

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society

Winter 2013



Michelle Michaud and Jack Wiles
import happiness from Bhutan.

A Journey to The Kingdom of Bhutan

KBCS Annual Meeting and Membership Drive

March 21, 2013 at 6:30 PM

Islands and Ocean Visitor Center

Join us for a special program, **A Journey to the Kingdom of Bhutan** presented by Jack Wiles and Michelle Michaud who recently traveled to Bhutan and will present an insight in to this intriguing country where Gross National Happiness is a model for the world.

Bhutan, known as the "Land of the Thunder Dragon," is no ordinary place. This is a country where buying cigarettes is illegal, where the rice is red and chilies are part of the main meal. Discover the enchantment of the distinctive architecture, the visual splendor of the Himalayas, the diversity of environment and the warmth of the people of Bhutan.

Bhutan is seen as a model for proactive conservation initiatives. Environmental conservation is one of the nation's core values as Bhutan strives for sustainable development. Find out more about this fascinating country and the lessons it holds for us.

For more information contact KBCS at 907 235.8214.

Our Annual Overlook Park Hike is Coming Up During Shorebird Festival

KBCS has led the popular day-long hikes into Overlook Park during the Kachemak Bay Shorebird Festival since the very first years of the festival. Overlook Park is a 136 acre pocket of undisturbed native coastal habitat on Kachemak Bay, and a remote unit of the AK State Park system. The unique mosaic of coastal wooded wetlands, meadows, large ponds and diverse intertidal area is not found anywhere else along the north shore of Kachemak Bay. The Park is safeguarded from development by the difficulty of access, remaining a natural sanctuary. This hike provides a rare opportunity to explore its natural environment.

KBCS leads the Overlook Park hike on the Friday and Sunday of Shorebird Festival weekend each year. We gather in the early morning at IOVC for a shuttle to the Diamond Creek trailhead and return via Bishop's Beach around mid-to-late afternoon, depending on the interests and abilities of each group. The hike runs from the Diamond Creek trail to Bishop's Beach along the shoreline, with a several hour stop in Overlook Park along the way. Typically, we spot harbor seals and sea otters in the surf, watch shorebirds along the tideline and sea ducks on the nearshore waters, study the towering bluff face, search out eagle nests and soaring ravens, and enjoy early songbird migrants and waterfowl, even occasionally muskrat and moose, around the ponds in the Park. It's a day spent steeped in local natural history.

Registration fees for the Overlook Park hike are dedicated to the operation and maintenance of the Park through a management agreement between the Kachemak Bay Conservation Society and Alaska State Parks. Come join us for the hike this year.

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In my opinion.....

Ever since little red riding hood, wolves have gotten a bad rap. These unfortunate creatures have been hunted, trapped and exterminated to the point of complete eradication in some regions. Now the Alaska's Board of Game (BOG) wants to implement the aerial shooting of wolves in our area. BOG says that aerial wolf killing will increase the moose populations. According to Alaska Department of Fish and game (ADF&G) wildlife biologists, the main reason for low moose population is declining habitat and moose browse, which has created an unsustainable environment resulting in the starvation of the moose herds. More moose have been killed by vehicles and illegal harvesting than by predation. ADF&G has received funding to conduct moose and wolf studies in Unit 15A and Unit 15C of the Kenai Peninsula and these studies are currently underway, thus no aerial wolf killing should be considered until this research has been completed.

Many consider the aerial killing of wolves to be unethical, dishonorable and unsportsmanlike. Twice Alaskan voters have banned this practice (in 1996 & 2000) and both times the Alaskan legislature has overturned these citizen-passed laws. This reminded me of a quote by Woodrow Wilson, "The government, which was designed for the people, has got into the hands of the bosses and their employers, the special interests. An invisible empire has been set up above the forms of democracy."

Think about it.

— Cindy Birkhimer

Board of Directors

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Message from the President...

Hello All,

This past fall has brought a siege of oil & gas permit applications right to the "line of death," as the oil companies call it. In September we were alerted to the West Eagle Site, thus began a marathon of comment writing to the state opposing applications from Buccaneer, Hilcorp, Apache and Cook Inlet Energy, which hasn't ended yet. I want to thank all of you who responded to our many action alerts and wrote comments. The siege continues, but we'll do our best to keep you informed.

