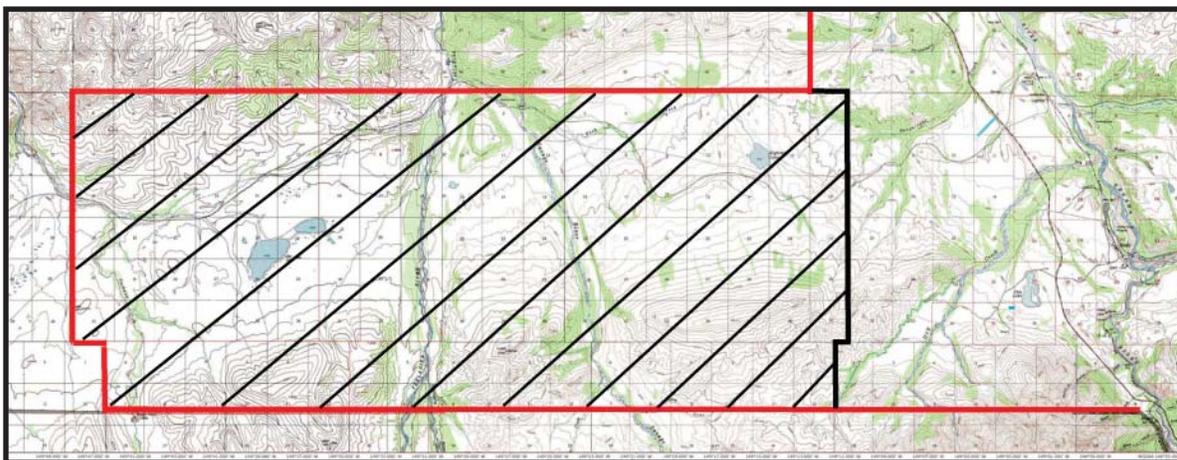
by Hannah Ragland

Two bills to create a Stampede State Recreation Area (SSRA) were introduced during the first week of the 27th Legislature which began on January 18th in Juneau. Backed by two Denali Borough resolutions of support, Senator Joe Thomas and Representative David Guttenberg introduced Senate Bill 60 (SB 60) and House Bill 113 (HB 113). The bills have been referred to standing committees within the House and Senate. Hearings could be scheduled at any time and will take place first in the Resource Committees.

The Borough's support of the current SSRA proposal reflects the work of Friends of Stampede, a group that formed in late October. Friends of Stampede members presented at the Assembly and Planning Commission meetings in January, where resolutions of support were introduced and passed. The Denali Borough Assembly sparked initial interest in the SSRA when it passed a resolution proposing the idea in early 2007. Senator Thomas and Representative Guttenberg acted on the Borough's suggestion and introduced the first SSRA bills during the 25th Legislature which ran from 2007 to 2008. The boundary for the first SRA proposal was drawn west of Eight-mile Lake largely because of a pending decision on the transfer of lands from the state to the borough around the lake. Eventually the state decided to retain ownership of lands around the lake, citing the "unique importance of this particular area for wildlife and recreation."

The area around Eight-mile Lake and adjacent to the Panguingue Subdivision is included in current versions of the SSRA bills, SB 60 and HB 113. Including the full area addresses the discontinuity between the previously suggested boundary and the adjacent lands important to wildlife and heavily used for recreation. The Borough's show of support and the reintroduction of SSRA bills in both the House and the Senate are important milestones towards resolving the status of lands in the Stampede Townships and around Eight-mile Lake.

DCC supports the Friends of Stampede's efforts to maintain and expand support for the SSRA proposal statewide. SB 60 and HB 113 are important to all Alaskans and visitors to the state that enjoy the Stampede Trail corridor and surrounding state lands. The development of a Management Plan would provide guidance for the use of lands, which are important to a variety of wildlife. Designation would protect traditional uses ranging from motorized and non-motorized recreation, to hunting and berry picking. If you'd like to find out how you can show support, or would like to stay informed on Stampede-related issues, email [FriendsofStampede@gmail.com](mailto:FriendsofStampede@gmail.com) or visit DCC's webpage on the Stampede State Recreation Area at <http://www.denalicitizens.org/stampede-sra/>. ☘



Map of the proposed Stampede State Recreation Area showing suggested extended boundary east of Eight-mile Lake. The areas around Eight-mile Lake and adjacent to the Panguingue Subdivision are included in current versions of the SSRA.

