

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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

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

BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, April 1, 2010

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

Update on Alaska Issues in Washington, D.C.

Senator Lisa Murkowski

Next Meeting:

NAME/TITLE:

April 15: Lt. Governor Craig Campbell

Please add my name to RDC's mailing list

COMPANY:			
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From: "Croes, Max (Begich)" < Max_Croes@begich.senate.gov>

Subject: President's OCS plan would allow exploration of existing Chukchi and Beaufort leases

Date: March 31, 2010 9:07:12 AM AKDT

To: "Croes, Max (Begich)" <Max_Croes@begich.senate.gov>, "Hasquet, Julie (Begich)" <Julie_Hasquet@begich.senate.gov>

1 Attachment, 17.0 KB



Robert Dillon Senator Murkowski (202) 224-6997 Julie Hasquet Senator Begich (907) 271-5915

For Immediate Release March 31, 2009

Sens. Murkowski and Begich Welcome New Plan for Federal Waters

President's Offshore Plan will Allow Exploration of Existing Chukchi and Beaufort Sea Leases

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Alaska Sens. Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich today released the following statement in response to the Obama administration's updated plan for offshore oil and natural gas development.

Sen. Murkowski:

"I appreciate the department's decision to allow valid existing rights to explore Alaska's huge offshore oil and gas reserves to go ahead," Murkowski said. "I will work with the administration on proceeding with important future lease sales off Alaska's coast, as well as along the Atlantic coast and the Eastern Gulf of Mexico."

Sen. Begich:

"Alaska's energy companies should be pleased with the green light from the Obama administration to proceed toward oil and gas development in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas under the current lease schedule. As the site of the world's largest salmon fishery, the President's proposal to curtail oil and gas development in Bristol Bay makes sense," Begich said.. "I commend the Obama administration, and especially Interior Secretary Ken Salazar, for reaching out to Alaskans and incorporating our recommendations in today's decision."

Today's announcement validates planned exploratory activity in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas, delays four planned sales in the same areas and suspends leasing activity in the North Aleutian Basin. Leaseholders must still acquire the necessary permits from the Environmental Protection Agency before exploration can move forward.

"It's now critical that the EPA finalize long-pending air-quality permits for this summer's exploratory activity in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas," Murkowski said.

The senators urged the administration to continue to fund environmental studies in the North Aleutian Basin so that a more informed decision can be made about possible development in the future.

"As America's long-term energy storehouse, Alaska holds some of North America's largest reserves of oil and natural gas. Responsibly developing these reserves is vital for America's energy independence and security and would be a shot in the arm to our economy when we sorely need it," Begich said. "Although I want to see more details, it appears President Obama has struck a careful balance between environmentally responsible development in Alaska's outer continental shelf and conducting additional science to ensure the OCS's other resources, such as marine mammals, are protected."

The U.S. Geological Survey estimates Alaska's coastal waters hold an estimated 132 trillion cubic feet of natural gas and nearly 27 billion barrels of oil. The Atlantic coast may hold 37 trillion cubic feet of gas and nearly 4 billion barrels of oil, while the Pacific Coast has 10.5 billion barrels of oil and 18 trillion cubic feet of gas.

"As America benefits from the jobs, the deficit reductions, and the energy security associated with this development, I am confident that more of the outer continental shelf will become available," Murkowski said. "Even as we transform America's energy landscape, we're going to need a lot of oil for many years. For the sake of our nation's economy, our national security, and for the world's environment, the more of that oil we can produce domestically the better."

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Deputy Press Secretary
Office of Senator Mark Begich
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 10-056

Governor Comments on President's OCS Oil and Gas Leasing Plan

March 31, 2010, Juneau, Alaska — Governor Sean Parnell expressed concern with the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) oil and gas leasing plan that was released today by President Obama.

"Although the plan calls for expanded leasing in the Lower 48 offshore areas, uncertainty remains about the future of OCS leasing in Alaska, particularly in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas during the 2012–to-2017 leasing period," Governor Parnell said. "Few areas of the United States possess the potential of Alaska's northern OCS areas: an estimated 25 billion barrels of oil and 120 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

"By not maintaining a predictable lease program in the Alaska OCS, 35,000 job opportunities are still unavailable to Alaskans, the cost of energy will go up, and the U.S. will continue to depend on imported oil. At a time when the U.S. economy is weak, we need high-paying jobs associated with the development and use of domestic petroleum and the increased energy security that come from Alaska production."

