

Friends of Mat Su Annual Report 2010

For the fiscal year ending
December 31, 2009



*Friends of Mat Su
provides land use information,
advocates for community planning,
promotes citizen involvement and
offers tools and support to develop
a healthy and vibrant community.*

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President's Message

In the following pages we provide an update on FoMS' activity during this past year to put into perspective how important all your contributions have been.

And for many who have been working with FoMS for nearly 12 years, the expansion of our work since those early days is worth contemplating.

As we move forward into a changing political and economic Mat-Su scene, FoMS remains dedicated to our founding principles, the most important of which is to support forums where dialogue can occur and actually produce a better planning process.

Enjoy the report.

And when you've had a chance to digest its content let us know what you think about our work and suggest how we might be even better.

Thanks,

Mike

FoMS' Board of Directors

Mike Chmielewski, President
Phil Munger, Secretary
Sid McCausland, Treasurer
Bill Mohrwinkel
Murph O'Brien
Joe Irvine

Served in 2009:

Jim Klauer
Mary Barrett
David Van Holstyn

Joined in 2010:

Fay Von Gemmingen
Ralph Baldwin



Executive Director's Report

- ❖ FoMS is in year 12 of our Land Use Planning Advocacy—We are focused on a thorough public process that is based on informing the public with accurate and pertinent facts and encouraging their active participation in all issues. 2009 was another busy year for FoMS. Below are some of the highlights of our work in the community.

Successful completion of the draft green infrastructure plan for the core area of the Mat-Su through a MSB contract in Summer 2009;

Advocacy for Agriculture matching funds for federal programs to purchase development rights and additional options for saving farmland such as establishing a stewardship funds account and land donations;

Continuing participation in Borough working groups with a diversity of members, such as the Tall structures ordinance and drainage section of the rewrite of the borough construction manual;

Steering Committee member for the Mat-Su Salmon Conservation Partnership and participant on the Outreach Committee, assisted with the draft strategic outreach plan;

Working in partnership with the Nature Conservancy, USFWS, Greatland Trust, Conservation Fund & Farmland trust to develop a Collaborative Land Protection Strategy for the Mat-Su Basin;

Completed USFWS funded Big Lake Watershed Education project grant work in Summer 2009, with Margaret Adsit, our former student intern as lead person;

Received DEC ACWA program project funding for 2009-2010 to inform the public and residential and commercial property owners living on Wasilla Lake about best management practices for living along water bodies, kicked off the project with a Wasilla Lake Appreciation Day, planning a Mid-April door knocking campaign to land owners around the lake to pass out information, will wrap up with a shoreline restoration project on Wasilla Lake with assistance from Alaska Fish & Game, Wasilla Soil & Water Conservation District, students & City of Wasilla, & are collaborating on developing interpretive signs for the shoreline project with assistance from APU staff and students;

Upon request, provided a green infrastructure presentation to the Buffalo Mine/Soapstone Community Council for their consideration as they develop a comprehensive plan.

- ❖ Items/Issues to watch and weigh in on for 2010:
 - Hatcher Pass Management Plan Update & Ski Area Project
 - Susitna—Matanuska Area Plan
 - Tall Structures ordinance
 - Water quality setback ordinance
 - Title 17 rewrite
 - Flex Zoning
 - Green Infrastructure planning
 - Coal mining in the Sutton and Wishbone Lake areas
- ❖ Thank you to our board of directors and to, now former Projects Coordinator, Mimi Peabody; Margaret Adsit, our Contractor on the Big Lake Project; and to the most amazing volunteer the past two months, the acting Projects Coordinator Heather McCausland—we hope to hire her soon.
- ❖ Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have an issue we should be aware of, or concerns about what is going on.
- ❖ Your ideas and energy can only help us get better, so please contact us to volunteer and to offer us feedback.
- ❖ Thank you for your dedication and commitment to land use planning issues, for rising to the task of involvement through submitting comments and testimony, for your membership dues and donations.
- ❖ Stay informed. Stay involved. We couldn't do it without you!

Kathy Wells
Executive Director



Treasurer's Report

REVENUES:

30% of our Revenue comes from our members. Your donations are critical to our credibility in the eyes of the foundations and government agencies that help fund our work. Your dues give us official standing. Your donations give us the resources to pay our staff and educate the public.

The Alaska Conservation Foundation has been particularly supportive of FoMS' efforts to nurture open government and environmentally aware planning in the Mat Su.

