

RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

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Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 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:
08/17/2025 to 08/23/2025

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$7,579.92	\$658.00	\$489.32	\$2,866.67

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.

9/23/25
Date

AMIT RONEN
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.

9/23/25

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
Meals	\$489.32	Reflecting final meal costs: \$375 total for backcountry meals provided by guide service in the Arctic Refuge, \$114.32 total for two meals in Fairbanks
Transportation	\$7,579.92	Air taxi expenses were greater than initial estimate and ground transportation expenses were lower than initial estimate. Final transportation costs are as follows: Commercial round trip airfare to FAI - \$1,094.786, Air Taxi flights - \$6,430.00, Ground transportation - \$55.14.
Misc. Expenses	\$2,908.33	Backcountry guide service charges were greater than initial estimate due to increase in costs for 2025 season compared to 2024 season costs used to make the initial estimate. \$2,908.33 per guest.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

Yes No

Explanation: Please see itinerary emailed to Senate Ethics on 8/27. 8/17: Attendee change. See itinerary for details 8/18: Time change. Flight was delayed due to weather. All following activities were delayed an hour accordingly. See itinerary for details 8/20: Due to poor weather and unsafe flying conditions, the trip did not change basecamp locations on this day as originally planned. Flight time was replaced with a guided hike from 2:00 - 5:00 pm to maintain the educational objectives of the trip. See itinerary for details 8/22: Time and activity change. Due to poor flying weather arrival in Arctic Village was delayed, planned meetings with local leaders were canceled and the trip departed for Fairbanks at approx. 5:00 p.m. 12:00 - 1:00 p.m. discussion was added to maintain the trip's educational objectives. See itinerary for details

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

Yes No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.



Amit Ronen
Chief of Staff
Senator Maria Cantwell
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Amit,

The American Lands Project (ALP) appreciates the interest you have shown in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The 19.6 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is an exceptional and unique landscape. 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 Plain to oil and gas development, and a lease sale was completed in January 2021 with a second mandated lease sale completed in December of 2024. Congress recently passed legislation as part of the Budget Reconciliation package that mandates four additional lease sales in the Arctic Refuge Coastal Plain over the next 10 years.

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 ALP for a trip to the Arctic Refuge from August 17th to 23rd, 2025 (On the ground in the Arctic Refuge from August 18th – August 22nd). The trip will be fully sponsored by ALP, including all travel, lodging, and meals. 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.

We hope that you will consider joining us for this trip to the Arctic Refuge and would be happy to connect by phone or video conference with you to provide additional information and answer any questions you may have. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Natalie Smink
Education & Trips Coordinator

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:

Amit Ronen

Employing Office/Committee:

CANTWELL, MARIA

Private Sponsor(s):

American Lands Project

Destination(s):

Fairbanks, Alaska N/A, Alaska Fairbanks, Alaska

Travel Dates:

08/17/2025 to 08/24/2025

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.

Informs legislative decision-making through direct observation of the land and conversations with experts and affected populations

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?

No

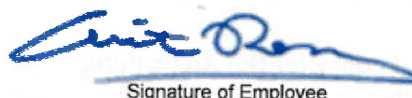
Name and Relationship to Traveler:

N/A

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

7/18/25

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)

Maria Cantwell

(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

Amit Ronen

(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)

7/18/25

Date



Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

American Lands Project: August 17-23 Arctic Refuge Fact-Finding Trip

AMIT RONEN

Title:

None

Employing Office/Committee:

CANTWELL, MARIA

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:

Informs legislative decision-making through direct observation of the land and conversations with experts and affected populations

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)

Suite 406

City, State Zip

Seattle, Washington 98101 United States

Phone Number

7209514327

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

American Lands Project (ALP) has organized a variety of sponsored travel opportunities for Senate and House members and staff over the last few years to locations such as Southeast Alaska, America's Arctic, and the Owyhee Canyonlands. In 2023, ALP hosted three trips to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for House Members and Senate staff, and two trips to the Tongass National Forest for a Senate Member and Senate and House Staff. In 2024, ALP hosted five trips to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for a Senate Member, a House Member, Senate staff, and House Staff; and one trip to the Tongass National Forest for House staff.

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.

A 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 through facilitating fact-finding travel centered around place-based education. This trip will provide history, context, and understanding for guests in support of their responsibilities related to public lands in Alaska's Arctic.

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

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

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
08/17/2025 @ 11:00 AM

Trip End Date/Time:
08/23/2025 @ 04:35 PM

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: \$7,233.39 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	\$1,094.78
Note Round trip airfare from Washington, DC to Fairbanks, AK		
Ground Transportation	Coach	\$63.61
Note Share of rental vehicle in Fairbanks for transportation between airport, hotel, and dinners.		
Other	Coach	\$6,075.00
Note Share of round trip air taxi cost from Fairbanks to basecamp location in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$658.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/17/2025	08/18/2025	La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport	Fairbanks	Alaska	United States	1	\$254.00	No
08/18/2025	08/22/2025	Tent Basecamp in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge	N/A	Alaska	United States	4	\$37.50	No

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
08/22/2025	08/23/2025	La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Alaska	Fairbanks	Alaska	United States	1	\$254.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$355.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
08/17/2025	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	Fairbanks	Alaska	United States	No
08/18/2025	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$42.30	\$42.30	N/A	Alaska	United States	No
08/19/2025	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$63.45	\$63.45	N/A	Alaska	United States	No
08/20/2025	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$63.45	\$63.45	N/A	Alaska	United States	No
08/21/2025	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$63.45	\$63.45	N/A	Alaska	United States	No
08/22/2025	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$42.35	\$82.35	N/A	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 in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

Additional Attachments**Document Name**

There are no additional attachments.

