

Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Post-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the **Office of Public Records in 232 Hart Building**.

In compliance with Rule 35.2(a) and (c), I make the following disclosures with respect to travel expenses that have been or will be reimbursed/paid for me. I also certify that I have attached:

- ☐ The **original** *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* (Form RE-1), **AND**
☐ A **copy** of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form* with all attachments (itinerary, invitee list, etc.)

Private Sponsor(s) (list all): American Lands Project

Travel date(s): Aug 15 - 22, 2022

Name of accompanying family member (if any): n/a

Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

IF THE COST OF LODGING **DID NOT INCREASE** DUE TO THE ACCOMPANYING SPOUSE OR DEPENDENT CHILD, ONLY INCLUDE LODGING COSTS IN EMPLOYEE EXPENSES. (Attach additional pages if necessary.)

Expenses for Employee:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate	\$9,594.34 total	\$383 total	\$400.56 total	\$4,083.33 total; for share of backcountry guide service fees
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

Expenses for Accompanying Spouse or Dependent Child (if applicable):

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
<input type="checkbox"/> Good Faith Estimate				
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amount				

Provide a description of all meetings and events attended. See Senate Rule 35.2(c)(6). (Attach additional pages if necessary.): Please see attached itinerary.

9/21/2022

(Date)

Kirtan Mehta

(Printed name of traveler)



(Signature of traveler)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER:

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

9/21/2022

(Date)


(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)



July 13, 2022

Kirtan Mehta
Chief of Staff
Senator John Hickenlooper
374 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Kirtan,

The American Lands Project appreciates your office's interest in the Western Arctic region and America's Arctic. The Western Arctic is composed of a broad array of public lands including Gates of the Arctic National Park and Preserve, our northernmost national park; Noatak National Preserve, featuring the 425 mile Noatak River; and the 23 million-acre National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), the largest single unit of public land in our country. Located in the far northwest corner of Alaska, the Western Arctic provides critical habitat to polar bears, caribou, walrus, beluga whales, and hundreds of species of migratory birds. Over forty Alaska Native communities rely on subsistence resources in the Western Arctic region.

Gates of the Arctic and Noatak were both established as a national park and national preserve respectively in 1980. Over the last decade, the NPR-A has had various management plans. Most recently, a 2020 Integrated Activity Plan (IAP) opened up 18.6 acres to oil and gas leasing before a 2022 decision returned management to the 2013 IAP.

We believe a fact-finding trip to the Western Arctic region would provide you a valuable opportunity to see and experience first-hand this remote arctic landscape and better understand the dynamic human and natural systems at play in America's Arctic.

We would like to invite you to join American Lands Project for a trip to the Western Arctic from August 15th to August 22nd, 2022 (on the ground from mid-day on August 16th to mid-day on August 21st). Attached is a detailed itinerary that includes opportunities to experience some of the most wild and remote country in the United States and learn about the natural systems, climate impacts, Alaska Native communities, and history and land use policy of the Western Arctic region.

Please let me know if I can be helpful in answering any questions about the proposed trip, and I hope you will be able to join us. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Armando Rojas
Program Manager

**American Lands Project
Western Arctic Region, Alaska
2022 Fact-Finding Trip Itinerary**

Monday, August 15, 2022

- Travel from Washington, DC (DCA) to Fairbanks, AK
 - **8:00 a.m.** Alaska Airlines #1 to Seattle arriving 10:49 a.m.
 - **1:35 p.m.** Alaska Airlines #1465 to Fairbanks arriving 4:20 p.m.
 - **4:45 p.m.** Taxi from airport to Best Western Plus Chena River Lodge, 1255 Tvsa Way, Fairbanks, AK

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Attendees: Lance West (Chief of Staff, Manchin), Kirtan Mehta (Chief of Staff, Hickenlooper), Jason Paulsen (Board Member, American Lands Project), Kyle Campbell (Guide assigned by Arctic Treks)

