



Matanuska Watershed View

Quarterly Newsletter by Castle Mountain Coalition

December 2013

A Look Back on 2013

What a great year for Castle Mountain Coalition and for everyone who calls the Matanuska River watershed home. Not only did coal stay in the ground, but our organization and our coalition partners gained even more supporters for a coal-free future from all corners of the Mat-Su.

MineWatch

Our pilot program was a huge success! With 18 amazing local volunteers, we launched a visible campaign in Chickaloon that helped keep Riversdale Alaska accountable to the law. Much like a neighborhood watch program, MineWatch empowers residents to keep an eye on coal mine site activities and trains them to file violations when needed.



Thank you to the residents who helped launch our first year. We learned a lot about how to make the program an even bigger success in 2014.

We plan to expand the program to cover Jonesville and Wishbone Hill so please email Jamey at director@castlemountain.org if you are interested in being a MineWatch volunteer!

CMC Board of Directors

Kirby Spangler- President
Jessica Winnestaffer- Secretary
Shawna Whaley- Treasurer
Jed Workman- Member
Krista Maciolek- Member

**Interested in joining the board?
We are looking for new members!
Email us at board@castlemountain.org.**



Please join us as we honor the folks who started it all at our first ever

CMC Founders Celebration!

When: Friday, December 13th, 6pm-8pm

Where: Chickaloon Community Center

A Look Back continued...

Summer Hiking Series

It was an absolutely beautiful summer for hiking and enjoying all the wonderful natural resources our area has to offer. CMC launched a summer full of free hiking tours with themes like fossil hunting, cultural history, and plant identification. By providing new and interesting ways to invite people to the proposed coal mine sites, we were able to introduce Wishbone Hill, Jonesville, and Castle Mountain to folks from all over the Valley and Anchorage in a way that demonstrated why we love it here so much.

We had so much fun we plan to do it again! Check out our Facebook page and website sometime in April for the new 2014 summer hiking schedule.



Cultural History Hike



Plant Identification Hike



Mushroom Hike

2nd Annual Castle Mountain Harvest Festival

From pie eating contests to fermentation demonstrations to fresh locally grown foods, we love celebrating the harvest and all that our diverse area brings to the Mat-Su! Over 200 people came and supported our rally cry of “Carrots Not Coal!” Don’t miss out next year as we have live local music, more local farm veggies, and Matt the Moose to delight the kiddos!



Amazing fresh farm veggies



Pie eating contest



Matt the Moose at the carrot cake contest

We had a great year with all of you and are happy to report that coal remains in the ground in all three proposed coal mine sites.

Thank you to everyone who hiked, volunteered, and celebrated with us throughout the year.

We at Castle Mountain Coalition look forward to a new year of protecting the Matanuska River watershed while promoting the great things about our communities that we love.

Let's Keep it Going!

Castle Mountain Coalition has so many great projects planned for 2014. But we need your help to keep it going! Please consider making a contribution to CMC today!



Here is how you can help:



Make a direct donation: Fill out the included envelope or go online to our website to donate via paypal.

Online Store (coming soon!): We will have t-shirts, cool camo-styled hats and beautiful scenic postcards available for purchase on our website. Great for gifts!

Go online at www.castlemountain.org to contribute today!

Thank you from the CMC Board of Directors.

**Castle Mountain Coalition
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