

2009 Fall Retreat

Field Intensives on Oct. 1st

Speakers are subject to change.

1) [Ecological Impacts of Climate Change](#)

Join us for an exciting but easy hike to the base of a receding glacier! Don't miss the opportunity to find out for yourself about how global warming is affecting a local ecosystem and hear from climate change experts who Alaska is "ground zero". On the way to the Portage Glacier, you will experience the scenic Seward Highway, and spend time at the Begich-Boggs Visitor Education Center.

Speakers

U.S. Forest Service Staff

Deborah Williams- Alaska Conservation Solutions (invited)

Glenn Juday - University of Alaska at Fairbanks Professor of Forest Ecology (invited)

Additional Details

Activity Level: Low

Time: 4-hours

Number of Participants: 40

2) [Climate Change & Economic Adaptation](#)

Don't miss the opportunity of learning how the local industry in Alaska is adapting to climate change via panel discussion! You will also go on a hike through the northern most boreal rainforest in the US. The Winner Creek trail hike will be low impact. The hike will be guided by a local naturalist. Finally, don't forget to enjoy the scenic Seward Highway on your way to the Alyeska Ski Resort in Girdwood!

Speakers:

Manager Alyeska Ski Resort

US Coast Guard, Shipping Issues through the newly open arctic waters (invited)

Lilian Alessa, Associate Professor of Biological Sciences, Water issues (invited)

Logging industry (TBA)

Naturalist Guide – (TBA)

Additional Details

Activity Level: Moderate to High

Time: 4-hours

Number of Participants: 40

3) [Coal Mining & Fish/Stream Restoration](#)

This trip explores the impact of coal extraction on an ecosystem and indigenous communities, and efforts by local communities throughout Alaska to fight back! You will travel to the Chickaloon Native Village, 60-miles north of Anchorage, to listen to a panel and see first hand the impacts of past coal development and steps taken to mitigate the damage to restore salmon to the stream. They will also address current statewide coal threats.

Speakers

Jessica Dryden & Brian Winnestaffer, Fisheries Biologists
Angie Wade, Chickaloon Tribal Citizen
Castle Mountain Coalition Board Chair
Tim Leach, Alaska Coal Working Group

Additional Details

Activity Level: Moderate
Time: 4-hours
Number of Participants: 40

4) [Sustainable Agriculture in the Heartland](#)

On this trip you will head to the Matanuska Valley, Alaska's Bread Basket, and tour a working farm, winter storage barns and learn about the opportunities and challenges facing Alaska's food system for rural and urban communities. Part of the focus will be an examination of how conventional and subsistence food systems are working to feed Alaska's people and how these principles, techniques and concerns can be applied across the US and beyond.

Speakers

Merry Mike Adams- Alaska Food Bank
Robin Richardson- Global Foods Collaborative
Becca Robbins-Gisclair- Yukon River Fisheries Drainage Association
Andrea Carmon- International Indian Treaty Council

Additional Details

Activity Level: low
Time: 4-hours
Number of Participants: 20

5) [Traditional and New Ways to Create Community and Individual Health](#)

Join us at the Alaska Native Medical Center for a panel discussion on environmental pollution, environmental justice, and ways NGO's and the Native Hospital are working together to help foster healthy people, places, and food systems, and learn how communities and federal agencies are working together to incorporate health analysis in the Environmental Impact Statement review processes. This panel will also highlight the integration of culturally based traditional healing and Western medicine as another tool for creating healthy people, places and food systems. Following the panel will be a tour of the facility, which also houses an amazing collection of Alaskan Indigenous Peoples' artwork and a traditional medicinal healing garden.

Speakers

Alaska Native Medical Center-Traditional Healing Program
Dr. Aaron Werner-Health Impact assessments Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (invited)
Pam Miller- Director, Alaska Community Action on Toxins
Sue Unger- Aleutian Pribilof Island Association: substance foods toxin study

Additional Details

Activity Level: low
Time: 3-hours
Number of Participants: 20

6) [Tour of the Natural History Museum](#)

Enjoy a guided tour of the Anchorage Museum of History and Art and learn about Alaska's rich cultural and natural history. After gathering in the hotel lobby, you will walk about six blocks to the Museum. Your museum tour guides will include a renowned historian.

