

PROGRAM & PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS continued...

ADF&G, Division of Habitat Receives the 2009 Tileston Award

The Division of Habitat received the Tileston Award on behalf of the department on October 1, during a reception in Anchorage. The award was given jointly to ADF&G and Fort Knox in recognition of their cooperative efforts to repair aquatic habitat altered from past mining activities in Fish Creek near Fairbanks. Their cooperative efforts established a viable Arctic grayling population in Fish Creek and reversed Fish Creek's listing as an Impaired Water Body.

Habitat Director Kerry Howard and Habitat Operations Manager Al Ott received the Tileston Award on behalf of the department.

"We are honored to receive this award," said Al. "Our Fairbanks Habitat staff are committed to continue to work with Fort Knox to maintain and enhance the aquatic and upland habitats in the Fish Creek valley for both fish and wildlife."

Though the mine has brought an estimated \$250 million economic boost to Fairbanks and Alaska, the mine's restoration work can be considered priceless, according to Lorna Shaw, Community Outreach Director, Fort Knox.



"It is impossible to place a dollar value on the results of reclamation efforts, but the intrinsic value of clean water and a productive fishery cannot be overstated," said Shaw. "In addition to the current benefits realized downstream, the economic benefits will carry their strengthening influence far into the future."

The Tileston Award is a uniquely Alaskan award established to honor organizations, individuals, and/or businesses that create solutions and innovations advancing the goals of economic development and environmental protection. The Alaska Conservation Alliance (ACA) and the Resource Development Council (RDC) established the award in 2008. The ACA and RDC both agree that economic development and environmental stewardship are not mutually exclusive goals. The award celebrates resource developers whose success is measured both in their positive effect on our jobs and economy as well as our environment. It is named after long-time Alaskan conservationist Peg Tileston and her long-time husband and former state mining director Jules Tileston.

Other award recipients included Alyeska Seafoods, Westward Seafoods, and Unisea Inc., for their processing and use of high quality fish oil in their plant operations. In addition, a 50 percent blend of the oil is used in the Unalaska diesel generators and steam boilers, and is exported for other uses.

The Resource Development Council is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization made up of businesses and individuals from all resource sectors, as well as Native corporations, support sectors, labor unions, and local governments. Through the Council these interests work together to promote and support responsible development of Alaska's resources.

The Alaska Conservation Alliance is the statewide umbrella group for approximately 40 member organizations with a combined membership of over 38,000 Alaskans. The Alliance unites Alaska's conservation community to speak with one strong voice in the State Capitol.

