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Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, April 3, 2014

1. Call to order – Phil Cochrane, President
2. Self introductions
3. Head table Introductions
4. Staff Report – Rick Rogers, Executive Director
5. Program and Keynote Speaker:

An update on Copper Markets and Developing the Ambler Mining District, Northwest Alaska

Rick Van Nieuwenhuyse, President & CEO, NovaCopper, Inc.

Next Upcoming Meeting:

Thursday, April 17: Don Dyer, Economic Development Director, Matanuska-Susitna Borough

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NovaCopper adds another 2.6B pounds of copper to deposit; AIDEA prepares to permit 200-mile road to landlocked Ambler District

Shane Lasley • *Mining News*

NovaCopper Inc.'s 2013 exploration program has added another 2.6 billion pounds of copper to the resource at the Bornite project in the Ambler mining district, swelling the size of this Northwest Alaska deposit to 6 billion lbs. of the red metal.

Bornite is one of many deposits and prospects that make up the Upper Kobuk Mineral Projects, a long-term partnership forged between NovaCopper and NANA Regional Corp. in 2011. The alliance combines Bornite and a number of other mineral prospects on NANA-owned lands with the world-class Arctic deposit and dozens of similar volcanogenic massive sulfide prospects located on NovaCopper's state, federal and patented mining claims in the Ambler Mining District.

Between Bornite and Arctic, the equivalent of roughly 9.5 billion pounds of copper has been identified, so far, at the Upper Kobuk Mineral Projects, when you calculate the worth of the zinc, lead, silver and gold found with the copper at Arctic.

"In less than three years, our exploration team has increased six-fold the scale of the Bornite deposit. When combined with our high-grade (5.9 percent copper-equivalent) potentially open-pit resource at Arctic, we have nearly achieved our initial objective of defining approximately 10 billion pounds of copper-equivalent resources in the (Ambler) district," NovaCopper President and CEO Rick Van Nieuwenhuyse said upon the March 18 release of an updated resource estimate.

The rich stores of copper, gold, zinc, lead and silver in the Ambler district, however, are currently landlocked some 200 miles (322.6 kilometers) west of the contiguous road system.

As NovaCopper exploration continues to increase the size of the Bornite resource, the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority is poised to enter a federal permitting process for a 200-mile (322.6 kilometers) road linking the metals-rich region of Northwest Alaska to Alaska's road system.

"We are in the process of getting permit applications finalized with the hope of submitting those applications in the next three-to-four weeks," Maryellen Tuttell, a principal of the engineering group DOWL HKM and project manager for the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road, explained during a March presentation in Anchorage.

Explosive growth

Since its formation in 2011, NovaCopper has demonstrated that a road to the Ambler district is a worthwhile investment by adding copper to Bornite in increments measuring in the billions of pounds and refining a mine-plan for the more advanced Arctic deposit.

An updated estimated reported by the company on March 14 outlines 6 billion pounds of copper at Bornite. The potentially open-pittable portion of the Bornite project contains indicated resources of 14.1 million metric tons grading 1.08 percent (334 million pounds) copper and inferred resources of 109.6 million metric tons grading 0.94 percent (2.3 billion pounds) copper; and the deeper potentially underground minable portion of Bornite contains inferred resources of 55.6 million metric tons grading 2.8 percent (3.4 billion pounds) copper.

“We are extremely pleased with the Bornite resource expansion. We have added more high-quality copper resources, at a grade of approximately 1 percent copper, for a potential open-pit mine scenario. Also, at a grade of approximately 2.8 percent copper, we have the potential for an underground mine scenario,” said NovaCopper President and CEO Rick Van Nieuwenhuyse.

The new resource estimate incorporates results from 216 drill holes including 17 holes totaling 8,142 meters drilled by NovaCopper in 2013, as well as new assays from 42 historical Kennecott drill holes comprising 14,457 meters with partial or no assays.

The fresh drilling focused on expanding shallow potentially open-pit exploitable resources in the Ruby Creek zone and extending deeper potentially underground minable resource to the north, in both the Ruby Creek and South Reef zones. Drilling targeted 4,684 meters of shallow mineralization in 12 holes and deeper drilling targeted 3,458 meters of underground mineralization in five holes.

The objectives of the re-assay program were to confirm and conduct a quality assurance/quality control program on sample results from Kennecott’s historical drilling; and to identify additional lower-grade (0.2-0.5 percent copper) material in the shallower portion of the Ruby Creek zone which was not previously sampled.

Of the 33 historic drill holes sampled, 26 holes had intervals of copper greater than 0.5 percent copper, and 29 holes contained mineralization greater than 0.2 percent copper.

The success of this resampling program, in conjunction with the results from the new drilling, fueled explosive growth of Bornite in 2013.