Governor Parnell has consistently emphasized the importance of OCS oil and gas development to Alaska and the nation. The governor also has argued for OCS revenue sharing so that coastal states and localities can share in the wealth that would be created by further development. He has directed the Department of Law to intervene in pending litigation challenging certain OCS sales in Alaska.

There will be a 30-day period for public comment on the proposed five-year schedules, during which the governor will file strong comments on behalf of Alaska.



News Release

Date: March 31, 2010

Contact: Kendra Barkoff (DOI) (202) 713-0827

Frank Quimby (DOI) (202) 208-7291

Nicholas Pardi (MMS) (202) 208-3985

Secretary Salazar Announces Comprehensive Strategy for Offshore Oil and Gas Development and Exploration

New Development in Gulf of Mexico; Exploration in Arctic and Atlantic; Protection for Alaska's Bristol Bay

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, MD – Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar today announced that, as part of a comprehensive strategy for strengthening the nation's energy security and reducing America's dependence on foreign oil, the Obama Administration will expand oil and gas development and exploration on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf, while protecting fisheries, tourism, and places off U.S. coasts that are not appropriate for development.

"By responsibly expanding conventional energy development and exploration here at home we can strengthen our energy security, create jobs, and help rebuild our economy," said Salazar, who joined President Obama at Andrews Air Force Base to make the announcement. "Our strategy calls for developing new areas offshore, exploring frontier areas, and protecting places that are too special to drill. By providing order and certainty to offshore exploration and development and ensuring we are drilling in the right ways and the right places, we are opening a new chapter for balanced and responsible oil and gas development here at home."

The Administration's strategy calls for: developing oil and gas resources in new areas, such as the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, more than 125 miles from Florida's coast; increasing oil and gas exploration in frontier areas, such as the Arctic Ocean and the Mid and South Atlantic Ocean; and protecting ocean areas that are simply too special to drill, such as Alaska's Bristol Bay.

The strategy will guide the current 2007-2012 offshore oil and gas leasing program, which was written by the previous administration but found by the courts last year to be legally flawed, as well as the new 2012-2017 program that this administration will propose.

DEVELOPMENT

The Obama Administration's strategy calls for expanded development and production throughout the Gulf of Mexico, including resource-rich areas of the Eastern Gulf of Mexico that are currently under Congressional moratorium and closed to development.

"The plan we are proposing calls for 4 more lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico by 2012 and, in the years beyond, would open up two-thirds of the oil and gas resources in the Eastern Gulf while protecting Florida's coast and critical military training areas," said Salazar. "Our efforts to strategically open new areas in the Eastern Gulf would represent the largest expansion of our nation's available offshore oil and gas supplies in three decades."

The Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service estimates that the Gulf of Mexico contains 36-41.5 billion barrels of undiscovered, economically recoverable oil and 161-207 trillion cubic feet of undiscovered, economically recoverable natural gas resources.

Additionally, by 2012, Interior plans to hold two lease sales – one 50 miles off the coast of Virginia and one in the Cook Inlet in Alaska – provided there is interest from industry, that development can be done in an environmentally responsible manner, and that development does not compromise critical military training in the Atlantic.

EXPLORATION

Interior will also expand oil and gas exploration in frontier areas, such as the Arctic Ocean and areas in the Atlantic Ocean, to gather the information necessary to develop resources in the right places and the right ways.

"If we are to responsibly develop resources in frontier areas we must expand exploration activities, gather the science needed, and listen to affected communities," said Salazar.

Because the potential oil and gas resources and the benefits and risks of developing OCS frontier areas are not sufficiently known, the Administration plan calls for seismic exploration in the Mid and South Atlantic OCS to support conventional and renewable energy planning.

The Administration strategy supports exploratory drilling in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas in the Arctic Ocean, which could begin as early as this summer, to develop critical information. Secretary Salazar has also asked the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to assess what information is known and what is not known about resources, risks, and environmental sensitivities in Arctic areas.

In addition, Interior will gather scientific information, conduct environmental scoping, and hold public meetings to determine which other OCS areas may be appropriate for

leasing under the 2012-2017 program. The proposed scoping will consider the Gulf of Mexico, much of the Atlantic OCS and include the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas off Alaska. No further lease sales in the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas will be held under the 2007-2012 program.

"The scoping process for the 2012-2017 program will provide opportunities to hear from local communities who depend on tourism, tribes whose livelihoods depend on the sea, and scientists who can tell us where the risks of development are simply too great and which areas are just too sensitive to drill," Salazar said.

