



DONLIN
GOLD

**FALL/WINTER
2023 NEWSLETTER**



A MESSAGE FROM DAN GRAHAM

Dear Donlin Gold Family and Friends:

It is hard to believe that another summer and fall have passed and we are solidly in winter mode. It has been a whirlwind and productive year! We head into the holiday season rejuvenated after meeting with countless stakeholders face-to-face during the Alaska Federation of Natives and Alaska Miners Association conventions. Every conversation our team had with those visiting Anchorage from the Yukon-Kuskokwim region brought value and informed our 2024 planning. We always appreciate hearing from all of you with comments and questions about the project.

When we talk about our company values, they truly reflect our employees' priorities and are shared with the stakeholders in the Y-K region. We strongly believe in supporting activities to help youth on their journey to becoming successful in adulthood, like our partnerships with the Alaska Student Activities Association (ASAA), Alaska Resource Education, Alaska Sealife Center education department and supporting local basketball and wrestling. Our efforts continue to promote good environmental stewardship together through in-region partnerships in the Donlin Backhaul Project, promoting personal safety, and being good neighbors by ensuring we continue to listen as you share ideas about how to best advance the project. Many of our employees live in the region, and we know that local knowledge is what helps us stay connected to these values.

One value I am living out in my personal life is healthy Alaskans and families. I was recently diagnosed with health issues that must be addressed to lead a long life with my amazing wife, Kim, and our two beautiful daughters, Erika and Katie. It is with them in mind that I share with you that I will step down as general manager, effective Jan. 3, 2024. This is a hard decision for me. Serving as general manager of this project has been the privilege of a lifetime. I am so proud of the Alaskans I was fortunate enough to work with from the Y-K region and in partnership with Alaska Native landowners, Calista Corporation and The Kuskokwim Corporation.

I extend a heartfelt and personal thank you to Andrew Guy and Andrea Gusty for their leadership in the Y-K region regarding the Donlin Gold project. Their advocacy for the land and responsible stewardship is unwavering. The team at Donlin, from the managers to every employee, is nothing short of world-class. It has been a pleasure to work with them to bring additional opportunity and prosperity to the region and Alaska.

As we head into 2024, I wish you and your communities a warm and safe holiday season. Cherish your family and loved ones, always.



Quyana,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Graham'.

Dan Graham
General Manager

WINTER SAFETY TIPS

FROM BETHEL SEARCH AND RESCUE

Freeze up has come to the Kuskokwim River. This is a quiet time where people stay close to home doing small chores to get ready for winter. Many make daily trips down to the River to observe the ever changing conditions. Everyone waits patiently for the River ice to thicken up so that safe travel in our region can begin again.

Knowledgeable people sharpen their ice picks and begin testing the ice near their communities. The first ones out on the new ice are the fishers – those that want to manaq or set nets. Blackfish hunters venture out on the back trails around or behind their villages to set their taluyaqs (traps) in the countless little creeks between the tundra lakes.

It's through these late fall/early winter subsistence activities that people observe the thickening of the ice and determine when it is safe to travel further.

Little by little trails, from each community begin branching out further and further until eventually one community's trails meet up with another's and we all become connected again.

Once safe trails are established, local search and rescue groups head out to make sure that all remaining open water is marked in the traditional way: with rows of willows planted in the ice and blue reflectors.

Hopefully, this all comes together and safe travel is established on our River before start of the busy holiday season.

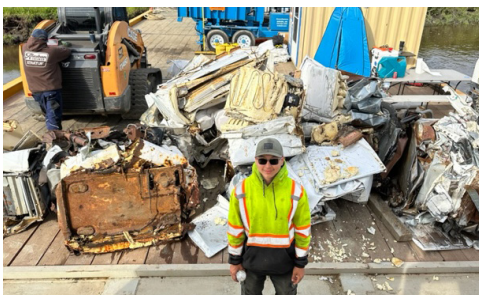
BSAR Freeze Up Tips:

- Travel with an ice pick — stake the time to stop and check areas of concern.
- Do not trust a single snow machine or ATV track unless you know it was made by a reliable person.
- Beware of watery, grassy areas – they take longer to freeze.
- Travel slower and with more caution early in the season – be observant.
- Above all – TRAVEL SOBER.