# NEW DNR COMMISSIONER DAN S. SULLIVAN MEETS WITH CONSERVATION GROUPS

DCC PRESIDENT EXPRESSES SUPPORT FOR FRIENDS OF STAMPEDE AND STAMPEDE STATE REC AREA

By Nancy Bale



From a Press Release on the DNR website: "Gov. Sean Parnell has tapped Alaska's attorney general to lead the state's Department of Natural Resources. Parnell said Dan Sullivan is a good choice because he has experience working on energy issues and has been Parnell's lead in fighting the federal government on land use and development issues."

*AP File Photo/Al Grillo*

On January 12, 2011, I was privileged to join a group of conservation partners in a meeting with the newly appointed Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Dan S. Sullivan. Sullivan replaced Commissioner Tom Irwin in November 2010 in the wake of Governor Sean Parnell's election to his first full term as governor. The new Governor had requested that the commissioners from his partial term replacing Sarah Palin step down after his re-election. He then replaced most of them. Sullivan had been in Parnell's administration as Attorney General prior to his nomination to DNR.

Sullivan, age 46, has held a variety of government jobs, including having been employed in the second Bush administration as Assistant Secretary of State for Economic, Energy and Business Affairs. He was a primary negotiator for President Bush at the G(8) Summits. He is well versed in international energy issues and has worked on major international gas and oil pipeline projects. His work as Alaska's AG before becoming DNR commissioner focused on protecting the state's resource development interests.

DCC must interact with DNR often because the agency sets and implements management and development policy for our state lands. We have collaborated with DNR employees on a wide variety of issues, from municipal land entitlements in the Denali Borough, Healy gas exploration, and a proposed new trail easement in the Healy Canyon, to name a few.

There were 13 of us at the meeting, 11 conservation representatives, Commissioner Sullivan and Deputy Commissioner Ed Fogels. The Commissioner welcomed the group and committed to respectful dialogue whilst indicating that there might not be mutual agreement on all aspects of all issues. Each conservation representative devoted about five minutes to a particular environmental issue. Proposed projects were described, including Chuitna Coal Mine, a proposal to mine through 11 miles of a salmon stream, Wishbone, Jonesville and other coal mine proposals, Pebble Mine, and Donlin Creek Mine. Representatives described potential impacts to salmon, the problem of toxins and the importance of mitigations. According to Brian Litmans, the Donlin Creek gold mine would be one of the largest emitters of mercury in the United States. Controlling these emissions was presented as a priority.

Toby Smith discussed the Hatcher Pass Management Plan and proposals for separation of motorized and non-motorized uses there. Wade Willis encouraged DNR, in developing a Guide Concession program, to conduct an open process involving all users, not simply professional guides. Peg Tileston brought up problems with a "brain drain" as folks retired away from DNR and advocated for hiring strong resource managers.

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## COMMISSIONER DAN S. SULLIVAN *continued from previous page*

I described DCC's enthusiastic support for the creation of a Stampede State Recreation Area and gave the commissioner a packet of materials, including maps, information on the Friends of Stampede group and a copy of the Denali Borough Resolution supporting the SRA. I indicated that I knew it would not be the commissioner's decision to establish an SRA (it would be the legislature's), but urged him to use the influence of his office to advocate for this designation.

I enjoyed this meeting and was glad for the welcome from our new commissioner. After the meeting, I spoke with Deputy Commissioner Ed Fogels. He acknowledged the letter DCC had recently written to the new commissioner, and affirmed DNR's desire to meet with DCC on the Healy Gas issue. We are hoping to present our position on Healy Gas exploration before the new commissioner, and to collaborate with his office, Usibelli and other interested parties on a resolution of the issue.

I would like to thank Alaska Conservation Alliance President Caitlin Higgins for arranging this meeting. ACA, an umbrella group of statewide conservation organizations, has taken the lead in organizing meetings between agency officials and conservation groups, and has been an important player in advocating for a sustainable energy policy for the state of Alaska. ACA's sister organization, Alaska Conservation Voters, keeps an office in Juneau and supports legislation that advances conservation principles. ACV also keeps track of legislators and provides information to the public about how they vote on conservation issues. ☘

## LEGISLATURE TO CONSIDER SUSITNA DAM PROJECT

by Charlie Loeb

The proposed Susitna Dam at Lower Watana is set up to be a top priority of the 2011 Alaska legislative session. Governor Sean Parnell has sent a bill to the legislature that would authorize the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) to invest in the project. The legislature will also consider an initial \$36 million appropriation for the AEA to continue studying the feasibility and potential impacts of the dam. The project is promoted as being crucial to meeting future Railbelt energy needs and the state's goal of generating 50% of its electricity from renewable sources by 2025.

