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From the Managing Editor
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Bud Cribley—Realizes a Lifelong Dream

New BLM-Alaska State Director

When Bud Cribley talks about moving to Alaska, you hear the excitement in his voice and his anticipation for what lies ahead. During the week of Thanksgiving, Bud will begin his job as BLM-Alaska's State Director. He is very upbeat, laughs easily and reflects on what lies ahead. He says that after 35 years with the BLM, he sees Alaska as an opportunity to learn new things and gain new experiences. "Hopefully, the experiences I have to date create a good foundation to use in Alaska and help with what BLM-Alaska is trying to accomplish."



Bud Cribley

Bud's looking forward to working with Alaska's issues and people. He believes his diverse background will complement management decisions in Alaska.

Bud Cribley has a forestry degree from Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches, Texas. He joined the BLM in 1975, and worked in Arizona, Montana, Colorado, and Nevada. In 1997, he moved to BLM's national headquarters in Washington, D.C., as a senior specialist with the Wild Horse and Burro program, later heading up the Rangeland Resources Division. He briefly left Washington to serve as Acting State Director for Idaho in 2006, and then returned to Washington as BLM's Deputy Assistant Director for Renewable Resources and Planning.

Bud candidly admits that most of BLM-Alaska's issues are new for him. He is spending his last weeks in the Nation's capital studying the issues awaiting him in Alaska.

"Obviously, we need to focus on developing a single management plan for the NPR-A [National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska]," he says. "Energy development is a big issue and how that affects the natural resources, will be an important priority."

In all-employee meetings at BLM-Alaska during brief visits to Fairbanks and Anchorage last month, Bud listened to employee concerns about declining budgets and echoed BLM Director Bob Abbey's assurance that we "will not be doing more with less, but will do the best we can with what we have."

Bud doesn't walk into a room with all the answers. During his career, he says many managers asked for a briefing, but already had their minds made up about what they would do. Bud says he won't make decisions that way. He believes that when managing organizations, you rely on a good staff and their expertise, and learn to be more of a generalist than an expert.

—continued on page 2

Planning for all of the NPR-A

For the first time, the BLM is beginning a new comprehensive land use plan for all of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). The BLM currently has plans for the Northwest and Northeast portions of the NPR-A. However, more than nine million acres in the southern part of the NPR-A have no land use plan. These unplanned lands include caribou calving grounds, potential Wild and Scenic Rivers, and natural gas. The new plan will update Northeast and Northwest NPR-A plans' analyses and protective measures.

BLM-Alaska received approximately 147,000 comments during the July

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Bud says he isn't coming to Alaska with an agenda from the standpoint of changing things. He prefers to get a sense of an organization, where it is, what is working, and identify the challenges. After he has the information, then he will engage people on the issues.

When asked about using new technologies, he chuckles. "I may be over-educated in technology. I represent the BLM for eGov." His involvement with information technology includes geospatial and inventory monitoring strategies for better efficiency. He emphasizes that BLM needs to use new technologies within its capabilities and available tools, to be effective.

Bud's wife, Karen, is a school teacher. She will finish out the school year and join him next summer. Bud is an avid hunter and fisherman. They have three grown daughters and one granddaughter.

Bud says, "I feel very privileged to have the opportunity to come to Alaska and work. Not only within the BLM, but with everyone in Alaska. It is just an incredible opportunity, it's exhilarating."

— Karen J. Laubenstein
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Danielle Allen and Sheila Sine
contributed to this article

28-Oct. 1 scoping period, and public scoping meetings held in six North Slope villages, Fairbanks and Anchorage.

The BLM will issue a draft plan in early 2012, the final plan and the decision in late 2012. The North Slope Borough, State of Alaska, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management Regulation and Enforcement are joining the BLM as cooperating agencies for this planning effort.

For more information on the NPR-A plan, go to: <http://www.blm.gov/ak>.

Reroofing the Kink Cabin

Editor's note: Here is a first-person account by Nicklaus Moser, a summer seasonal worker and part of a three-person crew to reroof the historic structure over the summer. Other crewmembers were Courtney Cooper, a student conservation assistant, and Kevan Cooper, BLM Eastern Interior Field Office realty specialist.

