



**State of Alaska**  
**Governor's Denali Peak Performance Award**  
**EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE NOMINATION**  
**TEAM**



Team Name  
 Waste Erosion Assessment and Review (WEAR) Project Team

**List all team members below**

1	Name Bob Blankenburg	Title EPM III	Supervisor Elaine Busse Floyd
	Department ADEC	Division EH/SW	Location Anchorage
2	Name Lori Aldrich	Title EPM I	Supervisor Bob Blankenburg
	Department ADEC	Division EH/SW	Location Anchorage
3	Name Rebecca Colvin	Title PC I	Supervisor Bob Blankenburg
	Department ADEC	Division EH/SW	Location Anchorage
4	Name Marty Brewer	Title EPS IV	Supervisor Bob Blankenburg
	Department ADEC	Division EH/SW	Location Anchorage
Have you received approval for additional team members from your department representative? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A		If yes, please add additional team members on page 2. If no, please obtain approval.	

**Check with your department representative if there are additional members. Nominations that include an entire program, division or department are generally not appropriate.**

**Nominator**

Name Elaine Busse Floyd	Title Division Director	Phone Number 907-269-7645
Department Environmental Conservation	Division Environmental Health	

As the nominator, are you willing to be recognized?  Yes     No  
 Complete "Reason for Nomination" below

**Division Approval**

Division Director's or Designee's Signature <i>Elaine Busse Floyd</i>	Date 2/13/15
Comments	

**Department Approval**

Department Commissioner's Signature <i>Gregg Hartley</i>	Date 2/18/15
Comments	



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**Exceptional Performance Team Award Information**

**Eligibility** – A team of two or more employees.

**Criteria** – Attainment of high priority division, department or state objectives, or achievements of significant improvements in productivity or cost savings, or activities that are highly original or creative, involving effective, innovative or novel approaches to delivering services.

To view scoring criteria and nomination examples go to <http://denaliawards.alaska.gov>

**Reason for Nomination**

Be specific. Address the criteria listed above as well as the applicable time period. Please limit nominations to approximately 500 words. Attachments such as articles, brochures, photos, etc. are not scored as part of the nomination.

Scores of poorly managed landfills and unpermitted dumping areas threaten the public health and the environment in Alaska's most remote communities. Often located adjacent to wetlands, rivers, and shorelines, hazardous substances released from these sites can cause great damage to vital natural resources and sensitive environments.

Climate change is accelerating the rate of coastal and river erosion in Alaska, and increasing the risk of contamination from dumpsites near these water sources. Warmer winters prevent near shore ice buildup, leaving the bare coastline vulnerable to strong winter storms. Increased global temperatures also threaten Alaska's riverbanks, particularly in areas of melting permafrost which can cause weakened banks to fail.

Due to the hazardous composition of these dumps and the increasing threat of erosion, the Solid Waste Program (SWP) initiated the Waste Erosion Assessment and Review (WEAR) project to study eroding rural landfills, contaminated sites, and dumpsites in coastal and river areas of Western Alaska. The focus of the project is to produce inventory and action plans for sites based on erosion and contaminant risks, which will inform future planning and funding decisions.

In executing this project, staff on the WEAR project team have performed exceptionally, exceeding original project goals and creatively leveraging the project to achieve several significant improvements in the SWP performance measures and infrastructure, improvement in delivery of services in rural Alaska, and significant savings in General Fund in the amount of \$171,000.

***Performance Measures Improvement***

Two SWP performance measures are related to Class III landfills, which were the target of the WEAR project: 1) percentage of landfills permitted; and 2) landfill inspection score. The program achieved outstanding performance in 2014, based on the following:

- 1) SWP issued 24 new Class III landfill permits to existing landfills not previously permitted; 15 were in communities covered by the WEAR project. This improved the performance measure over



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- calendar year 2014 from 44% starting the year to 54% at the end, the largest improvement in the history of the program.
- 2) SWP visited 120 landfills and completed initial landfill evaluations using the Waste Index inspection tool, which will allow performance measure tracking over time. Evaluating this number of new landfills was only possibly due to the creative use of WEAR travel funds.
  - 3) In FY 2014, DEC achieved an average score of 62%, a 13% increase from FY 2012.

***Database Upgrade***

WEAR funding was also effectively leveraged to make crucial upgrades to the Solid Waste Information Management System database. The upgrade has the dual benefits of providing a permanent repository for information on WEAR sites, and functional data management on all landfills regulated by DEC. The upgrade also provided GIS capability to the database, which will allow both landfill and WEAR data to integrate seamlessly with data from other DEC programs, increasing the usefulness of this information across all programs.

***Increased Delivery of Services***

The WEAR team visited 124 communities, exceeding the original goal of 95-100. This was possible due to the team's wise use of project funds and diligent planning efforts to reach multiple communities in each trip.

WEAR team members regularly went above and beyond expectations to gather as much information as possible from each community visit, including information regarding other environmental and health concerns not directly related to the SWP. This additional information was shared with other DEC program staff, allowing many community problems to be efficiently resolved while avoiding duplication of efforts and increased costs.

Approved additional team members list here (include member name, title, department/division, location, supervisor)

5. Doug Buteyn; EPM I; DEC/EH/SW; Fairbanks; Bob Blankenburg
6. Kim Jordan; AA III; DEC/EH/SW; Anchorage; Stephanie Stewart
7. Kym Bronson; EPS II; DEC/EH/SW; Anchorage; Lori Aldrich
8. Doug Huntman; EPS III; DEC/EH/SW; Anchorage; Lori Aldrich
9. Stephen Price; EPS II; DEC/EH/SW; Anchorage; Lori Aldrich
10. Trisha Bower; EPS III; DEC/EH/SW; Fairbanks; Doug Buteyn
11. Sandra Woods; EPS III; DEC/EH/SW; Juneau; Doug Buteyn
12. Sarah Durand; EPS II; DEC/EH/SW; Fairbanks; Doug Buteyn
13. Jacob Timmons; College Intern III; DEC/EH/SW; Anchorage; Lori Aldrich
14. David Carlson; College Intern III; DEC/EH/SW; Anchorage; Lori Aldrich
15. Jamie Gorman (graduated in 2014); College Intern III; DEC/EH/SW; Anchorage; Lori Aldrich

Nomination period is open January 14, 2015 through February 13, 2015.  
 Deliver completed nomination forms to the nominee's department representative.  
 For a list of department representatives, go to <http://denaliawards.alaska.gov>.