The Issues Policy Council (IPC) of the Alaska Conservation Alliance met on January 14 to begin developing a conservation community response to the Susitna Dam proposal. So far, the ACA has not taken a position, stating that conservationists first want more information. Members of the IPC have many questions and concerns about the project, with some openly skeptical as to whether large hydropower facilities really qualify as "renewable" energy sources, some concerned about wildlife and fish habitat impacts, and others feeling like the dam is a premature distraction from serious consideration of distributed power generation and energy efficiency projects as first line solutions to Railbelt energy needs. There are also questions about the economics of the dam and required subsidies from state agencies. These concerns are balanced by the recognition that other energy production projects might be worse, for example the construction of new coal-fired power plants.

The IPC will continue asking questions, discussing the issue, and developing a consensus conservation community response to the dam proposal. DCC will participate in these discussions. If you have questions, concerns, or opinions related to the Susitna dam, please contact president Nancy Bale or community organizer Julia Potter. While the immediate action by the state legislature is on a fast track, decisions made this legislative session will not result in the construction of the dam. This is a long-term project with years of study, permitting, financing, public hearings, and the like before construction would begin. ☘



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# STAMPEDE SRA, EVA CREEK WIND FARM WIN UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FROM DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

by Cass Ray

Actions on two issues important to DCC were highlights of the January 12 meeting of the Denali Borough Assembly, as the assembly was unanimous in supporting the creation of a Stampede State Recreation Area and construction by GVEA of a wind farm near Eva Creek, about twelve miles north of Healy and near Ferry.

## **Stampede SRA efforts get boost from borough assembly's unanimous vote**

The resolution approved by the assembly lent support to the efforts of Sen. Joe Thomas and Rep. Dave Guttenberg to have the state create the Stampede State Recreation Area (SRA), noting the proposal included "adjacent lands directly east of [the] previously proposed boundary and west of Panguingue Creek Subdivision." (See map on page 5.)

Among the members of the assembly's audience urging support for the creation of the enlarged SRA was DCC board member Hannah Ragland, who shared a PowerPoint presentation introducing the Friends of Stampede, a group which formed in late October, and read a letter the Friends wrote to the assembly two days before the January 12 meeting. Since the formation of the Friends group, noted Ragland's PowerPoint, more than thirty people had attended meetings of the group, whose purpose is to "protect the natural resources and recreational opportunities on public lands in the townships along the Stampede Trail corridor." Four dozen people had asked to be included on the Friends' e-mail list.

After the borough assembly passed a resolution, four years ago, urging the formation of the SRA, noted the PowerPoint, Thomas and Guttenberg introduced a bill during the 2007-08 legislative session. After that bill did not get very far, it was reintroduced by Thomas during the 2009-10 session. A year ago the borough assembly passed a resolution supporting the inclusion in the SRA of lands around 8-Mile Lake.

Since the addition to the proposed SRA of the three sections including Eight-Mile Lake, noted the Friends' letter to the assembly, some residents were concerned that "even with that addition, the Recreation Area would be missing some essential lands." Among the benefits of "moving the boundary out to the edge of the Panguingue subdivision" is "reducing fragmentation of management." Extending the boundary only to Eight-Mile Lake would leave a "strip of land between the subdivision and the lake that would be managed by a different state agency, even though many of the same recreational activities occur on these lands." Other benefits of extending the boundary to the edge of the subdivision are "including lands heavily used for recreation, particularly in fall and winter" and "including important wildlife and migratory bird habitat."

At the January 12 meeting of the assembly in Healy, Dave Evans, the assembly member who introduced the Denali Borough's original resolution supporting the creation of a Stampede SRA more than four years ago, asked his fellow assembly members to name him one of the two members accompanying the mayor to the coming "fly-in" lobbying session in Juneau, and named the SRA as one of the issues he looked forward to pursuing. At the same meeting of the assembly, the SRA was among the ten items that Armeda Bulard urged her fellow assembly members to pursue in the coming year.