KBCS continues to monitor the aerial wolf kill plans for our area. Also, State parks are starting their management plan update process which will include heli-skiing and revisiting jet skis, currently banned, in Kachemak Bay. (See article on page 7.)

Juneau legislation is getting worse all the time, with the first bill flying through the house and senate, allowing cruise ships to dump their waste in all Alaskan Waters. Other "bad" environmental laws are being pushed fast and furious. We definitely have our work cut out for us.

On a more upbeat note, we collaborated with Kachemak Heritage Land Trust and donated a portion of our bear container funds to some exciting worthwhile projects (See article on page 3).

Also, we again sponsored and led the ever popular Overlook Park hike during the Shorebird Festival. I want to thank board member Laurie Daniel for all of her years in leading this beautiful hike.

We are hoping that you assist us in our continued efforts to protect the beautiful environment on and around Kachemak Bay.

Sincerely,

Roberta Highland, *President*

The Alaskan Wet Dog Jet-Ski Race

When John Lang of Anchorage was granted a land-use permit by the Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources (ADNR) this past summer to establish the Alaskan Wet Dog Race, it raised many questions and concerns. The arduous 2,000-mile personal watercraft, or jet ski, race across the coastal waters of southcentral Alaska is proposed to begin in Whittier in Prince William Sound and end on Lake Iliamna, following the complex shoreline of the Gulf of Alaska and Bristol Bay.

The Alaska Quiet Rights Coalition has filed an appeal of the land-use permit, supported and joined in this appeal by several other conservation organizations. Additionally, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) has opposed the race and the permit and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Chugach National Forest, and Kenai Fjords and Lake Clark National Parks have raised many concerns about the race to ADNR. Pam Brodie, a longtime KBCS member, reports in the June 2012 issue of *Sierra Borealis* that the appeal charges that ADNR has failed to undertake an in-depth comprehensive analysis of the impacts of the race on state waters, lands, and wildlife, and on affected coastal communities and concurrent users of the state waters, including kayakers and subsistence and commercial fishers. Impacts of greatest concern include noise, air and water pollution, visual disturbance, and the risk of oil spills. An estimated 500,000 gallons of gas would be consumed by 1,000 racers, requiring tens of thousands of re-fuelings at sea. This does not even account for the estimated 100 support vessels planned to assist the racers.

There is some confusion regarding the present status of the race. Cliff Larson, Natural Resource Manager for ADNR, claimed that the race had already received over 200 applications. Lang disputed that and said that he has yet to start taking entrants. The race, though initially scheduled for a May 2013 start and recently rescheduled for May 2014, is not likely to even be ready at that point, according to Lang. He stated that there "is still a lot to do, including getting a comprehensive operations and safety plan approved by ADNR". Larson said that Lang is making good progress. Despite the fact that the actual permit seemed easy and inexpensive (\$250 for 5 years with 1,000 annual riders), Larson claims that ADNR is taking it seriously.

(Continued on page 3.)

Many of the concerns received by ADNR during the permit process were regarding the impacts on fish and wildlife, particularly smolt and salmon migration, seabirds, marine and terrestrial mammals. At a recent meeting, Lang revealed a willingness to work through the various concerns and steer clear of sensitive regions outlined by the various agencies and organizations. One of the primary elements to be implemented in managing the race includes equipping each rider with a GPS unit loaded with a highly refined mapping program. If any rider moves into the sensitive or restricted areas, they will be disqualified from the race. According to Larson, Lang has done one of the most comprehensive mappings of the race area he has ever seen. Further, Larson indicated that the Alaska Dept of Fish and Game will be actively monitoring the race and agencies will have the ability to remotely check the individual GPS tracking devices to make sure racers are disqualified if they enter restricted areas. Given the entry fee is \$35,000 per person,

with two-person teams vying to win \$1 million dollars in prize money, both Lang and Larson feel there is serious incentive for the racers to follow the rules and not receive disqualification.

To many, the extreme style race is almost incomprehensible for any number of reasons. Covering 2,000 miles, the race course falls within the nearshore coastal zone, traversing the coastlines of Prince William Sound, the central Gulf of Alaska, Cook Inlet and Bristol Bay. From the proposed start in Whittier, racers are expected to cross Prince William Sound to Valdez and Cordova, head out into the Gulf of Alaska, loop up Resurrection Bay to Seward, traverse the outer Kenai Peninsula coastline, travel up Cook Inlet to Kenai and then loop back south, along the Kodiak Archipelago, west along the Alaska Peninsula, around False Pass, up to Bristol Bay, and then upriver to end at Lake Iliamna. One local Iron Man/kite surfer, when he heard about the path of the race, commented "That sounds like a suicide run."