Before beginning a preservation project to replace the collapsed Kink cabin roof, I imagined the life of Fortymile River old-timers as difficult, not necessarily backbreaking, but as a challenge to survive. After peeling 140 poles and several ridge poles for the new sod roof of the Kink cabin using dull draw knives, our three-person crew understood that frontier life was no walk in the park.



Kevan Cooper

Kink Cabin with its new roof.

To restore the roof to its original specifications, we cut an extra long ridgeline and ridge poles to create a generous overhang – one that will protect the cabin's historic front from rain and shine and hopefully allow the building to stand for at least another twenty years. The awning complements the view of a beaver lake, just down the hill.

Built in 1898, the Kink cabin originally housed Johannes Petersen, his brother Emil, and other members of their camp. During their time at the Kink, the Petersen brothers managed to dynamite a hole through a nearby ridge, which diverted the river and created the dried oxbow that we know the area by today.

The brothers planned to mine the riverbed and make their fortunes. The Kink, however, is not rich in gold deposits. After many setbacks, including a landslide that temporarily refilled the gap, causing the oxbow to flood and wipe out an entire season's hard work, the two brothers left with little gold.

There are only a handful of turn-of-the-century cabins still standing on the Fortymile River. The Kink cabin serves as an example of frontier accommodations and stands as a remembrance to the brothers' unique story. Our reroofing of this cabin went very well. The Kink cabin is again dry and warm. We even fashioned an ergonomic sitting chair that anyone can enjoy. Though not maintained for regular use, it is available for a shelter in case of an emergency.

— Nicklaus Moser
BLM Summer Seasonal Worker

Alaska Smokejumpers Make-a-Wish Come True

When nine-year-old Jedidiah Lusk (*in star at right*) fell ill in February, the outgoing junior ski team member, dirt bike competitor, horse rider, and youngest son of former smokejumpers Scott (1981) and Cynthia Lusk (1987), learned he had an inoperable brain tumor. "It's a glioblast multiformus. There's 161 different kinds of brain tumors, and he has the most aggressive, meanest kind," explains his father, Scott. A biopsy left Jedidiah partially paralyzed on his left side so he uses a wheelchair. Despite the intensive radiation and chemotherapy regimen, Jedidiah and his family are doing whatever they can to make every day count.

In June, Jedidiah said his wish was to be an Alaska Smokejumper. The Make-a-Wish Foundation worked with the Alaska Fire Service to sponsor a week-long adventure in July for Jedidiah and his family. They flew to Fairbanks, AK, from their home in Quincy, CA. Jedidiah completed Alaska Smokejumper Rookie Training, including participating on a training flight. The visit culminated in a jet boat ride on the Chena River to a rookie campout. Jedidiah talks often about his unforgettable journey to become an Alaska Smokejumper. Congratulations Jedidiah, Alaska Smokejumper Rookie Class of 2010!



Jedidiah tries on new jump jacket.

Mike McMillan



Jedidiah practices giving commands to smokejumper Togie Wiehl.

Mike McMillan



Lusk family watch a practice jump.

Mike McMillan



Lusk family and Alaska Fire Service pilot in front of Tanker 264.

Mike McMillan

For more information on Jedidiah, please visit <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/JedidiahLusk>. To view more photos, go to http://www.smokejumpers.com/gallery/v/Alaska-Fire-Season-2004/2010+Wildfires/2010July7-004_RT8b.jpg.html

Alaska Fire Service Goes International

RUSSIA

BLM-Alaska Fire Management Officer Mike Lambricht worked in Russia from Aug. 6 to 20 as part of a two-person U.S. Agency for International Development Office of U. S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) technical assistance team responding to Russia's wildfires. Lambricht's teammate was Chris Knobel from the U.S. Forest Service International Programs-Disaster Assistance Support Program.



