

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

EMPLOYEE POST-TRAVEL DISCLOSURE FORM ☐ Original ☐ Amendment

This form is for disclosing the receipt of travel expenses from private sources for travel taken in connection with official duties. This form does not eliminate the need to report privately-funded travel on the annual *Financial Disclosure Statements* of those employees required to file them. In accordance with House Rule 25, clause 5, **you must complete this form and file it with the Clerk of the House by email at gifttravelreports@mail.house.gov, within 15 days after travel is completed.** Please **do not** file this form with the Committee on Ethics.

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

1. Name of Traveler: _____
2. a. Name of Accompanying Relative: _____ **OR** ☐ None
b. Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other (specify): _____
3. a. Dates: Departure: _____ Return: _____
b. Dates at Personal Expense, if any: _____ **OR** ☐ None
4. Departure City: _____ Destination: _____ Return City: _____
5. Sponsor(s), Who Paid for the Trip: _____
6. Describe Meetings and Events Attended: _____

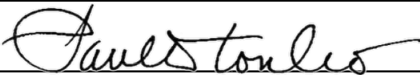
7. Attached to this form are **each** of the following, *signify that each item is attached by checking the corresponding box*:
 - a. ☐ a completed *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form*;
 - b. ☐ the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* completed by the trip sponsor **prior** to the trip, **including all** attachments **and** the *Additional Sponsor Form(s)*;
 - c. ☐ page 2 of the completed *Traveler Form* submitted by the employee; **and**
 - d. ☐ the letter from the Committee on Ethics approving my participation on this trip.
8. a. ☐ I represent that I participated in each of the activities reflected in the attached sponsor's agenda. *Signify statement is true by checking the box.*
b. If not, explain: _____

I certify that the information contained on this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature of Traveler:  Date: _____

I authorized this travel in advance. I have determined that all of the expenses listed on the attached *Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form* were necessary and that the travel was in connection with the employee's official duties and would not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Name of Supervising Member: _____ Date: _____

Signature of Supervising Member: 

Michael Guest, Mississippi
Chairman
Mark DeSaulnier, California
Ranking Member

Andrew R. Garbarino, New York
Ashley Hinson, Iowa
Nathaniel Moran, Texas
Brad Knott, North Carolina

Deborah K. Ross, North Carolina
Glenn F. Ivey, Maryland
Sylvia R. Garcia, Texas
Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia



ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

U.S. House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

Thomas A. Rust
Staff Director and Chief Counsel

Jordan Downs
Chief of Staff to the Chairman

David Arrojo
Counsel to the Ranking Member

1015 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6328
Telephone: (202) 225-7103
<https://Ethics.House.gov>

May 29, 2026

Ms. Clara Tibbetts
Office of the Honorable Paul Tonko
2269 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ms. Tibbetts:

Pursuant to House Rule 25, clause 5(d)(2), the Committee on Ethics hereby approves your proposed trip to Fairbanks, Alaska, scheduled for June 15 to 23, 2026, sponsored by American Lands Project. We note that this trip includes two days at your personal expense.

You must complete an Employee Post-Travel Disclosure Form (which your employing Member must also sign) and file it, together with a Sponsor Post-Travel Disclosure Form completed by the trip sponsor, with the Clerk of the House within 15 days after your return from travel. As part of that filing, you are also required to attach a copy of this letter and both the Traveler and Primary Trip Sponsor Forms (including attachments) you previously submitted to the Committee in seeking pre-approval for this trip. If you are required to file an annual Financial Disclosure Statement, you must also report all travel expenses totaling more than \$525 from a single source on the "Travel" schedule of your annual Financial Disclosure Statement covering this calendar year. Finally, Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting information provided to the Committee for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Committee's Office of Advice and Education at extension 5-7103.

Sincerely,

Michael Guest
Chairman

Mark DeSaulnier
Ranking Member

MG/MD:nl

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

This form should be completed by House Members, officers, or employees seeking Committee approval of privately-sponsored travel or reimbursement for travel under House Rule 25, clause 5. The completed form should be submitted directly to the Committee by each invited House Member, officer, or employee, together with the completed and signed trip sponsor form(s) and any attachments. A copy of this form, minus this initial page, will be made available for public inspection.

