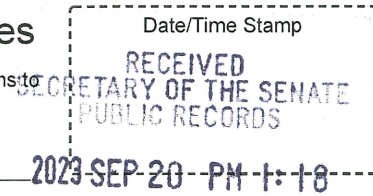


RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

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. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**



Certification: In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:

Private Sponsor(s):

American Lands Project

Travel Dates:

Aug 10 - 16, 2023

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

n/a

Relationship to Traveler:

n/a

Total Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$6,086.02	\$508.00	\$205.90	\$2,868.33

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- The final **Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

9/18/23

Date

Mariah Pfleger

Printed Name of Traveler

Mariah Pfleger

Signature of Traveler

Digitally signed by Mariah Pfleger
Date: 2023.09.18 11:43:22
-04'00'

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.

9/18/2023

Date

Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Transportation	\$6,086.02	Airfare and taxi changed from estimate to actual
Meals	\$205.90	Changed from estimate to actual
Other (Guide fee)	\$2,868.33	Changed from estimate to actual

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation:

See attached revised and final itinerary. Minor changes include updates to the guest list to reflect trip attendees, and small changes to Arctic flight times and logistics due to weather and smoke conditions.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation:

See attached revised and final itinerary. Minor changes include updates to the guest list to reflect trip attendees, and small changes to Arctic flight times and logistics due to weather and smoke conditions.

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

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.

Name of Traveler:
Mariah Pflieger

Employing Office/Committee:
WHITEHOUSE, SHELDON

Private Sponsor(s):
American Lands Project

Destination(s):
Fairbanks, Alaska N/A, Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska

Travel Dates:
08/10/2023 to 08/17/2023

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

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

My official portfolio for Sen. Whitehouse covers oceans and lands/environment. As the lands staffer, this trip would present me with a unique opportunity to experience a remote part of the country and learn about the issues that the state of Alaska faces regarding natural resources. Additionally, our office works extremely closely with both Alaskan Senators and I would benefit from a greater understanding of the issues facing their constituents and native communities.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?
No

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
N/A

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

7/11/2023

Date


Signature of Employee

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

I Senator Whitehouse
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

Mariah Pflieger
(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)

7/11/2023

Date


Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

American Lands Project: Aug 10 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Fact-Finding Trip

 Mariah Pfleger

Title:

None

Employing Office/Committee:

WHITEHOUSE, SHELDON

Duty Station:

WASHINGTON, DC

Destination(s):

Fairbanks, Alaska

N/A, Alaska

Fairbanks, Alaska

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

My official portfolio for Sen. Whitehouse covers oceans and lands/environment. As the lands staffer, this trip would present me with a unique opportunity to experience a remote part of the country and learn about the issues that the state of Alaska faces regarding natural resources. Additionally, our office works extremely closely with both Alaskan Senators and I would benefit from a greater understanding of the issues facing their constituents and native communities.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:

None

Organization Information

Organization Name

American Lands Project

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?

☒ Yes

☐ No

§501(c)(3) Organization Type

Public Charity

Address

1904 3rd Ave

Address 2 (Optional)

Public Charity

City, State Zip

Seattle, Washington 98101 United States

Phone Number

5097604217

Organization URL

americanlandsproject.org

History of Congressional Travel

American Lands Project has organized sponsored travel opportunities for House Members to Southeast Alaska (2021), and for a Senate Member and Senate staff to Arctic Alaska (three different trips in 2022). ALP also sponsored travel for Senate staff to visit the Owyhee Canyonlands in 2022.

