
Fw: Summer 2025 Newsletter & 2024 Annual Report

From Alice Ruby <mayor@dillinghamak.us>
Date Tue 9/9/2025 4:03 PM
To Abigail Flynn <abigail.flynn@dillinghamak.us>

Hi Abigail: Can we include this in the information section of the next regular council packet please.

Alice

From: Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust <nmwtlandtrust@14270191.mailchimpapp.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 9, 2025 3:59 PM
To: Alice Ruby <mayor@dillinghamak.us>
Subject: Summer 2025 Newsletter & 2024 Annual Report



Land Trust Receives Grant from Cornell University to Assess Bird Populations on Lake Iliamna



The Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust was formed primarily around a mission to protect wild salmon habitat, but its service area also includes critical habitat for many species of birds, particularly migratory waterfowl and shorebirds that layover in the Bristol Bay region. The Land Trust was recently awarded a grant of \$10,000 from the Cornell Lab of Ornithology to determine which bird species may be using the 57,500 acres it is obligated to monitor and protect on Lake Iliamna. Cornell's grant program is specifically designed to encourage land trusts nationwide to consider bird habitat conservation when developing conservation deals and later monitoring protected lands.

The primary task funded by the grant will be the deployment of Autonomous Recording Units (ARU's) at locations within the areas in the Northeastern section of Lake Iliamna already conserved by the Land Trust, and in the Kaskanak Flats area at the outlet of the lake. The Land Trust has partnered with the Indigenous Guardians program of the Igiugig Village Council to deploy and later retrieve the ARUs. Bird experts at Audubon Alaska will listen to the sound data and determine which bird sounds have been recorded. Audubon Alaska will also determine the feasibility of installing a Motus station or tower to identify bird species that may be migrating through the Lake Iliamna region. The Motus system uses radio telemetry to detect tagged birds. The program is led by Birds Canada. There are Motus stations on almost every continent. There are three stations in Alaska, none in Bristol Bay.

Kulik Lodge in Katmai National Park Hosts 2025 Fly Fishing & Guide Academy



The 16th annual Bristol Bay Fly Fishing & Guide Academy was held for the second time at Kulik Lodge in the Katmai National Park. The first time was in 2015 when the lodge was owned and managed by the Petersen family. Kulik Lodge was one of four lodges established in Bristol Bay by Ray Petersen in 1951. It was the first commercial sport fishing lodge in the state and Ray Petersen is acknowledged as the founder of that industry in Alaska. Shortly after the last Academy was held at Kulik Lodge Bristol Bay Native Corporation purchased the operation from the family.

The Academy was launched in 2008 by the Land Trust at Ekwok Lodge on the Nushagak River. Its purpose is to teach the importance of fish habitat conservation to the young people of Bristol Bay through the lens of fly fishing. A secondary goal is to provide participants with some of the basic skills needed to find employment in the Bristol Bay sport fishing business started by Ray Petersen, an opportunity historically not made available to them. The Academy is free to all participants and open to residents of Bristol Bay and to non-residents who are shareholders or descendants of Bristol Bay Native Corporation shareholders. Ten aspiring young guides graduated this year. Support for the 16th Academy came from Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Trout Unlimited, Orvis, Inc., the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, Alaska Fly Fisher's Association, Yellow Dog Community & Conservation Foundation, Sherman Yeargan, Mossy's Fly Shop, Bear Trail Lodge, Alaska Department of Fish &

Game, and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service through the Southwest Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership.

The location of the 2026 Academy will be announced later this year. Applications will be available from Trout Unlimited, Bristol Bay Native Corporation and through the Academy website at <https://bristolbayriveracademy.org/> in February of 2026.

2025 Other Items of Note

- **\$210,000 Grant from the Murdock Charitable Trust.** In April the Murdock Charitable Trust awarded the Land Trust \$210,000 distributed over the next three years to support a new staff position to help the organization respond to its increased property stewardship responsibility. With the acquisition of a 44,000 - acre conservation easement on Lake Iliamna in 2022 the Land Trust became one of the largest land trusts in the nation in terms of acreage under protection while remaining one of the smallest in terms of staff – 1.25 full time equivalent. Funding will be available on January 1 and will be used to hire a person to serve as the chief operations officer among other duties. Additional support to supplement the Murdock grant was provided by the William H. Donner Foundation and The Conservation Fund.
- **Financial Status Year-End 2024.** During 2024 the Land Trust received \$29,781 in general donations; \$32,500 was donated for the Bristol Bay Fly Fishing & Guide Academy. Income from government grants and foundations for various projects came to \$101,210 of which \$78,400 came from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service through the SW Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership. Sales of books and other items came to \$374. Total Income for the year was approximately \$184,345. Total expenses for the year, including the Bristol Bay Fly Fishing & Guide Academy and various grant and special projects came to approximately \$208,848. Receivables at year-end from grants were approximately \$5,000.

