

Sending AK tech abroad

ConocoPhillips is using technology to increase production in Alaska, Outside

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ConocoPhillips plans to spend some \$2.5 billion in Alaska over the next five years using a collection of drilling technologies to mitigate declining production on the North Slope.

The largest producer in Alaska believes it can get some 35,000 barrels per day of incremental production from its three legacy North Slope oil fields by using 4-D seismic, coiled-tubing drilling and casing drilling to lower development costs and access additional resources, but as with any discussion of investments, the company insists it could do more if Alaska policymakers would make the fiscal regime more "competitive." *

The 35,000 barrels per day would stem production declines in Alaska to some 3 percent per year by 2017, ConocoPhillips' Executive Vice President of Exploration and Production Matthew Fox said during the company's annual analyst day on Feb. 28. And, Fox noted, if ConocoPhillips brings the Alpine West/CD-5 satellite into production as scheduled in the 2015-16 timeframe, the annual decline could drop to some 2 percent. *

The goal of the \$2.5 billion program is to use newly perfected techniques to suck additional oil out of Prudhoe Bay, Kuparuk River and Alpine, but with tax changes "we can see additional opportunities that we could take advantage of to grow production in Alaska and to grow production through the Trans-Alaska Pipeline System," Fox said.

A pair of techniques

The program involves two techniques "honed" in Alaska.

Distributed by Rep. Gara