Bethel Search & Rescue volunteers marking open water near Bethel.

2023 BACKHAUL PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Material includes old electronics, vehicle batteries, household chemicals, old paint, used oil and more.



Delta Backhaul Company's appliance crusher; over 500 appliances were collected in the 2023 Backhaul Project.

- Since 2018, the Backhaul Project has removed more than 618,427 pounds of material from the Y-K region.
- More than 50 communities have participated in the Backhaul Project since its inception.
- Ten villages and ten fish camps were serviced in the 2023 Backhaul Project.
- There were 449 appliances collected in 2023.
- About 20, 20-foot Conex containers of unwanted material were filled and shipped out of the Y-K region.
- In 2023 alone, the Backhaul Project collected over 234,000 pounds of material.

EMPLOYEE HIGHLIGHT

MEET JESSICA ALA MCKINDY PHILLIPS • ANIAK, ALASKA

When you walk into the Donlin Gold's Anchorage office, chances are high – especially during autumn – you'll feel a sense of “home” with warm, brown and orange pumpkins around the lobby. If you visit around Christmas, you'll find gorgeous displays of red ribbon, garland and cheery décor all around the place. This is the doing of Jessica Phillips.

She is a shareholder of Calista Corporation and The Kuskokwim Corporation and a tribal member of Aniak Traditional Council. Phillips is the daughter of Tom and Geraldine Sharkey and Jerry and Elsie Simeon. Growing up, the Donlin Gold name was familiar as her uncle, Daryl McKindy, also works for the company. Following in the footsteps of her Ap'a John McKindy, who was the first chief of ATC, Phillips became the first female chief from 2009-2010.

Phillips joined the Donlin Gold family in 2020 and works as an executive administrative assistant. Working with every department, Phillips helps keep the wheels of workflow moving and feels its rewards. “It's like a family,” Phillips said. “Everybody's happy for each other, everybody wants to see you succeed at Donlin. Everybody's rooting for you, everybody's positive.”



The best part of her work is being in touch with the region she grew up in, particularly seeing others be successful through working with Donlin Gold's HR department. “I work with the HR department, so it gets me involved...just to know that people from my region are seeking employment out of the village where they could maintain their households,” Phillips said.

Phillips has seen the way the two weeks on, two weeks off shifts benefits employees. “There aren't many job opportunities in the village in the first place, so it's good to see them provide,” Phillips said. “It's good to see them go to work and they can come home and buy the things they need. It's mainly the young generation – those in their early 20s – they're buying their first boat, their first car, their first house. It's so exciting to see.”

In addition to working at Donlin Gold, Phillips is also a full-time mother to four boys. “I have basketball – all the sports – so I'm immediately cooking and cleaning and going to sports,” Phillips said. Her sons are Aiden, 16, Logan, 14, Crim Jr., 12, and Thomas Jay, 7. She's married to Crim “Yogi” Phillips, who works for RurAL CAP. “We both applied for jobs that still work within our region, what we felt more comfortable with,” Phillips said.

Phillips said she wouldn't mind if her boys eventually work for Donlin Gold when they're older.

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT

ALASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

Donlin Gold is a proud sponsor of the Alaska School Activities Association. ASAA is a statewide nonprofit organization and is dedicated to its mission of providing and promoting opportunities for students throughout Alaska. ASAA provides 36 activities for all seasons, engaging students in their local communities, while providing high school interscholastic sports, academic and fine arts. We admire this organization's core values of integrity, respect, perseverance, leadership, teamwork and inclusivity. Whenever possible, Donlin Gold employees are ready to attend the awards ceremonies at the various events to recognize the accomplishments of teams and individuals. We are honored to also sponsor the highest GPA award at the events. To learn more, visit asaa.org.



DONLIN GOLD HOSTS ALASKA NATIVE CORPORATION & TRIBAL LEADERS RECEPTION DURING AFN

Donlin Gold hosted a well-attended reception during the Alaska Federation of Natives annual conference week.

