



## Stories in the Landscape

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An Outdoor and Wilderness Leadership Skills (OWLS) student soaks in the view after a steep climb in the Mentasta Mountains.

# Welcome!



Welcome Friends of WISE,

To the first stewards of this land, I am thankful to live here and grateful for the examples and values.

Landscape is central to many stories, certainly mine. The experiences my

homesteading mom and AF pilot dad shared led me to love interior Alaska. Its view of the Alaska Range set a high bar and its moose and berries made my bones and my meat. It shaped my personality, dedicated as I was to the outdoors where I could do what I love –skiing, exploring, riding my horse, firefighting, gardening. Ending up living in Kenny Lake was serendipity. Landscapes: the desert planet of Dune, the undulating hills and menacing mountains of Middle Earth, a dormitory in a castle at Hogwarts, this valley in the shadow of the Wrangells. Walking here when it's 40 below as the sun is setting and lights the western slopes with the an unearthly Alpine glow, I stand in that power and not only survive but have my heart sing at the beauty, my mind transcend, and my soul bow in awe at the force responsible for it.

WISE understands those feelings; its programs are influenced by the land, which in turn shape participants. I invite you to discover our diverse program offerings through the summaries on the following page. They illustrate how we connect all ages to our local landscape.

The programs I participate in most often are summer hikes and wild plant workshops, as they are available for all ages. They open up country and ideas that are new to me and afford the chance to learn, right along with kids. It's easier that way, since youngsters tend to not worry about asking questions.

Though I had to wait until I retired from teaching to become involved with WISE, I had long admired WISE's programs and used their ideas at school because of all the things they do to make children love learning while thinking they are just having fun. This recipe for success includes students being outdoors, active, and engaged. When they're 'exploring' the mud volcanoes until they look painted with the fascinating mud, they're curious and more likely to want to know why this rare phenomenon exists and how it works. Their inquisitiveness opens them to the information presented in

small doses and reinforced by graphics. Maybe it's partly osmosis, . . . maybe it's that once their need to move and interact is met, they're more willing to listen. It's definitely the relationships with Robin and the interns, their skill in customizing for each situation and group of learners, and their sense of fun. (Can you believe Robin pulled a juicy watermelon out of her pack for the hikers at the top of Willow Mountain?)



*Felicia loves books and kids, spending many hours at the Kenny Lake Public Library. She is also a talented gardener, and a regular at Kenny Lake Farmers Market.*

This Copper Valley is a land that motivates me to share my love of its animals and plants, its country and panoramas, and my desire for all that to live on. I am so grateful that WISE, its outstanding executive director Robin Mayo, the board (see more about these caring folks on page 9), and its donors and supporters make it possible for stories in the landscape to nurture students to become adults who live and work this ethic. Listen to Copper River Stewardship Program alumni Keaton Shepherd, who now works as a smokejumper and wildland firefighter. *"On the river I came to realize that the small moments of beauty in the world are free, the ever flowing joy and energy that comes with understanding true value and purpose are free. It is this gift of consciousness that I would like to share with those around me."*

Get in on being part of the remarkable feeling that comes from influencing the story arc of young lives by donating to WISE.

What's your story?

Felicia Riedel, WISE Board of Directors

## Thank You!

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# 2019 Program Highlights

**Winter Fun Day** was a go in spite of the federal shutdown thanks to our partners at Prince William Sound College. Participants enjoyed outdoor fun, winter crafts, and plenty of hot cocoa.

**Alaska Forum on the Environment** in February is a chance for Copper River Stewardship Program participants to share their experience and reconnect with each other.

**Family Ice Fishing Day** in early April brought over 100 people onto the ice of Silver Lake, enjoying the sunshine and some great fishing for Rainbow Trout.

**In-Class Science Lessons** this year included salmon dissection, winter investigations, and an oil spill program with Valdez middle schoolers.

**Camp Chosen Frozen** was “mostly” cancelled due to an early spring, but we did get a great day outdoors with Kenny Lake and Slana students complete with ice fishing and dog mushing.