"According to MMS estimates, 39-62 billion barrels of economically recoverable oil and 165-289 trillion cubic feet of natural gas are economically recoverable from the eight planning areas under consideration for leasing under the 2012-2017 program. That represents as much as 80% of the undiscovered economically recoverable oil and gas on the U.S. outer continental shelf."

Conservation

In addition to expanding oil and gas development and exploration on the OCS, the Administration's plan calls for the protection of special areas like Bristol Bay, in Alaska.

"In our quest to secure our energy future, we must not lose the places and values that set our nation apart," said Salazar. "Bristol Bay is a national treasure that we must protect for future generations."

President Obama is withdrawing Bristol Bay from consideration for oil and gas development through 2017. In addition, the Administration's strategy does not propose potential exploration or development in areas near California, Oregon, and Washington or in the North Atlantic.

The offshore oil and gas strategy announced today is part of the President's comprehensive national energy plan to make responsible use of all of America's energy resources and technologies. That includes energy efficacy initiatives; renewable resources, such as wind, solar, hydropower and geothermal; appropriate conventional sources of oil, gas and coal; as well as expanded nuclear power. The goal is to build a clean energy economy, create jobs here at home and lead the world in the energy technologies that will define the next century, all of which will help to reduce the nation's overdependence on foreign oil.

For more information about the offshore oil and gas strategy announced today, visit www.doi.gov.

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Congress to look at Sealaska lands bill

Sealaska Corporation is expecting a hearing in the U.S. House in March on federal legislation which would convey to the Southeast Alaska Native corporation land it is owed under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA), which passed Congress in 1971. A mark-up is also expected on the bill in the Senate.

ANCSA established Sealaska and 12 other Native corporations as a result of the largest aboriginal land settlement in history. It promised to return productive acres of land to the corporations for the benefit of the Native people of their regions. However, land in Southeast Alaska has not been fully conveyed to Sealaska and the legislation would transfer the remaining acres.

Under ANCSA, Sealaska was eligible for up to 375,000 acres. Yet to date only 290,000 acres have been conveyed, leaving approximately 85,000 acres remaining.

"This legislation is the culmination of years of outreach," said Chris McNeil, President of Sealaska Corporation. He noted over 200 stakeholder meetings have been held around Southeast Alaska on the bill and to better understand the values and priorities of residents in the region. The CEOs of the regional Alaska Native corporations and the Alaska Federation of Natives strongly endorsed the bill.

Legislation was first introduced by the Alaska congressional delegation in 2008 to satisfy Sealaska's remaining land entitlements. Revised legislation was introduced by Senators Lisa Murkowski and Mark Begich last year to reflect public comments and concerns with the previous bill. Congressman Don Young introduced companion legislation in the House.

"The bill represents a number of changes from the original legislation and to meet local concerns with how selections might affect small communities," said Murkowski.

"Sealaska has been waiting far too long to complete its land entitlement from ANCSA," said Begich. "We need to move this legislation forward to finish the ANCSA entitlements but also to allow Sealaska and its shareholders to develop a sustainable economic future."

The revised bill would permit Sealaska to select new acreage on and around Prince

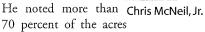
of Wales Island for timber harvesting from a pool of about 78,000 acres, up to 5,000 acres of lands elsewhere in Southeast Alaska for non-timber economic development, and up to 3,600 acres for cultural and historic preservation.

In return, Sealaska would provide policy makers with the option to preserve 270,000 acres of roadless lands and over 112,000 acres of productive old growth timber that are presently available for selection.

"Under current law, much of the land available for selection is in inventoried roadless areas, intact watersheds, municipal watersheds, and high value fish and wildlife habitat important for subsistence resources and to commercial fisheries," McNeil said. "Sealaska agrees with many members of the conservation community that these lands are better suited for public ownership. This

legislation will allow Sealaska to select land from outside the original withdrawal areas."

Not only does Sealaska see the benefits of the bill, but so does other entities in the region, said McNeil.



identified in the bill are in roaded areas. He said the bill provides for protection of old growth forest and unprecedented access for subsistence and recreational activities on economic development lands.

"I want to be clear that the legislation is fulfilling Sealaska's final entitlement of 85,000 acres – no more land than is originally owed to us under ANCSA," McNeil added.

