



Russia offered to sell Alaska to the United States in 1859, believing the United States would off-set the designs of Russia's greatest rival in the Pacific, Great Britain. The looming U.S. Civil War delayed the sale, but after the war, Secretary of State William Seward quickly took up a renewed Russian offer. On March 30th, 1867, the two parties agreed that the United States would pay Russia \$7.2 million for the territory of Alaska: less than 2 cents an acre. Opponents of the Alaska Purchase persisted in calling it "Seward's Folly" until 1896. Alaska became a state on January 3, 1959.

One of the West's most important regional agricultural conferences will be held in Anchorage, Alaska July 28th – August 1, 2013.

As President of Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture (WASDA), I am honored to host the 2013 annual conference in the Land of the Midnight Sun at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage Alaska. This meeting brings leaders of state and provincial departments of agriculture representing the 13 western states (Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming), American Samoa, Guan our Canadian affiliates of Albert and British Columbia and other United States Department of Agriculture dignitaries and staff together to discuss agricultural policy issues important to the region and country. It also provides an excellent opportunity to showcase Alaska's beauty and its abundant natural resources.

I am pleased to provide you the opportunity to welcome this group of agricultural dignitaries to Alaska by helping sponsor the 2013 WASDA Summer Conference. Please review the enclosed sponsorship brochure for the listing of opportunities. Feel free to contact my office with any questions or additional opportunities your organization may wish you discuss. Thank you for your commitment to agriculture and your dedication to preserving our heritage and outstanding quality of life.

Franci Havemeister, Director – Alaska Division of Agriculture
President . Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture

Gold Nugget

Far to the north, the discovery of gold at Anvil Creek in 1898 brought thousands of fortune seekers -- including Wyatt Earp -- to the Nome area. Then gold was discovered on Nome's beaches, and gold seekers continue to make finds there today.

Iditarod

From Anchorage, in south central Alaska, to Nome on the western Bering Sea coast, each team of 12 to 16 dogs and their musher cover over *1,049 miles in 10 to 17 days.

Denali

Denali is six million acres of wild land, bisected by one ribbon of road. Travelers along it see the relatively low-elevation taiga forest give way to high alpine tundra and snowy mountains, culminating in North America's tallest peak, 20,320' Mount McKinley. Wild animals large and small roam unfenced lands, living as they have for ages.

Caribou

There are approximately 900,000 wild caribou in Alaska. Caribou have large, concave hoofs that spread widely to support the animal in snow and soft tundra. The feet also function as paddles when caribou swim.

Klondike/Chilkoot Pass

One of the most famous photos from the gold rush era shows a long line of miners struggling up Chilkoot Pass on the Chilkoot Trail near Skagway.

Alaska Fish

Alaska's commercial fisheries are the most productive and valuable in the nation, with a wholesale value of over \$3 billion.

SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION



WASDA 2013

Anchorage, Alaska



Contacts

LORA HARALSON
907-761-3851
LORA.HARALSON@ALASKA.GOV

CURT SANDVIK
907-761-3866
CURT.SANDVIK@ALASKA.GOV



Sponsorship Information for WASDA 2013

HOSTED BY: DIRECTOR FRANCI HAVEMEISTER, ALASKA DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE
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SPONSORSHIP

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JULY 28, 2013 – AUGUST 1, 2013

Sponsorship Levels

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Denali Sponsor - \$3,000

Includes one "Non-Member" and one "Spouse/Guest" Registration.

Caribou Sponsor - \$2,000

Includes one "Non-Member" Registration.

Klondike/Chilkoot Pass Sponsor - \$1,000

Includes two tickets to the Farewell Dinner.

Alaska Fish Sponsor – up to \$500

Includes one ticket to the Farewell Dinner.

In-kind or product donations are welcome.
Please contact us for more information 907-761-3851.

All sponsors will receive appropriate recognition.

Western Association of State Departments of
Agriculture 2013 Summer Meeting
Anchorage, Alaska
July 28, 2013 to August 1, 2013

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Fax: 1(703)880-0509 ATTN: Megan McDonald
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