- Travel from Fairbanks to Coldfoot, AK for air taxi to Lake Kipmik, Alaska
 - **7:00 a.m.** Taxi to airport
 - **8:00 a.m.** Depart FAI, Wright's Air, **9:00 a.m.** Arrive Coldfoot
- **10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Air-taxi flight with Coyote Air to Lake Kipmik
- **12:30 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.** Arrive at destination, Lake Kipmik. Set-up camp. (Trip Programming begins)
- **1:00 - p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Working Lunch, Guests will be provided with a geographic orientation to the Lake Kipmik area (the basecamp location) and the surrounding units of federal public land in northern Alaska including, Gates of the Arctic National Park, the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the Noatak National Preserve.
- **2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Guests will be presented with the history and timeline for creation of Gates of the Arctic National Park, Noatak National Preserve, and the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Originally designated as a National Monument, Gates of the Arctic National Park is the nation's northernmost National Park, currently has no formal roads nor trails, contains six Wild and Scenic Rivers, and is the least visited National Park in the United States. Noatak National Preserve is comprised of 6.5 million acres, and is one of North America's largest mountain-ringed river basins with an intact ecosystem. Over 7 million acres of Gates of the Arctic National Park is designated Wilderness, and when combined with the adjacent 5.7 million acre Noatak Wilderness, it represents the largest contiguous area of wilderness in the United States.
- **4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Guided hike - On the hike, guests will observe plants, birds and other wildlife and learn about the use of the Western Arctic region by migratory birds from the continental United States and around the world. Guests will learn about the

(Please note that all flight times and specific destinations in the Arctic are subject to change based on weather)

unique importance of arctic lakes and wetlands to migratory birds and the role of agency land management plans and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner. Guests will be introduced to the Bureau of Land Management's recent history of land use planning for the NPR-A, the nation's largest unit of public land, including the NPR-A Integrated Management Plans approved in 2013 and 2020, and the current Administration's decision in April of 2022 to return to the 2013 Plan. The 23-million-acre NPR-A, approximately the size of the state of Virginia, is home to polar bears; two large caribou herds, including the largest in the United States; millions of migratory shorebirds, geese, and raptors; and beluga whales, walruses, and other marine mammals. This orientation will help guests understand the diversity of landscape types across the NPR-A and the ecological Special Areas it contains, in addition to the areas that are under lease for oil production and those areas that are available for future leasing.

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Attendees: Lance West, Kirtan Mehta, Jason Paulsen, Kyle Campbell

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Guided Hike - Guests will learn about the archaeological significance of the Western Arctic, and the excavations carried out in this region to uncover its history. Studies at the nearby Lake Matcharak and Etivik Lake are two examples of such work that have uncovered cultural artifacts that shed light on the life and practices of early Arctic inhabitants.
- **12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Working Lunch in Camp - Guests will learn about the history of oil and gas revenues from federal lands in Alaska, and the revenue sharing framework between federal, state, and local governments in Alaska.
- **2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Discussion of fossil fuel resources in Alaska's Arctic, and the history of development. Using maps, guests will examine the geography and chronology of energy and infrastructure development on the North Slope of Alaska, ranging from Prudhoe Bay to the NPR-A. Discussion will also cover recent assessments of fossil fuel resources on the North Slope, as well as offshore drilling in state and federal waters. Guests will gain an understanding of Alaska's fossil fuel resources, and how their extraction and use relate to the nation's energy and climate goals.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner. Building off the afternoon session, guests will be provided with an overview of active and proposed fossil fuel development projects in the NPR-A, including the Alpine, Greater Mooses Tooth and Willow prospects, and their relation to existing infrastructure on the North Slope.

(Please note that all flight times and specific destinations in the Arctic are subject to change based on weather)

Thursday, August 18, 2022

Attendees: Lance West, Kirtan Mehta, Jason Paulsen, Kyle Campbell

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Guests will be provided with an overview of northern Alaska communities including the Northwest Arctic Borough and North Slope Borough, and their respective villages. Maps will be provided to help guests understand the size and location of these communities.
- **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Guests will be introduced to the history of Indigenous people in the Arctic dating back over 10,000 years. Today, 18% of Alaska's total population is Alaska Native or American Indian, the highest of any state in the nation.
- **12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Guided Hike and Working Lunch (Sack lunch provided by Arctic Treks) - Discussion: Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA). Guests will be provided with an overview of the history and key elements of ANCSA, which extinguished aboriginal land title in Alaska, divided the state into 12 regions based on the common heritage and shared interests of the Alaska Native people within each geographic area, and mandated the creation of for-profit entities, which Congress termed "Alaska Native Corporations," tasked with promoting the social, cultural, and economic advancement of Alaska Native people and communities. A thirteenth Native Corporation was later created for Alaska Natives who no longer resided in Alaska.
- **4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Discussion: Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) - Guests will learn about the history and landscape-shaping impact of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. ANILCA designated most of the National Park Service units in Alaska (including Gates of the Arctic National Park), as well as wilderness areas, national wildlife refuges, and national monuments across the state. It also established a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources for rural residents during times of scarcity, as well as transportation in and across parklands and wilderness. ANILCA is the foundation of federal land management in Alaska and is essential to understanding current discussions surrounding resource management and utilization in Alaska.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner with time for questions/ discussion from topics covered throughout the day.