The 334 million pounds of contained copper reporting to indicated resources in the recent estimate is an increase of 87 percent over the 179 million tons previously reported. Likewise, the 5.7 billion pounds of contained copper reporting to the inferred category is 73 percent higher than the previous 3.3 billion pounds.

NovaCopper said the Lower Reef mineralization, which now spans both the Ruby Creek and South Creek zones is open over a 1,000-meter wide front along the north end of Bornite. The company plans to resume drilling during the second or third quarter of 2014 with the goal of expanding the resource to the north and northeast. Additional re-assaying of partially sampled Kennecott era drilling is also anticipated.

“This robust new Bornite resource remains open along the one-kilometer-wide northern margin of the deposit as well as the up-dip projection of the South Reef zone. Given the scale of the mineralization, which now measures 1.5 kilometers along strike and 2 kilometers down dip, we expect that further exploration could potentially make the Bornite deposit of similar size and grade to the geologically comparable Mount Isa deposit of Queensland Australia – which ultimately extracted 405 million (metric tons) grading 2.12 percent copper.”

Linking metals to market

Unlike gold mines the size of Fort Knox or Pogo, where a 1,000-ounces-per-day gold could be smelted down onsite into bars weighing 70 pounds, a copper operation on the scale that could potentially be required at Bornite would likely produce more than 1,000 short tons of concentrate per day. This distillate would need to be shipped to a smelter to produce usable copper.

Getting this metal-rich concentrate to market is the primary reason a road is vital to developing Bornite and the other deposits in the Ambler Mining District and why the rich deposits found there have yet to be mined.

“As this area has been explored over several decades, and the different mining companies have been looking at

the feasibility of developing mines out there, it has become clear that it is not feasible to develop a mine without surface transportation,” Ambler Road Project Manager Tuttell told those gathered at a recent luncheon hosted by the Alaska Miners Association and the Society of Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration.

A year ago, NovaCopper and AIDEA entered into a memorandum of understanding that formalizes the roles of each party as they relate to permitting the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road and developing one or more mines at the Upper Kobuk Mineral Projects.

AIDEA, which boasts a Standard and Poor’s AA+ credit rating, would use this financial strength to obtain low-interest bonds to finance the cost to build the road. The authority would get reimbursed for financing, building and maintaining the road by charging a toll to miners and other industrial users.

“A lot of people get confused, thinking that it is just a road to a certain mine out there but it is really to an entire district; and the district contains several different mineral prospects, all of which are in different stages of exploration,” explains Tuttell.

A similar arrangement for the Delong Mountain Transportation System, a road and port facility servicing Teck Resources and NANA’s Red Dog zinc mine, has been a monumental success for AIDEA and would likely serve as a template for a financing agreement on the proposed Ambler Road.

AIDEA is planning to submit the permit applications that will trigger an Environmental Impact Statement review for the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road in the coming weeks. The record of decision on the EIS is anticipated to be completed by 2016, at which point AIDEA will decide whether to move ahead with the project.

“AIDEA’s regulations require them to actually have agreements from the communities that are affected to move forward with the project,” explained Tuttell. “So, at this point, they have approved doing the environmental impact statement but they won’t make a decision to actually move forward with the project until the environmental impact statement is complete.”

If AIDEA gets the green light from local communities and establishes a partnership with miners that promises to pay back the investment, the development authority could begin construction of the road stretching westward to the copper-rich Ambler district by the summer of 2019.

Arctic first

While Bornite is turning out to be the largest deposit to be discovered in the Ambler Mining District, it likely would not truck the first concentrates down the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road.

NovaCopper’s Arctic deposit, a volcanogenic massive sulfide deposit located about 16 miles (26 kilometers) northeast of Bornite, is expected to get the green light to be developed first.

A preliminary economic assessment completed for Arctic in 2013 contemplates an open-pit mine feeding a 10,000-metric-ton-per-day mill.

Over a 12-year mine-life outlined in the PEA, Arctic is anticipated to produce 1.5 million lbs of copper, 1.8 million lbs of zinc, 289,000 lbs, of lead, 30.5 million ozs of silver and 349,000 ozs of gold.

These metals would be contained in three concentrates – copper, zinc and lead – that would need to be trucked to Fairbanks en route overseas smelters.

According to the scoping study, the open-pit mining scenario at Arctic would produce an after-tax net present value (8.0 percent discount) of US\$537.2 million; an after-tax internal rate of return of 17.9 percent; and would pay back the capital expenses in about five years.

This is based on a rough calculation of paying AIDEA a toll for use of the Ambler Road. NovaCopper plans to refine and potentially improve the project economics as it completes a feasibility study for Arctic, scheduled for completion by 2016.

