



DONLIN GOLD

WINTER 2022 NEWSLETTER



A MESSAGE FROM DAN GRAHAM

Dear Donlin Gold Family and Friends:

Donlin Gold took on 2022 with an ambitious drilling plan and, through the dedicated work of approximately 150 employees and contractors, we made it happen!

Drilling crews didn't wait, embarking on their mission by late January despite the harsh winter conditions. The frozen terrain allowed crews to reach some locations that would be inaccessible in spring and summer and allows us to do the work with virtually no impact. The project's owners invested roughly \$60 million in 2022, with much of it spent in the region and Alaska to complete 141 exploration holes totaling more than 42,300 meters of core samples. It was Donlin's largest drilling campaign in more than a decade. Last year, Donlin Gold and its contractors drilled 79 holes totaling more than 24,000 meters.

I would also like to acknowledge how incredibly grateful we are for the strong partnership with our Alaska Native landowners Calista Corporation and The Kuskokwim Corporation (TKC). We had a very safe and extremely productive year. Because of the hard work of everyone at camp, we were able to gather an immense amount of valuable drilling data and did it ahead of schedule — finishing in September. We work hard each day to honor the vision of Yukon-Kuskokwim Alaska Native Elders who selected the land at Donlin more than fifty years ago for its mineral and development potential.

Residents from two-dozen villages in the region comprised more than 70% of Donlin's drilling workforce this year. The 2022 drilling work targeted both infill targets and additional gold prospects, as well as work for the waste rock facility and geotechnical drill holes to advance the Alaska Dam Safety certificate from the State of Alaska. While not all of the core samples analysis has been returned, the initial results further support prior estimates about the size and continuity of the orebody and Donlin Gold is particularly encouraged by what it has seen from upside potential in the area between the ACMA and Lewis pits, where drilling had previously been limited. Drilling went well enough early in the year to persuade the Donlin Gold Board of Directors in June to approve work for an additional 43 drill holes totaling 8,380 meters beyond what was originally planned. Much of the additional work focused on getting a more detailed look at the structure of the Lewis pit with infill drilling.

Full results from the 2022 drilling program are expected early in 2023. That information will provide valuable inputs for the updated Donlin geologic model, which is ongoing. The model is expected to feed into an updated feasibility study, which is subject to approval by the Donlin Gold Board, and is a key step ahead in advancing the project.

In addition to the full drilling schedule, Donlin also continued its support for safety and environmental improvement programs in nearby communities. It was the fifth year of the Backhaul Project, which has collected and safely removed nearly 400,000 pounds of household hazard and electronic waste from 30 Y-K villages since its inception. Donlin renewed its Clean-Up Green-Up program in 2022 to encourage communities to work together to improve their local environments.

As part of Donlin's Summer Safety program, more than 500 life jackets were sent to Y-K communities to promote safe boating practices. And last but not least, congratulations to Rep. Mary Peltola – winning the 2022 election as our lone US congresswoman and resident of the Y-K region in which we work!! What an amazing accomplishment.



From all of us at Donlin, we wish you a blessed holiday season and well wishes for a fantastic 2023 ahead!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dan Graham'. The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Dan Graham, General Manager

DONLIN HELPS LEAD TYPHOON MERBOK RESPONSE

When Typhoon Merbok hit western Alaska in October, it was immediately clear that everyone would need to pitch in for the recovery effort. The powerful storm hammered land with waves over 50 feet in some places, inflicting major damage on many coastal communities, and in some cases destroying food storage units and freezers that families were depending on for the upcoming winter. Others lost boats, ATVs, and other vital tools for subsistence.

Communities come together during difficult times like this, and the Y-K region's health and safety will always be Donlin Gold's first priority. Many of these communities are home to our employees, which is why our team was among the first on the ground to deliver aid and supplies to those afflicted communities.

Addressing the food supply was urgent. Donlin's first effort was to get shelf stable food to these communities to address that need. Hooper Bay was first on the list, and Donlin's team immediately purchased a truckload of preserved food items from Costco to deliver. Partners Alaska Airlines and Grant Aviation completed the transport link, delivering the supplies quickly and buying some time for more relief to arrive.

Alan Budahl, Executive Director for Lutheran Social Services of Alaska and Vice Chair of Alaska VOAD (Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters) said, "During any crisis, the hardest part is to get food to feed families and those who are displaced, and this is such a blessing to have."

Organizations like LSSA and VOAD, which includes Lutheran Disaster Response, United Methodist, Jewish charities, and more, are crucial partners for government agencies, and Donlin will be working closely with them to support a full recovery.