This form and any attachments may be submitted at 1015 Longworth House Office Building or travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

Your completed request must be submitted to the Committee no less than 30 days before your proposed departure date. Absent exceptional circumstances, permission will not be granted for requests received less than 30 days before the trip commences. **You must receive explicit approval from the Committee before you depart on this trip.**

Name of Traveler: _____

NOTE: Willful or knowing misrepresentations on this form may be subject to criminal prosecution pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 1001.

I certify that the information contained on both pages of this form is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____



Name of Signatory (if other than traveler): _____

For Staff (name of employing Member or Committee): _____

Office Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address of Contact Person: _____

☐ Check this box if the sponsoring entity is a media outlet, the purpose of the trip is to make a media appearance sponsored by that entity, and these forms are being submitted to the Committee less than 30 days before the trip departure date.

NOTE: You must complete all of the contact information fields above, as Committee staff may need to contact you if additional information is required.

KEEP A COPY OF THIS FORM. Page 2 (but not this page) must be submitted to the Clerk as part of the post-travel disclosure required by House Rule 25. Travel Regulation § 404(d) also requires you to keep a copy of all request forms and supporting paperwork for three subsequent Congresses from the date of travel.

If there are any questions regarding this form, please contact the Committee on Ethics at 202-225-7103 or via email: travel.requests@mail.house.gov.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS

TRAVELER FORM

1. Name of Traveler: _____
2. Sponsor(s) who will be paying or providing in-kind support for the trip: _____

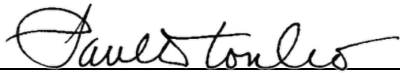
3. City and State **OR** Foreign Country of Travel: _____
4. a. Date of Departure: _____ Date of Return: _____
b. Yes ☐ No ☐ Will you be extending the trip at your personal expense?
If yes, list dates at personal expense: _____
5. a. Yes ☐ No ☐ Will you be accompanied by a family member at the sponsor's expense? **If yes:**
 - (1) Name of Accompanying Family Member: _____
 - (2) Relationship to Traveler: ☐ Spouse ☐ Child ☐ Other(specify): _____
 - (3) Yes ☐ No ☐ Accompanying Family Member is at least 18 years of age?
6. a. Yes ☐ No ☐ Did the trip sponsor answer "Yes" to Question 8(c) on the *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* (i.e., travel is sponsored by an entity that employs a registered federal lobbyist or a foreign agent)?
b. **If yes**, and you are requesting lodging for two nights, explain why the second night is warranted:

7. Yes ☐ No ☐ *Primary Trip Sponsor Form* is attached, including agenda, invitation, invitee list, and any other attachments and Additional Sponsor Forms.
NOTE: The agenda should show the traveler's individual schedule, including departure and arrival times and identify the specific events in which the traveler will be participating.
8. Explain why participation in the trip is connected to the traveler's individual official or representational duties. **Staff should include their job title and how the activities on the itinerary relate to their duties.**

9. **Yes ☐ No ☐ Is the traveler aware of any registered federal lobbyists or foreign agents involved in planning, organizing, requesting, or arranging the trip?**
10. For staff travelers, to be completed by your employing Member:

ADVANCED AUTHORIZATION OF EMPLOYEE TRAVEL

I hereby authorize the individual named above, an employee of the U.S. House of Representatives who works under my direct supervision, to accept expenses for the trip described in this request. I have determined that the above-described travel is in connection with my employee's official duties and that acceptance of these expenses will not create the appearance that the employee is using public office for private gain.

Signature of Employing Member:  _____ Date: _____



Clara Tibbetts
Legislative Director
Rep. Paul Tonko
2269 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Clara,

The American Lands Project (ALP) appreciates your interest in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The 19.6-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is an exceptional and unique landscape. Alaska Native people have been stewards of this land for centuries and continue to depend heavily on the region's subsistence resources. The Arctic Refuge supports a diverse array of wildlife, including polar bears, caribou, musk ox, and hundreds of species of migratory birds.

Land use policy for the Arctic Refuge has shifted significantly over the years, ranging from proposed restricted-use designations to authorized energy development. We believe a fact-finding trip to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge would provide you a valuable opportunity to see and experience first-hand this remote arctic landscape and better understand the dynamic human and natural systems at play in this area.