New investment from Sealaska on lands made available through the legislation is hoped to provide a boost to the sagging Southeast Alaska economy. Prince of Wales Island suffers from unemployment rates of 24 percent and the state predicts the region's population will decline by 30 percent in rural areas and 25 percent in urban centers by 2030.

Before introducing the legislation, Murkowski requested assurances from Sealaska that the benefits of the legislation would flow to the overall Southeast Alaska economy. In response, Sealaska promised to maintain its commitment to create jobs for residents of Southeast Alaska, maintain its commitment to local mills and local producers of wood products through micro sale programs, collaborate with others to preserve the viability of the Southeast Alaska timber industry and work with local communities on energy issues.

A study conducted by the McDowell Group indicated that Sealaska is responsible for 580 jobs and approximately \$22 million of payroll in Southeast Alaska. In 2009, Sealaska spent more than \$41 million in support of its corporate and timber-related operations, benefiting approximately 350 businesses and organizations in 19 Southeast Alaska communities.

"Sealaska's land legislation is one of the most important economic stimulus measures available to Southeast Alaska, and with support, it can be passed in Congress," McNeil said. He noted a recent survey of residents in the area revealed that communities' beliefs and priorities are aligned with the benefits of the legislation.

Of 600 residents surveyed, 79 percent supported growing and diversifying the regional and local economy while protecting the environment. Seventy percent supported using reasonable and responsible practices which allow current natural resource-based business like logging and milling to provide jobs and economic stability for communities.

Asked to rate their priorities, 62 percent of Southeast Alaska residents said creating jobs and improving the economy is their highest priority. Fifty-six percent rated protection of streams and rivers as their highest priority and 49 percent said protection of the environment was the most important priority.

"These goals are not mutually exclusive," said RDC Executive Director Jason Brune. "The Forest Practices Act ensures protection of the environment while affording opportunities for sustainable development."

Of those responding to the survey, 43 percent lived in Juneau, Alaska's capital, 12 percent were from the fishing port of Sitka and 10 percent resided in Ketchikan.

Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Recovery Team Members

SCIENTIFIC PANEL

<u>Name</u> Expertise

Bob Small general marine mammal expert
 Carrie Goertz beluga disease/health/strandings

Craig Matkin beluga predators
 Greg O'Corry-Crowe beluga genetics
 Lori Quakenbush beluga diets
 Manolo Castellote beluga acoustics

Mark Willette Cook Inlet fisheries biology and management
 Peter Merryman president, Native co-management partner

Pierre Beland beluga ecotoxicology
 Robert Michaud general beluga expert
 Robert Suydam general beluga expert

12. Rod Hobbs general beluga expert; population models/statistics

13. Tamara McGuire (Team Leader) general beluga expert

STAKEHOLDER PANEL

<u>Name</u> <u>Organization</u>

Andrew Niemiec Knik Arm Bridge and Toll Authority
 Brett Jokela Anchorage Water and Wastewater Utility

Chris Garner Department of Defense
 Christine Nelson Matanuska-Susitna Borough

5. Doug Vincent-Lang State of Alaska, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

6. George Vakalis Anchorage Municipality

7. Jason Brune Resource Development Council

8. Joel Blatchford Alaska Native Marine Mammal Hunters Committee

9. John Schoen Audubon Society10. Karla Dutton Defenders of Wildlife

11. Marilyn Crockett

Alaska Oil and Gas Association

Renai Peninsula Borough

13. Nancy Lord Cook Inlet Keeper

14. Page Herring Northern District Set Netters Association of Cook Inlet

15. Paul Shadura Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association

16. Roland Maw United Cook Inlet Drift Association

17. Steve Ribuffo Port of Anchorage

18. Willie Goodwin Alaska Beluga Whale Committee

NMFS LIAISON

Mandy Migura Cook Inlet Beluga Whale Recovery Coordinator NMFS, Anchorage Field Office Fact Sheets

Forms

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Natural Resources

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Division of Mining, Land & Water

Alaska Department of Natural Resources

State of Alaska > - Natural Resources > Minneg 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

tand 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 Plans 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
- ¹ 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
- 1 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- M

Mail: DN

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 11×17 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

Testimony of Carl Portman Resource Development Council Susitna Matanuska Area Plan Tuesday, March 30, 2010

The Resource Development Council Development Council (RDC) appreciates the opportunity to testify on the draft Susitna Matanuska Area Plan. RDC's comments begin with the following premise: the plan should implement the state's constitutional and statutory policies to develop its resources, making them available for maximum use, and consistent with the overall public interest. The planning area has vast natural resources, including timber and minerals, and responsible development of these resources would diversify and expand the local and state economy, create new jobs and generate additional government revenues.

