

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Founded 1975 Executive Director Jason W. Brune 2009-2010 Executive Committee Wendy Lindskoog, President Phil Cochrane, Sr. Vice President Stephanie Madsen, Vice President Tom Maloney, Treasurer L.F. "Len" Horst, Secretary Rob Barbe

Bob Berto
Patty Bielawski
Marilyn Crockett
Steve Denton
Eric Fjelstad
Jeff Foley
Stan Foo

Paul Glavinovich
Erec Isaacson
Tom Lovas
Dale Pittman
Ethan Schutt
Lorna Shaw
John Shively
Tiel Smith
Scott Thorson
Cam Toohey
Directors
Greg Baker
Dave Benton

Jason Bergerson Allen Bingham Dan Britton

Dave Carey Patrick Carter

Dave Chaput
Steve Conneily
Bob Cox
Allan Dolynny
Paula Easley
Ella Ede
Mark Eliason
Joe Everhart
Carol Fraser
Dan Graham
Chuck Greene
Scott Habberstad
Mark Hanley
Karl Hanneman
Rick Harris
Tom Henderson
Paul Henny

Becky Hultberg
Teresa Inm
Bill Jeffress
Mike Jungreis
Frank Kelty
Kip Knudson
Thomas Krzewinski
Linda Leary
Carri Lockhart
John MacKinnon
Mary McDowell
Ron McPheters
James Mery
Denise Miches

Lance Miller Mary Nelson Lisa Parker Judy Patrick Charlie Powers Ralph Samuels Keith Sanders Kenneth Sheffield Keith Silver Jeanine St. John John Sturgeon Dan Sullivan John Zager

Ex-Officio Members Senator Mark Begich Senator Lisa Murkowski Congressman Don Young Governor Sean Parnell

BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, March 18, 2010

- 1. Call to order Wendy Lindskoog, President
- Self Introductions
- 3. Headtable Introductions
- 4. Staff Report Jason Brune, Executive Director
- 5. Program and Keynote Speaker:

What The Hell Is Going On In This Country?

John Shively, CEO, Pebble Partnership

Future Meetings:

April 1: Senator Lisa Murkowski

April 15: Lt. Governor Craig Campbell

Please add my name to RDC's mailing list

NAME/IIILE:		
COMPANY:		
ADDRESS:		
CITY:	STATE:	_ ZIP:
PHONE/FAX/EMAIL: _		



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 10-045

State Challenges EPA Move to Regulate Greenhouse Gases

March 17, 2010, Juneau, Alaska – The State of Alaska filed a motion in court to intervene in a lawsuit over a recent U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision that triggers expanded federal regulation of greenhouse gas emissions. In challenging the EPA's decision in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, the Parnell administration seeks to join several states and trade groups, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

"Alaska is challenging a decision that, by EPA's own admission, will vastly expand the EPA's regulation of all sectors of the state's economy," said Governor Sean Parnell. "We remain concerned the EPA is extending its authority too aggressively and in a manner that harms the state's interests. We will continue to fight this type of federal overreach."

At issue is the process EPA used in finding that six greenhouse gases contribute to global climate change, endangering human health and welfare and the substantial regulatory implications of that finding. This finding was prompted by the U.S. Supreme Court decision of *Massachusetts v. EPA*, where the court rejected the agency's reasons for denying a petition to regulate greenhouse gases emissions from motor vehicles.

"Since 2003, Alaska has been a party to the litigation over the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions under the Clean Air Act," Attorney General Dan Sullivan said. "Our filing continues Alaska's involvement in this important case. With its endangerment finding, EPA has clearly signaled that its next step is to regulate emissions from 'stationary sources' -- a regulatory burden that would severely hamper economic growth and resource development throughout the state."

The state is not challenging the science on climate change underlying EPA's decision, according to Sullivan. Rather, the state is challenging EPA's position that Congress intended the agency and states to regulate greenhouse gas emissions through the permitting requirements of the Clean Air Act, as well as the process by which the EPA came to this decision.

Regulations triggered by EPA's decision would increase the number of emissions permits that the federal Clean Air Act forces EPA and the state to administer from several thousand to more than a million.

"The Clean Air Act was not designed with regulating greenhouse gases in mind and is not well-suited for that purpose," said Commissioner of Environmental Conservation

Larry Hartig, who chairs the Governor's Executive Sub-Cabinet on Climate Change. "Climate change presents a complex challenge involving critical social and economic issues in addition to important long-term environmental concerns. A Congressional solution with strong input from states and communities is the best way to address the climate change challenge."