Mike Lambricht

Andre Eritsov, Deputy Director Aialesookharna, Russian Aerial Fire Control Service (Left) and Mike Lambricht (Right) on a field visit to a fire in the Moscow Region in Aug. 2010. Eritsov was in Alaska on a smokejumper exchange in 1994 and had one fire jump in Alaska.

Last July and August, Russia experienced its highest temperatures in more than a century, coupled with its worst drought in at least 50 years. The hot, dry conditions fueled more than 26,400 wildland fires that burned more than 4.7 million acres, displaced 3,500 people, and claimed 52 lives (including three firefighters).

Lambricht and Knobel assessed wildfire impacts, evaluated newly burned terrain hazards, and provided technical assistance to Russia's government and its emergency response to the crisis. They recommended immediate aid shipments of emergency firefighting equipment, including Nomex clothing, personal protective devices, tools, backpack pumps, water tanks, drip torches, and medical kits. They also helped Russia address future collaborative fire management projects with various fire and emergency management agencies.

Lambricht and Knobel joined the more than 165,000 fire personnel and thousands of fire engines, water tankers, fire support vehicles, and general fire suppres-

sion equipment responding to the emergency. Hundreds of fixed- and rotor-wing aircraft provided air support. France, Belarus, Ukraine, Italy, and other countries joined the United States to help Russia. In response to the team's request for aid shipments, USAID/OFDA presented \$50,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Moscow and its Charge d'Affairs, Eric Rubin, for the Russian Red Cross to purchase and distribute emergency relief supplies for fire-affected households. The U.S. European Command provided additional firefighting equipment and the State of California donated 1,500 Nomex pants and 400 Nomex jackets. The U.S. contributed \$4.5 million, including transport.

MALAYSIA

Dave Curry, Alaska Interagency Coordination Center Manager, BLM-Alaska Fire Service, worked on a team with Dan Cottrell from the U.S. Forest Service in Montana, and Joe Reyes from the U.S. Forest Service in California, to teach the Incident Command System (ICS) in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei, in September. The team taught basic and intermediate ICS classes to 25 Brunei students who will then become ICS trainers. Brunei is one of 10 member countries in the Association of Southeast Asia Nations (ASEAN) interested in adopting and using the ICS. Brunei, Philippines and Thailand are participating as pilots for the program. The U.S. Forest Service International Forestry Program and the U.S. Agency for International Development jointly sponsored Curry's assignment. This was Curry's third trip to the region. He has also provided similar training in India and Sri Lanka.



Doug Stockdale

Dave Curry

PHILIPPINES

Joe Ribar, BLM-Alaska Fire Service Branch Manager for Logistics Operations, will be in the Philippines in October to teach Incident Command System planning. He has given ICS training to oil companies on Alaska's North Slope and to Alaska state and local government staffers. Joe also participated in two previous international assignments. First he traveled to Mussoorie, India, in May 2007 where he taught "Creating and Conducting Disaster Simulation Exercises" at the Centre for Disaster Management, LBS National Academy of Administration. Next was Victoria, Australia, in February 2010, where he taught members of the Victoria Department of Sustainability and Environment fire program.



Doug Stockdale

Joe Ribar

—Doug Stockdale
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Youth hiking along Upper Tangle Lakes on a BLM-WISE hosted hike.

When the Wrangell Institute for Science and Environment (WISE) learned of the BLM's new Take it Outside initiative, they were excited. The initiative gave them the opportunity to formally partner with the BLM. Since the 'Take it Outside' initiative encourages youth to participate in outdoor activities to gain a better understanding of their natural environment, and WISE is all about science education and the environment, it was a perfect match!

WISE first contacted Marnie Graham at the BLM Glennallen Field office. WISE had collaborated with Graham before with Earth Discovery Day, Changing Seasons, and the Copper River Stewardship educational programs. Formalizing a partnership between WISE and the BLM could help provide even more opportunities and support for area youth programs.

Paul Boos of WISE says, "Recent trends reflect a decrease in outdoor activity in youth in favor of indoor sedentary activities." He was concerned. Today's youth are "losing a basic understanding of the impacts we have on the environment, the air we breathe and the water we drink."