Speakers
(TBA)

Additional Details

Activity Level: low

Time: 3-hours

Number of Participants: 40

7) [Building an Emerald City](#)

On this guided bicycling trip through Anchorage's world famous park and trail system you will learn about the city's emerging green infrastructure. LED street lights, community composting, green transportation, rain gardens, renewable energy applications and planned green space are just a few of the steps that Anchorage is taking to become a truly green city. Panel Discussion will follow the bike tour. Don't forget to bring your biking gear!

Speakers

Mark Masteller- Cascadia Green Building Council – Regional Director

Paula Williams- Sustainability Director-University Alaska Anchorage

Lois Epstein, Alaska Transportation Priorities

Anchorage Municipality Staff, Recycling, energy efficiency, community composting, Rain Gardens (recycling waste water) and community gardens(invited)

Alaska Housing and Finance Corporation- housing weatherization programs(invited)

Additional Details

Activity Level: High (mtn bike tour of Anchorage trail system)

Time: 4-hours

Number of Participants: 20

8) [Marine ecosystems, fisheries, and biodiversity](#)

With more coastline than the rest of the U.S. combined, Alaska's rich marine environments provides critical habitat to a diverse array of marine species and hosts the most productive commercial fisheries on the planet.

On this trip, participants will learn about a variety of issues that threaten the health of Alaska's marine ecosystems. Topics for discussion include climate change, industrial fishing, marine pollution and overfishing.

The workshop will include a panel discussion with ocean experts, a viewing of award winning ocean related film and a walk on the coastal trail along Cook Inlet in Anchorage.

Speakers:

Mark Spalding, President, The Ocean Foundation

Whit Sheard- Alaska Program Director, Pacific Environment

Bob Shavelson, Executive Director, Cook Inlet Keeper

George Pletinkoff- Alaska Native Leader / Greenpeace

Additional Details

Activity Level: Low

Time: 4-hour

Number of Participants: 30

9) [Engaging Youth to Better Understand Science, Sustainability and Their Role](#)

This is an opportunity to tour trails and participate in educational activities with the professionals. You will go to the Bureau of Land Management's Campbell Creek Science Center, just outside Anchorage, for a walk, discussion and natural history/environmental educational activities. If you are excited about environmental education, don't miss the chance to learn about Alaska's programs to engage the future generations in promoting a sustainable world!

Speakers:

Educator at Campbell Creek Science Center

Tom Burek-Trail Side Discovery Camp Director

Janelle Ekland, Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment

Maeve Taylor-Alaska Youth for Environmental Action- AYEА

Alaska Pacific University, Spring Creek Farm's Environmental Education Masters Program

Additional Details

Activity Level: low to moderate trail walking

Time: 3-hours

Number of Participants: 40

10) [Transitions in the Energy Economy](#)

This field intensive will provide an overview of the emerging energy initiatives in Alaska. On this trip you will learn how local energy utilities, the state and federal governments, tribal organizations and NGO's are working together to support renewable energy development in Alaska in both rural and urban settings. The panel will take place at Kincaid Park Chalet in Anchorage, (an old missile defense post) and is in view of proposed sites for new hydro, geothermal and wind energy projects. Speakers will highlight innovations in tidal power, in-stream hydrokinetic power, and wind-diesel power and using Alaska as a test lab showing how renewable energy systems modeled here, have implications nationally and globally.

Speakers:

Chris Rose, Renewable Energy Alaska Project

Brian Hirsh, National Renewable Energy Lab

Monty Worthington- Yukon Intertribal Watershed Project

Other Speakers TBA

Additional Details

Activity Level: low to moderate trail walking (optional)

Time: 3-hours

Number of Participants: 40