



DONLIN GOLD

NEWSLETTER
JANUARY/
FEBRUARY 2014



CONGRATULATIONS
TO ALL PARTICIPANTS
OF THE DONLIN
GOLD BASKETBALL
CLASSIC



LOOKING AHEAD IN 2014: PERMITTING PROCESS CONTINUES

The Donlin Gold project is currently moving through the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) phase of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) environmental review process. An EIS is a decision-making process that analyzes and presents the potential effects of a proposed major federal action. In the case of the Donlin Gold project, the proposed federal action is the issuance of a permit by the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The NEPA environmental review process requires public involvement, which gives the public opportunities to comment on the proposed project and the results of the environmental review. USACE is the lead agency in the preparation of the EIS. They are working with cooperating agencies to evaluate plans and permits and will present alternatives for the project. Cooperating agencies include:

- **Federal:** Environmental Protection Agency, Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration;
- **State of Alaska:** Department of Natural Resources, Department of Environmental Conservation and the Department of Fish and Game;
- **Tribal:** Native Villages of Crooked Creek, Chuathbaluk, Lower Kalskag, Napaimute, Akiak, Aniak and the Knik Tribal Council.

The Donlin Gold project EIS process will take years to complete and involves many steps. The process begins with scoping, during which the public is invited

CONTINUED INSIDE: "PERMITTING PROCESS CONTINUES"

Donlin Gold looks forward to conducting school and village visits in 2014. As dates and locations become finalized, we will post them at [Facebook.com/DonlinGold](https://www.facebook.com/DonlinGold) and at www.DonlinGold.com.

Face to Face *with Stan Foo*

Public input is a very important part of our planning process, and we would like to hear from you.

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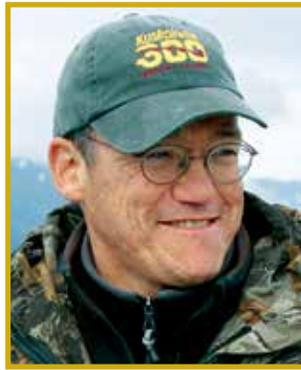
Find us on Facebook at

[Facebook.com/DonlinGold](https://www.facebook.com/DonlinGold)

For more project information visit us online at www.DonlinGold.com

To voice concerns or complaints about the project contact us at complaint@DonlinGold.com or (855) 279-0382

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This time of year marks the season of snowmachine and sled dog races that test the endurance and skill of participants. In January, several of us were able to attend and volunteer at the K300 in Bethel and to meet some of the racers. The dedication and attention to detail the racers have is evident when I see them or have an opportunity to talk with them before a race. These racers are successful because of their careful planning, preparation, training, attention to safety and awareness. I think these are common themes we at Donlin Gold share with the racers, and one of the many reasons we are glad to be able to support them.

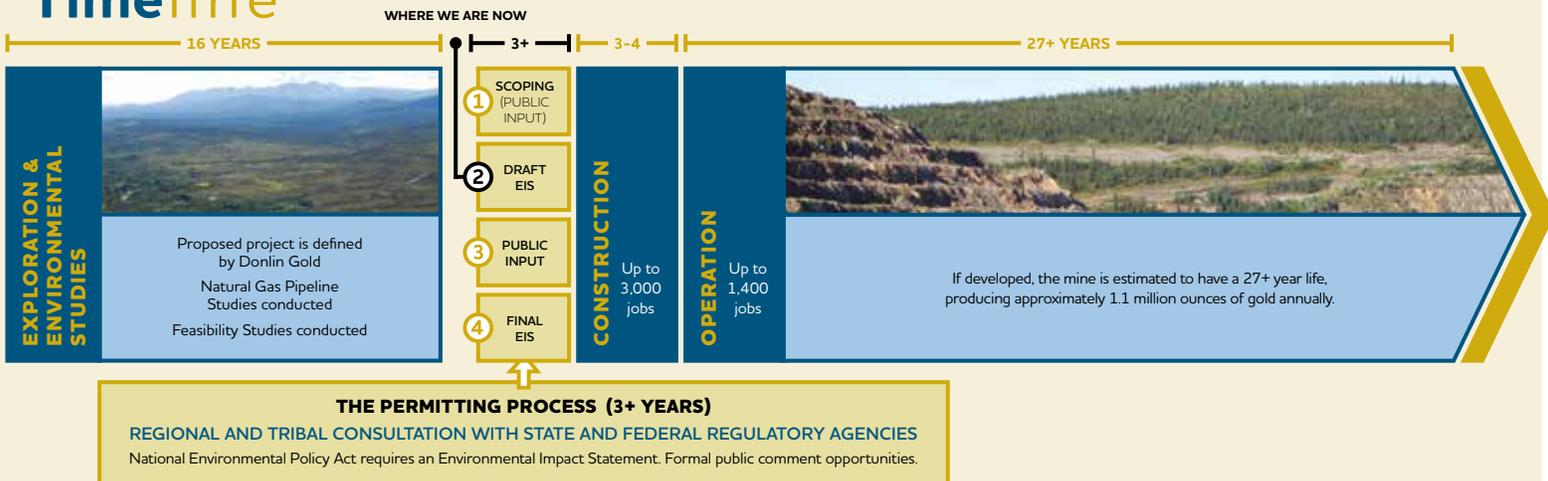
We have planned the Donlin Gold project based on 16 years of thoughtful and well-planned environmental studies and surveys. Using study results and best available technology allows us to prepare to construct and operate in an extreme environment. Further, we realize that in order to honor our commitment to local hire, we must do our part to continue planning and preparing for the appropriate training that is necessary for future employees to succeed.

