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Explore, enjoy and protect the planet

# Sierra Borealis *alaska report*

SIERRA CLUB ALASKA CHAPTER  
MARCH 2024



March  
18-20 Just  
Transitions:  
Juneau. p. 2

## Action Needed

### Help pass key renewable energy bills in state legislature

As we enter the final months of the Alaska state legislative session, which will most likely end in May, unless extended, it is more important than ever to get key re-



photo: from Andrea Feniger

Where the action is in Juneau

newable energy bills across the finish line! Because Alaska has two-year legislative sessions, any bills introduced in 2023 are still fair game. Legislators need to hear your support for three key renewable energy bills that Sierra Club members helped get introduced in 2023:

- AK HOUSING FINANCE CORP: SUSTAIN ENERGY (H.B. 124 & S.B. 125) a.k.a "The Green Bank Bill" which would establish a green bank that will help finance clean energy projects;
- UTILITIES: RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD (H.B. 121 & S.B. 101) a.k.a "The RPS bill" which would set goals and deadlines for the railbelt utilities from Fairbanks through Homer to achieve a transition to clean energy;
- COMMUNITY ENERGY FACILITIES; NET METERING (H.B. 328) a.k.a "The Community Solar Bill" which would

allow communities and individuals to purchase communal solar arrays. People can then purchase shares in these arrays, making solar more accessible and affordable.

Engaging in the public process can seem daunting at first, but it is a vital aspect of civic engagement. It is important to remember that our legislators are meant to work for us and represent our interests! You can email or call your House representative and senator's offices at any time to let them know you want them to support these bills. You can find out who to contact for your district by going to [www.akleg.gov](http://www.akleg.gov) and scrolling to the bottom to find the box that says "who represents me."

You can also sign up for alerts to participate at key times. Text any bill number (ex: HB124) to 559-245-2529 to get text alerts on bills that are important to you. You will get updates on movement on these bills, including hearings. Calling into a legislative hearing to comment on a specific bill we support or oppose is incredibly helpful and strategic in getting these bills passed.

To keep up with Sierra Club Alaska's legislative priorities, visit <https://www.sierraclub.org/alaska/legislative-priorities> to see the full list of bills we support or oppose this session. But please keep in mind that the three energy bills described here are top priorities. ❖

-- Andrea Feniger

#### ➡ Featured in this issue:

Help renewable energy bills	p. 1
New Chapter chair's greeting	p. 2
Goodby from Outgoing chair	p. 3
GAO nods to cancelling leases	p. 3
Alaska's Wildernesses, by size	p. 4
Coal called "clean"?	p. 5
Murkowski Veterans' bill update	p. 6
WILD 12 Notice	p. 6
Santa for Fossil Fuel free	p. 7
X-Country ski trip	p. 8

Meet your new Chapter chair

## Hello Alaska Sierra Club!

I'm Adrienne, newly elected Chair of the Executive Committee for Sierra Club Alaska Chapter. I am moving into this position from my previous position as Treasurer (More on that soon).

I moved to Alaska in 2020 for my career and started volunteering with the Alaska Chapter in 2021. Through Chapter outings I have enjoyed opportunities to see different places in my new state's environment and meet people who helped build the protections it deserves.

The number one thing I'm glad to have Sierra Club for is the fight for climate action. We in Alaska definitely feel the effects and have an uphill battle in front of us keeping pressure on to create local action for global good. (**let's go, renewable energy!**)

I have had a career that is equal parts environmental conservation, education, and data science. As Chair, I will continue to embrace the Sierra Club slogan of "explore, enjoy, protect" in our chapter activities.

A value I bring with me to this position is transparency: I think an organization like ours does better when we work together, and no one feels like they need to keep secrets (except for the very important respect of privacy

reasons, of course). So that means please don't hesitate, as a Club member, to reach out to me to talk about the Chapter and what you would like to see going on with the Chapter—which is YOUR Chapter. And, finally, to round out my little self-intro, I'd like to say one of my strengths is organization. I hope to bring that with me as I sit in this position with the team.

