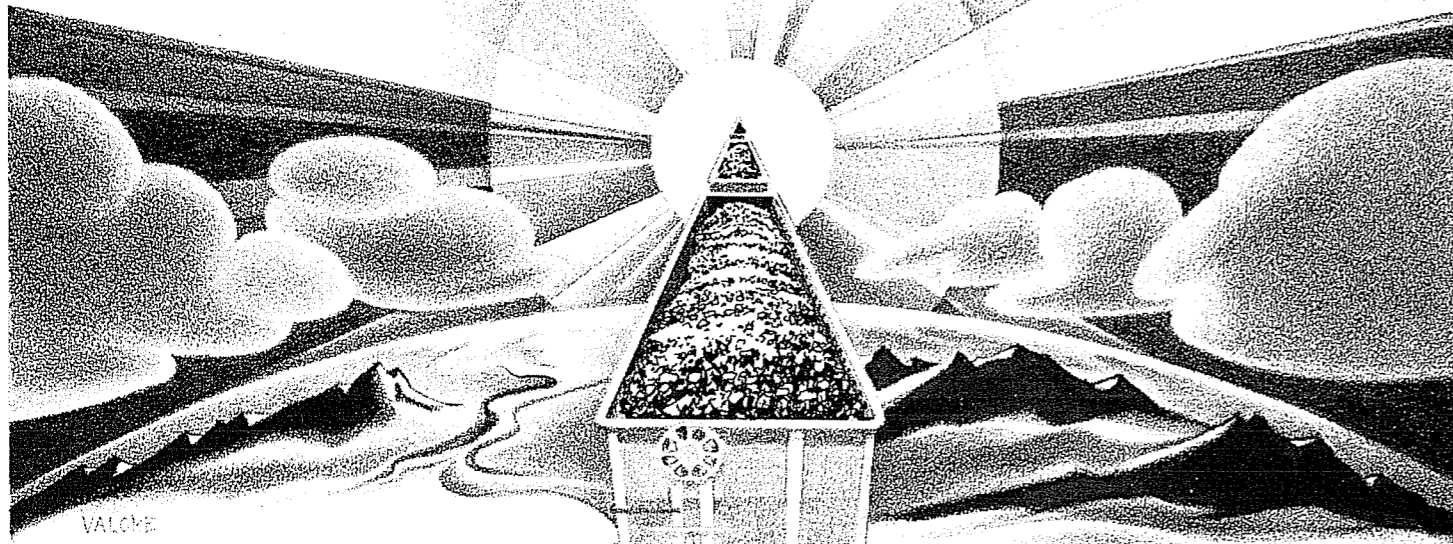


Six Times To The Sun— And Back!



The sheer size of Alaska's coal reserves boggles the mind.

The official state estimate? Five and a half trillion tons! That's over half as much as all the rest of the country combined...

Enough to fill a line of coal cars stretching from the earth to the sun and back—six times!

And seventeen billion tons of that coal are within a few miles of the new intertie linking Anchorage and Fairbanks.

It's coal that's ideally suited for generating electricity. And today, technology allows us to build new plants that burn it with no smoke plumes, no odors, no pollution.

We'd like to build one—under an innovative financing partnership with the state. It would provide low-cost power for decades to railbelt residents.

Coal. It had its beginnings in the distant past. But it just may be the fuel of the future.

We thought you ought to know.

