

**Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment
Annual Report January 1– December 31, 2007**

Presidents Report

WISE accomplished many of our goals in 2007. Some of the goals were not met because of time spent on the new Watershed Leadership Program and raising funds. We again hired a contractor for our Earth Discovery Day and Changing Seasons programs. The contractor was the same as last year, Lynn Grams, and this year she took over the full responsibility of Earth Discovery Day and Changing Seasons. This greatly relieved the load on this president so she could concentrate on other programs, a new program, and administrative responsibilities. Lynn once again did an excellent job of coordinating these programs. Board members conducted two in-school programs of the ten projected. The Watershed Leadership Program got off to an excellent start and we are looking at this being a semi-annual program, depending on funding. A data base for scientific research with links to web site has not yet been started but the new expanded web site was completed, www.wise-edu.org. The Kenny Lake Trail project was contracted out for completion by Natural Resources Conservation. WISE participated in reviewing interpretive panels. Three WISE board members presented subjects on weather at the National Park Service Nabesna Day Camp. There were no CRNA camps this year. We conducted two out of our goal of three Leave No Trace classes. We met our goal of assisting at the Kenny Lake Library summer camp with two presentations; and a puppet show was presented at the Glennallen Library Halloween party. We met our goal of securing funding to purchase a 15 passenger van for the Natural History Tour and raised a small amount of funding for the start up of that program. The lecture series was a big success with six lectures during winter months and two during fall months, meeting over our goal of six. A business plan for the organization was completed with the Foraker Group. Two board members attended the Alaska Wilderness Recreation and Tourism Conference. We received eight grants out of our goal of four, increasing our capacity to seek grants. Our goal of one membership drive was completed as well as one fundraiser event. We acquired one new board member and lost two advisory board members. One newsletter was published out of the two projected. We did not complete the article for the journal of the Arctic Institute of North America. There was approximately 1,500 hours of donated time by WISE board members.

Programs

Earth Discovery Day

This was the fifth successful year for this program held at National Park Service grounds, mile 106 Richardson Hwy. We had two presenters from the Bird Treatment and Learning Center with two different birds for 6th and 4th grades. There were 132 students, 30 more than 2006. WISE received \$1,000 from Alaska Conservation Foundation; \$500 each from Wells Fargo Bank, and ConocoPhillips; \$3,100 from NPS Challenge Cost Share; and \$12,300 in-kind support. The contractor, Lynn Grams, did an excellent job coordinating this program.

Changing Seasons

This was the fourth successful year for this program. This program is held at Slana School, Glennallen School and Kenny Lake School where 79 students attended, down 26 from last year due to lower enrollment in these grades. Other schools attended at the various locations. One thousand dollars from the Studebaker Environmental Education Fund and \$2,500 from NPS Challenge Cost Share funded this program.

Leave No Trace

One Leave No Trace session was taught by Janelle Eklund to the Watershed Leadership Program students. There was a Leave No Trace station for the 6th grade group at Earth Discovery Day taught by Janelle and Glenn Hart.

Kenny Lake Trails Project

WISE board members met with Arlene Rosenkrans of Resource Conservation and Development and Kenny Lake school teachers to review the interpretive panels the students developed for the schools new educational trail. A WISE board member assisted Arlene to review the vandalism on the trail benches.

Lecture Series

Late winter, spring, and fall WISE, in partnership with Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve, Prince William Sound Community College, and High Active Auroral Research Project Science Outreach program, had many good lectures with speakers coming from all over the State as well as locally. Topics included Wildlife Photography and Ethics, Climate Change, Native Copper in Native Society, Films Living Seas, Empty Oceans Empty Nets/Farming the Seas, Bird TLC, Oceans Film Festival, and Permafrost Monitoring.

In-Classroom and Other Youth Visits

Board members conducted two class room and outdoor visits. ATV troubleshooting and riding ethics was presented to the Glennallen High School 10-12 grades by Glenn Hart and Janelle Eklund. Glenn Hart, Janelle Eklund and Paul Boos presented the Watershed Leadership Program powerpoint to Central Middle School in Anchorage. This was well received and teachers are interested in other presentations.

Copper River Country Natural History Tour Program

WISE received a \$25,000 grant from Rasmuson Foundation to buy a 15 passenger van for this program and other programs. WISE purchased a van and has enough money left over to purchase equipment for the van. A naturalist and intern position was created for hiring in 2008.

Library Summer Camp

WISE presented two sessions at the Kenny Lake library summer camp during July. WISE board member Dave Wellman did one presentation on clouds, in which clouds were produced in bottles. Board member Janelle Eklund did a presentation on medicinal plants, making salve, and tea. These were well-attended and enthusiastically received by about

30 young people and 3 adults. Gay Wellman with the help of Smitty and Shawn Parratt gave a nature puppet show at the Glennallen Library during their Halloween party.

