Conservation Property Acquisitions

During 2013 the Land Trust closed on two parcels totaling approximately 280 acres.

Chikuminuk Lake / Allen River
Wood-Tikchik State Park

The Nature Conservancy transferred a 160 acre parcel on Chikuminuk Lake to the Land Trust. TNC acquired the allotment in 2004 at the suggestion of the Land Trust. The parcel was the only private inholding on the lake. Chikuminuk Lake is a designated wilderness area of the Wood-Tikchik State Park. Until recently, the lake was under active investigation as a potential hydroelectric site to serve Bethel. Along with the property, The Nature Conservancy provided for a stewardship donation of $5,000. Stewardship of this property is key to preserving the wilderness designation for Chikuminuk Lake.

Chikuminuk Lake Parcel

The acquisition of these two parcels brings the total number of parcels owned in fee by the Land Trust to six - two parcels on the Mulchatna River, two parcels on the Nushagak River and two parcels in Wood-Tikchik State Park – a total of 434 acres with an acquisition value of $816,000.

Mulchatna River at confluence of Old Man Creek

In addition, the Land Trust has conservation easement enforcement rights over two small parcels in the Wood-Tikchik State Park (30 acres in the Silver Horn Fiord and 160 acres on the Agulupak river). The Land Trust shares enforcement rights with the State of Alaska over the 21,000 acre conservation easement along the Agulowak River and the eastern shoreline of Lake Nerka.

Bristol Bay River Academy
Completes Fifth Year

The Bristol Bay River Academy was held in 2013 at Mission Lodge on Lake Aleknagik. Mission Lodge was recently purchased by Bristol Bay Native Corporation, a major sponsor of the academy. The academy is a week long program to teach local youth about fish habitat and river ecosystems in Bristol Bay while imparting the
basic skills of flyfishing and guiding. The Academy was started by Land Trust boardmember Luki Akelkok and Executive Director Tim Troll. The first two years the academy was held at the Ekwok Lodge on the Nushagak River. The site for the next two years was Alaska Bear Trail Lodge owned and operated by the lead instructor for the academy – Nanci Morris-Lyons. She was joined this year by Mac Minard, former ADF&G Sportfish biologist for the Bristol Bay region.

Ron Brunner and Red Quill Lodge on Lake Iliamna will host the academy in 2014.

Visit http://bristolbayriveracademy.org to learn more about the Academy and view the film created by Fly-Out Media featuring the 2013 program.

Financial Status – Year End 2013

During 2013 the Land Trust raised $15,875 in general donations (down $4000 from 2012); $25,500 in donations for the Bristol Bay River Academy; $28,000 for contractual services; $27,500 in non-governmental support for designated projects; $313,382 in government grants (up $266,030 from 2012); $11,367 in sales income (books, t-shirts, canned salmon); and $180 in interest. Total income for the year was $438,068 (up $273,573 from 2012). Expenses came to $467,413 (up $313,227 from 2012) For 2013 the Land Trust had a net loss of $29,345. Current Assets declined from $211,142 to $181,797.

The Land Trust operates on a cash basis and part of the loss simply reflects the fact that year-end draws on various grants were not received and recorded as income until after January 1. However, some expenses were covered from reserve funds.

Corporate bank accounts at year-end were distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Account</th>
<th>YE 2012</th>
<th>YE 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Savings</td>
<td>$140,245</td>
<td>$105,387</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Checking</td>
<td>$2,964</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stewardship Fund</td>
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<td>$62,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academy Fund</td>
<td>$4,980</td>
<td>$7,038</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Land Trust deposited $5,720 into the Stewardship Fund. The Nature Conservancy provided $5000 to steward the Chikuminuk Lake property it transferred to the Land Trust. The balance comes from an allocation of 5% of all undesignated general donations. The Stewardship Fund is a Board designated endowment that can only be used to monitor and defend acquired conservation properties and easements.

The Land Trust completes and files an IRS Form 990 Return of Organization Exempt from Income Tax. The form is filed by May 15 of each year and can be viewed or downloaded from the Land Trust website www.bristolbaylandtrust.org/reports/

The Land Trust does not conduct an independent annual financial audit.
**Completed Grants / Projects 2013**

During the year the Land Trust closed the following grants:

**$85,000 USFWS for Copper Toxicity Studies in Headwater Streams at the Pebble Prospect**

**Project:** This grant came through the Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership. The purpose was to conduct studies to help determine whether State and Federal water quality standards for copper will be sufficient to project salmon in headwater streams that originate in the Pebble prospect area.