My hope for this year is to get myself trained up as an effective Chair and become more engaged with both our membership here, and with the national leaders of Sierra Club—both our staff and lead volunteers. Baby steps forward for our Chapter has always been the best bet, and I'm going to start by running ExComm meetings, a few outings, and, as I hope, meeting more of you!

Now we have two new members on the ExComm, Santa Claus as an At-Large member (yes, North Pole's Santa Claus, a great person to chat with about Alaska's political landscape) and Dick Anderson as treasurer, (Park Service career employee, now retired—ask him about mushrooms or woodstoves, or both, you will definitely learn something new!) Thanks to our new members for volunteering, and to everyone who voted in the election.

Welcome to the ExComm team—I am excited to have you as team mates and looking forward to doing good works together for Alaska's environment. ❖

-- Adrienne Canino

## Just Transition Summit in Juneau March 18th-20th



Join Alaskans from all around the state for the third **Just Transition Summit**, a biennial gathering to share knowledge, skills, inspiration, and connect about the equity and justice work in Alaskan communities. You can learn more

about the summit and register at <https://www.justtransitionak.org/>

This year, the Summit will be followed by a lobby day at the state legislature, organized by Alaskan conservation organizations. Those who are interested in becoming more involved in the legislative process and sharing their thoughts and stories with elected representatives are encouraged to participate. You can reach

out to [alaska.chapter@sierraclub.org](mailto:alaska.chapter@sierraclub.org) for help plugging in to the lobby day.

-- Andrea Feniger

(The Alaska Just Transition Collective is an intersectional cohort of regional organizations who collaborate through an aligned vision for a just and equitable transition away from an extractive economy into a resilient one based in care. We recognize Indigenous knowledge as essential to our work. By honoring the original stewards of these lands, Alaska Native peoples, we uplift a knowledge system that has a deep relationship to the lands and waters.) ❖



photo: from Andrea Feniger



## Outgoing Chapter chair's farewell: *Leaving with Gratitude*

Hello Alaska Chapter members!

It is with an excited and optimistic heart that I welcome our Chapter's new Chair, Adrienne Canino. I've gotten to know Adrienne very well over the last two years while she's been serving in the role of Treasurer for the Chapter, and I have every faith that she will continue to exemplify our principles to enjoy, explore, and protect our planet during her time as Chair of the Alaska Chapter.

While I'll continue to serve in the role of Secretary for the Chapter, I'll take a step back from a larger leadership role to travel and dedicate more time to my role of coaching softball for the Nunaka Valley Little League.

As my time as Alaska Chapter Chair comes to an end, I want to take the opportunity to say goodbye and thank all of the amazing volunteers that I have been so lucky to work with over the past four years. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of shaping the leadership and direction of this Chapter. Although I haven't had the chance to meet every Chapter member in person, your support of the Sierra Club in Alaska and the work we've done means that

I've been lucky enough to benefit from your generosity and backing in the fight to protect Alaska's wild spaces. For this reason, I do want to personally thank each one of you for your support, for allowing us to continue pursuing a more sustainable and ethical future for ourselves and our planet. Your contributions, volunteer work, and continued dedication are paramount to every success and win we've accomplished in my time here.

I feel so lucky to have met so many great individuals through the many partnerships we've established with like-minded grassroots conservation groups here in Alaska. I have learned so much from working side by side with some of our state's most passionate and knowledgeable activists and will forever be grateful for the lessons and wisdom I've garnered. I will miss the camaraderie and sense of community that we have shared, and I am grateful for the memories that I have made over these four years. I hope to get to know even more of you as I continue my journey with the Alaska Chapter serving in the Secretary role.

Thank you for continuing to be a champion of Alaska's fight for a cleaner --and wilder-- future. ❖

----- Heather Jesse, former Alaska Chapter chair

## **GOOD NEWS** Government Accountability Office agrees Biden Administration had legal authority to cancel leases in the Arctic

On September 6, 2023, the U.S. Department of the Interior announced its decision to cancel seven oil leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge held by the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA). AIDEA had purchased these leases at the sale held by the Trump Administration in 2021. Every other bidder had since forfeited their leases, leaving AIDEA as the sole leaseholder in September. The Biden Administration argued that there were legal deficiencies in the administrative record relating to the lease sale that led to their decision to cancel the remaining leases.