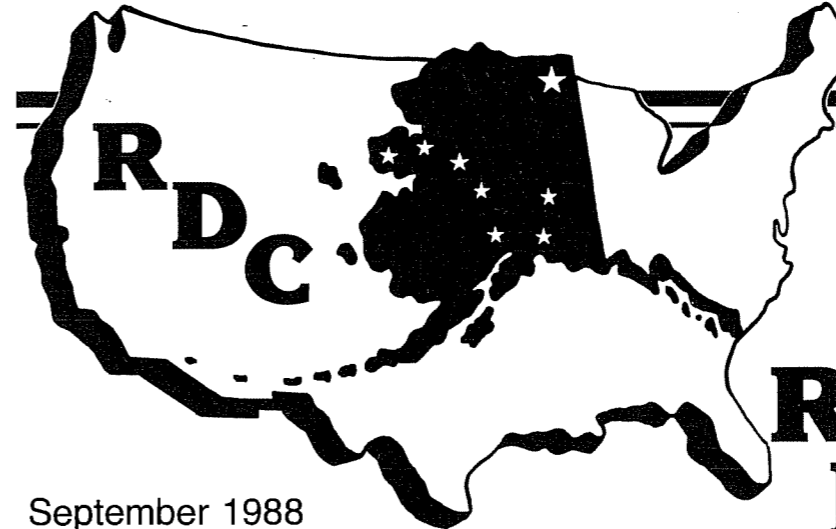


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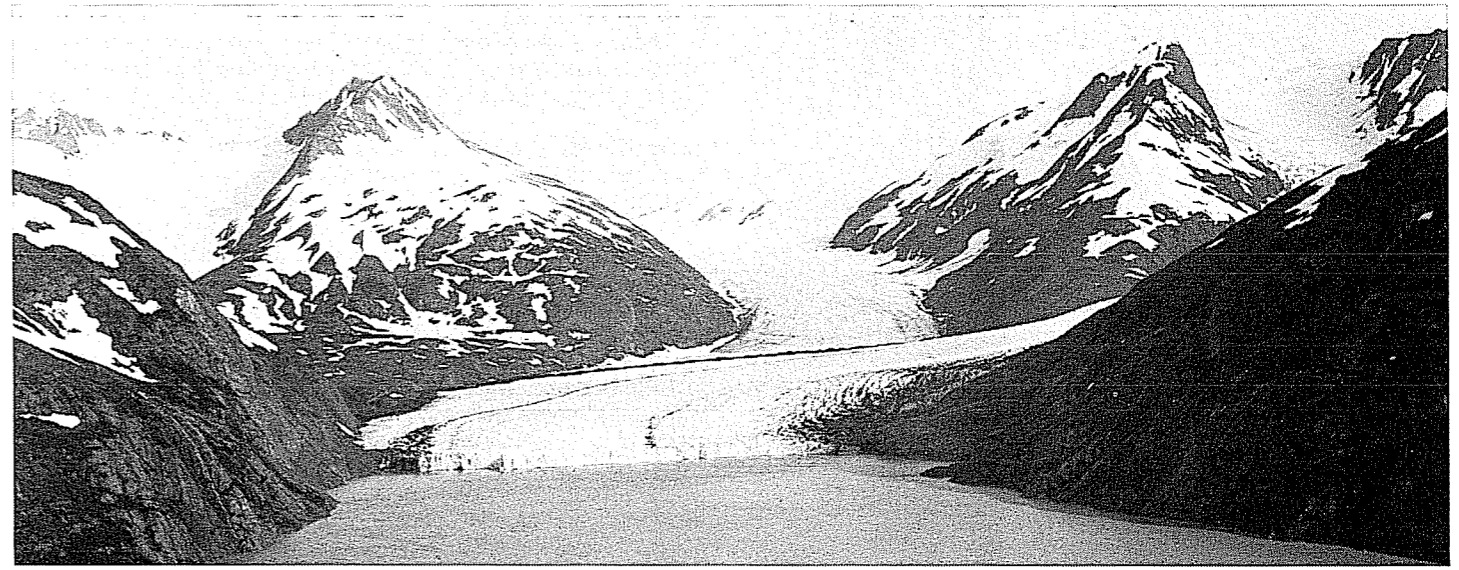
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Resource Review

September 1988



At 500,000 visitors annually, Portage Glacier near Anchorage is the most visited attraction in Alaska. Since Portage is not designated Wilderness, it offers practical access and facilities featuring a variety of opportunities and experiences.

Wilderness

Part II

By Carl Portman

How much is enough?

Exceptional resource values and unique characteristics of Alaska deserve protection. Wilderness is certainly an ingredient in preserving these values and keeping Alaska unique. But too much of anything, including wilderness, has diminishing social benefit.

The crown jewels of Alaska were acknowledged by Congress in 1980 when it established 104 million acres of conservation system units in the state through the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA). These units, which are equivalent in size to California, comprise 70 percent of the nation's national parks and 90 percent of its wildlife refuges. They are greatly restricted and tightly regulated to assure strict environmental protection.

(continued on page 4)

RDC Board tours Usibelli Coal Mine



The RDC group in front of the "Ace-in-the-Hole" walking drag-line at Usibelli Coal Mine.



Mitch Usibelli (right), Chief of Engineering for UCM, talks with RDC visitors about the mine.



Members debate action at the Friday evening board meeting at Harper Lodge.

