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**Alaska Wilderness League mourns the passing of longtime friend and conservationist, John McComb**

Washington — Alaska Wilderness League issues the following statement on the passing of John McComb, a longtime conservation advocate and former legislative director at Sierra Club, and a loved member of the Alaska Wilderness League family for more than 20 years. John passed away the evening of Monday, September 27, at the age of 82.

“John was a life-long environmentalist, a man the League’s former director Cindy Shogan described as ‘a quiet but revolutionary leader in the American environmental movement.’ For more than two decades he has been a constant in the Alaska Wilderness League office, as a consultant, but more importantly as a friend. He never met an Alaska issue on Capitol Hill that he couldn’t track and analyze through a multi-tab spreadsheet and his dedication to preserving the country’s wild places at every level touched countless people across the country, whether they realized it or not. His legacy will continue in our work to protect places like the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Our hearts go out to John’s friends and family.”

**More on John:**

John McComb’s work was instrumental in helping pass the Alaska Lands Act of 1980. He was awarded Sierra Club’s John Muir Award in 1987 and was a part of the campaign to protect the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for nearly 50 years. For an inside look into John’s early days in the environmental movement, you can read this 1976 profile from [High Country News](#).

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*Alaska Wilderness League stands with, serves and supports the many people and organizations that believe in a sustainable future for Alaska. We honor and respect the cultures of Alaska Natives whose way of life remains deeply connected to the state’s land, waters and wildlife. We believe that Alaska’s long-term economic future and subsistence traditions are inexorably tied to the health and sound stewardship of its natural resources, which support hunting, fishing, tourism, and unrivaled outdoor experiences that are central to Alaskans’ quality of life.*



[www.AlaskaWild.org](http://www.AlaskaWild.org)

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