We would like to officially invite you to join ALP for a trip to the Arctic Refuge from June 16th to June 21st, 2026 – on the ground in the Arctic Refuge from June 17th to June 20th. The trip will be fully sponsored by ALP, including all travel, lodging, and meals. We will follow-up with the formal 2026 trip itinerary and will assist with the required documentation for submission to the House Committee on Ethics.

Thank you for your consideration. As with all trip guests, we would like to schedule a virtual meeting with you to share additional details about the trip, provide recommendations for preparation, and answer any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Natalie Smink
Education & Trips Coordinator

American Lands Project

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 2026 Fact-Finding Trip Itinerary

Monday, June 15, 2026

- Travel from Washington, D.C. to Seattle, WA
 - 8:00 a.m. Depart DCA, Alaska #1, 10:58 a.m. arrive at SEA
 - *Attendees: Clara Tibbetts (Legislative Director, Rep. Paul Tonko)*

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

- Travel from Washington, D.C. to Seattle, WA
 - 8:00 a.m. Depart DCA, Alaska #1, 10:58 a.m. arrive at SEA
 - *Attendees: Amanda Shafer (Senior Legislative Assistant, Rep. Mike Levin), Karson Healy (Legislative Assistant, Rep. Jen Kiggans), Mitchell Heidenreich (Legislative Director, Rep. Dave Min)*
- Travel from Seattle, WA to Fairbanks, AK
 - 12:00 p.m. Depart SEA, Alaska #106, 2:55 p.m. arrive at FAI
 - *Attendees: Amanda Shafer, Clara Tibbetts, Karson Healy, Mitchell Heidenreich, Melissa Burrell (Arctic Literature Expert)*
- **3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.** Ground transportation from airport to La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport - 4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks, AK
- **6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Working dinner at The Pump House Restaurant - 796 Chena Pump Rd, Fairbanks, AK
 - Meet with a representative of the Gwich'in Steering Committee to learn about their work and connections between the Gwich'in people and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
 - *Attendees: Amanda Shafer (Senior Legislative Assistant, Rep. Mike Levin), Clara Tibbetts (Legislative Director, Rep. Paul Tonko), Karson Healy (Legislative Assistant, Rep. Jen Kiggans), Mitchell Heidenreich (Legislative Director, Rep. Dave Min), Melissa Burrell (Arctic Literature Expert), Kathryn Hobbs (Trip Lead, American Lands Project), Molly Gillespie (Guide, Arctic Treks), Princess Johnson (Gwich'in Steering Committee)*

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Attendees: Amanda Shafer, Clara Tibbetts, Karson Healy, Mitchell Heidenreich, Melissa Burrell, Kathryn Hobbs, Molly Gillespie

- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, AK
 - **7:00 a.m.** Ground transportation to airport
 - **8:00* a.m.** Depart FAI, Everts Air, **10:00* a.m.** Arrive at landing strip and staging area outside of Arctic Refuge (location dependent on weather and conditions) to access the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

(All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

- **10:30* a.m.** Depart staging area, Coyote Air, **11:30* a.m.** Arrive at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge basecamp location.
- **11:30 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Set up camp
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Camp orientation by Arctic Treks Guide to review location and safety, and additional context of the trip and the group's location within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge).
- **1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Review maps of Alaska's North Slope to become oriented with respect to the tribal, state, and federal lands, and land management designations in the Alaskan Arctic, and their relation to conservation, resource development, recreation, and subsistence uses.
- **2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Discussion: History leading up to and following the first federal designation of the Arctic Refuge. Established in 1960 as the Arctic National Wildlife Range, it was expanded in 1980 to its current size of 19 million acres and was renamed the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Guests will gain knowledge on the background that led to these designations and how these changes have affected management over time.
- **3:30 p.m – 6:00 p.m.** Guided hike to observe the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge and discuss its importance to the Porcupine Caribou Herd as well as numerous other wildlife species. The Porcupine Caribou Herd uses the area as its summer calving ground, after completing the longest land migration of any land mammal, covering over 1,500 miles every year and spanning the Alaska-Yukon border. Discuss the complexities of managing the health of the herd across the US-Canadian international border, and how entities such as the Porcupine Caribou Management Board navigate these issues.
- **6:00 p.m – 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner: Review the geologic and ecological differences across the three major public land management units comprising Alaska's North Slope: the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPR-A), and State of Alaska land, and how these differences influence land management in each area. Also discuss the management structures unique to each area, and how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), Bureau of Land Management (NPR-A), and State of Alaska (including Prudhoe Bay) each play a role in overseeing lands and resources on the North Slope.