Donation to Kachemak Heritage Land Trust in Support of Brown Bear Conservation

KBCS began discussions with Kachemak Heritage Land Trust (KHLT) last summer over a potential match between bear conservation and local fish and wildlife habitat conservation projects. Through that discussion we found a joint interest in two collaborative projects, both currently underway. As a result, KBCS made a donation of nearly \$8,000, from funds collected through our Wildlife Conservation Community (WCC) bear-resistant garbage container project promoting local bear conservation, to support these collaborative projects.

These habitat conservation projects include 1) preserving land between Kenai National Wildlife Refuge and the shores of Cook Inlet in order to provide a continuous movement corridor for bears and other wildlife through formerly natural areas that have become fragmented by encroaching human development, and 2) identifying areas of thermal refugia within the lower Peninsula salmon streams to support the permanent conservation of critical riparian habitat, thereby improving watershed-wide wildlife conservation. Improving local landscape-scale resilience to climate and land use changes, and strengthening the conservation of salmon streams, ultimately supports our local brown bears populations by protecting high quality natural habitat and food resources. Both projects are examples of strong, successful collaborative projects between multiple partners representing both environmental conservation NGOs and governmental agencies.

Brown bears, designated as a population of special concern on the Kenai

Peninsula, represent a significant component of the natural ecosystem across the Peninsula. The Homer area has experienced steady human population growth with associated road construction and commercial, residential, recreational, and industrial development that encroaches into, and

Conservation Strategy and the Interagency Brown Bear Study Team.

As you may recall, in an effort to address increasing problematic bear interactions and bear-related public safety issues caused by easy access to food sources in residential neighborhoods, through our WCC

bear conservation program, KBCS provided several forums of educational public outreach to the community as well as offering significantly reduced-cost residential bear-proof garbage containers through a grant from USFWS. While this proposal was specifically tailored for brown bears, it has had the added benefit of providing a significant contribution towards resolving similar issues with black bears in the Homer community. A secondary objective of the project has been for the Homer area to stand as an example of a community living in harmony with bears by fostering better stewardship of our wildlife

resources, creating safer neighborhoods for both people and brown bears, and decreasing the amount of time spent responding to complaints about nuisance bears within the community.

At this point in time, with funds raised from the sale of bear-proof garbage containers, KBCS has a commitment to continuing brown bear conservation in the Kachemak Bay area. By contributing to these KHLT fish and wildlife habitat conservation projects, KBCS is able to further our efforts towards protecting and living in harmony with the local bear populations on the southern Peninsula.

Our Mission

The Kachemak Bay Conservation Society's (KBCS') mission is to protect the environment of the Kachemak Bay region and encourage sustainable use and stewardship of local natural resources through advocacy, education/information, and collaboration.

KBCS is concerned with environmental protection of the Kachemak Bay region. The organization focuses on habitat and wildlife issues, wetlands protection, water quality, logging, oil and gas leases, energy conservation, sustainability issues, and land use planning. The Society monitors environmental issues locally and statewide. KBCS continues to be the sponsoring organization for Homer Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (HAYEA).

fragments, local brown bear habitat. Brown bears use a wide variety of habitats from sea level to alpine, concentrating in areas of highest human use along low-elevation valley bottoms and salmon streams in late summer. Brown bear habitat quality depends on the juxtaposition and interactions of several parameters, as described by vegetation, food availability, and human activities. It is vital to their survival for brown bears to move through and utilize the terrestrial ecosystems of this area in a natural manner. Brown bear conservation on the Kenai Peninsula is a high priority among the public, as well as for state, federal, and local governments, as evidenced by the public-private partnerships which produced the Kenai Peninsula Brown Bear

Kachemak Bay Conservation Society 2012 Activity Highlights

The dramatic increase in Oil and Gas development interest in the Cook Inlet area has driven our time and attention to the largest degree in the last several months. We have issued many, varied Action Alerts to the membership and submitted comments on multiple permit applications. In addition, we have been vigilantly tracking Buccaneer Operation Alasaka's shotgun approach in trying to locally develop oil and gas resources, including the introduction of expansive fracking operations 20-mile East End Road in the Eagle Lake area.