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 governments, organized labor and industry support firms. Our 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.

In addition to making natural resources available for maximum use, the plan must ensure resource management allows for the sustained yield of renewable resources such as timber harvesting, that environmental and preservation concerns are balanced with development opportunities to support the local and state economy, and that public access to state land is provided. Moreover, the plan must protect valid existing uses and rights, and preserve multiple use resource development opportunities on lands most suitable for development.

Forestry

Extensive forest resources exist within the planning area. In fact, approximately 685,000 acres have been classified "Forestry" in this plan. RDC supports designating forestry as the primary use on these lands. Considering the fact that trees are a renewable resource and that the region and state economy would benefit from a more diverse

economy, the plan should encourage the sustained-yield harvest of these lands. Such harvests would also improve forest health and vigor.

Harvesting timber resources in the Susitna Valley on a sustained yield basis would provide for important economic opportunities and stability in the forest products industry. A critical factor for such stability is the designation of large blocks of forest lands for timber harvesting, which this plan proposes.

Moreover, the plan recommends consideration be given to the creation of a state forest in the planning area. RDC supports this concept of a "working forest" as such a forest would provide a more vigorous approach to the management of forest stands and represent a long-term commitment to maintaining a significant timber supply. A working forest should emphasize active management of forest lands to provide wood for commercial and personal uses.

Another factor in building stability in the forest products industry is a reasonable regulatory and permitting regime that allows for economic timber sales. In our view, there is no need for additional, restrictive standards beyond what is already in place under current riparian protections and state law. As a result, the plan should not impose additional requirements on forest harvesting.

Material Sites

The state should continue to make available to public and private users sufficient, suitably located materials sites to meet long-term economic needs for material resources.

Subsurface Resources

Areas considered to have mineral potential and for which mining is considered an appropriate use, should remain open to mineral development. The plan should not create any new mineral closing orders beyond those imposed by the 1985 plan. In order to preserve future development opportunities and expand the economy, all remaining state-owned lands outside the 1985 closures should remain open to mineral entry.

Oil and Gas Resources:

Oil and gas resources are likely present within the planning area. The land use designations of the plan are multiple use in character and should not preclude future oil and gas development. As with development of forest and mineral resources, new oil and gas exploration, development and production would enhance the region's economy and create new jobs.

Coal Resources:

While coal potential within the planning area is generally considered low to moderate, recent advances in technology and changes in the economics of extraction may increase this level to high in those areas where coal is buried at depth. This plan should not impose requirements on coal exploration and extraction beyond those cited in statute and regulation. All areas, except those within areas closed to such activity in legislatively designated areas, should remain open to coal leasing, exploration, development and extraction.



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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

Dear Sir or Madam:

March 30, 2010

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Office of History and Archaeology's proposed new regulations for the Alaska Historic Preservation Act.

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.

RDC is concerned that the requirement in the proposed regulations for a new permit, outlined in 11 AAC 16.500, may have negative impacts on our members. RDC recommends eliminating this requirement completely. The Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) has for many years worked through multiple permitting agencies to uphold its historic preservation practices, and should continue to operate in the same manner. Adding an additional permit to the dozens already required by these agencies is unnecessary, as the current process is highly effective, efficient, and poses no major problems that the proposed new regulations would address. Additionally, the new OHA permit, which would accompany every state permit, stands to jeopardize our currently streamlined processes such as field permits, general permits, and quick-turnaround permits. These processes, for situations like burn permits, temporary water-use permits and even food service permits are designed to quickly award a permit for a minor disturbance activity. Requiring an OHA permit and its 90-day process to accompany these is simply unworkable.

Aside from Section 500 of the proposed new regulations, RDC believes the proposed changes mostly improve the State's ability to manage historic resources. However, we have several comments and recommendations we respectfully ask that you consider before adopting final regulations.