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Attendees: Amanda Shafer, Clara Tibbetts, Karson Healy, Mitchell Heidenreich, Melissa Burrell, Kathryn Hobbs, Molly Gillespie

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of fossil fuel resources in the Arctic and the history of development in the region. Use maps to examine the geography and chronology of energy and infrastructure development on the North Slope of Alaska. Discussion will also cover recent assessments of fossil fuel resources on the North Slope, congressionally mandated oil and gas lease sales, and offshore drilling in state and federal waters. This

(All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

will help guests better understand Alaska's fossil fuel resources and how their development and use relate to the nation's energy goals.

- **10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Discussion of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA): Review the history and key elements of ANCSA, which extinguished aboriginal land titles in Alaska, divided the state into 12 regions based on the common heritage and shared interests of the Alaska Native people within each geographic area, and mandated the creation of for-profit entities, which Congress termed "Alaska Native Corporations." These corporations were tasked with promoting the social, cultural, and economic advancement of Alaska Native people and communities. A thirteenth Native Corporation was later created for Alaska Natives who no longer resided in Alaska.
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch
- **1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Discussion: Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Guests will learn about the history and landscape-shaping impact of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. ANILCA designated most of the National Park Service units in Alaska, as well as wilderness areas, national wildlife refuges (including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), and national monuments across the state. It also established a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources for rural residents during times of scarcity. ANILCA is the foundation of federal land management in Alaska and is essential to understanding current discussions surrounding resource management and utilization in Alaska.
- **3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Break
- **3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe geologic features of the Arctic Refuge and view permafrost soils and other features of the tundra landscape. During the hike, discuss oil and gas exploration practices, including seismic surveying, ice roads, and directional drilling technologies.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner: Discuss the history and process of oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic, including which areas are open for leasing and development, the process for selecting tracks to be leased, and the actual sales. Talk about the recent March 2026 lease sale in the NPR-A and the June 5, 2026, lease sale in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Friday, June 19, 2026

Attendees: Amanda Shafer, Clara Tibbetts, Karson Healy, Mitchell Heidenreich, Melissa Burrell, Kathryn Hobbs, Molly Gillespie

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Discussion: Overview of Indigenous community connections to the Alaskan Arctic, and discussions that have occurred between the Iñupiat and Gwich'in regarding their roles in decisions around federal land management and development.
- **10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** Discuss evidence of melting permafrost and saltwater intrusion from the coast into freshwater systems due to rising Arctic temperatures, trends in these

(All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

impacts over time, and how they affect wildlife and North Slope communities. Review how communities are considering adaptation of infrastructure and practices to deal with these changes. View physical examples near basecamp of the slumping of surface soils and changes in water chemistry due to the melting of permafrost.

- **11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Working Lunch: Overview of subsistence use and how it supports rural Alaskans. Federal law defines subsistence use as “the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for such direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation; the making and selling of handicraft articles... for barter or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade.”
- **1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe wildlife and plants and discuss how natural systems function in this arctic tundra landscape, and the use of the Arctic Refuge by migratory birds, caribou, polar bears, and other wildlife.
- **3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Review the background and history of the National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPR-A), including initial designation in 1923 as an emergency oil supply for the U.S. Navy, Navy management of the land until the area was conveyed to the Department of the Interior in 1976 in accordance with the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) management from that conveyance until present day. Discuss the four federally designated Special Areas within the 23-million-acre landscape and the ecological importance of each as important habitat for polar bears, seals, walrus, birds, and caribou herds that have sustained the Native people of Alaska’s North Slope for over 10,000 years. In addition, review the recent announcements that the Department of the Interior has made regarding the NPR-A, including recently approved oil and gas projects such as the Willow Project, and the administration’s recent announcements around the Integrated Activity Plan and regulatory framework for the NPR-A.
- **4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Break
- **5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working dinner: Overview of the major caribou herds of the North Slope located outside the Arctic Refuge, including current population data and trends, and management history with a focus on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and its associated Working Group. Overview of the role of the latest survey data on caribou population counts and fluctuations over time. The Western Arctic Caribou Working Group is composed of subsistence users, other Alaska hunters, reindeer herders, hunting guides, transporters, and conservationists, with agency staff biologists and natural resource managers serving in an advisory capacity. The Working Group meets annually to evaluate the health of what, until recent years, has been Alaska’s largest caribou herd. The group also works to identify concerns, request information, and advocate for actions that will conserve and benefit the herd.