Graham agreed. This year, WISE Executive Director Bruce James and BLM's Graham took youth outdoors in the Glennallen area through 11 new 'Take it Outside' summer programs. They also began paid summer 'Take it Outside' internships to help administer those summer youth programs, and to encourage the teenagers to pursue careers in natural resources, interpretation and resource

management. Last summer, the BLM hired five interns for the 'Take it Outside' programs, including Hanna Rosenkrans, Luke Ringger, Sonya Johns, Rachel Stumpf, and Mathew Vos. WISE hired Derrick Sinyon as an interpretive intern to work on WISE's Copper River Country Nature Tour program. Sinyon provides visitors with a cultural perspective on life in Alaska's Copper River Basin.

While WISE designs these 'Take it Outside' programs for fun, outdoor learning is what it's all about. For one of these programs, the BLM used stream tables to show the young participants how streams and rivers can change the environment. They learned about the dynamics of streams and rivers, healthy watersheds, and the impact natural river events may have on the river system. During hikes, the young students explored mud volcanoes, learned which berries to eat, and how to read maps.

(Below) Students study waterbugs under a microscope. *(Right)* Students checking oxygen levels in water samples.



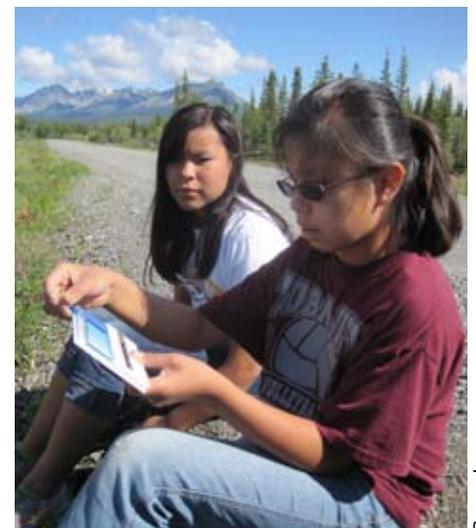
Bruce James

Taking Kids Outside in the Copper River Valley

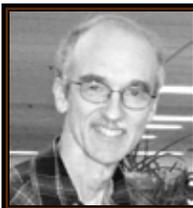
WISE and the BLM plan to continue developing their 'Take it Outside' efforts to make a difference with youth throughout the area. They will continue the successful Copper River Stewardship program, a hands-on, in-depth adventure and intensive outdoor education program for 10 teens selected annually from communities throughout the Copper River watershed. They know that by bringing youth outdoors and helping them to learn about their environment, whether as participants or helping to administer the programs as interns, together, they can reverse those statistics. "Take it Outside" is helping to make that happen.

For more information about these programs please call the BLM Glennallen Field Office at 907-822-7325 or WISE at 907-822-3575.

— Paul Boos from WISE, Danielle Allen and Marnie Graham contributed to this article.



