

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 2001-2002 8672

10664 SENATE RESOURCES

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Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 5957, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

(907) 225-3184 • FAX: (907) 225-3187

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING INCLUSION OF THE TONGASS AND CHUGACH NATIONAL FORESTS IN THE US FOREST SERVICE'S NATIONAL ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE AND REQUESTING APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION TO STOP INCLUSION

WHEREAS, managed access to the natural resources in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, including timber, minerals, fisheries, water, and recreation opportunities is essential for the well-being of numerous communities within and adjacent to these forests; and

WHEREAS, after years of study, public comment, and spending millions of dollars, the US Forest Service release of the revised Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) in 1997 to effect a detailed resource management plan; and

WHEREAS, the revised 1997 TLMP removed substantial amounts of natural resources from future development status; and

WHEREAS, in an April 1999 TLMP Record of Decision, the US Department of Agriculture unilaterally reclassified additional natural resource areas, thus making them ineligible for development; and

WHEREAS, President Clinton issued his "Roadless Directive" to implement the removal from development of "roadless areas" in national forests; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service is now completing a revision of the Chugach National Forest Land Management Plan (CLMP); and

WHEREAS, the 1997 TLMP constitutes a substantially more complete analysis of the Tongass National Forest than the proposed Directive's process; and

WHEREAS, any further restrictions to access and road building in the Tongass National Forest as part of a nationwide ban are not appropriate due to the substantial recent management decisions made by the US Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, any further reduction of the resource base in the Tongass National Forest will increase the economic harm already felt by numerous Southeast Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS, the president has selected Alternative 3 (the most restrictive) as the preferred alternative in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for his Roadless Area Conservation Rule; and

CORRECTION

THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENT(S)
HAVE BEEN REFILMED TO
ASSURE LEGIBILITY OR PAGINATION



Central Microfilm Services
Department of Education & Early Development
State of Alaska

RESOLUTION NO. 1598-R

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF
PETERSBURG, ALASKA OPPOSING THE INCLUSION OF THE
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST IN THE USDA FOREST SERVICE'S
NATIONAL ROADLESS AREA REVIEW**

Whereas, Section 708 of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA) resolved roadless issues in a compromise bill as well as established over five million acres in 14 areas as Wilderness on the Tongass National Forest; and

Whereas, the Tongass Timber Reform Act of 1990 added 350,000 acres on the Tongass National Forest in five new Wilderness areas and one addition to an existing wilderness; and

Whereas, the Tongass Timber Reform Act also designates almost 690,000 acres in 12 Congress mandated roadless areas to maintain their wildland characteristics; and

Whereas, the Record of Decision (ROD) signed by Undersecretary Lyons noted the Tongass National Forest would be exempt from roadless moratorium as the newly revised plan had the benefit of considerable science and public involvement in the 12 year revision process for the Forest Plan; and

Whereas, Mr. Lyons also noted that he considered the roadless issue in his decision and addressed it through changing land allocations to mostly natural Land Use Designations in 18 un-roaded areas totaling 500,000 acres; and

Whereas, Mr. Lyons stated in the ROD that 90 percent or more of all currently un-roaded lands on the Tongass will still be roadless at the time of the next forest plan revision; and

Whereas, only 3 percent of 17 million acres on the Tongass National Forest will be used to sustain the timber industry over the next 10 years; and

Whereas, approximately 1/2 of the current Tongass National Forest timber base is included in areas which would remain un-roaded under the initiative; and

Whereas, Mr. Lyons, on September 28, 1999 in Sitka, Alaska, stated at the Southeast Conference of Mayors, that his decision on the Tongass Plan was made to "finally provide some certainty with regard to future uses and management direction on the Tongass", and also assured the Mayors that "we have to move on"; and

Whereas, we agree with the Governor of the State of Alaska that the inclusion of the Tongass in the roadless review would be an outrage as assurances were provided that the resolution of the Tongass planning process would put an end to this issue; and

Whereas, the Tongass National Forest is essential in bringing stability and certainty to the economy of Southeast Alaska, providing jobs for many families dependent on such stability; and

Whereas, the implementation of the roadless initiative to the Tongass National Forest would greatly diminish access to timber and other natural resources and may eliminate opportunities for construction of future transportation or utility corridors throughout the Southeast Alaska region; and

Whereas, any further diminishment of the timber base in the Tongass National Forest would exacerbate economic harm to Petersburg and other Southeast Alaska communities caused by previous changes in federal policy.

Now Therefore Be It Resolved by the City Council of the City of Petersburg as follows:

1. The City Council strongly opposes the inclusion of the Tongass National Forest in the "roadless area" policy review; and
2. The Petersburg City Council opposes any unilateral action to modify the Record of Decision as such action is contrary to proper resource planning and circumvents the public planning process.

Passed and Approved by the City Council of the City of Petersburg, Alaska this 6th day of November, 1999.



[Signature]
Mayor



Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 5957, Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

(907) 225-3184 • FAX: (907) 225-3187

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING INCLUSION OF THE TONGASS AND CHUGACH NATIONAL FORESTS IN THE US FOREST SERVICE'S NATIONAL ROADLESS AREA CONSERVATION RULE AND REQUESTING APPROPRIATE LEGAL ACTION TO STOP INCLUSION

WHEREAS, managed access to the natural resources in the Tongass and Chugach National Forests, including timber, minerals, fisheries, water, and recreation opportunities is essential for the well-being of numerous communities within and adjacent to these forests; and

WHEREAS, after years of study, public comment, and spending millions of dollars, the US Forest Service release of the revised Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) in 1997 to effect a detailed resource management plan; and

WHEREAS, the revised 1997 TLMP removed substantial amounts of natural resources from future development status; and

WHEREAS, in an April 1999 TLMP Record of Decision, the US Department of Agriculture unilaterally reclassified additional natural resource areas, thus making them ineligible for development; and

WHEREAS, President Clinton issued his "Roadless Directive" to implement the removal from development of "roadless areas" in national forests; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service is now completing a revision of the Chugach National Forest Land Management Plan (CLMP); and

WHEREAS, the 1997 TLMP constitutes a substantially more complete analysis of the Tongass National Forest than the proposed Directive's process; and

WHEREAS, any further restrictions to access and road building in the Tongass National Forest as part of a nationwide ban are not appropriate due to the substantial recent management decisions made by the US Forest Service, US Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, any further reduction of the resource base in the Tongass National Forest will increase the economic harm already felt by numerous Southeast Alaska communities; and

WHEREAS, the president has selected Alternative 3 (the most restrictive) as the preferred alternative in the Final Environmental Impact Statement for his Roadless Area Conservation Rule; and

WHEREAS, this selected Roadless Conservation Area rule alternative will prohibit road construction and reconstruction and seriously limit other management activities immediately within the Chugach National Forest and will likewise limit development activities within the Tongass National Forest, even prior to full implementation in 2004; and

WHEREAS, in passing the Alaska National Interest lands Conservation Act in 1980, Congress asserted that the appropriate balance had been struck between development and conservation and to that end included the "NO-MORE" clauses that prohibit the formation of new conservation units in Alaska without congressional approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce strongly opposes the inclusion of Alaska's two National Forests in the President's Roadless Area Conservation Rule; and

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce strongly requests the Governor of Alaska and Alaska's Congressional Delegation to work together to develop an integrated strategy for altering the roadless policy and to take all appropriate actions, including any appropriate litigation, to prevent the inclusion of the Tongass and Chugach National Forests in the National Roadless Area Conservation Rule.

Hereby adopted by the Greater Ketchikan Chamber of Commerce on this 13th day of December, 2000.

Signed: Dick Coose
Dick Coose, President

Dated: Dec 13, 2000

cc: Senator Ted Stevens
Senator Frank Murkowski
Representative Don Young
Governor Tony Knowles
Mayor Jack Shay
Mayor Bob Weinstein
Alaska Forest Association
Ketchikan Visitors Bureau

Introduced by: Popp, Merkes, Brown
Date: 01/09/01
Action: Adopted as Amended
Vote: 8 Yes, 1 No

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2001-005**

**A RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FINAL
VERSION OF THE PROPOSED REVISED LAND AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
PLAN FOR THE CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST BEFORE A COMPLETE LEGAL
REVIEW OF THE PLAN CAN BE COMPLETED**

- WHEREAS,** the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest were available for public comment until December 14, 2000, and the National Forest Management Act of 1964 regulations require each Forest Plan to be revised every 10 to 15 years; and
- WHEREAS,** the planning area encompasses over 5.45 million acres within the Chugach National Forest, which is the second largest forest in the United States National Forest System and is subdivided into 3 administrative units, the Glacier, Seward and the Cordova Ranger Districts; and
- WHEREAS,** the Seward Ranger District of the Chugach National Forest encompasses a significant portion of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and includes a number of Kenai Peninsula Borough communities such as Hope, Cooper Landing, Moose Pass and Seward; and
- WHEREAS,** the "Situation Statements" of the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan describes conflicting public interests and existing conditions that could be improved by changing the 1984 Forest Plan, and that one of these conflicts was identified as a conflict between cross-country skiers and cross-country snowmobile operators that would be resolved by closing a number of existing trails or trailheads to snowmobiles because of these major ecological or social conflicts; and
- WHEREAS,** the Forest Service has stated that they have not completed any scientific studies to support closing any of the existing trails or trailheads to snowmobiles because of any major ecological or social conflicts; and
- WHEREAS,** the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the 5.45 million acre Chugach National Forest does not allow for reasonable methods of minerals extraction as access to the minimal amount of acreage made available for minerals exploration within the Forest is severely restricted by the Proposed Revised Land and Management Plan because the Revised Plan does not allow for any new roads to be constructed to provide access to newly surveyed mineral deposits within the Forest; and

