

VOICES OF THE WILDERNESS

Alaskan artist-in-residence program

2015 INFORMATION

Sponsored by the US Forest Service, National Park Service & US Fish & Wildlife Service

Residencies open to: Art professionals in all media – **visual** (two and three dimensional: photographers, sculptors, painters), **audio** (musicians, singers, composers), **film** (video/filmmakers), and **writers** (poets, fiction, essays, storytellers).

Residency period: June through September; dates vary. Typically residencies last 7-9 days.

Coordinator contact: Barbara Lydon at (907) 754-2318, e-mail: blydon@fs.fed.us

The *Voices of the Wilderness* artist residency is a unique opportunity. It is modeled after traditional residencies in the national parks...with a twist. Instead of staying at a remote wilderness cabin, our participating artists are paired with a wilderness specialist and actively engaged in stewardship projects, such as research, monitoring, and education. The idea is to give artists a sense of the stewardship behind America's public lands, fostering an artistic exploration of these natural and cultural treasures. The hoped-for result is artwork that communicates something of the meaning of these lands.



Artists in Public Lands

Artists have long contributed to the preservation and interpretation of our public lands. Early examples include George Catlin, Albert Beirstadt, and Thomas Moran, whose nineteenth-century paintings inspired pride in America's wild landscapes and influenced designation of our first parks.

In subsequent generations, artists used song, photograph, poetry and other mediums to celebrate America's public lands. Their work demonstrates that artistic expression plays a vital role in connecting people to the natural world.

Now it's your turn.

Recognizing that today's artists continue to link people to the land, the US Forest Service, National Park Service and US Fish & Wildlife Service are sponsoring *Voices of the Wilderness*, artist-in-residence opportunities hosted in some of Alaska's wildest and most scenic areas.

Your job? It's to be inspired. Experience the wilderness and use your creative energy to bring its voice back to the community.

Artist-In-Residence

In the summer of 2015, artists will be invited to participate in our residencies, each opportunity completely different. The purpose is to share with the community artwork that conveys the inspirational and other values of wilderness.

Each artist will be provided the same safety training as other volunteers (may include aviation and boat safety, kayak safety, use of radios and satellite phones, review of Job Hazard Analyses, etc.). The hosting federal agency will provide transportation to and from the field, camping and field gear, and in most cases, food as well.

Travel to and from Alaska is the artist's responsibility. Participants should plan to arrive in Alaska at least one full day prior to a residency to ensure enough time for safety training. Return travel should be planned for a couple days after a residency, as weather sometimes delays the return from the field. Artists are also responsible for their personal gear, including art supplies.

As an artist-in-residence, you will experience the wilderness like few others. Traveling alongside a ranger, you might kayak the calm fiords and camp on glacier-carved shores. There will be plenty of time to sit back in your camp chair and absorb the crackling ice bergs and roaring waterfalls. From the water, you might see a bear foraging among intertidal mussels, or seals hauled-out on the ice. On remote beaches, your steps will mingle with the tracks of wolves, bears, birds, maybe even a mink. The wilderness soundscape will embrace you with the screeches of eagles or the songs of whales. Along the way, you'll get a peek at what it's like to care for the land by sharing time with a ranger.

As a volunteer, each artist will assist with some basic ranger duties, which may include boarding a tour boat to provide education, participating in research projects, such as seal counts or climate change studies, walking a beach to remove litter, or other generally light duties. However, an emphasis for the artist will be experiencing the wilderness and exploring how to communicate its inspirational qualities through their artwork.