Friday, August 19, 2022

Attendees: Lance West, Kirtan Mehta, Jason Paulsen, Kyle Campbell

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast

(Please note that all flight times and specific destinations in the Arctic are subject to change based on weather)

- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Guests will learn about the 45-year history of the \$8B Trans-Alaska Pipeline authorized by President Nixon in 1973, its construction, role in North Slope development, and its role in catalyzing the Alaska Permanent Fund.
- **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Discussion: Guests will be provided with an overview of the Alaska Permanent Fund. The Permanent Fund was created in 1976 via an amendment of the state constitution to help manage the growing state income from oil and gas development. It mandates that at least 25 percent of all mineral lease rentals, royalties, royalty sale proceeds, federal mineral revenue sharing payments and bonuses received by the State be deposited into the Fund. The Permanent Fund also allows for the distribution of dividend checks to Alaska residents.
- **12:00 - 1:00 p.m.** Lunch at Camp
- **1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Guided Hike - Guests will see and learn about the ecological importance of the Western Arctic region where the Gates of the Arctic National Park, Utukok Uplands Special Area, and Noatak National Preserve converge, and the connection to Alaska Native communities and subsistence uses of this region (including the 40+ villages in the region that rely on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, the largest caribou herd in Alaska, as a subsistence resource).
- **3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Guests will learn about the role of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, and the latest survey data on caribou population counts and fluctuations over time. The Working Group is composed of subsistence users, other Alaska hunters, reindeer herders, hunting guides, transporters and conservationists, with agency staff, biologists and natural resource managers serving in an advisory capacity. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meets annually to evaluate the health of Alaska's largest caribou herd, and also works to identify concerns, request information, and advocate for actions that will conserve and benefit the herd.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** Working Dinner - Guests will be provided with a review the geologic and ecological differences among the four major public land management units comprising northern Alaska: Gates of the Arctic National Park, Noatak National Preserve, the NPR-A, Prudhoe Bay (State of Alaska land), and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and how these differences influence land management in each area. Discussion will cover the management structures unique to each unit, and how the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), Bureau of Land Management (NPR-A), National Park Service (Gates of the Arctic National Park & Noatak National Preserve) and State of Alaska (including Prudhoe Bay) each play a role in overseeing lands and resources in northern Alaska.

Saturday, August 20, 2022

Attendees: Lance West, Kirtan Mehta, Jason Paulsen, Kyle Campbell

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast

(Please note that all flight times and specific destinations in the Arctic are subject to change based on weather)

- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Guests will learn how changes in the climate and accompanying permafrost melt has impacted communities throughout the state of Alaska, and how communities are considering adaptation of infrastructure and practices to deal with these changes. Guests will review how the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act of 2021 works to support these investments, including a new Tribal transition and relocation assistance program with approximately \$216 million in funding to support planning and voluntary, community-led transitions for those Tribal communities which are most vulnerable to accelerating climate-driven impacts.
- **10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Guided Hike to observe wildlife and plants and discuss how natural systems function in this remote Western Arctic landscape.
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch at Basecamp
- **1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Guests will be provided with an overview of subsistence use and how it supports rural Alaskans. Federal law defines subsistence use as "the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for such direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation; the making and selling of handicraft articles... for barter or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade."
- **3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Guests will learn how wildlife use different parts of the region in different seasons, many following migration routes that maintain similar patterns each year. Review how federal agencies include seasonal safeguards in the IAP for the NPR-A and land use permit conditions to minimize wildlife conflicts.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner with time for questions/ discussion from topics covered throughout the day.

