

Alaskans Want a Tangle Lakes State Wildlife Refuge



The movement to help protect Tangle Lakes from industrial development continues to gather overwhelming support across Alaska from a wide variety of people, businesses, and organizations. They have made a strong case to protect the area most important to hunters, anglers, paddlers, hikers and sightseers while also understanding that some future mining may still occur nearby. In this widely supported compromise approach, hunting and recreational uses would continue but stronger restraints would be placed on mineral exploration and mine development. [Click here](#) to read the letter to the full Alaska Legislature that the following groups and hundreds of people signed, and [click here](#) for a map of the proposed Refuge.

Over 1000 people from the following places have spoken out to protect Tangle Lakes:

- ✓ Anchorage
- ✓ Big Lake
- ✓ Cantwell
- ✓ Chickaloon
- ✓ Chitina
- ✓ Chugiak
- ✓ Clam Gulch
- ✓ Cordova
- ✓ Copper Center
- ✓ Delta Junction
- ✓ Denali Park
- ✓ Eagle River
- ✓ Ester
- ✓ Fairbanks
- ✓ Fort Greely
- ✓ Fort Wainwright
- ✓ Fritz Creek
- ✓ Gakona
- ✓ Girdwood
- ✓ Glenallen
- ✓ Healy
- ✓ Homer
- ✓ Juneau
- ✓ Kenai
- ✓ Kenny Lake
- ✓ Kodiak
- ✓ Koliganek
- ✓ Nome
- ✓ North Pole
- ✓ Palmer
- ✓ Paxson
- ✓ Seldovia
- ✓ Seward
- ✓ Sitka
- ✓ Soldotna
- ✓ Sutton
- ✓ Talkeetna
- ✓ Tazlina
- ✓ Trapper Creek
- ✓ Valdez
- ✓ Wasilla
- ✓ Willow

Wildlife, sportsmen, recreation & wildlands organizations representing tens of thousands of Alaskan members support a Wildlife Refuge:

- Alaska Backcountry Hunters & Anglers
- Alaska Big Villages Network
- Alaska Skijoring and Pulk Association
- Alaska Wilderness Recreation & Tourism Association
- Alaska Youth for Environmental Action
- Arctic Audubon Society
- Audubon Alaska
- Center for Water Advocacy
- Copper Country Alliance
- Denali Citizens Council
- Fairbanks Paddlers
- Friends of Stampede
- Gwich'in Steering Committee
- National Wildlife Federation

Businesses statewide support Refuge designation:

Guiding (17)

- Women's Fly Fishing Anchorage
- Alaska Personal Journeys Clam Gulch
- Alaska Frontier Guides Chickaloon
- Bush Wings Air Service, Inc. Chickaloon
- Ultimate Rivers, LLC Chugiak
- Denali Adventure Tours Denali Park
- Denali Raft Adventures Denali Park
- Too-loo-uk River Guides Denali Park
- Wilderness Birding Adventures Eagle River
- All About Adventures Fairbanks
- Arctic Treks Fairbanks
- Arctic Wild Guiding Company Fairbanks
- Captain Pete's Alaska Homer
- Weather Permitting Alaska LLC Juneau
- Kodiak Treks Kodiak
- Sea Hawk Air Kodiak
- Thompson Pass Treks Valdez

Hospitality (8)

- Alaska Half Way House B & B Chitina
- Bear and Bison Bed & Bath Copper Center
- Wellwood Bed & Breakfast Copper Center
- Black Bear Coffee House Denali Park
- 5 Star Log Cabins Fairbanks
- Seaside Farm Homer
- Denali Highway Tours & Cabins MP 42 Denali Hwy
- Icy Bay Lodge LLC Yakutat

Other (11)

- Animal Daycare & Boarding Anchorage
- Computer Lizards Anchorage
- Turtle Island Records Anchorage

- Gilmore & Associates Copper Center
- Libbey's Farm Copper Center
- Ester Republic Ester
- Wild Wings Etc. Fairbanks
- Raymond Tutoring Homer
- The Observatory, ABAA Juneau
- Crazy Dog Kennels & Canine Rescue MP 42 Denali Hwy
- Prince William Sound Books Valdez
- Bella's Bitz Valdez

Retail (25)

- Alaska Fur Cache Anchorage
- Snowbound Art Studios Anchorage
- Firefly Designs Anchorage
- Kopper Kupboard Chitina
- Howling Wolf Furs Clam Gulch
- Copper River Red Spud Company Copper Center
- Mountain View Grocery, Gas, & Liquor Copper Center
- Denali Arts and Glass Studio Denali Park
- Denali Mountain Works Denali Park
- Natural Alaska Denali Park
- Rapid Exposure Denali Park
- Simply Nepal Imports Denali Park
- Wild Interior Ester
- Ronn Murray Photography Fairbanks
- 10th Planet Recording Studio Fairbanks
- Crystal Images Haines
- Alaskan Essences Inc Homer
- Alaska Fly Fishing Goods Juneau
- Monetti Guitars North Pole
- Taiga Totems North Pole
- Artifact Illustration Seward
- Gem Stones & Jewel Tones Soldotna
- Okonek Photography Talkeetna
- Hot Licks Ice Cream Fairbanks
- Prince William Sound Books Valdez

Tangle Lakes support in the news:

