

You could have put someone's eye out!

As hard as it is to admit, your mom and dad were right. About a lot of things. Here are a few safety tips they might have "suggested."

- Look both ways before you cross the street
- Wear safety glasses when you mow the lawn
- Don't run with scissors in your hand
- Wear your lifejacket by the water
- Buckle your seat belt
- Button your coat
- Wear a bike helmet
- Be careful with matches

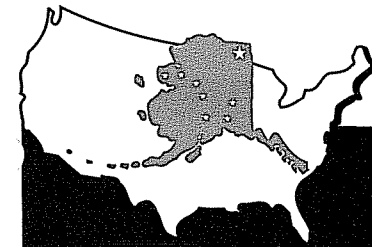
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Resource Review

September 1993 A monthly publication of the Resource Development Council, Inc.

Key congressional staff tour Alaska wetlands, meet with local officials from Sitka to Nome

By Ken Freeman, RDC Projects Coordinator

Thirteen key policy-makers, charged with formulating federal wetlands policy, traveled from Sitka to Prudhoe Bay recently to learn first hand of Alaska's unique wetlands circumstances. The tour, which included meetings with local community and state government officials, representatives from Native corporations, and business leaders, was coordinated by the Alaska Wetlands Coalition (AWC).

The AWC was formed in 1989 in response to a Memorandum of Agreement between the EPA and the Corp of Engineers that mandated a policy of "No Net Loss" of wetlands. The Coalition's work is directed at securing recognition in federal policy of Alaska's unique circumstances and excellent conservation record. Representing a diverse statewide membership, the AWC works to

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Peter Scher and Steve Shimberg, Senate Environment and Public Works staff directors, and Priscilla Wohl of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation argue the Anchorage wetlands plan.



In Juneau, Rick Harris, Alaska Wetlands Coalition co-Chairman and Sealaska representative, makes a point about forested wetlands to Corps of Engineers official Ralph Thomas. (Photos by B. Gay)

Proposed wetlands exemption gone

In the wake of a Clinton administration decision to abandon a plan that would have exempt one percent of Alaska's wetlands from strict compensatory mitigation requirements, the EPA and the Corps of Engineers will initiate meetings with various interests in Alaska to consider alternative permitting procedures aimed at addressing Alaska's concerns with federal wetlands policy.

Now that the proposed one percent exemption for Alaska is off the table, the Alaska Wetlands Coalition is

formulating a new proposal for federal policy-makers to consider as they look for a fair and flexible approach to regulating development on Alaska's wetlands.

Similar to former President George Bush's "no net loss" wetlands policy, the new Clinton policy restricts existing wetlands from being developed unless a developer first mitigates the proposed loss by restoring an equal amount of degraded or damaged wetlands, or by creating new wet-

(Continued to page 4)

Wetlands debate fully engaged in Congress



Message from the Executive Director

by
Becky L. Gay

*Executive Director
Becky Gay and
Projects Coordinator
Ken Freeman on Anvil
Mountain near Nome
on the wetlands tour.*

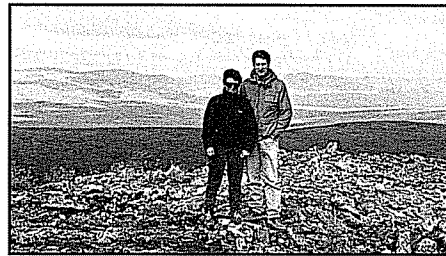


Photo by John Kerekes

The White House Interagency Task Force on federal wetlands regulations released its final recommendations last month. The proposed one percent Alaska rule was abandoned, although a 53 million acre exemption for "prior converted cropland" in the Lower 48 was continued.

The White House document asserts that the Corps and EPA will, within the next 90 days, initiate meetings with a variety of groups to "consider other environmentally appropriate means to assure regulatory flexibility and the feasibility of alternative permitting procedures in Alaska."