**Earth Discovery Day** in May was a fast-paced day of place-based education for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Visitor Center, assisted by many partners.

**Youth Environmental Summit (YES)** organized by Gakona Village was a chance for us to practice cleaning up mock oil spills with youth as they learned to be river warriors.

**Science Lecture Series** this year included two talks on Reindeer herding in Alaska, an introduction to drones, a spectacular glacier collapse, and 3-D mapping of the historic Kennecott buildings.

**Project Healing Waters** in June was a welcome respite from the heat, a beautiful weekend at Tangle Lakes, fly fishing with an inspiring group of wounded veterans.

**Copper River Stewardship Program** had the theme “Stories in the Landscape” this year. Read some of their stories on Page 8

**WISE/BLM Summer Hikes** included explorations of Liberty Falls, Mud Volcanoes, and the Boreal Forest, as well as a final glorious trek to the top of Willow Mountain

**Aquatic Ecology Camp** at Silver Lake included a “makers space” to fabricate fantastic macroinvertebrates, and practice in recovering from swamping a canoe.

**Copper Country Discovery Tour** had our biggest year yet, with over 450 guests exploring with our local naturalist guides. Our tours provide about 35% of WISE’s annual revenue.



*A tiny ice fisher tries her hand at skimming ice chunks out of the hole at Family Ice Fishing Day.*

**Field Sketching and Watercolor Tour** lets tourists practice field sketching, and create a unique painting of aspen trees.

**Wings over the Wrangells** is a family day presented by our friends at Wrangell-St. Elias National Park. WISE hosts the owl pellet dissection activity.

**Willow Creek Research Project** continued, with WISE interns serving as field research scientists in this hydrology study.

**Outdoor Wilderness Leadership Skills (OWLS)** A dynamic duo of teens dove into lessons about outdoor leadership and camping skills while climbing high in the Mentasta Mountains.

**Geology Camp** participants hiked up, up, up to the Bonanza mine and had a blast collecting and learning about the fascinating rocks of the Wrangells.

**Pop-Up Natural Playground** was set up for the very first time at the Kenny Lake Fair, and was a hit with the kids who built with their imaginations, hands, and hearts.

**Nic’anilen na’** we were pleased to complete the conservation easement paperwork and start talking about planning for this 40-acre plot.

**Changing Seasons Program** in September shares the wonders of Autumn with 2nd and 3rd grade students at local schools.

WISE also assists with partner programs throughout the year. For details see the 2019 Annual Report at [www.wise-edu.org](http://www.wise-edu.org).

**Looking ahead to 2020**  
**Copper River Basin Symposium**  
**Tradition, Science, and Stewardship**  
February 18-19, 2020  
Wrangell-St. Elias National Park

WISE is excited to be part of the planning team for this first-ever event for the region. It will be open to the public and feature regional research projects.



*Cassidy Austin returned to Copper River Stewardship Program as youth leader, and found this intriguing rock on Skookum Volcano Trail*



*Geology Camp hikers tackle the long climb up to Bonanza Mine in Wrangell-St. Elias National Park.*

## Mission Statement

WISE provides science and environmental education, supports scientific research, and shares the natural wonders of Alaska’s Copper River Valley.

## Core Values

Stewardship - Grassroots Involvement - Partnerships  
Integrity - Sense of Place - Mentorship

# Summer Interns

In the winter the WISE office is quiet, but in May it suddenly becomes a very lively place, with frequent laughter, shared snacks, and high-spirited escapades. All this is thanks to the interns, energetic young people who come here to learn, share adventures, and mentor the youth of the Copper River Basin.

Our WISE Environmental Education and Stewardship intern this summer was Mary Hannah Giddens, a recent graduate of Sewanee, College of the South in Tennessee.



Wrangell Mountains Center Intern Ann Robinson, WISE Intern Mary Hannah Giddens, Prince William Sound College/BLM Intern Kaela Gaylord, and BLM Ranger Amanda Friendshuh on the Bonanza Mine Trail.