- WHEREAS,** the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest contains only minimal provisions for the mitigation, harvesting and reforestation of a total of 3,343 acres per year out of the hundreds of thousands of acres of forest impacted by the Spruce Bark Beetle infestation within the 5.45 million acre Chugach National Forest; and
- WHEREAS,** the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest advocates the addition of over 2.5 million acres to restrictive classifications such as Wilderness, Wild Rivers, ANILCA classifications, Backcountry, Scenic Rivers, Brown Bear Core Area, and Recreation-Reduced Noise, all of which may have additional restrictions on numerous user groups and resource development within the Chugach National Forest; and
- WHEREAS,** the Office of General Counsel for the United States Forest Service has indicated to the Forest Service planners that it would take approximately one and a half years to complete a legal review of the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest to, in part, conduct a legal determination of the Proposed Plan for consistency with the legal provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, or ANILCA; and
- WHEREAS,** the Forest Service has no stated plans to conduct a legal review of the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest to provide a legal determination that the Proposed Revised Plan is consistent with the provisions of ANILCA; and
- WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly has previously expressed its support for continued public access to Chugach National Forest for all recreational users of the forest through Kenai Peninsula Borough Resolution 2000-108; and
- WHEREAS,** the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly has previously expressed its support for provisions for expanded timber harvesting and minerals exploration within the Chugach National Forest and has requested a complete legal review of the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest through Kenai Peninsula Borough Resolution 2000-112; and
- WHEREAS,** the implementation of the final version of the Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest without a complete and thorough legal review to assure that the Plan is consistent with the provisions of ANILCA could cause serious harm to the economy and quality of life enjoyed now, and in the future, by the citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

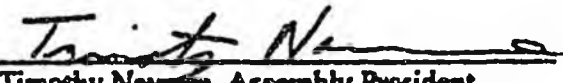
SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly strongly objects to the implementation of the final version of the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan

for the Chugach National Forest and reserves its support until a complete and thorough legal review of the final version of the Proposed Revised Plan can be completed that provides a legal determination stating the final version of the Proposed Revised Plan is consistent with the provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.


SECTION 2. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly specifically requests a complete and thorough legal review by the Office of General Counsel for the United States Forest Service or other appropriate agency of the final version of the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest with the objective to provide a detailed, written legal determination that the final version of the Proposed Revised Plan is consistent with the provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act and other appropriate federal laws.

SECTION 3. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the members of the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the members of the Kenai Peninsula Borough State Legislative Delegation, the Governor of the State of Alaska, and to the United States Forest Service.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 9TH DAY OF JANUARY 2001.


Timothy Noyarte, Assembly President

ATTEST:


Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk



Introduced by: Merkes, Brown, Popp, Fischer
Date: 11/21/00
Action: Adopted
Vote: 9 Ycs, 0 No

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2000-108**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEAVING ALL EXISTING TRAILS IN THE
CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST OPEN FOR EXISTING RECREATIONAL USES,
SUPPORTING IMPROVEMENTS TO AND MAINTENANCE OF TRAILS AND
PARKING LOTS, AND SUPPORTING BUILDING NEW CROSS-COUNTRY SKI
TRAILS**

WHEREAS, the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest are available for public comment until December 14, 2000, and the National Forest Management Act of 1964 regulations require each Forest Plan to be revised every 10 to 15 years; and

WHEREAS, the planning area encompasses over 5.45 million acres in the Chugach National Forest, which is the second largest forest in the National Forest System and is subdivided into 3 administrative units, the Glacier, Seward and the Cordova Ranger Districts; and

WHEREAS, the Forest interdisciplinary team must consider the environmental conditions, historic use and occupation, and other past and current data while conducting many planning meetings; and

WHEREAS, the "Situation Statements" describe conflicting public interests and existing conditions that could be improved by changing the 1984 Forest Plan, and one of these conflicts was identified as a conflict between cross-country skiers and cross-country snowmobilers; and

WHEREAS, four public meetings have been held on the Kenai Peninsula to receive comments on the Draft Plan, and comments at the Soldotna meeting, which was attended by over 200 people, overwhelmingly supported keeping all existing trails and railheads open to both snowmobiles and cross-country skiers, with possible opening of additional trails and parking lots; and

WHEREAS, all user groups should be able to work out compromises so they can use the existing trails and railheads at all times rather than for parts of a season or alternating years, and RS 2477 may have already established easements for traditional uses of both snowmobiles and cross-country skiers; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service has stated that they have not completed any scientific studies to support closing any of the existing trails or railheads to snowmobiles because of any major ecological or social conflicts; and

WHEREAS, the Preferred Plan advocates considering adding over 2.5 million acres to restrictive classifications such as Wilderness, Wild Rivers, ANILCA classifications, Backcountry, Scenic Rivers, Brown Bear Core Area, Recreation-Reduced Noise, all of which may have additional restrictions on snowmobiles;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough assembly strongly supports the Forest Service's not recommending closing, or restricting to seasonal use, the use by snowmobiles and skiers of any existing trails or trailheads in the Chugach National Forest-Seward District.

SECTION 2. That the existing trails and parking lots be upgraded for use by both snowmobiles and cross-country skiers in partnership with the federal, state, and local governments. Intergovernmental agreements should be made regarding leasing or exchanging land reasonably necessary to accomplish this goal.

SECTION 3. The Kenai Peninsula Borough also supports the federal government's giving grants or allowing private recreational groups to form partnerships with the federal government to improve or build trails or parking lots.

SECTION 4. That the Forest Service Plan consider building new access trails for cross-country skiers in appropriate locations in order to alleviate safety issues and conflicts with snowmobile use.

SECTION 5. That copies of this resolution be sent to the Alaskan Congressional Delegation, the Kenai Peninsula Borough State Delegation, and to the Forest Service Department.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 21ST DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2000.

Timothy Navarre
Timothy Navarre, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Linda S. Murphy
Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk



Introduced by: Popp, Merkes
Dates: 12/12/00
Action: Adopted
Vote: 7 Yes, 0 No, 2 Absent

**KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION 2000-112**

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING NEW TIMBER HARVESTING AND MINERALS
EXTRACTION AS PART OF THE PROPOSED REVISED LAND AND RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST**

- WHEREAS,** the Draft Environmental Impact Statement and the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest are available for public comment until December 14, 2000, and the National Forest Management Act of 1964 regulations require each Forest Plan to be revised every 10 to 15 years; and
- WHEREAS,** the planning area encompasses over 5.45 million acres in the Chugach National Forest, which is the second largest forest in the National Forest System and is subdivided into 3 administrative units, the Glacier, Seward and the Cordova Ranger Districts; and
- WHEREAS,** the Seward Ranger District of the Chugach National Forest encompasses a significant portion of the Kenai Peninsula Borough and includes a number of Kenai Peninsula Borough communities such as Hope, Cooper Landing, Moose Pass and Seward; and
- WHEREAS,** hundreds of thousands of acres of the Chugach National Forest within the Seward Ranger District have been infested by the Spruce Bark Beetle which has created a substantial fire hazard for the many communities, residences, businesses and citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough that reside within the Chugach National Forest; and
- WHEREAS,** the Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest contains only minimal provisions for the mitigation, harvesting and reforestation of a total of 3,343 acres per year out of the hundreds of thousands of acres of trees impacted by the Spruce Bark Beetle infestation within the 5.45 million acre Chugach National Forest; and
- WHEREAS,** the lack of a more comprehensive plan for mitigation, harvesting and reforestation of the hundreds of thousands of acres impacted by the Spruce Bark Beetle will result in the total loss of millions of board feet of potentially valuable trees and place millions of dollars of private property and many citizens of the Kenai Peninsula Borough at risk from catastrophic wildfires within the Chugach National Forest; and

WHEREAS, the "Preferred Alternative" proposed by the Forest Supervisor within the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest allows for less than 80 acres out of the total 5.45 million acres of the Chugach National Forest to be surveyed for commercial or recreational minerals deposits; and

WHEREAS, the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the 5.45 million acre Chugach National Forest does not allow for reasonable methods of minerals extraction as access to any newly discovered mineral deposits within the Forest is severely restricted by the Proposed Revised Land and Management Plan because the Revised Plan does not allow for any new roads to be constructed to provide access to newly surveyed mineral deposits within the Forest; and

WHEREAS, the Office of General Council for the United States Forest Service has indicated to the Forest Service planners that it would take approximately one and a half years to complete a legal review of the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest to, in part, conduct a legal determination of the Proposed Plan for consistency with the legal provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, or ANILCA; and

WHEREAS, the Forest Service has no stated plans to conduct a legal review of the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest to provide a legal determination that the Proposed Revised Plan is consistent with the provisions of ANILCA; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly has previously expressed its support for continued public access to Chugach National Forest for all recreational users of the Park through Kenai Peninsula Borough Resolution 2000-108; and

WHEREAS, the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly has concerns about the potential impacts that many of the provisions of the Proposed Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest will have on the economy and quality of life enjoyed now, and in the future, by the citizens of Kenai Peninsula Borough;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH:

SECTION 1. The Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly urges the United States Forest Service to adopt more comprehensive provisions within the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest for the mitigation, harvesting and reforestation of the hundreds of thousands of acres impacted by the Spruce Bark Beetle infestation within the Seward Ranger District to prevent the loss of millions of board feet of potentially valuable trees and reduce the possible loss of millions of dollars worth of private property that is at risk from catastrophic wildfires within the Chugach National Forest Seward Ranger District;

SECTION 2. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly further urges the United States Forest Service to adopt additional provisions within the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest that will provide for new road access to newly discovered and existing mineral deposits that will allow for viable commercial and recreational minerals extraction.