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Attendees: Amanda Shafer, Clara Tibbetts, Karson Healy, Mitchell Heidenreich, Melissa Burrell, Kathryn Hobbs, Molly Gillespie

- **8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast

(All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Guests will learn about the history of the \$8 billion Trans-Alaska Pipeline authorized by President Nixon in 1973, including its construction and its role in the development of the North Slope and in catalyzing the Alaska Permanent Fund.
- **10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** Discussion: Overview of the Alaska Permanent Fund. The Permanent Fund was created in 1976 via an amendment to the state constitution to help manage the growing state income from oil and gas development. It mandates that at least 25 percent of all mineral lease rentals, royalties, royalty sale proceeds, federal mineral revenue sharing payments, and bonuses received by the State be deposited into the Fund. The Permanent Fund also allows for the distribution of annual dividend checks to Alaska residents.
- **11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Break down camp
- **12:00 p.m.** Depart Arctic Refuge basecamp, Coyote Air; **1:00 p.m.** Arrive at Arctic Village, an Alaska Native village (Gwich'in) at the southern border of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Arctic Village also functions as a staging point to access and/or depart the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
 - During the flight and waiting time, discuss international Arctic politics and collaborative efforts beyond Alaska, including the Arctic Council, which was created as an intergovernmental forum to foster cooperation in the circumpolar Arctic. Overview of the United States' role as an Arctic Nation, the 6 permanent participants in the Arctic Council, and impacts of increased shipping in the Arctic as a result of changing sea ice conditions. Management of the circumpolar Arctic and the role(s) and governance of Indigenous Arctic Peoples outside the United States will also be explored.
- **1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.** Working lunch at the Arctic Village Visitor Center to learn about the history of Arctic Village and the ways in which management of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge impacts the village community, including its peoples' connections to the Refuge for spiritual, cultural, and subsistence practices.
- **2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Tour of Arctic Village. Learn more about the history of Indigenous people in Arctic Alaska, dating back more than 10,000 years, and their shift from nomadic lifestyles to permanent settlement in places like Arctic Village. During the tour discuss the challenges that rural Alaskan villages face including electricity, heating, and food access and costs and the critical role that subsistence hunting and fishing continues to play in these remote communities.
 - *Attendees: Amanda Shafer, Clara Tibbetts, Karson Healy, Mitchell Heidenreich, and Arctic Village tour leaders: Mabeleen Christian, Second Chief of Arctic Village; Athena Chilcotes, Arctic Village Resident*
- Return to Fairbanks, AK
 - **3:00* p.m.** Depart Arctic Village, Everts Air, **4:30* p.m.** Arrive FAI
 - **5:00 p.m.** Shuttle from airport to La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport - 4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks, AK

(* All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)

- **5:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Break
- **8:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** Ground transportation to dinner. The Pump House Restaurant - 796 Chena Pump Rd, Fairbanks, AK
- **8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.** Working dinner: Summarize the trip, and discuss any remaining questions and topics.

Sunday, June 21, 2026

Karson Healy, Mitchell Heidenreich

- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Washington, D.C.
 - **5:31 a.m.** Depart FAI, Alaska #210, **10:12 a.m.** arrive at SEA
 - **1:46 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska #2, **9:59 p.m.** arrive at DCA.
- End of Official Itinerary

Monday, June 22, 2026 to Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Amanda Shafer, Clara Tibbetts

- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Washington, D.C.
 - **8:55 p.m.** Depart FAI, United #1640, **5:52 a.m.** arrive at ORD
 - **7:00 a.m.** Depart ORD, United #482, **9:59 a.m.** arrive at DCA.
 - *Note: This travel is overnight, departing from Fairbanks in the evening of June 22, 2026 and arriving in Washington, D.C. in the morning of June 23, 2026.*

American Lands Project

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge 2026 Fact-Finding Trip Itinerary

Monday, June 15, 2026

- Travel from Washington, D.C. to Seattle, WA
 - 8:00 a.m. Depart DCA, Alaska #1, 10:58 a.m. arrive at SEA
 - *Attendees: Clara Tibbetts (Legislative Director, Rep. Paul Tonko)*