The wetlands debate is now fully engaged in Congress and the Administration's guidelines are reflected in legislation which may improve the 404 program. It may even consider Alaska's contribution to wetlands protection, if Alaskans are given a chance to make comments. Formal comments are being drafted now.

In order to impress upon policymakers the abundance and variety of wetlands in Alaska, RDC and the Alaska Wetlands Coalition (AWC) members coordinated a field trip to Alaska for key Congressional committee staff members. The statewide trip had the group on the ground from Southeast Alaska to the North Slope, seeing forested wetlands to permafrost in a week of hard traveling. A special thanks is due all the Congressional staffers and the EPA liaison, Bob Hickmott, who demonstrated professionalism, stamina, knowledge and a great sense of humor at the rigorous, early-to-late schedule we put them through!

Another big thanks goes to the many Alaskans who helped show the AWC members and Congressional staff around Alaska. In Sitka, Mayor Dan Keck was the lead tour guide, with APC staff Rollo Pool, Pat Joensuu and Ralph Warner making the False Island logging camp trip as successful field trip.

In Juneau, Planning Director Murray Walsh and field trip coordinator Jan Caulfield arranged for a special lunch which included Assembly members Rod Swope, Al Clough and Rosalie Walker, Juneau Wetlands Committee members and

a few locals. AWC Co-chair Rick Harris provided an excellent technical briefing, with a special welcome by Bob Loescher, both of Sealaska Corporation. Dr. Paul Rusanowski, Director of the Division of Governmental Coordination for the State of Alaska, rounded out the day with an overview of Alaska wetlands and geography.

In Bethel, after breakfast with local city officials, AWC Co-Chair Bill Bivin and the staff of Bethel Native Corporation gave a first-rate tour of the townsite. Then, off we went down the river by boat to Napaskiak, where the group met with villagers, heard from City Administrator Joseph Steven and Mayor Peter Williams, Sr., and toured the village and school. Nelson Angapak of Calista flew with a smaller group to Kwethluk, with on-the-ground help by Phillip Guy.

In the Arctic portion, the Prudhoe Bay tour was led by Mike Joyce of ARCO and Chris Hergulson of BPX and made possible by those companies. Pat Boinski of ARCO, Tony Kinderkencht and Cindy Bailey of BPX, and Gary Schultz of DNR Lands Division also helped make the permafrost tour educational.

Thanks to Mayor Tom Fink and Paula Easley of the Municipality of Anchorage and Priscilla Wohl of the Department of Environmental Conservation for the tour of Anchorage, Potter's Marsh and Turnagain Arm. In Girdwood, Larry Daniels, Director of Planning for Seibu, Inc. discussed design analysis of the new hotel and tram project, wetlands avoidance and minimization efforts and permitting time, and gave a quick tour of the new luxury hotel under construction.

In Nome, Mayor John Handeland lived up to his reputation as a great field guide, bus driver, and general entertainer while he showed the AWC group his town. Helped by Irene Anderson of Sitnasuak and Tom Sparks of Bering Straits Regional Corporation, the tour ended with a good look at the people who make Alaska such a great place to live, and the abundant wetlands which make Alaska such a unique regulatory challenge.

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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Writer & Editor

Carl Portman
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Invited Speakers

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Charles Boddy, Usibelli Coal Mine

John Morehouse, Regional Director, National Park Service

CJ Zane, Holland America Line

Stan Leaphart, Citizens Advisory Commission on Federal Areas

Mano Frey, Alaska AFL-CIO and Co-Chair, Arctic Power

Jerome Selby, Mayor of Kodiak and Co-Chair, Arctic Power

Neal Fried, Economist, Alaska Department of Labor

Troy Reinhart, Executive Director, Alaska Forest Association

Jay Richard Pace, President, Uni-Sea Alaska, Inc., Unalaska

Mayor Dan Keck, Sitka

Joe Hayes, Lobbyist

Thyes Shaub, Shaub & Associates

Carolyn Tuouinen, Displaced Worker Coordinator, Alaska Dept., of Community and Regional Affairs

Jim Avery, UAA Professor

High-level executives of Wal-Mart, K-Mart, Fred Meyers, Toys 'R Us and Carrs Superstores have been invited to participate. They will be announced later.