Participating Wilderness Areas:

Glacier Bay National Park & Preserve

National Park Service

In 1794, when Captain George Vancouver sailed through Icy Strait west of present-day Juneau, Alaska, the entrance to today's Glacier Bay was a wall of ice that extended more than 100 miles northward. By 1916, the ice had retreated 65 to 70 miles and the bay was formed. In very few places are the powerful, changing forces of nature more evident than in Glacier Bay, and rarely is the full spectrum of pioneer to climax species as apparent within a circumscribed area. Glacier Bay is also a part of the vast Kluane/Wrangell-



St. Elias/Glacier Bay/Tatshenshini-Alsek World Heritage Site; together these areas comprise one of the world's largest terrestrial protected areas. Glaciers, ice fields, high latitude, and diversity of plant and animal life, combined with the magnitude of the protected area adjacent to Glacier Bay, conspire to make this wilderness an ideal, unfragmented living laboratory for many scientists. It is a place renowned and protected for its diversity, change, and opportunity for study. 3.28-million-acres of Glacier Bay National Park has been designated Wilderness.



Dramatic change and the ebb and flow of nature occur at every scale: within centuries, seasons, and hours. The glaciers continue to retreat on the bay's eastern and southeastern sides, but they are growing in the west arm, fed by copious amount of snowfall in the upper elevations. The tides swell and recede dramatically twice a day, oftentimes by as much as twenty vertical feet. Long days in the summer months become markedly brief in the winter, as the earth's axis slants away from the sun. Many species follow this pattern, disappearing from Glacier Bay during the winter months, only to return or re-emerge in the spring.

Surrounded by a spectacular, glaciated horseshoe rim of mountains, Glacier Bay is sheltered by the Fairweather Range to the west and the Saint Elias Mountains on the north. The highest peaks, topped by Mount Fairweather at 15,300 feet, stand almost three miles above the sea and attract intrepid mountaineers. No trails exist; most visitors see the Wilderness by boat, and the sea kayaking ranks among the best in the world. The main bay divides into East and West Arms, which are split into many inlets. The water is dotted with islands, and the paddling goes on and on in eye-aching splendor. Campers share the shorelines with black and brown bears, moose, bald eagles, among other wildlife. Sighting of humpback whales, sea otters, harbor seals, sea lions and orca are common.

The majority of our backcountry patrols utilize sea kayaks and park vessels. The selected artist for this residency will participate on a backcountry patrol of Glacier Bay and assist with selected park operations. Artists will depart for the wilderness from Gustavus/Bartlett Cove.

- www.nps.gov/glba
- www.facebook.com/glacierbaynationalpark

Contact Emma Johnson at Glacier Bay National Park and Preserve for further questions: (907) 697-2691 or emma_johnson@nps.gov

Western Arctic National Parklands *National Park Service*

Western Arctic National Parklands, located in the northwest corner of Alaska, consist of four Park units - Noatak National Preserve, Kobuk Valley National Park, Cape Krusenstern National Monument, and Bering Land Bridge National Preserve.



Noatak National Preserve protects almost the entirety of the largest untouched river basin in America, that of the Noatak River. All the preserve, except for about 700,000 acres around the village of Noatak, has been designated Wilderness. The Noatak River flows westward 425 miles through the heart of the preserve to Kotzebue Sound, carving the scenic Grand Canyon of the Noatak along its course. From its source to its confluence with the Kelly River, 330 miles have been designated Wild and Scenic

System. More and more visitors each year come to canoe and kayak on the Noatak, and almost the entire river may be paddled easily. Those who fish catch Arctic char, grayling, whitefish, or salmon. The Western Arctic caribou herd roams, 450,000-plus strong. Backpacking in the foothills, among the bears, wolves, lynx, wolverine, and Dall sheep, has been increasing in popularity, and backcountry travelers must move with care, as this land is fragile. Bird life abounds in the migratory seasons. Camping is unrestricted, but you should avoid the numerous private lands on the lower Noatak River. Campsites are best on river sandbars and high, dry tundra knobs. Motorboats, small airplanes, and snowmobiles are permitted. Hunting and fishing are allowed.

The majority of our backcountry patrols utilize canoes for the Noatak and Kobuk Rivers. The selected artist for this residency will accompany one of our backcountry rangers for an 8-10 day wilderness stewardship project.

Successful applicant will provide their own transportation to Kotzebue and provide their own food. NPS will provide all field gear and all backcountry flights. Outdoor skills resume required in order to receive consideration.