Educational Activities

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.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and do not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

- ☒ I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- ☒ I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.
- ☒ I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments

None Entered

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

Fact-finding trip to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to experience the landscape firsthand and learn about its importance to Alaska Natives, Arctic natural systems and history, and land management plans.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's 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.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

- ☒ The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- ☒ No funds or in-kind contributions were 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.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

- ☒ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to 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
- ☐ The trip is limited to 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

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

- ☐ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to 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
- ☐ The trip is limited to 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

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.
- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

i Members and staff from the House of Representatives **will not** receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
08/10/2023 @ 11:00 AM



Trip End Date/Time:
08/17/2023 @ 01:00 AM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$7,450.00 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	\$2,100.00
Note Round trip commercial flight from DC to Fairbanks, AK		
Airfare	Coach	\$5,330.00
Note Coach-equivalent round trip air taxi flight from Fairbanks, AK to remote basecamp site in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.		
Ground Transportation	Coach	\$20.00
Note Taxi to/from hotel in Fairbanks, AK		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$528.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/10/2023	08/11/2023	Best Western Plus Chena River Lodge	Fairbanks	Alaska	United States	1	\$204.00	No
08/11/2023	08/15/2023	Tent Basecamp in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge	N/A	Alaska	United States	4	\$30.00	No

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/15/2023	08/16/2023	Best Western Plus Chena River Lodge	Fairbanks	Alaska	United States	1	\$204.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$163.30)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
08/11/2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	Fairbanks	Alaska	United States	No
08/12/2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16.66	\$16.66	N/A	Alaska	United States	No
08/13/2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16.66	\$16.66	N/A	Alaska	United States	No
08/14/2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16.66	\$16.66	N/A	Alaska	United States	No
08/15/2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$16.66	\$16.66	N/A	Alaska	United States	No
08/16/2023	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$16.66	\$56.66	Fairbanks	Alaska	United States	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$2,866.67)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Other (Backcountry Guide Service Charges)	\$2,866.67	Share of backcountry guide service charges for time spent basecamping in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Additional Attachments All additional attachments are below.

Document Name

Air Operating Certificates



July 7, 2023

Mariah Pfleger
Legislative Assistant
Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mariah,

The American Lands Project appreciates your interest in learning more about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The 19.6 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is an exceptional and unique landscape – an intact arctic ecosystem, and one of the wildest places on earth. The Iñupiat and Gwich'in people have been stewards of this land from time immemorial, and both groups still depend heavily on the region's subsistence resources. The Arctic Refuge provides critical habitat to polar bears, caribou, musk ox, and hundreds of species of migratory birds.

Land use policy for the Arctic Refuge has varied significantly for many decades. In January 2015, the US Fish & Wildlife Service announced its revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan for the Arctic Refuge that recommended a Wilderness designation for the Coastal Plain area. Later in 2017, legislation was passed that instead opened the Coastal Plan to oil and gas development, and a lease sale was completed in January 2021. Currently, the Department of the Interior has suspended those leases and other drilling activities until additional reviews are completed.

We believe a fact-finding trip to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 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 this area.

We would like to invite you to join American Lands Project for a trip to the Arctic Refuge from August 10th to August 16th, 2023 (On the ground in the Arctic Refuge from August 11th – August 15th). Attached is a detailed itinerary that includes opportunities to experience some of the most remote country in the United States, and learn about Alaska Native communities, natural systems, energy and climate issues, and the history and land use policy of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

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

CHRISTOPHER A. COONS, DELAWARE, CHAIRMAN
JAMES LANKFORD, OKLAHOMA, VICE CHAIRMAN

BRIAN SCHATZ, HAWAII
JEANNE SHAHEEN, NEW HAMPSHIRE

JAMES E. RISCH, IDAHO
DEB FISCHER, NEBRASKA

SHANNON HAMILTON KOPPLIN, CHIEF COUNSEL AND STAFF DIRECTOR
WILLIAM B. CABLE, CHIEF CLERK

HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 220
SECOND AND CONSTITUTION AVENUE, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6425

TELEPHONE: (202) 224-2981
FACSIMILE: (202) 224-7416
TDD: (202) 228-3752

United States Senate

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

August 3, 2023

Mariah Pfleger
Office of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ms. Pfleger:

This responds to your recent correspondence requesting approval from the Select Committee on Ethics (the Committee) to accept an invitation you received to travel on a fact-finding trip to Fairbanks and Arctic Wildlife National Refuge, Alaska, on August 10–16, 2023, sponsored by the American Lands Project. Provided that you adhere to the guidance set forth below, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from the American Lands Project in connection with this trip.