A copy of the motion to leave to intervene is available at: http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell-media/documents/gov-MotionforLeavetoIntervene.pdf

More information on the EPA's finding and the state's motion to leave to intervene is available at:

http://gov.alaska.gov/parnell_media/documents/gov_StateChallengesEPA.pdf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 10-043

Governor Parnell Meets with Senior Executives to Address Cruise Industry Decline

March 16, 2010, Juneau, Alaska – Governor Parnell met today with senior cruise executives on the opening day of Cruise Shipping Miami, an annual international trade show and conference sponsored by Seatrade.

The governor attended the conference opening and participated in several small group meetings with executives whose ships operate in Alaska and throughout the world. Prior to meeting with cruise officials, the governor had breakfast with more than 30 Alaskans also attending the Miami conference. Many small business owners said they feared losing their businesses because of the declining visitation. They also expressed concern about having to make dramatic cuts in employment and the resulting effects on Alaskan families and communities.

"We recognize that the Alaska cruise industry needs to be more competitive," Governor Parnell said. "The state and the industry also have to drive demand to Alaska through increased marketing."

Since taking office last summer, Governor Parnell has met with dozens of Alaskan business owners whose livelihood is dependent on the cruise industry. Alaskans have urged him to meet personally with cruise lines and find a way to reverse the declining visitation. Alaska will lose more than 140,000 cruise passengers in 2010. In contrast, Europe and other destinations are experiencing double-digit growth.

"The governor's attendance made huge strides in restoring Alaska's relationship with the cruise industry," said Bob Berto, President of the Alaska Alliance for Cruise Travel (Alaska ACT). "We are very pleased with the governor's commitment to build a strong visitor industry in Alaska, bringing in critical dollars to help support Alaska businesses and thousands of jobs across our state." Alaska ACT represents nearly 800 businesses and individuals in Alaska that work in the visitor industry.

Cruise Shipping Miami brings together cruise line executives, industry suppliers and buyers, and representatives of destinations from around the world. With more than 10,000 people expected at the event, it is an opportunity for Alaska to showcase and promote itself as a unique cruise destination.



Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Founded 1975
Executive Director
Jason W. Brune
2009-2010 Executive Committee
Wendy Lindskoog, President
Phil Cochrane, Sr. Vice President
Stephanie Madsen, Vice President
Tom Maloney, Secretary
L.F. "Len" Horst, Treasurer
Bob Berto
Patty Bielawski

Marilyn Crockett Eric Fjelstad Jeff Foley Stan Foo Paul Glavinovich Erec Isaacson Tom Lovas Dale Pittman Ralph Samuels Ethan Schutt Lorna Shaw John Shively Tiel Smith Scott Thorson Cam Toohey Directors Greg Baker Dave Benton Jason Bergerson Allen Bingham

Dan Britton
Dave Carey
Patrick Carter
Dave Chaput
Steve Connelly
Bob Cox
Allan Dolynny
Paula Easley
Ella Ede
Mark Eliason
Joe Everhart
Carol Fraser
Dan Graham
Chuck Greene
Scott Habberstad
Mark Hanley
Karl Hanneman
Rick Harnis
Tom Henderson

Paul Henry Becky Hultberg Teresa Imm Bill Jeffress Mike Jungreis Frank Kelty Kip Knudson Thomas Krzewinski Linda Leary Carri Lockhart John MacKinnon Mary McDowell Ron McPheters

Ron McPheters
James Mery
Denise Michels
Lance Miller
Mary Nelson
Lisa Parker
Judy Patrick
Charlie Powers
Keith Sanders
Kenneth Sheffield
Keith Silver
leanine St. John

John Sturgeon Dan Sullivan

John Zager

Ex-Officio Members Senator Mark Begich Senator Lisa Murkowski Congressman Don Young Governor Sean Parnell The Honorable Nick Rahall, Chairman House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources 1324 Longworth House Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: H.R. 2099 - Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization Act

Dear Chairman Rahall:

March 17, 2010

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing to express its strong support for H.R. 2099, the Southeast Alaska Native Land Entitlement Finalization Act. We urge the enactment by the United States Congress of this bill that will complete Sealaska's Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) land entitlement and allow the corporation to meet the socioeconomic needs of its Native people.

RDC is an Alaskan business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's fisheries, mining, oil and gas, timber, and tourism industries. Our membership also includes Native regional and village corporations, local governments, organized labor, and industry support firms. Our mission is to grow Alaska's economy through the responsible development of the state's natural resources.

In 1971, Congress enacted ANCSA to recognize and settle the aboriginal claims of Alaska Natives to their traditional homelands. This landmark legislation authorized the establishment of Alaska Native Corporations to receive and manage lands and funds awarded in settlement of the claims. The purposes of ANCSA were not only to settle the land claims of Alaska Natives, but also to provide them with a means to pursue economic development and create sustainable economies for the benefit of Alaska's Native people. Unfortunately, more than 35 years after the passage of ANCSA, the land conveyances have yet to be completed.