The potential use of liquefied natural gas instead of diesel to fuel power generation at the mine is one area in which NovaCopper is bullish about saving money.

"Nearly half of our costs are related to power generation and the base case assumes that we will deliver diesel fuel to site from Fairbanks. We think there is a real upside here, because AIDEA is also working on construction of an LNG (liquefied natural gas) plant on the North Slope, and if they actually complete that, we are looking at buying LNG and converting that to gas. We think that will be lower costs and lower emissions," Van Nieuwenhuysen explained.

NovaCopper anticipates signing a memorandum of understanding with AIDEA in the first half of 2014 to explore the feasibility of utilizing liquid natural gas trucked from the development authority's Interior Energy Project North Slope LNG Plant as the main source of fuel to operate the proposed Arctic processing facility.

With LNG being delivered from the north and metals-rich concentrates shipped south, the Ambler Mining District Industrial Access Road could prove to be a winning proposition for AIDEA, NovaCopper and Alaska residents.

"The completion of the MOU with NovaCopper is beneficial, not just for NovaCopper, but for all Alaskans because the development of the Ambler mining district is expected to produce significant economic benefits for the state and, most importantly, for the communities of Northwest Alaska," said AIDEA Executive Director Ted Leonard.

RDC Action Alert
Greater Mooses Tooth Oil and Gas Development in NPR-A
Deadline for Comments: April 22, 2014

Overview:

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has scheduled public hearings this month to gather comments on the proposed Greater Mooses Tooth Unit 1 (GMT1) oil and gas development project in the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska (NPR-A). Hearings will be held in Anchorage, Fairbanks and in the NPR-A villages between March 10 and March 20.

The BLM released a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (DSEIS) for the proposed project last month, launching a public comment period, which ends on Tuesday, April 22. In July 2013, ConocoPhillips, Alaska, Inc. (CPAI) submitted an application to construct a drill site, pipelines, road and other facilities to support development of petroleum resources within the Greater Mooses Tooth (GMT) Unit.

The project is approximately 14 miles west of the CPAI-operated Alpine field. The GMT1 drill site would be operated and maintained by Alpine staff and supported by existing Alpine infrastructure. The project would include construction of an 11.8-acre drill pad, an 8-mile access road, above-ground elevated pipelines, and an electric power line connecting the GMT1 drill pad to CPAI's CD-5 drill pad currently under development. The GMT1 pad would have a capacity for up to 33 production wells, including several injection wells, and be located on a federal oil and gas lease previously issued by BLM.

The project proposes to access federal oil and gas resources, as well as resources owned by the Arctic Slope Regional Corporation and Kuukpik Corporation. The proposed development was originally analyzed in the BLM's 2004 Alpine Satellite Development Plan (ASDP) (then referred to as CD6), and is also subject to the 2012 NPR-A Integrated Activity Plan (IAP).

The BLM has prepared a draft supplement to the ASDP to evaluate any relevant new circumstances and information which have arisen since 2004. The draft plan is available on the BLM website at <http://www.blm.gov/ak/GMTU1>.

Action Requested:

RDC members are encouraged to submit written comments by April 22nd.

Email: gmt1comments@slrconsulting.com

Fax: (907) 271- 3933

Mail: GMT1 Draft SEIS Comments, Attn: Bridget Psarianos, 222 West 7th Avenue, Stop #13, Anchorage, Alaska 99513.

Points to consider in your comments:

Economic Benefits:

- Peak production from GMT1 is estimated at 30,000 barrels of oil per day and would help offset declining North Slope production.
- Development would provide benefits to local, state, and national economies through local hire for jobs created during construction and operations, tax revenues, royalties,

- and new resources to help meet U.S. domestic energy demand.
- Development will also provide significant economic benefit to Alaska Natives on the North Slope as well as throughout the state through direct payment of royalties and revenue sharing among the Alaska Native Regional Corporations.

Alternative A is the Preferred Alternative

Road Needed for Emergency Spill and Safety Response

- As proposed in Alternative A, GMT1 will include a gravel road connection to the main Alpine facilities. The road is necessary to insure that the operator can respond to any environmental and safety issues in an adequate and timely manner. Alternative D, the aircraft and ice road access alternative, would not allow adequate access (on bad weather days, there would be no access) to emergency response resources and creates significant environmental and safety risk.

Environmental/Subsistence Issues are minimized with a road

- CPAI's proposed project, Alternative A, has been modified to reduce environmental impacts and lower the overall footprint. In support of subsistence resources and access, the proposed project drill site location was moved out of the Fish Creek buffer to provide additional protection to this area. Road access will avoid the need for air traffic to the drill site, which is the number one complaint of subsistence hunters. Additionally, the project will be subject to various lease stipulations and the new Best Management Practices Adopted by BLM in 2013.
- The overall gravel footprint of Alternative A is the smallest of all the options. Alternative D has a larger gravel footprint than Alternative A because of the need to construct an airstrip and a larger gravel pad to accommodate more production equipment and a camp.
- Alternative A has the lowest estimated emissions because it requires the least amount of new infrastructure and eliminates the need for airplane support.