Sunday, August 21, 2022

Attendees: Lance West, Kirtan Mehta, Jason Paulsen, Kyle Campbell

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Discuss the history, scope, and status, and geography of the proposed deep-water port in Nome, Alaska, and the changes that such a facility could bring with respect to ship-based tourism, global transportation, and other economic activities in the circumpolar Arctic.
- **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Guided hike and working lunch (lunch provided by Arctic Treks) from camp with discussion of the role that public lands in Alaska play in our nation's carbon management. Alaska contains one third the country's federally managed lands, but stores an even larger share of terrestrial ecosystem carbon stocks-- 62% of all carbon contained in the soils and terrestrial ecosystems of federally managed land is held in Alaska.

(Please note that all flight times and specific destinations in the Arctic are subject to change based on weather)

- **12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Breakdown of Camp, staging for air-taxi pick-up.
- **1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Air-taxi flight with Coyote Air to Coldfoot, AK
During an overflight enroute to Coldfoot, guests will be provided with an overview of the history and current status of the Ambler Road project, a proposed 211-mile road south of the Brooks Range that would connect the Ambler Mining District to existing road infrastructure in northern Alaska.
- Travel from Coldfoot to Fairbanks
 - **6:00 p.m.** Depart Coldfoot, Wright's Air, **7:00 p.m.** Arrive FAI (Trip programming ends)
 - **7:20 p.m.** Shuttle from airport to Best Western Plus Chena River Lodge, 1255 Tvsa Way, Fairbanks, AK

Monday, August 22, 2022

- **4:45 a.m.** Taxi from hotel to FAI airport
- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Washington, DC (DCA)
 - **6:00 a.m.** Alaska Airlines #358 to Seattle arriving 10:36 a.m.
 - **1:55 p.m.** Alaska Airlines #2 to Washington, DC arriving 9:57 p.m.

(Please note that all flight times and specific destinations in the Arctic are subject to change based on weather)

Date/Time Stamp:

EMPLOYEE PRE-TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics** in SH-220. Incomplete and late travel submissions will **not** be considered or approved. This form **must** be typed and is available as a fillable PDF on the Committee's website at ethics.senate.gov. Retain a copy of your entire pre-travel submission for your required post-travel disclosure.

Name of Traveler: Kirtan MehtaEmploying Office/Committee: Senator John HickenlooperPrivate Sponsor(s) (list all): American Lands ProjectTravel date(s): August 15-22, 2022, with Aug 15-16 and Aug 21-22 as travel to/from destination

*Note: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you **must** notify the Committee.*

Destination(s): Lake Kipmuk, Western Arctic Region, Alaska (with overnight layover in Fairbanks, Alaska)

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

As Chief of Staff to Senator John Hickenlooper, Kirtan Mehta works on issues relevant to America's Arctic region, including natural resource management, community development, and climate. This trip will give Kirtan first-hand knowledge of the Arctic, and the opportunity to learn about Arctic natural systems, land management history, economic drivers, and the history and importance of the region to Alaska Natives.

Name of accompanying family member (if any): n/aRelationship to Employee: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge:

7/14/2022

(Date)

Kirtan Mehta

(Signature of Employee)

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING SENATOR/OFFICER (President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms, Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain):

I, Senator John Hickenlooper hereby authorize KIRTAN MEHTA
 (Print Senator's/Officer's Name) (Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate. (signify "yes" by checking box) ☐

7/14/2022

(Date)

John Hickenlooper
(Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer)

PRIVATE SPONSOR TRAVEL CERTIFICATION FORM

This form must be completed by any private entity offering to provide travel or reimbursement for travel to Senate Members, officers, or employees (Senate Rule 35, clause 2). Each sponsor of a fact-finding trip must sign the completed form. The trip sponsor(s) must provide a copy of the completed form to each invited Senate traveler, who will then forward it to the Ethics Committee with any other required materials. The trip sponsor(s) should **NOT** submit the form directly to the Ethics Committee. Please consult the accompanying instructions for more detailed definitions and other key information.

The Senate Member, officer, or employee **MUST** also provide a copy of this form, along with the appropriate travel authorization and reimbursement form, to the Office of Public Records (OPR), Room 232 of the Hart Building, within thirty (30) days after the travel is completed.