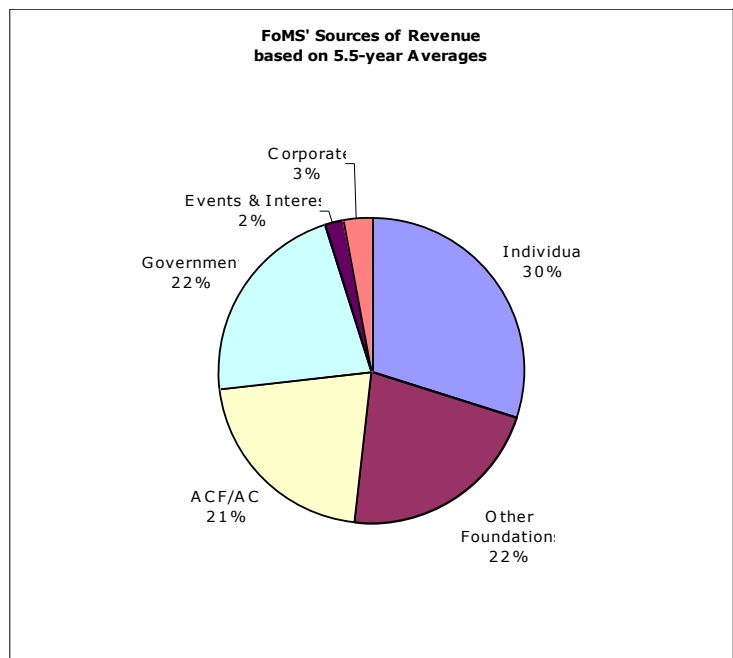
We are grateful for support over the years from the following organizations (some of which are no longer contributing): Patagonia, Pumpkin Hill, True North, Alaska Center for the Environment, Jessica Stevens Community Foundation/BP Exploration, Fred Meyer, Royal Bank of Canada, Kodak Greenways, Walmart & Carr-Gottstein.

As described in our Executive Director's Report, we have been honored to provide contract project services to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ACWA), the US Fish & Wildlife Service and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

EXPENDITURES:

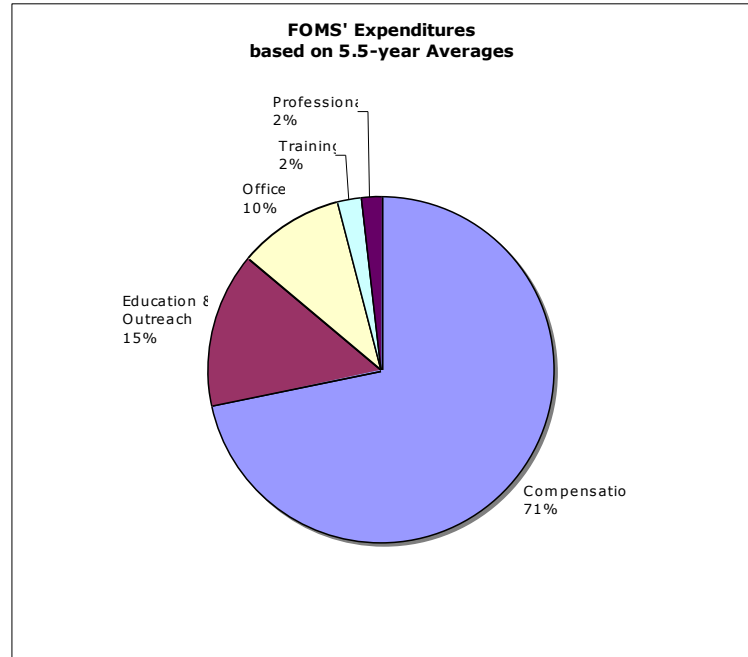
Compensation constitutes nearly ¾'s of FoMS expenditures. Yet our employees receive no fringe benefits and are paid for part-time services. Most FoMS' Compensation expenditures can be allocated to our Education & Outreach programs, as our administrative activities are minimal.

Our Education & Outreach Programs include a broad range of services, most of which are referred to in our Executive Director's Report.



	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	08Last6	2009*	Average	2010
Individual	17,141	24,491	20,821	26,705	7,475	19,966	21,200	24,100
Foundations	14,450	19,000	16,500	7,000	13,500	13,000	15,173	27,000
Government	12,000	0	22,300	821	15,430	32,678	15,133	21,900
ACF/ACE	25,540	18,500	8,000	19,386	0	9,000	14,623	9,000
Corporate	1,700	1,100	2,700	2,100	1,000	1,762	1,884	2,500
Events (Net)	0	0	0	0	4,305	344	845	4,000
Interest, etc	172	617	1,446	1,475	346	464	822	300
TOTAL REVENUE	71,003	63,708	71,767	57,487	42,056	77,214	69,679	88,800

*FoMS changed to Calendar Fiscal Year on 1/1/09



	FY05	FY06	FY07	FY08	08Last6	2009*	Average
Compensation	55,601	38,282	48,777	51,844	33,814	61,015	52,606
Education & Outreach	6,012	6,548	10,875	8,923	8,731	17,848	10,716
Office	5,609	4,467	8,397	8,018	4,076	8,063	7,024
Training	1,994	752	2,205	2,791	222	575	1,553
Professional Services	978	1,933	1,831	1,902	541	1,216	1,527
TOTAL EXPENSE	70,196	51,982	72,085	73,478	47,384	88,717	73,426

*FoMS changed to Calendar Fiscal Year on 1/1/09

NET REVENUES / LOSSES:

Expenditures have exceeded Revenues by approximately \$21,000 over the last 2½ fiscal years. These are challenging times.