The Alaska Native Corporation & Tribal Leaders reception was focused on providing stakeholders a one-on-one opportunity to meet with Donlin Gold leadership as well as the Environmental and Community Relations teams. Informational posters were developed for the event that covered specific and recurring topics of concern such as infrastructure, tailings, fisheries and more. Posters were manned with Donlin Gold staff throughout the event for those interested in asking questions and getting accurate information on the spot.

The reception welcomed over 100 stakeholders from various communities, Tribal Councils, Regional and Village Native Corporations, industries and organizations throughout the Y-K region.

Quyana to all who attended!



LITIGATION UPDATE

It is important to Donlin Gold that stakeholders are kept up to date on all matters of the project, including ongoing litigation. Donlin Gold and Calista Corporation have joined the State of Alaska and federal agencies in their defense of various permit decisions appealed by Earthjustice, an environmental law group with headquarters in California. Donlin Gold is in its 20th year of permitting for the project. Permits issued by state or federal agencies are based on many years or decades of studies and data. This includes but is not limited to studies and analysis of environmental, geological, aquatic, and other critical data.

Please note that this update was written early November and does not capture actions that took place from then until when this newsletter was published mid-December. For the most up to date litigation information, please email info@donlingold.com

CLEAN WATER ACT 401 CERTIFICATE:

In 2018, after a detailed review of the project, the State of Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), issued to Donlin Gold a Clean Water Act Section “401 Certificate,” stating that there is reasonable assurance that the project will meet water quality standards. Earthjustice originally appealed this decision through the administrative appeal process, and the decision has been upheld two times, most recently in August 2023. Earthjustice is now appealing the same decision in the Alaska Superior Court.

STATE OF ALASKA NATURAL GAS PIPELINE RIGHT OF WAY:

The State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR) issued to Donlin Gold in 2018 a right-of-way to construct the portion the 314-mile natural gas pipeline on State lands. Earthjustice and an out-of-region hunting guide filed an appeal with Alaska Superior Court. The Superior Court upheld the Right of Way decision in 2023. The out of region hunter did not pursue further appeal. After losing the initial appeal, Earthjustice filed the same appeal with the Alaska Supreme Court, where the appeal will continue.

WATER RIGHTS APPEAL:

ADNR issued to Donlin Gold 12 water rights permits for use associated with the project. Earthjustice filed an appeal against DNR’s decision with the Alaska Superior Court. Earthjustice lost that appeal in May 2023 when the state Superior Court upheld DNR’s decision. Earthjustice filed an appeal with Alaska Supreme Court early October where the appeal will continue.

FEDERAL LITIGATION:

Earthjustice filed a suit in U.S. District Court in April 2023 against the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in an effort to rescind the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and the USACE and DOI Joint Record of Decision from 2018, targeting the wetlands permits and BLM Pipeline Right-of-Way Grant. The 2018 Joint Record of Decision (JROD) EIS took nearly seven years to complete. Calista Corporation, the State of Alaska and Donlin Gold have joined the U.S. Department of Justice in the defense of the EIS, JROD, and permits, which has already started and will continue well into 2024.

Donlin Gold will continue to provide updates to the timeline and progress made to resolve these appeals.

SUCCESSFUL BACKHAUL PROJECT FROM MIDDLE KUSKOKWIM RIVER FISH CAMPS PROVES THE POWER OF PARTNERSHIPS

OPINION: DAN GILLIKIN

This was originally run in the Delta Discovery.

For years, those of us who live on Kuskokwim River have talked about the need to clean up our fish camps. It is extremely difficult, not to mention expensive, to remove hazardous materials from rural areas. But we know that if our fish camps are to thrive long-term, we need to make that happen, no matter how challenging. This summer, through financial support from Donlin Gold and partnerships with the Native Village of Napaimute and the Delta Backhaul Company, we made a successful run at cleaning up fish camps.

The big question we faced was how to make a project like this affordable, and how to pull off complicated logistics. We also wondered if people would even participate, because for decades the practice has been, “what goes to fish camp, stays at fish camp.” Of course, hanging on to things makes good sense out here; it is not easy to replace items. Repurposing broken, worn-out materials into something useful, and using bits and pieces to make critical repairs or upgrades is not just necessary, but smart. We work with what we have out here. In the end, a small “proof of concept” pilot project was launched to see how it went.