Under the Congressional Review Act (CRA), some rule decisions require approval from Congress before they take effect. The action to cancel the leases has now been determined to be a licensing issue and not a rules issue. In February, the Government Accountability Office formally agreed that the Biden Administration had the legal authority to cancel AIDEA's leases.

As the GAO stated: "We conclude that the Decision Memorandum is not a rule under CRA, as it is an order under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA). Interior's cancellation of the leases are licensing actions and thus orders that are not subject to the Congressional Review Act"; thus the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge will stay protected for another day!

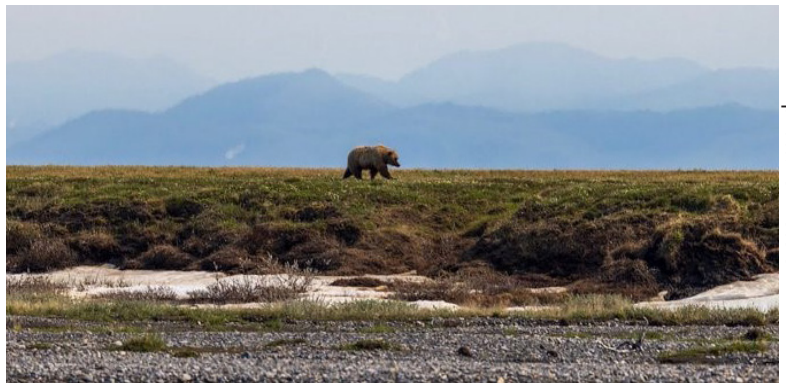


photo: Len Necefer

Wildlife in the Arctic Refuge need vast wild spaces to roam in

Read more about this GAO decision at: <https://www.gao.gov/products/b-335781> ❖

## Alaska's 48 wilderness areas--by size:

### *From Wrangell St Elias to Hazy Islands*

Including region & managing agency: National Park Service =NPS; Fish & Wildlife Service=FWS; Forest Service=FS,

- 1. Wrangell-Saint Elias Wilderness:** 9,432,000 acres--eastern Alaska-NPS
- 2. Mollie Beattie Wilderness:** 8,000,000 acres, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, FWS
- 3. Gates of the Arctic Wilderness:** 7,143,000 acres: northern Alaska, NPS. From 1980.
- 4. Noatak Wilderness:** 5,814,000 acres, western Alaska, NPS.
- 5. Katmai Wilderness:** 3,323,000 acres southwest Alaska, NPS.
- 6. Glacier Bay Wilderness:** 2,864,800 acres: eastern Alaska, NPS.
- 7. Jay S Hammond Wilderness:** 2,592,000 acres: Lake Clark National Park, NPS.
- 8. Togiak Wilderness:** 2,74,000 acres, Southwest Alaska, FWS.
- 9. Denali Wilderness:** 2,146,000 acres, Northcentral Alaska, NPS.
- 10. Misty Fjords National Monument Wilderness:** 2,144,000 acres. Southeast, FS. from 1980.
- 11. Kenai Wilderness:** 1,305,200 acres, in Kenai National Wildlife Refuge, FWS. From 1980.
- 12. Andreafsky Wilderness:** 1,300,000 acres, in Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, western Alaska, FWS.
- 13. Aleutian Islands Wilderness:** 1,300,000 acres, Aleutians, FWS. From 1980.
- 14. Innoko Wilderness:** 1,240,000 acres, Innoko National Wildlife Refuge, western Alaska: FWS.
- 15. Kootznoowoo Wilderness:** 989,000 acres on Admiralty Island, Southeast. FS. From 1980.
- 16. Unimak Wilderness:** 910,000 acres, on Unimak Island, western Alaska, FWS. From 1980.
- 17. Tracy Arm-Fords Terror Wilderness:** 648,880 acres, in Tongass National Forest, Southeast. FS. From 1980.
- 18. Nunivak Wilderness:** 600,000 acres, in Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge, western Alaska, FWS
- 19. Stikine-LeConte Wilderness:** 436,000 acres, Southeast, FS. From 1980.
- 20. Becharof Wilderness:** 400,000 acres in Becharof National Wildlife Refuge, western Alaska, FWS. From 1980.
- 21. Koyukuk Wilderness:** 400,000 acres in Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, western Alaska, FWS.
- 22. Russell Fjord Wilderness:** 348,000 acres, near Yakutat, Southeast, FS. From 1980.
- 23. South Baranof Wilderness:** 315,000 acres: in Tongass National Forest, Southeast. FS. From 1980.
- 24. Izembek Wilderness:** 307,000 acres near tip of Alaska Peninsula, Izembek National Wildlife Refuge, FWS.



