

Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust

2022 Annual Report & 2023 Newsletter



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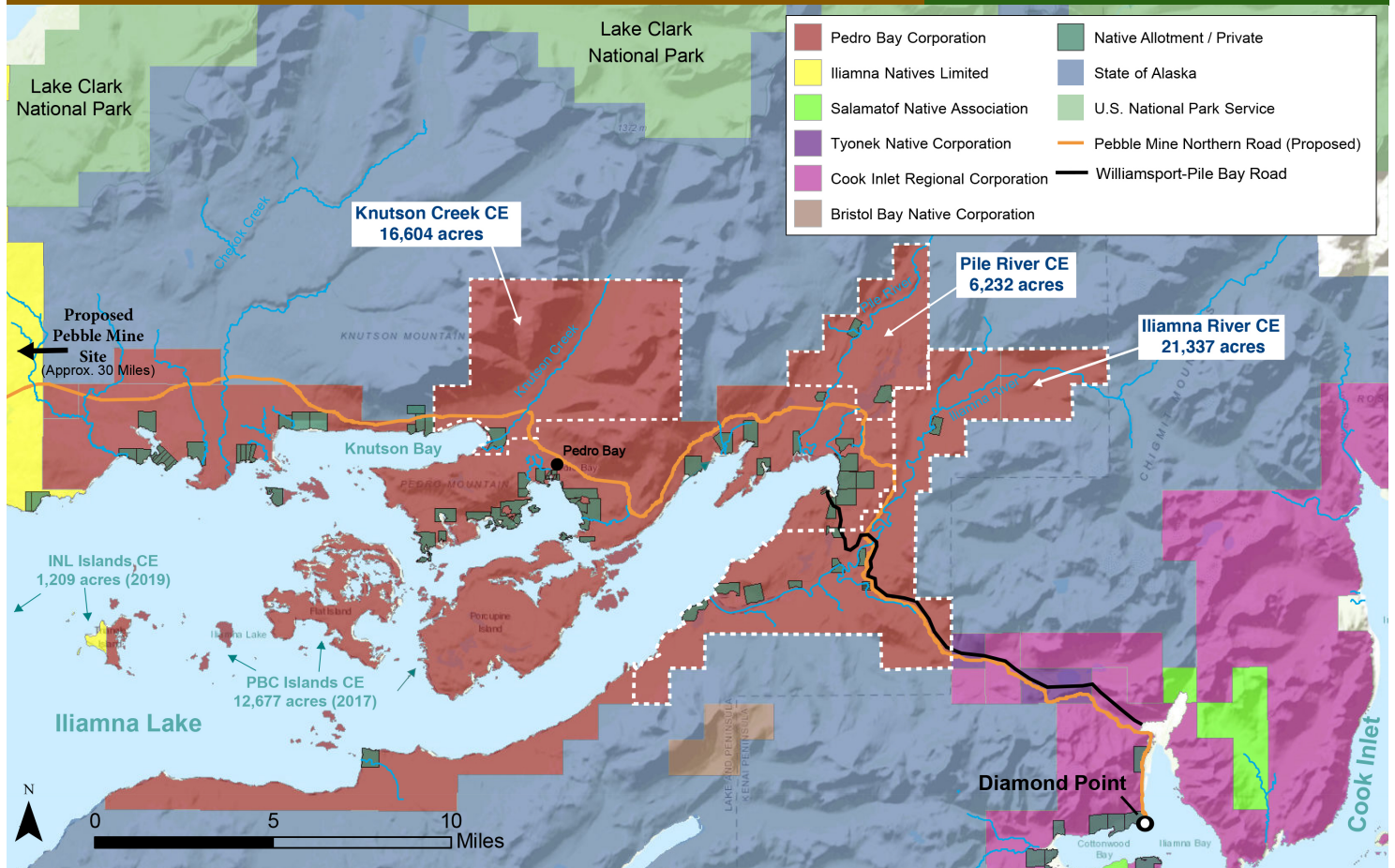
Pedro Bay Rivers Project Closes

The Land Trust and Partners Raise \$20 Million Dollars to Permanently Protect 44,000 Acres of Lake Iliamna Salmon Habitat and Block the Access Route to the Proposed Pebble Mine



Land Trust President Bud Hodson (left) and Pedro Bay Corporation President Tinny Hedlund (right) complete a signing ceremony closing the Pedro Bay Rivers Conservation Easement deal at the offices of Bristol By Naïve Corporation in Anchorage. Members from both boards of directors and representatives from key funding participants were there to witness and celebrate this important victory for conservation in Alaska

The Land Trust, with help from The Conservation Fund and other partners successfully raised \$20 Million dollars to acquire 44,000 acres in conservation easements over three areas of critical salmon habitat owned by Pedro Bay Village Corporation: Knutson Creek, Iliamna River, and Pile River. 90% of the shareholders of the corporation voted to approve selling the easement provided the deal closed by the end of 2022. The money was raised and the deal closed on December 27. In addition to permanent protection for the habitat, the easements also block the access route to the proposed Pebble Mine. The easements lend an added measure of assurance that even if the EPA's recent decision to deny the Pebble Partnership a critical permit should be overturned, the mine still cannot proceed. The following map shows the easements in relation to the proposed Pebble access route.