SECTION 3. That the Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly requests that the United States Forest Service perform a legal review of the Proposed Revised Land and Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest to provide a legal determination that the Proposed Revised Plan is consistent with the provisions of the Alaska National Interest Lands Act.

SECTION 4. That copies of this resolution be sent to the Alaska Congressional Delegation, the Kenai Peninsula Borough State Legislative Delegation, the Governor of the State of Alaska, and to the United States Forest Service.

SECTION 5. That this resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE KENAI PENINSULA BOROUGH THIS 12TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2000.

Timothy Navarre
Timothy Navarre, Assembly President

ATTEST:

Linda S. Murphy
Linda S. Murphy, Borough Clerk



MY TURN

by Robert W. Loescher

President & CEO, Sealaska Corporation

Alaskans from across this great state need to join forces with Governor Tony Knowles and the Alaska Congressional Delegation and keep the Clinton Administration's "roadless policy" out of our Tongass and Chugach National Forests. Here are four reasons why: (1) The roadless policy totally ignores the established forest land planning process. (2) By fiat, the roadless policy locks up so much suitable forest land that we can not sustain jobs and a viable timber industry. (3) The roadless policy violates the clause in Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) that unequivocally said no more public land would be locked up in Alaska. (4) It precludes rural communities from improving their core infrastructure needs including drinking water and utility and transportation corridors.

Governor Tony Knowles staunchly supports the right of the Alaskan public to participate in administrative and legislative actions that affect their lives. He said that the roadless initiative is not a public process. He understands that the roadless policy ensures that Alaska's forests will not sustain a viable and economically important timber industry. This policy will hurt Alaska's urban and rural communities. Alaska and our forest-dependent communities cannot absorb more loss of jobs and restricted access to land for core community needs that this policy will cause.

Alaska has a long history of responsible, public processes to guide the management of our forests and forest ecosystems. They were designed to protect wilderness, jobs and community well-being. ANILCA struck the right balance between the reservation of national conservation system units and those public lands necessary and appropriate for more intensive use and disposition. ANILCA's "no more" clause prohibited any further land withdrawals without the

approval of the US Congress. The "no more" clause made sure that voices of the small, forest-dependent communities were not drowned out by the "postcard diplomacy" of well-financed corporate environmental organizations and foundations.

Congress passed the Tongass Timber Reform Act (TTRA) in 1990 and set aside another 1.2 million acres of national forest land. TTRA was a very public process that fixed obvious oversights in ANILCA by adding small but important ecosystems to conservation units. In this process, the voice of Alaska residents was heard.

Unfortunately, the Clinton administration ignored the open and public processes in ANILCA and TTRA that produced the revisions to the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP). The revised TLMP Plan, initiated in 1986, and finally ratified in May 1997 allowed national public participation. Two years later, US Dept. of Interior Undersecretary Lyons disregarded this public process and significantly amended the 1997-revised TLMP. He cut the annual allowable harvest from the Tongass National Forest by over 30% and injured Alaskans' ability to sustain a viable timber industry.

This blatant disregard for the public process and the health of Alaska's forest-dependent communities occurred after Undersecretary Lyons declared his support for the public forest land management planning process. Lyons said to the Southeast Conference that there would be no further significant timber or other land withdrawals on the Tongass National Forest. Undersecretary Lyon's unilateral actions demonstrate clearly why there was a "no more" provision in the ANILCA: to stop Washington D.C. bureaucrats from imposing their own misguided ideology behind closed doors.

The Clinton administration continues to steamroll the Alaskan public. Undersecretary Lyons told us that the new national roadless policy would not apply to the Tongass National Forest because the Tongass land planning

process had just been completed. In an about-face, the US Forest Service EIS now recommends inclusion of the Tongass. This action reduces the annual harvest from Tongass by 82% and destroys our forest industry. All this without any meaningful site-specific considerations that the local planning processes require. The key public official obligated to ensure public participation in forest management decisions ignored the public's rights and became an agent for the corporate national environmental organizations who place ideology and perception above good science and the people's right to live and work in this great land.

The roadless agenda is clear. The Clinton administration's threat to implement its roadless policies is real. It will harm our communities, who depend on access to the adjacent forests for drinking water, for cheaper electrical power, and for basic safe and reliable transportation corridors.

We, as a State, must pull together and stop the economic strangulation of our communities. I applaud the way Governor Knowles stood up for Alaska and protested the preemption of the TLMP process. Governor Knowles said in a letter to Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman, "I remain firm in my opposition to any action that undermines the Tongass plan through federal fiat."

The Congressional Delegation has been using its authority and prestige in Washington, D.C. to urge Secretary Glickman to adhere to the National Forest Management Land Planning process and not to apply the roadless policy to the Alaska National Forests. The Governor and the Congressional Delegation working together with Alaskans can influence the outcome. However, lukewarm and measured responses to this threat will not prevail. We must adopt an aggressive strategy that may include litigation, congressional action and administrative challenges to prevent application of the roadless policy to either the Tongass or Chugach National Forest.

This is now a matter of survival. Alaskans treasure independence, and take pride in self-reliance. If we fail to act, our communities and the economies of the Tongass and Chugach National Forests will become financially-dependent wards of the State and Federal government.

Robert M. Jensen

managed for the purpose of protecting their suitability for wilderness designation pending revision of the initial plans; and

708(b)(4)

(4) unless expressly authorized by Congress the Department of Agriculture shall not conduct any further statewide roadless area review and evaluation of National Forest System lands in the State of Alaska for the purpose of determining their suitability for inclusion in the National Wilderness Preservation System.

TITLE VIII—SUBSISTENCE MANAGEMENT AND USE

FINDINGS

16 USC 3111.

705a

SEC. 801. The Congress finds and declares that—

(1) the continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses by rural residents of Alaska, including both Natives and non-Natives, on the public lands and by Alaska Natives on Native lands is essential to Native physical, economic, traditional, and cultural existence and to non-Native physical, economic, traditional, and social existence;

(2) the situation in Alaska is unique in that, in most cases, no practical alternative means are available to replace the food supplies and other items gathered from fish and wildlife which supply rural residents dependent on subsistence uses;

(3) continuation of the opportunity for subsistence uses of resources on public and other lands in Alaska is threatened by the increasing population of Alaska, with resultant pressure on subsistence resources, by sudden decline in the populations of some wildlife species which are crucial subsistence resources, by increased accessibility of remote areas containing subsistence resources, and by taking of fish and wildlife in a manner inconsistent with recognized principles of fish and wildlife management;

43 USC 1601
note.

(4) in order to fulfill the policies and purposes of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act and as a matter of equity, it is necessary for the Congress to invoke its constitutional authority over Native affairs and its constitutional authority under the property clause and the commerce clause to protect and provide the opportunity for continued subsistence uses on the public lands by Native and non-Native rural residents; and

(5) the national interest in the proper regulation, protection, and conservation of fish and wildlife on the public lands in Alaska and the continuation of the opportunity for a subsistence way of life by residents of rural Alaska require that an administrative structure be established for the purpose of enabling rural residents who have personal knowledge of local conditions and requirements to have a meaningful role in the management of fish and wildlife and of subsistence uses on the public lands in Alaska.

POLICY

16 USC 3112.

SEC. 802. It is hereby declared to be the policy of Congress that—

(1) consistent with sound management principles, and the conservation of healthy populations of fish and wildlife, the utilization of the public lands in Alaska is to cause the least adverse impact possible on rural residents who depend upon subsistence uses of the resources of such lands; consistent with management of fish and wildlife in accordance with recognized

ACCESS

Nonfederally owned lands. 16 USC 3210.

SEC. 1323. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary of Agriculture may prescribe, the Secretary shall provide such access to nonfederally owned land within the boundaries of the National Forest System as the Secretary deems adequate to secure to the owner the reasonable use and enjoyment thereof: *Provided*, That such owner comply with rules and regulations applicable to ingress and egress to or from the National Forest System.

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary of the Interior may prescribe, the Secretary shall provide such access to nonfederally owned land surrounded by public lands managed by the Secretary under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701-82) as the Secretary deems adequate to secure to the owner the reasonable use and enjoyment thereof: *Provided*, That such owner comply with rules and regulations applicable to access across public lands.