Getting the most from RDC

By Anne M. Bradley



If you weren't there, you missed a great time. RDC's statewide Board of Directors met at Princess Tour's newly completed Harper Lodge in Denali National Park on September 9 and 10 for its Fall board meeting. Travelling north in a dome railroad car were board members **Sharon Anderson** and her husband **Andy** of Anderson Tug & Barge Company in Seward, **Rex** and **Ruth Bishopp** of Alaska Helicopters, **Mayor John Devens** of Valdez, **Al Hastings** of Conoco, **Shelby Stastny** of Ernst and Whinney and his wife **Mary Ellen**, **Barry Thomson** of Associated Services in Kenai and his wife **Eleanor**, and **Lyle Von Barga** of Alyeska Pipeline Service Company in Valdez.

Jim Burling and **Kathleen Weeks**, both of the Pacific Legal Foundation, accompanied RDC staff **Kim Duke**, **Carl Portman**, **Debbie Reinwand** and me. On the train, we were serenaded by the stewards, who had a repertoire that ranged from old standards to some new tunes.

Those travelling to Healy by private car included Executive Director **Becky Gay**, and Boardmembers **Earl Beistline** of Fairbanks, **Curtis Foster** of Arco, and his wife **Jan**, **O.K. "Easy" Gilbreth** of AOGA, and his wife **Milly**, **Len** and **Jeanne McLean** of Anchorage, **E.H. "Pete" Nelson** of Texaco, and her husband **Ed**, **Paul Twiten** of Chugach Alaska Corporation, and **Dr. William** and **Dorothy Wood** of Fairbanks. Other guests included **Keith Silver** of City Insurance in Anchorage, **Jennie Gay**, Becky's mother who is visiting from Phoenix, **Chris** and **Bud Duke**, Kim's parents from Fairbanks, and **Dan Egan**, also of Fairbanks.

Once at Denali National Park, RDC board members boarded a bus for the short ride to Harper Lodge, a beautiful new facility just above the banks of the Nenana River. An outdoor hot tub proved inviting for some, while others enjoyed the outdoor deck or dined while watching the Nenana River rush by. The formal board meeting followed at 7 p.m. in the Harper Lodge conference room.

On Saturday, it was up bright and early for a bus ride to the Usibelli Coal Mine headquarters in Healy. As we munched on doughnuts and sipped coffee thoughtfully provided by our hosts, a surprise cake in celebration of Lyle Von Barga's birthday was unveiled.

Assisted by **Charlie Boddy**, Regulatory Compliance Manager, Usibelli brothers **Mitch**, Chief of Engineering, and **Joe Jr.**, President, explained all aspects of their operation before loading us onto buses for a field trip to the actual site. Huge veins of coal had been uncovered by the Ace-in-the-Hole, the walking dragline featured in the photo at left.

RDC wishes to publicly express its appreciation to the Usibelli family for the hospitality it was shown in Healy. Special thanks go to **Joe Usibelli, Jr.** for taking time to make the board meeting in Healy possible.

The Healy Cogeneration Project

Guest Opinion

by
John Sims
Vice President
Marketing
Usibelli Coal Mine



In a nutshell, the proposed Healy Cogeneration Project is a marriage of leading edge technologies which could produce very significant benefits for the Railbelt and indeed the whole of Alaska. The Healy Cogeneration Project comprises a coal-fired power plant with the design capacity to produce between 100 and 150 megawatts of electric power and a coal processing plant which would utilize heat energy from the power plant to process or dry typical Healy coal to produce a premium quality fuel. The initial capacity of the coal processing facility would be 500,000 tons of product a year from about 650,000 tons of raw feed coal.

The Healy project is expected to cost approximately \$300 million and would be the largest single non-military and non-oil and gas related venture ever tackled in the Alaska Railbelt region. Usibelli Coal Mine Inc., and Brown & Root, joint partners in the project, recently concluded that the time had come to commit the human and financial resources needed to promote and move ahead with the project. Making the Healy project become a reality is a complex and challenging task yet the rewards for Alaska and the Railbelt region cannot be denied.

The proposed powerplant will utilize a technology which has progressed over several decades in Europe and Asia. The boiler will utilize atmospheric circulating fluidized bed technology (A.C.F.B.) which brings new performance levels in terms of efficiency and responsiveness to coal-fired facilities but most importantly has major environmental benefits. In ACFB boilers the sulfur contained in the coal is neutralized in the combustion chamber resulting in very low sulfur dioxide emissions.