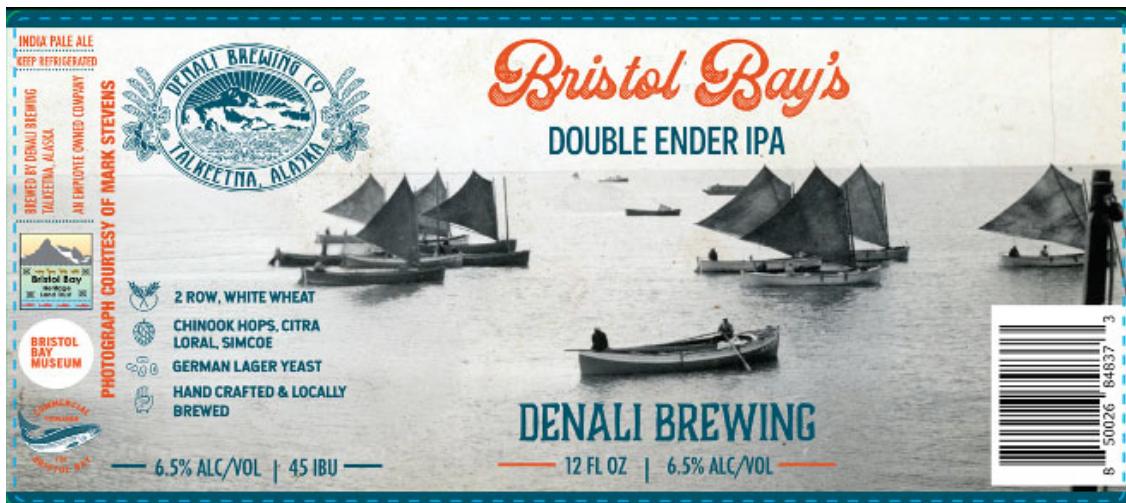
2024 Year-End Account Balances

General Operations Checking:	\$26,014
General Operations Savings:	\$184,516
General Operations Savings CD:	\$139,864
Bristol Bay Fly Fishing & Guide Academy:	\$34,322
Special Projects Fund:	\$57,110
Special Projects Fund CD:	\$134,889

Grants Holding Account:	\$46,254
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Bobby Andrew Stewardship Fund (Market Value at 12/31): \$393,742
 Lake Iliamna Stewardship Fund (Market Value at 12/31): \$360,505

Bristol Bay Beer



Bristol Bay's Double Ender IPA brewed by Denali Brewing is available again in 2025 with a new historic label designed by LaRece Egli with the Bristol Bay Historical Society in Naknek. The label is a photograph believed to be taken during WW2 when Bristol Bay cannery operations were forcibly combined by the Federal Government in the name of war efficiency. The beer is distributed by Odom Corp and will be available at outlets in Bristol Bay and featured in several Bristol Bay Fishing Lodges, and at this year's three-day SalmonFest Celebration in Ninilchik. Funds from the sale of the beer and donations that result from its promotion will be used by the Bristol Bay Historical Society to promote Bristol Bay's salmon and to help preserve and sail the historic Libby 76 Bristol Bay commercial fishing sailboat now in its collection.

Silver Anniversary in 2025



L to R: Tom Tilden, Dan Dunaway, Sue Flensburg, Ward Jones, Luki Akelkok, Bud Hodson and Hermen Nelson sign Land Trust incorporation papers in 2000.

The Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust will celebrate 25 years in 2025. Our Mission was then and still is to facilitate “enduring protection for the lands and waters of Bristol Bay.”

25 years of conservation and community service by the numbers:

- **58,812** - acres under direct Land Trust protection;
- **33,228** - additional acres conserved with Land Trust assistance;
- **1,360** - stream miles surveyed for salmon and added to the Alaska Anadromous Waters Catalog;
- **430** - stream miles of pending water flow reservations for fish under Alaska Law;
- **194** - graduates from the Bristol Bay Fly Fishing & Guide Academy;
- **24** - remains of individual Alaska Natives repatriated from the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History to the Village of Igiugig with Land Trust assistance;
- **1** - historic Bristol Bay double ender commercial fishing sailboat restored and sailing in Bristol Bay.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Contribute Online

Donate to Bristol Bay Land Trust

Contribute By Check

Please make checks payable to: Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust and mail to Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust, P.O. Box 1388, Dillingham, AK 99576.

For more information about the Land Trust visit: www.bristolbaylandtrust.org



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Learn how to help in our efforts to conserve the world's best salmon-based fishery and culture in Bristol Bay, Alaska.

Our mailing address is:
Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust
P.O. Box 1388
Dillingham, AK 99576

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