Since 1971, many Alaska Native corporations have become successful and powerful economic engines within their regions and throughout the state of Alaska. In fact, Sealaska is the single largest private employer in Southeast Alaska, providing hundreds of part-time and full-time jobs annually, and contributing as much as \$90 million each year to the Southeast Alaskan economy. Sealaska also provides a significant benefit to Alaska Natives across the state through its annual 7(i) revenue sharing contributions, which, to date, have totaled over \$300 million. For some Alaska Native corporations, 7(i) revenues are vital to their very survival.

ANCSA limited Sealaska land selections to withdrawal areas surrounding certain Native villages in Southeast Alaska, nearly forty percent of which is actually salt water. There is not sufficient land remaining in these withdrawal areas to meet Sealaska's traditional, cultural, or socioeconomic needs. Selection from the current withdrawal areas would not fully realize one of the promises of ANCSA – to create sustainable economies for the Native people of Alaska.



Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Benefits of this legislation to the federal government are clear. Passage will enable the federal government to complete its statutory obligation to the Natives of Southeast Alaska, as promised under ANCSA. In addition, Sealaska would relinquish selection rights on 327,000 acres of land in the original withdrawal areas, which will result in management efficiency and certainty for the U.S. Forest Service. These lands have significant public value as 85 percent are roadless areas containing some of the highest value intact watersheds important to local communities, including over 112,000 acres of productive old-growth timber and 125,000 acres of core biological and high value areas.

Benefits to others are also clear. For Alaska Natives throughout Alaska, sustainable Sealaska timber operations mean continued revenue sharing distributions to other Alaska Natives under ANCSA Section 7(i). For supporters of roadless designations, Sealaska would relinquish selection rights in areas that are largely roadless and of high value fish and wildlife habitat. Further, more than 70 percent of the new areas identified in the bill for selection are in already roaded areas. Most importantly, the legislation fulfills Sealaska's final entitlement of 85,000 acres — no more land than was originally entitled to the corporation under ANCSA.

If Sealaska does not receive conveyance of all of the lands to which it is entitled in a timely fashion, the primary economic activity of Sealaska will cease in the near term, which will negatively impact Southeast Alaska's Native people, the already devastated Southeast Alaska economy, and Alaska Native corporations throughout the State that have come to rely upon Sealaska's 7(i) contributions. For these, and many other reasons, we urge passage of H.R. 2009.

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions regarding our position on this important legislation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jason Brune

Executive Director, Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.



Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

Founded 1975
Executive Director
Jason W. Brune
2009-2010 Executive Committee
Wendy Lindskoog, President
Phil Cochrane, Sr. Vice President
Stephanie Madsen, Vice President
Tom Maloney, Treasurer
L.F. "Len" Horst, Secretary
Bob Berto
Patty Bielawski

Marilyn Crockett
Steve Denton
Eric Fjelstad
Jeff Foley
Stan Foo
Paul Glavinovich
Erec Isaacson
Tom Lovas
Dale Pittman
Ethan Schutt
Lorna Shaw
John Shively
Tiel Smith
Scott Thorson
Cam Toohey
Directors
Greg Bake
Dave Benton

Jason Bergerson
Allen Bingham
Dan Britton
Dave Carey
Patrick Carter
Dave Chaput
Steve Connelly
Bob Cox
Allan Dolynny
Paula Easley
Ella Ede
Mark Eliason
Joe Everhart
Carol Fraser

Mark Hanley Karl Hanneman Rick Harris Tom Henderson Paul Henry Becky Hultberg Teresa Imm Bill Jeffress Mike Jungreis Frank Kelty

Dan Graham

Chuck Greene Scott Habberstad

Kip Knudson
Thomas Krzewinski
Linda Leary
Carri Lockhart
John MacKinnon
Mary McDowell
Ron McPheters
James Mery
Denise Michels
Lance Miller
Mary Nelson
Lisa Parker
Judy Patrick

Ralph Samuels Keith Sanders Kenneth Sheffield Keith Silver Jeanine St. John John Sturgeon Dan Sullivan

John Zager

Charlie Powers

Ex-Officio Members Senator Mark Begich Senator Lisa Murkowski Congressman Don Young Governor Sean Parnell March 10, 2010

Representative Craig Johnson House Resources Committee Alaska State Legislature, State Capitol Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB308-Oil and Gas Production Tax

Dear Representative Johnson:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) would like to encourage the Legislature's efforts to develop an improved tax policy that enhances the State of Alaska's competitiveness for exploration and development investments. We support legislation that will encourage new exploration and development of Alaska's oil and gas deposits, as well as enhance production from existing fields. Only through equitable and predictable tax and royalty policies will we be able to reverse the trend that leaves our pipeline less than one-third full today.