This Project Was Previously Approved

- The currently proposed GMT1 project (formerly CD6) is essentially the same as that approved for permitting in the 2004 ASDP Record of Decision.
- A review of new data and information shows there are no appreciable changes in the physical, biological, or social resources associated with the project study area. New data includes multi-year studies on hydrology, birds, and caribou.

Comment Deadline: Tuesday, April 22, 2014

Testimony on SB 28
April 1, 2014
Testimony of Carl Portman, Deputy Director,
Resource Development Council

Good morning. My name is Carl Portman, Deputy Director of the Resource Development Council. RDC is a statewide business association representing forestry, oil and gas, mining, tourism, and fishing industries. Our mission is to grow Alaska through responsible resource development.

RDC supports the CS for SB 28, which would ensure large tracts of land in the Susitna Valley remain available for long-term forest management. The new Susitna State Forest would enhance access and encourage a broad range of uses on state forest land, including motorized uses; and provide economic and recreational opportunities to communities, businesses, and residents.

The new state forest would allow the Division of Forestry to more actively manage lands and vegetation to promote a variety of forest ages, which in turn would maximize the sustainable supply of timber and provide for more diverse and healthy habitats for wildlife. In addition, active management would help reduce the risk of wildfire.

The Division of Forestry would manage the forest to help meet growing regional demand for state timber sales. The new forest would also help meet increasing demand for logs, chips, and biomass feedstock. Local processors depend on a stable long-term supply of timber for their raw materials. In fact, a dependable long-term supply is required to justify major private investment in processing and manufacturing facilities or expansion of such facilities.

There has been concern expressed by some that the proposed forest may block public access and traditional uses. RDC would not be supporting this bill if that were the case. We have a long history of fighting for and preserving access to both federal and state land.

Public access in state forests is typically greater than on other state land because active timber management requires expansion of the road system. Access is a major focus of the state forest planning process and DNR has a demonstrated track record of providing access in state forests, with management tailored to the resource management needs of each forest.

The Susitna State Forest would be managed consistent with the management intent under the current Susitna Matanuska and the Southeast Susitna Area Plans. Alaska's Forest Resources Practices Act would apply to management activities on the forest and is designed to protect both fish habitat and water quality.

The administration has been receptive to community input and has removed a number of parcels from the proposed forest, as reflected in the committee substitute.

In summary, this bill represents commitment of the State to long-term forest management. The private sector is likely to respond favorably.

RDC urges the committee to pass the committee substitute.

Thank you.



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March 31, 2014

Representative Kurt Olson, Chair
House Labor & Commerce Committee
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Support of CS SB 99: An act relating to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority

Dear Chairman Olson:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing in support of CS SB 99, an act relating to the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA).

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.

It is a policy of RDC to encourage the expansion and increased production from existing deposits as well as new exploration and responsible development of Alaska's mineral and coal resources. CS SB 99 will support future infrastructure and access to known mineral deposits. This will encourage exploration, extraction, processing, and production of rare earth elements in the state.

It will also encourage development of much needed rare earth elements in the state for the benefit of the economic and national security of the United States, corresponding with RDC's policy. Alaska contains some of the highest-grade REE prospects in world. These prospects will not only provide an economic benefit to Alaska, but will also benefit our nation.

Mineral exploration and development projects are vital to grow our economy and can provide significant economic opportunities, often in rural parts of our state

with limited economic opportunities. CS SB 99 builds on past success by authorizing AIDEA to provide financing of a portion of the capital needs for the Bokan-Dotson Ridge and Niblack projects.

AIDEA's Delong Mountain Transportation System (DMTS) was completed in 1990 and was instrumental in the successful development of the Red Dog mine while also providing significant financial returns back to AIDEA. Red Dog transformed Northwest Alaska by providing well-paying regular and seasonal jobs. CS SB 99 authorizes AIDEA to provide financing to two promising advanced exploration projects in southern southeast Alaska, an area that has suffered economically from the severe decline in the timber industry. RDC urges you to support and pass CS SB 99, authorizing AIDEA to finance infrastructure and construction of the surface complex of the Bokan-Dotson Ridge and Niblack projects.

