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Second Annual “Alaska’s Hidden Gems” Photography Contest Kicks Off

2009 Winners Exhibit at the Alaska Public Center

Located in the Morris Thompson Cultural Center in Fairbanks, Alaska

Alaska Wilderness League kicks off a national photography contest today to showcase extraordinary public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The photography contest will run through June 1, 2010 in conjunction with an exhibition in Fairbanks highlighting the 2009 winners at the Alaska Public Center located in the Morris Thompson Cultural Center.

“The pristine wilderness and beauty of these lands have yet to be explored by millions of Americans, including fellow Alaskans,” said Jeremiah Millen of the Alaska Wilderness League. “Through the eyes of photographers from near and far, we hope to capture the story of these lands and inspire others to visit and preserve these lands for future generations.”

The contest includes four categories: landscapes and natural features, historical and cultural features, humans and the environment, and wildlife. Photographers are encouraged to provide engaging anecdotes about the lands along with their photographic submissions.

“The contest and exhibition provide an avenue to highlight these special places and to engage visitors and residents alike,” added Millen, “These lands include some of our nation’s greatest treasures, such as the world’s largest wild salmon fishery, the largest surging glacier in North America, millions of migratory and resident bird populations, the largest caribou herd in Alaska, and Alaska’s longest running river – the mighty Yukon. Through this contest, we hope to elevate the visibility and importance of these lands so they are ‘hidden gems’ no longer – these public lands are here for all to enjoy and experience.”

Entries will be accepted through June 1, 2010 and may include photographs taken of BLM lands such as: White Mountains, Gulkana and Delta River Recreation Areas, Bristol Bay, Nullato Hills, Squirrel River, Mount Osborn, the Steese, the Fortymile River Area, and the Scenic Dalton Highway. Prizes will be awarded to the top three photographers.

Detailed contest guidelines can be found at alaskawild.org/hiddengems.

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