- <https://www.facebook.com/votwwanartistresidency>

Contact Chief Ranger / Pilot Dan Stevenson at Western Arctic National Parklands for more information: (907) 442-8306 or Dan_Stevenson@nps.gov

Becharof National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness

US Fish & Wildlife Service

Alaska's second largest lake borders the Becharof Wilderness, all encompassed by the Becharof National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge protects spawning habitat for millions of sockeye salmon, the foundation of the regional economy. It also protects critical habitat for the Northern Alaska Peninsula caribou herd, uncounted numbers of enormous brown bears, and a host of other wildlife, from ptarmigan to wolves. Anglers and wildlife



photographers find world-class experiences here.

Within the Becharof Wilderness, a cluster of small cabins are found on a projecting spur of shoreline. These cabins will be home for you as a base for experiencing the solitude and challenge of wilderness. You will be accompanied by a fully trained volunteer while staying in this field camp.

We seek someone interested in spending 1-2 weeks in the Bear Creek cabins in late August/early September. This is a time of increasing brown bear activity, providing frequent sightings in a true wilderness setting. Your commitment will also include a week sharing your creative skills with students from the village schools as part of our annual Science and Culture Camp. Camp typically takes place in the 1st or 2nd week of September.

Contact Julia Pinnix at Becharof National Wildlife Refuge for more information: (907) 246-1211 or Julia_Pinnix@fws.gov.

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge

US Fish & Wildlife Service

Kenai National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) encompasses 1.9 million acres and is located southwest of Anchorage in the central Kenai Peninsula. Over half of the Refuge (1.35 million acres) is federally designated wilderness.

Kenai NWR is often called Alaska in miniature because it encompasses a variety of habitats from the 7,000 ft. Harding Ice Field to the tidewaters of Chickaloon Bay. The Refuge protects the majority of the Kenai and Kasilof River watersheds, which are important spawning grounds for 4 species of salmon, rainbow trout and Dolly Varden. Large lakes such as Skilak and Tustumena (third largest lake in Alaska) provide important water access to wilderness lands. Wildlife that relies on wilderness habitat includes moose, brown and black bears, lynx, wolverines, wolves, eagles, loons, trumpeter swans, and a variety of migratory birds.



As an artist-in-residence, you will experience Kenai National Wildlife Refuge in a very special, unique way. Traveling alongside backcountry rangers, you'll boat the remote lakes and rivers, hike trails through forest and alpine tundra, and camp in the beautiful backcountry settings or stay in historic wilderness cabins. You may also assist rangers with duties including maintaining public use wilderness cabins and trail construction and maintenance. The artist-in-residence will vary greatly as the individual will be assimilated into whatever current back-country management activity that the staff are working on. As you work with rangers, you'll enjoy the project teamwork, scenic landscapes, wildlife sightings, and wilderness solitude.

Artists will need to fly into Anchorage; USF&WS will fly the artist into Kenai from there. Residency duration may be up to two weeks.

Contact Matt Conner at Kenai National Wildlife Refuge for further information: (907) 398-9616 or matt_conner@fws.gov

Selawik National Wildlife Refuge

US Fish & Wildlife Service

The 2-million acre Selawik National Wildlife Refuge straddles the Arctic Circle in remote northwestern Alaska. This land of vast tundra, complex waterways, and spruce- and birch-covered hillsides exemplifies the interface between the boreal forests of Interior Alaska and the treeless tundra of the Arctic. The largest caribou herd in Alaska migrates seasonally through the refuge, and countless birds, fish, and other wildlife thrive seasonally or year-round in this rich habitat. The refuge is the ancient homeland of the indigenous people of the region, the Iñupiat, who continue to make extensive use of the land for hunting, fishing, and berry picking. Traveling primarily by motorized river boat, you will accompany local residents and fisheries biologists in their fall research on the mighty sheefish, which spawn in the upper reaches of the Selawik River and winter in the river delta and adjoining brackish lakes. You might also have the opportunity to participate in the village of Selawik's annual Science-Culture Camp, where community members teach youth traditional subsistence skills. This residency offers a rare glimpse of the deeply-rooted connection between indigenous people and Alaska's wilderness areas, as well as a close-up look at an intact landscape vulnerable to climate change.