- 1. **Private Land:** The new OHA regulations should honor privately owned lands that the State does not have the authority to manage. State law mandates that OHA can manage historic resources on private land ONLY if public funds are being used for the project or with the landowner's consent. The proposed regulations give OHA authority beyond what is authorized by statute, and this should be recognized in revisions to the regulations.
- 2. Appeals of OHA Decisions: After adopting the new regulations, decisions made by OHA enforcing them should be appealable to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to consult with OHA to determine if a property has historic value. How OHA responds to this federal request is a significant decision made by the state, and one that should be eligible for appeal to the DNR Commissioner. The regulations specify that appeals can be made only to a federal official based in Washington, D.C.; the Keeper of the Natural Register of Historic Places. The Commissioner of DNR and at very least the Governor should be able to review any OHA decision, like all other divisions within DNR. This is an important omission that should be corrected in any revisions of the proposed regulations.
- 3. Educational and personal-use fossil collecting: The Alaska Historic Preservation Act applies to fossils commonly found around Alaska. Teachers collecting everyday fossils for their class or kids discovering simple fossils in a park stand to violate the law if the proposed regulations are adopted. Similarly, the proposed regulations require construction to halt if a common fossil is encountered. A revision must be made to allow for low-level use of state historic resources such as these.
- 4. Frequently encountered scenarios: a standard, streamlined tool within OHA should be used to address discoveries of old garbage, a rotting building, etc. These frequently encountered situations should have conventional solutions like avoidance and documentation and should not delay projects. The proposed regulations should address this issue in its revisions.
- 5. Alaska Historic Landmark Register: The proposed regulations allow the Alaska Historical Commission to authorize OHA to establish a Historical Landmark without the approval of the agency that manages the land. Potentially, OHA could use the Historical Landmark status to enforce standards for an area managed by another agency, without first consulting with that agency. This process should remain internal and not become a conflict between the agencies involved and OHA.

Along with the above recommendations, RDC requests that further regulations be adopted with input from those who are regulated in Alaska. Discussion with affected groups will result in clear, effective regulations that allow for productive project development in the State while enhancing the State's management of historic resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the proposed regulations.

Sincerely,

South

Deantha Crockett, Projects Coordinator



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Senator Mark Begich
Senator Lisa Murkowski

Congressman Don Young Governor Sean Parnell Representative Reggie Joule Alaska State Legislature

March 25, 2010

Alaska State Capitol, Room 410 Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Joule:

The Resource Development Council is writing to you about HB74 regarding the Alaska Coastal Management Program. As you know, our membership is extremely diverse and includes local communities and boroughs, including the North Slope and Northwest Arctic Boroughs, all of Alaska's Regional Native Corporations, as well as all of Alaska's major oil and gas, mining, seafood processing, and cruiseship companies. We are proud of this diversity and together, we try to grow Alaska through responsible resource development

RDC recognizes the importance of local input as development projects navigate the permitting system. However, we understand that under the current system, many of those providing that input feel their concerns are being left unheard. Clearly, the perception amongst many is that the current Alaska Coastal Management Program is broken.

At the same time, RDC industry members need clear, timely, and streamlined permitting systems. Prior to the changes that occurred to the program in 2003, the program had open-ended timelines for decision making, contained requirements that were duplicative or overlapping of those of state and federal requirements, resulting in significant conflicts and misinterpretations, and extensive geographic reach of the coastal zone boundaries, oftentimes extending significantly inland. This lack of predictability and clarity clearly frustrated many, from districts to permittees, and likely precipitated the changes that occurred.

For each of the last three years, the RDC Board has met with the Bush Caucus and offered to try to facilitate an improved program that would be a win-win for all involved. We have extended the same offer to the North Slope Borough, Senator Begich, and others. We believe a compromise can be reached.

There is near unanimous agreement in the RDC membership that local input is imperative, but that it should not be allowed to trump state or federal processes, effectively giving veto power to the districts. There is a way to solve this problem. However, we do not believe that HB74 is the solution. We commit to working with you, key RDC stakeholders, and other legislators, now or during the interim, to develop a system that is a win-win for all entities.

Sincerely, Lynlessen

Jason Brune Executive Director

Testimony of Carl Portman Deputy Director Resource Development Council To National Marine Fisheries Service

Preparation of Environmental Impact Statement to analyze issuance of Incidental Take Authorizations under Marine Mammal Protection Act March 23, 2010

Anchorage, AK

Good evening. My name is Carl Portman, Deputy Director of the Resource Development Council. RDC appreciates the opportunity to present testimony on the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to analyze the impacts of issuing Incidental Take Authorizations (ITAs) pursuant to the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

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 governments, organized labor and industry support firms. Our 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.