Sporting an "Open ANWR" sticker, Ellen Lorraine Dore, born July 30, is RDC's youngest ANWR proponent. Proud parents are Board member Jim Dore and his wife, Jean.

RDC encourages sustained-yield timber harvests

Comments filed on 5-year plans

Despite the promise of sustained-yield utilization of resources envisioned in the Constitution of the State of Alaska, the 49th state has had twenty years of the opposite in forest resources, noted the Resource Development Council in a letter to Tom Boutin, Director of the Alaska Department of Forestry.

State policy has not encouraged sustained-yield harvesting of Alaska's vast renewable forest resources, said RDC President Jim Cloud. Commenting on the state's five-year forestry plans, Cloud said each area forester in Alaska is required by the Constitution to manage the forests for multiple uses and encourage sustained-yield timber harvesting. To accomplish this mandate, Cloud said the biological annual allowable cut should be put up for sale.

"Not to utilize our forests to provide opportunities and resources for Alaska citizens is unacceptable and un-Constitutional," Cloud said.

Alaska's wood products industry remains a sleeping giant, a potential multi-billion dollar economic force that some day could employ over 10,000 people. With more than 10 percent of the entire nation's forest resource, Alaska's peak timber harvest has never reached above one half of one percent of the nation's output. Alaska ranks far below other states that support annual multi-billion dollar industries on a much smaller resource base.

To a large extent, laws, regulations, attitudes and the creation of wilderness and off-limit park and wildlife areas have discouraged timber harvesting. The result has been virtually no utilization of forest resources on state lands. Disease and insect attacks are destroying large areas of timber and natural mortality has, in many areas, surpassed growth, especially in the millions of acres devastated by the spruce beetle.

RDC supports a state forest health initiative on the Kenai Peninsula where an over-mature forest is dying from the beetle. State foresters say logging infested areas will speed regeneration of the forest while salvaging the economic value of the trees. They warn that fish streams, wildlife habitat and view sheds are in greater jeopardy from aging spruce dying and falling down.

Critics claim the state's new five-year timber plan to combat the beetle infestation will harm fishing and tourism. They also oppose new roads built to access trees in the backcountry.

Oil spill...

(Continued from page 3)

Laboratory at Bowdoin College, spent much of this past summer on Prince William Sound beaches doing extensive field studies. Before the Anchorage gathering, they reported that while there were acute short-term impacts from the oil spill, the injuries have not been long lasting as claimed by some government scientists. They said claims of long-term damage are, in many instances, based on a faulty interpretation by government scientists of data from a data base used by numerous government researchers. This flawed interpretation caused them to assert that large numbers of biologic and sediment samples from the Sound contained remnants of Exxon Valdez oil when they did not.

"We found that the Sound does have a lot of petroleum in subtidal sediments, but through extensive fingerprinting studies, we've shown that this petroleum comes in from seep areas to the east of the Sound, not from the spill as some have asserted," said Page.

Gilfillan and Page reported that intertidal biological communities have generally recovered to levels of abundance and species composition comparable to similar unoiled shores. Among the major points made by the two scientists were:

- Except for the most heavily-oiled sites, within a year after the spill most of the oiled sites were very similar to unoiled sites.

- Some assert that if oil is not found on the shorelines, it must have moved to the seafloor. This assertion is wrong. There are many sources of petroleum in the Sound that are not related to the spill.

- Any changes that occur after an oil spill are blamed on the spill even though there are many other factors in the environment.

- Predictions made by the media in 1989 were wrong. There have been over 35 oil spills larger than the Valdez spill. Those environments rapidly recovered. We knew the Sound would, too.

- By 1990, the Sound was well along the recovery path. Based on current field work, there is very little remaining evidence of the spill.