Background

Based on your communication with the Committee, the background in this matter is as follows.¹ You are employed as the Legislative Assistant in the Office of Senator Sheldon Whitehouse. The American Lands Project invited you to travel on a fact-finding trip to Fairbanks and Arctic Wildlife National Refuge, Alaska, on August 10–16, 2023. The American Lands Project certified to the Committee that it will pay the necessary expenses² related to the travel and that it is neither a lobbyist, lobbying firm, agent of a foreign principal, or otherwise acting as a representative or agent of a foreign government. The American Lands Project has also certified that it does not retain or employ a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal and that no registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal will accompany you at any point throughout your trip.³

Discussion

Privately-sponsored travel includes any gift of travel and travel-related expenses for travel outside the Senate duty station, including transportation, lodging, food and refreshments, and conference fees and materials, whether paid for directly, reimbursed, or provided directly, from a private individual or entity, in connection with a Member's, officer's, or employee's official Senate duties. Incorporating reforms from the Honest Leadership and Open Government

¹ If this letter does not correctly recite the facts, contact the Committee immediately.

² The term "necessary expenses" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 8.

³ The term "any point throughout your trip" has a specific definition. See *id.* at 2.

Act of 2007 (HLOGA), Pub. L. 110–81 (2007), Senate Rule 35.2 permits Members, officers, and employees to accept privately-sponsored travel only with the prior written approval of the Committee.

The Committee's approval process is governed by the *Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel and Glossary of Terms* (collectively, *Travel Regulations*). The *Travel Regulations* contain detailed requirements regarding who may sponsor travel; time limits for trips; and the type and amount of expenses that can be reimbursed.

Entities that do not retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent and all non-profit organizations designated as tax-exempt organizations under § 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, regardless of whether they retain or employ a lobbyist or foreign agent, may sponsor trips to destinations outside the contiguous United States, including Alaska, for up to seven days. The seven-day limitation means seven 24-hour periods, calculated from the time of arrival in the trip location to the time of departure from the trip location. For such trips, neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany a Senate invitee at any point throughout the trip, other than in a *de minimis* way.⁴ This means that neither lobbyists nor foreign agents may accompany Senate invitees at any point to and from the event, at the event itself, or at the location being visited.⁵

Under Senate Rule 35, Senate staff must receive advance authorization signed by the Member or officer under whose direct supervision the individual works in order to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary expenses related to fact-finding travel. Further, such authorization and expenses must be disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate by filing the completed *Employee Pre-Travel Authorization* and the *Employee Post-Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses* (Form RE-1 and Form RE-2), along with a copy of the *Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form*, and all relevant attachments (e.g., the private sponsor's invitation and itinerary) **within 30 days of the conclusion of Privately-Sponsored Travel.**

Consistent with these standards and Committee precedent and the American Lands Project's factual representations, it appears that it is permissible for you to accept necessary expenses from the American Lands Project in connection with this trip, provided that the actual travel and travel-related expenses conform to the information and materials you provided, and the travel and all required documents are disclosed to the Secretary of the Senate (Office of Public Records).

Finally, Senate Rule 34 requires a reporting individual,⁶ on his or her Financial Disclosure Report, to make an annual disclosure of the receipt of payments or reimbursements under Senate Rule 35 from a private sponsor for officially-related travel expenses where, in the

⁴ The term "*de minimis*" has a specific definition. See *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 3.

⁵ See *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel* at 5; see also *Select Committee on Ethics' Regulations and Guidelines for Privately-Sponsored Travel – Glossary of Terms* at 2-3.

⁶ A reporting individual is someone whose salary equals or exceeds 120% of the basic rate of pay for GS-15 (\$141,022 for CY 2023) or is a political fund designee and is required to file Financial Disclosure Reports.

aggregate, travel expenses exceed \$415 from that sponsor during a calendar year. However, if a Member, officer, or employee properly reports the receipt of necessary expenses for such travel to the Secretary of the Senate within 30 days of the travel, as discussed above, the travel expenses need not be disclosed a second time on their Financial Disclosure Report.