RDC is a statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization founded in 1975. The RDC membership is comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, tourism, and fisheries industries, as well as Alaska Native corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to link these diverse interests together to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

More and more, Alaska is becoming a less attractive place for the oil and gas industry to invest its capital. According to investors – the companies that take the risks involved in developing energy resources, Alaska's high cost environment coupled with its high tax regime discourage new investment. While some in state government and the Legislature may disagree, Alaskans need to listen to what the investors are telling us, since they are the ones making the decisions on where to invest their corporate capital.

While Alaska still holds much promise for significant oil and gas discoveries, there is a world of opportunity elsewhere for companies engaged in energy development. Investors will develop the prospects in their global portfolios that offer the best returns, whether here in Alaska, the Lower 48, or abroad.

It is not enough that Alaska is rich in oil and gas because industry faces substantial risks and high costs in the arctic. The economics of developing energy deposits in the far north are highly challenged, but the state can mitigate many of these challenges by creating a warmer business climate, one that has attractive and highly competitive fiscal terms that compel industry to invest here.

Given oil is the lifeblood of Alaska's economy and the pipeline is running at one-third its peak flow, it is imperative the state have the right tax and royalty policies in place to attract industry investment and sustain the economy. Approximately \$40 billion in new investment will be required in the next ten years to develop new fields and prevent the current six percent annual decline in North Slope production from accelerating. Moreover, 38 percent of projected production in 2015 is expected to come from fields that are not yet in production.

Yet Alaska appears to be heading in the wrong direction. Capital spending by major oil producers has ebbed and a disproportionate share of spending has been directed to maintenance projects, which do virtually nothing to generate new production but remain important in maintaining the base production. 2010 will bring the number of exploratory and development wells to their lowest levels in a decade on the North Slope, where production is down 80,000 barrels since 2007.

RDC finds these trends alarming and the lack of investment where it matters most indicates the production decline is likely to accelerate well beyond state projections. The worrisome trends also indicate more than just tweaks are needed to restore Alaska's competitiveness and draw investment dollars back to our state.

RDC is closely tracking oil and gas production tax legislation and requests the opportunity to testify and comment on this issue as the session evolves. We appreciate your efforts to improve Alaska's competitive position in attracting new investment and we thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

Jason Brune

Executive Director

ACT NOW! ALASKA ACT Alaska Alliance for Cruise Travel

Dear Alaska Business Partner:

With the decision from the cruise industry to move portions of their fleet and their marketing dollars out of Alaska, we now must look ahead with creative minds to keep our Alaska tourism businesses viable. We believe we cannot sit back and wait for the Alaska Legislature, Governor's office, or anyone other than ourselves to affect change that will bring our industry back to life. PLEASE PASS THIS TO ALL OF YOUR EMPLOYEES!

To advance our goals, we are developing a new support group called the Alaska Alliance for Cruise Travel (AlaskaACT) We are not the cruise lines, rather we are a group of local Alaska businesses.

Our Mission Statement is simple:

Alaska Alliance for Cruise Travel is an Alaskan statewide, non-profit, membership-funded organization made up of business and individuals benefiting from cruise travel. Through AlaskaACT, these stakeholders will work together to promote accurate information and support responsible development and growth of Alaska Tourism and the Cruise Industry.

In addition to these activities our organization's efforts are focusing on the following goals:

- Create a positive business environment in Alaska for the cruise and tourism industries
- Encourage the Alaska Legislature and Administration to work toward a resolution of the current legal issues between the State and the cruise industry
- Oppose inequitable taxation directed at the cruise industry
- Support equitable environmental laws for the cruise industry
- Commit its resources to advancing the restoration and stability of the Cruise Industry in the best interest of Alaska, and Alaskans.
- Encourage accurate and honest reporting by the media
- Educate Alaskans about the economic benefits and positive environmental effects of the cruise industry on Alaska
- Support the cruise industry in their efforts to protect and preserve the environment through reasonable and attainable legislation

Please sign up today at www.alaskaact.com

(You will receive an email that will ask you to confirm your registration.)