*From planning day hikes, to assisting hydrology projects, and all the games in between, my summer with WISE allowed me to grow as a mentor and teacher. ... This summer made me realize how flexible I am with teaching and how it doesn't have to be detail oriented lesson plans and schedules. I was able to develop my skills in "teaching on the fly," as well as more structured learning activities. It was extremely rewarding to have a student come up to me and excitedly tell me how they remembered scat, flowers, and tracks from hikes they attended earlier in the summer.*

Mary Hannah Giddens

We also hosted Kaela Gaylord, a Prince William Sound College Intern stationed with WISE and the BLM Glennallen Field Office.

*Going into this internship, I was unsure of what was expected of me, and when any of my friends and family asked me what I would be doing all I could say was 'youth outreach?'. In retrospect, I am glad that I didn't have any expectations that were set in stone, because this internship was a whirlwind of all different kinds of work...Taking this internship was definitely a step outside of my comfort zone, and it could have easily progressed into my danger zone if the people I was surrounded with weren't so accommodating and great. I am beyond thankful for this internship, and I hope that others continue to enjoy it just as much as I have.*

Kaela Gaylord

Although she is no longer an intern, another young person who shares our summer adventures is Seasonal BLM Ranger Amanda Friendshuh. Amanda grew up in the area and participated in many WISE programs, including 2014 Copper River Stewardship Program, where she took the lead in producing "We All Live Downstream," a video of interviews, photos, and student writings. An Elementary Education student at University of Alaska Southeast, Amanda puts her teaching skills to work at WISE/BLM partner programs.

Hats off to the Interns! Their unwavering hard work makes our busy summer schedule possible, and makes the WISE office the best place in the world to be.

Robin Mayo

Mary Hannah and Amanda enjoy a quiet moment with Geology Camp students in the van.



Amanda, Kaela, and WISE Executive Director Robin Mayo are messy but happy after a hike to Tolsona Mud Volcanoes.

## Funder Spotlight: Alaska Geographic

WISE's Environmental Education and Stewardship Interns have been partially funded for the past two years by a science education microgrant from Alaska Geographic and Denali National Park and Preserve. This partnership also helps support our science camps.

We are excited to share stories, curriculum and inspiration with this statewide organization dedicated to creating deeper connections to Alaska's public lands. Learn more at [www.akgeo.org](http://www.akgeo.org).



## Sharing our Stories

Weather sitting around a campfire, bumping along in the van, or talking quietly in a tent at bedtime, stories are an integral part of every WISE program. They are how we get to know each other, understand the landscape, and share pivotal moments.

Sometimes storytelling is a planned part of the curriculum, like the M&M activity we use as an icebreaker. Each person grabs a couple of the colored candies from a bag, and shares a story from their life based on the colors they hold. Red is for an embarrassing story, brown is for dirt or mud, blue for water, etc.

Sitting in a cozy circle and listening to the rain drum on the roof of Viking Lodge, a Wrangell-St. Elias National Park Public Use Cabin, the teens and facilitators of Copper River Stewardship Program told stories from their lives that included answering the door in your underwear, rescuing a sparrow nest from the lawnmower, and a bungled but ultimately successful ice-skating marriage proposal. Something about the cues from the colors and the trust in the circle reminds us that every one of us is the keeper of infinite important stories.

We also used the story circle as an opportunity to talk about the responsibility of the listener who is offered the gift of a story. It is not our job to correct or judge the teller, but simply to receive the story and use it as another piece to the puzzle of human nature.

The next day, the group had an opportunity to practice our listening skills when we met with Ahtna Elder Wilson Justin at his cabin. We were surprised to learn that some of the traditional stories of his people can take days to tell. Wilson wove together stories from his childhood at Nabesna, his gradual enlightenment as a traditional healer, and his work as an advocate for the environment and traditional values. He challenged the students to see the coming changes and challenges as a chance for uplifting, just as the geologic action of the earth brings chaos but also builds mountains.

Other storytelling is more informal, such as the murmured stories punctuated by giggles that drift through tent walls in the late evenings. Or the rambling interconnecting tales that fill the time on

long van rides, hikes, or leisurely floats down a river. Another variation is the games of

“Mafia” or “Murder,” in which a narrator gives the participants roles in a murder mystery, and challenges them to figure out what happened. In every variation, the essential ingredients are storytellers and listeners. It is always a delight for me when a previously quiet youth takes the spotlight and comes up with something inspired, revealing, or hilarious.



