



# *Growing Alaska*

*through responsible resource development*

*2011 Annual Report*

*Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.*

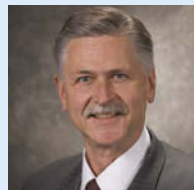
# RDC Officers



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**Tom Maloney**  
CH2M HILL  
Anchorage



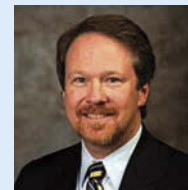
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**Jeanine St. John**  
Lynden  
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**Scott Thorson**  
Network Business Systems  
Anchorage

**Cam Toohy**  
Shell Exploration & Production  
Anchorage

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**David Parish**  
RDC Lobbyist

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David Benton, Benton & Associates, Juneau  
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Jan Trigg, Coeur Alaska, Juneau

## *What is RDC?*

RDC is a statewide business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native Corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

See RDC staff profiles at  
[akrdc.org/membership/board/staff.html](http://akrdc.org/membership/board/staff.html)

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### **Resource Development Council**

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[resources@akrdc.org](mailto:resources@akrdc.org)



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Resource Development Council



Follow RDC on Twitter: [alaskardc](https://twitter.com/alaskardc)

# *Oil and Gas*

A large, rust-colored offshore oil rig stands in a snowy, flat landscape. The rig is tall and complex, with a central derrick and various platforms. In the foreground, a long, low structure, possibly a pipeline or walkway, stretches across the snow. The background shows a clear sky with a soft, warm light, suggesting dawn or dusk. Several large, cylindrical storage tanks are visible in the distance.

## *Industry Fact*

***It is estimated that Alaska's offshore, NPR-A, and ANWR contain over 40 billion barrels of oil.***

# Overview

The first major discovery of oil in Alaska was at Swanson River on the Kenai Peninsula in 1957. Congress viewed that discovery as the foundation of a secure economic base in Alaska, and statehood was granted two years later.

Although Alaska has produced over 17 billion barrels of oil, there is still a lot of oil on the North Slope and the untapped offshore to support the Alaskan economy for generations. In the near-term, oil will come mostly from producing fields, which may have about five billion barrels of conventional oil remaining. There are other known but not yet producing fields on state land that could hold two billion barrels. Federal areas onshore and offshore are estimated to contain 33 billion barrels of oil. How much of that oil is produced will depend on geology, economics, technology – and politics.

Today the industry continues to generate an overwhelming majority of Alaska's general fund revenues, accounting for nearly 90 percent, or \$4.9 billion, of all unrestricted state revenue in fiscal year 2010. FY 2011 unrestricted revenues from oil and gas production are anticipated to be \$6.64 billion and FY 2012 revenues are forecasted to reach \$6.62 billion. Over the past 40 years, the state has received \$157 billion in revenues from oil.

Daily oil production in FY 2011 is projected to be 605,000 barrels per day and 610,000 barrels per day in 2012. Current Alaska production accounts for approximately 12 percent of U.S. domestic production.


A third of Alaska's jobs, about 127,000, are oil related and depend in some way on oil production or state oil revenues.

## RDC's Efforts

- Advocated for revisions to Alaska's oil production tax structure to enhance Alaska's competitiveness for investment.
- Played a leading role in supporting oil and gas leasing in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas.



- Provided testimony and comments on OCS drilling plans and oil discharge prevention and contingency plans.
- Opposed the designation of 189,000 square miles as critical habitat for polar bears and 3,000 square miles for Cook Inlet beluga whales.
- Testified on the Integrated Activity Plan for the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska.
- Supported oil and gas development in ANWR and opposed new Wilderness designations within its boundaries.
- Published Action Alerts and submitted comments on a wide range of industry issues.
- Held numerous industry forums, featuring over a dozen senior executives at RDC's annual fall conference.
- Featured oil and gas issues and projects in *Resource Review* newsletter.
- Published background paper on the oil and gas industry at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org).