-
1. Sponsor(s) of the trip (please list all sponsors): American Lands Project
 2. Description of the trip: Fact-finding trip to the Western Arctic region of Alaska to learn about its importance to Alaska Natives, Arctic natural systems and history, and land management plans.
 3. Dates of travel: Aug 15 - Aug 22, 2022, with Aug 15-16 and Aug 21-22 as travel to/from destination
 4. Place of travel: Lake Kipmuk, Western Arctic region, Alaska
 5. Name and title of Senate invitees: Lance West & Kirtan Mehta (Chiefs of Staff for Manchin, Hickenlooper)
 6. I *certify* that the trip fits one of the following categories:
 - ☒ (A) The sponsor(s) are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** do not retain or employ registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal **and** no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.
 - OR -**
 - ☐ (B) The sponsor or sponsors are not registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, but retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal and the trip meets the requirements of Senate Rule 35.2(a)(2)(A)(i) or (ii) (*see question 9*).
 7. ☒ I *certify* that the trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.

- AND -

☒ I *certify* that the sponsor or sponsors will not accept funds or in-kind contributions earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.
 8. I *certify* that:
 - ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except for *de minimis* lobbyist involvement.
 - AND -**
 - ☒ The traveler will not be accompanied on the trip by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal except as provided for by Committee regulations relating to lobbyist accompaniment (*see question 9*).

9. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 6(B)**

I *certify* that if the sponsor or sponsors retain or employ one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal, one of the following scenarios applies:

- ☐ (A) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **one** overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip.

- OR -

- ☐ (B) The trip is for attendance or participation in a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and **two** overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *on any segment* of the trip (see questions 6 and 10).

- OR -

- ☐ (C) The trip is being sponsored only by an organization or organizations designated under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee *at any point* throughout the trip.

10. **USE ONLY IF YOU CHECKED QUESTION 9(B)**

If the trip includes two overnight stays, please explain why the second night is practically required for Senate invitees to participate in the travel:

11. ☒ An itinerary for the trip is attached to this form. I *certify* that the attached itinerary is a detailed (hour-by-hour), complete, and final itinerary for the trip.

12. Briefly describe the role of each sponsor in organizing and conducting the trip:

American Lands Project (ALP) is the sole sponsor and will be funding the trip, developing the trip itinerary, and organizing all logistics not organized by the backcountry guide service.

ALP Board Member Jason Paulsen will be attending the trip.

13. Briefly describe the stated mission of each sponsor and how the purpose of the trip relates to that mission:

American Lands Project seeks to inform discussions regarding important public lands in our nation, in part by facilitating fact-finding travel centered on place-based education. This trip will provide history, context, and understanding for guests in support of their responsibilities related to public lands in Arctic Alaska.

14. Briefly describe each sponsor's prior history of sponsoring congressional trips:

American Lands Project has organized sponsored travel opportunities for House Members to Southeast Alaska (2021), for congressional staff to Southeastern Oregon (2022), and for a Senate Member to Arctic Alaska (2022).

15. Briefly describe the educational activities performed by each sponsor (other than sponsoring congressional trips):

American Lands Project conducts educational briefings for decision-makers in Washington, DC, and works in coalition with diverse organizations engaged with policies surrounding the use and management of America's public lands and waters.

16. Total Expenses for Each Participant:

	Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meal Expenses	Other Expenses
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good Faith estimate	\$9,045.30 total; (\$2,498.30 for DC-Fairbanks round trip flights; \$6,522 for Fairbanks - Arctic round trip flights; \$25 for taxis in Fairbanks)	\$383 total; (\$154/night for 2 nights hotel in Fairbanks; \$75 for tent rental in Arctic Refuge)	\$380 total; (\$300 for share of backcountry meals provided by guide (none will exceed per diem rates); \$80 for meals in Fairbanks)	\$585 total; for share of guide service costs
<input type="checkbox"/> Actual Amounts				

17. State whether a) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *without regard* to congressional participation or b) the trip involves an event that is arranged or organized *specifically with regard* to congressional participation:

b) This trip has been arranged specifically with regard to congressional participation.

18. Reason for selecting the location of the event or trip

This trip to the Western Arctic region will provide invitees with a unique opportunity to visit this landscape to learn about Arctic natural systems, land management history, economic drivers, and the importance of the region to Alaska Natives.