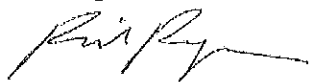
Concerns that AIDEA will prematurely finance these projects before they are fully vetted and mature for development are unfounded. AIDEA has the expertise and systems in place to conduct due diligence, and must go to the bond market which will require clear demonstration of financing viability. CS SB 99 does not require AIDEA to finance Niblack or Bokan-Dotson Ridge, it simply authorizes financing should the projects meet AIDEA's financing criteria.

The mining industry, consisting of exploration, development, and production, in Alaska provides for 9,100 direct and indirect jobs with a payroll of \$630 million. These are some of Alaska's highest paying jobs with an average annual wage of \$100,000, significantly higher than the state average for all sectors of the economy. Leveraging the capacity of the State's investment bank, AIDEA, by authorizing financing for promising new potential projects, is a sensible way to encourage diversification and growth of our economy.

RDC encourages the passage of this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rick Rogers



Executive Director

Cc: Representative Lora Reinbold, Vice-chair
Representative Mike Chenault
Representative Bob Herron
Representative Charisse Millett
Representative Dan Saddler
Representative Andy Josephson
Representative Craig Johnson



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Thomas Mack

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Stephanie Madsen

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Governor Sean Parnell

March 28, 2014

Senator Kelly and Meyer, co-chairs
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: CSSB 28, Susitna State Forest

Dear Senators Kelly and Meyer:

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is writing to support CSSB 28, which would create the Susitna State Forest on 686,800 acres of state land west of the Parks Highway.

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.

The Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR) currently manages 9.5 million acres of state land in the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys. The bill would establish the Susitna State Forest from land classified for forestry – lands managed by DNR for timber harvest and other multiple uses. Remaining land is designated for other uses, including land sales, recreation, water resources, agriculture, and fish and wildlife habitat. Over 3.1 million acres is protected in legislatively-designated state parks, refuges, and public use areas.

The establishment of the Susitna State Forest would ensure that large tracts of land would remain available for long-term forest management that maximizes the sustainable supply of timber from the state timber base; develops access and encourages a broad range of uses on state forest land, including motorized uses; and provides economic and recreational opportunities to communities, businesses, and residents.

It would allow the Division of Forestry to more actively manage lands and vegetation to promote a variety of forest ages, which in turn would maximize the sustainable supply of timber from the state timber base and provide for more diverse and healthy habitats for wildlife. In addition, active management would also help reduce wildfire risk.

The Division of Forestry would manage the state forest for a long-term supply of timber to help meet growing regional demand for state timber sales and personal use firewood harvesting. The state forest would also help meet increasing demand for logs, chips, and biomass feedstock for commercial, public school, residential space heating, and wood pellet manufacturing. Local processors depend on a stable long-term supply of state timber for their raw materials. In fact, a dependable long-term supply is required to justify major private investment in processing and manufacturing facilities or expansion of such facilities.

An enhanced long-term timber supply would not only help support the forest products industry, it would create new jobs, and provide important economic opportunities to local communities, businesses, and residents.

There has been some concern expressed by local residents and user groups that the proposed forest may block public access and traditional uses. RDC would not be supporting this bill if that were indeed the case. RDC has a long history of fighting for and preserving access to both federal and state land for the responsible development of natural resources, economic development, job creation, recreation, and traditional uses, including motorized uses. We would be writing in opposition to the bill if it were yet another impediment to access.

DNR is serious about developing access to a newly-designated state forest in the region, including an all-season road to the Little-Su, as well as a permanent bridge crossing. Clearly, the forest would be open for public use and enhance access, wildlife habitat management and harvest, and recreational activities.

Public access on state forests is typically greater than on other state land because active timber management requires expansion of the road system. Access is a major focus of the state forest planning process as plans provide detailed guidance on road design, construction, and maintenance. In fact, DNR has a demonstrated track record of providing access in state forests, with design and management tailored to the resource management needs of each forest.

It is important to keep in mind that CSSB 28 would establish a new state forest from state lands presently designated for forest management. The Susitna State Forest would be managed consistent with the management intent under the current Susitna Matanuska and the Southeast Susitna Area Plans. Alaska's Forest Resources Practices Act would apply to management activities on the forest and is designed to protect both fish habitat and water quality.

If established, Susitna would be the fourth state forest in Alaska after the Haines, Tanana, and Southeast State forests. These land units have demonstrated that legislatively-designated forests are a desirable means of ensuring timberlands are available for management while allowing access for other uses.

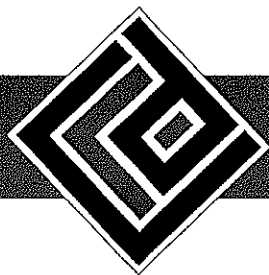
RDC supports CSSB 28 and believes the proposed state forest will be of much benefit to the local economy – creating and sustaining much needed jobs in the forest products industry while providing many other opportunities, including public access that doesn't exist today for other multiple uses. We urge the committee to pass CSSB 28.

