

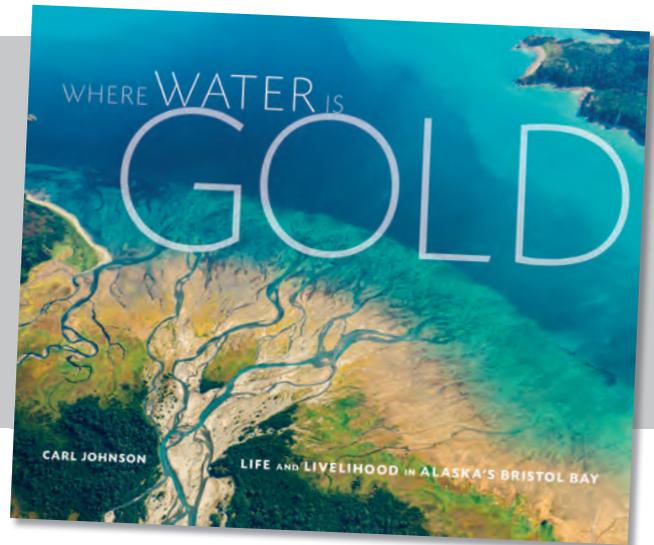


WHERE WATER IS GOLD

LIFE AND LIVELIHOOD IN ALASKA'S BRISTOL BAY

CARL JOHNSON

AVAILABLE IN AUGUST



The mine is stopped for now—but for how long?

- A story of David versus Goliath: an historic and sustainable core fishery versus boom-and-bust corporate mineral extractors
- Combines photos, interviews, science, and prose to reveal the cultural, natural, Native, and historical richness of Bristol Bay
- Nearly half of America's wild-seafood catch—valued at \$2.5 billion annually—comes from Bristol Bay.

Bristol Bay is a region in southwestern Alaska renowned as the most significant source of wild sockeye salmon in the world, as well as of other species of Pacific salmon and herring. Unfortunately, it also contains other valuable resources: gold, copper, and molybdenum (a metal used to make steel alloys), and the extraction of these minerals would likely destroy the world-class commercial and recreational fisheries essential not only to the people who call this region home, but far beyond as well. Mining development threatens Native tribes and the salmon-based subsistence way of life that has sustained them for 4000 years. In addition to millions of migrating salmon, Bristol Bay provides important habitat for many other species including millions of seabirds, sea otters, seals, walruses, Beluga and Orca whales, and the endangered North Pacific Right whales.

Conservation in competition with development is a well-worn theme in Alaska, and nowhere is this more apparent than in the battle over Bristol Bay—exemplified by the proposed Pebble Mine. But Bristol Bay's mineral wealth is not the fabled nuggets of Alaskan lore; rather, it is extracted as fine particles through an industrial process that includes pulverizing ore and using cyanide and other chemicals to separate the valuable metals. Mountains of rocky spoils would be created, while highly toxic wastewater would require large containment ponds. Miles of streams would be excavated or buried under waste rock.

The Pebble project is located at the headwaters of the two largest tributaries of the Bristol Bay watershed—a watershed whose ecological resources generate \$500 million in economic benefits annually, and provides more than 14,000 full and part-time jobs.

Where Water Is Gold illustrates just what is at stake through Carl Johnson's stunning photography and informative and lyrical essays by Bill Sherwonit, Nick Jans, Steve Kahn and Anne Coray, Dave Atcheson, and Erin McKittrick.

Photographer **Carl Johnson** has served as the artist-in-residence for Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve, Badlands National Park, and Rocky Mountain National Park. In 2010, he was named the "Environmental Issues" category winner for the Windland Smith Rice International Awards sponsored by Nature's Best Photography. His winning piece, "Wolf Tracks on Ice," highlights the challenges of aggressive wolf predator control programs and was on display at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, DC. Carl lives in Anchorage, Alaska. His work can be seen online at www.carljohnsonphoto.com and at www.WhereWaterIsGold.com.

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TOP: Producing almost fifty percent of the world's sockeye salmon supply, 12,000 jobs and \$1.5 billion in annual revenue, Bristol Bay is a robust, sustainable, and diverse region for commercial fishing. The Bristol Bay commercial fishery has been supporting families since the late 1800s, with several families having four and five generations of active fishermen.

MIDDLE, LEFT: The Bristol Bay region hosts the largest state park in the United States (Wood-Tikchik State Park), two national parks (Lake Clark National Park & Preserve and Katmai National Park & Preserve), and three national wildlife refuges (Togiak NWR, Becharof NWR and Alaska Peninsula NWR). Together, these six preserves alone provide 19.1 million acres of access to rivers, streams, lakes, bays, mountains and tundra to hike, paddle, and float.

BOTTOM: The region also boasts one of the highest concentrations of brown bears in the world in Katmai National Park & Preserve, shown here at Brooks Falls.