Alaska's Economy in Transition: Exploring Common Ground

There is a great debate underway on whether America should continue to develop natural resources on public lands. For nearly 200 years, these resources have been the basis of America's growth, prosperity and social order. Americans have developed the ability to change their resources into products with a direct personal benefit to all citizens. From this effort, a nation without equal was built.

Times are changing, however, as political forces are moving to discourage the development of natural resources on public lands, and in many cases, private lands. In Alaska, a state which has over 88 percent of its land in public ownership, and whose economy is almost entirely based on resource development, the tides of change sweeping the nation will have a profound effect.

Clearly, the future depends on the proper and wise use of all resources. So this is our dilemma: How do we distinguish between proper use, the misuse or the failure to develop and use resources? If not resource development, what mix will realistically sustain Alaska's economy, its communities and citizens? What lies beyond resource development?

In a world of resource conflicts, RDC will highlight these and other issues when its 14th Annual Conference, "Alaska's Economy in Transition: Exploring Common Ground," opens Thursday, November 18 at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage. From the regulated to the regulator, the preservationist to the resource producer, the consumer to the retailer, this provocative and timely forum embraces all perspectives in a spirit of forward thinking to find common ground to the challenges ahead.

Featuring nearly 40 dynamic speakers from across Alaska and the Lower 48, the conference is RDC's largest. The two-day program includes

the added bonus of morning and evening workshops for conference delegates. The workshops vary from wetlands permitting to tips for local businesses to use in meeting the competition from giant national retailers. A workshop offering advice to those conducting legislative business in Juneau will also be offered.

The conference includes a number of balanced panel presentations covering all perspectives on a wide range of subjects, including the retail boom in urban Alaska, the Mental Health Lands Trust dilemma and Environmental Imperatives and ANCSA Lands. Access to federal lands, ANWR, Tongass reform, Wilderness and tourism issues will be addressed in the context of ANILCA by a panel of state, federal and industry officials. In addition, a special panel of national and state media representatives will present different perspectives on resource development, the environment and the economy. Specific topics addressed by the media panelists include the coming bust in the Pacific Northwest, the new politics of the environment and a look beyond resource development.

Two keynote luncheon presentations are planned, including a major legislative forum featuring the leaders of the House and Senate, along with the majority and minority leaders of both houses and the chairman of the resource committees. These key legislators will focus on the most pressing issues of the 1994 legislative session.

In the other keynote luncheon, a high-level Clinton administration official has been invited to address Washington's agenda for Alaska.

The conference will conclude with a segment featuring timely updates on transitions within Alaska's oil and gas, mining, timber, fishing and tourism industries.

Sponsor packets are available through RDC now.

Invited Speakers

Hazel O'Leary, Secretary of Energy

John Knebel, President, American Mining Congress

Graham Fysh, Sr. Business Writer, Morning News Tribune, Tacoma, WA

John Fund, Sr. Editorial Writer, Wall Street Journal

Howard Weaver, Editor, Anchorage, Daily News

John Tracy, News Director, KTUU, Anchorage

Senator Rick Halford, Senate President

Senator Jim Duncan, Senate Minority Leader

Senator Mike Miller, Chair, Senate Resources Committee

Rep. Ramona Barnes, House Leader

Rep. Gail Phillips, House Majority Leader

Rep. Fran Ulmer, House Minority Leader

Rep. Bill Williams, Chair, House Resources Committee

Roy Huhndorf, President, Cook Inlet Region, Inc.

Elizabeth LeBlanc, Plans Director, Calista Corp.

John Mery, Sr. Vice President, Doyon Ltd.

Scott Feierabend, Director, National Wildlife Federation

David Cline, National Audubon Society

Cliff Eames, Alaska Center for the Environment

Charlie Cole, Attorney General, State of Alaska

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Thoughts from the President

by
James L. Cloud

Your future is at stake

In a world of resource conflicts and contradictions of human behavior, the Resource Development Council stands for the responsible use of natural resources to better the lives of people. This organization strives to bring some balance to the inevitable conflicts over competing uses of our country's natural resources.