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

- Travel from Washington, D.C. to Seattle, WA
 - 8:00 a.m. Depart DCA, Alaska #1, 10:58 a.m. arrive at SEA
 - *Attendees: Amanda Shafer (Senior Legislative Assistant, Rep. Mike Levin), Karson Healy (Legislative Assistant, Rep. Jen Kiggans), Mitchell Heidenreich (Legislative Director, Rep. Dave Min), Yusuf Nekzad (Legislative Director, Rep. Nikki Budzinski)*
- Travel from Seattle, WA to Fairbanks, AK
 - 12:00 p.m. Depart SEA, Alaska #106, 2:55 p.m. arrive at FAI
 - *Attendees: Amanda Shafer, Clara Tibbetts, Karson Healy, Mitchell Heidenreich, Yusuf Nekzad*
- **3:30 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.** Ground transportation from airport to La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport - 4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks, AK
- **6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.** Working dinner at The Pump House Restaurant - 796 Chena Pump Rd, Fairbanks, AK
 - Meet with the Staff/Board of the Gwich'in Steering Committee to learn about their work and connections between the Gwich'in people and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
 - *Attendees: Amanda Shafer (Senior Legislative Assistant, Rep. Mike Levin), Clara Tibbetts (Legislative Director, Rep. Paul Tonko), Karson Healy (Legislative Assistant, Rep. Jen Kiggans), Mitchell Heidenreich (Legislative Director, Rep. Dave Min), Yusuf Nekzad (Legislative Director, Rep. Nikki Budzinski), Ellen Wang (Board Member, American Lands Project), Molly Gillespie (Guide, Arctic Treks), Gwich'in Steering Committee Member (To be assigned)*

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

Attendees: Amanda Shafer, Clara Tibbetts, Karson Healy, Mitchell Heidenreich, Yusuf Nekzad, Ellen Wang, Molly Gillespie

- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, AK
 - **7:00 a.m.** Ground transportation to airport

(All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

- **8:00* a.m.** Depart FAI, Everts Air, **10:00* a.m.** Arrive at landing strip and staging area outside of Arctic Refuge (location dependent on weather and conditions) to access the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge
- **10:30* a.m.** Depart staging area, Coyote Air, **11:30* a.m.** Arrive at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge basecamp location.
- **11:30 p.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Set up camp
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Camp orientation by Arctic Treks Guide to review location and safety, and additional context of the trip and the group's location within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge).
- **1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Review maps of Alaska's North Slope to become oriented with respect to the tribal, state, and federal lands, and land management designations in the Alaskan Arctic, and their relation to conservation, resource development, recreation, and subsistence uses.
- **2:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.** Discussion: History leading up to and following the first federal designation of the Arctic Refuge. Established in 1960 as the Arctic National Wildlife Range, it was expanded in 1980 to its current size of 19 million acres and was renamed the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Guests will gain knowledge on the background that led to these designations and how these changes have affected management over time.
- **3:30 p.m – 6:00 p.m.** Guided hike to observe the Coastal Plain of the Arctic Refuge and discuss its importance to the Porcupine Caribou Herd as well as numerous other wildlife species. The Porcupine Caribou Herd uses the area as its summer calving ground, after completing the longest land migration of any land mammal, covering over 1,500 miles every year and spanning the Alaska-Yukon border. Discuss the complexities of managing the health of the herd across the US-Canadian international border, and how entities such as the Porcupine Caribou Management Board navigate these issues.
- **6:00 p.m – 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner: Review the geologic and ecological differences across the three major public land management units comprising Alaska's North Slope: the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPR-A), and State of Alaska land, and how these differences influence land management in each area. Also discuss the management structures unique to each area, and how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), Bureau of Land Management (NPR-A), and State of Alaska (including Prudhoe Bay) each play a role in overseeing lands and resources on the North Slope.

Thursday, June 18, 2026

Attendees: Amanda Shafer, Clara Tibbetts, Karson Healy, Mitchell Heidenreich, Yusuf Nekzad, Ellen Wang, Molly Gillespie

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of fossil fuel resources in the Arctic and the history of development in the region. Use maps to examine the geography and chronology of energy and infrastructure development on the North Slope of Alaska. Discussion will also

(All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

cover recent assessments of fossil fuel resources on the North Slope, congressionally mandated oil and gas lease sales, and offshore drilling in state and federal waters. This will help guests better understand Alaska's fossil fuel resources and how their development and use relate to the nation's energy goals.