- A [feature article](#) in the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner* about a classic two-day float trip down the Delta River, within the proposed Refuge. (July 6, 2011)
- An [editorial](#), written by Linda Rutledge and published in the *Copper River Record*, answering commonly asked questions about the management of a State Wildlife Refuge. (June 2, 2011)
- A [letter to the editor](#), written by Ruth McHenry and published in the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, explaining why she likes Tangle Lakes as it is now: scenic, quiet, and undeveloped. (April 26, 2011)
- A [feature article](#), written by Bruce James and published in the *Copper River Record*, explaining the importance of protecting Tangle Lakes to preserve subsistence lands and the area's scenic integrity. (February 24, 2011)
- An [article](#), titled "Driver's Drives" that ran in *National Geographic Traveler*, listing the Denali as one of the best roads in the world to drive. The highway is recognized for its "bracing views of untamed wilderness with few signs of human occupation." (October 2010).
- An [editorial](#), written by Jon Miller and published in the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*, offering support for a Refuge to protect against the possibility of a large-scale industrial mine in the Tangle Lakes area. (July 3, 2010)
- An [editorial](#), written by John Schandelmeier and published in the *Anchorage Daily News*, about the Nelchina caribou herd's declining population. (December 1, 2009)
- An [article](#) in the *Juneau Empire* on the Board of Game's support of Refuge designation and its request to Governor Palin to take action on the issue. (April 6, 2008)
- Coverage of a Tangle Lakes demonstration on the Denali Highway in the [Anchorage Daily News](#) and the [Copper Valley Bi-Weekly](#). (June 22, 2005)
- A [feature](#) in the *Anchorage Daily News* about the scenic drive from Paxson to Cantwell and the beautiful country that surrounds the highway, including the area within the proposed Refuge. (April 24, 2005)
- Letters to the editor, written by [Kathy Libbey](#) and [Cliff Eames](#) and published in the *Anchorage Daily News*, against mining in the Tangle Lakes area. (April 19, 2005 and February 7, 2005)
- An [open letter](#) against mining at Tangle Lakes signed by 126 Alaskans statewide and published in the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*. (December 5, 2004)
- An [article](#) in the *Anchorage Daily News* on the documentation of ancient hunting grounds and other areas of archeological importance at Tangle Lakes. (October 29, 2003)
- An [editorial](#), written by Linda Rutledge and published in the *Copper River Record*, explaining the incompatibility of current uses and large-scale industrial mining at Tangle Lakes.

There's more:

- A [letter](#) from Daniel Inulak Lum, former owner and operator of NorthernMost Tours, to Senator Coghill and Representative Feige, emphasizing the importance of tourism revenue in the Alaskan economy. (July 11, 2011)
- A [letter](#) from Ron Yarnell and Lynn Larsen to Senator Thomas, Representative Guttenberg, and Representative Miller noting the disturbances being caused by exploration activity in the Tangle Lakes region and asking to better protect the area by designating it a State Wildlife Refuge. (July 5, 2011)
- A [letter from Mark Luttrell](#) to Senator Thomas, Representative Guttenberg, and Representative Miller highlighting Tangle Lakes as one of the most significant and promising archeological sites in Alaska during his 30 years of experience in the field. (June 25, 2011)
- A [half-page spread in the Copper River Record](#) showing the contrast between the current uses of the Tangle Lakes region and the realities of large-scale industrial mining. (May 5, 2011)
- A [letter from Dave Lyon](#), co-chair of the Alaska Chapter of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (AK BHA), to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources opposing continued exploratory drilling in the area. (March 15, 2010)
- A [letter from Louise Seguela](#), secretary of Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, summarizing her group's and other entities' support of a Refuge. The letter was sent to former Governor Palin, and the commissioners of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Natural Resources. (July 10, 2008)
- A [letter from Cliff Judkins](#), chairman of the Alaska Board of Game to former Governor Palin, which states that the Board remains “convinced the long term value of maintaining wildlife habitat [at Tangle Lakes] far outweighs the potential benefits of possible development projects...” (March 26, 2008)
- The submission of the Refuge Proposal from the Copper Basin Fish and Game Advisory Committee to the Alaska Board of Game. Fifty people wrote hand-written letters supporting the proposal and sent them to the Board.
- A statement against mining at Tangle Lakes, signed by 73 Talkeetna residents.
- A [2005 rally](#) that included a 30-mile walk on the Denali Highway and a flotilla of canoes on Round Tangle Lake to demonstrate public support for protecting current uses and opposing mining. (June 22, 2005)
- A [letter from Audubon Bakewell](#), of Paxson Alpine Tours & Denali Cabins, discussing the impacts of exploratory drilling on bird-watching destinations. (April 11, 2005)
- A [letter from the Fairbanks Paddlers](#) to the president of the exploration company encouraging the protection of Tangle Lakes. (August 30, 2004)
- A 2002 [letter from Robert Tobey](#), of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Division of Wildlife Conservation, to the Copper Country Alliance, stating specific outstanding wildlife values of the region and concluding that “It is my position that the importance of the Denali Block as wildlife habitat, tourist destination, sport fishing, subsistence and sport hunting, subsistence food gathering and trapping exceeds all mining value.” (December 19, 2002)
- A [brochure highlighting excellent recreational opportunities](#) produced by the Bureau of Land Management. The Bureau is currently renovating the Tangle Lakes campground.

The support continues pouring in to protect tangle lakes. This page will be revised periodically to reflect the changes