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PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL**SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE**

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: August 17 - 23 Arctic Refuge Fact-Finding Trip

Travel Date(s): 08/17/2025 - 08/23/2025

Travel Destination(s): Fairbanks, AK; Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, AK

Sponsor: American Lands Project

Thomas D. Champion
(printed name of sponsor representative)

Board President
(title)

Signed by:
Tom Champion
(signature of sponsor representative)

07/08/2025
(date)



Aug 17 - 23 Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Fact Finding Trip

Senate Invite List:

Jess Fassler - Chief of Staff, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand

Neil Campbell - Chief of Staff, Senator Jack Reed

Gary Myrick - Secretary for the Minority, Senator Charles Schumer

Brian Winseck - Chief of Staff, Senator Chris Coons

Amit Ronen - Chief of Staff, Senator Maria Cantwell

American Lands Project

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 2025 Fact-Finding Trip Itinerary

Sunday, August 17, 2025

- Travel from Washington DC or home district to Fairbanks, AK
 - **8:00 a.m.** Depart DCA, Alaska #1, **10:56 a.m.** arrive at SEA
 - **12:00 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska #106, **2:53 p.m.** arrive at FAI
- **3:15 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Ground transportation from airport to La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport - 4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks, AK
- **6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Working dinner at The Pump House Restaurant - 796 Chena Pump Rd, Fairbanks, AK
 - Meet with Staff/Board of the Gwich'in Steering Committee to learn about their work and connections between the Gwich'in people and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
 - *Attendees: Jess Fassler (Chief of Staff, Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand), Neil Campbell (Chief of Staff, Sen. Jack Reed), Gary Myrick (Democratic Secretary of the Senate, Sen. Charles Schumer), Brian Winseck (Chief of Staff, Sen. Chris Coons), Amit Ronen (Chief of Staff, Sen. Maria Cantwell), Drew McConville (ALP Trip Lead), Jeffrey Gillespie (Arctic Treks Guide)*

Monday, August 18, 2025

Attendees: Jess Fassler, Neil Campbell, Gary Myrick, Brian Winseck, Amit Ronen, Drew McConville, Jeffrey Gillespie

- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, AK
 - **7:00 a.m.** Ground transportation to airport
 - **8:00* a.m.** Depart FAI, Everts Air, **10:00* a.m.** Arrive at landing strip and staging area outside of Arctic Refuge (location dependent on weather and conditions) to access the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
 - **10:30* a.m.** Depart staging area, Coyote Air, **11:30* a.m.** Arrive at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge basecamp location.
- **12:00 p.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Set up camp
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Camp orientation by Arctic Treks guide to review location and safety, and additional context of the trip and the group's location within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge).
- **1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Review maps of Alaska's North Slope to become oriented with respect to the tribal, state and federal lands, and land management designations in the Alaskan Arctic, and their relation to conservation, resource development, research, and subsistence uses.

- **2:30 p.m. – 3:30 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, it was expanded in 1980 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 have affected management over time.
- **3:30 p.m. – 6:00 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 entities such as the Porcupine Caribou Management Board navigate these issues.
- **6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner: Review the geologic and ecological differences across the three major public land management units comprising Alaska's North Slope: the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPR-A), and 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 U.S. 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.

Tuesday, August 19, 2025

Attendees: Jess Fassler, Neil Campbell, Gary Myrick, Brian Winseck, Amit Ronen, Drew McConville, Jeffrey Gillespie

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of fossil fuel resources in the Arctic and the history of development in the region. 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, the 2017 Tax Act and subsequent mandated lease sales, including those mandated during the 2025 Budget Reconciliation process, and 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.
- **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

(* All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)

- **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.
- **3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Break
- **3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe geologic features of the Arctic Refuge and view permafrost soils and other features of the tundra landscape. During the hike, discuss oil and gas exploration practices, including seismic surveying, ice roads, and directional drilling technologies.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Dinner

Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Attendees: Jess Fassler, Neil Campbell, Gary Myrick, Brian Winseck, Amit Ronen, Drew McConville, Jeffrey Gillespie

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Discussion: Overview of Indigenous community connections to the Alaskan Arctic, and discussions that have occurred between the Iñupiat and Gwich'in regarding their roles in decisions around federal land management and development.
- **10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.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. Review how communities are considering adaptation of infrastructure and practices to deal with these changes, and 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.
- **11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Working Lunch: 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.”

