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Photo by Karthik Subramaniam

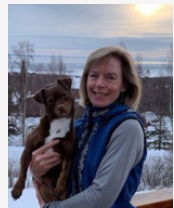
GIVING A VOICE TO WILDLIFE



Alaska is America's last great wilderness, home to a unique and spectacular array of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species. The Alaska Wildlife Alliance (AWA) advocates for the protection and restoration of healthy ecosystems across Alaska, ensuring that they are scientifically and ethically managed for biodiversity.

MEET AWA

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LISA FERGUSON VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD



Lorraine with husky puppies

We are proud to recognize Lorraine Temple as AWA's 2023 *Lisa Ferguson Volunteer of the Year Award* recipient! Lorraine has lived a colorful life in Alaska since 1984 with many adventures as a dog musher, boat captain, motivational speaker, commercial fisherman, tour guide - just to name a few. Lorraine first came to AWA's attention in 2020 after her testimony at the Federal Subsistence Board, where she requested that the Board establish trap setbacks from trails in Cooper Landing. Lorraine's unwavering determination to establish safe recreation areas for people and pets led to her establishment of the Cooper Landing Safe Trails committee. Under Lorraine's leadership, the group surveyed every household in Cooper Landing via a mailed survey to understand the community's interest in trail setbacks, and crafted proposals to both the Federal Subsistence Board and Board of Game requesting setbacks from road pullouts, campgrounds, beaches, backcountry ski areas, and trails. In 2023, Lorraine and her group mobilized *hundreds* of comments and petition signatures in support of trap setbacks, as well as dozens of oral testimonies before the Board of Game. While only one of the proposals (to protect campgrounds) passed, Lorraine's efforts have raised awareness about the trapping issues near recreation areas, diversified the Cooper Landing Advisory Committee, and established incremental, yet meaningful protections for recreationalists in Cooper Landing. AWA's Lisa Ferguson Volunteer award is presented in remembrance of Lisa Ferguson, who died of Hodgkin's disease when she was 18 years old. Lisa's legacy lives on through her family's support of wildlife conservation and the volunteers who make that work possible.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING THIS WORK POSSIBLE



Support from individuals and businesses are critical to our success. Business provide support for events and fundraising, and our members increase our influence - the bigger our pack, the louder our voice for wildlife. THANK YOU for supporting AWA this year!