At this time, Donlin has contributed over \$50,000 in goods and supplies, but this has been focused on short term needs. This is an ongoing disaster, for which continued support will be essential. Long term recovery efforts will require replacing freezers, boats, and even homes. Donlin Gold will continue to be a partner for the organizations contributing to this effort.



DONLIN'S ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGER BALANCES DEMANDING JOB WITH LOVE OF BIRD WATCHING

When Enric Fernandez hits the trail, tundra, or woods in Alaska, you can bet he'll have two pieces of equipment with him: binoculars and a camera.

Fernandez, the permitting and environmental manager for Donlin Gold, is an avid bird watcher and photographer. If there's an unusual bird sighted in Anchorage, Fairbanks or even Nome, chances are that Fernandez knows about it. Three years ago, there was a rare sighting in Fairbanks of a Ross's Goose. It looks something like the Snow Goose, but smaller. Its migration route does not typically include Alaska. Fernandez was busy working and couldn't get away earlier in the week, but Friday rolled around. He called the Fish and Game Department in Fairbanks, located next to Creamer's Field, a migratory bird refuge where the unusual-for-Alaska goose was spotted. "I asked, is the goose still there? And they said, 'Enric, I'm looking out window and I can see it.'"

Fernandez jumped in his car after work and hit the Parks Highway north. "By 3 a.m., I had my eyes on that bird," Fernandez says. He drove back to Anchorage later that morning, his camera full of photos. The trip was 718 miles round trip, and worth it.

Fernandez has chased birds not only in Alaska, but also in his native Spain, Uganda, Rwanda, Costa Rica, California, Washington, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. He's seen 215 bird species in Anchorage alone, and 281 in Alaska. For the United States, it's 585. For the world, it's 1,297. His wife is a birder widow, he jokes, but she's very supportive. "It's an obsession," Fernandez admits.

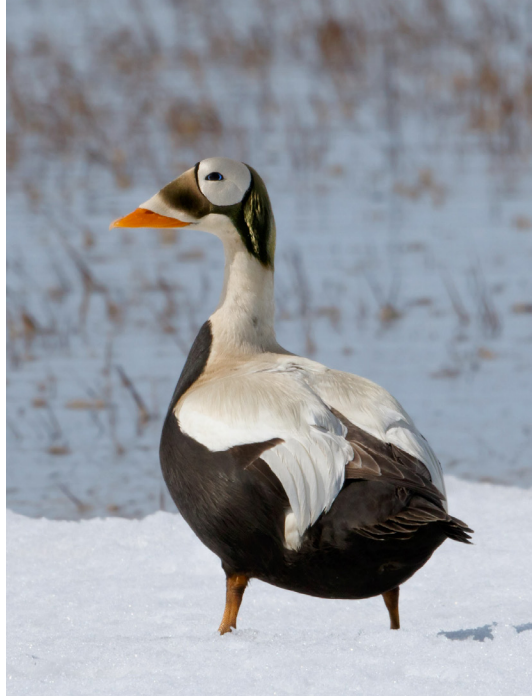
Fernandez participates in a Cornell University database, which helps him keep track of sightings. The information is shared with scientists who track migration patterns and habitat.



Fernandez first came to Anchorage in 1989 as an exchange student through Rotary International. He fell in love with the state and came back to complete his college education here, graduating with an environmental science degree from Alaska Pacific University. He first worked with Donlin as a contractor in 2003, and later hired on as senior environmental coordinator. He's been intimately involved in environmental compliance and permitting for the project, including the demanding time when applications were submitted to federal agencies in 2012. He took a three-year break in 2017, then was hired in his current position.

Fernandez sees no conflict between the project and wildlife. While birds won't nest in an active mining site, many prefer habitat that previously was disturbed by mining.

"When I go to Nome, a lot of my birding is on places that have been mined before, and birds are nesting there," Fernandez says. "I know when the mine is done, the land will be reclaimed. And the birds will come back."



AGGIE SIMEON'S SALMON PIE

SHARED BY KRISTINA WOOLSTON

I was born and raised in Naknek in Bristol Bay. My grandmother Aggie Simeon, from Iliamna lake country, was a master baker and pastry maker. Grandma Aggie taught my mother to make salmon pie and many other salmon recipes, and my mother taught me. We love salmon prepared every way, but this is a family favorite and a great way to use leftover rice.

INGREDIENTS

Pie crust (Recipe follows)

- 12 oz Bristol Bay sockeye salmon filet
OR pint jar of canned salmon
- 2 tbsp butter or olive oil
- 3 carrots peeled and sliced
- 3 celery stalks sliced
- 1 onion diced
- garlic
- salt and pepper
- 1 tsp dill
- 2 cups cooked rice
- ½ cup heavy cream—more if the mixture feels dry. (Mayo is a great substitute!)