### **25. West Chichagof-Yakobi**

- Wilderness:** 271,300 acres in Tongass National Forest, Southeast. FS.
- 26. Semedi Wilderness:** 250,000 acres in Semidi Islands National Wildlife Refuge, western Alaska, FWS.
- 27. Selawik Wilderness:** 240,000 acres, in Selawik National Wildlife Refuge, western Arctic, FWS.
- 28. Kobuk Valley Wilderness:** 176,000 acres in Kobuk Valley National Park, western Arctic, NPS.
- 29. Endicott River Wilderness:** 98,400 acres in eastern Alaska, near Glacier Bay, FS. From 1980.
- 30. Bering Sea Wilderness:** 91,300 acres in Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, FWS. From 1970.
- 31. South Prince of Wales Wilderness:** 86,700 acres in Tongass National Forest, Southeast, FS. From 1980.
- 32. South Etolin Wilderness:** 83,600 acres in Tongass National Forest, Southeast, FS.. From 1990.
- 33. Chuck River Wilderness:** 75,000 acres, adjacent to Tracy Arm-Fords Terror, Southeast, FS. From 1990.
- 34. Tebenkof Bay Wilderness:** 66,900 acres in Tongass National Forest, Southeast, FS. From 1980.
- 35. Kuiu Wilderness:** 60,100 acres in Tongass National Forest, Southeast, FS. From 1990.
- 36. Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness:** 46,500 acres in Tongass National Forest, Southeast, FS.
- 37. Karta River Wilderness:** 39,900 acres on Prince of Wales Island, Tongass, Southeast, FS. From 1990.
- 38. Simeonof Wilderness:** 25,800 acres in Shumagin Group, Aleutians, western Alaska, FWS. From 1976.
- 39. Pleasant/Lemusurier/Inian Islands Wilderness:** 23,000 acres in Icy Strait, eastern Alaska, FS. From 1990.
- 40. Coronation Island Wilderness:** 19,100 acres in Tongass National Forest, Southeast, FS. From 1980.
- 41. Warren Island Wilderness:** 11,500 acres, off Prince of Wales Island, Tongass, Southeast, FS. From 1980.
- 42. Tuxedni Wilderness:** 5,500 acres off Cook Inlet, Southcentral Alaska, FWS. From 1970.
- 43. Maurelle Islands Wilderness:** 4800 acres west of Prince of Wales Island, Tongass, Southeast, FS. From 1980.
- 44. Forrester Island Wilderness:** 2,800 acres, southwest of Prince of Wales Island, Tongass, Southeast, FS.
- 45. Chamisso Wilderness:** 450 acres in Chukchi Sea Unit, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, FWS. From 1975.
- 46. Bogoslof Wilderness:** 175 acres, in Bering Sea north of Unalaska Island, FWS. From 1970.
- 47. Saint Lazaria Wilderness:** 65 acres at entrance to Sitka Sound, Alaska Maritime Refuge, FWS. From 1970.
- 48. Hazy Islands Wilderness:** 32 acres, Gulf of Alaska Unit, Alaska Maritime National Wildlife Refuge, FWS. From 1970. ❖

## Newly-introduced Clean Energy Standard (HB 368) defines coal as clean

### Not coal with carbon capture and storage. Just coal.

House Bill 368 was introduced on February 20 as an alternative to the Renewable Portfolio Standard bill that was introduced last year and has been stalled in the senate. I opened it up expecting to find a bill that tried to drive clean energy development with carrots rather than sticks, and was prepared to debate the relative merits of those two strategies. Instead I found a jumbled mess.