The Little Swan fully loaded with backhaul materials heading to Bethel for disposal and recycling.

The success of the “small” pilot project exceeded everyone’s expectations, as evidenced by the Little Swan (Napaimute’s 80 ft. barge) pulling into Bethel fully loaded with backhaul materials that came from just eight fish camps and two remote home sites. Backhauled materials included e-waste like old electronics and appliances, batteries, old fuel drums, toxic and hazardous substances, and other items that require proper disposal.

This event would not have happened without a dedicated, well-trained crew that knew how to pull it off safely. Before work could start, partnerships proved critical to coordinate the different phases of the project and provide the funding to do things the right way. Projects like this represent one of the best examples of how investing in local workforce development and capacity building for Tribal Organizations can directly benefit local stakeholders and protect the environment.

Once the green light was given and funding secured, the project began where all good projects do, by reaching out to community members and gauging their interest in participating in a Backhaul Project event. This effort started in early spring 2023, shortly after breakup, which proved to be problematic. Thick ice and high water combined to make most of the fish camps inaccessible until late spring, so we could not get an idea of what we might be dealing with until later in the year. Initially, many folks showed little interest, thinking they had little or no hazardous waste lying around their fish camp. Once we explained the willingness to remove almost any refuse they had on-site, and that a crew was available to collect, sort, package, inventory, stage and load it on the barge, interest levels increased. *(Continued on page 8.)*

The crew began visiting sites in mid-June, working with owners to collect and stage materials for barge pickup. The owners were delighted once they discovered the help we provided and began identifying long-forgotten refuse that had been written off as never going anywhere. Old outboard motors, appliances, batteries, four-wheelers, 55-gallon drums (lots and lots of drums), roofing tin, old fish nets, tarps and assorted plastic items, electronic devices and more just kept coming as the crew dug deeper, at times literally.

Most of the materials collected could not technically be classified as hazardous but still posed harm to the Kuskokwim River, especially during flooding events or by leaching into the water table. Many folks were unaware of the hazards of everyday items like old nets (lead lines, wildlife entanglement), discarded batteries, motors with oil in them, e-waste or refrigerators (containing freon), represented to the environment. Fortunately, Napaimute provided a crew with the appropriate training and certification, and Donlin Gold the funding to purchase supplies and equipment to properly handle any hazardous substances.

After sorting and packaging collected materials, they were staged on the riverbank for barge pickup. The collection crew worked closely with the barge crew to load, sort and inventory materials as they came onboard for efficient disposal in Bethel. Once in Bethel, materials were offloaded and transported to their disposal locations. About half the materials were general refuse and taken to the Bethel landfill. The remaining materials were staged for Delta Backhaul Company to crush as scrap metal and loaded into Conex for recycling. Other materials including the hazardous waste were stored in Conex, properly labeled, and sent for disposal to appropriate facilities in the Lower 48.

The project's intent was to determine the feasibility and value of conducting this type of operation. We focused on a relatively small area (Napaimute to Kalskag) and just a few camps/sites, ten in total. The project was limited in scope in part because of barging logistics and costs associated with transit time from mid-river to Bethel and if the amount of material collected warranted the cost. Clearly, based on the volume and nature of the refuse collected and removed from potentially contaminating the environment, it was worth it. With the proven success of this partnership, we hope that similar efforts will be undertaken in the Lower Kuskokwim River where the density of fish camps is much greater, and the logistical costs will be less.