Sincerely,



Rick Rogers
Executive Director

cc: Chris Maisch, State Forester
Sen. Mike Dunleavy
Sen. Charlie Huggins



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Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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March 26, 2014

Lake Clark GMP
National Park Service
Denver Service Center – Read
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225

Via: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/lac1>

Re: Lake Clark General Management Plan Amendment

To Whom It May Concern:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing to comment on the National Park Service's (NPS) Lake Clark Park and Preserve General Management Plan (GMP) Amendment.

RDC is an Alaskan 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 appreciates the opportunity to review and comment on the Lake Clark GMP. RDC is concerned some comments in the GMP are overreaching and stipulate resource development projects in nearby areas will "affect water and air quality, disrupt wildlife corridors, and affect visitor use in the park." It is not the responsibility of the NPS, nor the mission of the NPS to address or mitigate these unfounded concerns.

While the GMP states, "None of the alternatives in this plan directly address these external forces, nor are indirect affects expected to interact with the impacts of the action alternatives," it remains unclear if the NPS intends to further speculate on the "external forces." RDC urges the NPS to omit speculative impacts of potential resource development, as well as community development projects on lands adjacent to the park.

Further, RDC is also concerned with the NPS description on page 17 of the document, referring to "External Pressures and Boundary Issues." Assumptions about the Pebble prospect can not be made before project proponents submit a development plan and apply for permits.

Additionally, the GMP states, "The proposed Pebble Mine, which would be the world's largest open-pit copper, gold, and molybdenum mine, would be near the park and would directly impact the Chulitna River (the second-largest tributary to Lake Clark)." The GMP should list a specific distance from the park boundary to the deposit claims. There is no evidence or indication the Chulitna River will be impacted by potential development of the Pebble prospect, as the prospect is not in the Chulitna drainage. Finally, the project can not be described in such a manner until a development plan is put forward and a permit application is filed.

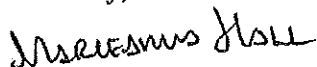
In reference to development projects outside of the park boundaries affecting visitor experience in the park, RDC believes such potential impacts are subject to the individual park visitor. A generalized statement implying all visitors to the park will be affected is inaccurate and should not be implied.

RDC discourages the inclusion of a Wilderness Eligibility designation of the Johnson River area in Unit 3. The area essentially surrounds inholdings of Cook Inlet Region Inc., and should not be designated Wilderness.

However, RDC agrees with the following statement, "Based on public comments during scoping for the plan, preparing a wilderness study was not seen as an important issue for the park." It is a policy of RDC to oppose additional Wilderness designations in Alaska. Approximately 64% of the park is already subject to the Wilderness Act. Moreover, with Alaska accounting for over half of all federal Wilderness in the nation, RDC discourages any re-evaluation of Wilderness Eligibility.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Lake Clark GMP.

Sincerely,



Marleanna Hall
Projects Coordinator

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service, Alaska Regional Office

NEWS RELEASE

April 2, 2014

Julie Speegle, 907-586-7032 w., 907-321-7032 c.

NOAA FISHERIES CONCLUDES 'NO JEOPARDY' TO STELLER SEA LIONS FROM PROPOSED FISHERY MANAGEMENT CHANGES IN THE ALEUTIAN ISLANDS

Proposed changes to fishing restrictions in the Aleutian Islands are not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the endangered western population of Steller sea lions or adversely modify Steller sea lion critical habitat, according to a biological opinion issued today by NOAA Fisheries under the Endangered Species Act.

Steller sea lions. Photo: NOAA Fisheries, National Marine Mammal Laboratory

The agency estimates that the proposed fishery management changes would relieve roughly two-thirds of the economic burden imposed on Aleutian Islands' fishermen by sea lion protection measures that took effect in 2011. Fishermen could see new regulations in place by January 2015.

"Finding a way to protect endangered sea lions while minimizing costs to the fishing industry is a real challenge," said Jim Balsiger, NOAA Fisheries Alaska regional administrator. "I applaud the North Pacific Fishery Management Council and stakeholders for recommending a new suite of measures that effectively balances those two objectives."

The agency's last biological opinion on the effects of fisheries, issued in 2010, found that the ongoing groundfish fisheries in the western and central Aleutian Islands were likely to jeopardize the continued existence of Steller sea lions and adversely modify their critical habitat. This led NOAA Fisheries to develop a "Reasonable and Prudent Alternative" under the ESA, which closed the Atka mackerel and Pacific cod fisheries in the western Aleutians in 2011, and further restricted these fisheries in the central Aleutians.