It takes a fair amount of work to puzzle out what it would do. Or why. Did someone let Usibelli coal mine write themselves into a clean energy bill? Or did they throw it together at the last minute without really reading what they wrote?

I thought it was important to call this out. Defining coal as clean is the most egregious thing in this bill. As far as the rest goes, the incentives in it are probably too small to be meaningful, and strangely limited to exclude projects by independent power producers. It also appears to direct the RCA [Regulatory Commission of Alaska] to come up with an entire Railbelt transmission plan, insists that Copper Valley be connected to the Railbelt, and sets the RCA to create a new net metering rate that may entirely replace the current system.

Here's what "clean energy" means, according to HB 368.

"Sec. 42.05.935. Definitions. In AS 42.05.900- 42.05.935, (1) 'clean energy' means electrical energy that (A) when generated by a load-serving entity, does not release carbon dioxide or releases carbon dioxide in an amount that is offset by the amount of carbon dioxide the load-serving entity absorbs or removes from the atmosphere;

(B) is generated from coal with a sulfur content of one percent or less by weight;

(C) is generated from renewable energy resources; or

(D) is generated from nuclear energy;"

This list defines coal as clean. It produces the nonsensical result that energy produced by low-sulfur coal is considered clean by default, even without carbon capture, while natural gas power (which produces vastly lower sulfur dioxide pollution and lower CO2 pollution by default) is not. I can't see how that makes sense to anyone.

The only coal mine in Alaska is Usibelli, which produces coal with less than one percent sulfur: by default, therefore, all coal counts as clean.



### What else is in the bill? Targets:

The bill sets targets for clean energy of 35% by

end 2036, and 60% by end 2051. While there's a whole lot of text about what counts for compliance with and exceptions from these targets, their only real effect is to set eligibility for the bill's tax credits. (Actually, I can't find anything that says a utility that fails to meet the targets is ineligible, only that one that has a waiver or has opted out of them is ineligible).

Also, while the targets have years attached, they're actually pinned to completion of an undefined transmission upgrade plan that the RCA has to create.

"The commission shall adopt a minimum standard for electric power transmission lines sufficient to ensure seamless end-to-end electrical energy transmission."

That sounds more like the RCA creating a transmission plan rather than a transmission standard, and is referred to as "the upgrade" thereafter.

### Defining coal as clean is the most egregious thing in this bill

Regardless of the year listed in the bill, the first target comes into effect 10 years after the upgrade is completed. And while there's nothing much defined about that upgrade plan, it must be assuming that the plan includes extension of the transmission system to Copper Valley, because of this part: "60 percent of sales must be from clean energy within 25 years after the upgrade is complete, or when electric power transmission lines connect the interconnected electric energy transmission network in the Railbelt to the service area of the Copper Valley Electric Association, whichever is later." This despite the fact that Copper Valley isn't currently part of the Railbelt, so its connection can't possibly be required to "ensure seamless end-to-end electrical energy transmission." Apparently, the RCA is also going to define those ends, and someone wants to make sure they include Copper Valley.

### Clean Energy Tax Credits:

Depending on that vague transmission plan, the "targets" may or may not ever be triggered to potentially render a utility ineligible for the credits. Certainly all utilities would be eligible for them between now and 2036. What would the credits do?

Credits are a 0.2 cents/kWh tax credit for the first 10 years of newly-built clean energy projects. That amount is quite tiny compared to utilities' overall costs. So even if they do incentivize coal power, they don't incentivize anything very much.

The federal production tax credit gives between 2.75 and 3.35 cents/kWh (though not for coal power!). So, more than ten times as much (and inflation-adjusted, unlike the proposed credits in this Alaska bill).

### What next?

If someone writes a clean energy standard bill to define clean energy in a sensible way and attempts to drive it forward with meaningful incentives, it would be interesting to have that conversation. ❖

(McKittrick is a writer with energy policy expertise based in Seldovia, AK)



## Senator Murkowski targets national wildlife refuge and Tongass/Chugach forest land

In late February Alaska's Senator Lisa Murkowski and co-sponsor Senator Dan Sullivan introduced S. 3802, the Alaska Native Vietnam Era Veterans Land Allotment Extension and Fulfillment Act. It would make certain national wildlife refuge and national forest lands available for 160-acre veteran allotments.