Anonymous (41)	Annick Balesteri	Carol Damberg	Costco	Dorie Klein	Gertrude Toomey	Jeffrey Wagner
Abigail Snedeker	April Woods	Carol Fuller	Courtney Wahl	Doug Alexander	Glacier Brewhouse	Jen Bersch
Action Volunteers for Animals	Arab Ginnett	Carol Lonergan-Allison	Curzie Chiropractic	Doug Damberg	Glenda Borowski	Jenn Woolworth
Adam Babcock	Arctic Light Images	Carol McVeigh	Danielle Williams	Doug Robbins	Grady Jeter	Jenna Klein
Advanced Body Solutions	Arlene Rosenkrans	Carolyn Pritchett	Danny Rosenkrans	Eagle River Therapeutic Massage	Gus Maxwell	Jermain, Dunnagan, & Owens
AKBeesArt	Arthur Kampmann	Carver Family Fdn	Dave Sandford	Ed Schmitt	Helen Bachman	Jessica Earp
AK Rose Designs	Aurora Chocolate	Catherine Stephenson	David Raskin	Edward Jones	Haley Gilman	Jessica Morgan
Atalanta's Aerialist	Barbara Beeman	Catherine Versteeg	David Beebe	Environmental	Harry Lockwood	Jodi Elliott
Alan Batten	Barbara Johnson	Celia Quinn	David Lovejoy	Investigation Agency	Hank Jamieson	Joe McVeigh
Alaska Conservation Fdn	Barbara Paikert	Charlotte Bender	David McCargo	Elaine Woodruff	Hans Trieselmann	Joe Geldhof
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Alaska Photo Treks	Becky Hassebrook	Chris Albert	Dawn Bieber	Elizabeth Smith	Heidi Elwyn	John Stalvey
Alaska Railroad	Becky Wilberding	Chris Creglow	Dawnell Smith	Ellen Murphy-Welk	Heidi Weiland	John Morton
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Allegra Hamer	Billie Noble	Christopher Eddy	Denise Abel	Ermine Nordic Skates	Hotel Captain Cook	Joni Kitmiiq Spiess
Allison Charles	Bob Watson	CJ Woodworking	Derek Stonorov	Estelle Thomson	Hugh Rose	Judy Caminer
Allison Lamb	Bonnie Lind	Claire Connelly	Diana Keyser	Eva Rohr	James Fico	Julie Morton
Amanda Rose Warren Art	Brad Stubbs	Clancy Skipwith	Diane Charrier	Evelyn Trevethan	James Gold	Julie Wilson
Amanda Rohr	Brian Burnett	Clifton Eames	Diane Granfors	Fashion Pact Thrift Boutique	James Lundsted	Justin Ames
Amanda Saunders	Brian Guinn	Clint Talbott	Diane Raynor	Faye Harasack	Jamie Doggett	Kaelin Naramore
Anchorage Concert Assoc.	Brian Litmans	The Clock Tower Salon	Diane Taylor	Firetap Alehouse & Restaurant	Jane Meacham	Kahtnu Spirit Lodging
Anchorage Golf Course	Brianna Beswick	Club Paris	Diane Weatherwax	Floyd Tompkins	Janette Keiser	Kaladi Brothers Coffee
Anchorage Wine House	Bridget Crokus	Coastal Television of Anchorage LLC	Didier Lindsey	Frank Pullo	Janet Myers	Karen Cornelius
Andrea Lang	Brittani Clancey	Colin McGovern	Dimond Center Hotel	Frederick Hirschmann	Janet Rhodes	Karen Pullo
Andrew Hope	Bronca	Colin Tyler Bogucki	Dixie Alms	Fund for Wild Nature	Janet Rigoni	Karrin Parker
Andrew Josephson	Bruce Baker	Colin Tyler Photography	Dom's Handpainted Glass	Gail Moore	Jason Fewell	Katherine Krajzynski
Andy Andrews	Bryan White	Colleen Cartwright	Don Muller	Gateway Hotel	Jason Rogers	Katherine Rawlins
Ann Yates	Bryan Brown	Collin Klages	Don Soileau	Gayle Nienhueser	Jean Molde	Kathleen Weaver
Anna Phillips	Bryan Cassella	Connie Kreiss	Donna Jones	George Matz	Jeanine Stanton	Kathryn Vizas
Anna-Maria Mueller	Caitlin Hedberg	Corso Graphics	Donald Molde		Jeff Belluomini	Kathryn Carssow
Anne Beaulaurier	CanoeAlaska	Cory Lescher	Donald Cornelius		Jeffrey Sloss	
	Carly Jensen		Donna Josephson		Jeffrey Stroke	

LOOKING FORWARD TO 2024



In partnership with the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and the University of South Florida, AWA is excited to continue our project to understand how effectively beavers recharge climate-drying peatlands on the Kenai Peninsula.



Join AWA and the Endeavour crew for a 5 day trip around Prince of Wales Island this May. We'll experience the interplay between logging and wildlife, with hopes of spotting the rare Alexander Archipelago wolves! Visit our website to claim your spot!



In partnership with the Native Village of Paimiut and Environmental Consortium in the Asqinaq (aka Hooper Bay region), we will finalize our Climate Vulnerability Assessment for humans and wildlife, identifying place-based, nature-based solutions to climate change. Catch us presenting about this project at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium!