As the National Marine Fisheries Service prepares the EIS, RDC urges that it perform a balanced and objective review of science and peer-reviewed literature, including industry-funded research, on the effects of oil and gas operations in the marine environment and on marine mammals. The EIS should avoid speculating on potential effects and should base potential impacts on documented incidents or technical reports. The EIS should acknowledge the evidence in peer-reviewed literature which indicates that seismic has not affected the health or reproductive fitness of marine mammal populations. Studies to date have been consistent in their conclusions on this topic.

With regard to cumulative impact analysis, while RDC understands such analysis is an important component of the NEPA process, the agency should exercise restraint in limiting the number of Incidental Take Authorizations. Not only are marine mammals thoroughly protected under existing laws and mitigation measures, industry operations in the Alaska Arctic have had no negative impact on polar bears and other marine mammals. Overly restrictive measures and severe limitations on ITAs would discourage industry investment, future exploration, and production of energy resources from the Arctic – with no added benefit to marine mammals.

RDC is confident oil and gas production from the Chukchi and Beaufort can move forward in an environmentally-sensitive and responsible manner through a strong regulatory regime, seasonal operating restrictions as needed, and reasonable mitigation measures to avoid conflicts with other resource users.

The EIS should also consider and acknowledge the following important national interests:

First, demand for energy in the U.S. and abroad will continue to grow. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts that by 2025, demand for oil will increase by 39% and demand for natural gas will rise by 34%. The EIA also estimates that oil and natural gas will account for nearly two-thirds of the energy consumed in 2025.

- Second, if oil and gas resources are not developed and produced domestically, they will be imported from abroad, increasing our reliance on foreign sources. Benefits of developing domestic oil and gas resources should be considered. OCS production will help grow and sustain our economy, create jobs and generate local, state and federal revenue – all while protecting the environment. Moreover, new natural gas production from the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas would enhance the economic viability of the proposed natural gas pipeline from Alaska to the Lower 48.
- Third, the Lower 48 and Alaska have vast oil and gas resources on the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) that can and should play a major role in meeting future needs and offsetting production declines from mature basins. Current estimates indicate the Chukchi and Beaufort Seas contain 122 trillion cubic feet (tcf) of natural gas and 25 billion barrels of oil. These estimates may actually prove to be conservative as the Alaska OCS is largely under explored and estimates have not incorporated the use of new seismic and computer modeling technology.
- Fourth, new offshore development and environmental protection are not mutually exclusive. OCS development has an outstanding safety and environmental record spanning decades. Development has coexisted with other industries, including fishing, in the North Sea, the Gulf of Mexico and Cook Inlet. With regard to the Alaskan OCS, exploration is not new. Approximately 30 wells have been drilled in the Beaufort Sea and five in the Chukchi Sea. Since 2005, the federal government has collected over \$3 billion for leases in these waters. These facts should be acknowledged in the EIS.

In concluding, RDC will offer more extensive comments in writing before the April 9 deadline. Our members in the oil and gas industry have a track record of responsible development and protection of marine mammals. Our members are committed to maintaining this track record while providing additional domestic energy, jobs and economic activity for America.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



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Ex-Officio Members Senator Mark Begich Senator Lisa Murkowski Congressman Don Young Governor Sean Parnell Representative Craig Johnson House Resources Committee Alaska State Legislature, State Capitol

Juneau, AK 99801

March 10, 2010

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

Annual Fairbanks Alaska Miners Association Convention and Trade Show raffle and silent auction in support of Alaska Resource Education results!

Grand Prize: Two Round Trip Tickets on Alaska Airlines Including Mexico and Hawaii - Won by Mary Martinez!



RAFFLE WINNERS (drawing was 03/12/10)

Logo Apparel Alaska Miners Association Won by: Keith Walters, Paul Metz

Gift Basket ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc. Won by: Stan Foo

Logo Windbreakers

Barrick Gold Corporation

Won by: Caroline Higgins

\$50 Gift Card Bear Tooth/Moose's Tooth Won by: John Shively

Bench Blanket, Pullover Nalco

Won by: Brian Hewitt, Pat Kalbn

Windbreaker & Hats Totem Ocean Trailer Express Won by: Larry Cooper

Jacket Sunshine Custom Promotions Won by: Carolyn Gray

Logo Gear and Apparel Usibelli Coal Mine

Won by: Gernot Wober, Dan Givens

Jacket
Petro Star

Won by: June McAtee

CAT Logo Gear & Replica Models
NC Machinery
Won by: Richard Cirlce, Verner Wilson, Mike Cammack

Hat & Cap Set
Pebble Partnership
Won by: Meriam Karlsson

Toolbag Kinross - Fort Knox Won by: Rachel S.