An aerial photograph of a large-scale mining operation. In the foreground, a massive open-pit mine is visible, characterized by dark, terraced rock walls and a network of winding roads. To the right of the mine, a complex of industrial buildings with red and blue roofs is situated. A large, blue reservoir is located in the middle ground, surrounded by a concrete dam. The background features rolling hills and mountains under a cloudy sky.

*Industry Fact*  
**Mining provides 5,500 high-paying jobs annually and \$350 million in direct and indirect payroll.**

*Mining*

# Overview

Alaska's mining industry includes exploration, development, and production of zinc, lead, gold, silver, platinum, and coal, as well as construction materials such as sand and gravel. Alaska has six large operating mines and seven mining projects in advanced exploration.

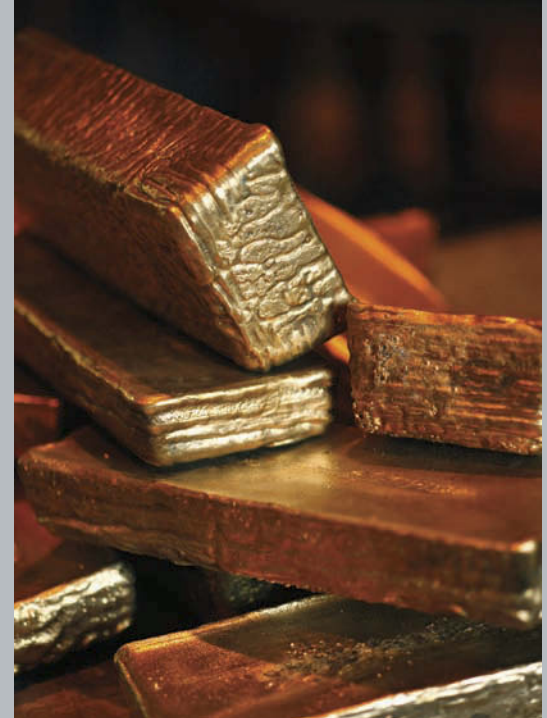
Mining provides 5,500 high-paying jobs annually and \$350 million in direct and indirect payroll. The mining industry provides year-round jobs for residents of over 120 Alaska communities, half of which are found in rural areas where few other jobs are available.

In 2010, mining paid a total of \$13 million to local governments, \$58.9 million to state government, and brought over \$145 million in payments to Alaska Native Corporations.



# RDC's Efforts

- Supported the Red Dog Mine Expansion into the Aqqaluk deposit.
- Submitted comments supporting permit renewals for the Chuitna Coal project, Wishbone Hill Project, and Jonesville Coal Mining.
- Provided comments in support of the National and Alaska Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES and APDES) permits issued to Red Dog, Pogo and Kensington Mines.
- Provided comments opposing designating the Chuit River Watershed as unsuitable for surface coal mining.
- Submitted comments supporting the expansion of the tailings facility at the Greens Creek Mine.
- Presented testimony on coal mining in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.
- Continued to advocate for a fair process for the Pebble Project.
- Provided feedback on Federal Critical Minerals Legislation.



- Featured mining issues and projects in *Resource Review* newsletter and hosted public forums with presentations from mining industry executives across the state.
- Published background paper on the mining industry at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org).

# Forestry

## *Industry Fact*

**In 2010, only 35.8 million board feet of timber was harvested from the Tongass, even though the forest plan allows for an annual harvest of up to 267 million board feet.**





# Overview

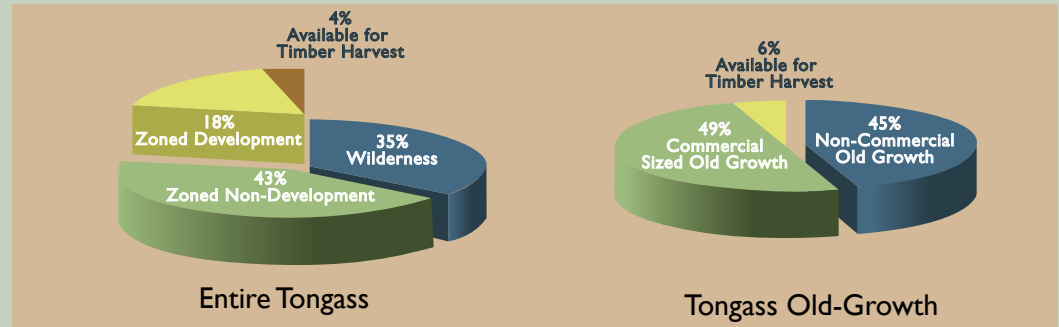
The forest products industry has been an important component of the Alaska economy for over a half century. Until the mid-1990s, most commercial timber harvesting has taken place in the coastal zone, primarily on federal and Native corporation land in Southeast Alaska.