AlaskaACT Steering Committee

John Litten, Sitka Tours, Spokesman for AlaskaACT Bob Berto, TEMSCO Helicopters/CLAA Jason Brune, Resource Development Council Tim Cerny, Fountainhead Development Corporation Gary Danielson, White Pass & Yukon Route Bob Dindinger, Alaska Travel Adventures Ken Dole, Promech Air/Waterfall Group Carol Fraser, ARAMARK Steve Hites, Skagway Street Car Holly Johnson, Wings Airways/Taku Glacier Lodge Paul Landis, CIRI Alaska Tourism Corporation Bill MacKay, Alaska Airlines

Follow us on Twitter: AlaskaACT

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

The Department of Natural Resources proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 11 of the Alaska Administrative Code, dealing with historic, prehistoric and archaeological resources, and including the following:

New regulations

- Provisions for accessing information contained in the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (11 AAC 16.400)
- Historic preservation permits required for conducting state funded, licensed or permitted projects or projects on state lands, including when permits are not required, application processes, departmental review and assessment of historic, prehistoric and archaeological resource identification needs and effects caused by project, and permit provisions (11 AAC 16.025; 11 AAC 16.500)
- Alaska Landmarks Register eligibility requirements and application procedures (11 AAC 16.300; 11 AAC 16.310)

Amended regulations

- Title to items collected from lands owned or controlled by the state (11 AAC 16.020)
- Permits required for investigation or collection of historic, prehistoric and archaeological resources, including application processes, general permit provisions, who is qualified to conduct historic, prehistoric and archaeological investigations, required reports, and permit restrictions or revocations (11AAC 16.030; 11 AAC 16.040; 11 AAC 16.050; 11 AAC 16.070; 11 AAC 16.080)
- Grants to privately owned Alaska Landmarks, including eligibility, grant applications, allocation of funds, and project agreements (11 AAC 16.100; 11 AAC 16.110; 11 AAC 16.120; 11 AAC 16.130; 11 AAC 16.140; 11 AAC 16.160)
- Alaska Historical Commission activities associated with listing properties in the National Register of Historic Places (11 AAC 16.220; 11 AAC 16.230)
- Applicable definitions for terms used in this chapter (11 AAC 16.900) Repealed regulations
- Provisions for director's examination of site under permit in 11 AAC 16.090 is repealed and incorporated into 11 AAC 16.030

The proposed regulations are necessary to update the Alaska Historical Commission's role in the State Historic Preservation Program. They include provisions for a process for review of state projects, access to information in the Alaska Heritage Resource Survey, and Alaska Landmark Register requirements and process. They clarify and improve the State Historic Preservation Program standards, update references, and make changes to the regulations to make them internally consistent, including definitions.

This is a SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE adding to the NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES that was issued on December 9, 2009 concerning the proposed regulation revisions contained in the Department of Law file number JU2009200632 and the SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE that was issued December 30, 2009 to extend the comment period by seventy-five (75) days. This

SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE is being issued because the Department of Natural Resources has decided to hold oral hearings on these proposed regulations. The hearings will be held as follows:

Oral or written comments also may be submitted at a hearing to be held on March 4, 2010, in the Multi-Purpose Room, at the Spenard Community and Recreation Center, 2020 W 48th Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska. The hearing will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and might be extended to accommodate those present before 7:45 p.m. who did not have an opportunity to comment.

Oral or written comments also may be submitted at a hearing to be held on March 17, 2010, in the Department of Natural Resources Large Conference Room, 3700 Airport Way, Fairbanks, Alaska. The hearing will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and might be extended to accommodate those present before 7:45 p.m. who did not have an opportunity to comment.

Oral or written comments also may be submitted at a hearing to be held on March 18, 2010, in the Main Hall of the Juneau Arts & Humanities Council, 350 Whittier Street, Juneau, Alaska. The hearing will be held from 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and might be extended to accommodate those present before 7:45 p.m. who did not have an opportunity to comment.

You may comment on the proposed regulation changes, including the potential costs to private persons of complying with the proposed changes, by submitting written comments to:

Office of History and Archaeology Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation 550 W 7th Ave Suite 1310 Anchorage, AK 99501-3561

or via email: dnr.oharegs@alaska.gov or by fax 907 269-8908.

The comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Monday, March 30, 2010.

For a copy of the proposed regulation changes, contact the DNR Public Information Center (550 W. 7th Ave., Suite 1260, Anchorage, AK), write the Office of History and Archaeology, Attention Judith Bittner, 550 W 7th Ave, Suite 1310, Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565, call the Office of History and Archaeology at 907 269-8721, or visit www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks.

This SUPPLEMENTAL NOTICE extends the time to no later than February 26, 2010 for a person with a disability who needs a special accommodation in order to participate in this process to contact Judith Bittner at 907 269-8721 to ensure that any necessary accommodations can be provided.

After the public comment period ends, the Department of Natural Resources will either adopt these or other provisions dealing with the same subject, without further notice, or decide to take no action on them. The language of the final regulations may be different from that of the proposed regulations. YOU SHOULD COMMENT DURING THE TIME ALLOWED IF YOUR INTERESTS COULD BE AFFECTED.