We have weathered this storm because of the prudent rainy day funds accumulated in years past by our Board and Executive Director.

Our future is totally dependent upon the generosity of our Friends.

FoMS Comparative Balance Sheet

	6/30/08	12/31/08	12/31/09
ASSETS			
Money Market	17,460	17,443	27,027
Checking	3,267	3,278	866
Savings	39	39	39
CD	10,907	11,079	
Petty Cash	250	250	
TOTAL ASSETS	31,923	32,088	27,932
LIABILITIES & EQUITY			
Liabilities	228	624	687
Opening Retained Earnings	47,686	32,347	31,312
Net Income	(15,991)	(883)	(4,067)
Equity	31,695	31,464	27,245
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	31,923	32,088	27,932

DISCLOSURE:

FoMS is in compliance with all applicable registration and filing requirements.

FoMS is a 501(C)3 tax-exempt non-profit corporation incorporated under the laws of the State of Alaska.

Copies of our IRS Form 990's are available for review by appointment with me in our office.

FoMS switched from a June 30th to a December 31st fiscal year effective January 1, 2009.

FoMS utilizes cash basis accounting. Our accounting services are provided by REM Data Services.

Respectfully submitted,

Sid McCausland

Treasurer



Our Challenge

As unfettered development erodes the natural wonder of our Borough, we need FoMS on the front lines, fighting for environmentally sound and economically sustainable growth.

Each issue FoMS embraces is important to the future of our quality of life in the Mat-Su. FoMS' survival is important to each of us. Look around. No other group is standing in the wings willing to speak up for open government and land use planning.

Our membership is the key to our credibility in the halls of power. You are the key to our credibility. To continue as an effective Valley Voice for the Future, we need you. Your donations help FoMS rally the growing cadre of residents who understand government's impact

on our quality of life and who believe our Valley-lifestyle is worth protecting.

When FoMS speaks, our elected officials, public servants and developers incorporate many of our recommendations into their decisions. Our credibility with community councils, government agencies, developers, corporations and foundations results from our staff's accessibility, cooperation, knowledge and professionalism.

In 2009 **BP Exploration** partnered with the **Jessica Stevens Community Foundation** to fund nearly \$100,000 in Challenge Grants for 20 Mat-Su nonprofits. The Challenge was designed to encourage more individuals to help finance their communities' grass roots organizations. You met the Challenge by raising \$20,080 for

FoMS. 76% of you who donated increased your donations and new members' dues by an average of 45%. Donations and dues exceeded our "normal" expectations by \$6,400, based on your contributions during 2008 and the first 10 months of 2009. Our membership increased by about 10%. Your generosity led to a \$6,500 matching grant from the Foundation.

Your donations and the Jessica Stevens grant were important to FoMS' survival in 2009, as we still ended the year with a \$4,000 gap between revenues and expenditures. Yet our budget is frugal. Our "part-time", dedicated, professional staff is underpaid and overworked.

It takes a Friend to make a Friend

You can help FoMS grow. Please share FoMS' story with your friends. FoMS' future is in the hands of people who understand the importance of having reasonable guidelines for development in the Matanuska, Susitna and Knik Valleys.

If we are going to plan for the future, we must grow in numbers, strength and organization.

Many corporations offer employees the opportunity to direct charitable contributions. BP offers employee-match and employee-directed giving programs. Conoco-Philips, Alaska Railroad and others have similar programs. Does yours?

Please consider a monthly donation to FoMS through your financial institution's bill-pay service. It is relatively painless and adds up to a great tax-free donation.

And remember Friends of Mat-Su when it comes time for Pick-Click-Give on the Permanent Fund website.

Tell a friend.

Our website contains information that may be helpful as you explain FoMS' importance to our future. It takes a Friend to make a Friend.

FoMS' Friends will decide our fate. Your contributions make a difference. Please continue your support for Friends of Mat Su.