## **Eva Creek wind farm would be expected to go online in September 2012**

The borough assembly's unanimous vote on the resolution supporting the proposed construction by Golden Valley Electric Association (GVEA) of a wind farm near Eva Creek and asking the state to assist GVEA with land rights and permitting came after a PowerPoint presentation by Greg Wyman, GVEA's manager of construction services. To no one's surprise, as Wyman noted, but to appreciative chuckles, Wyman mentioned that GVEA has confirmed that most of the local wind originates from a southerly direction.

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## SRA, WIND FARM WIN UNANIMOUS SUPPORT *continued from previous page*

With no construction work scheduled until late summer 2011, turbine foundations and towers at the twelve to sixteen sites, about a quarter-mile apart, would be expected to be constructed in 2012. As many as sixteen towers, each 16 feet in diameter and 260 feet tall, with 123-foot-long blades, on 40-foot-square concrete pads, would be placed, eight on each of two ridges. The sites of all the proposed turbines are on state land.

Anticipating construction of the wind farm, which would be expected to go online in September 2012 and to have a capacity of 24 megawatts, a 98-foot meteorological wind monitoring tower was erected in 2003, two 98-foot towers and two 163-foot towers were installed four years later, and another 163-foot tower and two 260-foot towers were constructed in 2009, it was noted by Wyman, who has been with GVEA for twenty-one years.

Full power generation by the wind farm would require winds of at least 30 miles per hour. GVEA has determined that the Eva Creek site could generate wind power between 36 and 40 percent of the time. GVEA would expect to hire one to two new fulltime employees, noted Wyman, with a maximum of 50 people working on the construction project at any one time.

Among the concerns that GVEA has investigated the past two years, noted Wyman, are those in the cultural and historic areas, the project's potential effects on wetlands and birds, and the potential for pollutants to be released into the water. The "number one issue" surrounding the proposed wind farm is its potential effect on birds, Wyman said at a meeting hosted by GVEA in Healy last May. The Eva Creek site is the "ideal location" for both capturing wind power and having a minimal impact on migrating birds, contended GVEA.

The wind farm, a "once-in-a-generation opportunity," would be the largest wind power project in the state, GVEA has said. Although wind power is "expensive to build," GVEA has noted, "once built, it is a very inexpensive source of power." To construct the wind farm, the utility has applied for a \$93 million loan, to be paid off in 17 years.

DCC appreciates the Denali Borough Assembly's support for the proposal for an extended Stampede SRA and hopes the state legislature will act on that proposal. While DCC supports and applauds the exploration and pursuit of alternate, sustainable forms of energy, given the proximity of the huge wind towers to the migration paths of many birds that call Denali home for part of the year, we are concerned about the project and will continue to monitor it. ☘

## USIBELLI COAL MINE AGREES TO PAY \$60,000 EPA PENALTY FOR CLEAN WATER ACT VIOLATIONS

Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc., owner of an open-pit coal mine near Healy has signed a Consent Agreement and Final Order that resolves water permit violations and numerous unpermitted discharges. As part of the Agreement, Usibelli will pay a \$60,000 penalty to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

According to documents associated with the case, the Mine had 11 unpermitted discharges into the Nenana River, Hoseanna Creek, Sanderson Creek, and Francis Creek between April 2007 and July 2010. During that time, they also had 10 violations of their discharge permit limits.

According to Edward Kowalski, Director of EPA's Regional Office of Compliance and Enforcement, mining responsibly means paying attention and looking ahead to prevent future problems.

"Many of these discharges could have been minimized or avoided," said EPA's Kowalski. "By simply using and maintaining best management practices, we believe this penalty could have been avoided. Mining responsibly means making water quality protection a top priority."

Sanderson Creek, Hoseanna Creek, Francis Creek, and nearby gravel ponds are all classified by the State of Alaska as suitable for use as water supply, water recreation, and growth and propagation of fish, shellfish, other aquatic life, and wildlife. ☘

## BRIEF NEWS & VIEWS

### WEBSITE TIPS #3

Here are a few more tips for getting the most out of the new DCC website. Have you used the site? Please let us know what you think by dropping a line to [charlie@denalicitizens.org](mailto:charlie@denalicitizens.org). We are planning some more improvements, and your ideas can help shape the site for the future.