At 16.8 million acres, the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska is the largest in America. The Chugach National Forest of Southcentral Alaska is the nation's second largest national forest.

In 2010, only 35.8 million board feet of timber was harvested from the Tongass, even though the forest plan allows for an annual harvest of up to 267 million board feet. The annual harvest level set under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 was 520 million board feet.

Timber harvests on Native Corporation lands in Southeast Alaska and on Afognak Island reached 113 million board feet in 2010. Meanwhile, the State of Alaska sold 12.5 million board feet of timber in 69 sales statewide in 2010. These sales included timber to help support mills in Southeast Alaska hit hard by the decline in federal timber sales.

Overall, there were 280 people employed in forestry and logging jobs across Alaska in 2010 and 226 in wood products and manufacturing jobs. Total payroll was \$22.7 million.



Only seven percent or a little over 400,000 acres of the total productive old-growth, has been harvested over the last 100 years in the Tongass National Forest. About 15% of the highest volume stands have been harvested, while about 85% of the forest's highest volume old-growth remains unharvested. Over the next 100 years, less than 10% of this high volume old-growth is to be harvested.

## *RDC's Efforts*

- Worked with the Alaska legislature and the State to expand the Southeast Alaska State Forest.
- Supported the Sealaska federal lands bill.
- Participated in national roundtable meetings on the new Forest Service Planning Rule and submitted comments.
- Supported state and federal timber sales.
- Submitted comments supporting the Wrangell Island Timber Project.
- Urged the U.S. Forest Service to restructure the Big Thorne Project into a single 10-year timber sale, which was the original intent of the project.
- Featured forestry issues and projects in *Resource Review* newsletter and hosted public forums with presentations from executives across the state.
- Published background paper on the forestry industry at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org).

# MINERAL, OIL, AND GAS RESOURCES OF ALASKA

DIGITAL SHADED RELIEF IMAGE OF ALASKA

BY J.R. RIELHE ET AL., 1996,

USGS MISCELLANEOUS INVESTIGATIONS MAP I-2585

Mineral Information provided by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources and Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys.

Oil and Gas Data provided by AK DNR DOG, US MMS, and BLM.