*A campfire is a natural magnet that brings groups together and encourages them to share.*

Stories also have an integral place in environmental education. A favorite way to teach about a unique organism is to lead with “Alice Algae and Freddy Fungus took a *lichen* to each other...” which is way more fun than droning on about symbiotic relationships.

Many other lessons, such as the salmon life cycle, are perfectly suited to be told as stories. They are more memorable and meaningful, and feel less like school and more like an adventure.

Even the adults who come on our Copper Country Discovery Tour love stories. Judith tells about a short-tailed weasel that decided to make a home in her son’s dresser drawer, and Jolene likes to share how her family filled their freezer with road-kill bear meat. And the questions the guests ask are also requests for stories: What is it like to live here in the winter? Have you ever had a close encounter with a bear? Why do so many people have old cars in their yards?  
*Robin Mayo*

We want to hear your stories!

Do you have a WISE tale, or a story of an adventure in nature? Please share it! You can use the green leaf template included with this newsletter, or just email your story, artwork, photo or poem to [contact@wise-edu.org](mailto:contact@wise-edu.org).

## "Big Red" Celebrates a Milestone

An essential member of the WISE team celebrated a big milestone this summer. Our 2004 Ford E-350 van, affectionately known as "Big Red," rolled over 100,000 miles, and then humbly kept doing what she does best, which is cruising along the highways of the Copper River Valley. I'd hoped the big event would happen with a full load of kids to cheer, but it was just me and Red on a lonely stretch of the Denali Highway. We were returning from helping out with Project Healing Waters, a therapeutic fly fishing excursion for wounded veterans.

Back in 2007, it became apparent that transportation was one of the biggest barriers to realizing our dream of science and environmental education for Copper Basin youth, and also generating earned income with a tour. We received a grant from the Rasmuson Foundation for the purchase of a van.

WISE acquired Big Red used with about 30,000 miles, and since then Red has been a part of almost every summer WISE program. We park the van in the winter, avoiding the wear and tear, plus the hazards of winter driving. Since we drive only about five thousand miles per year, we hope Big Red has many more good years.

In 2014 we received another Rasmuson grant to purchase a 9-passenger Sprinter van to support our revenue-earning tour program. But Big Red still goes on the tour on busy days when she isn't out adventuring with youth. After a scrubbing inside and out we are ready, but I still always tell the tour guests that if they find an M&M in the seat, that's just a reminder of the van's normal job as WISE fun-mobile.

What is it like to ride in Big Red? Before the engine starts, we call for "Knuckles for Buckles," with everyone raising their fists to the ceiling to signal the driver that they are buckled up. Many of our Copper Basin highways are bumpy, especially the Old Edgerton where the WISE office is located. The ride may be rough and rattly, it seems each time I identify and fix one rattle another develops. Most of all, rides in Big Red tend to be loud, with highway noise, music, and excited kids enjoying every moment at full volume. The quietest times are on the way home after multi-day camps, when the kids finally succumb to sleep, at least until Big Red hits the next stretch of washboard...

Robin Mayo



A capacity crowd fills Big Red every year for Copper River Stewardship Program.



Like a clown car, but bigger and with backpacks... Big Red waits patiently while hikers get their gear organized at Kennicott.



Collecting rose petals on a morning in Chitina. The petals are used to make a rose lotion we made during a Wild Plants Workshop in June. Photo by Rebekah Donohue, Board of Directors.



During Changing Seasons I saw the leaves change color. I suddenly found a grass stem to take away. There it was again! A little girl with a grass stem to take away. I love this activity, especially when the kids are with crayons.

### Funder Spotlight: Rasmuson Foundation

Alaska's nonprofits have an amazing and fairly unique partner in the Rasmuson Foundation.

Founded in 1955 with the mission of promoting a better life for Alaskans, the foundation follows a funding philosophy that includes funding capital projects.