In April, we submitted a proposal to the Board of Fish to reduce the commercial harvest limit of eulachon in the Susitna River from 200 tons to 100 tons to support critically endangered Cook Inlet beluga whales during spring feeding. The Board of Fish will discuss it at their meeting in early 2024 and decide whether to approve, deny, or modify our proposal.



After five long years, Ramey Newell's documentary *A Good Wolf* will be premiering in early 2024! Special thanks to all who have supported the film to make this possible. Watch the trailer and learn where you can see a screening at www.akwildlife.org/film-fund!



Catch us at the 2024 Alaska Board of Game meetings in Kotzebue and Fairbanks! While we don't have any proposals before the Board this year, we will be mobilizing comments in support of wildlife. Contact us if you would like to volunteer or testify on behalf of wildlife!

DEFENDING WILDLIFE IN THE COURTS



Alaska Wildlife Alliance, v. State of Alaska and Alaska Board of Game | Represented by Joe Geldhof and Joel Bennett

In August, we filed a lawsuit in Alaska Superior Court against the Alaska Board of Game and Alaska Department of Fish & Game for unlawfully adopting a bear control program on the Mulchatna caribou calving grounds in southwest Alaska. The program resulted in the State shooting 99 bears (including 20 cubs) from helicopters in less than a month, with no scientific justification or public input. The Alaska Wildlife Alliance seeks: a declaration that the Board of Game failed to meet its constitutional requirements for due process, a declaration that the Department of Fish & Game failed to provide the necessary information to properly institute bear control consistent with sustained yield, and an injunction to halt the bear control program until it complies with the law and the Constitution. *Special thanks to Joseph Geldhof, Joel Bennett, Carol Damberg, and many other volunteers. Photo by Karthik Subramaniam.*



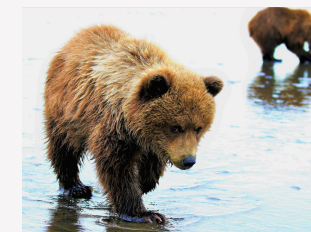
Alaska Wildlife Alliance, et al., v. U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service | Represented by Trustees for Alaska

In 2021 the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) passed a rule to increase the amount of legal harassment allowable to oil and gas operators on polar bears and walrus in the Beaufort Sea and on the North Slope. The new rule allows oil and gas companies to harass almost half of the polar bears left in the Southern Beaufort Sea population (less than 900 individuals left), double what USFWS previously allowed. These bears have already declined by 40% in the past few decades and continue to face habitat loss. Our lawsuit charges the USFWS with violating the National Environmental Policy Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, and Endangered Species Act. *Special thanks to Trustees for Alaska and our coalition partners.*



Alaska Wildlife Alliance and Joel Bennett v. Vincent-Lang | Represented by Joe Geldhof

In October of 2020, we sued the State of Alaska and the Alaska Department of Fish & Game to prevent unsustainable wolf trapping seasons on Prince of Wales Island. In one season, trappers killed over 40% of the island's genetically distinct Alexander Archipelago wolves. We seek balanced management that ensures a healthy, sustainable wolf population on the island. After an intensive week-long trial this Spring, we found the Court's decision deserves further review, and filed an appeal with the Alaska Supreme Court. The appeal will be heard in 2024. *Special thanks to Joe Geldhof, Joel Bennett, Matthew Kirchoff, Natalie Dawson, Dave Persons, Grant Margeson, Tom Counts, and Carol Damberg for their expertise and support!*



Alaska Wildlife Alliance, et al., v. Haaland, et al. | Represented by Trustees for Alaska

In August 2020, we sued the Department of the Interior and the National Park Service (NPS) for adopting a rule that would allow extreme sport hunting practices, such as bear baiting and killing wolves and their pups during the denning season in Alaska's park lands. A federal District Court ruled that a National Park Service rule that allowed these hunting practices was poorly reasoned and arbitrary. The decision allows the rule to remain in place while the Interior Department and Park Service revise regulations. *Special thanks to Bill Watkins, Trustees for Alaska, and our coalition partners. Photo by Linda Shaw.*