We all know the vital necessity for the availability of natural resources to create products, shelter, food and energy. People cannot survive without these resources. Yet there is perpetual disagreement among resource consumers over their uses. Access and availability of natural resources are the foundations to any social and economic system, organized or not. When access or availability is restricted, the gap between the "haves" and the "have nots" widens, leading to increased poverty, decreased wealth, and social and political unrest. One must only read the depressing accounts of the struggle that residents of Sarajevo have been through just to obtain vital resources to provide heat, shelter and food.

If our country is to prevent the kind of economic and civil collapse that has occurred in Eastern Europe, our leaders in Washington must work to keep natural resources available

Virtually no sign of oil spill in Sound

Results of scientific studies conducted by scientists from leading universities, consulting companies and independent research institutes has revealed that Prince William Sound has almost fully recovered from the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. The results of the multi-year science program, sponsored by Exxon, sharply contradicts claims made by some that the spill injuries persist, are widespread and will be long lasting.

Some of the latest findings were reported by two leading scientists this summer at an Anchorage luncheon forum sponsored by the Resource Development Council and the Alaska Oil and Gas Association.

David Page, a Professor of Chemistry and Chairman of the Chemistry Department at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, and Edward Gilfillan, Director of the Marine Research

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for people to use. We cannot continue to lock up our resources, driving up reliance on imports and exporting domestic manufacturing jobs. If America does not control the source of raw materials, it will find itself importing finished goods.

RDC has fought many battles through public educational efforts and advocacy. And we have many more battles to fight. Our staff reviews and comments on the scores of land use plans, environmental impact statements, and public comment requests concerning the restrictions being placed on natural resources and their access throughout the state. As talented as they are, our small staff cannot do this job without your help. Our good reputation for thoughtful advice and follow through helps us get our foot in the door, but the comments and support of our membership is very important to the effectiveness of our efforts.

RDC needs your help more than ever. The issues are complicated and of the utmost importance to the future of Alaska.

Wetlands: How do we change wetlands regulations to allow reasonable development in our villages, cities and ports and access to minerals, timber, fisheries and parks?

Mining Law reform: How do we encourage Congress to be sensible when tinkering with the economics of delivering raw minerals to goods manufactured through mining our country's resources?

Oil and Gas: How do we assure access to exploration and production lands for our future energy needs?

Timber: How do we work to keep an adequate supply of timber available to ensure the production of lumber for our homes, paper for our work, and jobs for our communities?

Tourism: How do we encourage government to increase access to some of the country's largest national parks and reduce crowding along our few roads and recreational areas?

Fisheries: How do we work to keep wildlife preservationists from blocking subsistence, sports and commercial fishing from the source of sustenance?

Education: How do we ensure that our young minds are aware of resource needs of people throughout the world?



Last month RDC officers assessed shoreline recovery in Prince William Sound during a tour conducted by Exxon. From left to right are the helicopter pilot, Elizabeth Rensch, Vice President, Dave Parish, Senior Vice President, Jim Cloud, RDC President, Becky Gay, Executive Director, Scott Thorson, Secretary, Paul Glavinovich, former President, and Allen Blingham, Treasurer.

Proposed 1% rule for Alaska is gone

(Continued from page 1)

lands. The one percent rule would have exempted Alaska from such compensatory mitigation requirements until one percent of the state's wetlands had been developed.

Unlike the rest of the nation, 99.8 percent of the 170 million acres of wetlands in Alaska remain untouched. With 70 percent of the state's non-mountainous lands considered wetlands, federal policy would place a heavier burden on Alaskans than on the rest of the country.

Although disappointed with the Administration's decision to kill the proposed one percent rule, Becky Gay, Executive Director of the Resource Development Council, said the Alaska Wetlands Coalition will work through Congress and with the Administration to achieve necessary regulatory flexibility so Alaskans can continue to expand their communities and build in a state that has an acute shortage of dry lands.