Banana Splits
TASTEE FREEZ
Won by: David Parish

One Night's Stay
The Lodge at Black Rapids
Won by: Scott Thorson

Gift Certificate (Two)
Metro Music & Book
Won by: Bill Jeffress, Shane Lasley

One Night's Stay Westmark Fairbanks Won by: Jerry Birch SILENT AUCTION

20 Cubic Yards of 1" Gravel North Star Construction Equipment Inc. Won by: Bill Brophy

Logo Gear & Apparel Northern Air Cargo Won by: Matt Petersen, Charlotte Barker

Logo Gear & Apparel
Oxford Assaying & Refining Corp.
Won by: D. Aden

Logo Apparel
PetroStar
Won by: Gernot W

Won by: Gernot Wober

Logo Apparel & Gear Pebble Partnership Won by: Matt Petersen

1 oz. Silver Coin Randy Powelson Won by: Gary Deschutier

Logo Gear Shannon & Wilson Inc. Won by: Gernot Wober

Overnight for Two with Swim Passes Chena Hot Springs Resort Won by: Don Gray

Logo Tools and Knife Set Dowland Bach Won by: Dave Gill

Two Tickets
Era Aviation
Won by: Ralph Samuels

Alaska Mint Necklace Ingrid Fadaoff Won by: Cheryl Davey

Nook & Gift Card Austin Powder Company Won by: Cheryl Davey

Wine Opener Kit & Football Tire Distribution Systems, Inc. Won by: Gernot Wober

Logo Gear Titan Wheel Corporation Won by: Marilyn Borell

Logo Gear & Apparel Totem Ocean Trailer Express Won by: Gernot Wober

\$25 Gift Card Sophie Station Won by: John Miscovich SILENT AUCTION

Carving Kit University Redi-Mix Won by: Gernot Wober

Logo Gear and Apparel Usibelli Coal Mine Won by: Matt Petersen, Gordon Depue

Sydney Laurence Print Wells Fargo Won by: Helen "Beaver" Warren

won by: Helen "Beaver" warren

Garmin eTrex Vista GPS Accupoint Inc. Won by: Chad Gerondale

Scenic Alaska Poster AERO-METRIC Won by: Ralph Samuels

Sub-bituminous Coal Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc. Won by: B. Klein

Welding Helmet Airgas Nor Pac, Inc. Won by: Jim Barker

Tickets to Any Regular Game Alaska Aces Won by: M. Soto

Logo Apparel Alaska Air Cargo Won by: Marilyn Borell

\$50 Gift Card Alaska Mill and Feed Won by: Marilyn Borell

Logo Cooler, Mugs & Mouse NC Machinery Won by: Paul Manuel

Logo Windbreakers Barrick Gold Corporation Won by: Don Gray, Chad Gerondale

Pink Hard Hat Set Kinross - Ft. Knox Won by: Virginia Hughes

Tire Repair Kit + Camping Chairs Alaska Rubber Won by: Lorna Shaw

\$50 Gift Card
Bear Tooth/Moose's Tooth
Won by: B. Klein

Logo Items

Won by: Ralph Samuels, D. Crockett, M. Soto

Gold Nugget - .479 Troy Ounce Roger C. Burggraf Won by: Kelly Shaw

Tour of Ft. Knox Plus a Gold Pour Kinross - Ft. Knox

Won by: Kelly Shaw \$1,000 Rental Credit

CMI Inc.
Won by: Kelly Shaw

\$500 Rental Credit NC Machinery Won by: Kelly Shaw LIVE AUCTION Tour of Red Dog Mine Teck Alaska Won by: Kelly Shaw

Tour of Pogo Mine Plus a Gold Pour Pogo Mine - Sumitomo Won by: Kelly Shaw

\$100 Local Gift Certificates Taiga Won by: Kelly Shaw

Tour of Pebble Prospect Pebble Partnership Won by: Kelly Shaw Six Bottles of Wine Alaska Pacific Powder Won by: Kelly Shaw

Ride in a Haul Truck Usibelli Coal Mine Won by: Kelly Shaw

\$500 in Testing
ALS
Won by: Kelly Shaw

\$100 in Fresh Steaks Unknown Won by: Kelly Shaw



Thank you to all the generous donors and participants who helped to make this raffle and silent auction a success.

Please visit akresource.org for future opportunities for involvement.

Alaska Resource Education is a 501(c)(3) non-profit.