



## Artist in Residence Program goes above the Arctic Circle



by [Black, Meredith C](#) on 10/1/2018 5:00 AM  
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*Story by John Rapphahn, Park Ranger. Photos by Thomas Hartmann (campground host) and Arctic Interagency Visitor Center staff.*

Central Yukon Field Office's goal of establishing an Artist in Residence program for the Dalton Highway became a reality this year when Kelly Sheridan, an art teacher from Idaho Falls, accepted an invitation to travel north.



**BLM Artist in Residence Kelly Sheridan paints above a creek near Galbraith Lake. (Photo by Thomas Hartmann)**

Kelly arrived in Alaska on July 18 for a nine-day visit. Picking her up at the Fairbanks Airport proved easier than anticipated – although field office staff had not met her before, Kelly was readily identifiable from the artwork painted on her backpack, which resembled one of the sample works she had submitted with her application.

After a six-hour drive to the Brooks Range community of Coldfoot, Kelly wasted no time in pulling out the paintbrushes. Over the next few days, we visited many places in the Coldfoot area.



**BLM Artist in Residence Kelly Sheridan works with young artists during the Art in the Arctic event at the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center. (Photo by AIVC staff)**

Then it was time for a special event at the Arctic Interagency Visitor Center. On July 21, the center hosted "Art in the Arctic," a program initiated by Student Conservation Association interns Sarah Gage (FWS) and Sarah Evans (BLM). The program gave locals and visitors a chance to make art, and as a bonus, get some pointers from our Artist in Residence.

After the Art in the Arctic event, Kelly accompanied BLM's Marion Creek Campground host Thomas Hartmann, an experienced photographer, into the heart of the Brooks Range. They traveled up and over 4,739-foot Atigun Pass, Alaska's highest pass with year-round road access, to Galbraith Lake.



**BLM Artist in Residence Kelly Sheridan poses with one of her paintings in the Atigun River valley. (Photo by Thomas Hartmann)**

Nestled in the northern foothills of the Brooks Range, Galbraith Lake is a gorgeous spot situated where the mountains give way to the vast Arctic tundra. Kelly and Hartmann enjoyed three days of hiking, photography and painting on BLM-managed public lands and also visited Gates of the Arctic National Park & Preserve, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the scientific research station at Toolik Lake.

Once back at Coldfoot, Kelly had a day to get everything in order before the long drive back to Fairbanks. The field office's first Dalton Highway residency finished as a great success for the artist, the public, and the BLM.



**A watercolor comes to life. (Photo by Thomas Hartmann)**

"BLM-administered lands in the Dalton Highway Corridor inspire people in so many different ways. Kelly's residency and her work beautifully tap into some of that inspiration and bring it to light for others to experience and appreciate," said Central Yukon Field Manager Tim La Marr.