SMOKED CANDY SALMON STRIPS

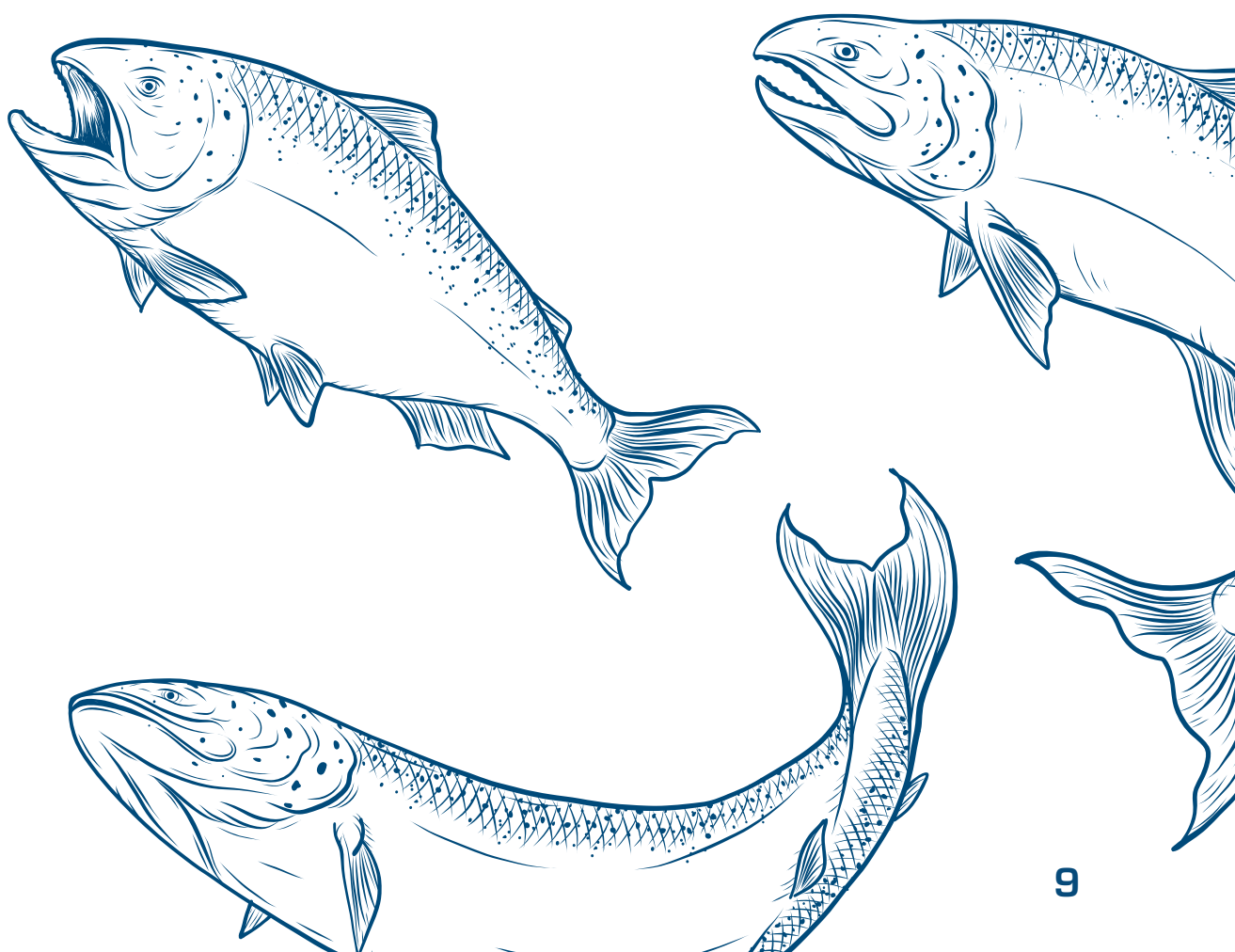
SHARED BY COLLEEN LARAUX, COMMUNITY RELATIONS COORDINATOR

INGREDIENTS

- 3/4 cup honey
- 1/4 cup water
- 1/2 gallon water
- 1 cup pickling salt
- 2 cups dark brown sugar
- 1 cup real maple syrup
- Salmon, cleaned and cut into 1/2 inch strips

DIRECTIONS

Mix together the water, salt, sugar and syrup. Stir until all ingredients are dissolved. Add fish and brine for 24 hours. Remove fish and smoke anywhere from 8 hours to 1 ½ days, depending on your smoker. Use the 3/4 cup honey mixed with the 1/4 cup water for basting. Don't over smoke or you're going to have jerky! Apple and cherry woods are great for this recipe. Works well with venison also.





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