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Morning Comes to the River

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Morning Comes to the River

A fisherman's first loose cast
stirs a rainbow trout chasing dragonflies
in a dawn of light ripples.

A grizzly sow and her cubs
cross the waking river.

A raven witnesses everything—
each immeasurable moment.

Downstream, below hoisted clouds,
the wild and timeless sea churns

while morning rises forever,
and there is nothing like it anywhere,

nothing like it at all.

John Smelcer

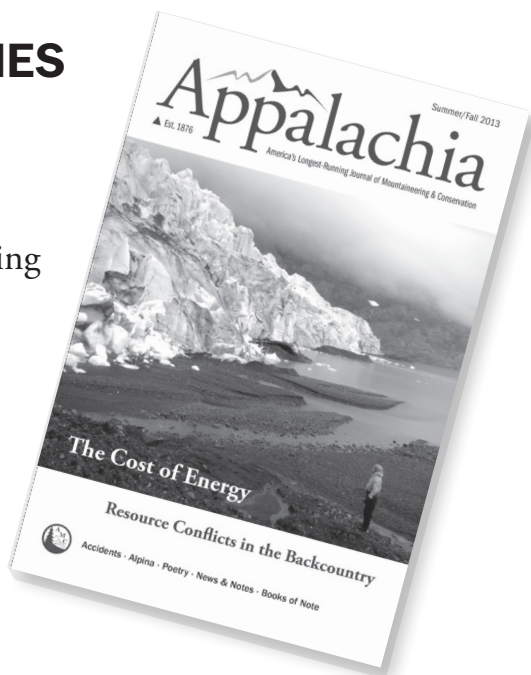
JOHN SMELCER, an Alaska Native American, is the author of 40 books, including *Songs from the Outcast* (American Indian Studies Center, UCLA, 2000) and *Without Reservation* (Truman State University Press, 2003), both nominated for the Pulitzer Prize in poetry. He teaches literature and creative writing at Binghamton University, State University of New York.

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