

# **VOICES OF THE WILDERNESS**

*Alaskan artist-in-residence program*

## **2016 INFORMATION**

**Sponsored by 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:** Typically June through September; dates & length of residencies vary.

**Coordinator contact:** Barbara Lydon at (907) 754-2318, e-mail: [blydon@fs.fed.us](mailto: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 2016, 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:



### Arctic Refuge US Fish & Wildlife Service

*"Here was the living, moving, warm-blooded life of the Arctic...with the wisdom of the ages, moving always, not depleting their food supply, needing all these valleys and mountains in which to live." -Margaret Murie, Refuge Founder*

Arctic National Wildlife Range was established in 1960 to preserve unique wildlife, wilderness and recreational values. In 1980, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) re-designated the Range as part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and provided four purposes that guide management of the entire Refuge: to conserve animals and plants in their natural diversity, ensure a place for hunting and gathering activities, protect water quality and quantity, and fulfill international wildlife treaty obligations.



Arctic Refuge is about 19.3 million acres in size. It's approximately the size of South Carolina and has no roads, marked trails, or campgrounds. The Refuge includes an array of landscapes and wildlife habitats--from the boreal forest of the Porcupine River uplands . . . to the foothills and slopes of the Brooks Range . . . to the arctic tundra of the coastal plain . . . to the lagoons and barrier islands of the Beaufort Sea coast. Together these areas contain hundreds of species of mosses, grasses, wildflowers, shrubs and other plants. The Refuge contains the greatest wildlife diversity of any protected area in the circumpolar north.



Arctic Refuge contains the largest area of designated Wilderness within the National Wildlife Refuge System, "where the earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man." [The Wilderness Act, 1964] The Arctic Refuge is recognized as one of the finest examples of wilderness left on the planet. It is among the last to be visited by modern man and among the least affected by his doings. It's a place where the wild has not been taken out of the wilderness.

Untold mountains, diverse wildlife and a wealth of habitats give this unspoiled national treasure first-rate cultural, scenic, scientific and experiential values. Values that are ageless. Values that make the Refuge a national symbol of wilderness. Arctic Refuge is a place that changes those who visit. It's a place whose existence strengthens our awareness of and sense of responsibility for the natural world.

The length of the residency will last from 7-20 days in length. Artists will be responsible for flying to Fairbanks International Airport and air travel to Arctic Refuge will be provided. Possible field opportunities include flying to a remote location with a field biologist and hiking to various locations within the Refuge. Another option would involve flying into a remote location and assisting a biologist on a float trip. There are also possible opportunities to fly into the rural communities of Arctic Village or Kaktovik, Alaska.

- [www.fws.gov/refuge/arctic](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/arctic)
- [www.facebook.com/arcticnationalwildliferefuge](https://www.facebook.com/arcticnationalwildliferefuge)

Contact Allyssa Morris, Environmental Education Specialist at Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for further questions: (907) 456-0224 or [Allyssa\\_Morris@fws.gov](mailto:Allyssa_Morris@fws.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 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September.



Contact the Alaska Peninsula and Becharof Refuge's Visitor Services Manager Sarah Griffith at (907) 246-3339 or [Sarah\\_Griffith@fws.gov](mailto:Sarah_Griffith@fws.gov)



## Innoko or Koyukuk Wilderness

### US Fish & Wildlife Service

### **Innoko Wilderness:**

In Alaska's central interior, along the eastern bank of the Yukon River, lies the 3.85 million acre Innoko National Wildlife Refuge. The broad, wetland dotted lowland is bordered on the north by the Khotol Hills and the south and east by the Kuskokwim Mountains. The meandering Innoko River bisects the refuge and forms the northern boundary of the Innoko Wilderness Area. The Wilderness comprises the southeastern portion of the refuge, roughly one-third of the total area (1.2 million acres). A transition zone between the boreal forestland of interior Alaska and the open tundra of western Alaska, Innoko stands well over half in wetlands of muskeg and marsh, lakes, meandering rivers, and streams dotted with islands of black spruce and an understory of mosses, lichens, and shrubs.



Paper birch and white spruce cover hills rolling up from the Yukon and Innoko Rivers. Along the rivers are numerous privately owned subsistence camps used periodically for hunting and fishing by Native Alaskans. The rivers, edged by willows and alder, run rich with salmon, whitefish, sheefish, grayling, and northern pike. All the lakes have northern pike except the shallow bodies of water that freeze to the bottom in winter.