WISE has benefitted greatly, with grants including both our vans and a total technology makeover in 2017. We've also received two Strengthening Organization grants given by Alaska Community Foundation but funded by Rasmuson, and attended many Foraker Group trainings supported by the foundation.



With youth so they could experience the river. In 2007 the dream added a Leadership Program. On the river, we have a lot of plants, and rivers, and mountains. The rest. The ten youth that have dreams come true. Jan 2018

# Stories from WISE Board and Staff

Every picture tells a story. WISE board and staff share moments from their lives, and the stories behind the pictures.



A lovely sunny day. Petals went into the basket during the WISE picnic in 2017.   
— Board Member

I always appreciate the opportunity to talk with some of my favorite humans — in this case a group of eager and engaged young people at a WISE Aquatic Camp — especially when the topic involves some of my favorite nonhumans — in this case beavers. The object in my hand is the skull of a long-deceased beaver, who might itself have been happy to demonstrate its remarkable teeth had it known of this educational gathering.   
Dave Wellman, Vice Chair



When I was in high school, we learned to ski. I mostly absorbed the how-to through the kindness of friends who put up with me falling down the hill after them and a cross country coach who kept me on the team. Somehow it became habit, a literal breath of fresh of fresh air when I had small children, a meditation, the open range for my thoughts. When the weather's 'bad,' I put on my skis, chortle, and enjoy it. It keeps me in love with Alaska and in shape without feeling like I had to work at it. In this photo I am skiing on Winter Solstice with my daughter in law, Shilah.   
Felicia Riedel, Board Secretary



This is my favorite hat of all times. I've had it since the early 90's. I call it my New York City hat. I wear it most places especially when out and about for WISE events like the Weed Smackdown we did in Glennallen helping to clean up the invasive sweet clover. Everyone knows it's me when they see the Hat.   
Gay Wellman, Board Chair



A couple of years ago at the Changing Seasons program I taught the salmon life cycle. We did an activity using kernels of popcorn demonstrating a female salmon laying thousands of eggs and at the end only a couple remained to spawn. The students were amazed at how difficult the journey from egg to adult really is!   
Jenny Moser, Board Member

I was teaching the students about why they suddenly felt a bug on my ear and shooed it away and when I turned around it was a tickling me. She was so cute. The kids love when they get to make leaf rubbings.   
Paul Boos, Board Treasurer

In this photo I'm standing with my daughter as she accepts an award at Family Ice Fishing Day. My Dad always wanted to catch that big fish and over the years he did catch a few but as a kid the fish I caught didn't matter all that much, I just wanted to spend time with my Dad. Being the Dad today who is dragging everyone out to the lake, or baiting hooks, or untangling lines, I hope I can give my children some of those same memories. Ones of catching that big fish or feeling like you are the only people on the lake or stream. Memories and hopes that go way beyond whatever is hooked on the end of a pole.   
Mark Proch, Board Member



Josie's OWLS Job Shadow with Alaska Department of Fish and Game turned into quite the adventure! Our aim was to radiotrack and retrieve two caribou collars near the Nabesna road. Turns out the first collar did not want to be found; the weak signal bounced throughout the woods, we hiked in circles trying to follow the signal and finally gave up. For the second one we had to cross a creek and hike through a swamp, but the signal was strong and the receiver led us right to it!   
Heidi Hatcher, Board Member



I had a dream. I wanted to share my knowledge and experiences and experience what I had and become better from it. In this chapter on this maiden voyage of the Watershed my voyage all I had to do was convey my knowledge to the mountains. The plants, rivers, and mountains taught me that jumped into my dream are now making their own true and leading others in the journey.   
— Kelle Eklund, Board Member



While setting minnow traps for Salmon Blitz, 2016 Intern Kiana Jenkins and I decided it would be easier to go through this culvert rather than climb up and over the highway. Once inside we discovered it was very slippery, and there was a crazy echo. Soon we were laughing so hard I couldn't stand up.   
Robin Mayo, Executive Director



## Where I Am From

“Where are you from?” can be a loaded question. Does it mean where was I born? where did I grow up? or where do I call home right now? With the theme of “Stories in the landscape” for the 2019 Copper River Stewardship Program, students explored the deeper meanings to be found in that seemingly simple query.