Safety is imperative when running a snowmachine or sled dog race—and is a key factor that many of you know is the foundation of everything we do at Donlin Gold. One example is our Field Level Risk Assessments (FLRA) that we complete before any task is undertaken in the field. Performing an FLRA has become second nature to our crews and can help identify something as simple as the right tools or not having water, food or extra gloves before taking off for the day to conduct fieldwork. Taking a moment to consider if you have everything you need for a task before you do it can mean the difference between being safe and possibly injuring yourself.

I hope you will all be safe and enjoy the upcoming races and community events as our winter continues with unpredictable and sometimes unseasonably warm weather.

Stan Foo
General Manager
Donlin Gold

Timeline



DONLIN GOLD SUPPORTS EDUCATION AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT IN 2014

Donlin Gold's goals and commitments are to hire as many local, qualified residents as possible. We are dedicated to helping youth in the region prepare themselves for the potential jobs that would become available should the project be developed.

In 2014, we will continue to support programs and scholarships that prepare youth and the community for potential job opportunities at Donlin Gold.

Donlin Gold is sponsoring the youth Academic and Trades Decathlon in Aniak this spring through the Kuspuk School District and will host a youth camp at the project site to give students an understanding of future career opportunities. Donlin Gold is also a major sponsor of the Calista Heritage Foundation scholarship, the Kuskokwim Education Foundation scholarship and the Kuskokwim Native Association fisheries internship program.

In addition, Donlin Gold provides support to the Alaska Native Science and Engineering Program (ANSEP) at the University of Alaska, donates personal dictionaries to every third grader in the

YK region, supplies Yup'ik dictionaries to rural school libraries, and distributes Alaska SeaLife Center distance learning science courses to schools.

By investing in regional youth education, Donlin Gold strengthens its commitment to supporting YK communities. ■



The National Guard and Iron Dog join Boise Alexie and Meg Day for a workforce development presentation at the King Career Center in January

JOIN DONLIN GOLD'S TALENT BANK

Donlin Gold is focused on building a local workforce while the project is in the permitting process. If agencies issue permits that approve the project for development, thousands of positions would be available during construction and operation of the mine. Donlin Gold is committed to filling these positions with as many qualified residents from the YK region as possible.

To get a general idea of the current skills, job experience and education residents from the region have, Donlin Gold created a Talent Bank on its website where people can provide this information. Providing this information will help Donlin Gold plan for training and education that may be needed in the region to maximize local hire.

Please fill out and submit your work history profile information in the Talent Bank section of our website by visiting www.DonlinGold.com/employees. Additionally, we can mail a physical copy for you to fill out and return. Contact Doreena at (907) 273-0200 or (888) 225-7590.

Your talent bank profile is not an application for employment, but the information will help Donlin Gold plan and prepare for future local workforce development needs. All of the information submitted is kept confidential.

Permitting is expected to take a minimum of three years. During this time, residents can start preparing themselves with the training and education they will need to have an opportunity to join the Donlin Gold team. Donlin Gold will help direct residents to the programs and training resources available that will support them in becoming a desired job applicant. ■

HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LEARN SAFETY AND SURVIVAL SKILLS IN WILDERNESS SURVIVAL CHALLENGE

The weather in the Yukon Kuskokwim (YK) delta can be brutal and change without warning. To promote safety among YK residents, Donlin Gold recently sponsored a Wilderness Survival Challenge course for high school students in Aniak and Bethel taught by the National American Outdoor Institute (NAOI) team of Wasilla. The one-day course included volunteers from Donlin Gold, the Bethel Fire Department, Alaska State Troopers, the Bethel Police Department and Bethel Search and Rescue.

Over thirty students in Aniak and more than seventy in Bethel learned important survival skills through an “adventure scenario” that taught them planning, preparation and skills for a hypothetical day trip in the YK region.