Frequent flooding of Innoko's many rivers and streams helps fertilize surrounding soils and maintain the rich willow sandbar habitat that provides winter food for the refuge's moose population, as well as for the beaver that are common along virtually all of Innoko's waterways. Barren ground caribou from the Beaver Mountain herd winter on Innoko when deep snows move them down from the uplands, while both black and grizzly bear and wolves are present year around. Other fur-bearers include marten, lynx, red fox, river otter and wolverine.

More than 20,000 beavers live in Innoko's wetlands, the densest population in the state, along with moose and caribou, black and brown bears, red foxes, coyotes, lynx, otters, wolves, and wolverines. An estimated 65,000 white-fronted and lesser Canada geese spend their summers here with more than 380,000 other waterfowl and shorebirds, including Northern Pintails, Greater and Lesser Scaup, Northern Shovelers, Scoters, Widgeons, Red-necked Grebes, Lesser Yellowlegs, and Hudsonian godwits. Hungry mosquitoes cloud the summer landscape, feeding thousands of nesting songbirds including Alder Flycatchers, Varied Thrush, Swainson's Thrush, Yellow Warblers, Yellow-rumped Warblers, Northern Waterthrush, Fox Sparrows and Savannah Sparrows.



During spring and summer of 2015 the Alaska Department of Fish and Game released 130 wood bison to an area adjacent to the Innoko Wilderness as part of a project to restore this species to Alaska. Historic records indicate that wood bison roamed free in parts of Alaska up until about 200 years ago. Once thought to be extinct, the species has been restored to several areas in Canada. The wood bison in the Innoko area represent the only wild herd in the United States. The bison have expanded their range from the release site and now roam portions of the Innoko Refuge.



An artist in residence will journey to the Innoko Wilderness by boat along the Innoko River, stopping along the way to spend time in remote villages and learn about the unique lifeways of Alaskan Natives in interior Alaska. There may be opportunities to see wood bison on lands within or adjacent to the Wilderness during your stay. The refuge headquarters is in Galena.

- <http://www.fws.gov/refuge/innoko/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/KoyukukNowitna-National-Wildlife-Refuge-Complex-232615373583453/>
- Wood bison: <https://vimeo.com/144932367>

## **Koyukuk Wilderness:**



Think of 3.5-million-acre Koyukuk National Wildlife Refuge, and water comes to mind: there are 14 rivers, hundreds of meandering creeks, more than 15,000 lakes, all forming the floodplain of the Koyukuk River. The lands of the refuge are still of great importance to the Alaskans who live in villages within or adjacent to its boundaries. Local subsistence activities include gathering meat, fish and berries, trapping of furbearers, and cutting house logs and firewood. There are no roads and no maintained trails, but the lower Koyukuk River

provides a "highway" through the heart of the refuge.

Moose are common within the refuge. Brown and black bears wade into the rivers in night-less summer to escape swarms of mosquitoes and other biting insects. Lynx, coyotes, red foxes, wolves, and wolverines might also be seen. Beavers abound, and thousands of migratory waterfowl nest and raise their young within the productive river basin. The rivers and wetlands are also habitat to salmon, sheefish, pike and grayling.



Four-hundred thousand acres of the Koyukuk Refuge are preserved as Wilderness. Miles of boreal forest surround a unique geological feature -- the Nogahabara Sand Dunes. The roughly circular active dune field spans about 6 miles in diameter, and was formed thousands of years ago when wind-blown glacial sand was deposited at the base of the Nulato Hills. The isolated dunes are lightly vegetated and continually shift with the wind.

The Three-Day Slough area also lies within the Koyukuk Wilderness and is of both geologic and historic interest. The large vegetated dune sheets that surround the Nogahabara Sand Dunes end abruptly in tall silt bluffs here, exposing layers of geologic history along the water's edge. The historic village of Kateel was also located in this area, and was an important site for trade between Koyukon Indians and neighboring Eskimos prior to the arrival of Europeans to the region. Archaeological evidence indicates that the area has been occupied by humans for many thousands of years. The Three-Day Slough area is remains an important area



for public use, primarily by moose-hunters in the fall. Fishing and hunting are allowed throughout the Refuge, subject to State and Federal regulations.

The Koyukuk Wilderness, like the rest of the Koyukuk Refuge, is very remote. A visit to the Wilderness is a bit like going back in time, and the trappings of modern life pale in relation to the awe inspiring wild. A visiting artist will have opportunities to experience the richness of the Kateel and Three-day slough area of the Koyukuk Wilderness area by boat travel and tent camping. The refuge headquarters is in Galena.

- <http://www.fws.gov/alaska/nwr/koyukuk/>
- <https://www.facebook.com/KoyukukNowitna-National-Wildlife-Refuge-Complex-232615373583453/>

One artist may be selected for either Innoko or Koyukuk Wilderness.