I hope you find this information helpful. If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Committee.

Sincerely,



Shannon Hamilton Kopplin
Chief Counsel and Staff Director

Enclosure: Travel Checklist

American Lands Project

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 2023 Fact-Finding Trip Itinerary

Thursday, Aug 10, 2023

- Travel from Washington DC to Fairbanks, AK
 - **8:00 a.m.** Depart DCA, Alaska Air #1, **10:49 a.m.** arrive SEA
 - **12:10 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska Air #106, **2:55 p.m.** arrive FAI
 - **3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Taxi from airport to Best Western Plus Chena River Lodge, 1255 Tvsa Way, Fairbanks, AK

Friday, Aug 11, 2023

Attendees: Mindi Linquist (Chief of Staff, Senator Murray), Mariah Pfleger (Legislative Assistant, Senator Whitehouse), Carlee Brown (Senior Policy Adviser, Senator Hickenlooper), Karlin Itchoak (Senior Regional Director- Alaska, The Wilderness Society), Armando Rojas (Program Manager, American Lands Project), Kyle Campbell (Guide, Arctic Treks)

- Travel from Fairbanks to basecamp in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
 - **8:00 a.m.** Shuttle to airport
 - **9:00 a.m.** Depart FAI, Wright Air, **10:30 a.m.** Arrive at Arctic Village, to be used as a staging point to access the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
 - **11:00 a.m.** Depart Arctic Village, Coyote Air, **11:30 a.m.** Arrive at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge basecamp (trip programming begins).
- **11:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Set up camp
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Working Lunch: Review maps of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge), and discuss the various land management priorities for conservation, resource development, research, and subsistence uses on tribal, state, and federal lands in and around the Arctic Refuge.
- **1:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.** Discussion: History leading up to and following the first designation of the Arctic Refuge. Established in 1960 as the Arctic National Wildlife Range, in the 1980s it was expanded to its current size of 19 million acres and was renamed as the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Guests will gain knowledge on the background that led to these designations, and how these changes affected management.
- **2:30 p.m – 5:00 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe wildlife and plants and discuss how natural systems function in this arctic tundra landscape, and the importance of the Arctic Refuge to migratory birds, caribou, and polar bear.
- **5:00 p.m – 6:00 p.m.** Review the geologic and ecological differences among the three major public land management units comprising Alaska's North Slope: the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, NPR-A, and Prudhoe Bay (State of Alaska land), and how these differences influence land management in each area. Also discuss the management structures unique to each area, and how the US Fish and Wildlife Service (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), Bureau of Land Management (NPR-A), and State of Alaska (including Prudhoe Bay) each play a role in overseeing lands and resources on the North Slope.

- **6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner: Discussion of fossil fuel resources in the Arctic, and history of development. Use maps to examine the geography and chronology of energy and infrastructure development on the North Slope of Alaska. Discussion will also cover recent assessments of fossil fuel resources on the North Slope, as well as offshore drilling in state and federal waters. This will help guests better understand Alaska's fossil fuel resources, and how their extraction and use relate to the nation's energy and climate goals.

Saturday, Aug 12, 2023

Attendees: Mindi Linquist, Mariah Pfleger, Carlee Brown, Armando Rojas, Karlin Itchoak, Kyle Campbell

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of the history of Indigenous people in the Arctic and Alaska, dating back more than 10,000 years. Today, 18% of Alaska's total population is Alaska Native or American Indian, the highest of any state.
- **10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Discussion of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA): Review 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.
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch
- **1:30 p.m. – 3:00 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, as well as wilderness areas, national wildlife refuges (including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), 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. ANILCA is the foundation of federal land management in Alaska and is essential to understanding current discussions surrounding resource management and utilization in Alaska.
- **3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe geologic features of the coastal plain and to observe permafrost soils and other features of the tundra landscape. During the hike, overview oil and gas exploration practices, including seismic surveying, ice roads, and directional drilling technologies.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Dinner