ACFB boilers operate at much lower combustion temperatures than conventional coal-fired plants, which virtually eliminates the formation of nitrous oxides providing another major environmental plus. The third important consequence of coal combustion is the formation of fly ash, however, this is controlled by conventional bag filters or by electrostatic precipitation methods which work very effectively on Healy coal. Thus, ACFB combustion technology installed at Healy handily meets the very strict atmospheric standards applicable to a site which is within a few miles of Denali National Park.

Usibelli coal is a low-ash, low-sulfur, but high moisture coal mainly used for power generation. The challenge for Alaska coal, which Usibelli recognizes, is not strictly to produce clean coal, but to produce a low-moisture, low-sulfur processed coal.

Because simple drying results in an unstable product which can rapidly reabsorb moisture and spontaneously combust, the processing of Usibelli coal is more complex and involved than first impressions imply. Different technologies are being evaluated to provide the best and most-cost effective system for use in the Healy project. Besides expanded marketing opportunities for a better quality processed coal, there are very significant transportation savings that can go far towards offsetting the processing costs.

A key element of current efforts is to evaluate the marketability of the processed coal output from the Healy facility. The combined attributes of good heat value and low sulfur content are expected to command a premium price in the future.

A market for the electrical power is fundamental to the project feasibility, therefore the project partners want to win the support of the major Railbelt utilities by convincing them that coal-fired generation provides the best assurance of low cost energy for the Railbelt well into the twenty-first century. Utility power demand projections are currently not very encouraging, however, the Healy project partners are confident that the Railbelt economy will recover and the proposed increment of power will be needed. In fact, the availability of power at an assured low cost could be a major catalyst in the growth cycle that will surely follow the present deep recession.

Historically, utilities have tended to rely on adding gas-fired generation, or most recently state-funded hydro-electric capacity, to satisfy demand growth. With more than 60% of generating capacity in the form of gas-fired units concentrated in relative close proximity to Anchorage, there are legitimate concerns regarding the vulnerability and undue dependence upon natural gas for power generation. The case for coal-fired generation can be argued very effectively, however, the mindset of the utilities must shift somewhat from short-term considerations to genuine longer term perspectives for the merits of coal to be fully recognized.

Probably the single greatest determinant in the short-term to project viability hinges on use of the Railbelt Energy Fund (REF) to secure favorable financing. Leveraging, not spending, the corpus of the REF to provide low-cost financing through the Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority (AIDEA) would ensure viability. The benefit of the low interest financing rate attendant upon this proposal would be passed through to the Railbelt consumer in the form of low cost electricity. This should be a formula which the electrical utilities would support since it provides for future predictable low cost power for their customers.

The Healy Project, although challenging in terms of human ingenuity and resourcefulness, could pave the way for economic recovery and needed diversification in the Railbelt.

Final report gives Prudhoe clean bill of health

A final U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service report analyzing predictions made about the development of the Prudhoe Bay oil field concludes that no significant environmental harm associated with North Slope oil development has occurred.

The report shows the environmental impact of oil and gas development for the most part has been far less than was originally forecast in the 1972 environmental impact statement. The report concludes that "the environmental record for oil-related development on the North Slope speaks well for both the planning and execution of this monumental project."

An earlier draft copy, which alleged oil development had caused more damage than what the government had originally predicted, was leaked to the press. The incomplete and biased draft was trumpeted by environmental lobbies and received top billing in newspapers across the nation.

The report had not been approved by either the regional director or national offices of the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service because it had not undergone peer review and evaluation to assure objectivity. Such unreviewed documents allow for personal opinions to be taken as fact.

Unfortunately, the facts presented in the final report have been ignored by most national newspapers.

As for oil and gas leasing on the Coastal Plain of ANWR, the final report noted that "this analysis provides reason to believe that the outcome would be measurably better in the conduct of an orderly oil and gas leasing program on the 1002 area of ANWR."

Resource Development Council, Inc.

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is Alaska's largest privately funded nonprofit economic development organization working to develop Alaska's natural resources in an orderly manner and to create a broad-based, diversified economy while protecting and enhancing the environment.

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Carl Portman
Editor & Advertising Manager

Publisher tackles environmental lobby on Tongass

Ketchikan editor seeks to offset environmental propaganda machine

by Senator Frank Murkowski

It looks a little like the biblical story of David and Goliath.

Ketchikan Daily News publisher Lew Williams is on an ambitious crusade to tell America about the importance of the Tongass timber harvest program — and he's challenging the mammoth environmental lobby to stick to the facts.

The lobby groups have been distributing to the national press misinformation and distortions about the timber program in the Tongass. Their emotional appeal has resulted in a number of editorials in national newspapers that are unfair to Alaska, and the Ketchikan publisher has decided to do something about it.