Contact Karin Lehmkuhl Bodonyat the Koyukuk/Nowitna/Innoko National Wildlife Refuge for further questions about Koyukuk or Innoko: (907) 656-1231 or [karin\\_bodony@fws.gov](mailto:karin_bodony@fws.gov)



**Kootznoowoo Wilderness**  
**Tongass National Forest**  
**US Forest Service**



The Kootznoowoo Wilderness is on Admiralty Island near Juneau, Alaska. This Wilderness Area contains a vast unspoiled coastal island ecosystem. It is the largest remaining intact tract of temperate rainforest and hosts some of the densest populations of brown bears and nesting bald eagles in the world. The Kootznoowoo Wilderness has a rich cultural history and is home to the small Alaska Native community of Angoon which still relies on the bounty of the lands and waters for subsistence.

The selected artist will work with rangers administering the Pack Creek brown bear viewing area, maintaining Admiralty Island cabins and trails, eradicating invasive plants, monitoring solitude and inventorying campsites. During the fieldtrip, the artist and rangers will stay in small tents, a rustic wall tent or historic cabins. Prospective artists should be comfortable camping/working in bear country and cold, wet and buggy conditions. Transport to the wilderness will be by floatplane or skiff. Artists will depart for the field from Juneau. One artist will be selected to participate during the 2016 summer.

Contact Kevin Hood at Admiralty Island National Monument for further questions about Kootznoowoo Wilderness: (907) 789-6220 or kehood@fs.fed.us



**Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area**  
**Chugach National Forest**  
**US Forest Service**

In 1980, Congress designated roughly two million acres along western Prince William Sound as the Nellie Juan-College Fiord Wilderness Study Area (WSA). This recognized the area's exceptional beauty and remoteness and its possible future designation as federal wilderness. Until Congress determines the next step, the Forest Service is committed to preserving the area's wilderness character to provide the public outstanding opportunities for solitude, primitive recreation, and inspiration in an undeveloped setting.

Located in south central Alaska 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, encounters monitoring, campsite monitoring and rehabilitation projects, and air quality monitoring projects, including lichen studies. The selected participant may be kayaking and/or boating, and will be camping in remote areas of the Sound. 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 the Glacier Ranger District in 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](mailto:blydon@fs.fed.us)



**Petersburg Ranger District Wilderness Areas:**  
**Tebenkof Bay, Kuiu or Petersburg Creek-Duncan Salt Chuck**  
*Tongass National Forest*  
*US Forest Service*

**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 2016 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](mailto:klgarner@fs.fed.us)



**Sitka Ranger District Wilderness Areas:**  
**South Baranof 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 Jennifer MacDonald at Sitka Ranger District for further questions about the Sitka Ranger District Wilderness area opportunities: (907) 747-4226 or [jennifermacdonald@fs.fed.us](mailto:jennifermacdonald@fs.fed.us)



**Togiak National Wildlife Refuge and Wilderness**  
*US Fish & Wildlife Service*



Togiak Refuge is a 4.7 million acre expanse of mountain, river, and coastal habitats in southwestern Alaska - an area about the size of Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. Within the refuge, 5000 foot peaks tower over broad glacial valleys of the Ahklun and Wood River mountains, which cut the tundra uplands and open into coastal plains. Numerous rivers flow west from mountainous headwaters and deep clear lakes within the Refuge toward Kuskokwim Bay, or south to Bristol Bay. From jagged mountain peaks to coastal wetlands and beaches, Togiak Refuge encompasses a variety of terrain with a correspondingly varied wildlife population. The northern 2.3 million

acres of Togiak Refuge have been designated as the Togiak Wilderness to preserve the pristine character of the land and the animals that make it their home.

Togiak Refuge is home to at least 282 species of wildlife. Throughout the year, resident species are found on the refuge, staying through the winter months when snow blankets the land and food is scarce. In the spring, the land comes to life as plants produce new growth, hibernating residents awaken, and migratory birds arrive by the tens of thousands. During the summer, when wildflower blooms cover the hillsides and over a million salmon run up Refuge rivers to spawn, animals busily feed, putting on weight for the cold winter months or their long journeys back to wintering areas. Autumn days grow shorter as the tundra changes to brilliant reddish hues and juicy berries are abundant.

Depending on the timing of their visit, the selected artist may have the opportunity to take part in a five-day Environmental Education trip on the Refuge either (1) rafting on one of the Refuge's rivers with about six local high school students, or (2) travelling to Cape Peirce with about eight middle school students and staying in two administrative cabins, beachcombing, hiking, and observing wildlife. In either case, the artist would be able to share their talents with the students at various points during the trip, and they would share the trip and instruction responsibilities with a few Togiak Refuge employees. There may also be other opportunities for the artist to join a biologist on a trip to the field as part of an effort to study wildlife or fish. [Special Note: In order to travel by float plane to and from the Refuge as a volunteer for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the artist would be required to have completed the course "Water Ditching and Survival" before arriving in Dillingham, Alaska \*].

