



Interior  
Alaska  
Land Trust

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## **Interior Alaska Land Trust**

# **NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING**

11 December 2006, 6-8 PM

1427 Gillam Way , downstairs in the  
Century 21 Real Estate conference room\*

Come learn what the Interior Alaska Land Trust has been up to this year!  
Chena Flats Greenbelt Project  
Blueberry Preserves  
Goldstream Peat Ponds

Tell us about your land conservation interests.  
Drinks and Snacks provided.

\*our thanks to Hank Bartos for making this space available to us.

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## **Interior Alaska Land Trust News**

### **The Chena Flats Greenbelt**

At the end of May, The Conservation Fund, on behalf of the Interior Alaska Land Trust, secured the first 84.920-acre parcel of the proposed Chena Flats Greenbelt.

Owned by Michael and Kathy Craft, the property sits at the base of Chena Ridge, directly north of Chena Point Avenue and contains some of the most highly valued bird and wildlife habitat in the entire proposed Greenbelt.

The parcel will remain as is, continuing to provide excellent range for moose and smaller mammals as well as nesting cranes, migrating waterfowl and songbirds. A long-used winter recreational trail crossing the property will continue to offer skiing, snow machining and walking opportunities. Perhaps most importantly, the natural beauty of the property has been preserved for passersby.

The Crafts also own two 20-acre parcels located along the base of the ridge upon which they are planning development without compromising wetland habitat.

We are grateful to the Crafts for initiating what we envision as the Chena Flats Greenbelt and protecting this open space for future generations. Work is being done to communicate with other landowners to find a way that they too could participate in the Project either by selling, or by establishing a conservation easement for trail use on their property. In coming months, notice will be given as to when access on the land will be permitted.

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## **Second Chena Flats Greenbelt Property Secured**

A second parcel has been added to the Greenbelt by The Conservation Fund on behalf of the Project. In early July, Craig Ketzler signed a contract to sell his 91.7-acre parcel located directly north of the Michael and Kathy Craft parcel. These two adjacent parcels, totaling 176.6 acres, will be reserved for continued trail use, permanent habitat for wildlife and undisturbed landscape. We appreciate Mr. Ketzler's willingness to work with the Greenbelt to help protect this valuable habitat for everyone to enjoy for years to come.

## **New Chena Flats Greenbelt Project Coordinators**

Peggy Powell is stepping down as project coordinator. We are grateful for all her hard work during the past year and a half. Peggy introduced the Chena Flats Greenbelt Project to the Fairbanks community in a straightforward way that made the opportunities and advantages of the project very clear. We wish her and her newly expanded family well.

The Project Coordinator position has been filled by Marie Beaver. Marie is an experienced grant-writer with lots of experience communicating with the public. She has worked on numerous projects with other non-profit organizations in the Fairbanks area. We are lucky to have someone with Marie's experience putting her energy towards the goals of the Greenbelt Project.

Marie will be assisted by Sally Andersen. Sally is a Fairbanks native with a Master's Degree in Botany, lots of field experience in Alaska, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and mapping skills.

## **Expansion Of The Conservation Easement Donation Tax Incentive Law**

Family farmers, ranchers, and other moderate-income landowners can now obtain a significant tax benefit for making the charitable donation of a conservation easement.

On August 3, 2006 the Congress approved a tremendous expansion of the federal conservation tax incentive for conservation easement donations. On August 17, the President signed it into law. This is a great victory for conservation!

The victory is due in large part to the work of individuals from hundreds of land trusts across the country, who made this a local issue for their Senators and Representatives. Thank you!

The new law:

- \* Raises the deduction a landowner can take for donating a conservation easement from 30% of their income in any year to 50%;
- \* Allows qualifying farmers and ranchers to deduct up to 100% of their income; and
- \* Extends the carry-forward period for a donor to take tax deductions for a voluntary conservation agreement from 5 to 15 years.

It is also important to note that this only applies to easements donated in 2006 and 2007. The Land Trust Alliance will work hard to make this change permanent - and we will need your help on that next year!

The bill also includes sensible reforms that affect the appraisal process for all donated property and tighten the rules for easements on historic buildings.

## **Exclusive Landscaping Peat Mine**

The Interior Alaska Land Trust has negotiated the transfer of five adjacent parcels, each about 5 acres, along Goldstream Road just east of the intersection with Murphy Dome Road.

These parcels are owned by Exclusive Landscaping and have been used as a peat mine for the last 7- 8 years. Exclusive Landscaping removed 3-4 feet of peat at the west end of the excavation, where the deposits were shallowest, and more at the east end (around 10 feet). Excavation was halted when the peat contained too much silt or massive ice.

The pit used to be water-filled, but has now drained to nearby Goldstream Creek, leaving a number of shallower ponds. The area is heavily used by birds in the summer, and has some unusual plants that are thought to have grown from exposed seeds in the peat. The pit is adjacent to trails along Goldstream Creek and is used in the winter by dog mushers, ice skaters, skiers and snowmachiners and the occasional moose.

The Land Trust has accepted title to the property, and is in the process of transferring the property to the State of Alaska. The Land Trust will retain development rights on the property, allowing uses consistent with management as part of the Goldstream Public Use Area.

## **Important Meetings: Tanana Lakes and Isberg Recreation Area**

The Fairbanks North Star Borough Department of Parks and Recreation and the Department of Public Works are working together with USKH to conduct a Master Planning process for the Tanana Lakes Project. A public meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2006, at 5:00 PM at the Alaska Centennial Center for the Arts at Pioneer Park.

You are invited to attend the first public meeting to discuss the development of the Isberg Recreation Area. The meeting will be held on December 7, 2006, at 5:00 PM at the Centennial Center for the Arts at Pioneer Park.

These meetings will provide an overview of the project, including the purpose and need for the project, initial concepts for recreation area facilities and uses, and proposed implementation plan.

At this meeting the community will be encouraged to share their comments, concerns, and recommendation for the project. For further information, please call Parks & Recreation Project Coordinator John Haas at 459-1198.

## **Join The Land Trust!**

Please consider joining the Interior Alaska Land Trust in its work by becoming a member.

Membership Categories include:

\$20 Individual

\$30 Family

\$50 Business

\$10 Student/Senior

Please send your contributions to the Interior Alaska Land Trust, PO box 84169, Fairbanks, AK 99708