- **10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** Discussion of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA): Review the history and key elements of ANCSA, which extinguished aboriginal land titles in Alaska, divided the state into 12 regions based on the common heritage and shared interests of the Alaska Native people within each geographic area, and mandated the creation of for-profit entities, which Congress termed “Alaska Native Corporations.” These corporations were tasked with promoting the social, cultural, and economic advancement of Alaska Native people and communities. A thirteenth Native Corporation was later created for Alaska Natives who no longer resided in Alaska.
- **12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.** Lunch
- **1:30 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.** Discussion: Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). Guests will learn about the history and landscape-shaping impact of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) of 1980. ANILCA designated most of the National Park Service units in Alaska, as well as wilderness areas, national wildlife refuges (including the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge), and national monuments across the state. It also established a priority for subsistence uses of fish and wildlife resources for rural residents during times of scarcity. ANILCA is the foundation of federal land management in Alaska and is essential to understanding current discussions surrounding resource management and utilization in Alaska.
- **3:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.** Break
- **3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe geologic features of the Arctic Refuge and view permafrost soils and other features of the tundra landscape. During the hike, discuss oil and gas exploration practices, including seismic surveying, ice roads, and directional drilling technologies.
- **6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working Dinner: Discuss the history and process of oil and gas lease sales in the Arctic, including which areas are open for leasing and development, the process for selecting tracks to be leased, and the actual sales. Talk about the recent March 2026 lease sale in the NPR-A and the June 5, 2026, lease sale in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Friday, June 19, 2026

Attendees: Amanda Shafer, Clara Tibbetts, Karson Healy, Mitchell Heidenreich, Yusuf Nekzad, Ellen Wang, Molly Gillespie

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Discussion: Overview of Indigenous community connections to the Alaskan Arctic, and discussions that have occurred between the Iñupiat and Gwich'in regarding their roles in decisions around federal land management and development.

(All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

- **10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.** Discuss evidence of melting permafrost and saltwater intrusion from the coast into freshwater systems due to rising Arctic temperatures, trends in these impacts over time, and how they affect wildlife and North Slope communities. Review how communities are considering adaptation of infrastructure and practices to deal with these changes. View physical examples near basecamp of the slumping of surface soils and changes in water chemistry due to the melting of permafrost.
- **11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.** Working Lunch: Overview of subsistence use and how it supports rural Alaskans. Federal law defines subsistence use as “the customary and traditional uses by rural Alaska residents of wild, renewable resources for such direct personal or family consumption as food, shelter, fuel, clothing, tools or transportation; the making and selling of handicraft articles... for barter or sharing for personal or family consumption; and for customary trade.”
- **1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.** Guided hike from basecamp to observe wildlife and plants and discuss how natural systems function in this arctic tundra landscape, and the use of the Arctic Refuge by migratory birds, caribou, polar bears, and other wildlife.
- **3:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Review the background and history of the National Petroleum Reserve- Alaska (NPR-A), including initial designation in 1923 as an emergency oil supply for the U.S. Navy, Navy management of the land until the area was conveyed to the Department of the Interior in 1976 in accordance with the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act, and Bureau of Land Management (BLM) management from that conveyance until present day. Discuss the four federally designated Special Areas within the 23-million-acre landscape and the ecological importance of each as important habitat for polar bears, seals, walrus, birds, and caribou herds that have sustained the Native people of Alaska’s North Slope for over 10,000 years. In addition, review the recent announcements that the Department of the Interior has made regarding the NPR-A, including recently approved oil and gas projects such as the Willow Project, and the administration’s recent announcements around the Integrated Activity Plan and regulatory framework for the NPR-A.
- **4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.** Break
- **5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.** Working dinner: Overview of the major caribou herds of the North Slope located outside the Arctic Refuge, including current population data and trends, and management history with a focus on the Western Arctic Caribou Herd and its associated Working Group. Overview of the role of the latest survey data on caribou population counts and fluctuations over time. The Western Arctic Caribou Working Group is composed of subsistence users, other Alaska hunters, reindeer herders, hunting guides, transporters, and conservationists, with agency staff biologists and natural resource managers serving in an advisory capacity. The Working Group meets annually to evaluate the health of what, until recent years, has been Alaska’s largest caribou herd. The group also works to identify concerns, request information, and advocate for actions that will conserve and benefit the herd.