Artist will depart for the field from Kotzebue, located about 500 miles northwest of Anchorage and accessible only by air. The residency is expected to last 7-14 days in September.

- <http://on.fb.me/vQ3cf9>
- <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/selawik/>



Contact Brittany Sweeney for further questions about Selawik NWR: (907) 442-3799 or brittany_sweeney@fws.gov

Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area

Chugach National Forest, Prince William Sound

US Forest Service

The Nellie Juan-College Fjord Wilderness Study Area is a stunning area located in western Prince William Sound in south central Alaska. Spanning over 2 million acres on the Chugach National Forest, this wild landscape features countless glaciers—the densest concentration of tidewater glaciers in the world, some flowing a dozen miles from ice-capped peaks to terminate in cliffs of ice towering hundreds of feet above



the water. The history of glaciation is evident everywhere you look, from newly de-glaciated barren hillsides, to ancient moraines just below the water's surface. Traveling by sea kayak in these expansive fiords, you'll look straight up at peaks rising 2,000-9,000 feet right from the water's edge. Camping alongside the ocean shores you'll be able to follow the tracks of an animal, check out glacier ice up close, or take a short hike up to the alpine for an expansive



glimpse of the fiords. Diverse wildlife is prevalent in the Sound, including black bears, humpback whales, sea otters, Dall's porpoises, harbor seals and sea lions.

Artists will be partnered with a ranger for up to seven days, participating in various wilderness stewardship duties, including invasive weed surveys, visitor contacts, solitude monitoring, campsite monitoring, and air quality monitoring (such as collecting lichens). While working alongside a ranger, there will be plenty of time to experience the solitude and wildness of this place.

Artist will depart for the field from Girdwood, located approx. 40 miles southeast of Anchorage.

- <https://www.facebook.com/votwnjcfwsaartistresidency>
- <http://www.fs.usda.gov/chugach>

Contact Barbara Lydon at the Glacier Ranger District for further questions about Nellie Juan-College Fiord WSA: (907) 754-2318 or blydon@fs.fed.us

Petersburg Ranger District Wilderness: Tebenkof Bay, Kuiu or Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck

Tongass National Forest
US Forest Service

Work will be in one of the three wilderness areas on the Petersburg Ranger District; Tebenkof Bay, Kuiu, or Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck Wilderness. All of these wilderness areas are good examples of the island rainforest environment of the Tongass National Forest.

Participating artists will be partnered with a ranger for a five to ten day trip working on projects such as invasive plant eradication, solitude monitoring, or campsite inspections. The crew will live in small tents, travel by small boat or floatplane, and spend days in what can be a cold, wet environment.



One artist will be selected to participate during the 2015 summer. The artist will depart for the field from Petersburg.

- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Voices-of-the-Wilderness-Petersburg-RD-Wilderness-Areas-Artist-Residency/416374945107014>

Contact Karisa Garner for further questions about this opportunity: (907) 772-5910 or klgarner@fs.fed.us

Sitka Ranger District Wilderness:

South Baranof Wilderness or West Chichagof-Yakobi Wilderness

Tongass National Forest

US Forest Service



Alexander Baranof, the first governor of Russian America, built his headquarters in nearby Sitka and left his name on this large island (1,600 square miles) with most of the southern extremity of the island (319,568 acres) designated as the South Baranof Wilderness Area. Bounded on the west by the Gulf of Alaska, the scenery is stunningly picturesque with granite glacier-scored mountains, long saltwater fiords and hanging lake valleys. On the east side of the wilderness by Chatham Strait, the saltwater coastline is not as rugged and there is a higher snow accumulation over the whole

area with over 200 inches of precipitation per year. Permanent snowfields and active glaciers blanket the high country above 2,000 feet, giving way to dense undergrowth in a coastal forest of spruce and hemlock. The wildlife that inhabits this area includes brown bears, Sitka black-tail deer, mink, marten and river otters, as well as eagles and shorebirds. Seals, sea lions, whales, and a large population of sea otters are often seen offshore, and crab, shrimp, herring, salmon and halibut are harvested from the sea.