Statutory Authority: AS 41.35.010, AS 41.35.020, AS 41.35.030, AS 41.35.040, AS 41.35.050, AS 41.35.070, AS 41.35.080, AS 41.35.200, AS 41.35.300, AS 41.35.350, AS 44.37.040

Statutes Being Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: AS 41.35.010, AS 41.35.020, AS 41.35.030, AS 41.35.040, AS 41.35.050, AS 41.35.070, AS 41.35.080, AS 41.35.200, AS 44.37.040

Fiscal Information: The proposed regulation changes are not expected to require an increased appropriation.

DATE: 02/12/2010

Judith Bittner, Chief History and Archaeology Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation Division Home Fact Sh

Fact Sheets Forms

Site Index

Contact Us

Natural Resources

find



Division of Mining, Land & Water

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

State of Alaska -

Natural Resources > Mining Land & Water

Susitna Matanuska Area Plan

Public Review Draft - Public Meetings and Comment Period

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has revised the state land use plan for over 9 million acres of state land in the Susitna and Matanuska river valleys. This public review draft (PRD) of the Susitna Matanuska Area Plan (SMAP) is available for review until May 5, 2010. Public meetings will be held at the locations and dates below.

The SMAP revises the majority of the 1985 Susitna Area Plan (SAP), encompassing most of the land within the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. Not included in the SMAP is the area generally between Palmer and Willow which is covered by the 2008 Southeast Susitna Area Plan, the Hatcher Pass Management Plan (currently under revision), and the Knik River Public Use Area. Also not included is the northeast corner of the borough, the area of land accessed from the Denali Highway, and Lake Louise. These regions are still guided by the 1985 SAP. For more detail of the planning area, refer to the website below.

The SMAP designates primary uses on state land, provides general management guidelines for a variety of land uses and resources, and identifies specific management intent for individual units of land. Half of the state land has been designated for wildlife habitat. This land will be retained in state ownership and managed to support fish and wildlife resources and their associated habitats. About 800,000 acres is designated Minerals and will be managed primarily for the mineral resource. Forestry is the designation for about 700,000 acres and will be managed to support forest resources and other related uses. Another 700,000 acres is designated for Settlement and is intended to provide a pool of land for future state land sales. The remainder is designated for a variety of land uses including coal, public recreation, agriculture, and water resources. A Land Classification Order (LCO) will be adopted with this plan which classifies each unit of land consistent with the land use designation. The effect of the approval of this LCO is to classify all of the land within the SMAP boundary, both legislatively designated and general state land. The classification corresponds to the designations and corresponding acreages noted above.

The draft plan, LCO, maps and other information can be found here, or, you can request a copy from the address below to be

Land Planning Index

- Planning Unit Home
- Area Plans
- Easement Atlases
- Management Plans

Other Management Plans

- Div. of Forestry Plans
- Div. of Parks Plans
- Special Use Area

Area Plaus Index

- Bristol Bay Area Plan
- Central / Southern Southeast Area Plan
- Copper River Basin Area Plan
- Juneau State Land Plan
- Kenai Area Plan
- Kodiak Area Plan
- Kuskokwim Area Plan
- Northern Southeast Area Plan
- Northwest Area Plan
- Prince of Wales Island Area Plan
- Prince of Wales Island Area Plan Amendment
- Prince William Sound Area Plan for State Land
- Southeast Susitna Area Plan
- Susitna Area Plan
- Tanana Basin Area Plan
- 1 Upper Yukon Area Plan
- Yakataga Area Plan

either emailed as an attachment or mailed as a CD.

Paper copies of the plan will be available for review by early March at local libraries, DNR's Public Information Center at 550 W 7th Ave. in Anchorage, at the Matanuska-Susitna Borough office at 350 E Dahlia Ave. in Palmer, or by request using the contact information listed below.

Please come to one of the following public meetings to learn about the plan and its recommendations for land use and guidelines. Following a presentation there will be an opportunity for the public to comment on the recommendations found in the plan.

Town	Date	Time	Location
SKWENTNA	Thursday, March 18	2:00-5:00 pm	Skwentna Roadhouse
WILLOW	Monday, March 22	7:00-9:30 pm	Willow Community Center, Mile 70 Parks Highway
TALKEETNA	Tuesday, March 23	6:00-8:30 pm	Talkeetna Elementary School, 13798 E Vtrns Way
TRAPPER CREEK	Wednesday, March 24	6:00-8:30 pm	Trapper Creek Elementary School, 6742 Petersville Rd
GLACIER VIEW	Thursday, March 25	1:00-4:00 pm	Long Rifle Lodge, Mile 102 Glenn Hwy
SUTTON	Thursday, March 25	6:00-8:30 pm	Sutton Public Library, Mile 0.1 Jonesville Rd
ANCHORAGE	Tuesday, March 30	6:00-8:30 pm	Atwood Building, 550 West 7th Ave., Suite 240
WASILLA	Wednesday, March 31	6:00-8:30 pm	Cottonwood Public Safety Building (Fire Station 65), Seward Meridian and Palmer-Wasilla Hwy

Comments can also be sent directly to the address below. To receive full consideration comments must be received by DNR before 5:00 pm on May 5, 2010.