Gwich'in Steering Committee v. Haaland | Represented by Trustees for Alaska

We are part of the coalition taking the Department of Interior and the Bureau of Land Management to court for their plan to open the Coastal Plains of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil companies. Stopping these lease sales is essential to protecting Arctic wildlife already stressed by climate change. *Special thanks to Ronald Yarnell, Trustees for Alaska, and our coalition partners.*



Northern Alaska Environmental Center v. Bernhardt | Represented by Trustees for Alaska & Western Mining Action Project

We serve on the coalition challenging the Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for approving the Ambler Road. The road would cut through Gates of the Arctic National Preserve, fragment one of the longest caribou migrations in the world, cross nearly 3,000 rivers and streams, dam tundra wetlands, and stir up asbestos that pollutes air and water- all to access new open-pit hard rock mining. *Special thanks to Juliette Boselli, Anne Beaulaurier, Seth Kantner, Trustees for Alaska, and our coalition partners.*

[Learn more about AWA's work to represent wildlife in the courts at www.akwildlife.org/lawsuits](http://www.akwildlife.org/lawsuits)

CULTIVATING KNOWLEDGE ABOUT VULNERABLE SPECIES & HABITATS



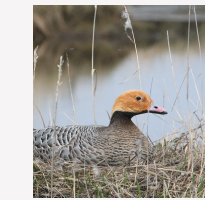
Denali Wolf Documentary

Filming for the documentary, *A Good Wolf* (working title) was completed this Spring! This documentary, which will begin showing (including multiple Alaska showings) in 2024, portrays the controversy over hunting and trapping of wolves at the boundary of Denali National Park. Learn more and view the trailer at akwildlife.org/film-fund!



One Step Closer to Ensuring Critically Endangered Beluga Whales Have Enough to Eat

In partnership with the Environmental Investigation Agency, we consolidated fish population data in Cook Inlet and updated the Cook Inlet Beluga Prey supplement from the 2016 Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Recovery Plan. Much of these data have not been updated since 2010, but are necessary to the health of Cook Inlet food chains. This report was presented at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in January, 2023 and used to inform our strategies on Cook Inlet beluga whale recovery!



Visualizing Climate Vulnerability for Wildlife and Ecosystems in Western Alaska

Alaska's climate is changing rapidly, and wildlife need space in adaptation planning. In partnership with the Native Village of Paimiut and a Tribal Environmental Consortium in the Asqinaq (Hooper Bay region), we developed a Climate Vulnerability Storymap for humans and wildlife, identifying the exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity of local ecosystems to climate change. This region serves as nesting grounds for millions of migratory birds, and supports some of the world's most cherished marine mammals. This storymap will be used to determine nature-based solutions to climate change and presented at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in 2024.



Cook Inlet Water Quality Summit

We were proud to co-host the first Cook Inlet Water Quality Summit this October. This free, two-day event included 23 presentations about water quality research and restoration efforts across Cook Inlet, as well as a 9-member panel discussion from regulators at the city, borough, state, federal and tribal levels. The Summit was attended by over **150 people representing over 80 organizations and agencies**, as well as individual members of the public interested in water quality. A summit program book which includes presentation abstracts, slides and notes from the regulatory panel will be available on the Summit webpage at akwildlife.org/cook-inlet.