New heli-ski and renewed jet-ski permitting activity has driven our researching and commenting in opposition of heli-skiing in Kachemak Bay State Park (KBSP) and State Wilderness Park and in opposition of overturning the existing jet ski ban on Kachemak Bay. Further, we have been tracking the upcoming planned revision of the KBSP Management Plan which, among other things, will address these two disturbing issues introducing motorized traffic into the quiet wild and exceptional nature of these two contiguous park lands. In addition, we have been following, and commented in opposition to, the proposed Alaskan Wet Dog extreme jet ski race across the nearshore coastal waters of southcentral Alaska from Prince William Sound to Lake Iliamna, by way of Bristol Bay. The race course includes the waters of lower Cook Inlet and outer Kachemak

Bay, including the designated critical habitat of the endangered Cook Inlet Beluga whale population.

Continuing ADF&G Division of Wildlife Conservation promotion of 'abundance management' practices has driven our Action Alerts and comments on their local moose population management efforts, that include the highly controversial proposed aerial wolf kills in our area. With the aerial kill on hold for the present time, we have been tracking recent developments in local moose population studies that purportedly drive the proposed predator control actions. The new survey of the central Peninsula moose population has just recently concluded, allowing ADF&G to

move its focus to the local area and commence the survey of the southern Peninsula moose population in the next few weeks. Local wolf population surveys will be next.

We continued to fulfill our commitment to local bear conservation projects with a large donation to Kachemak Heritage Land Trust. This is from funds earned through our bear-resistant garbage container grant to support two important, collaborative projects that will benefit bears through habitat protection: the thermal refugia project on the Anchor and Ninilchik Rivers, and the land acquisition project to create a natural habitat corridor linking the Kenai River back to the shore of Cook Inlet.

KBCS has actively participated in the local collaborative committee under the City of Homer to improve the facilities and develop new interpretive signage at the Baycrest scenic pull-out on the Sterling Highway above town. This is the stunning and expansive view that so many of us have fallen in-love-at-first-sight with Kachemak Bay from. A new site plan will be issued in the coming months, after which the effort will shift to identifying sources of funding to implement the plan. The Baycrest scenic pull-out, or Baycrest Overlook, is the one place where a good view of (eponymously-named) Overlook Park is available, which is located at the base of the bluff face towards the west end of the scenic overlook parking lot.

Ongoing Project Sponsorship:

- Overlook Park unit of Alaska State Parks and the annual hikes there during Shorebird Festival;
- Friends of Woodard Creek and Karen Hornaday Park;
- Homer Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (HAYEA) — local Homer High School chapter of the statewide AYE organization.

Industry Outlook Forum

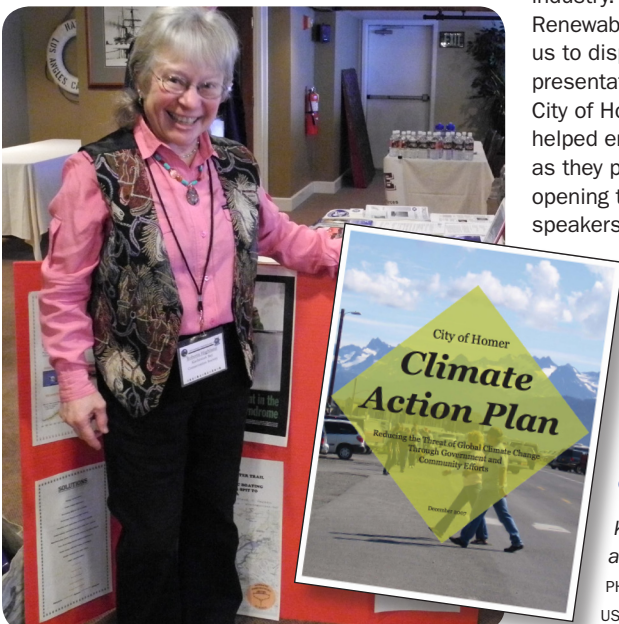
January 31st and February 1st, the Kenai Peninsula Economic Development District and the city of Homer hosted the Annual Industry Outlook Forum, "Cook Inlet-Energy for all Alaska", at Land's End Resort. KBCS provided an alternative presence in the midst of many oil and gas development companies and support companies, mining and the cruise ship

industry. KBCS had a booth and Ocean Renewable Power Company allowed us to display their Tidal Power slide presentation. We also had copies of the City of Homer Climate Action Plan which helped engage participants in discussion as they passed our booth. It was eye opening to hear and see the oil and gas speakers and discover their intentions

for our area. It made each of us attending aware of just how huge is the force we are attempting to move.