Using his network of newspaper contacts in the Lower 48, Lew receives copies of the propaganda being mailed to the press by the Wilderness Society, Sierra Club and other lobby groups. He then responds with a mailing of his own to the national papers, telling them the facts about the timber industry and its importance to the communities of Southeast Alaska.

For Lew and the other people of Southeast, the outcome of the Tongass debate now before Congress is very significant. It's about their economic survival.

Having followed this issue closely for many years, Lew Williams is probably the best able to explain it to others, and I'll use his summary from one of his recent editorials:

"The forest plan, fought for by Alaskans and professional foresters as far back as the 1920s, calls for harvesting 1.7 million acres of the 16.7 million-acre Tongass over 100 years. At the end of 100 years, cutting of second growth begins in the same areas, providing jobs and opportunities for future Americans in a land of clear air, beautiful scenery and plentiful resources. The second growth will be top quality timber in twice the volume of the old growth, thanks to husbanding of professional foresters. The program can recycle for hundreds of years without touching 90 percent of the forest.

"The plan never really started until pulp mills were attracted to the Tongass in the 1950s. More than one-half of Tongass timber is low grade wood, unsuitable for lumber. To log in a responsible manner means taking the low grade with the lumber grade, not leave it lying in the woods. The only place to send that volume of low grade is to a pulp mill.

"The timber industry in Alaska provides several good side benefits. It provides a stable economic base for people who enjoy and respect the outdoors. It provides roads which open up fishing and recreational areas for residents and visitors. It provides exports which improve the balance of trade.

"The plan went well until Congress began political tinkering in 1980. The tinkering was needless. It also was costly. There were areas that never would be logged even without the wilderness designation. It was all laid out in the Tongass Land Use Plan in the 1970s, the first such land plan in a U.S. national forest.

"When Congress did tinker in 1980, at the instigation of the Wilderness Society and other environmental groups, it destroyed a balanced program. To compensate, Congress authorized \$40 million a year to assure the timber harvest could be maintained despite timber going into wilderness. That solution was the brain-



Approximately one third of the Tongass National Forest (5.4 million acres) has been put into wilderness for all time, compared with one-tenth (1.7 million acres) allocated to the timber industry over 100 years. Modern forest management practices will allow a harvesting cycle to continue for hundreds of years without touching 90 percent of the forest.

child of the environmentalists, used to win support of Alaskans in Congress.

"Now the Wilderness Society is describing the \$40 million as a subsidy for timber. It's more a subsidy for wilderness or compensation for timber lost to wilderness. Now Congress is being panicked into political tinkering again, frightened by the Wilderness Society's editorial pets and its associates in the environmental community."

That's a pretty succinct summary of the Tongass issue — one which the Ketchikan publisher is sharing with editors across America.

Another way that Lew Williams is making his case to the national media is by sharing with them the editorials of other newspapers in Alaska — almost all of whom have come out in support of the position opposing "further tinkering" of the plan.

He has mailed editorials from The Anchorage Times, Fairbanks News-Miner, Juneau Empire and Peninsula Clarion to the major newspapers in the Lower 48 that have shown an interest in the subject.

In his quest to offset the environmental propaganda machine and get fair media treatment for Alaska about Tongass, Lew Williams is accomplishing something else.

He's reminding Alaskans of something we learned long ago, but may be forgetting in recent years. If we're going to have any kind of economic base or future for our state, we must rally together. Because Alaska is a big state with a small population, Alaska communities cannot stand by while another community or region is under attack by Outside interest groups.

We're an easy target for special interest environmental organizations that depend on special causes to raise money. It's easier for them to "win" here, because we don't have the population or resources to match their arsenals. We certainly don't have a chance if we don't all band together when one of our communities is under fire.

When Lew Williams writes his editorials in the Ketchikan paper, he's not writing just for the people of Ketchikan. He's hoping the rest of Alaska, and America, is listening as well.

This article appeared September 16 in The Anchorage Times.



Thoughts from the President

by
J. Shelby Stastny

ALASKA, INC.

A few weeks ago, a member of the state administration addressed the Anchorage Chamber of Commerce. His remarks centered around the fact that Alaska is different than other states in that much of the wealth and land ownership rests in the hands of the state. For this reason, the actions of our state officials should be measured differently than officials of other states. Since Alaska is an "owner" state, our state officials need to be given the leeway to take more "entrepreneurial" actions. He likened the state administration to the board of directors of a large corporation with 500,000 shareholders. One of the points he made was that the citizens of Alaska have made it difficult for the administration to perform this "corporate" role because it has not been able to gain a consensus among the "shareholders" as to which projects to pursue and in what manner.