PUBLICATIONS AND AWARDS

This year, AWA was an author or co-author on multiple publications and presentations, including: *Reimagining large river management using the Resist-Accept-Direct framework in the Upper Mississippi River* in Ecological Processes; *The dynamics of a changing Lutz spruce hybrid zone on the Kenai Peninsula, AK* in the Canadian Journal of Forest Research; *Using genetics to address conservation issues on the Kenai Peninsula* at UAA Kachemak Bay Campus, Homer, AK; *Plants and animals on the move: the borealization of a rapidly warming Alaska* for the 20th Annual Conference of North American Travel Journalists Association in Fairbanks, AK; *Decisively adapting to a rapidly changing climate: Resist-Accept-Direct (RAD) and Our Changing Climate: Past, Present, Future* for the University of Alaska, Fairbanks, AK; *Resist-Accept-Direct: A Way of thinking about climate adaptation* at Tribal Climate Cohort Workshop in Cordova; *Status of Cook Inlet Beluga Whales* at the Cook Inlet Water Quality Summit, Anchorage; *Mapping cumulative threats in endangered Cook Inlet beluga whale habitat* at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium.

NOAA Partners in the Spotlight Award

AWA's Kenai Peninsula Coordinator, Teresa Becher, was awarded a 2023 'Partners in the Spotlight Award' from NOAA Fisheries! These national awards recognize partners who have expanded and enhanced recovery of the country's most imperiled marine species. Teresa has logged **378 hours of monitoring** with the Alaska Beluga Monitoring Program. In her role with AWA, Teresa also runs AWA's beluga text alert system, which sends texts to the public when belugas are sighted in the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. Teresa has also supported NOAA Fisheries' Cook Inlet beluga eDNA research since its inception, working with Kenai Peninsula College to collect samples at the Kenai River through every month of the year, and training students on sample collection. This eDNA work is invaluable in providing information about the seasonal presence of both belugas and their prey in the Kenai area.



2022 Best of Anchorage Award

Last December, AWA was selected for the *2022 Best of Anchorage Award* in the Community Organizations category by the Anchorage Award Program! Each year, the Anchorage Award Program identifies companies that have "achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community." We are honored to have been recognized as an organization that helps make the Anchorage area a great place to live, work and play.



2023 IN NUMBERS

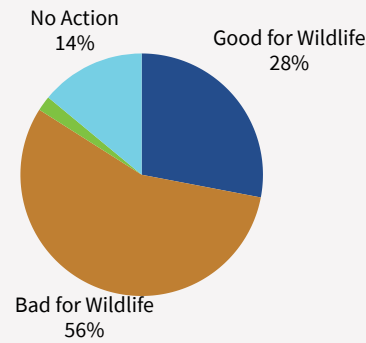


From the tourism industry to hunters, small businesses, scientists, educators, and other conservation nonprofits, we are building coalitions that support wildlife across the state. In 2023, we partnered with over 50 organizations to support wildlife.



11 PROPOSALS AND 2,500+ COMMENTS

We submitted 11 proposals to the Board of Game, which were heard at the 2023 meetings. Ten of our proposals sought to remedy faults in the Prince of Wales wolf trapping regulations, which do not have in-season mechanisms for preventing over-trapping. We also wrote Proposal 145, which sought 1/4 mile hunting and trapping setbacks from the soon-to-be-constructed Sterling Highway wildlife underpasses and overpass (the first in Alaska!) near Cooper Landing. **Over 2,500 comments** were made in support of AWA-supported proposals, and **Proposal 145 passed!** See our analysis of Board of Game actions at Southeast and Southcentral Board of Game meetings this year.



THOUSANDS OF BIRDS, 20 HOUSEHOLDS

Thanks to support by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, this year AWA and our partners - Native Village of Paimiut and a regional Tribal Environmental Consortium - began drafting a Climate Vulnerability Assessment for the wildlife-rich Hooper Bay region. To inform our understanding of wildlife, human, and ecosystem vulnerability, we hired high school interns to conduct **20 household surveys in Hooper Bay**. This gathering of Traditional Ecological Knowledge, contemporary observations, and local concerns ensures that the nature-based adaptation planning we begin in 2024 is grounded in local experience. The results of this survey are woven into our Storymap, and will be presented at wildlife adaptation planning meetings and at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in 2024.