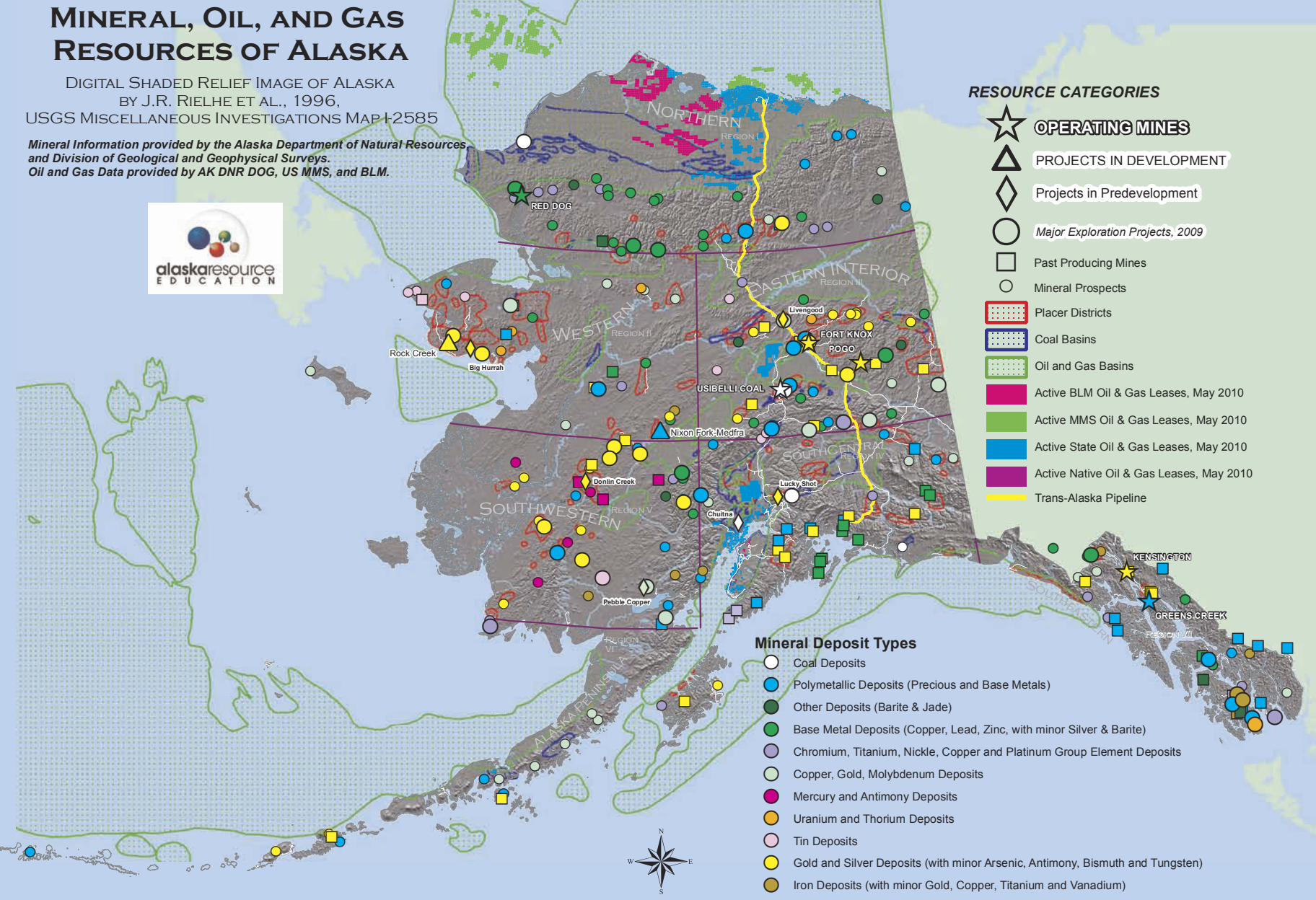


## RESOURCE CATEGORIES

- ☆ OPERATING MINES
- ▲ PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT
- ◇ Projects in Predevelopment
- Major Exploration Projects, 2009
- Past Producing Mines
- Mineral Prospects
- ▨ Placer Districts
- ▨ Coal Basins
- ▨ Oil and Gas Basins
- Active BLM Oil & Gas Leases, May 2010
- Active MMS Oil & Gas Leases, May 2010
- Active State Oil & Gas Leases, May 2010
- Active Native Oil & Gas Leases, May 2010
- Trans-Alaska Pipeline

## Mineral Deposit Types

- Coal Deposits
- Polymetallic Deposits (Precious and Base Metals)
- Other Deposits (Barite & Jade)
- Base Metal Deposits (Copper, Lead, Zinc, with minor Silver & Barite)
- Chromium, Titanium, Nickel, Copper and Platinum Group Element Deposits
- Copper, Gold, Molybdenum Deposits
- Mercury and Antimony Deposits
- Uranium and Thorium Deposits
- Tin Deposits
- Gold and Silver Deposits (with minor Arsenic, Antimony, Bismuth and Tungsten)
- Iron Deposits (with minor Gold, Copper, Titanium and Vanadium)



**WHERE CAN WE DEVELOP ALASKA'S RESOURCES?**

**Federal Land - through Federal mining claims, oil & gas leases and timber sales**

- Chugach National Forest
- Tongass National Forest
- Bureau of Land Management
- National Petroleum Reserve - Oil and Gas only

