

Artist-in-Residence Opportunity

BLM Eastern Alaska Wild and Scenic Rivers, Summer 2018



The Fortymile, Copyright Christine Nguyen, 2015 Artist in Residence. Used with permission.

The BLM Artist-in-Residence Program (AiR) is founded on the belief that, because artists look closely at the way the world works, notice things that others may have missed, challenge ideas, and create in a variety of forms, they can provide new ways to look at and appreciate public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Artists see beauty and value in the natural places that are promised to future generations of Americans by the management practices of the BLM. Artists can help us to share the scenic beauty and unique stories of BLM-managed land with the public through the world of art. AiR provides artistic and educational opportunities that promote deeper understanding and dialogue about the natural, cultural, and historic resources on public lands.

The Artist-In-Residence program at BLM offers writers, composers, and visual and performing artists the opportunity to pursue their artistic discipline amid Alaska's inspiring landscape. In celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, the Eastern Interior Field Office will host residencies for the three wild and scenic rivers (WSRs) it manages. The BLM will be looking for one artist for each of these WSRs: Beaver Creek WSR, Birch Creek WSR, and the Fortymile WSR. Each residency will involve roughly a week on the river in June, July, August, or September. BLM staff will accompany artists, and the agency will provide most of the necessary equipment. The BLM will also provide transportation between Fairbanks and the WSR, but artists are responsible for transportation to Fairbanks.

Beaver Creek Wild and Scenic River

Beaver Creek WSR runs through the White Mountains National Recreation Area north of Fairbanks, Alaska. The river's clear water, modest Class I rapids, and unparalleled scenery make for a relaxing river trip. Wind, rain, and freezing temperatures have weathered away the mountains to expose the jagged cliffs and peaks seen along Beaver Creek. These high ridges are home to Dall sheep and peregrine falcons. Migratory waterfowl, such as mergansers, shovelheads, goldeneyes, and harlequins spend the summers along Beaver Creek. Known for its large dorsal fin, the Arctic grayling is the predominant fish species in the White Mountains. Other types of fish include northern pike, sheefish, burbot, and salmon.

Birch Creek Wild and Scenic River

Birch Creek WSR offers an unforgettable, road accessible, float through the Steese National Conservation Area northeast of Fairbanks, Alaska. On its journey to the Yukon River, Birch Creek flows swiftly through upland plateaus, forested valleys, and marshy lowlands, transitioning from a swift headwater system to a broad, meandering river. River travelers

often see moose, caribou, wolves, peregrine falcons, and arctic grayling. Spectacular examples of the Birch Creek schist formation are found in rock outcroppings on hillsides above the creek and along the river where sheer rock walls have resisted the erosive action of the water. Shotgun Rapids, a Class III rapid, is one such location.

Fortymile Wild and Scenic River

The clear water of the Fortymile WSR runs through a remote area in interior Alaska near the US-Canadian Border. The six main forks of the river make up one of the longest wild and scenic rivers in the United States. The Fortymile River is known for its breathtaking beauty and rich history with numerous mining remnants dating back to the turn of the century. Early prospectors poled their boats from the Yukon River in Canada up the Fortymile River and its tributaries in search of gold. Today, miners are still finding gold in the region. Many signs of mining activity, both past and present, are visible along the river.

Artist Selection

The BLM's Artist in Residence Program is committed to supporting artistic efforts from all mediums that support the public lands. In 2018 the program will select three Artist in Residence proposals. The process of selecting this year's Artists in Residence is a collaborative one. A jury of former BLM Artists in Residence will review all complete applications with a set of questions in mind (see next page). The applications are ranked by each member to facilitate discussion. The final selection is reached by consensus. Artists must be 18 and over.

Factors considered by the selection committee:

- How well does this project embody the importance of wild and scenic rivers?
- How strong is the artistic sample?
- How much artistic experience does the applicant have?
- How qualified and pertinent are the reference providers and what do they have to say?
- Does the candidate have a sufficient level of backcountry experience and knowledge of Alaska to safely complete the residency?
- Has a previous artist in residence done a similar project recently?
- Has a previous artist in residence used a similar media recently? If yes, is the proposal unique?

Artwork Donations

Participating artists are asked to donate to the BLM the use of an original piece of artwork from their residency. The artist will retain both the original and the copyright. Artwork may be used in exhibits and for educational purposes. In addition artwork may be used by non-profit partners for items such as postcards, posters, and similar items.

For questions please contact BLM's AiR program coordinators

Collin Cogley at ccogley@blm.gov or 907-474-2382 or Teri Balsler, tbalsler@blm.gov, 907-474-2368.



**Bureau of Land Management
Eastern Interior Field Office
222 University Avenue
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709**

2018 Wild and Scenic Rivers Artist in Residence Application

Artist Name _____
Mailing Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Phone: Day _____ Evening _____ Cell Phone: _____
Email: _____ Website: _____

ARTIST APPLICATION CHECKLIST

___ **This Application Form.**

___ **Preferred Dates of Residency (June–September)** _____

___ **Artwork Samples:**

- **Visual Artists** (photographers, painters, etc.): One CD, DVD, or thumb drive. Digital submissions must be in JPG or TIFF format, *not larger than 2 MB each*.
- **Videographers:** One CD, DVD, or thumb drive with at least two productions, or segments thereof, not to exceed 5 minutes total in MPEG file format
- **Performing Artists:** One CD, DVD, or thumb drive with at least two performances, or segments thereof, not to exceed 5 minutes total, in MPEG file format
- **Writers, Poets:** 10 pages of writing samples, double-spaced (printed, or PDF /MS Word document format).
- **Musicians, Composers:** one CD, DVD, or thumb drive with at least two compositions, or segments thereof, not to exceed 5 minutes total, in WAV, MP3, or WMA file format

___ **Artwork List:** Provide a one-page list of work samples submitted with title, medium, date, and other relevant information that will assist in the evaluation of your work (printed, or PDF/MS Word document format). Use your last name and image number in the file name. (For example: JillSmith_Image01.jpg)

___ **Resume:** Please provide a professional resume, including exhibition record, fellowships and residencies, and other honors; **not to exceed two pages in length** in 12-point type. (printed, PDF, or MS Word document format).

___ **Project Proposal:** No more than **1 page in length**, 12-point type (printed, or PDF/MS Word document format). Your proposal must address:

- Your experience with outdoor activities in Alaska or similar climate
- Why you are interested in an AiR residency
- Relevance of your project to BLM goals
- Potential for development of your artistic growth/interests
- Description of a public presentation to be delivered within 6 months of your project

Send all "Attention: Collin Cogley" to the address above
Deadline: Applications must be received by February 5, 2018

Application materials will NOT be returned.

Applicants will be notified by March 1, 2018

For questions please contact BLM's AiR program coordinators

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