Download a copy of the City of Homer Climate Action Plan: www.cityof-homer-ak.gov/citycouncil/climate-action-plan

KBCS President, Roberta Highland at the recent Industry Outlook Forum.
PHOTO: MICHAEL ARMSTRONG, HOMER NEWS.
USED BY PERMISSION.



Anadromous Fish Habitat Protection Task Force

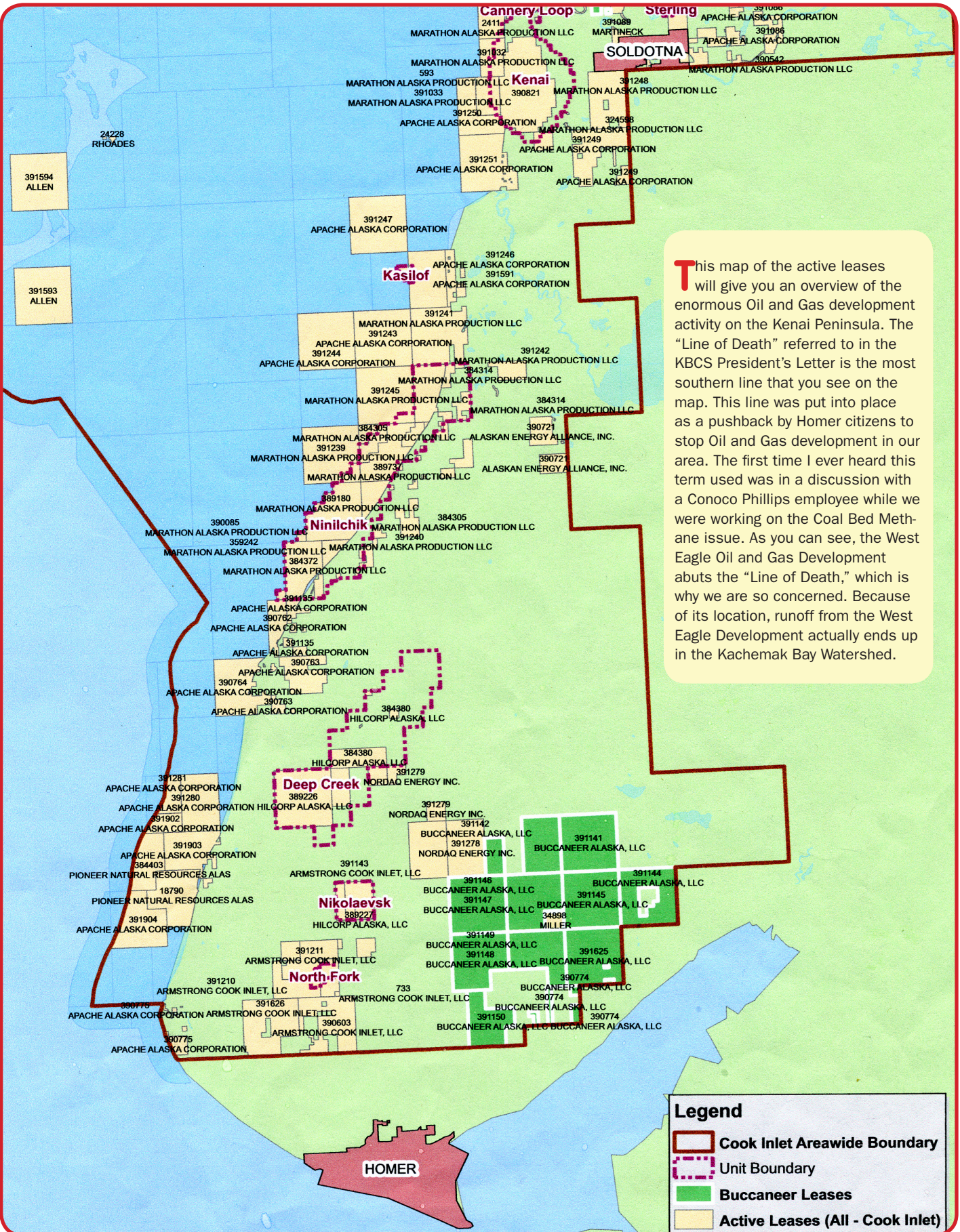
On August 9, 2012, Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor Mike Navarre formed the Anadromous Fish Habitat Protection Task Force regarding Ordinance 2011-12, KPB Chapter 21.18. The Task Force is addressing if the provisions of the Borough's anadromous fish habitat protection code are appropriate for some or all of the lakes that are included in the Alaska Department of Fish and Game's "Atlas and Catalogue of Waters Important for Spawning, Rearing, or Migration of Anadromous Fish?"