- **1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Break down camp.
- **2:00* p.m. - 3:00* p.m.** Travel from the first basecamp location to a second basecamp location within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge via air-taxi flight from Coyote Air. Discussion en route with Dirk Nickisch, pilot/owner of Coyote Air regarding recent weather events, wildfire impacts upon aviation, recreational uses of the Arctic Refuge, and changes observed over the past 20 years, which are necessitating changes in business operations.
- **3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Set-up camp at a new location within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and break time to get oriented in the new landscape.
- **5:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working dinner: Overview of the North Slope Borough and its villages. Most of the Borough's approximately 11,000 permanent residents live in eight communities: Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Kaktovik, Nuiqsut, Point Hope, Point Lay, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright. Utqiagvik (formerly Barrow) serves as the Borough seat of government. Maps will be provided to help guests understand the size and location of these communities.

Thursday, August 21, 2025

Attendees: Jess Fassler, Neil Campbell, Gary Myrick, Brian Winseck, Amit Ronen, Drew McConville, Jeffrey Gillespie

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Review the background and history of the National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPR-A), including initial designation in 1923 as an emergency oil supply for the U.S. Navy, Navy management of the land until the area was conveyed to the Department of the Interior in 1976 in accordance with the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) management from that conveyance until present day. Discuss the five Special Areas designated within the 23-million-acre landscape and the ecological importance of each as important habitat for polar bears, seals, walrus, birds, and caribou herds that have sustained the Native people of Alaska's North Slope for over 10,000 years. Also review the recent announcements that the Department of the Interior has made regarding the NPR-A, including the development of recently approved oil and gas projects such as the Willow Project, and the administration's recent announcements around the Integrated Activity Plan and regulatory framework for the NPR-A.
- **10:30 a.m. - 11:30 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.
- **11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.** Working Lunch: Review estimates on the quantity of methane stored in permafrost in the Arctic along with recent scientific studies analyzing the climate inputs associated with a warming Arctic. Arctic landscapes are a major reservoir of this greenhouse gas, and rising temperatures have been accelerating release from

(* All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather.)

existing stores in the permafrost. View physical examples near basecamp of the slumping of surface soils due to the melting of permafrost and observe changes in the local plant community due to warming in the Arctic.

- **12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe wildlife and plants and discuss how natural systems function in this arctic tundra landscape, and the use of the Arctic Refuge by migratory birds, caribou, polar bear and other wildlife.
- **2:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Break
- **5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.** Working Dinner: Overview of the major caribou herds of the North Slope located outside the Arctic Refuge, including current population data and trends, and management history with a focus on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and its associated Working Group. Overview of the role of 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 what until recent years has been Alaska's largest caribou herd, and also works to identify concerns, request information, and advocate for actions that will conserve and benefit the herd.

Friday, August 22, 2025

Attendees: Jess Fassler, Neil Campbell, Gary Myrick, Brian Winseck, Amit Ronen, Drew McConville, Jeffrey Gillespie

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Guests will learn about the history of the \$8 billion 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. - 11:30 a.m.** Discussion: Overview of the Alaska Permanent Fund. The Permanent Fund was created in 1976 via an amendment to 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.
- **11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.** Break down camp
- Travel from Arctic Refuge to Arctic Village, AK
 - **12:00* p.m.** Depart Arctic Refuge basecamp, Coyote Air, **1:00* p.m.** Arrive at Arctic Village, an Alaska Native village (Gwich'in) at the southern border of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Arctic Village also functions as a staging point to access or depart the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
 - During the flight and waiting time, discuss international Arctic politics and collaborative efforts beyond Alaska, including the Arctic Council, which was

(* All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)

created as an intergovernmental forum to foster cooperation in the circumpolar Arctic. Overview of 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 changing sea ice conditions. Management of the circumpolar Arctic and the role(s) and governance of Indigenous Arctic Peoples outside the United States will also be explored.

- **1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Working lunch with the Arctic Village Council and/or other local leaders to discuss their priorities and connections to the Arctic Refuge.
- **2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Tour of Arctic Village. Learn more about the history of Indigenous people in Arctic Alaska, dating back more than 10,000 years, and learn about the Village, its people, and their connections to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for spiritual, cultural, and subsistence practices.
 - *Additional Attendees: Arctic Village tour leader to be determined.*
- **4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Return to the Arctic Village landing strip and review the main topics of the trip. Answer any additional questions.
- Return to Fairbanks, AK.
 - **6:00* p.m.** Depart Arctic Village, Everts Air, **8:00* p.m.** Arrive FAI
 - **8:20 p.m.** Shuttle from airport to La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport - 4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks, AK
- **8:45 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.** Working dinner at The Pump House Restaurant - 796 Chena Pump Rd, Fairbanks, AK
 - Summarize the trip, and discuss any remaining questions and topics.

Saturday, August 23, 2025

- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to home district
 - **6:00 a.m.** Depart FAI, Alaska #210, **10:40 a.m.** arrive at SEA
- End of official agenda.

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

- Travel from home district to DC
 - **1:35 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska #2, **9:44 p.m.** arrive at DCA.