Under the Native Allotment Act only unreserved federal land is available for Native allotments. Refuge and forest lands are reserved federal lands and are not now available. BLM-Alaska manages Alaska's unreserved land and has made 28 million acres available for allotment applications. According to the agency, about 2,000 veterans are eligible to apply for allotments.

S. 3802 would also extend the allotment application period for five years when the current five-year period expires next year.

### Background

In 2019, when Murkowski chaired the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, she sponsored a bill to require the BLM to make BLM and refuge lands available while exempting national parks, designated wilderness areas, national forest and other reserved public lands. (*sierra borealis* March 2019)

Senator Maria Cantwell (D-WA), then heading up the Democratic side of the committee, opposed opening non-wilderness refuge areas—about 57 million acres—for allotment selections in addition to the BLM lands.

This led to a compromise in the bill as enacted: the Fish and Wildlife Service was directed to identify a 3.6 million acre pool of refuge land from which eligible veterans could apply for allotments, and to recommend whether allotments should be allowed. Congress would then consider whether to authorize the allotment selections.

In November 2020, in the dying days of the Trump Administration, the Service identified 3.6 million acres and said that allotments should be authorized. The committee took no further action prior to arrival of the newly elected Biden Administration and a new Democratic majority on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Sen. Murkowski again proposes to raid the refuges and, for the first time, the national forests as well. Potentially standing in her way again is Sen. Cantwell who with considerable seniority sits on the committee. ❖

-- Jack Hession



Raven Stealing the Sun © Israel Shotridge

## WILD 12-- World Wilderness Congress

The quadrennial series of World Wilderness Congresses brings together worldwide leaders on preserving wild spaces in their countries—inspired by the U.S. establishment of a National Wilderness Preservation System sixty years ago. Organized by the WILD Foundation, <https://wild.org/>, most of these global gatherings have taken place in other countries, but in 2024, for the third time, the U.S. will host the World Wilderness Congress. WILD12 will be held in **Rapid City South Dakota**, on Tribal lands, from August 24 through 31, 2024. (WILD 8 was held in Anchorage, Alaska, in 2005, and WILD 4 took place in Boulder, Colorado, in 1987.)

WILD 12 according to leaders of the WILD Foundation, is "motivated by the belief that traditional Indigenous lifeways and leaders guard knowledge and traditions. This can help improve the practice and outcomes of wilderness conservation. Our hope is to create a platform – with wilderness at its heart

– that sparks transformational changes in global society and propels Indigenous leadership to its center."

In early March, the WILD Foundation announced the first round of scheduled speakers for the August event. We note that at least one prominent Native Alaska leader is included:

- \*\* Chief Arvol Looking Horse: The 19th Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe and Bundle;
- \*\* Sarah James: Arctic Village Spokeswoman and Activist;
- \*\* Sylvia Earle: Her Deepness, National Geographic Explorer, and Ocean Elder;
- \*\* Cristina Mittermeier: Marine Biologist and Award-Winning Conservation Photographer.

Join this global event in the Black Hills of South Dakota between August 25-31, 2024 for this important dialogue, and to help craft innovative new proposals for a more just and effective global wilderness sector. ❖

# North Pole's Santa for a Fossil-Fuel Free Future

Fossil fuels have a detrimental impact on our water, land, air, and climate. Nation-wide, there have been mining and fracking disasters, LNG and gas leaks, oil spills, and the fossil fuel industry's utter failure to prevent, contain, and clean up after such incidents and mitigate their substantial damages.

It's time to declare a climate emergency and roll back recent fossil fuel permit approvals, including those for the Willow Project and the Alaska Pipeline Project, and reverse the Department of Energy's decision to approve the export application for the proposed Alaska LNG Pipeline.

The CEOs and shareholders of the largest fossil fuel enterprises are laughing all the way to the bank, while the US government and states subsidize their investments and operations. Those subsidies, instead, should be allocated toward protecting our children's health, safety, and welfare.