**Findings:** The water in the headwater streams originating in the Pebble prospect has little capacity to neutralize or buffer increases in copper concentrations. The State hardness standard is not predictive. The EPA Biotic Ligand Model is better, but still falls short because Pebble site waters contain little dissolved organic compounds. If mining is permitted this research suggests that site specific standards should be developed to determine the allowable concentrations of copper that can be discharged or leach into these headwater streams. For a presentation of results see [http://www.southwestsalmon.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Morris_Stratus_CuTox_RBT_FHM_LowHardnessH2O.pdf](http://www.southwestsalmon.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Morris_Stratus_CuTox_RBT_FHM_LowHardnessH2O.pdf)

**$15,000 USFWS for a Southwest Alaska Salmon Science Workshop in Anchorage.** The workshop was held December 4 and 5 in Anchorage and involved a review of important scientific studies on salmon in Bristol Bay. One day was devoted to the issue of copper and salmon. Presentations can be viewed on the website of the Partnership. [http://www.southwestsalmon.org/symposium/2013-2/](http://www.southwestsalmon.org/symposium/2013-2/)

**$33,000 – USFWS and $30,000 Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Assn.**

**Project:** To underwrite aquatic studies and development of a monitoring program for selected headwater salmon steams in Bristol Bay, and resample five established sites for macro-invertebrate and diatom communities. Baselines necessary to measure potential future impacts to fish species in Bristol Bay resulting from mining activity and/or climate change.

**Product:** A 5 year Baseline Monitoring Plan. The Land Trust was awarded a $107,000 grant from the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to begin implementation of the plan. Much more money, however, needs to be raised to complete the five year project. The estimated cost over five years is in the neighborhood of $850,000.

**$30,000 – Bristol Bay Regional Seafood Development Association for modeling salmon habitat in Bristol Bay.**

**Project:** Sub-granted to The Nature Conservancy to develop from existing research and data sources a model to predict the general distribution of salmon in the unsampled streams of Bristol Bay. For a presentation of results see: [http://www.southwestsalmon.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Woll_TNC_SalmonHabitat_Mapping.pdf](http://www.southwestsalmon.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/Woll_TNC_SalmonHabitat_Mapping.pdf)

**Ongoing Projects for 2014**

The Nature Conservancy provided a grant to the Land Trust to manage a Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) grant to conduct fish distribution surveys in the Kvichak River system. The grant is for $639,000. The project began in 2013 with a field season on Lake Iliamna and involves extensive helicopter supported stream sampling. All streams in which salmon are found will be nominated for inclusion in Alaska’s Anadromous Waters Catalog and receive the special protection afforded by Alaska law to streams in which salmon are documented. The primary purpose of this project is to further refine our knowledge of fish distribution and develop a geo-spatial model that will predict fish species presence and lifestage in the thousands of miles of unsampled streams in Bristol Bay. Another field season around Lake Iliamna is planned for August of 2014.

GRIP and GRIN - Tim Troll, BBHLT Executive Director and Dan Chythlook, Fishery Technician pose with a catch of big sculpin from the 2013 field season
CIAP funds will also be used to complete pending instream flow reservations for fish on the Mulchatna and Stuyahok Rivers and on Kaskanak Creek. The Land Trust is also using some CIAP funds to partner with the Lake Clark National Park and Preserve to secure instream flow reservations for fish on the Chuilitna River.

Conservation Assessment for 2013

Note from the Executive Director

Generally, 2013 was a good year for conservation in Bristol Bay, but primarily from the standpoint of preventing, at least for the time being, bad things from happening. We were very active in preventing the passage of House Bill 77 by the Alaska legislature that would have effectively nullified the instream flow reservations for fish that the Land Trust helped raise more than $1 million dollars to secure. The bill would also have amended the Wood-Tikchik State Park enabling legislation to open the way for a hydroelectric dam on Chikuminuk Lake, flooding the parcel on the lake now owned by the Land Trust.

In 2013 the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency released the final draft of its Bristol Bay Watershed Assessment. The EPA generally concludes that salmon and all that depend upon them will not fare well in the face of large-scale mining in the headwaters of the Nushagak and Kvichak watersheds. The EPA is now weighing whether to invoke its authority under the Clean Water Act to preempt mining in these watersheds. The assessment can be found at http://www2.epa.gov/bristolbay.

Also in 2013 the Pebble Limited Partnership lost its major partner Anglo American. The project now proceeds under the sole direction of Northern Dynasty, the junior partner. It remains to be seen whether this change ultimately ends the project, but at a minimum it likely pushes the project into the indefinite future.

This last year was our first full year under the new banner of serving all of Bristol Bay. We worked with The Conservation Fund to develop a list of conservation property priorities for the Kvichak watershed and the Alaska Peninsula and will now be actively seeking to protect important conservation properties throughout Bristol Bay.

Finally, the Land Trust was the major contributor of substance and content to the development of the Citizens’ Alternative Bristol Bay Area Plan. The development of that plan along with a strong local and very vocal outcry led the Alaska Department of Natural Resources to restore habitat designations on more than 6 million acres of State land within Bristol Bay. A copy of the Citizens’ Alternative plan is on the Land Trust website at http://www.bristolbaylandtrust.org/citizens-bristol-bay-area-plan/

Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust
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Support Your Local Land Trust

Donate online – bristolbaylandtrust.org

To:

The Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust is now part of the Alaska Permanent Fund “Pick, Click, Give” program. You can now support the Land Trust directly from your Permanent Fund Dividend. For more information: http://www.pickclickgive.org