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Alaska Wilderness League Announces “Alaska’s Hidden Gems” Photography Contest Winners

Today, Alaska Wilderness League announced the winners of a national photography contest to showcase extraordinary public lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Alaska Wilderness League is proud to announce the top four winners of the contest.

Jake Schas from Redmond, OR was the overall contest winner and was the first place winner in the Wildlife category with his photograph “American Piplit, Toolik Lake Field Station.” Laura Vines from Fairbanks, AK took second place in the overall contest and was the first place winner of the Landscapes and Natural Features category with “Pinnell Mountain Trail, Eagle Summit.” Susan Stevenson from North Pole, AK took third place in the overall contest and was the first place winner of the Humans and the Environment category with her photograph “Dalton Highway.” Krystin Bogan from North Pole, AK took fourth place in the overall contest and was the first place winner of the Historical and Cultural Features category with her photograph “Abandoned Gold Dredge, Steese Highway.”

“The contest provides an avenue to highlight the hidden gems of Alaska’s BLM lands,” said Betsy Beardsley, Alaska Wilderness League. “Bringing awareness through photographs of these beautiful places will hopefully encourage more visitors to explore the wildlife and wildlands of Alaska and inspire the preservation of these lands for future generations.”

Alaska’s BLM 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. Alaska’s BLM lands are a destination for both tourists and locals, alike, including such vacation spots as the White Mountains, Gulkana and Delta River Recreation Areas, Bristol Bay, Nulato Hills, Squirrel River, Mount Osborn, the Steese, the Fortymile River Area, and the Scenic Dalton Highway.

“We thank and congratulate all of our winners, who have helped us to increase the visibility of Alaska’s hidden gems,” continued Beardsley. “With their help, we hope to elevate the importance of these lands so they are ‘hidden gems’ no longer – these public lands are here for all to enjoy and experience.”



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For more information and to view the winners' photos please visit www.alaskawild.org/hiddengems. Please contact Gwen Dobbs, Alaska Wilderness League, to request access to higher-resolution photos of the winners.

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