The 2010 opinion underwent two external reviews—one commissioned by NOAA and undertaken by the Center for Independent Experts, and a second provided by the states of Alaska and Washington. NOAA Fisheries conducted several new analyses in response to the reviews, which are incorporated into the new 2014 opinion.

The new biological opinion was developed based on the best available scientific information and notes that considerable changes have occurred in the Aleutian Islands fisheries, coupled with new data and analyses that help give the agency a better picture of the potential for commercial fisheries to compete with sea lions for Pacific cod, Atka mackerel and pollock.

Beginning in 2014, NOAA and the North Pacific Fishery Management Council split the total allowable catch for Pacific cod between the Bering Sea fishing grounds and the Aleutian Islands, resulting in far less allowable Pacific cod harvest in the Aleutians. Additional changes that are being considered would limit the amount, timing and location of Atka mackerel, Pacific cod and pollock harvests inside Steller sea lion critical habitat in the Aleutians.

NOAA Fisheries remains concerned that large fishery harvests from important areas in the Aleutians over a short amount of time has the potential to deplete concentrations of fish that Steller sea lions depend upon. However, the proposed measures would limit and spread out the catch enough to meet the requirements of the Endangered Species Act, and are consistent with NOAA Fisheries' views on dispersing the harvest in space and time to avoid localized depletion of fish that are prey species for Steller sea lions.

NOAA Fisheries is completing an environmental impact statement on the new fishery management measures, and expects to implement the new regulations in January 2015.

NOAA's mission is to understand and predict changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and to conserve and manage our coastal and marine resources. Join us on Facebook,



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

No. 14-043

State Wins Roadless Rule Exemption Case

March 26, 2014, Juneau, Alaska – Governor Sean Parnell and Attorney General Michael Geraghty were pleased to learn the United States Court of Appeals for the 9th Circuit upheld the exemption of the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Rule.

"This is a huge victory for Alaskans and their families who depend on economic development in the Tongass," Governor Parnell said. "Although this rule has already done irreparable harm to the timber industry and small communities in Southeast Alaska, this win will allow Alaskans to start building the industry back up. I will continue to aggressively stand up when federal agencies tread on Alaskans' rights and Congress does not act."

The 9th Circuit today issued an opinion reversing the District Court's 2011 decision that invalidated the Tongass exemption from the Roadless Rule. The court held the U.S. Department of Agriculture gave valid reasons for exempting the Tongass, including the changes in economic predictions and the high socioeconomic costs in Alaska. The 9th Circuit did remand the case to the District Court for further consideration to determine whether a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act is required.

###

Win Two Round-Trip Tickets!

at

Burggraf Resource Education Raffle & Silent Auction

The Alaska Miners Association Spring Convention

Westmark Hotel, Fairbanks

April 10, 2014

proceeds benefit



Grand Prize

courtesy of

Alaska Airlines



Tickets \$5 each or 5 for \$20

Other fabulous prizes also awarded!

Need not be present to win. Proceeds benefit Alaska Resource Education, a 501(c)(3) non-profit. The raffle will be held at the conclusion of the Alaska Miners Association Banquet. Grand prize and runner up prize will be awarded in the raffle. The other prizes listed will be used in either the raffle or silent auction.

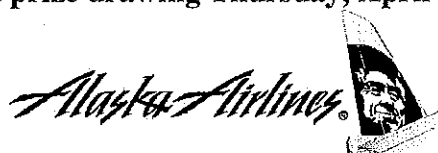


The Alaska Miners Association
at the Fairbanks 24th Biennial Conference presents the
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Please Note: Last day to drop off items at our office in Anchorage is March 13, 2014. Thank you!

**Please send prizes and completed form to:
Attention Alaska Resource Education
100 Cushman, Suite 210
Fairbanks, AK 99701**

For a current list of sponsors, visit www.akresource.org. Please call Alexandra at (907)-276-5487 or e-mail raffle@akresource.org with any questions. Alaska Resource Education's mission is to educate students about Alaska's natural resources. Alaska Resource Education is a 501(c) (3), and your donation may be tax deductible (92-0117527).



A T H E N A
I N T E R N A T I O N A L



**Young woman, do you want
a future in business?**

**Apply today for an
Anchorage ATHENA Society
scholarship!**



The **Anchorage ATHENA Society**, a program of the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, offers a scholarship to local young women, who have finished their freshman year of high school through 18 years of age, for an opportunity to learn leadership skills, entrepreneurship and business expertise.

- Discover how your interests translate into enterprise and independence;
- Meet successful business owners;
- Apply those skills from business camp and let them help you take charge of your life – in school, in business, in the world.

And the best news is that the Anchorage ATHENA Society will award scholarships for **two** business camps: **Alaska Business Week** at the University of Alaska Fairbanks, July 27-August 2; and **Young Entrepreneurs Business Week** at the University of Portland in Portland, OR, July 20-26.