YUKON FLATS NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE AGRICULTURAL USE

16 USC 3211.

SEC. 1324. Nothing in this Act or other existing law shall be construed as necessarily prohibiting or mandating the development of agricultural potential within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge pursuant to existing law. The permissibility of such development shall be determined by the Secretary on a case-by-case basis under existing law. Any such development permitted within the Yukon Flats National Wildlife Refuge shall be designed and conducted in such a manner as to minimize to the maximum extent possible any adverse effects of the natural values of the unit.

TERROR LAKE HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT IN KODIAK NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

16 USC 3212.

SEC. 1325. Nothing in this Act or the National Wildlife Refuge System Administration Act of 1966 (16 U.S.C. 668dd) shall be construed as necessarily prohibiting or mandating the construction of the Terror Lake Hydroelectric Project within the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge. The permissibility of such development shall be determined by the Secretary on a case-by-case basis under existing law.

FUTURE EXECUTIVE ACTIONS

16 USC 3213.

Publication in Federal Register; notification of Congress.

SEC. 1326. (a) No future executive branch action which withdraws more than five thousand acres, in the aggregate, of public lands within the State of Alaska shall be effective except by compliance with this subsection. To the extent authorized by existing law, the President or the Secretary may withdraw public lands in the State of Alaska exceeding five thousand acres in the aggregate, which withdrawal shall not become effective until notice is provided in the Federal Register and to both Houses of Congress. Such withdrawal shall terminate unless Congress passes a joint resolution of approval within one year after the notice of such withdrawal has been submitted to Congress.

(b) No further studies of Federal lands in the State of Alaska for the single purpose of considering the establishment of a conservation system unit, national recreation area, national conservation area, or for related or similar purposes shall be conducted unless authorized by this Act or further Act of Congress.



7050

SEC. 1327. additional re operation of and approved Transportati imposing any cerning such

SEC. 1328. made pursuar (44 Stat. 1364 Stat. 1097), w within the tin in Alaska the statutes when hundred and except where subsection, or adjusted purs approval purs the time the a

(2) Where a unit of the Na Refuge Syster System in th before the effe land was not Native Claim: land which h: which on or tentatively ap Alaska pursu to section 11(from those la: the Act by any 11(b) of such / of this section cated pursuan: 1328(a)(1) her: other applicat

(3) Paragra: apply and th requirements on or before effective date

(A) a N: the Interi entitled to withdrawn Alaska N: (B) the stating th: access to l: a political thereon, c

Subject: Roadless Letter

Date: Sat, 20 Jan 2001 16:18:12 -0900

From: "Wilma E Leslie" <wilma@alaskawaters.com>

To: <Jean_Ellis@legis.state.ak.us>

Dear Representative Wilson:

I am opposed to President Clinton's Roadless Area Conservation rule. I support the overturning of this inclusion by litigation, by congressional action or by action of President Bush. The Roadless Area Conservation rule, if enforced will have a devastating effect on more than just the Timber industry. This Roadless Area Conservation rule is "THE DESTROYER OF FAMILIES" living in Southeast Alaska. This issue is a people issue not a wilderness issue. If initiated, the Roadless Rule will be the last nail in Southeast Alaska's economic coffin!

The goal of all environmental groups has been and always will be to shut down all Natural Resource based industries in Alaska. The timber industry just happen to be the first casualty. Legislation limiting access to the Tongass has already caused unnecessary hardship and grief for many families who were previously employed in the timber industry. If we don't stop this Roadless Rule there will be more families that will be devastated.

I know that national preservationist groups as well as the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council (SEACC) do not think that they have personally caused anyone harm. They are wrong, they have. These preservationist groups continue to cause the annihilation of small (rural) Alaskan communities by supporting radical environmental legislation. They need to look into the faces of the people who's lives they are destroying. They need to be held publicly accountable for their actions!

The only way to save Alaska from the whims of legislators in Washington D.C. is to educate the rest of the Nation about Alaska. The real issues and truths about Alaska are unknown to most Americans. Alaska is too far away and the Alaskan's lifestyle too "foreign" for most people to grasp. Radical environmental groups have used fear and misinformation to motivate these same people to send in money and sway the vote for extreme and sometimes absurd environmental legislation.

Alaska needs to initiate a scientifically based "Alaska Natural Resource Education Program". This program needs to be in all Alaska elementary, middle and high schools. Hopefully, through educating our own citizens about Alaska's natural resource based industries.

Alaska Women In Timber in cooperation with the U.S. Forest Service tried to initiate a program called "Alaska's Great Green Forest". Unfortunately, their program did not address all Natural Resource Industries.

The Timber Industry was assured in 1990 by Congress and environmental groups that no jobs would be lost if the Tongass Timber Reform Act was put in place and 1.1 million additional acres set aside. This has turned out not to be the case. Promises now about maintaining the existing industry ring hollow when we are unable to redeem previous promises and more of the Tongass is being withdrawn through the proposed Roadless Area Conservation rule.

Wrangell's economy and families depend on multiple use access to the Tongass National Forest for their survival! Alaska's state legislators, Alaska's governor and the Alaska congressional delegation need to make sure that President Clinton's Roadless Area Conservation rule is overturned!

Sincerely,

2 Wilma E. Leslie

11/20/01

Gerald and Deloris Herbrandson

**Solar Wind
P.O. Box 1374
720 Sandy Beach Road
Petersburg, Alaska 99833
(907) 772-4898**

Jan. 21, 2001

Regarding HJR-6

Peggy Wilson -

My wife and I are very concerned that the Roadless legislation as being imposed upon our country, through executive order, is not in accordance with the will of the people and in many cases violates many of the public comment/check-and-balances which have been built into proposed actions of our government.

It is my observation that the communities of SE Alaska have been significantly effected by the management polices of the Forest Service. Through the 1970's, 80's, and early 90's the communities staggered under a tremendous housing shortage caused by the growth of the timber program and Forest Service employment. Hospitals, schools, support services, and community housing were all expanded to meet the demands of a growing economy. The cost of housing rose significantly as the communities tried to react to housing shortages.

Beginning in the mid 90' Forest Service policy changed. Timber programs were cut, timber related industries closed, and Forest Service employment reduced. These government actions (many of which bordered being fraudulent and deceitful) significantly effected the economy of SE Alaska. The communities found themselves contenting with high unemployment, excess housing, declining property values, and unmet budgets.

It is my feeling that the Federal Government, as the largest land owner of SE Alaska, has a moral obligation to the economy of each community. This obligation is further burdened when one understands that the communities were built-up to their current condition in response to actions of the Federal Government.

For the Federal Government to arbitrarily close access to the natural resources that these communities rely upon with out taken full responsibility for the loss of property value, loss of employment, loss of economic incomes is not acceptable.

It is promoted by some that tourism and recreation are the new economies of SE Alaska. This sounds good but has no basis. Tourism provides employment to a very limited few for less than 12 months out of the year. No viable community can build it's economy upon tourism alone which can evaporate on the whims of public sentiment. The economy of SE Alaska, as with our total Nation, must be diverse with segments rooted in the development and wise management of natural resources.

**Thank you for your support
Gerald and Deloris Herbrandson**

I'm sick of the people in
Washington D.C. making these decisions
for us who live in the Tongass N.F.
This Roadless issue is a big waste of
time and money that no one can
afford. I worked for the Forest Service
during the time T.L.M.P. was put together.
Where are our Leaders minds.

Thank you

Sid
Sid Bacom

P.O. Box 683

Petersburg, AK 99833

ALASKAN SELECT SALMON FOR CATS™

A Product Of
D.C. CUISINE
515 Front Street
Ketchikan, Alaska 99901

Telephone 907 225-1548
Fax 907 225-1548
Email: kadcc@alaska.kln.net

January 19, 2001

Representative Peggy Wilson
Alaska State Capital
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Dear Representative Wilson,

My family and I applaud yours and Representative Williams' sponsorship of HJR6 opposing President Clinton's Roadless Proposal. We also strongly support Governor Knowles' decision to file suit against the proposal. This Proposal must be overturned by whatever methods it can, be it litigation, congressional action, or Presidential order.