Bruce James



Journey into Alaska's Past

with BLM-Alaska Archaeologist Robert King

CENTENNIAL MILESTONES

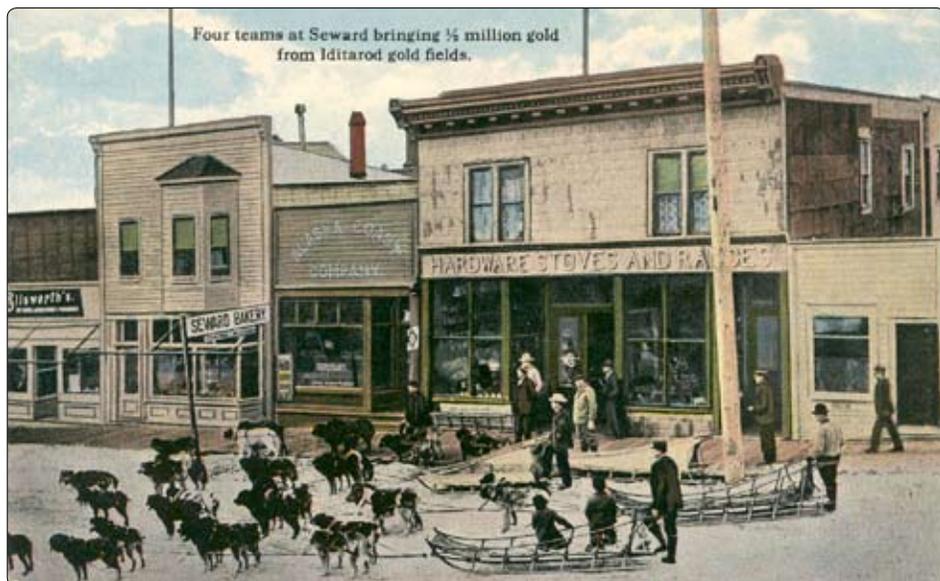
While most 100th anniversary commemorations focus only on a single date, the Iditarod National Historic Trail Centennial Celebration takes place over five years, 2008-2012. This celebration recognizes a series of 100th anniversaries associated with today's Iditarod Trail system and its fabulous history. This year, 2010, is the midway year during the commemoration. It is especially significant for the Trail itself. One hundred years ago, the Alaska Road Commission began initial work on building and marking the Trail, with more work continuing into 2011.

The year 2008 marked 100 years since the beginning of an overland route from Seward to Nome. In 1908, the first government reconnaissance and survey work began for the Trail. Late 1908 also saw the initial gold discovery in the region that set off the rush of an estimated 10,000 gold-seekers.

In 2009, the Iditarod Centennial continued with the 100th anniversary of the great stampede of thousands of miners and others to the Iditarod gold fields causing "America's Last Great Gold Rush."

In 2012, when the Iditarod Centennial ends, that will be a 100 years since the creation of Alaska Territory. The Iditarod Gold Rush and all the people it brought to Alaska helped justify Alaska becoming a Territory on Aug. 24, 1912 (prior to that it was the District of Alaska).

Hidden among the important milestones in the history of the Iditarod Trail and the great gold discoveries of the Iditarod Mining District are other, smaller but intriguing, 100th anniversaries. Some of my favorites are the 100th anniversaries of the first electric light system and phone system in



Courtesy of Robert King

Postcard showing four dog sled teams or "gold trains" bringing \$500,000 worth of gold to Seward from Iditarod gold fields.

Alaska's Inland Empire, established at Iditarod. These basic features of modern society arrived with great effort to this remote region of Alaska—all because of the lure of gold and getting rich!

My favorite 100th anniversary event to affect the Iditarod region took place nearby and is even lesser known. In April of 1910, an Alaskan newspaper carried what was probably the first story of an Alaskan trying to build an airplane. While the first demonstration of air flight would not happen in Alaska until 1913, with no significant use of airplanes until the 1920s, this 1910 report no doubt reached the town of Iditarod. While viewed as mostly a novelty, few people at the time would have guessed that "flying machines" would become one of the main reasons why use of the Iditarod Trail system would quickly decline. Starting in the 1920s, flying became a better and faster way of travel in many parts of Alaska.

Thus, the Iditarod Trail system was no longer required for winter travel between Seward and Nome and points in between.

After much of the easier-to-mine gold played out in the Iditarod region in the later 1910s and 1920s, the Iditarod Trail system's use declined further due to the lack of miners coming to the region. Between the end of easy gold and the coming of airplanes, widespread use of the Iditarod Trail ended.

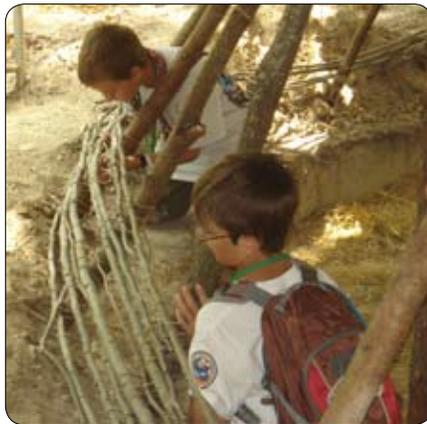
As a consequence, lights were turned off in the once-famous town of Iditarod, the phones stopped ringing, and eventually all that was left of the town slowly returned to Mother Nature's care. Today, Iditarod's once bustling streets are silent and its bears are disturbed only by the airplanes that fly overhead.