**State Land - through State mining claims, agreements, oil & gas leases and timber sales**

- State Land
- Mental Health Trust Lands

**Native Land - through leases and agreements**

- Native Land

**Private Land - through leases and agreements**

- Private and Municipal Land

**WHERE CAN WE NOT DEVELOP ALASKA'S RESOURCES?**

**Federal Land**

- Tongass National Forest Wilderness Areas
- National Monuments
- National Parks and Preserves
- National Wildlife Refuges\*
- Wild and Scenic Rivers
- Steese National Conservation Area
- White Mountains National Recreation Area
- Major Military Land

\*Oil and gas leasing is permitted if found to be compatible with the refuge.

**State Land**

- State Historic and Recreation Sites
- State Parks

**WHO OWNS ALASKA'S LANDS?**

**The Federal Government**

- Chugach National Forest (USFS)
- Tongass National Forest (USFS)
- Tongass National Forest Wilderness Areas (USFS)
- National Monuments (USFS)
- National Parks and Preserves (NPS)
- National Wildlife Refuges (USFWS)
- Wild and Scenic Rivers (BLM)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- National Petroleum Reserve (BLM)
- Steese National Conservation Area (BLM)
- White Mountains National Recreation Area (BLM)
- Major Military Land (DOD)

**The State of Alaska**

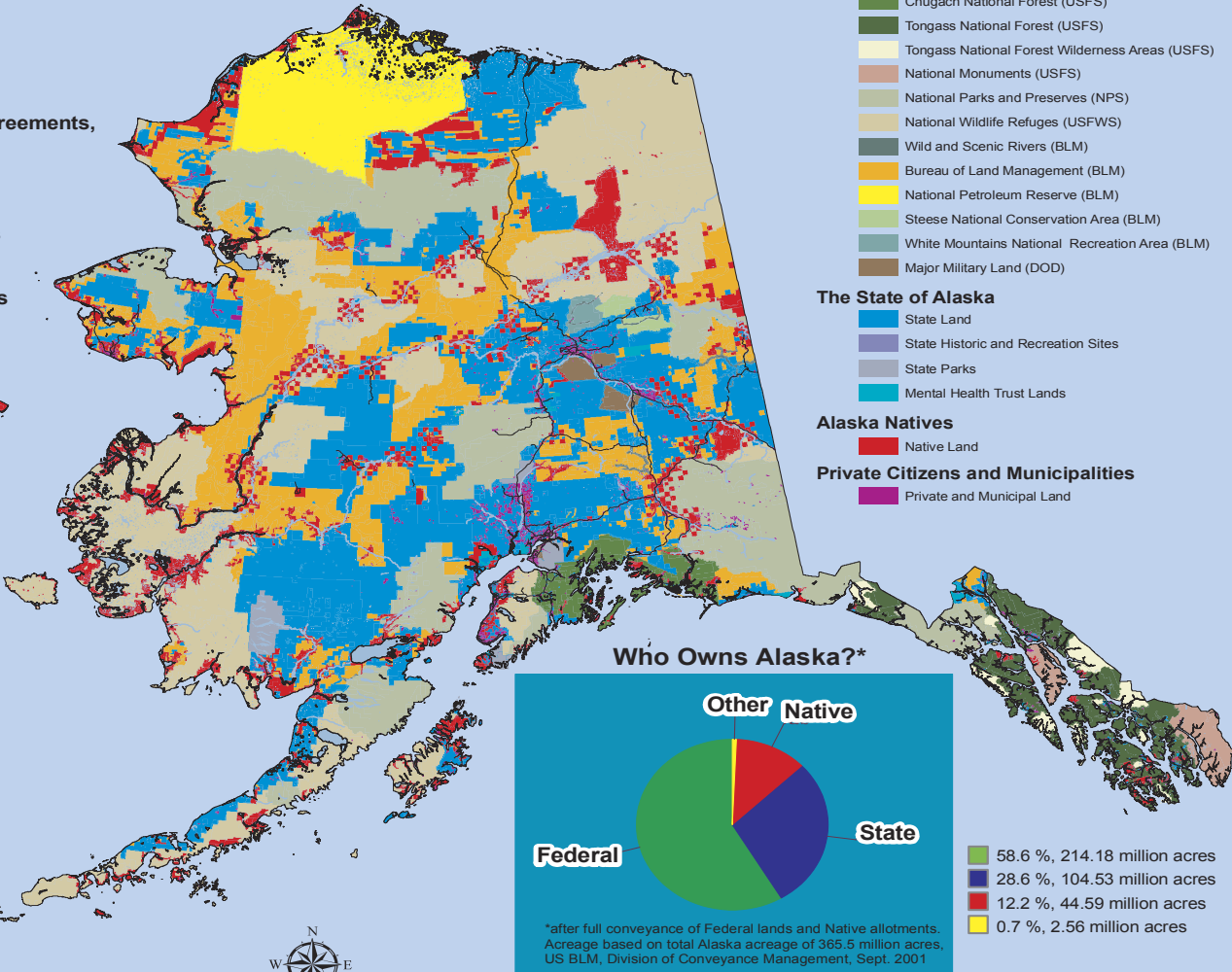
- State Land
- State Historic and Recreation Sites
- State Parks
- Mental Health Trust Lands