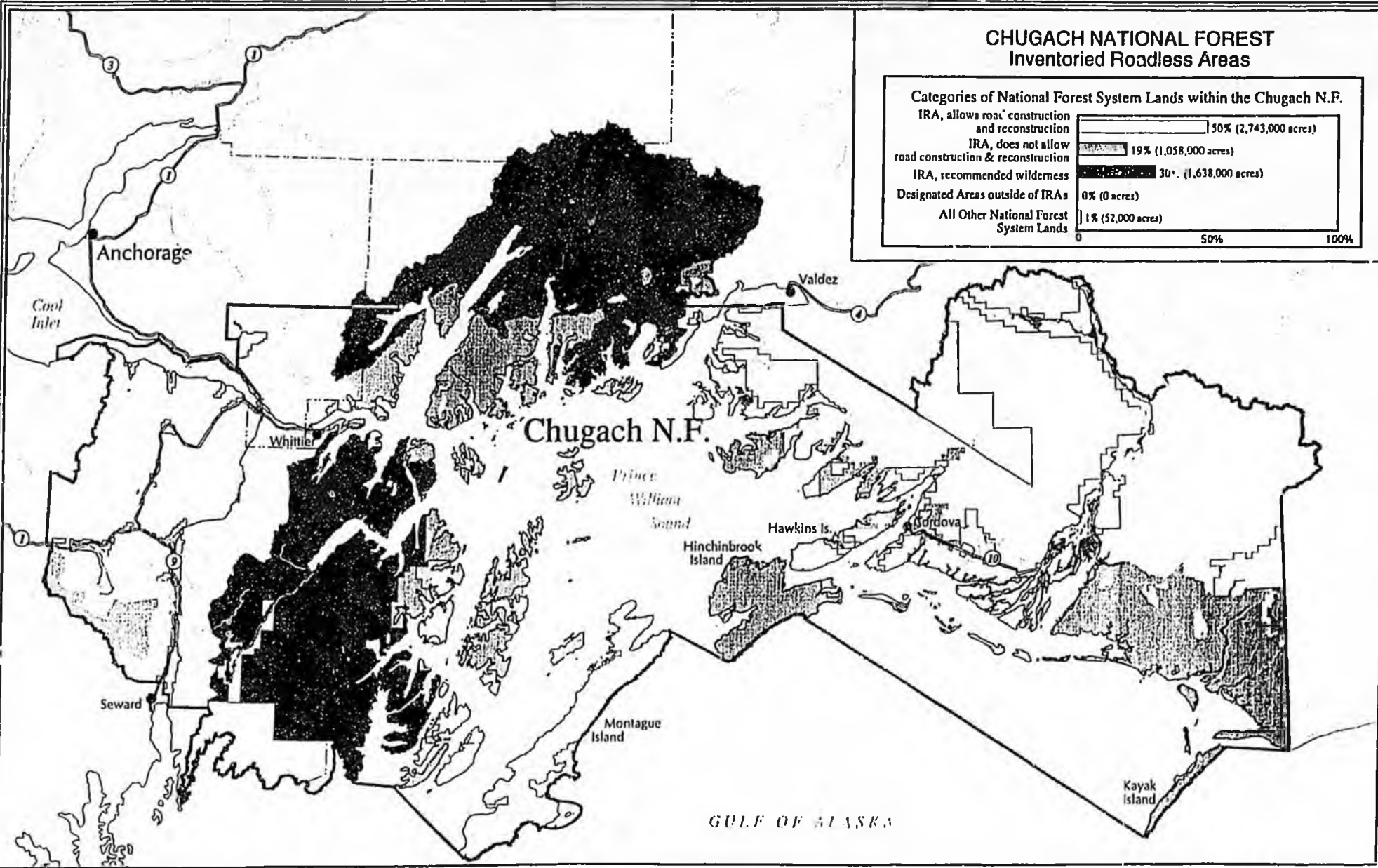
I have lived in Alaska all my life. My parents settled in Alaska and fought for statehood over 50 years ago. My small family and myself currently reside in Ketchikan, where we own our home and operate a business. Please do not be deceived by those who have no stake in this area that the majority of testimonies at hearings were in favor of the Roadless Policy. I testified at the hearings in Ketchikan, and only in Ketchikan. I am certain if one compares names of those who testified at the hearings one will find a pattern of duplications. I have seen many of the same people soliciting ill guided comments from unsuspecting visitors unfamiliar with the issues and the areas. In fact, they launched a well-staffed and funded campaign in Ketchikan's summer 2000 visitor season to solicit 20,000 comments in favor of the Presidential initiative. To claim that the majority of hearing testimonies were in favor of the Roadless Policy truly emphasizes these people's methods of public deception.

This Roadless Policy action further handcuffs our state from ever being able to comply with our Statehood Compact of utilizing our natural resources to fund State Government. I believe the legislature should also re-consider former Governor Hickel's lawsuit against the federal government in breach of Alaska's statehood contract.

Thank you again for your sponsorship of HJR6.

Sincerely yours,

K.A. Swiger
Owner



CHUGACH NATIONAL FOREST Inventoried Roadless Areas

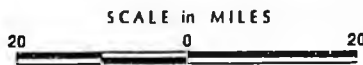
Categories of National Forest System Lands within the Chugach N.F.	
IRA, allows road construction and reconstruction	50% (2,743,000 acres)
IRA, does not allow road construction & reconstruction	19% (1,058,900 acres)
IRA, recommended wilderness	30% (1,638,000 acres)
Designated Areas outside of IRAs	0% (0 acres)
All Other National Forest System Lands	1% (52,000 acres)



The USDA Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were intended may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The USDA Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification.



September 15, 2000
Data Supplied by Chugach National Forest
Contact: Chugach N.F.
3301 C Street, Suite 300
Anchorage, AK 99503-3998
(907) 271-2500



- Inventoried Roadless Area where road construction or reconstruction is allowed
- Inventoried Roadless Area where road construction or reconstruction is not allowed
- Inventoried Roadless Area where road construction or reconstruction is not allowed, and the forest plan recommends as wilderness
- Designated Areas outside of Inventoried Roadless Areas
- National Forest System lands outside of Inventoried Roadless Areas - not all private land is shown on the map
- Interstate Highway
- Other Highways
- County boundaries

Alaska

The USDA Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were intended may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The USDA Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification.

September 15, 2000
Data Supplied by Tongass National Forest
Contact: Tongass N.F.
Federal Building
648 Mission Street
Ketchikan, AK 99901
(907) 225-8702



SCALE IN MILES



Map 2

**TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
Inventoried Roadless Areas**

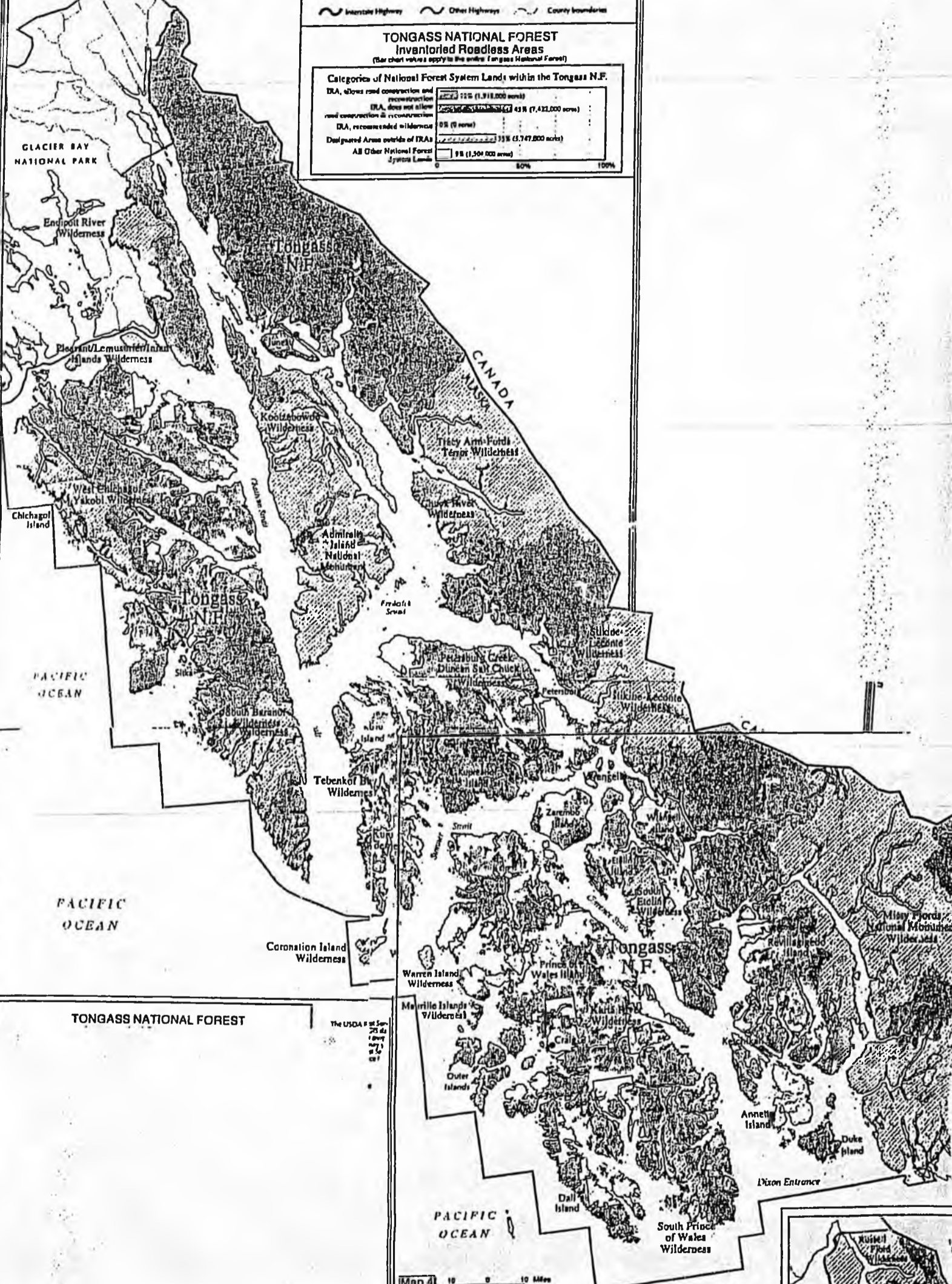
- Inventoried Roadless Area where road construction or reconstruction is allowed
- Inventoried Roadless Area where road construction or reconstruction is not allowed
- Inventoried Roadless Area where road construction or reconstruction is not allowed, and the forest plan recommends as wilderness
- Designated Areas outside of Inventoried Roadless Areas - These are already roads
- National Forest System lands outside of Inventoried Roadless Areas - not all private land is shown on the map

Interstate Highway Other Highways County boundaries

**TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
Inventoried Roadless Areas**

(Bar chart values apply to the entire Tongass National Forest)

Categories of National Forest System Lands within the Tongass N.F.