On Monday, March 25, at 6 p.m., the task force will meet at the Anchor Point Senior Center and looking for input regarding the proposed ordinance. They will absorb the public's comments and possibly use them to further shape this measure.

See this story at www.peninsula-clarion.com/news/2013-02-27/with-proposal-in-hand-anadromous-task-force-seeks-input#.UTGhcF4BwLo.email

For information: www.borough.kenai.ak.us/mayor/anadromous-fish-habitat-protection-task-force

Map of Active Oil and Gas Leases — South of Soldotna



KBCS ACTION INDEX

KBCS has been very busy responding to a multitude O&G permit applications. We have also been monitoring and commenting on BOG proposals. The following is a list of all action alerts and comments in chronological order, just to give the membership an idea of the work KBCS had been occupied with:

- Comments** on the Alaskan Wet Dog Race (LAS 28297) 2-13-12
- Comments** on Pink Salmon Fishery in Halibut Cove Lagoon 3-21-12
- ACTION ALERT & Comments** on Board of Game appointee/Lynn Keogh 3-29-12
- Comments** on the Izembek Land Transfer and Road 5-17-12
- Comments** on Halibut Bycatch in the Gulf of Alaska 6-4-12
- Comments** to EPA on the Pebble Mine 6-4-12
- Comments** on permit to Hilcorp Corporation for the Drift River Oil Terminal 6-4-12
- ACTION ALERT** on Buccaneer Outreach meeting 10-12-12
- ACTION ALERT & Comments** on Cook Inlet & Alaska Peninsula Area wide Oil and Gas Lease 11-08-12
- ACTION ALERT & Comments** on Buccaneer Application for West Eagle Unit, Homer Alaska 11-8-12
- ACTION ALERT & Comments** on Commercial Helicopter skiing in Kachemak Bay State Park and Kachemak Bay Wilderness Park 11-18-12
- Comments** on Heritage Land Trust Accreditation 10-23-12
- ACTION ALERT & Comments** on Buccaneer Jack-Up Rig Tidelands Permit 11-27-12
- Comments** on the 2012 Alaska Chinook Salmon Symposium & Gap Assessment 11-30-12
- ACTION ALERT & Comments** on Buccaneer Contingency Plan 12-12-12
- Comments** on seismic work south of Ninilchik 12-13-12
- Comments** on Kenai Peninsula Borough Anadromous Fish Ordinance #21.18 1-4-13
- Comments** on US Army Corp of Engineers/Fury Operating Alaska/Permit for New Platform of CI Kitchen Lights Unit 1-4-13
- Comments** on US Army Corp of Engineers POA-2006-312 1-4-13
- Comments** on Ordinance 2013-03 (Anadromous Fish) 1-6-13
- Comments** on State Contingency Plan #12-CP-2008 major amendment /Hilcorp 1-10-13
- Comments** on Purposed Kenai Loop Unit by Buccaneer Alaska 1-13-13
- Comments** on LAS 28742 Memorandum of DNR Decision 1-14-13
- Comments** on Hydraulic Fracturing Regulation Changes 1-21-13
- Comments** on Shadura Natural Gas Development Project 1-22-13
- Attended** the Kenai Peninsula Industrial Outlook Forum 1-31-13 and 2-1-13
- ACTION ALERT & Comments** on Alaska House (HB 80) and Senate (SB 29)/Cruise Ships dumping waste in Alaskan Waters 1-28-13
- ACTION ALERT & Comments** HB77 & SB26/Protection of Wild Salmon 1-29-13
- Comments** on Proposed Regulation Changes/Hydraulic Fracturing 2-4-13
- ACTION ALERT & Comments** on HB78 & SB27—Regulation of Dredge and Fill Activities 2-4-13
- Comments** on Cook Inlet Risk Assessment 2-6-13
- Comments** on State Contingency Plan Number 12-CP-5216 2-8-13
- Comments** on February 2, 2013 Trans-Foreland Pipeline 2-23-13
- ACTION ALERTS & Comments** on Proposals 154, 155, 156 -Brown bear baiting on the Kenai Peninsula 2-20-13
- ACTION ALERT & Comments** on Proposal 160-No closed hunting season for wolf in Units 7 and 15 2-20-13
- ACTION ALERT & Comments** on Proposal 147—Would suspend aerial taking of wolves in Unit 15A/modify the population and harvest objectives for moose 2-20-13
- ACTION ALERTS & Comments** on Proposals 173 and 174—Would prohibit snaring of bears in the Southcentral 2-20-13
- ACTION ALERT** on West Eagle, Gas Well #1, Homer Alaska 3-1-13
- Comments** on Buccaneer Revised Contingency Plan 3-2-13