**Alaska Natives**

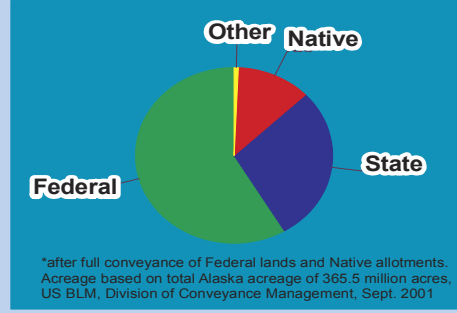
- Native Land

**Private Citizens and Municipalities**

- Private and Municipal Land

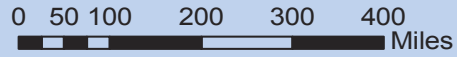


**Who Owns Alaska?\***



- 58.6 %, 214.18 million acres
- 28.6 %, 104.53 million acres
- 12.2 %, 44.59 million acres
- 0.7 %, 2.56 million acres

Land Status Information provided by Alaska Department of Natural Resources, General Land Status, Land Ownership file, State Park Units files, USDA Forest Service Geospatial Service and Technology Center (GSTC), Special Designated Areas for USDA Forest Service Alaska Region (R10), Mental Health Trust Land Office, April 2007.



*Industry Fact* **Alaska has 34,000 miles of coastline reaching three seas and produces over half of the nation's seafood landings.**



*Fishing*

# Overview

Alaska once again lead the nation in seafood landings, producing over half the nation's harvest. In 2009, Alaska accounted for 11 of the top 50 producing ports in the U.S. The value of the harvest was \$1.3 billion.

The seafood industry provided jobs to rural and coastal communities, as well as paid taxes where few other industries exist.

Fishing is the core economy for much of coastal Alaska where fish harvesting and processing often provide the only significant opportunities for private sector employment and where fisheries support sector businesses provide property and sales taxes as the largest source of local government revenues. Seafood harvesting and processing jobs provide more than 50 percent of the private sector employment in coastal Alaska.

Revenues generated by the fishing industry in FY2009 totaled almost \$79 million to the State of Alaska, a \$3 million increase from FY2008. These revenues ranged from fish processing and corporate taxes to fishery resource landing taxes, license fees, and seafood marketing assessments.

## RDC's Efforts

- Continuing ongoing comments on the National Ocean Council's National Policy for the oceans, coasts, and the Great Lakes.
- Submitted comments supporting the delisting of the eastern DPS of the Stellar sea lion.
- Submitted comments on the Draft Biological Opinion of the western DPS of the Stellar sea lion.
- Supported legislation improving loans for energy efficiency improvements to fishing equipment.
- Featured fishing issues and projects in *Resource Review* newsletter and hosted public forums with presentations from executives across the state.
- Published background paper on the fishing industry at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org).