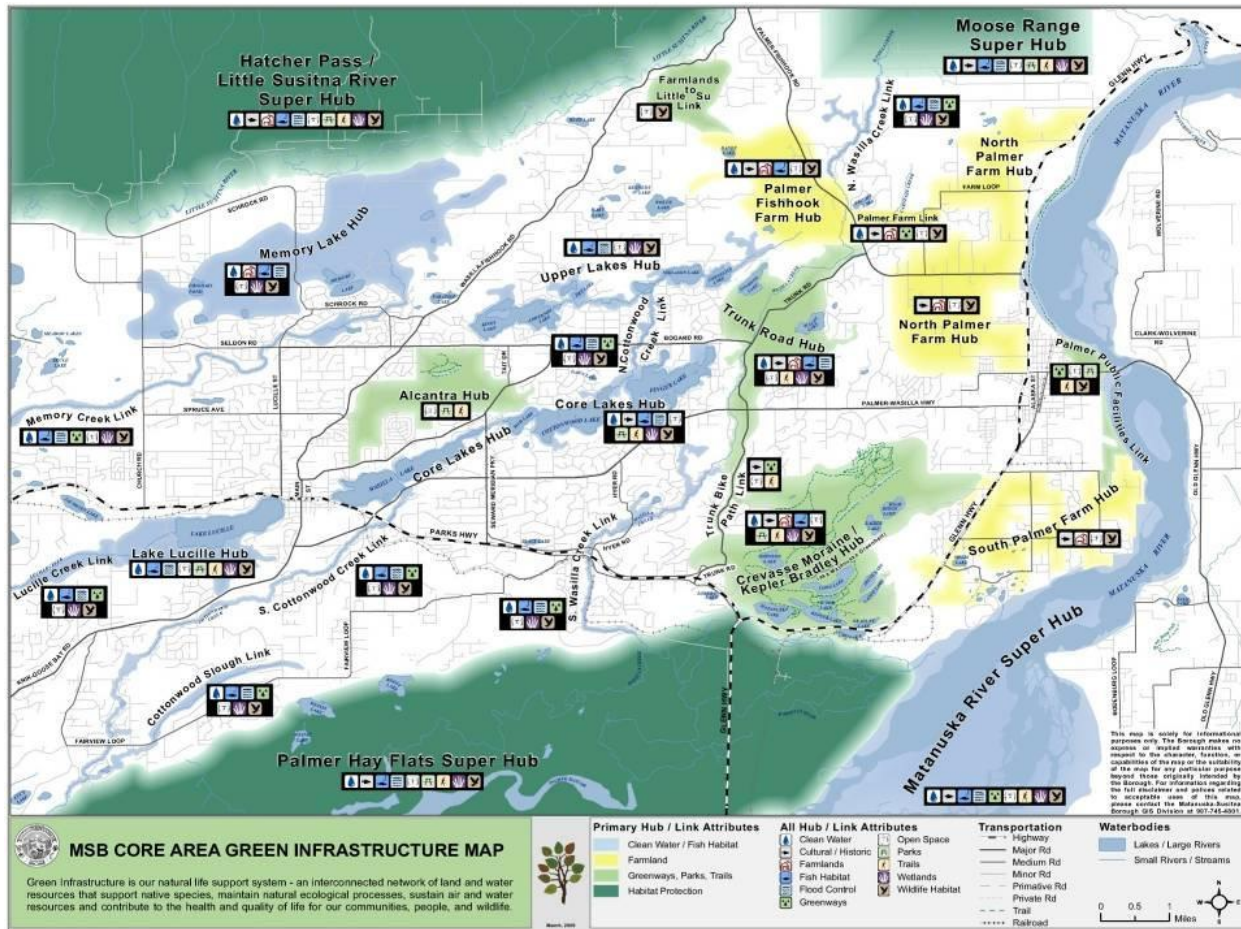


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Friends of Mat-Su
PO Box 116, Palmer, AK 99645-0116
Check us out on the web at foms.net.

Send us e-mails with your concerns regarding Valley issues at foms@mtaonline.net.

Mat-Su Borough Core Area Green Infrastructure Resources

The Borough contracted with FoMS to help citizen volunteer planning teams catalogue the Core Area's Green Infrastructure hubs, links and other resources. Green Infrastructure is nature's gift. We can incorporate it into our development plans or we can bulldoze it and replace it with expensive manmade infrastructure. This map is the culmination of community-based work sessions. It has been incorporated into the Borough's planning process.



Green Infrastructure-sensitive Subdivision Design

The subdivision map on the left is typical of Valley subdivisions. The map on the right stresses the importance of the natural terrain, flora and fauna. The subdivision on the right preserves the unique features of the site, optimizes view & wildlife corridors & common areas, incorporates trails & community facilities, manages runoff while recharging the aquifer, requires less land clearing & lowers manmade infrastructure costs.