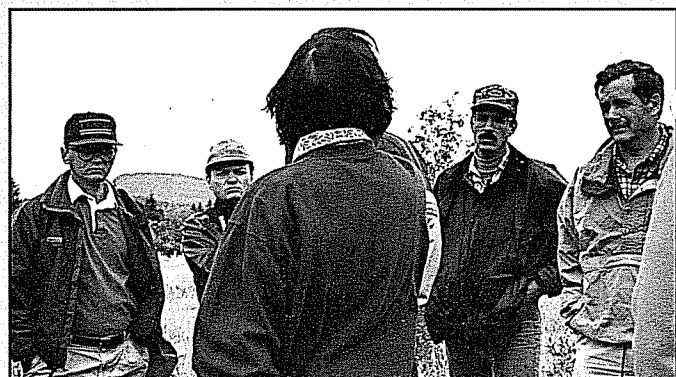
"The Alaska Wetlands Coalition has always preferred to work for a good law as opposed to an exemption to a bad law," said Gay. "There is a growing awareness within the Administration and Congress of Alaska's outstanding contribution to wetlands preservation and the unique needs of its rural communities."

Senator Ted Stevens warned that unless the strict mitigation requirements for Alaska are eased, further development and community expansion on state and Native lands will be severely hampered. The Clinton wetlands policy for Alaska, according to Stevens, breaks the statehood compact and reneges on the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act.

Of the 105 million acres granted to Alaska Natives under ANCSA, some 70 percent or more may be wetlands. Native leaders are concerned federal wetlands policy will prevent development opportunities, thus stripping the economic value from their lands.

Another 156 million acres of Alaska is blocked out in federal conservation system units which prohibit or severely restrict development. The wetlands policy not only applies to these federal and Native lands, but to state and private lands as well.

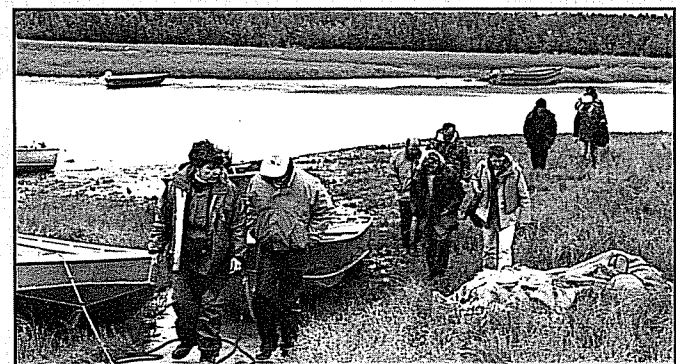
While Alaska has preserved over 99.8 percent of its wetlands, over half of the wetlands in the Lower 48 have been destroyed. Ironically, President Clinton announced an exemption for 53 million acres of wetlands in the Midwest. His policy includes an expedited process for farmers to use when appealing government denial of permit requests to develop additional wetlands.



Gabe Rozsa, John Kerekes, Tom Melius and John Doyle listen to a field briefing by Jan Caulfield of the City and Borough of Juneau
Photo by Becky Gay



Staff members pause to discuss wetland details on the Potter Marsh boardwalk near Anchorage.
Photo by Becky Gay



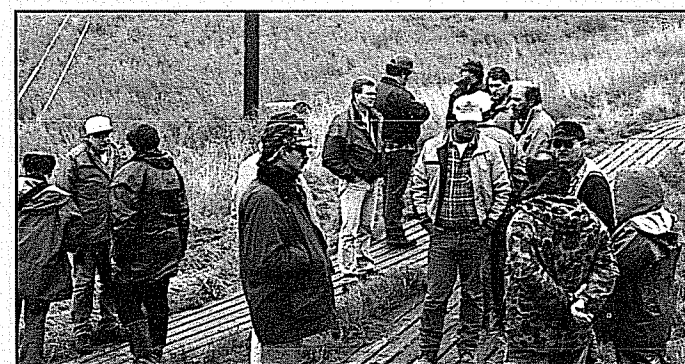
Kay King leads the conversation as the group makes its way from river boats to the village of Napaskiak on the Kuskokwim River in Western Alaska.
(Photo by Becky Gay)