*Industry Fact*

**Each visitor spends an average of \$830  
during their stay in Alaska.**

*Tourism*

# Overview

There is no other place like Alaska. With its mountains, glaciers, and wildlife; it is no surprise Alaska is a popular destination for visitors. While the industry has seen a decrease in visitors in recent years due to less cruise ship voyages, tourism businesses are hopeful new policy changes will reverse that decline and bring more people than ever to Alaska.

Of the 1.5 million visitors in 2010: 878,000 came by cruise, 551,600 came by air, and 76,000 came by highway or ferry.

Tourism is the second-largest private sector employer, and accounts for one in eight Alaskan jobs. The tourism industry generates



over 36,000 direct and indirect jobs. That's 8% of Alaska's employment. The industry boasts a 78% resident hire rate.

Alaska's tourism industry invests a great deal in the state, spending hundreds of millions of dollars on capital expenditures, construction, operating equipment, marketing, and contributions to non-profit organizations.

In 2009, 46 Alaska Communities and Boroughs collected \$69.8 million in sales and bed taxes and docking fees. The state of Alaska collected \$138.8 million in taxes and revenues associated with cruise industry taxes, fishing, and hunting licenses, ferry and railroad revenues, vehicle rental taxes, and corporate income taxes.



# RDC's Efforts

- Remained involved with AlaskaACT and its mission to advocate for a positive business environment for Alaska tourism.
- Lobbied for equitable environmental laws for cruise ships, including the Emission Control Area imposed by the EPA and point of discharge requirements.
- Provided comments to the Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) about the 2010 Large Commercial Passenger Vessel Wastewater Discharge General Permit.
- Participated and encouraged public involvement in cruise ship tours at the Port of Anchorage, featuring overviews of wastewater treatment systems and recycling management.
- Featured tourism issues and projects in *Resource Review* newsletter and hosted public forums with presentations from executives across the state.
- Published background paper on the tourism industry at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org).

# Legislature

RDC continued its active engagement in Juneau last session, testifying and providing written comments on a number of bills.

- Supported HB 110 - Oil production tax reform
- Supported compromise legislation to extend the Alaska Coastal Management Program that passed unanimously out of the House
- Supported HB 105/SB 44 - Expansion of Southeast Alaska State Forest
- Supported HB 59 - Commercial Fishing Loan Act
- Supported HB 168 - Litigation reform

Other bills RDC supported that passed included the following:

- HJR 12 - Open ANWR to Oil Exploration
- HJR 11 - Opposing New ANWR Wilderness

# Litigation Reform

One of RDC's priorities during this past legislative session was to support efforts to bring more accountability to the appeals and litigation processes for community and resource development projects. Currently, there is very little risk to parties bringing lawsuits that can result in lengthy injunctions and add additional significant costs to resource extraction and community development projects. RDC also supported efforts by the Legislature to require bonding by parties bringing such suits.



# Endangered Species Act

RDC remains at the forefront of defending Alaska's core industries and projects from misuse of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Over the past year, RDC has fought the 3,000 square mile critical habitat designation for the Cook Inlet beluga whale. RDC is now engaged in the beluga's recovery plan efforts and will work to ensure that unnecessary measures are not placed upon industries and communities that neither caused the population decline nor impeded the beluga's recovery.

RDC has also worked to limit proposed critical habitat designations for polar bears, which have not been adversely impacted by oil and gas development. RDC has submitted extensive comments on other ESA listings and critical habitat, including the Southwest Alaska sea otters, Steller sea lions, Ringed and Bearded seals, and a number of other species. We have garnered support for our position as the Alaska Congressional delegation, the Alaska Legislature, and many RDC members have testified and submitted comments.

We will continue to push back against misuse of the ESA and those who are using it to target industry and community development projects.

# Other issues

RDC has been engaged in a number of issues that are not specific to one industry, but in some cases transcend them all. These issues include the Department of Interior's proposed Wild Lands Policy, Native 8(A) Business Program, National Oceans Policy, NPDES Primacy, wood bison, Knik Arm Bridge, Gates of the Arctic General Management Plan, Alaska Railroad extension to Ft. Greely and Port MacKenzie, State long-term fiscal plan, Izembek Land Exchange, and JPARC Modernization and EIS.