Contact-

Mail:

DNR, Division of Mining, Land & Water Resource Assessment and Development

550 West 7th Ave, Suite 1050 Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3579

Phone: (907) 269-8534, or, Fax: (907) 269-8915

Email: ray.burger@alaska.gov

The State of Alaska, DNR, complies with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Individuals with disabilities who may need auxiliary aides, services or special modifications to participate in the review may contact the above number, email or the TDD

269-8411.

There are 11 million acres of land within the area plan boundary and 9 million of these are state owned. Since 1985 the legislature has designated 3 million acres as special purpose lands such as the Nelchina Public Use Area and the Susitna Recreation Rivers. There have also been land conveyances to the borough, Mental Health Trust, University and private individuals and this plan will not affect these lands. These and other changes to the state's population and economy make it desirable to revise the plan to reflect current conditions.

Planning is a way of sorting through the possibilities for using state land, choosing those with the greatest benefits for all Alaskans, and involving the public in the process. The planning process provides a link between the citizens and the agencies charged with managing their land.

Developing plans for state land is challenging because people have differing ideas of how state land can best be used. Also, not all desired uses of state land are compatible in the same place at the same time. Through resource planning, DNR works with the public to determine where the important resources are and how the land can be used for the maximum public benefit. In the planning process all resources are considered and evaluated. Wherever possible, guidelines are established that allow for multiple use.

Susitna Matanuska Area Plan Public Review Draft

All files can be viewed using Acrobat Reader 7 or higher.

Complete Document with Maps (10 MB)

Note: Color maps (#s 3-3 thru 3-12) are 11 x 17 inches.

Map 3-1: Planning Boundary and Regions (190 KB)

Complete Text (2.6 MB)

10 Color Plan Maps - Low Resolution (2.1 MB)

Preface (45 KB)

Includes: Title Page / Overall Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction (135 KB)

Includes: Introduction and Background / Summary of Purpose of the Plan / Description of the Planning Area / Uplands and Shorelands as Described in This Plan / Update of the Original Susitna Area Plan / Planning Area / How the Plan is Organized / Why This Plan Was Developed / The Mandate / What the Plan Will Do / How This Plan is Used / Public Participation in Planning Process / Process of Plan Preparation / Who Developed the Plan? / Uses and Resources Within the Planning Area / What the Plan Won't Do / Planning Period / Summary of Plan Actions / Management Intent / Land Use Designations / Management Guidelines / Classifications / Summary of Plan Implementation

and Modification

Chapter 2: Areawide Land Management Policies (765 KB)

Includes: Introduction / Agriculture / Coordination and Public Notice / Cultural Resources / Fish and Wildlife Habitat / Forestry / Instream Flow / Material Sites / Recreation and Scenic Resources / Settlement / Shorelands and Stream Corridors / Subsurface Resources / Public Access

Chapter 3: Land Management Policies for Each Management Unit (1.5 MB)

Includes: Introduction / Plan Structure / North Parks Highway Region / South Parks Highway Region / Petersville Road Region / Sunflower Basin Region / Susitna Lowlands Region / Mount Susitna Region / Alaska Range Region / Glenn Highway Region / Chugach Mountains Region / Talkeetna Mountains Region / Legislatively Designated Areas / Navigable Rivers and Lakes

Individual High Resolution Maps (11 x 17 inch)

- Map 3-3 (810 KB)
- Map 3-4 (1.2 MB)
- Map 3-5 (1.1 MB)
- Map 3-6 (885 KB)
- Map 3-7 (810 KB)
- Map 3-8 (470 KB)
- Map 3-9 (360 KB)
- Map 3-10 (830 KB)
- Map 3-11 (550 KB)
- Map 3-12 (500 KB)

Chapter 4: Implementation and Recommendations (105 KB)

Includes: Introduction / State Land Classifications / Relationship of Land Use Designations in the Plan to State Land Classifications / Public Trust Doctrine / Leasing of State Land / Classification Order / Applicability of Plan Designations/Classifications to State Lands not Identified in the Plan Text or Plan Maps / Survivor Designations and Classifications / Alaska Coastal Management Program / Municipal Entitlement / State Land Selections / Mineral Orders / Legislatively Designated Areas / Generally Allowed Uses / Types of Plan Changes