19. Name and location of hotel or other lodging facility:

Best Western Plus Chena River Lodge (1255 Tvsa Way, Fairbanks, AK 99709)

Basecamps will be comprised of individual camping tents in a remote part of the Western Arctic region

20. Reason(s) for selecting hotel or other lodging facility:

The hotel in Fairbanks was selected for room availability, central location, and comparable seasonal rates to other local hotels. In the Western Arctic, basecamps (individual tents) are the only option to stay overnight in this remote location; there are no hotels in the vicinity.

21. Describe how the daily expenses for lodging, meals, and other expenses provided to trip participants compares to the maximum per diem rates for official Federal Government travel:

For Fairbanks, the lodging is at per diem.

For the Western Arctic region, the lodging is below per diem and the meals are below per diem.

22. Describe the type and class of transportation being provided. Indicate whether coach, business-class or first class transportation will be provided. If first-class fare is being provided, please explain why first-class travel is necessary:

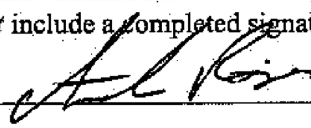
Coach class round trip flights between Washington, DC and Fairbanks, and coach class equivalent on air taxis when traveling from Fairbanks to remote locations in the Arctic. Taxis for ground transportation.

23. ☒ I represent that the travel expenses that will be paid for or reimbursed to Senate invitees do not include expenditures for recreational activities, alcohol, or entertainment (other than entertainment provided to all attendees as an integral part of the event, as permissible under Senate Rule 35).

24. List any entertainment that will be provided to, paid for, or reimbursed to Senate invitees and explain why the entertainment is an integral part of the event:

None.

25. I hereby *certify* that the information contained herein is true, complete and correct. (For trips involving more than one sponsor, you *must* include a completed signature page for each additional sponsor):

Signature of Travel Sponsor: 

Name and Title: Armando Rojas, Program Manager

Name of Organization: American Lands Project

Address: 1904 3rd Avenue, Suite 406, Seattle WA 98101

Telephone Number: M: 509-760-4217

Fax Number: n/a

E-mail Address: armando@americanlandsproject.org

**American Lands Project
Western Arctic Region, Alaska
2022 Fact-Finding Trip Itinerary**

Monday, August 15, 2022

- Travel from Washington, DC (DCA) to Fairbanks, AK
 - **8:00 a.m.** Alaska Airlines #1 to Seattle arriving **10:49 a.m.**
 - **1:35 p.m.** Alaska Airlines #1465 to Fairbanks arriving **4:20 p.m.**
 - **4:45 p.m.** Taxi from airport to Best Western Plus Chena River Lodge, 1255 Tvsa Way, Fairbanks, AK

Tuesday, August 16, 2022

Attendees: Lance West (Chief of Staff, Manchin), Kirtan Mehta (Chief of Staff, Hickenlooper), Jason Paulsen (Board Member, American Lands Project), Kyle Campbell (Guide assigned by Arctic Treks)

- Travel from Fairbanks to Coldfoot, AK for air taxi to Lake Kipmik, Alaska
 - **7:00 a.m.** Taxi to airport
 - **8:00 a.m.** Depart FAI, Wright Air Service, **9:30 a.m.** Arrive Coldfoot
- **10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Air-taxi flight with Coyote Air from Coldfoot to Long Lake, Gates of the Arctic National Park (Note: Unsafe flying conditions due to poor visibility precluded air-taxi travel to Lake Kipmik.)
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Arrive at Long Lake. Set-up camp. (Trip Programming begins)
- **1:00 - p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Working Lunch- Orientation to the Long Lake area (the alternate basecamp location selected by the air-taxi pilot and guide) and the surrounding units of federal public land in northern Alaska including Gates of the Arctic National Park, the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A), the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and the Noatak National Preserve.
- **2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Overview of the history and timeline for creation of Gates of the Arctic National Park, Noatak National Preserve, and the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska. Originally designated as a National Monument, Gates of the Arctic National Park is the nation's northernmost National Park, currently has no formal roads nor trails, contains six Wild and Scenic Rivers, and is the least visited National Park in the United States. Noatak National Preserve is comprised of 6.5 million acres, and is one of North America's largest mountain-ringed river basins with an intact ecosystem. Over 7 million acres of Gates of the Arctic National Park is designated Wilderness, and when combined with the adjacent 5.7 million acre Noatak Wilderness, it represents the largest contiguous area of wilderness in the United States.
- **4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Guided Hike to observe plants, birds and other wildlife and learn about the use of the Western Arctic region by migratory birds from the