Financial Status Year End 2022

During 2022 the Land Trust received \$63,452 in general contributions; \$26,000 in donations for the Bristol Bay Fly Fishing & Guide Academy; \$30,186 was contributed for Sailing Back to Bristol Bay, and \$61,095 was contributed to the Pedro Bay Rivers Project (the bulk of the \$20 million raised for the Pedro Bay project was processed through our partner The Conservation Fund.) Income from government grants and foundations for various projects came to \$123,560 of which \$113,560 came from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service through the SW Alaska Salmon Habitat Partnership. Grants for other small projects and sales of t-shirts and books brought in another \$9,500. Total revenue for the year was \$314,289. Total expenses for the year, including the Fly Fishing & Guide Academy, various science research projects, costs related to the Pedro Bay conservation easement acquisition and general operations came to \$286,389. The Land Trust operates on a cash basis. The 2022 IRS Form 990 report for the Land Trust is available at the office in Dillingham or on the website under the About tab and scroll to “Relevant Documents” – www.bristolbaylandtrust.org

Year End Balances 2022

General Operations Checking: \$55,029.

Bristol Bay Fly Fishing & Guide Academy: \$45,630.

Special Projects Acct: \$527.

General Operations Savings: \$265,032.

Grant Advance Holding Acct: \$92,943.

Bobby Andrew Memorial Stewardship Endowment Fund (Market Value): \$314,490

Bear Trail Lodge in King Salmon Hosts 2022 Fly Fishing & Guide Academy and Mission Lodge in Aleknagik Hosts 2023 Academy**2022 – Bear Trail Lodge****2023 – Mission Lodge**

The Bristol Bay Fly Fishing & Guide Academy was launched in 2008 by Land Trust Executive Director, Tim Troll, and Board Member, Fishing Guide, and Ekwok Tribal Chief Luki Akelkok. The purpose of the Academy is to teach the importance of fish habit conservation to the young people of Bristol Bay through the lense of fly fishing. A secondary goal is to provide students with some of the basic skills needed to find employment in Bristol Bay's established sport fishing business, an opportunity not traditionally available to them. The Academy is free to all participants.

Now in its 14th year, several former students have found positions with local fishing lodges and some have become leaders in the Alaska Native village corporations that own large blocks of fish habitat in Bristol Bay. Two students, Tristan Chaney from Dillingham and Tatiana Zackar from Igiugig are now regular instructors at the annual academy. Instructors are all unpaid volunteers.

Support for the Academy has come from a unique cross section of non-profit organizations, businesses, and government agencies, chief among them are: Trout Unlimited, Orvis, Bristol Bay Native Corporation, Bristol Bay Economic Development Corporation, US Fish & Wildlife – National Fish Habitat Program, NOAA, Bureau of Land Management, Bear Trail Lodge, Mission Lodge and several other Bristol Bay lodges.



Passing Mount Iliamna on the way to Bristol Bay

Connecting people to the history and culture of Bristol Bay has always been part of the mission of the Land Trust. Protecting land and water over generations can only succeed if those generations feel attached to place. Commercial salmon fishing has been in the DNA of Bristol Bay since 1884, and the wooden double-ended sailing gillnetter was the boat from which most of those salmon were harvested until 1951. After a decade of restoration, fund raising and planning, the Land Trust, with a crew from Homer, sailed one of the last intact Bristol Bay sailing gillnetters from Homer on July 5, 2022, across Cook Inlet, down Lake Iliamna and the Kvichak River (visiting all the village along the way) arriving in Naknek two weeks later. Marcia Dale of Watzittuya Net Shop in Naknek fashioned a traditional net out of cedar corks and the boat that launched the commercial fishery nearly 150 years ago was able to participate in the largest harvest in recorded history – 60.1 million Sockeye salmon. The sailboat was acquired by the Bristol Bay Historical Society and will be maintained as a living tribute to the greatest salmon fishery on earth and those who work to keep it that way.

Bristol Bay Heritage Land Trust
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