After being assigned a scenario such as a trip by snowmachine to a local village, the students were taught preparation skills. Instructors showed them a topographical map and compass and reviewed the importance of understanding terrain to avoid getting lost. Instructors also emphasized obtaining a weather forecast, packing correctly and making a trip plan.

Next, the students were given a challenge such as responding to a medical emergency, building a survival shelter or making a fire. Working in teams, the participants took thirty minutes to respond to the emergency with coaching from instructors. Each mock challenge was pertinent to the YK delta. Students were taught how to read ice conditions and learned how to identify and treat hypothermia, specifically the 1-10-1 survival rule (one minute to get in control of yourself, ten minutes to get yourself out of the situation and one hour until complete body shutdown).

Volunteers told their own survival stories while Bethel Search and Rescue presenters shared local knowledge and safety skills. One volunteer brought a snowmobile properly prepared for a trip and went through each item he brings on a wilderness adventure.

As a major supporter of Bethel Search and Rescue, Donlin Gold is pleased to have sponsored this worthwhile course for Aniak and Bethel students in support of regional safety. ■



Photos from top to bottom: Wilderness Survival Challenge participants learn how to make a pulley using rope; teaching the importance of carefully transporting people who have been in accidents; Sam Samuelson of Bethel Search and Rescue tells his wilderness survival story; making a neck stabilizer with helmets and duct tape

Continued from front page
“PERMITTING PROCESS CONTINUES”

to comment on the proposed project and voice concerns or provide other insights. The Donlin Gold scoping period was completed by the agencies last year between January and March. Scoping is followed by the development of a Draft EIS document, which includes a scientific review by the cooperating agencies of project alternatives and potential impacts. Public and agency comments on the Draft EIS will be collected and considered in the Final EIS. The process is completed with a Record of Decision.

For updates and more information about the US Army Corps of Engineers’ EIS for the Donlin Gold project please visit www.DonlinGoldEIS.com ■

WHO ARE THEY?	WHAT DO THEY DO?
LEAD AGENCY US Army Corps of Engineers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leads the NEPA process and issues a Record of Decision
COOPERATING AGENCIES <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bureau of Land Management US Fish and Wildlife Service Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration Environmental Protection Agency Alaska Department of Natural Resources Village of Crooked Creek Village of Lower Kalskag Knik Tribal Council Native Village of Chuathbaluk Native Village of Napaimute 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special expertise to offer on an environmental issue Jurisdiction (the authority to make decisions and judgments such as permitting authority) Cooperating Agencies are responsible for assisting the Lead Agency by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participating in scoping - Developing information and preparing environmental analyses - Making staff available to support the Lead Agency
STAKEHOLDERS General public AK Native organizations Local and regional interest groups Mining industry State and federal agencies Other interested people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask questions, identify concerns, and share ideas to help shape the direction of the EIS analysis during the scoping process. Share substantive comments on the draft EIS during the comment period.
APPLICANT Donlin Gold	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Requests the federal permit that started the EIS process. Pays for the cost of the EIS preparation.



Team 19: Gux Laroux and Steven Boney

DONLIN GOLD HELPS SPONSOR IRON DOG RACERS

This year, two YK residents, Gux Laroux and Steven Boney, participated in the Iron Dog race with the support of Donlin Gold. Covering more than 2000 miles, the snowmachine race begins in Big Lake and passes through Nome before finishing in Fairbanks. 2014 is an important year for the Iron Dog race because it is its 30th anniversary.

Donlin Gold sponsored Team 19 for the third year in a row. This team is comprised of two mushers, both born and raised in Bethel.

Gux is a 31-year-old US Coast Guard veteran, and this was his third year running the Iron Dog. Gux enjoys subsistence activities, traveling the Kuskokwim River and spending time with his two nephews.

2014 was also Steven’s third Iron Dog. He is a private pilot and a 17-year Yamaha snowmachine mechanic. Steven has a wife and three daughters who cheered him on.

Donlin Gold is a premier sponsor of the Iron Dog, and hosts the Donlin Gold Safety Expo in conjunction with the race. We congratulate all competitors on a safe and successful race. ■



Gux and Steven at the start of the Iron Dog



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IN THIS NEWSLETTER **WILDERNESS CHALLENGE COURSE**



Aniak participants of the North America Outdoor Institute's Wilderness Survival Challenge

Donlin Gold wishes a safe Iditarod race to the emerging leaders and dedicated role models from the YK region.
GOOD LUCK TO THE "DELTA FORCE"



Pete Kaiser
 BETHEL



Mike Williams, Jr.
 AKIAK



Richie Diehl
 ANIAK

DONLIN GOLD IS COMMITTED TO CREATING A SAFE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY RESPONSIBLE MINING PROJECT THAT PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR FAMILIES IN THE YUKON KUSKOKWIM REGION TO LIVE IN HEALTHY AND PROSPEROUS COMMUNITIES