The West Chichagof–Yakobi Wilderness Area occupies the western portions of Chichagof and Yakobi Islands in the extreme northwest portion of the Alexander Archipelago of Southeast Alaska. The wilderness consists of 265,286 acres of wave-pounded open coastline, remote rivers, forests of old-growth western hemlock and Sitka spruce and uplands of alpine, muskeg, and rare karst cliffs. Sitka black-tailed deer are common here along with brown bears and an abundance of smaller furbearing animals including mink and marten. Migratory waterfowl frequent the more protected bays and inlets in remarkable numbers. Marine mammals include sea otters, Stellar sea lions, and harbor seals.



As an artist-in-residence you will be joining in a unique collaboration between the Sitka Ranger District and the Sitka Conservation Society in monitoring this rarely visited Wilderness Area. Access will be by floatplane or motorboat. Trips will consist of basecamps in remote locations or by roving monitoring from a sea kayak. Artists should be available for at least a two-week period to allow for adequate weather windows given the area's exposure to the wide-open Pacific Ocean.

- <https://www.facebook.com/votwsbwildernessartistresidency>

Contact Annemarie LaPalme at Sitka Ranger District for further questions about the Sitka Ranger District Wilderness area opportunities: (907) 747-4209 or alapalme@fs.fed.us

Tracy Arm-Ford's Terror Wilderness

Tongass National Forest
US Forest Service

Tracy Arm-Ford's Terror Wilderness is located fifty miles south of Juneau. This is a spectacular Wilderness Area with two steep-walled fiords that terminate at three of the most southerly tidewater glaciers in the northern hemisphere. Experience the abundance of life in an old-growth temperate rainforest and then transition to the calving face of a tidewater glacier as it exposes land that hasn't seen the sky in hundreds of years. Our stewardship projects here are as various as the characteristics of Wilderness.



Each selected artist will accompany a wilderness ranger for up to nine days. Transport to the wilderness will be by floatplane or skiff. During the fieldtrip, the artist and ranger will divide their time between Holkham Bay and Tracy and Endicott Arms. While in Holkham Bay, they will stay in a rustic wall tent. While in the arms, they will travel by sea kayak and camp in a two-person tent. Artists will depart for the field from Juneau. Up to two artists will be selected to participate during the 2015 summer.

- <https://www.facebook.com/votwtaftwildernessartistresidency>

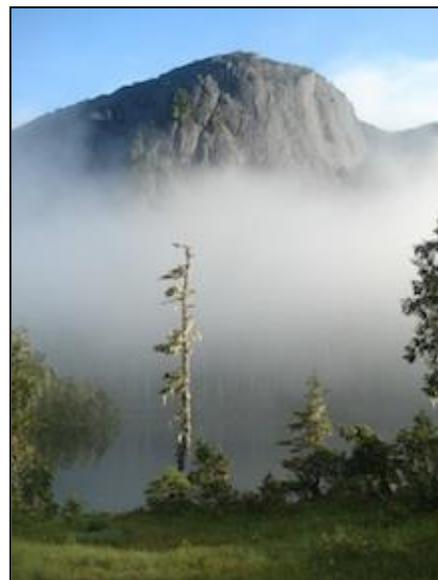
Contact Solan Jensen or Kevin Hood at Juneau Ranger District for further questions about Tracy Arm-Ford's Terror Wilderness:

- Solan Jensen: sjensen@fs.fed.us or solanjascha@gmail.com
- Kevin Hood: (907) 789-6220 or kehood@fs.fed.us