While I was encouraged to hear the administration recognizes entrepreneurial actions need to be taken by the officials of our "owner" state, I was disappointed (but not surprised) to hear that they think a consensus is needed in order to take action.

An entrepreneur is defined in Webster's New World Dictionary as "a person who organized and manages a business undertaking, assuming the risk for the sake of a profit." I can't imagine any entrepreneur (or corporate board of directors) waiting for a consensus before he takes action. A corporation hires corporate officers and boards of directors to determine the appropriate goals and actions with the attendant risks necessary to reach the goals. Shareholders expect firm, decisive actions from their corporate officers.

Red Dog construction proceeds

Port and mine site work on schedule

RED DOG — With just over a year and a half to install and complete all of the necessary facilities to make Red Dog a world class mine, things are now in full swing at the mine site. This joint venture between Cominco Alaska Incorporated and the NANA Regional Corporation is scheduled to begin operation in early 1990.

With proven reserves of 85 million tons, once in full production, Red Dog will be the largest operating zinc mine in the western world. However, to turn Red Dog into an operating mine is a major project. With development costs estimated at \$420 million, all of the facilities needed to make the mine functional must be brought into this remote site.

Construction on the project began in the summer of 1986 when a shallow water dock and staging area were installed at the port site. The following year, construction began on a 54-mile road which would link the port site with the Red Dog mine. By November 1987, the road contractor had completed an initial pioneer road into the mine. In August 1988, the road was completed to final grade with all of the necessary bridges and culverts in place.

The majority of the work in 1988 has occurred at the port and mine site. At the port site, three primary contractors have been at

"By employing the entrepreneurial approach, the final score card will indicate we are all winners."

Beneficial results are not possible without taking risks. Since risks are involved, every action will not end up with expected results and no reasonable shareholder expects that the correct decision will be made every time. There is, however, a score card kept. The overall success is, of course, measured by the increase in value or income of the enterprise. Failure to attain the desired result over time will result in the officers and board being replaced by the shareholders.

In the September 1988 issue of *Management Review*, Alan J. Zakon discusses the differences between corporations which are on the move and growing and those that are not experiencing growth. He observes, "...it is not unusual for corporations to have more staff members planning what will be done, reporting on what has been done, and coordinating what is done than actually doing it." He adds, "this represents the central tendency in all organizations — the almost automatic diversion of energy from the creation of value to the preservation of the organization. Successful companies build strong infrastructures to support value creation; declining companies build overheads."

If our state leaders are to be successful entrepreneurs, it is essential they accept risks (such as long-term timber commitments). Like business people, they need to determine how to add value to our state's vast resources, make decisions on how to do it, and stick with them instead of taking a poll to see how popular the decision is going to be with a particular constituency.

A real corporate board would work hard to add value to its assets while protecting its interests by staying involved in land exchange negotiations. Entering as an intervenor in important lawsuits which have a tremendous impact on state land would also be in its best interests. By employing the entrepreneurial approach, the final score card will indicate we are all winners.

How much wilderness is enough?

(continued from cover)

Breaking it down, Alaska has some 33 million acres of designated Wilderness in national parks, 18.6 million acres in national wildlife refuges and some 5.4 million acres in national forests.

Designated Wilderness is not just a term that means an uninhabited piece of land. It means development of any sort is statutorily prohibited. No commercial activity of any type is permitted, including the construction of public and private recreation facilities. With some exceptions, roads are also banned in addition to new access trails and cabins. Resource development, including hydroelectric generation, timber harvesting, commercial fishing and oil development is prohibited. Even the use of chainsaws and portable electric generators are not allowed in most cases. Only the most primitive recreation activity is permitted.

A number of ANILCA provisions give federal land managers some discretion in administering federal Wilderness in Alaska.

For the most part, however, wilderness policies are so strict and inflexible that some provisions, such as those addressing access and inholder rights, are of little help. Alaska now contains 62 percent of all federal designated Wilderness in the United States, prompting many business leaders and politicians to ask, "how much additional wilderness can Alaska's economy endure?"