Sunday, August 13, 2023

Attendees: Mindi Linquist, Mariah Pfleger, Carlee Brown, Armando Rojas, Karlin Itchoak, Kyle Campbell

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Discussion: Overview of Indigenous community connections to the Arctic Refuge, and discussions that have occurred between the Iñupiat and Gwich'in regarding their roles in land protection and management.
- **10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.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.”
- **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.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.
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch
- **1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Guided hike to observe the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge and discuss its importance to the Porcupine Caribou Herd as well as numerous other wildlife species. The Porcupine Caribou Herd uses the area as its summer calving ground, after completing the longest land migration of any land mammal, covering over 1,500 miles every year and spanning the Alaska-Yukon border. Discuss the complexities of managing the health of the herd across the US-Canadian international border, and how groups such as the Porcupine Caribou Management Board navigate these issues.
- **5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.** Working dinner: Review the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of 1934, and the 1936 amendment known as the Alaska IRA that resulted in the U.S. Government formally recognizing Alaska Natives. Discuss the role of Federally recognized Tribal governments and Tribal Courts in Alaska and the North Slope.

Monday, August 14, 2023

Attendees: Mindi Linquist, Mariah Pfleger, Carlee Brown, Armando Rojas, Karlin Itchoak, Kyle Campbell

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Overview of the history of oil and gas exploration on the Coastal Plain, results of the January 2021 Arctic Refuge lease sale, and recent action by the current Administration to suspend drilling-related activities in the Refuge.
- **10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.** 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.

- **11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** Break
- **11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Working Lunch: Review estimates on the quantity of methane stored in permafrost in the Arctic. Arctic landscapes are a major reservoir of this greenhouse gas, and rising temperatures have been accelerating release from existing stores in the permafrost.
- **1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Discuss evidence of melting permafrost and saltwater intrusion from the coast into freshwater systems due to rising Arctic temperatures, trends in these impacts over time, and how they affect wildlife and North Slope communities.
- **5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.** Working Dinner: Discuss how climate change has impacted communities throughout the state, and how communities are considering adaptation of infrastructure and practices to deal with these changes. Review how the Infrastructure Investments and Jobs Act of 2021 works to address this, including its investments in 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.

Tuesday, August 15, 2023

Attendees: Mindi Linquist, Mariah Pfleger, Carlee Brown, Armando Rojas, Karlin Itchoak, Kyle Campbell

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **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: 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 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Lunch
- **1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Discussion around international Arctic politics and collaborative efforts beyond Alaska, including the Arctic Council, which was created as an intergovernmental forum to foster cooperation in the circumpolar Arctic. Overview the United States' role as an Arctic Nation, the 6 permanent participants in the Arctic Council, and impacts of increased shipping in the Arctic as a result of melting sea ice.

Management of the circumpolar Arctic and the role(s) and governance of Indigenous Arctic Peoples outside the United States will also be explored.

- **2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.** Break down camp, then final guided hike to review remaining questions and summarize the topics covered throughout the trip.
- Travel from basecamp in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to Fairbanks (trip programming ends).
 - **5:00 p.m.** Depart Arctic Refuge basecamp, Coyote Air, **6:00 p.m.** Arrive Arctic Village
 - **6:00 p.m.** Depart Arctic Village, Wright Air, **7:30 p.m.** Arrive FAI
 - **8:00 p.m.** Shuttle from airport to Best Western Plus Chena River Lodge, 1255 Tvsa Way, Fairbanks, AK

Wednesday, August 16, 2023

- **5:00 a.m.** Shuttle from hotel to FAI airport
- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Seattle, WA/Washington, D.C.
 - **7:00 a.m.** Alaska Air #234 to SEA arriving **11:40 a.m.**
 - **2:00 p.m.** Alaska Air #2 to DCA arriving **9:57 p.m.**