If the selected artist has limited time or their visit must take place on certain dates that do not correspond with the trips described above, they would have the opportunity to go on a River Ranger jet-boat patrol on the Togiak River from the Village of Togiak to Togiak Lake. They would be able to spend the night in a tent, or possibly a cabin, along the way. The Refuge would pay the artist's commercial transportation from Dillingham to the Village of Togiak in a small, wheeled plane. This trip would not require the completion of the Water Ditching and Survival course.



The artist would be responsible for their own airfare to and from Dillingham. While in Dillingham, bunkhouse accommodations and groceries are provided, along with transportation around Dillingham and to and from the Refuge.

\*For more information and to enroll in a free Water Ditching and Survival Course, go to the Interagency Aviation Training website at [www.iat.gov](http://www.iat.gov), create a login and password, and look for A-312 course offerings. Check the website regularly; there are more course offerings during the spring prior to the summer field season. Once someone has taken the course in person in the classroom/swimming pool, they remain current by taking the online refresher A-325R every two years.

- [www.fws.gov/refuge/Togiak](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Togiak)
- [www.facebook.com/Togiak-National-Wildlife-Refuge](https://www.facebook.com/Togiak-National-Wildlife-Refuge)

Contact Susanna Henry or Allen Miller at Togiak with questions (907) 842-1063 or [susanna\\_henry@fws.gov](mailto:susanna_henry@fws.gov)



**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.

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

Contact Kevin Hood at Juneau Ranger District for further questions about Tracy Arm-Ford's Terror Wilderness: (907) 789-6220 or [kehood@fs.fed.us](mailto: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.

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

Contact Kendra Adams at Ketchikan-Misty Fiords Ranger District for further questions about Misty Fiords National Monument: (907) 228-4108 or [kendraadams@fs.fed.us](mailto:kendraadams@fs.fed.us)



**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, making it the longest river in the 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/votwwanpartistresidency>

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

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# APPLICATION PROCESS FOR OUR 2016 RESIDENCIES:

## Qualification

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

- Appropriateness to a stewardship-based wilderness residency
- 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 all residencies, just capability.)

## Art Work Donations

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 must be provided by the artist prior to receiving the donation.

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.

## 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

To submit application: Applications must be emailed; **no paper applications will be accepted.**

Email application + two supporting documents (art samples & resume) to **blydon@fs.fed.us**

In the 'subject' of the email, include 2 pieces of information: Your last name & your artistic medium.

*For example, "Lydon-ceramics".*

Submit only one application, even if applying to multiple residencies. Email should include 3 attachments:

- **2016 application** filled out, PDF format
- **A resume** no more than 2 pages, in either PDF or Word formatted document
- **6 Artistic samples** composed in single PDF or Word formatted document, 5 MB maximum

Please also include descriptions of artwork to include title, materials and dimensions of work:

-Visual Artists: (i.e. Photographers, Sculptors, Painters, etc.) 6 color photos.

-Writers: Six pages of written examples (prose, short stories, plays or poetry).

-Musicians/Composers: Musicians and composers should submit lyrics and recordings of their work (links to recordings is fine to include).

-Multidiscipline Artists: Send appropriate sample combinations based on the above.

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. Zip files, Google Documents, Dropbox, etc. will not be considered.

- Finished artwork and community extensions must be completed and must be donated within six months of completing your residency.
- This original artwork resulting from the residency will be donated to the United States Government, which means that the artist relinquishes publishing and reproduction rights to that work.
- Selected artists agree to provide a high resolution, professional quality digital image of their completed artwork to use for publicity and educational purposes.
- Selected artists agree to submit a summary of their community extension and projects/outreach associated as a result of their residency.
- Emailed applications are due by 11:59 PM AK time **March 1, 2016**. Selections will be made by mid-April by a panel of professional artists and federal employees will select artists based on artistic merit, proposed donations/community extensions, and appropriateness to a stewardship-based wilderness residency. All applicants will be notified of decisions via email at that point. 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/goto/r10/votw>

### **Applying as a "team"**

Two professional artists may apply together only if both are needed to successfully accomplish the proposed project and community extension, though not all areas may be able to accommodate two artists.

Please note: If artists would like to be considered individually as well, they must submit a separate application geared towards a project and extension conducted by a single artist.

*Good luck, and thank you for applying!*