Like KBCS on Facebook to get notifications on Action Alerts and keep in touch with KBCS supporters.

Board of Directors

Thank You

Thank You to exiting Board Member **Pierre Oster**. Pierre added strong research and computer skills to the board, which are already missed. His wife, Cheryl, was a familiar face in the Cook Inlet Keeper administrative office. After many years in the US, he and Cheryl have returned to spend time with family in his native France. We wish them the very best!

KBCS member **Sue Christiansen** stepped up this fall to help out with our responding in a timely manner to the heavy onslaught of Oil and Gas development issues and comment deadlines. She was instrumental in sending out the flurry of Action Alerts all during the holidays which was a HUGE undertaking. We want to profusely thank her for that work.

Slate of Board Nominees:

Jim Stearns was appointed to the board this past November. Jim is presently the vice president of the Kenai Peninsula Fair Board and has played an important role in putting on "Salmonstock".

Prior to moving to Alaska, Jim was a founding member and leader of Friends of the River in California, founding member and board president of the Central Sierra Watershed Coalition, and past Board President of the Mother Lode Women's Center. He has been active in many worthy organizations, although his true claim to fame is his past employment with the Grateful Dead!

Nina Lisowski has been a board member since 2011. She is a graphic designer and with these skills has redesigned our logo and developed our rack cards. Nina has excellent computer skills and plays an important role in checking emails, helping with Action Alerts, and putting the newsletter together. She brings a quiet thoughtful presence to our board.

Roberta Highland has been a board member for over 25 years and has been the president for the last few years. She is active in many KBCS projects, writing comments, and representing KBCS at various public hearings. She also currently serves on the Homer Advisory Planning Commission, is VP of the South Peninsula Hospital Service Area Board, and President of the Kachemak Bay Equestrian Association. Roberta is a dedicated environmentalist and cares deeply about the future and conservation of this Great Land.

Heli-skiing concerns in Kachemak Bay State Park and State Wilderness Park

Proposals to introduce heli-skiing into Kachemak Bay State Park and State Wilderness Park have recently been submitted to the Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources (ADNR), Div of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. Kachemak Bay State Park (KBSP) and Kachemak Bay State Wilderness Park (KBSWP), Alaska's first state park and only wilderness park, are locally our most prominent and cherished public lands and are highly significant for the wildlife habitat and wildlife viewing they provide. These lands are preserved and protected as parks as a result of local grassroots citizen action with the support of concerned lawmakers mounted over 40 years ago.

KBSP was established as a non-motorized park supporting undeveloped, dispersed forms of recreation. Promotion of the Park, as laid out in its Management Plan, emphasizes the scenic and wilderness qualities providing world-class tourism and high quality wildlife viewing and photographic opportunities. KBSP espouses a Leave No Trace visitor policy and strict limits on development in wilderness areas. Also in its Management Plan, it is clearly stated that development must not diminish the values of park resources.

We all know Homer is a vibrant coastal fishing and eco-tourism based community. As residents of Kachemak Bay, we have repeatedly demonstrated ourselves to be strong advocates for, and actively involved in, protecting the terrestrial and marine ecosystems with their rich and diverse natural resources from unnecessary development. As a result, Homer has developed an international reputation as a place to enjoy stunning natural beauty through quiet sports and low-impact, sustainable natural resource uses. We have worked hard to build an economy that supports these values. Locals and visitors alike do not spend time here with the expectation of experiencing the area through high-tech motorized uses that decrease the wild, natural character of the area. Just the opposite is true.