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat oven to 375°

1. Season salmon filet with salt & pepper and bake at 375° until 80% baked. Set aside to cool and then flake into a large mixing bowl once cooled.
2. If using canned salmon, drain and then flake into large mixing bowl.
3. Saute carrots, celery, onions, garlic, salt and pepper and dill in 2 tbsp of butter over medium heat until soft, roughly 5 minutes.
4. Add sauteed vegetables, dill, cooked rice and heavy cream to large mixing bowl. Mix lightly. Add additional salt and pepper to taste.
5. Place 1 rolled out pie crust into pie pan. Place all filling ingredients on top of crust. Top with second pie crust and pinch the bottom and top pie crusts together to seal in the filling.
6. Bake for 30 minutes until crust is golden brown. Cool for ten minutes. Slice and enjoy!

PIE CRUST

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup cold unsalted butter (cut into small pieces. I shred using cheese grater)
- 6 tbsp ice water

1. In a food processor, combine 1½ cups of flour and salt. Pulse a few times to combine.
2. Add half of the butter. Process until very crumbly and starting to ball up, about 30 seconds. Add the remaining butter and the remaining 1½ cups of flour. Pulse 2 times just to distribute.
3. Drizzle 4 tbsp of ice water over the mixture. Pulse a few times. Add additional water, a tablespoon at a time, as needed, and pulse once or twice after each addition. The mixture should easily stick together when squeezed, but not feel wet or dry.
4. Transfer the dough onto the counter and form it into a ball. Cut the ball in half and press each half into a disc shape. Wrap tightly in plastic wrap and refrigerate for at least 1 hour.
5. Roll both discs onto floured surface. Place one crust in pie pan. Set aside the second until pie is filled.



FATHER-DAUGHTER TEAM UP AT CAMP

Dan Twitchell appreciates a job well done. You can hear it as he describes his careful and meticulous work at Donlin Gold camp.

As environmental field coordinator, inspections are key. Drill sites must be inspected regularly, including sump pumps. All drill water must be captured and properly stored in containment areas, where it must be treated before it can be released. There are backup plans and contingencies, and all equipment must be in good working order.

He and his team of two technicians constantly monitor surface disturbance to ensure no land is disturbed beyond exactly what is allowed. Once drilling is complete, the site must be reclaimed, containment areas drained, water treated, debris picked up, the ground recontoured and stabilized, and organics or native topsoil replaced.

“Everything is really geared toward keeping pollution out of waters of the U.S.,” Twitchell explains. “We’ve got a lot of inspections we conduct.”

Donlin’s license to operate is the basis for everything the company does, and Twitchell is on the front line. The company’s relentless emphasis on safety for people and stewardship of the land are at the forefront.

“I think the company figured out a long time ago that if you take care of your employees and the environment, the land you work on, that’s how you’ll be successful at what you do,” he says. Twitchell typically works two weeks on at camp, then returns home to his family in Palmer for a two-week break. A typical workday starts at 7 a.m. and doesn’t finish until 7 p.m., though hours can vary depending on what needs to be done.

Originally from Bethel, Twitchell started working for Donlin in 2006 as an environmental specialist. He did that job for eight years, then had the opportunity to work for the parent company at an operational mine in Nevada. The culture of employee safety and respect for the environment was there as well. Twitchell focused

on compliance work, tailings management, and water quality control, among other responsibilities.

“I learned so much in those two years, more than I thought possible,” Twitchell says. “Donlin is in the exploration phase, so being at a working mine in Nevada, and seeing it from that perspective, was very impressive.”

His family missed Alaska, so they moved back, with Twitchell accepting a job as Donlin’s community relations coordinator. Twitchell wasn’t certain about the public speaking aspect of the job, but he soon got comfortable with it. At heart, he’s a people person.

With his environmental background, Twitchell later had the chance to apply to his current position. He loves the job, but it’s not the best thing to happen to Twitchell lately. His middle child, Betty, graduated from Palmer High School last spring and joined Donlin’s summer internship program at camp. By summer’s end, she was offered a full-time job.

Twitchell has watched in amazement as his daughter adjusted to camp life and learned to drive forklifts, loaders, and trucks. Her smarts and hard-work ethic are a perfect fit.

“It’s been very rewarding to watch. I’m very lucky as a father to experience this,” he says. “What I told our project manager out at camp is she’s a chip off the old block, but with greater potential.”





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**From our entire Donlin Gold family to yours:
we wish you a happy holiday season, and a safe new year.**