Using a template originating with Alaska State Poet Ernestine Hayes that was shared with us by Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge staff, we explored the people, places, things, and events that form the deeper answer to the question.

As can be expected, the resulting poems revealed the vast differences that we all bring to the common table, even those of us who are “from” the same place. The poems also showed that every single one of us can be a profound writer if we trust ourselves, and trust those with whom we share our stories.



*From the Headwaters to the Copper River Delta, journaling and storytelling is a vital part of Copper River Stewardship Program*

### The Tree I am Growing By Autumn Deaton

I am planted from a beautiful romance, and baby steps in cool grass.

I am watered.

There is no bad day and tears don't need to be saved.

I grow from the second star away and the cool evenings in May.

The voice of a bird, and the constant rain.

I am growing from the yearn of tomorrow, and today's lovely memories.

I am the tree still, growing and budding new leaves.



### Where I am From By Cassidy Austin

I am from long, crisp days on the river followed by warm camp fires and friendly laughs of the loved ones around me.

I am from rock scrambling down the banks of McCarthy Creek, my old worn Chacos filled abundantly with river rocks.

I am from Mac and Cheese over our rusty green camp stove, and hot chocolate that my little brother and I sneakily made with twice the suggested serving of powder.

I remember the feeling of sand in everything; your dry bag, your sleeping bag, your tent, and often even your oatmeal while journeying down the mighty Colorado River for weeks at a time...

...and I remember laying beneath the northern lights at a camp we call “The Center of the Universe” as the October air riffled through the birchwood trees.

I stand for protecting this land of which I feel so blessed to inhabit, and protecting the voices and rights of those who walked it before me.

I am from “your voice matters”—some words which I have carried with me throughout my journey as an advocate and a steward amongst this land.

And I am from creating artwork wherever I go. I am from this unique state, but more importantly, I am from my adventures.

## Natural Leadership

When you think of a leader, what comes to mind? Is it someone up on stage in front of a crowd, making an inspiring speech? Or perhaps an Arctic explorer breaking trail in a blizzard, exhorting their lagging teammates to keep up?

Recently I was comparing notes with an outdoor educator friend about what we hope youth are learning from the adventures we organize. He recited the Scout Law that he still remembered word for word, 60 years since learning it: "A Scout is: Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean and Reverent." We had a good chuckle about the clean part, but agreed that the traits are the essence of leadership. I grew up in 4-H and FFA, and the leadership ethic we learned included Humility, Integrity, Empathy, Collaboration, Communication, and Respect. Lectern thumping and heroic acts of physical endurance are never mentioned in either of these models.

As an adult, I've attended sophisticated leadership trainings which share the same ideas but include a lot less marshmallow roasting and silly games, which is a shame. But the leadership traits are very similar, and on the highest level emphasize humility and service to others.

But what does leadership look like in a real life outdoor setting with youth? When you get a group together for several days, natural leaders often emerge. There is no official title or symbol of leadership, and the individual may not even be aware of the role. If the natural leaders are going in the same general direction the adult organizers have planned, all will go smoothly. So part of our job is to identify and work with the energy of the youth leaders so a safe, fun, and educational time can be had by all.

Once you learn to look beyond titles and traditional leader roles, you find that leadership is all around you, in large and small acts of kindness, empathy, inspiration, and resolve. Several years ago one of our youth was asked to give advice to adults on including youth, and made a simple sign that stated, "Let Youth Lead!" It now hangs in the WISE office as a constant reminder that often, the best thing you can do is create an opportunity, then step back and see what happens.

*Robin Mayo*



*WISE Outstanding Youth Leader Josie Beauchamp crosses an iced-over creek on the 2018 OWLS Expedition.*

## 2019 WISE Outstanding Youth Leader Josie Beauchamp

WISE is starting a new yearly tradition of honoring outstanding youth leaders, and at the Annual Meeting in February 2019 we were pleased to name Josephine Beauchamp of Slana as our first honoree.