5 - 10 KILOMETERS FOR WILDLIFE

We are grateful to the volunteers, small business partners, runners and bikers who made this year's first **Race Like an Animal 5k Run /10k Bike** a reality! In partnership with Tsalteshi Trails, Walters & Associates Insurance, Edward Jones, The Flats Bistro, Kaladi Brothers Coffee, Kenai River Brewing Co., Lucy's Market, Pizza Boys, Sweeney's Clothing, and YogaSol, our racers had a fun course with great prizes. Check out AWA's upcoming events on our website and Facebook page!



3 STUDY SITES FOR 30,000 ACRES

Kenai Peninsula peatlands depend on groundwater recharge to stay wet. Climate change is lowering water tables and reduced the peatland area by 6-11%/decade since the 1950s. Drying peatlands also release carbon dioxide and methane, which accelerate warming and reduce ecosystem services to plants, wildlife, and people. Beavers provide a nature-based solution to counter peatland drying, but they've declined by ~80% regionally due to over-trapping. Our conservation goal is to **restore 30,000 acres of drying peatlands by 2035 by supporting beavers**. We've partnered with the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve and the University of South Florida to quantify the "zone of hydrologic influence" beaver dams have on peatland recharge, then share the results with land and wildlife managers to introduce beaver protections. This year, AWA and project collaborators installed three beaver research sites near Anchor Point to measure the amount of carbon stored in these peatlands, peatland recharge, surface-water and groundwater connectivity, water temperature, and vegetation. This three-year project is made possible by a Wildlife Conservation Society grant.



\$500,000 IN NEW INVESTMENT

Since 2019, AWA has experienced year-over-year growth, and in 2023 - thanks to large investments from national foundations and generous individuals, AWA was able to **double** our budget. These investments allowed us to add **two new staff positions** - Climate Adaptation Specialist and Tribal Wildlife & Subsistence Liaison - which help us speak for wildlife in new and more powerful places. Two of these large grants require ~\$300,000 be matched by in-kind donations or membership contributions. We believe the scale of the solution must equal the scale of the problem, and we appreciate our members showing up to support wildlife when they, and AWA, need it most. Your contributions make this work, and these national investments in Alaska's wildlife, possible! Thank you!



300+ HOURS OF ENDANGERED BELUGA MONITORING

In partnership with Kenai Peninsula Collage, AWA hosts Alaska Beluga Monitoring Program sites on the Kenai and Kasilof Rivers. Between Jan 1- Nov 10 2023, our staff and AKBMP volunteers monitored critically endangered beluga whales in rain and shine:

Kenai River: **275.8 total hours, 125 days, 30 total observers**

Kasilof River: **32.3 total hours, 17 days, 3 total observers**

Our Kenai-area beluga sightings text alert list doubled - we have 800+ subscribers! Text "beluga" to 833-541-0408 to join!

VICTORIES

KENAI REFUGE VICTORY!



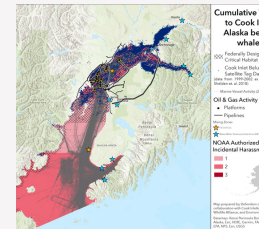
Brown bear baiting is not allowed on the Kenai National Wildlife Refuge! Both the US Supreme Court and the Fish and Wildlife Service upheld their protections for Kenai brown bears and other wildlife when the US Supreme Court denied to hear the State and Safari Club's appeal this spring. Therefore, the lower court decision - which upheld the Refuge's protections as legal - stands. Alaska Wildlife Alliance and our partners have been advocating for these protections - through the courts, during public comment periods and at town hall meetings - for over seven years. We are so grateful to the 145,000+ people who commented in support of these protections, our members, and our partners. This victory was made possible by your actions, compassion, and concern for the Refuge, as well as the tireless efforts of our staff, Board and volunteers.