Apply for a scholarship today!

The scholarship recipients will also be provided with a cash stipend from Soroptimist International of Anchorage.

Note: Application review, interview and selection process will determine which program the qualified applicant will be offered. Scholarships include admission to the camps, transportation, lodging, and a cash stipend.

Mail, fax (272-4117), email (info@anchoragechamber.org) or hand deliver your application to the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, 1016 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 303, Anchorage, AK 99501. All applications must be received at the Anchorage Chamber office no later than 5 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2014.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Anchorage ATHENA Society

Scholarship Application

Deadline: 5 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2014

Complete entire application form and submit most recent transcript of courses and grades.

Student's Name: _____

Address: _____

Cell Number: _____ High School: _____

E-Mail Address: _____ Yr. in School (i.e. Jr.): _____

Student Signature: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Legal Guardian's Name: _____ Daytime Phone _____

Legal Guardian's Signature: _____ Home Phone _____

Name of Teacher Reference: _____ Daytime Phone _____

Please attach the following, use separate sheets of paper:

1) Most recent transcript of courses;

2) Employment history / business-related classes;

3) Work awards, achievements, community participation;

4) Extra-curricular activities and interests;

5) Essay question:

Please attach a typed, double-spaced essay, not to exceed 500 words, on the topic: Assume you're starting your own business, what would it be and what steps would you take to make it successful?

Application check list: Application Complete ____ Most Current Transcript ____ Essay ____

Please limit application to no more than 10 pages.

*The scholarship recipient and her parents or legal guardian will be required to execute and return:
(1) Affidavit of eligibility/compliance with the camp rules; (2) publicity release; (3) liability release; and
(4) copy of government issued ID*

Mail, fax (272-4117), email (info@anchoragechamber.org) or hand deliver your application to the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce, 1016 W. 6th Avenue, Suite 303, Anchorage, AK 99501. All applications must be received at the Anchorage Chamber office no later than 5 p.m., Friday, April 25, 2014.

Applications are also available at: Anchoragechamber.org; under Program & Events, select Anchorage ATHENA Society.

**Only young women in the Anchorage area (Anchorage, Eagle River/Chugiak and Girdwood) are eligible for this scholarship. For more information on Young Entrepreneurs Business Week, go to yebw.org. For more information about Alaska Business Week, go to alaskachamber.com.*

Northern Regions Mining Summit
May 28-30, 2014 in Vancouver, B.C., Canada
At the Pinnacle Marriott Hotel

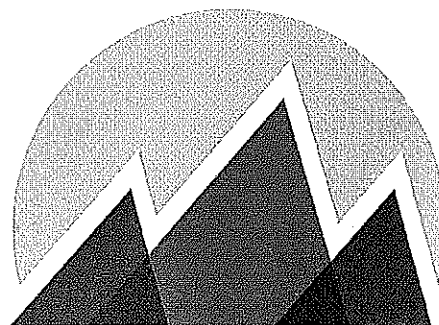
Effective Governance * Sustainable Communities
Increased Social License * Successful Northern Resource Economies

For more information and to register visit
www.institutenorth.org/NRMS

Early Bird Registration deadline extended to
April 15 – Save \$100

If you haven't already, we invite you to take
advantage of the early bird registration rate for
the Northern Regions Mining Summit.

The Summit will address the social, cultural and
economic impact and opportunity of mineral
resource development for Northern peoples in Alaska, Canada and Greenland. We encourage
you to register to attend soon.



NORTHERN REGIONS MINING SUMMIT

Outcome-Oriented: Evaluating effective governance that results in social license of successful northern resource economies, with 1) criteria development, 2) policy and operational case studies, and 3) strategic recommendations/findings that provide a "Recipe for Arctic Mining Success." A Summit is called to shape a program of action - the Northern Regions Mining Summit will provide an interactive, meaningful opportunity for cross-governance engagement and cross-sectoral communication among participants, resulting in practical recommendations to address the challenges faced in northern exploration and development.

Other ways to be involved include:

- Share the Summit website (www.institutenorth.org/NRMS) with colleagues, encouraging them to attend
- Contact Nils Andreassen (nandreassen@institutenorth.org or 907-786-6324) about speaking opportunities, consistent with the themes.
- Consider an exhibit or sponsorship opportunity – thank you to our current sponsors, including Bering Straits Native Corporation, HDI, HDR and Kiewit Mining!

Find the draft, working agenda online at www.institutenorth.org/NRMS. Speakers and participants come from government, industry, communities and research.

Logistics - The room block reserved at Vancouver Marriott Pinnacle Downtown expires mid-April! And both Alaska Airlines and Air North have provided discounts for attendees.