Misty Fiords National Monument

Tongass National Forest
US Forest Service

Misty Fiords National Monument Wilderness encompasses 2.2 million acres of coastal rainforest on the southern tip of the Alaska Panhandle. The area is characterized by numerous streams and river systems; alpine and subalpine lakes; forested mountains; and an abundance of fish and wildlife. Past glaciations have formed picturesque fiords, such as Walker Cove and Rudyerd Bay, which are surrounded by granite walls rising 3,000 feet above the ocean. Flight seers, boaters, and hikers come to Misty Fiords to photograph, kayak, explore, fish, and hunt, and to view the outstanding scenic beauty of the rugged terrain. Brown and black bears, mountain goats, and black-tailed deer are common sights in Misty Fiords. Moose, marten, wolves, wolverines, and river otters may also be found in abundance. All five species of



salmon share the waters with sea lions, harbor seals, killer whales, humpback whales, and porpoises.

As an artist-in-residence, you will experience Misty Fiords like few others. Traveling alongside a ranger, you'll kayak the fiords, hike trails to subalpine and alpine lakes, and camp along the shoreline. You'll also assist with some basic ranger duties, which may include cleaning up campsites, monitoring visitor use, and light trail maintenance. The artist-in-residence selected will have outdoor experience and be physically and mentally prepared for a primitive travel and camping experience. As you work with wilderness managers, you'll have plenty of time to take in the sights and sounds of the scenic landscape. Artists will depart for the wilderness from Ketchikan. We will select up to two artists to participate in our 2015 residencies.

- <https://www.facebook.com/votwmfmartistresidency>

Contact Kendra Huffine at Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District for further questions about Misty Fiords National Monument: (907) 228-4108 or khuffine@fs.fed.us

Qualification

Qualifying artists will include visual artists (e.g. painters, photographers, and sculptors), writers, musicians, and storytellers. Their selection will be based on:

- Statement of Purpose
- Proposal for donated artwork and community extension, and willingness to work with the federal agencies to make this program a success
- Artistic merit
- Ability to camp in a remote location and travel by skiff, airplane and sea kayak, and willingness to assist with light ranger duties. (Extensive backcountry/kayaking experience is not necessary for most residencies, just capability.)

Art Work Donations and Presentation

The goal of the *Voices of the Wilderness* program is to share the scenic beauty and inspirational values of Alaska's wilderness areas, through the talents and reflections of professional artists. Each participant is expected to donate one piece of artwork to the hosting federal agency for use in publicizing the values of our public lands. Donated artwork should be representative of the area and communicate its inspirational or other values. Artwork should be delivered to the appropriate agency office within six months of the residency. Artwork from visual artists should be framed with glass or otherwise prepared for hanging before donation. An electronic, high resolution digital image of the completed artwork should also be provided. The artwork will be shared with the public through exhibition, publication, websites, or other means.

The original work resulting from the residency will be donated to the United States Government, which means that the artist signs over publishing and reproduction rights to that work. The artwork will be shared with the public through exhibition, publication, websites, or other appropriate means.

Community Extension

Artists are expected to provide one public presentation within six months of completing their residency, such as a slideshow lecture, demonstration, or workshop that publicizes the program

and connects the community to its public lands. Other examples include a performance, explorative hike, or participation in a public lecture. The presentation can be tailored to an individual's medium, interest and experience, but each artist must provide supplies, equipment and logistics for the presentation. Community extensions do not have to take place in the community of the residency.

How to Apply

Artists must submit application materials and art samples exactly as indicated on the application form. Insufficient materials or incomplete application are causes for rejection, as are an artist's proposed use of a work already in progress as a residency project.

Entries accepted for the 2015 season

- Paper applications must be postmarked on or before **Feb 17, 2015**. Applications postmarked after the deadline will not be considered.
- Emailed applications must be received no later than 11:59 PM AK time **March 1, 2015**.

A panel of professional artists and federal employees will select artists based on artistic merit, the Statement of Purpose, and appropriateness to a wilderness residency.

Selections will be made by mid-April; all applicants will be notified of decisions by this time. Please note that due to unforeseen budget constraints in the spring, some residencies may not be offered.

For more photos and information from our past residencies, visit:

- <http://www.voicesofthewilderness.blogspot.com/>
- <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/r10/home/?cid=STELPRD3794556>