Saturday, June 20, 2026

Attendees: Amanda Shafer, Clara Tibbetts, Karson Healy, Mitchell Heidenreich, Yusuf Nekzad, Ellen Wang, Molly Gillespie

(All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)*

- **8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.** Breakfast
- **9:00 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.** Discussion of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. Guests will learn about the history of the \$8 billion Trans-Alaska Pipeline authorized by President Nixon in 1973, including its construction and its role in the development of the North Slope and in catalyzing the Alaska Permanent Fund.
- **10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** Discussion: Overview of the Alaska Permanent Fund. The Permanent Fund was created in 1976 via an amendment to the state constitution to help manage the growing state income from oil and gas development. It mandates that at least 25 percent of all mineral lease rentals, royalties, royalty sale proceeds, federal mineral revenue sharing payments, and bonuses received by the State be deposited into the Fund. The Permanent Fund also allows for the distribution of annual dividend checks to Alaska residents.
- **11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** Break down camp
- **12:00* p.m.** Depart Arctic Refuge basecamp, Coyote Air,
- **1:00* p.m.** Arrive at Arctic Village, an Alaska Native village (Gwich'in) at the southern border of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Arctic Village also functions as a staging point to access and/or depart the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.
 - During the flight and waiting time, discuss international Arctic politics and collaborative efforts beyond Alaska, including the Arctic Council, which was created as an intergovernmental forum to foster cooperation in the circumpolar Arctic. Overview of the United States' role as an Arctic Nation, the 6 permanent participants in the Arctic Council, and impacts of increased shipping in the Arctic as a result of changing sea ice conditions. Management of the circumpolar Arctic and the role(s) and governance of Indigenous Arctic Peoples outside the United States will also be explored.
- **1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** Working lunch with the Arctic Village Council and/or other local leaders to learn about the history of Arctic Village and the ways in which management of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge impacts their village community, including their peoples' connections to the Refuge for spiritual, cultural, and subsistence practices.
- **2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.** Tour of Arctic Village. Learn more about the history of Indigenous people in Arctic Alaska, dating back more than 10,000 years, and their shift from nomadic lifestyles to permanent settlement in places like Arctic Village. During the tour discuss the challenges that rural Alaskan villages face including electricity, heating, and food access and costs and the critical role that subsistence hunting and fishing continues to play in these remote communities.
 - *Additional Attendees: Arctic Village tour leader to be assigned.*
- **4:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Return to the Arctic Village landing strip.
- Return to Fairbanks, AK
 - **5:00* p.m.** Depart Arctic Village, Everts Air, **7:00* p.m.** Arrive FAI

(* All flight times and specific basecamp destinations in the Arctic Refuge are subject to change based on weather)

- **7:20 p.m.** Shuttle from airport to La Quinta Inn & Suites by Wyndham Fairbanks Airport - 4920 Dale Rd, Fairbanks, AK
- **7:30 p.m. - 8:15 p.m.** Break
- **8:15 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.** Ground transportation to dinner. The Pump House Restaurant - 796 Chena Pump Rd, Fairbanks, AK
- **8:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.** Working dinner: Summarize the trip, and discuss any remaining questions and topics.

Sunday, June 21, 2026

Karson Healy, Mitchell Heidenreich, Yusuf Nekzad

- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Washington, D.C.
 - **5:31 a.m.** Depart FAI, Alaska #210, **10:12 a.m.** arrive at SEA
 - **1:46 p.m.** Depart SEA, Alaska #2, **9:59 p.m.** arrive at DCA.
- End of Official Itinerary

Monday, June 22, 2026 to Tuesday, June 23, 2026

Amanda Shafer, Clara Tibbetts

- Travel from Fairbanks, AK to Washington, D.C.
 - **8:55 p.m.** Depart FAI, United #1640, **5:52 a.m.** arrive at ORD
 - **7:00 a.m.** Depart ORD, United #482, **9:59 a.m.** arrive at DCA.
 - *Note: This travel is overnight, departing from Fairbanks in the evening of June 22, 2026 and arriving in Washington, D.C. in the morning of June 23, 2026.*