### Donate On-Line

A great feature implemented as part of the website revival is an online donation function. From either the Join DCC tab or the Donate Now button on the homepage you can send your membership dues, make extra donations, or – particularly right now – donate to the Gas Legal Fund. Donations or membership dues are then sent via PayPal and your credit card. If you have special instructions or want to designate use of your donation, please be sure to fill out the optional comment section so it is appropriately attributed.

Just so you know, PayPal does impose a transaction fee that is a small portion of the donation. If you want DCC to get every last penny, then a check still works best. However, we are quite willing to forego a few cents in order to be sure we receive your contribution, and we are very happy to provide this convenience to our members and supporters.

### Share/Save

DCC likes for our information to get widely circulated, and our website makes it easy for you to help. If you look at the Denali News page, notice that each post is followed by a Share/Save button. This button enables you to instantly share a compelling DCC news story with your friends, colleagues, representatives, or others through your own Facebook, Twitter, Digg, e-mail, or other account. Just click the button and select the service you want to use. A drop-down menu expands options beyond the most common choices.

Please help us spread the word by using this feature to get others educated and involved! ☘

### DCC SEEKS NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Do you have a passion for Denali National Park or the surrounding lands and communities? Are you possessed with a need to do something to protect the park, the community, the wildlife, the landscape? Do you have skills that could help with our work, and time to dedicate to a worthy cause? Consider running for a seat on the DCC Board of Directors.

DCC will be holding an election for board members this spring, and the current board is very interested in identifying potential candidates who can bring new energy, new perspective, and new skills to the board. If you are interested, please contact Charlie Loeb at 907-733-6300 or [charlie@denalicitizens.org](mailto:charlie@denalicitizens.org) to get complete information about the work and time commitments of board members. The deadline for submitting your name for consideration is March 6. Only current dues-paying members of DCC may serve on the board or vote in the election. ☘



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## BRIEF NEWS & VIEWS

### DCC SCHOLARSHIP AVAILABLE FOR AYEA SUMMIT

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) is gearing up for its Civics and Conservation Summit. AYEAs spring training connects Alaskan youth with the state legislative procedure in Juneau. DCC once again will support the attendance of Denali Borough youth through scholarship money toward transportation and Summit fees. Eligible youth include those entering 8th through 12th grade. Find out more about the Summit at AYEAs website (<http://ayea.org/training-events/ccs/>). Contact Hannah Ragland at [hbragland@hotmail.com](mailto:hbragland@hotmail.com) to find out more about the scholarship or to suggest a local youth that would benefit from attending AYEAs summit. ☞

### MILITARY CONDUCTS SCOPING MEETINGS FOR PROPOSED CHANGES TO TRAINING AREAS

Meetings were held in January throughout Alaska as the military seeks to spread the word about proposed changes covered under a new Environmental Impact Statement for ground and air training in Alaska. The changes are centered around the Denali Highway, and along the Richardson Highway south of Fairbanks and Delta Junction. Proposals along the Denali Highway include substantially expanding the Fox Military Operations Area (MOA), used for air training only, and adding a new MOA around Paxson. The Fox MOA, as proposed under Alternatives A, B and C, would expand to the south and east, including Lake Louise. Proposals for the Fox and new Paxson MOAs include changes in the altitude of overflights, from 5,000 feet above ground level to 500 feet above ground level. All new and existing MOAs would be affected by a proposal to increase hours available for training at night, including the Susitna MOA, southwest of Denali National Park. DCC is concerned about the impacts that the lowered flight levels and extended nighttime training could have on wildlife habitat, including sheep and caribou calving areas, and the public safety and enjoyment in areas used for recreation. The first round of comments was due February 4th. There will be additional opportunities for public comment in the development of the final EIS. Visit [www.jparceis.com](http://www.jparceis.com) or DCC's website for more details. ☞

## DCC NEWS

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Don't miss an issue of *DCC News*. Write to us at [mail@denalicitizens.org](mailto: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.

Your contribution is tax deductible

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Major donor (\$126 & up) Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Summit (\$125) City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Tundra (\$75) Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ Taiga (\$35)

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, other print material and email updates.

PO Box 78  
Denali Park,  
Alaska  
99755

Denali  
Citizens Council

[www.denalicitizens.org](http://www.denalicitizens.org)