continental United States and around the world. Discussion about the unique importance of arctic lakes and wetlands to migratory birds and the role of agency land management plans and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner - Overview of the geologic and ecological differences among the four major public land management units comprising northern Alaska: Gates of the Arctic National Park, Noatak National Preserve, the NPR-A, Prudhoe Bay (State of Alaska land), and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and how these differences influence land management in each area. Discussion re: the management structures unique to each unit, and how the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), Bureau of Land Management (NPR-A), National Park Service (Gates of the Arctic National Park & Noatak National Preserve) and State of Alaska (including Prudhoe Bay) each play a role in overseeing lands and resources in northern Alaska.

Wednesday, August 17, 2022

Attendees: Lance West, Kirtan Mehta, Jason Paulsen, Kyle Campbell

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Guided Hike to learn about the archaeological significance of the Western Arctic, and the excavations carried out in this region to uncover its history. Studies at Lake Matcharak and Etivlik Lake are two examples of such work that have uncovered cultural artifacts that shed light on the life and practices of early Arctic inhabitants.
- **12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Working Lunch in Camp - Overview of the history of oil and gas revenues from federal lands in Alaska, and the revenue sharing framework between federal, state, and local governments in Alaska.
- **2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.** Discussion of fossil fuel resources in Alaska's Arctic, and the history of development, examining maps to understand the geography and chronology of energy and infrastructure development on the North Slope of Alaska, ranging from Prudhoe Bay to the NPR-A. Discussion of recent assessments of fossil fuel resources on the North Slope, as well as offshore drilling in state and federal waters, Alaska's fossil fuel resources, and how their extraction and use relate to the nation's energy and climate goals.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner. Building off the afternoon session, overview of active and proposed fossil fuel development projects in the NPR-A, including the Alpine, Greater Mooses Tooth and Willow prospects, and their relation to existing infrastructure on the North Slope.

Thursday, August 18, 2022

Attendees: Lance West, Kirtan Mehta, Jason Paulsen, Kyle Campbell

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Overview of northern Alaska communities including the Northwest Arctic Borough and North Slope Borough, and their respective villages. Maps provided to help guests understand the size and location of these communities.
- **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Overview of the history of Inigenous people in the Arctic dating back over 10,000 years. Today, 18% of Alaska's total population is Alaska Native or American Indian, the highest of any state in the nation.
- **12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Guided Hike and Working Lunch (Sack lunch provided by Arctic Treks) - Discussion: Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA). Overview of the history and key elements of ANCSA, which extinguished aboriginal land title in Alaska, divided the state into 12 regions based on the common heritage and shared interests of the Alaska Native people within each geographic area, and mandated the creation of for-profit entities, which Congress termed "Alaska Native Corporations," tasked with promoting the social, cultural, and economic advancement of Alaska Native people and communities. A thirteenth Native Corporation was later created for Alaska Natives who no longer resided in Alaska.
- **4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Discussion: Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) - Overview of the history and landscape-shaping impact of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. ANILCA designated most of the National Park Service units in Alaska (including Gates of the Arctic National Park), as well as wilderness areas, national wildlife refuges, and national monuments across the state. It also established a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources for rural residents during times of scarcity, as well as transportation in and across parklands and wilderness. ANILCA is the foundation of federal land management in Alaska and is essential to understanding current discussions surrounding resource management and utilization in Alaska.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner with time for questions/ discussion from topics covered throughout the day.

Friday, August 19, 2022

Attendees: Lance West, Kirtan Mehta, Jason Paulsen, Kyle Campbell

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Overview of the 45 year history of the \$8B Trans-Alaska Pipeline authorized by President Nixon in 1973, its construction, role in North Slope development, and its role in catalyzing the Alaska Permanent Fund.