# *We're all in the business of responsible resource development*

On the previous pages, you've read overviews of the core Alaska resource industries: oil and gas, mining, forestry, fishing, and tourism.

But what about those we didn't cover? Hundreds of Alaskan businesses are here because of the abundant natural resources that allowed us to become a state and provide for our livelihoods. According to a University of Alaska research study, 60,000 jobs can be traced to oil industry activity – that is, economic benefits created by oil industry activities and spending of State revenues. A study of the economic benefits of the mining industry revealed that mining supports hundreds of Alaskan supply and service businesses. Alaska's resource industries generate the need for thousands of other businesses to exist simply because the industries need them.

These jobs are held by bankers, engineers, pilots, publicists, doctors, and researchers, to name a few. The companies are restaurants, retailers, utilities, personnel firms, transportation businesses, labor unions, Native Corporations, and more.

We are grateful to have those businesses in the RDC membership, in addition to the core resource industries. Because in Alaska, *we're all in the business of responsible resource development.*

***Thank you to all our members in every resource and economic sector of Alaska!  
For a listing and links to RDC members, please visit [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org)***



### **Community Outreach Trip – September 8-11, 2010**

Nearly 40 RDC board members, staff, and guests toured Southeast Alaska. The group participated in a tour of the Kensington Gold Mine operations and departed Juneau on the Alaska Marine Highway vessel M/V Malaspina. Once in Skagway the group toured multiple tourism operations. Highlights of Skagway included a reception with residents, a helicopter flight and walking atop a glacier, a trip to Fraser, British Columbia on the White Pass Yukon Route Railroad, and a historical tour of the town on the Skagway Street Car.

# *Events*



## *Online Tools*

Stay up to date with important issues to RDC members.

- **View action alerts and comment letters**
- **Access industry overviews**
- **Be in the know on RDC events**
- **Watch presentations**
- **View corporate and individual members**
- **View RDC Board and staff**
- **Read RDC newsletters back to 1978**
- **Look over RDC policy positions**
- **See RDC's involvement in legislative issues**

***All this, and more at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org)***



### **Annual Meeting – July 21, 2010**

RDC welcomed keynote speaker Karen Harbert, President and CEO of the Institute for 21st Century Energy. Brief opening remarks were delivered by Senator Lisa Murkowski. Attendees listened to Ms. Harbert describe the nation's need for a comprehensive energy policy.



### **Breakfast Meetings September-May**

Attendees hear updates on resource development projects and issues. The forums are held the first and third Thursday of the month.

*Presentations and videos of all RDC events available at [akrdc.org](http://akrdc.org)*



**Alaska Resources Conference – November 17-18, 2010**

Nearly 1,000 people attended RDC’s two-day conference, which featured thirty-two speakers from across Alaska’s resource sectors. Legislators, state and federal agency officials, industry representatives and students attended the event, which included panel sessions, a multi-industry trade show, and a VIP reception open to all attendees. The 2011 conference will be held November 16-17 in Anchorage.



**Special Events**

RDC holds numerous special events throughout the year. Forums included two Gubernatorial debates, an Endangered Species Act primer, a Rally focusing on Alaska’s oil tax structure, a press conference unveiling an Alaska Coordinator for OCS position, BP’s Statistical Review of World Energy, and more.



**Women In Resources Reception  
February 9, 2011**

Women RDC board members and staff hosted the seventh annual reception in Juneau, with attendance by legislators, administration officials, and business leaders.



**Legislative Fly-in to Juneau – January 25-26, 2011**

Board members and staff traveled to Juneau to meet with legislators and administration officials about issues affecting RDC members. The event also included the Freshman Legislator Dinner, where RDC met with newly elected Legislators.





## RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

121 W. Fireweed Lane, Suite 250, Anchorage, AK 99503

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Photos in this publication courtesy of Alaska Cruise Association, Brian Hove, Frank Flavin Photography, Judy Patrick Photography, Koncor Forest Products, Mary McDowell, Teck Alaska, RDC staff, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Oil and gas



Mining



Fishing



Forestry



Tourism