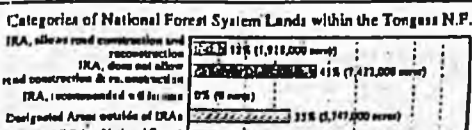
TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST

The USDA Forest Service uses the most current and complete data available. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were intended may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The USDA Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products without notification.

Map 4

**TONGASS NATIONAL FOREST
Inventoried Roadless Areas**

(Bar chart values apply to the entire Tongass National Forest)



HJR

7

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
Bill Version: HJR 7
(H) Publish Date: 01/31/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
Title: Endorsing ANWR Leasing BRU: _____
Sponsor: Rep. Beverly Maack Component: _____
Requester: House Oil & Gas Committee Component Number: _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

Prepared by: Junda Hays - Comm. Aide Phone: 465-2283
Division: House Special Comm. on Oil & Gas Date/Time: 1-29-2001
Approved by: [Signature] Date: 1-29-2001
Agency: Chairman - House Oil & Gas Committee

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Transportation
Chair

Resources
Vice Chair

Economic Development,
Trade & Tourism

Alaska State Legislature



Representative Beverly Masek

During Interim: (June-Dec.)
Mat-Su LIO
600 E. Railroad Avenue
Wasilla, AK 99654
(907) 376-2679
Fax: 373-4745

During Session: (Jan.-May)
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801-1182
(907) 465-2679
Fax: 465-4822
1-800-505-2678

Sponsor Statement for HJR 7

Resolution Supporting Oil Exploration and Development in ANWR

The need for expanding Alaska's resource based industries remains imperative if we want to maintain or increase the State's economic base. Although other sectors of the economy may provide jobs, they more than likely would not be able to support the financial infrastructure of state government to the extent that natural resource development does, especially the oil and gas sectors.

Most reliable indicators show Alaska's North Slope oil production is in decline. Geologists have indicated that one of the best prospects for new discoveries lies within the 1002 section of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge which has been left open by Congress for potential exploration and development. It seems that a prudent course of action would be to open this area of the Arctic Coastal Plain so that Alaskans can derive the economic benefits therein.

HJR 7 is not a new piece of legislation. It has been introduced on numerous occasions in the past and has always enjoyed overwhelming support from the Governor and the Legislature, as well as the general public. Alaska's chances of moving ahead on this project have been greatly increased now that George W. Bush is President. We need to take advantage of this opportunity and once again send our message to the Nation's Capitol.

**ANWR:****JOBS AND ENERGY
FOR AMERICA****ARCTIC POWER**

1049 West 5th Avenue, Suite 102
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
(907) 274-2697
Fax (907) 274-2706
<http://www.anwr.org>

2013 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002
(202) 544-6355
(202) 544-6655
Fax (202) 544-5763
<http://www.anwr.org>

A CASE FOR OIL DEVELOPMENT IN ALASKA

- * The U.S. imports over 55% of the nation's needed petroleum. These oil imports cost more than \$100 billion a year. These figures are rising and could exceed 65% imports by the year 2020.
- * Beneath a 1.5 million acre tract on the North Slope of Alaska is estimated to be between 6 and 16 billion barrels of recoverable oil (between 11.6 and 31.5 billion barrels in-place). This area is a specially designated area within the 19 million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), known as the "Coastal Plain". This region was designated by Congress in 1981 as requiring special study to determine its oil and gas potential and the effects of development on the environment. In 1987, the Department of Interior recommended development. Congressional and presidential authorization is required for the Coastal Plain to be open.
- * ANWR production could replace imports of Saudi oil for over 30 years.
- * Prudhoe Bay, located 60 miles to the west of ANWR, has been operating for over 20 years and has produced in excess of 10 billion barrels of oil during that time. It is among the most environmentally sensitive oil operations in the world. Present output from Prudhoe Bay area fields has declined to 1.1 million barrels per day, and is continuing to decline.
- * The Coastal Plain of ANWR is America's best bet for the discovery of another giant "Prudhoe Bay-sized" oil and gas region in North America. Many economic benefits would result:
 - The Coastal Plain could produce up to 1.5 million barrels per day for at least 25 years - nearly 25% of current daily U.S. production.
 - The U.S. would save \$14 billion per year in oil imports.
 - Between 250,000 and 735,000 jobs are estimated to be created by development of the Coastal Plain.
 - Federal revenues would be enhanced by billions of dollars from bonus bids, lease rentals, royalties, and taxes.
- * Advancing technology has greatly reduced the "footprint" of Arctic oil development. If Prudhoe Bay were built today, the footprint would be 1,526 acres, 64% smaller.
- * Oil and gas development and wildlife are successfully coexisting in Alaska's Arctic. For example, the Central Arctic caribou herd at Prudhoe Bay has grown from 3,000 to as high as 27,000 during the last 20 years.
- * More than 71% of Alaskans favor exploration and production in ANWR. Polling conducted in April, 2000.
- * The Inupiat Eskimos who live in and near ANWR strongly support onshore oil development on the Coastal Plain.
- * For more information logon to www.anwr.org or call 907-274-2697.

President Bush's National Energy Policy

September 29, 2000

Governor George W. Bush:

"A Comprehensive National Energy Policy"

"America must have an energy policy that plans for the future, but meets the needs of today. I believe that we can develop our natural resources and protect our environment. We are paying a steep price for seven and a half years without an energy policy." – Governor George W. Bush

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Clinton-Gore Administration has failed to develop a comprehensive energy policy. It has raised gasoline taxes, discouraged domestic production of oil and natural gas, and admitted it was "caught napping" when oil prices spiked earlier this year. It has also failed to plan for the New Economy's accelerating demand for electricity. On this Administration's watch, U.S. dependence on foreign oil has jumped to 56 percent – the highest percentage ever. In 1973, during the oil crisis, U.S. dependence on foreign oil was at only 36 percent. Over the past seven and a half years, our international credibility has been diminished, and Saddam Hussein's Iraq is now a major oil supplier to the U.S.

Governor Bush understands that ensuring U.S. energy security requires presidential leadership and a comprehensive national energy policy. His policy, which includes more than 20 initiatives, helps low-income households with their energy bills, improves air quality, encourages the development of renewable and alternative fuels, and, recognizing that alternative sources supply less than 4 percent of U.S. energy needs, promotes access to foreign oil and the development of U.S. oil, coal and natural gas resources.

To Provide Energy Assistance to Low-Income Households and Address Short-Term Supply Threats, Governor Bush will:

- Expand the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) by seeking the release of \$155 million, and directing a portion of oil and gas royalty payments to the program, costing \$1 billion over ten years.
- Reform and increase the funding for the Weatherization Program and State Energy Program, costing \$1.4 billion over ten years.
- Establish a privately-managed Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve and allocate \$100 million over 10 years.
- Use the Strategic Petroleum Reserve only in times of war or major disruption in supply, and propose "wake up" legislation requiring the Department of Energy to notify Congress when oil stocks are low.

To Make Energy Security a Priority of U.S. Foreign Policy, Governor Bush will:

- Promote the development of a "North American Energy Policy" with Canada and Mexico.
- Reestablish U.S. influence and credibility with oil-producing nations in the Persian Gulf.
- Promote development of energy resources in non-OPEC countries, such as the Caspian Sea Basin and Western and Southern Africa.
- Establish an annual meeting of G-8 Energy Ministers, or their equivalents, to encourage international energy cooperation.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**To Promote the Development of U.S. Oil and Gas Resources, and To Meet the Electricity Needs of the New Economy, Governor Bush will:**

- * > Open only 8 percent of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to environmentally responsible exploration, which could replace the oil that the U.S. now imports from Iraq.
- > Examine whether certain promising natural gas reserves in federal lands should be opened to environmentally responsible and regulated exploration.
- > Improve the regulatory process to encourage more refining capacity.
- > Require federal regulators to develop a comprehensive policy for approving pipelines.
- > Invest \$2 billion over ten years to fund research in "clean coal" technologies, \$1 billion over ten years to establish clear rules to help efficient utilities purchase nuclear plants, streamline the re-licensing process for hydroelectric projects, and oppose the breaching of dams.
- > Support federal legislation restructuring the electric utility industry.

To Protect the Environment and Develop Alternative Energy Sources, Governor Bush will:

- > Propose legislation *requiring* electric utilities to reduce harmful emissions; in contrast, Vice President Gore has advocated only a voluntary program.
- * > Create the "Royalties Conservation Fund" by earmarking potentially billions in royalties from new oil and gas exploration in ANWR to fund conservation efforts.
- * > Earmark an estimated \$1.2 billion of bid bonuses from opening up ANWR for funding research into alternative energy resources.
- > Support tax credits for electricity produced from renewable and alternative fuels at a cost of \$1.4 billion over ten years.