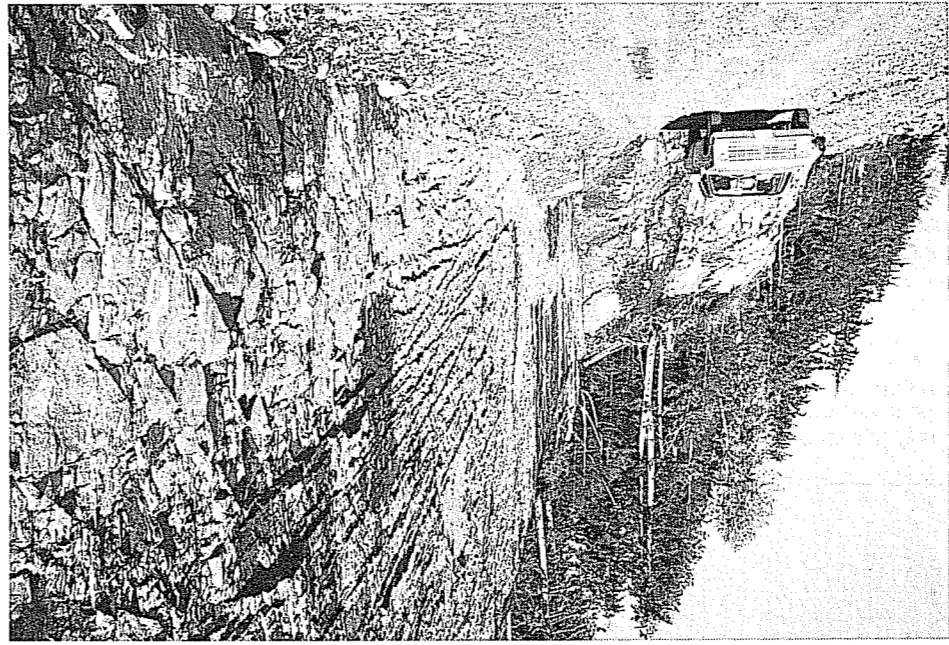
In about 40 days the Secretary of the Interior will send a recommendation to the President of the United States on whether or not additional wilderness should be designated in Alaska units of national parks and wildlife refuges. The President will in turn forward a recommendation to Congress.

The Resource Development Council filed extensive comments on each of the 13 draft environmental impact statements on wilderness additions in Alaska's national parks. RDC asserts new wilderness additions proposed by the Park Service are unjustified in a state where so much natural and designated Wilderness already exists.

Earlier this month in Fairbanks, RDC urged the Alaska Land Use Council to send a recommendation to the Secretary of the Interior that no additional lands in these units be designated as Wilderness. RDC explained that although non-designated park lands are managed to the same high standards, "Wilderness effectively forecloses on future opportunity."

According to RDC executive director Becky Gay, "Wilderness designations proposed by the ALLUC in Fairbanks a "no more wilderness" resolution, a post-National Petroleum Reserve a wildlife refuge and one can reasonably assume a move is underway to lock out multiple-use opportunity in America's arctic lands."

"Take a close look at the contiguous or adjacent conservation units presently in the Alaskan arctic," Gay said, "Combine them with the latest wilderness recommendations and a proposal to designate the vast National Petroleum Reserve a wildlife refuge and one can reasonably assume a move is underway to lock out multiple-use opportunity in America's arctic lands."



In Alaska, nearly all popular recreation areas exist because of access and facilities provided by mining, logging and commercial tourism operations. Designated Wilderness not only bans all resource development, the economic life-line of Alaska's economy, it also prohibits public or private recreation facilities, new roads and access trails, commercial fishing, hydroelectric generation and motorized vehicles.

RDC recognizes that various provisions within ANILCA are suppose to guarantee residents access and use of their private islands in the vast sea of wilderness zones. However, as a practical matter, Gay said the wilderness designations make life much more difficult for inholders, increasing stringent regulations and procedures which greatly restrict and tightly regulate access and activities.

"Throughout the state there exists a general, cumulative overlay of land management schemes with the ability to severely frustrate development of every human kind. Wilderness is the worst example, Gay

(continued on page 5)

Alaska wilderness designations cover some 56 million acres, enough to lock-up the entire state of Minnesota.

At the ALLUC Fairbanks meeting, RDC urged the federal agencies to accept the concept that wilderness proposals for one park are not independent of other existing and potential wilderness designations. "Wilderness designations must not be considered in isolation since a sizeable percentage of Alaska's productive lands have been withdrawn from multiple use, diminishing our timber and mineral base," Stasny said. "Fifty-six million acres of designated wilderness would be the 11th largest state, between the size of Oregon (62.1 million acres) and Utah (54.3 million acres)," Stasny noted.