—Robert King
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Building a Pit House at the National Boy Scout Jamboree

BLM-Alaska's archaeologist Robert King was part of a BLM cultural team that created a replica of a 1,200-year-old "pit house." The pit house was similar to those found in Colorado at the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument. The 15-foot diameter pit house was one of the BLM's interactive exhibits at the National Scout Jamboree at Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia. The July 26-Aug. 4 Jamboree coincided with the 100th Anniversary of the Boy Scouts of America.

After a year of planning, the BLM cultural team constructed the basic pit house frame and clay mud roof before the event. The work involved cutting 40-50 large trees and hundreds of saplings for the wooden frame. Scouts lashed the saplings onto the structure to hold the exterior mud coating.



Scouts lash willow saplings on the pit house frame that later was mud coated .

They applied mud to the walls and entryway. By the time the Jamboree ended, an estimated 6,500 Scouts and leaders visited or participated in the construction of the pit house. At the conclusion of the Jamboree, the pit house was dismantled and land reclaimed in one day.



Pit house structure with lashed saplings partially mudded. The entry way is twice as high as the traditional pit house entry so today's taller people can fit.

It's all about Fishing

Imagine attending a class where you learn about fishing techniques, fisheries science, and area fisheries on the world-famous Nushagak River in the Bristol Bay region of Southwest Alaska. From Aug. 9-13, BLM Fisheries Biologist Tim Sunlov (*right with student Theodora Sutton of Togiak*) and seasonal Matthew Vos from the Glennallen Field Office, taught aquatic and stream ecology, the anatomy of fish, life histories of salmonids, and even fly casting and fly-tying techniques to youth and young adults, ages 15-22, at the Bristol Bay Fly Fishing and Guide Academy.



Clark James Mishler

You Don't Want to Miss Campbell Creek Science Center Events

Fireside Chat Lecture Series: Come spend the evening by the fire listening to a timely tale about science in real life. Complimentary hot drinks and cookies provided by Friends of the Campbell Creek Science Center. All monthly programs begin on the third Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Nov. 17; Dec. 15; Jan. 19; Feb. 16; March 16.

Science Saturdays: The BLM Campbell Creek Science Center and Anchorage 4-H have teamed up to offer special monthly Saturday science programs for kids ages 8-13 and their parents: Nov. 13; Dec. 4; Jan. 8; Feb. 26; March 19; April 16; May 7.

Winter Trails Day at the BLM Campbell Tract offers free use of recreation gear (cross-country skis, skate skis, and snowshoes), GPS navigation and geocaching, snowshoe hikes-ski touring, outdoor winter recreation safety clinics, many recreation groups and more. Feb. 12.

Iditarod Sled Dog Race Ceremonial Start ends at Campbell Tract on Saturday, March 5. Come see the mushers and their dogs, and learn about the Iditarod Centennial and Trail while warming up with hot chocolate inside the Science Center during its open house.



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BLM-ALASKA FRONTIERS... From the Managing Editor

BLM-Alaska is looking forward to the arrival of new State Director, Bud Cribley, next month. We are also busy with the new Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement for all of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.

This issue features the remarkable efforts of Alaska Fire Service smokejumpers for going beyond their job duties and caring about others. There is the Make-a-Wish story of Jedidiah Lusk and stories of international work around the globe. We watched seasonal workers and students complete cabins, trail work, and more. Hundreds visited the Iditarod National Historic Trail Centennial exhibit at the Alaska State Fair for the second year in a row. These stories make me feel good about working for the premier land management agency. Please visit our website for more information at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/>.



Teresa McPherson

Staff from the BLM and Alaska Dept. of Natural Resources greet visitors to the Iditarod National Historic Trail replica shelter cabin exhibit during the 2010 Alaska State Fair in Palmer.

— *Karen J. Laubenstein*
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BLM-Alaska Frontiers

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