The Fairbanks Borough, our electric cooperatives, Senators Sullivan and Murkowski, Representative Peltola, and Governor Dunleavy must act now to transition to renewable energy sources.

Most of us who are old enough to vote have a responsibility to protect our beloved children. Now is the time to prove to our children that the greatest gift is love. When I went to seminary, I learned, and believe, that we are to love our Creator and love one another.

Our Creator gave us this planet Earth, its climate, atmosphere, water, air, and ground. It is our responsibility to love, nurture, and protect our planet, as we love, nurture, and protect our children.

*Here's what we can do right now:*

\*\* Join the Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition and support KING - "Keep it IN the Ground" and use appropriate hashtags on social media platforms;

\*\* Join organizations including Native Movement, Earth Justice, the Sierra Club, Cold Climate Housing Research Center, and others fighting for climate justice;

\*\* Support UAF and the Alaska Science Forum that address air quality issues;

\*\* Support "The Ecologist", that completed an exhaustive study on the massive amount of land, air, and water pollution our military produces throughout the United States;

\*\* Support scientific research on climate change, permafrost, methane, and biological impacts — all affecting our national security;

\*\* Consider running for political office: local, borough, state, federal. (On a personal note: thank you again to

those who voted for me, when I was a candidate.)

\*\* Campaign for and elect progressive candidates, who will:

\*\* Vote for legislation, such as the federal FatCat Act (based on the Institute for Policy Studies and Patriotic Millionaires study: a carbon aviation tax aimed at the wealthiest who fly quite often in their own jet aircraft);

\*\* Prevent mining, oil, and gas companies from destroying our public roads, disturbing wildlife and subsistence resources on public lands, and from polluting waterways;

\*\* Reform Alaska's oil and gas tax code to end subsidies;

\*\* Address the impact of permafrost melt on our environment, infrastructure, and national defense capability;

\*\* Support electric vehicle usage and charging station expansion;

\*\* Provide input to the North Pole Energy Project (agriculture and geothermal) to encourage economic viability, sustainability, and environmental protection;

\*\* Support subsistence energy projects — solar, hydro, building;

\*\* Support broadband infrastructure, decreasing the need to travel while increasing our businesses' ability to compete and our students' opportunities to learn;

Please sign the petition to approve Alaska Senate Bill 114, on taxing oil and gas production and oil and gas corporate income.

Alaskans must become more self-sufficient. The Permanent Fund and Alaska Native corporation distributions are not enough to secure Alaska's fiscal stability. Our natural resources belong to each and every one of us Alaskans — to steward wisely, and ensure that our own population, first and foremost, has sufficient energy, food, shelter, pure water, and clean air. We should not continue to sell-out to outside entities.

It's time to declare a climate emergency and act on it. ❖

-- Santa Claus,

Sierra Club Alaska, Executive Committee Member

(This is an excerpt from Santa's address at this winter's Fairbanks Climate Action Coalition's 'Keep It in the Ground' rally.)



## Sierra Borealis / alaska report

is the newsletter of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club

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### Follow Sierra Club's Alaska Chapter

For the latest on hikes and all events, check us out on Facebook or [www.sierraclub.com/alaska](http://www.sierraclub.com/alaska).

## Upcoming event through our military outdoors program

### CROSS COUNTRY SKIING AT EAGLE GLEN



Alaska healing hearts would like you to join us at EagleGlen located on JBER for cross country skiing or snowshoeing! We will spend an hour and a half enjoying nature and possibly hanging out with the local moose that are often seen on these trails. AHH will provide rentals and lunch to follow at Texas Roadhouse. Our goal is to get you outdoors, try something new and to create lasting memories with friends, fellow servicemen/women and loved ones.

EagleGlen, JBER  
1030 on March 16, 2024



**MUST SECURE A SPOT THROUGH SIGNUP GENIUS**

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B084CA9A62AA2FB6-48373153->



Now through the end of March, you can share some of your PFD with Sierra Club Alaska Chapter! We are listed as "Sierra Club Foundation." 100 percent of your contribution will be used for our in-state environmental conservation and education work.