Heli-skiing is an industry that caters to an exclusive, affluent clientele and is in direct conflict with existing longtime local backcountry use, such as mountaineering and ice climbing, snowshoe trekking, nordic touring and telemark skiing. Heli-skiing creates significant

impacts in remote high-elevation areas such as habitat damage, intrusive disturbance, and noise pollution to local wildlife populations as well as to local residents and visitors seeking outdoor quiet and solitude in pristine natural ecosystems. In other words, heli-skiing creates a high amount of disturbance to local wildlife and human communities for a small amount of people benefiting from the activity, and therefore is detrimental to the common good.

Helicopters are an integral part of the Alaska landscape. They provide rescue, responsible glacier tours, support for infrastructure, and platforms for important research. These helicopter uses operate to the highest standards, however, heli-skiing fits into none of these categories. In fact, heli-skiing is in direct conflict with the long-established park values. KBSP is mandated to protect its natural resources, including its wildlife and the quiet beauty of its wilderness, for their unique and exceptional nature and shall be managed as a scenic park. Local mountain goat, bear, wolverine and avian populations are likely to experience detrimental impacts from this proposed activity. Helicopter disturbance has been shown to cause physiological and/or behavioral responses in wildlife that

compromise survival, growth and reproductive fitness, the ability to raise young, energy budgets, and habitat use. There is a general consensus that helicopter traffic is more disruptive than fixed-wing over flights, with flight altitude, noise, speed, and approach pattern critical factors in regards to wildlife response. Winter is already a source of stress for the local wildlife; late season spring skiing directly conflicts with birthing season in high elevation habitats for many of the local species, especially mountain goats and wolverine. Alpine habitat is extremely fragile and cannot support use at the levels that will be brought in by helicopter.

Heli-skiing is not an appropriate activity in KBSP and will clearly have adverse effects on the Park's natural resources and wilderness character. Helicopter flights will create serious noise and air pollution problems for local residents and wildlife. The highly prized public use values of quiet recreation and scenic beauty will be significantly degraded by commercial heli-skiing



Heli-skiing is in direct conflict with the long-established KBSP values. PHOTO: WWW.SXC.HU

Free Gift



KBCS Annual Meeting and Membership Drive
March 21, 6:30 PM
Islands and Ocean Visitor Center
Presenting:

A Journey to **The Kingdom of Bhutan** *and the lessons it holds for us*

KBCS has been encouraging the Homer community to go green since 1981. Come to our annual meeting to celebrate our success, see a great show, and claim your free gift — a natural fiber, washable, square-bottomed tote bag.

Yes! I'll support the
Kachemak Bay Conservation Society!

1. Membership*

_____ New Member
_____ Renewal
_____ Gift Contribution

2. Support Level:

_____ \$20 Individual
_____ \$35 Couple/Family
_____ \$50 Supporting
_____ \$100 Business
_____ Other

3. Tell Us About Yourself

Name _____
Address _____
City/State/Zip _____
Phone _____
Email _____

(check which items you would like to receive)

_____ Email newsletter
_____ Snail mail newsletter
_____ Email Announcements and Action Alerts

Enclose check or money order. Mail your payment and form to:



Kachemak Bay Conservation Society
3734 Ben Walters Ln, Homer, AK 99603
907 235.8214
kbayconservation@gmail.com

***All memberships expire on December 31. As a courtesy, membership payments received after September 1 are extended through the next year. If you have any questions regarding your membership status or for more information email kbayconservation@gmail.com or call 907. 235.8214.**



**8th Annual Homer
Electronics Recyclin Event!**

**Saturday,
April 27th, 2013**

**Spenard Builder's Supply
10am-3pm**

Questions? Contact Dorothy at
dorothy@inletkeeper.org

operations locally. In addition, the proposed flight paths and landing zones are located in prime wildlife habitat.

As we all know, KBSP and KBSWP are extraordinary natural environments. Many people visit these parks to get away from the noise and the pollution of 'everyday living'. Allowing such a high impact use as heli-skiing in our exceptional state and wilderness parks would adversely affect nearby residents, backcountry users and wildlife. This would be incompatible with the parks' primary functions as a "Scenic Park" and "Wilderness Park".

Please help us protect the existing nature of Kachemak Bay State Park and State Wilderness Park by participating in our campaign to prevent the introduction of the heli-ski industry to the local area.