Josie participated in Outdoor and Wilderness Leadership Skills, Geology Camp, and Copper River Stewardship Program in 2018, and travelled to Anchorage to attend Alaska Forum on the Environment. She is very much a quiet, behind the scenes leader, who last summer excelled at logistics, trip planning, and attention to detail. Never one to refuse a challenge, she overcame her fears to speak in front of an audience of 75 people at Alaska Forum on the Environment, helping give a presentation on the power of wilderness experiences in building community. Josie is also an outstanding homeschooled student with Upstream Learning, a star member of the Slana Archery Team, and well on her way to her dream of becoming a pilot.



*Josie (lower left) shares a happy moment on the 2018 Copper River Stewardship Program*

## Education Partners

Copper River School District  
 Prince William Sound College  
 University of Alaska Fairbanks  
 Valdez City Schools  
 Campbell Creek Science Center

*"We're so complex;  
 we're mysteries to ourselves;  
 we're difficult to each other.  
 And then storytelling reminds us  
 that we're all the same."  
 Brad Pitt*



WISE Board Chair Gay Wellman and Executive Director Robin Mayo were both honored at the Women of Distinction banquet in October.

## Government and Tribal Partners

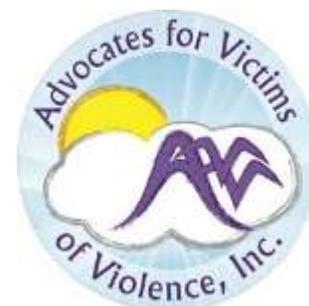
Alaska Department of Fish and Game  
 Copper River Native Association  
 Chitina Village Council  
 Gakona Village Council  
 Gulkana Village Council  
 Mount Sanford Tribal Consortium  
 Native Village of Kluti-Kaah  
 Native Village of Tazlina  
 US Bureau of Land Management  
 US Forest Service Cordova Ranger District  
 Wrangell-St. Elias National Park and Preserve

## Nonprofit Partners

Alaska WildBird Rehabilitation  
 Association of Tazlina Residents  
 Ahtna Heritage Foundation  
 Copper River Watershed Project  
 Copper Country Alliance  
 The Foraker Group  
 Greater Copper Valley Chamber of Commerce  
 Kenny Lake Community League  
 Kenny Lake Public Library  
 Prince William Sound Science Center  
 Prince William Sound Regional Citizens Advisory Council  
 Project Healing Waters Alaska  
 Wrangell Mountains Center  
 Willow Creek Water Consortium  
 Wellwood Conservancy

*One of the most important partnerships within a nonprofit organization is between the Board Chair and the Executive Director, so it was a special day when Gay Wellman and Robin Mayo both received Advocates for Victims of Violence's "Woman of Distinction" award at a gala dinner in Valdez this fall. This award is presented to honor women who set themselves apart through their civic, cultural, philanthropic, human service, environmental, and professional contributions to our community.*

*WISE programs provide youth with life skills and positive experiences to help break the cycle of violence in our communities.*



## 2019 Funders



Alaska  
Geographic



**Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation**  
**Alaska Community Foundation**  
**Copper Country Alliance**  
**State of Alaska Community Assistance Program**  
**Fred Meyer Community Rewards**  
**Amazon Smile**  
**Gulkana Village Council**  
**Gakona Village**  
**Copper River Native Association**

For more details on WISE revenues and expenses, please request our 2019 Annual Report, or see it at [www.wise-edu.org](http://www.wise-edu.org)

## WISE Donors

Spruce  
 \$500 and up  
 Anne Beasley  
 Janelle Eklund and Paul Boos  
 Karen Combs and Lynn Wegener  
 Betty and Bill James  
 Gail Mayo  
 Butch and Carol Potter  
 Daniel Solie



Aspen  
 \$100 to \$499

Sandra Bales  
 Katie and Ben Bobowski  
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 Jamie Dawson  
 Evan Franklin  
 Sally Gibert  
 Marnie Graham and Doug Vollman  
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