Bryan Wirwicz, Ken Freeman, John Doyle, Kay King, Tom Melius, John Kerekes, Mike Barker, Bobby Franklin, Rick Harris, Steve Shimberg, Gabe Rozsa, and McLane Layton assemble in front of Mendenhall Glacier after touring wetland sites in Juneau.
Photo by Becky Gay



John Reynoldson, Peter Scher, Bob Hickmott, Paula Easley, Mike Joyce, Sitka Mayor Dan Keck, John Rayfield, and Larry Burton prepare to board a flight to False Island out of Sitka.



Bill Bivin, AWC Co-chairman and Bethel Native Corporation CEO, (center foreground) points out the rural realities facing Native peoples in the Calista region while standing on the Napaskiak boardwalk.
Photo by Becky Gay

Field trip raises awareness of Alaska concerns

(Continued from page 1)

change federal regulations, bring community perspective and balance to the debate, and help guide the overall national policy decision in respect to Alaska.

Believing one of the best approaches to educating lawmakers in Washington about Alaska's unique circumstances is to see first-hand how an inflexible wetlands policy can adversely affect Alaska, the AWC has brought Congressional staff with jurisdiction over wetlands policy to Alaska over the past four summers to learn about the many problems and experiences the state faces concerning federal regulatory control.

This summer's August tour began in Southeast and included Sitka, Juneau, and the logging community of False Bay. Southeast Alaska affords delegates the opportunity to see the diversity of Alaska's wetlands, ranging from muskeg to forested wetlands.

The tour continued on to Western Alaska including the communities of Bethel and Napaskiak. A small contingent of delegates were able to visit the fishing village of Kwethluk. The Kuskokwim Delta region has a tremendous, almost overwhelming amount of wetlands. Visiting this area clearly represents the conditions many villagers must endure and the obstacles they face developing their surrounding wetlands.

The tour also included the Arctic coast and the oil facilities at Prudhoe Bay. The North Slope represents one of the most environmentally-sound oil production infrastructures in the world. These facilities clearly represent how well human-kind can work in concert with the environment and surrounding wildlife.

Tour delegates also took a look at how a large community in Alaska has worked to protect the environment when they visited Anchorage. The Municipality of Anchorage has gone to great lengths to protect its wetlands in and around the city. The Municipality is currently working on efforts to update delineation of Anchorage wetlands.

The final leg of the Coalition's tour was Nome where participants toured a community whose economic stability and prosperity rests significantly on responsible mineral development. Native corporations in Nome and the city itself have been fighting an on-going battle with federal regulators, hampering their economic independence.

"These tours are crucial because they demonstrate first-hand how diverse and abundant Alaska's wetlands are compared to almost anywhere in the world," said Becky Gay, AWC Coordinator. "The AWC has been instrumental in elevating Alaska's concerns on wetlands policy to date," Gay said.

For additional information regarding AWC's current efforts or to become a member, please call Ken Freeman, at 279-1783.

Congressional participants in wetlands tour

Ms. Kay King, Office of Rep. Dick Swett, D-N.H.
Mr. Bobby Franklin, Office of Sen. David Pryor, D-AR
Mr. John Rayfield, Office of Rep. Herbert Bateman, R-VA
Mr. John Doyle, Office of Rep. Jimmy Hayes, D-LA
Ms. McLane Layton, Office of Sen. Don Nickles, R-OK
Mr. John Kerekes, Office of Rep. Doug Applegate, D-OH
Mr. Bryan Wirwicz, Office of Rep. Jack Fields, R-TX

Mr. Tom Melius, House Merchant Marine & Fisheries Comm.
Mr. Gabe Rozsa, House Public Works & Transportation Comm.
Mr. Peter Scher, Sen. Environment & Public Works
Mr. Jerry Reynoldson, Sen. Environment & Public Works
Mr. Steve Shimberg, Sen. Environment & Public Works
Mr. Bob Hickmott, Environmental Protection Agency