2051 Baxter Avenue
P.O. Box 27
Kaktovik, Alaska 99747

City of Kaktovik
Office of the Mayor

(907) 640-6313
(907) 640-6315
Fax (907) 640-6974

February 7, 2000

To: All residents of Kaktovik
Re: ANWR Survey

Dear Residents,

Here are the survey results that you helped us conduct. The survey was a questionnaire about what local people thought about the possible exploration and development for oil and gas in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. It tried to address the Kaktovik people's concerns about oil and gas development, wildlife and the environment and how each affects the other.

The survey was conducted between January 14, 2000 and January 28, 2000 in Kaktovik. There were sixty-eight (68) people who answered and returned the surveys. Thank you very much for your assistance. It's important that other people elsewhere know what the local people here think about their land. Some of the questions add up to more than 100% because some people checked more than one answer on those questions.

The results are also posted on the City's web site. Its address is: kaktovik.com. We hope that you also enjoyed the Kaktovik calendars. We plan on doing another calendar next year, so if you have some good, clear pictures that you would like to see included on the next calendar, please bring the pictures to the City Office. We'll scan them in and give them right back to you. Once again, thank you for your help on this survey.

Sincerely,



Lon Sonsalla, Mayor



Results of the January 2000 survey of Kaktovik residents regarding ANWR

1. Do you participate in the harvest of whales, game and fish to sustain your diet?
 - 71% A. Yes. My family actively participates in all of the above.
 - 16% B. Yes. My family hunts game and fishes.
 - 4% C. Yes. My family participates in fishing.
 - 7% D. No. My family does not harvest whales, game or fish to sustain our diet.
2. Please estimate the percentage of your family's food that comes from the harvest of whale, game & fish.
 - 16% A. 100% — My family only consumes harvested game.
 - 34% B. 75% — My family eats mostly harvested game.
 - 24% C. 50% — My family eats some harvested game and purchases the rest.
 - 16% D. 25% — My family occasionally eats harvested game.
 - 7% E. 10% — My family eats harvested game when it is given to us.
 - 4% F. 0% — My family does not hunt or fish and we only eat food that is purchased.
3. What is the number one advantage of oil development on the North Slope?
 - 44% A. Improved schools
 - 35% B. Improved health care
 - 53% C. Improved job opportunities
 - 21% D. Improved recreation activities
 - 4% E. No advantage
 - 8% F. Other
4. The quality of life in Kaktovik will diminish if oil development ceases.
 - 31% A. Strongly agree
 - 40% B. Agree
 - 15% C. Neutral
 - 8% D. Disagree
 - 6% E. Strongly disagree
5. As government spending continues to decline, what public services do you fear most of losing?
 - 44% A. Municipal Services (running water, electrical service, sanitation, etc.)
 - 50% B. Health care
 - 16% C. Public Transportation
 - 35% D. Education
 - 7% E. Recreation activities
 - 6% F. Other
6. To what degree are you satisfied with the environmental practices of the oil industry on the North Slope?
 - 35% A. Very satisfied
 - 40% B. Somewhat satisfied
 - 18% C. Neutral
 - 4% D. Somewhat dissatisfied
 - 1% E. Very dissatisfied
7. Please mark the advantages and disadvantages you see of opening ANWR to oil and gas development.

Advantages:

 - 68% 1. More jobs for local people
 - 26% 2. Will stabilize the economy
 - 50% 3. Will help Kaktovik grow
 - 26% 4. More business opportunities
 - 13% 5. Other

Disadvantages:

 - 22% 1. Will increase population
 - 31% 2. May hurt wildlife
 - 25% 3. May hurt the environment
 - 46% 4. Increased alcohol and drug abuse
 - 5% 5. Other
8. If ANWR is not opened to oil and gas exploration, what other resources are available in Kaktovik that, if developed, will help sustain our economy?
 - 15% A. Coal
 - 35% B. Tourism
 - 38% C. Fishing
 - 44% D. Arts & Crafts
 - 15% E. Other
9. Based on your information about the Porcupine Caribou Herd, will oil development in ANWR diminish the herd's use of the core calving area?
 - 18% A. Yes. The caribou will go away.
 - 18% B. It might affect their use, but the oil companies can stop drilling during calving season.
 - 15% C. I don't know.
 - 15% D. More research is needed.
 - 41% E. No. The caribou will not be affected.
10. The coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should be open to oil and gas exploration.
 - 43% A. Strongly agree
 - 35% B. Agree
 - 10% C. Neutral
 - 5% D. Disagree
 - 4% E. Strongly disagree

Handwritten annotations in a circled area:

- 10% (with arrow pointing to 43%)
- 9% (with arrow pointing to 35%)



Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250, Anchorage, Alaska 99503-2035
(907) 276-0700 Fax: (907) 276-3887 e-mail: Resources@akrdc.org

Founded 1975

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February 5, 2001

Representative Beverly Masek
State Capitol, Room 128
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HJR 7, Endorsing ANWR leasing

Dear Representative Masek:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., (RDC) is writing to express its strong support for HJR 7.

RDC is a statewide organization made up of all resource sectors, business associations, labor unions, Native corporations, tourism providers, local governments and thousands of individuals. RDC's purpose is to expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

With a new President in Washington, the time is now to press for legislation in Congress to open the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) to oil and gas exploration, development and production. As President George W. Bush has stated, industry has the capability to develop potentially enormous oil prospects in ANWR while protecting the environment and wildlife. With innovative technology and advanced environmental practices, development can coexist with arctic wildlife and the subsistence lifestyles of local residents.

Only a small portion of the Coastal Plain would be directly impacted by oil and gas exploration, development and production, yet the economic benefits to Alaska and its Lower 48 neighbors would be staggering. ANWR oil production would create tens of thousands of jobs, lower the nation's reliance on foreign oil and generate revenues to the state and federal treasury.

Thank you for introducing HJR 7. You have RDC's full support.

Sincerely,

Tadd Owens
Executive Director



750 W. 2nd Ave. #109, Anchorage AK 99501 / Ph. 907-258-6171 / Fax 907-258-6177

P.O. Box 22151, Juneau AK 99802 / Ph. 907-463-3366 / Fax 907-463-3312 / unite@akvoice.org

HJR 7 ~ Opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge

TO: Senate Resource Committee

DATE: February 21, 2001

Alaska Conservation Alliance and Alaska Conservation Voters are sister nonprofit organizations dedicated to protecting Alaska's environment through public education and advocacy. Our 44 member organizations and businesses represent over 35,000 registered Alaskan voters. Like most Americans, our members are concerned about the energy distribution problems in California and the effects such problems have on the health of our national economy. We do not, however, believe that opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration and drilling is the answer to the current situation. We present the following information for your consideration and urge you to vote "NO" on HJR 7.

- **It is disingenuous to lead the American people to believe that we can drill our way to oil independence.** The amount of oil under the Refuge is, at best, a geologic guess and, at worst, the subject of much wishful overestimating. The most recent USGS assessment estimates that 3.2 to 5.7 billion barrels of economically recoverable oil may lie underneath the Arctic Refuge – less than one year's worth of U.S. supply. While oil proponents choose to use inflated "technically" recoverable reserve numbers, these numbers do not account for real-life scenarios. Residents of the United States represent less than 5% of the world's population, yet we use about 25% of the world's produced oil each year. The United States holds only 2% of the world's total oil reserves. Our voracious appetite for oil will not be satisfied by domestic supplies.
- **Images of caribou rubbing themselves on the oil pipeline do not accurately portray the environmental impacts of oil development on the North Slope.** Despite the reported increase in the Central Arctic caribou herd, ADF&G biologist Pat Valkenberg stated: "I don't think [the data] tell us anything about caribou and oil development." (ADN article 1/15/01) Studies showing displacement of calving female caribou southward away from the Prudhoe area document that oil development does impact these animals. Further, our concern should not focus just upon the caribou, but rather upon the potential disruption of the United State's only intact Arctic ecosystem that the Refuge encompasses. We currently do not know enough about oil development impacts nor how to mitigate the impacts to put this area and its wildlife resources at risk for 6 to 12 months' supply of oil.

Conserve Alaska. It's Only Natural.

Page 2, Line 1: WHEREAS oil and gas exploration and development of the coastal plain of the refuge and adjacent land could result in major discoveries that would reduce our nation's future need for imported oil, help balance the nation's trade deficit, and significantly increase the nation's security;

RESPONSE: While the United States consumes roughly 25% (one-quarter) of the world's produced oil, we control only 2% of the world's total oil reserves within our boundaries. Our rate of consumption is so voracious (despite comprising less than 5% of the world's population, we use 25% of its oil), no domestic drilling program could ever produce energy independence.

Page 2, line 21: WHEREAS the 1,500,000-acre coastal plain of the refuge makes up only eight percent of the 19,000,000-acre refuge, and the development of the oil and gas reserves in the refuge's coastal plain would affect an area of only 2,000 to 7,000 acres, which is less than one-half of one percent of the area of the coastal plain;

RESPONSE: Biologists consider the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to be the biological heart of the United State's only complete Arctic and sub-Arctic ecosystem. Despite claims of smaller foot-prints and roadless development, drilling in the Refuge would involve full-scale industrialization, including pipelines, drill pads, waste treatment facilities, and gravel mines.