"The time has come to consider the cumulative effect of additional wilderness designations on the opportunities to explore for and develop Alaska's vast natural resources," Stasny continued. "The cumulative effect on economics and national security has not been addressed in the environmental impact statements. Yet the prospects are frightening when the vectors are understandably gun-shy."

RDC is also concerned with the adverse fallout wilderness designations could have on mine development through the enforcement of regulatory gridlock, a terrible level of bureaucratic inertia and reluctance to permit," said Jim Burling of the Pacific Legal Foundation. "Equally serious damage to and develop Alaska's vast natural resources on the opportunities to explore for and develop Alaska's vast natural resources," Stasny continued. "The cumulative effect of designated Wilderness designations could be seriously affected by new wilderness designations, which pre-

Mining

Despite provisions in ANILCA which include destination tourism site development and practical access.

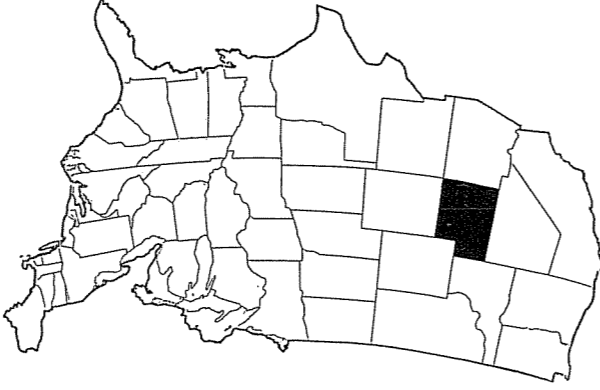
"Considering 33 million acres of national park lands in Alaska are already designated Wilderness, the Park Service has failed to demonstrate in an objective manner why wilderness values should take precedence over other activities on the remaining lands?" she asked.

There is a serious need for new roads, visitor centers and campgrounds in Alaska's national parks to relieve pressure brought about by increasing numbers of tourists. At an anticipated growth rate of five percent annually, the number of tourists expected to visit Alaska will exceed two million by the year 2000. World-class visitor center complexes offering a variety of recreational opportunities to a wide segment of the public are likely to play a major role in the successful development of the international tourism market in Alaska.

The Park Service environmental impact statements do not adequately address the impacts of the new wilderness proposals on such needed facilities, RDC contends, since they virtually ignore visitor demand. After a thorough analysis of the wilderness character of lands surrounding the proposed facilities, RDC contends, a position against adding more wilderness to Alaska's national parks. The Council will soon advance its "no more wilderness" recommendation to Interior Secretary Don Hodel.

Editor's Note: Write Secretary Hodel, Congress or your favorite newspaper regarding your views on additional Wilderness in Alaska. Your voice is needed.

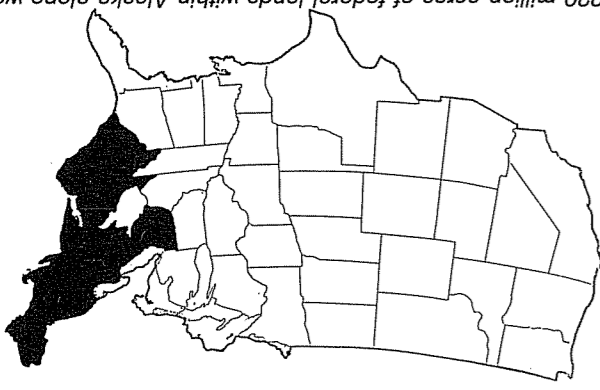
FEDERAL WILDERNESS IN THE STATE OF ALASKA



If Alaska's 56 million acres of designated Wilderness were made into one state, it would be the 11th largest state in America.

Comparative state acreage:
10. Oregon 62 million acres
11. Alaska designated Wilderness 56
12. Utah 54
13. Minnesota 54
14. Idaho 53
15. Kansas 52

ALL FEDERALLY-OWNED LANDS IN ALASKA



The 220 million acres of federal lands within Alaska alone would comprise the second largest state in the union. This acreage, a large portion of which severely restricts or prohibits economic development and public access, is comparable in size to the following combination of 15 states:

Maine	Connecticut	Delaware
New Hampshire	New York	Maryland
Vermont	New Jersey	Virginia
Massachusetts	Pennsylvania	North Carolina
Rhode Island	Ohio	South Carolina