Appendices (80 KB)

Includes: Glossary / Land Classification Order

2009 Scoping Materials:

Area Plan Map

- Matanuska Scoping Map Ortho
- Matanuska Scoping Map Topo
- · Northern Susitna Scoping Map Ortho
- Northern Susitna Scoping Map Topo
- Southern Susitna Scoping Map Ortho

2010 Resource Development Council Policy Positions

General Issues

Fiscal Policy & Planning

- Advocate development and implementation of a comprehensive, responsible, and long-range state fiscal plan.
- Support equitable and predictable tax and royalty policies.
- Support some use of the Permanent Fund earnings as part of a fiscal plan.
- Support development of a state strategic economic development plan.
- Oppose efforts to enshrine the Permanent Fund Dividend in the Alaska Constitution.

Access

- Advocate increased access to and across public lands for resource and community development.
- Advocate multiple-use of public lands.
- Continue to assert the state's rights on navigable waters and submerged lands.

Regulation/Permitting

- Support efforts to ensure Alaska's ballot initiative process is open and transparent.
- Encourage the state to promote and defend the integrity of Alaska's permitting process.
- Advocate clear, timely, and streamlined state and federal permitting systems based on sound science, economic feasibility, and protection of property ownership rights.
- Provide adequate resources to permitting agencies for personnel, research, and science.
- Support the State of Alaska's efforts to challenge unwarranted Endangered Species Act listings and proposed critical habitat designations.
- Remove the "Point of Discharge" requirement implemented by the 2006 cruise ship head tax initiative to empower DEC to regulate cruise ship discharges to meet all water quality standards.
- Encourage the state to carefully consider the impacts of potential changes to the ACMP program on communities and industry while striving to eliminate the duplication of current state and federal requirements.

Infrastructure

 Encourage the state to develop a prioritized transportation strategy that supports resource and community development activities.

Education

- Support programs, including the Alaska Resource Education program, to educate students and the general public on responsible resource development activities in Alaska.
- Support growing the state's emphasis on workforce development.

Industry Specific Issues

Oil & Gas

- Advocate for an improved tax policy that enhances the State of Alaska's competitiveness for exploration and development investments.
- Support legislation to encourage new exploration and development of Alaska's oil and gas deposits, as well as enhanced production from existing fields.
- Encourage public policy and fiscal decisions to improve the commercial viability of developing Alaska's North Slope and Interior natural gas resources.
- Support efforts to increase Cook Inlet oil and gas exploration, development and deliverability to meet local demand and export markets.
- Encourage incentives to improve the commercial viability of developing Alaska's challenged oil and gas resources, such as heavy oil.
- Educate and advocate for opening the coastal plain of the ANWR to oil and gas development.
- Support offshore oil and gas development and work to maximize benefits to Alaska through advocacy for federal revenue sharing and/or community impact assistance.
- Oppose efforts, either legislatively or through the initiative process, to impose a gas reserves tax.

Energy

- Support simplified leasing and permitting of non-conventional fuel resources to encourage development of the state's resources and provide energy to local areas.
- Encourage development of new electrical generating and transmission systems to provide stable sources of electricity for economic development and existing electricity consumers.
- Support utilization of Alaska's coal resources for value-added industries and power generation in addition to export to international markets.
- Support efforts to diversify Alaska's energy sources, including known renewable energy options and research and development of non-conventional sources.

Mining

- Support competitive mining tax and royalty policies.
- Encourage the expansion and increased production from existing deposits as well as new exploration and development of Alaska's mineral resources.
- Advocate continuation and expansion of the airborne geophysical mapping program and the on-the-ground follow up work required to realize the full benefits of the program.

Fisheries

- Support fisheries policies that ensure access, markets and revenues for Alaska fishermen and coastal communities, and a healthy competitive environment for an Alaskan seafood processing industry.
- Support reduced fisheries waste and better utilization of Alaska fisheries resources, improved product value and development of new product forms.
- · Support funding of fisheries and marine mammal research.

Forestry

- Advocate a reliable and economical long-term federal and state timber supply.
- Support adequate funding and enforcement of the Alaska Forest Practices Act.
- Encourage funding of forest management initiatives that address long-term forest health and reforestation.

Tourism

- Advocate for a positive business environment to restore the cruise and tourism industries in Alaska.
- Encourage the Alaska Legislature and Administration to resolve the current legal issues between the State and the cruise industry.
- Oppose inequitable taxation directed at the cruise industry as a result of the 2006 Ballot Initiative.
- · Advocate for equitable environmental laws for cruise ships.
- Advocate additional aircraft landing sites and reduced restrictions on over-flights.