PROTECTING TRAILS AND WILDLIFE CROSSINGS



Wildlife can now (safely) cross the road! This BIG VICTORY for wildlife and AWA was awarded when the Board of Game (BOG) supported our proposal to establish 1/4 mile hunting and trapping buffers from new highway wildlife crossings on the Cooper Landing bypass. The BOG even strengthened the proposal with an amendment that prohibits any taking of wildlife within the setback (you can't stand 1/4 mile from the crossing and shoot into the crossing - no wildlife may be hunted or trapped within 1/4 mile of the crossing structures). This is the first AWA proposal the BOG has passed in decades. Road crossings have proven lethal for many species, especially moose. These new wildlife crossings are critical to the safety of wildlife and humans by reducing vehicle and wildlife collisions. Affording wildlife safe migration corridors makes sense morally, fiscally and ecologically. Thank you to the 300+ people who submitted comments in favor of this proposal - your advocacy made the difference! AWA also supported trap setback proposals in Homer and Cooper Landing. Trail users will have a little more confidence recreating on four trails within Kachemak Bay State Park after the BOG approved 100 yard trap setbacks for those trails. Additional progress was made when the BOG supported a proposal to establish trap setbacks along the perimeter of some campgrounds in Cooper Landing. This proposal targeted high-use campgrounds, which serve as entry points for multi-use winter trails (ex. Russian River Campground). Unfortunately, the BOG amended the regulation from a 100-yard setback to a 50-yard setback, and will allow trapping closer than 50 yards if traps are elevated 3 feet from the hard ground, underwater or ice, or enclosed in a box. Learn about our 'Map the Trap' project for reporting traps along recreational trails at akwildlife.org/safetrails.

REDUCING HARRASSMENT OF CRITICALLY ENDANGERED BELUGA WHALES



This year, AWA spearheaded a project with coalition partners to create a map that consolidates and visualizes the extent of beluga habitat threats/stressors, including legal harassment permits, shipping routes, oil and gas infrastructure and mixing zones, and wastewater treatment facility mixing zones. Through the data acquisition process, AWA learned that the State of Alaska, who permits the bulk of the mixing zones (areas where water quality standards are allowed to be exceeded), doesn't have a standardized system for keeping track of the mixing zones in Cook Inlet, nor consistent water quality reporting requirements for the different facilities. Along with a coalition partner, we have been reviewing thousands of records looking for projects with permitted mixing zones that allow dumping contaminants into belugas' habitat. These data will inform our coalition's strategy for how to reduce these stressors one at a time. **Our mapping project was presented at the Alaska Marine Science Symposium and the Cook Inlet Water Quality Summit, and garnered interest from multiple journalists and State of Alaska biologists.** We are also working to determine if belugas have enough food for the population to recover, and if not, to take actions that will help increase salmon and eulachon numbers. Finally, this summer, AWA partnered with Brady Guinn, an Eagle Scout candidate with Scout Troop 603, to reduce propeller strikes and noise disturbance for beluga whales on the Kenai. Brady and AWA worked together to design signs that remind boaters of belugas in the Kenai river and give them tips to reduce their impact on these endangered whales. In July, Brady and his troop printed and installed the permanent signs with AWA's Kenai Coordinator, Teresa Becher. Thank you to Boy Scout Troop 603 for helping make the Kenai river a safer place for these beloved whales, to the volunteers who keep eyes on this important habitat, the City of Kenai, KDLL, and the AWA staff, volunteers, and donors for making this work possible!

A VICTORY FOR WILDLIFE ON THE ARCTIC REFUGE



The Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) and the State of Alaska cannot force the Interior Department to move forward with a drilling program in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge! This fall, the U.S. District Court ruled in favor of Trustees for Alaska, who intervened in a lawsuit on behalf of the Gwich'in Steering Committee, Alaska Wildlife Alliance, and other allied groups to defend Interior's suspension of leases and oil and gas activities on the Refuge. The fight to protect the Refuge is far from over, but with this ruling we are one step closer! Many thanks to Trustees for Alaska for their representation in this lawsuit.