- **10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Discussion of the Alaska Permanent Fund. The Permanent Fund was created in 1976 via an amendment of the state constitution to help manage the growing state income from oil and gas development. It mandates that at least 25 percent of all mineral lease rentals, royalties, royalty sale proceeds, federal mineral revenue sharing payments and bonuses received by the State be deposited into the Fund. The Permanent Fund also allows for the distribution of dividend checks to Alaska residents.
- **12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Lunch at Camp
- **1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Guided Hike to see and learn about the ecological importance of the Arctic region and discuss the connection to Alaska Native communities and subsistence uses of this region (including the 40+ villages in the region that rely on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd, the largest caribou herd in Alaska, as a subsistence resource).
- **3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Overview of the role of the Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group, and the latest survey data on caribou population counts and fluctuations over time. The Working Group is composed of subsistence users, other Alaska hunters, reindeer herders, hunting guides, transporters and conservationists, with agency staff, biologists and natural resource managers serving in an advisory capacity. The Western Arctic Caribou Herd Working Group meets annually to evaluate the health of Alaska's largest caribou herd, and also works to identify concerns, request information, and advocate for actions that will conserve and benefit the herd.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.** Working Dinner. Introduction to the Bureau of Land Management's recent history of land use planning for the NPR-A, the nation's largest unit of public land, including the NPR-A Integrated Management Plans approved in 2013 and 2020, and the current Administration's decision in April of 2022 to return to the 2013 Plan. The 23-million-acre NPR-A, approximately the size of the state of Virginia, is home to polar bears; two large caribou herds, including the largest in the United States; millions of migratory shorebirds, geese, and raptors; and beluga whales, walrus, and other marine mammals. Discussion of the diversity of landscape types across the NPR-A and the ecological Special Areas it contains, in addition to the areas that are under lease for oil production and those areas that are available for future leasing.

Saturday, August 20, 2022

Attendees: Lance West, Kirtan Mehta, Jason Paulsen, Kyle Campbell

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Discussion re: changes in the climate and accompanying permafrost melt that have impacted communities throughout the state of Alaska, and how communities are considering adaptation of infrastructure and practices to deal with these changes. Overview of how the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act of 2021 works to support these investments, including a new Tribal transition and

relocation assistance program with approximately \$216 million in funding to support planning and voluntary, community-led transitions for those Tribal communities which are most vulnerable to accelerating climate-driven impacts.

- **10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Guided Hike to observe wildlife and plants and discuss how natural systems function in this remote Western Arctic landscape.
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch at Basecamp
- **1:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Overview of subsistence use and how it supports rural Alaskans. Federal law defines subsistence use as “the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for such direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation; the making and selling of handicraft articles... for barter or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade.”
- **3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Overview of how wildlife use different parts of the region in different seasons, many following migration routes that maintain similar patterns each year. Review how federal agencies include seasonal safeguards in the IAP for the NPR-A and land use permit conditions to minimize wildlife conflicts.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner with time for questions/ discussion from topics covered throughout the day.

Sunday, August 21, 2022

Attendees: Lance West, Kirtan Mehta, Jason Paulsen, Kyle Campbell

- **7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.** Breakfast and breakdown of Camp, staging for air-taxi pick-up, with general discussion and time for questions in reflection upon the trip.
- **9:00 a.m. - 11:15 a.m.** Air-taxi flight with Coyote Air to Iniakuk Lake, AK for staging for transfer to a second aircraft. Overview of the history and current status of the Ambler Road project, a proposed 211-mile road south of the Brooks Range that would connect the Ambler Mining District to existing road infrastructure in northern Alaska.
- **11:15 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.** Air-taxi flight with Coyote Air to Coldfoot, AK. Discussion with pilot/owner of Coyote Air re: recent weather events and changes observed over the past 20 years which are necessitating changes in business operations.
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Visit to Arctic Interagency Visitor Center in Coldfoot, AK to learn about Arctic plants, animals, geology and economic development in Alaska.
- Travel from Coldfoot to Fairbanks
 - **4:45 p.m.** Depart Coldfoot, Air Arctic (Air-taxi service sub-contracted by Wright Air Service due to aircraft availability/ poor weather), **6:00 p.m.** Arrive FAI (Trip programming ends)

- **6:20 p.m.** Shuttle from airport to Best Western Plus Chena River Lodge, 1255 Tvsa Way, Fairbanks, AK

Monday, August 22, 2022

- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Washington, DC (DCA)
 - **4:45 a.m.** Taxi from hotel to FAI airport
 - **6:00 a.m.** Alaska Airlines #358 to Seattle arriving **10:36 a.m.**
 - **1:55 p.m.** Alaska Airlines #2 to Washington, DC arriving **9:57 p.m.**