Fish Watch Monitoring

The Copper River Watershed Project completed its initial five years of Fish Watch monitoring in 2006. But WISE board vice president, Dave Wellman, kept Willow Creek water temperature records for them in 2007.

Adopt a Road

Board members picked up litter during clean-up day in May along the WISE adopt a highway section, mile 105-106 Richardson Hwy. DOT erected a sign stating 'WISE Adopt a Road' on it for that section of road.

Fund Raiser

The fundraiser in February consisted of a bird presentation from the Bird TLC, a Copper Center 5th and 6th grade student presentation about eagles, baking contest, auction of baked items and a silent auction. It was a great success. About 75 people attended, many of them children. Net income was \$786.78.

Permafrost Monitoring Project

For the second year WISE assisted in the permafrost monitoring project conducted by Dr. Kenji Yashikawa of UAF in which bore holes are drilled to monitor permafrost. A permafrost site across the road from the Kenny Lake School was located in the winter. In the fall the site was monitored with students, teacher Mark Proch and Dave Wellman. Dr. Yashikawa gave a presentation at the lecture series.

Specimen Collection

WISE has begun a collection of natural history specimens from the Copper River Basin, to be used for educational purposes. The most outstanding specimen was a grizzly bear, killed on the Richardson Highway in a collision with a vehicle. The hide and skull of this bear were retrieved, cleaned and tanned. The Alaska State Troopers and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game were contacted for salvage permission, and all legal procedures were followed in this. Permits to salvage, possess, and display other accidentally-killed or found specimens, including those of mammals and birds, were applied for and obtained from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife. This collection will be used in the various educational programs presented by WISE.

A Special Thank You to the following Sponsors, Partners, Members, and Volunteers for their time, resources, donations, and use of facilities:

Grants: Alaska Conservation Foundation - \$1,000; American Legion, \$800; Conoco Phillips, \$1,000; National Park Foundation \$10,000; Rasmuson Foundation, \$25,000; Studebaker Environmental Education Fund, \$1,000; Wells Fargo Bank - \$500; Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve Challenge Cost Share, \$5,750.

Partners, Members and Volunteers (includes in-kind): Ahtna Heritage Foundation; Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game; Alaska Division of Forestry; Alaska River Expeditions;

Kate Alexander; Geoff Bleakley; Bob & Nancy Boos; Dana Bruden; Bureau of Land Management Glennallen Field Office; Barbara Cellarius; Beth Cender; Katrina & Steve Chimielowski; Cooperative Extension Service; Copper Country Alliance; Copper River Record; Copper River School District and 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th Grade Teachers; Copper River Watershed Project; Gateway School District and 2nd and 3rd grade Teacher; John Creed and Susan Andrews; Eric Downey & Cathy Hart; Cecil & Dolores Eklund; Janelle Eklund and Paul Boos; Lil & Terry Gilmore; Lynn & Craig Grams; Kay Hackney & Fred Decicco; Jim & Shirley Hannah; Glenn & Suanne Hart; Ramona Henspeter; Ted Hesser; Adriane & Brad Honerlaw; Michele Jespersen; Jen Jolliffe; Paula & Bruce Kaye; Kenny Lake Soil and Water Conservation District; Karin Kozie and Bill Route; Wendy & Ronal Langseth; Sam & Marion Lightwood; Matt Lorenz; Louise & Gordon Marshall; Chuck Maas; Suzanne McCarthy; Ruth McHenry & Cliff Eames; Bonnie McLeod; Ramone McCoy; Marcia and Henry Milette; Mt. Sanford Tribal Consortium; National Parks Conservation Association; Bev Oatman; Karen Ottenbeit; Cynthia Parkin; Smitty and Shawn Parratt; Prince William Sound Aquaculture; Prince William Sound Community College; Resource Conservation & Development; Barbara Rudio; DeAnn Sabol; Carla Schierholt; Sea Grant Marine Advisory Program; Ben Shaine & Marci Thurston; Trooper Simeon; Tim & Dorothy Sine; Vicki Snitzler and Marshall Neeck; Dr. Daniel Solie; Jim Stratton; Mike Swisher; Barb & Will Tipton; Doug Vollman & Marnie Graham; Dave & Gay Wellman; Deborah Williams; Fred Williams; Sandy Williams; University of Alaska HAARP Education Outreach; Wrangell St. Elias National Park and Preserve.

And thank you to all the numerous chaperones – parents and volunteers - that helped during Earth Discovery Day and the Changing Seasons Program.

Financial

Total income was \$46,448.18, which was \$33,491.53 more than last year. Total expenses were \$43,786.54; Net income, \$2,661.64. A full financial report is available upon request.

For day to day operations in-kind hours from board members, partners, and volunteers was about 2,000 hours - \$60,500. In-kind gas mileage from board members was about 3,683 miles - \$1,765.