Page 2, line 27: WHEREAS the oil industry has shown at Prudhoe Bay, as well as at other locations along the Arctic coastal plain, that it can safely conduct oil and gas activity without adversely affecting the environment or wildlife populations; and

RESPONSE: Although oil development in the Refuge will not completely eliminate the Porcupine Caribou herd, based upon scientific studies at Prudhoe, it is reasonable to expect significant and detrimental effects to the caribou that use the Refuge. Most of the resident caribou herd in Prudhoe Bay has abandoned their traditional calving grounds due to oil field activity and have been pushed further south, away from drilling activities. While the coastal plain at Prudhoe Bay is over 150 miles wide, allowing caribou to move south to calve, the plain in the Refuge is only 15 to 40 miles wide. Development on the plain here would likely displace the caribou towards the foothills of the Brooks Range where there are more predators and poorer quality forage, resulting in lower calf survival.

Susan E. Schrader

Susan E. Schrader, Conservation Advocate

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Conserve Alaska. It's Only Natural.

- **Resources vital to the subsistence lifestyle and cultures of all residents of the North Slope should be protected, whether those resources are marine-based, such as the bowhead whale, or land-based, as the caribou. We should not consider opening the Refuge until scientific evidence, proving that oil exploration and drilling will not impact the caribou and other resources that the Gwich'in depend upon, is collected, analyzed and defended. To put the resources necessary to the Gwich'in people at risk for a short-term monetary benefit clearly makes the opening of the Refuge a human rights issue.**

ACV's Responses to specific "Whereas" clauses of CS HJR 7 (RES) am

Page 1, Line 9: WHEREAS the oil industry, the state, and the United States Department of the Interior consider the coastal plain to have the highest potential for discovery of very large oil and gas accumulations on the continent of North America, estimated to be as much as 10,000,000,000 barrels of recoverable oil; and

RESPONSE: Based upon the most recent USGS assessment, the average estimates of economically recoverable oil is 3.2 billion barrels. While oil proponents choose to use inflated "technically" recoverable reserve numbers, these numbers do not account for real-life scenarios. According to the USGS, the correct 5% probability assessment for the coastal plain is 11.8 billion barrels. A field capable of that production has been discovered only once on this continent: Prudhoe Bay. The mean estimate for technically recoverable oil is considerably lower, and the figure for oil that is economically recoverable is lower still. The USGS concluded that it would expect to find four fields scattered across the refuge capable of producing, altogether, approximately 3.2 billion barrels of oil, or less than 6 months' worth of U.S. supply.

Page 1, Line 13: WHEREAS the residents of the North Slope Borough, within which the coastal plain is located, are supportive of development in the "1002 study area";

RESPONSE: The Gwich'in of Interior Alaska and Canada are united in their opposition to oil drilling in the calving grounds of the Porcupine caribou herd from which they derive their subsistence livelihood. While many of the Inupiat residents of the North Slope, whose subsistence activities are centered around marine mammals rather than caribou, do support opening the Refuge, they are opposed to offshore exploration and drilling that puts their subsistence resources at risk. The Inupiat Community of the Arctic Slope, a federally-recognized regional tribal government, filed a petition in the Ninth Circuit Court last December, challenging the Minerals Management Service's approval of Phillips exploration plan for the offshore McCovey project. Resources vital to the subsistence lifestyle and cultures of all residents of the North Slope should be protected, whether those resources are marine-based, such as the bowhead whale, or land-based, as the caribou.

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Susan E. Schrader

Susan E. Schrader

Susan E. Schrader, Conservation Advocate

MY TURN

Don't experiment with caribou herd

By KEN WHITTEN

As a retired biologist who spent many years studying North Slope caribou, I would like to comment on what we have learned about caribou and oil in the Arctic, and how that information should affect decisions on whether to lease part of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The central Arctic caribou herd, which interacts with Prudhoe Bay and its associated oilfields, has grown about five-fold since development began. This increase has led many people to conclude that development hasn't affected caribou at all, or that mitigation measures used on the North Slope are highly effective and can be expected to work wherever else we go to extract oil in the Arctic.

Mitigation hasn't worked all that well, however. When oil development began in the mid-1970s, the central Arctic herd numbered around 5,000 animals. Almost immediately, caribou movements and distribution were altered. Calving within the Prudhoe Field had largely ceased by the time oil first flowed south. Cow caribou with young calves avoided the Trans Alaska Pipeline, and a dense network of production facilities blocked mid-summer movements along the Arctic coast. Nevertheless, disturbance was small relative to the total amount of range available, and caribou were able to thrive.

Newer oil fields at Kuparuk and Milne Point incorporated designs that allowed caribou to move more freely than at Prudhoe Bay. However, the expanding oil fields invaded more critical habitats than had been disturbed at Prudhoe Bay. Also, relatively large groups of caribou (a few hundred to a few thousand) had more difficulty negotiating oilfield structures. As even the state-of-the-art Kuparuk and Milne Point Fields became more heavily developed, caribou used them less and less freely.

When oil development began in the mid-1970s, the central Arctic herd numbered around 5,000 animals. Almost immediately, caribou movements and distribution were altered.

By the late 1980s, the central Arctic herd stabilized at about 23,000 caribou. Radio-collared cows that spent more time in or near the oil fields gained less weight and had fewer calves than other collared cows that seldom encountered development. When weather turned bad, the herd declined to about 18,000 in 1995. With mild weather since 1997, the herd has increased to 27,000.

The central Arctic herd has been resilient enough to cope with development, so long as suitable alternative range was available and other environmental factors were favorable. We can't be certain that ongoing disturbance won't exacerbate effects of bad weather when it happens again, as it surely will. Nor can we be sure the herd will fare as well if continued displacement drives calving cows into areas with more predators.

The Porcupine caribou herd differs from the central Arctic herd in several important ways. Porcupine caribou migrate over a vast range in Alaska and Canada, but most calves are born on the narrow coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge. Unlike the area around Prudhoe Bay, there is no unoccupied habitat similar to areas already being heavily used. Historically, the Porcupine herd has grown more slowly than other herds. Once numbering as high as 180,000 caribou, the porcupine herd has been declining for the past 10 years and numbers about 120,000. Displacement from its calving grounds would put Porcupine herd cows into areas with poorer forage and

more predators. Porcupine caribou regularly occur in groups numbering tens of thousands - far larger than groups that have had trouble getting through existing oilfields. All these factors indicate that the Porcupine herd may be particularly vulnerable to disturbance.

In summary, we have been fortunate to develop the vast wealth of our current North Slope oilfields with no unacceptable effects on size of the relatively small resident caribou herd, so far. From what we've seen in the Prudhoe Bay area, we can assume that development in the Arctic Refuge would alter caribou movements and distribution. We cannot be sure that impacts on the much larger and apparently less robust Porcupine herd, on its smaller calving grounds, would not have much graver effects on calf survival. Any long-term decline in calf survival of the Porcupine herd could decrease population size over time, with serious consequences for many rural residents in both the U.S. and Canada who depend on Porcupine caribou for subsistence. Should we risk the Porcupine herd to find out if oil development and caribou are truly compatible? National polls indicate that most Americans think we should not, and I agree.

♦♦♦♦

Ken Whitten of Fairbanks was the state's chief research biologist for the Porcupine herd from 1978-98 and was research coordinator for the Division of Wildlife Conservation in Region III when he retired in June 2000.

CARIBOU AND OIL DEVELOPMENT ON THE NORTH SLOPE

An Overview by Ken Whitten, retired ADF&G Research Biologist

Each caribou herd has its own, discrete calving area. Other seasonal habitats for caribou tend to be widespread, but the combined features of scarce predators and high quality forage that characterize calving areas usually occur together on only a small portion of a herd's overall range. Therefore calving grounds are considered to be critical habitats. Prudhoe Bay and other operating oilfields on the North Slope are within the calving grounds of the Central Arctic Herd. This herd was quite small (only about 5,000) when oil development first started in the mid-1970s (Cameron and Whitten 1979), but impacts from development were soon noted. Calving within the Prudhoe Field had already largely ceased by the time oil first began flowing south (Whitten and Cameron 1985). The dense network of pipelines, roads, oil wells, and production facilities at Prudhoe Bay also blocked mid-summer movements along the arctic coast (Whitten and Cameron 1983). Cow and calf caribou avoided the Trans Alaska Pipeline Corridor (Cameron et al. 1979) but continued to cross it successfully from late summer through spring, when calves were older and the herd was south of the intensely developed oilfields (Whitten and Cameron 1983).

In spite of these impacts, the Central Arctic Herd thrived during the early years of oil development and grew to about 14,000 by 1983. By the time development expanded into the Kuparuk area during the 1980s, the petroleum industry had begun to consolidate facilities so that the newer oilfields disturbed less space. Also, some pipelines were raised higher above ground and separated from roads with heavy traffic. These new designs allowed caribou to move more freely than at Prudhoe Bay, and caribou continued to use the Kuparuk and Milne Pt. Oilfields. Nevertheless, caribou with newborn calves avoided developed areas, even when there was little traffic (Dau and Cameron 1986, Cameron et al. 1992). Over time, the Kuparuk and Milne Fields became more heavily developed, and caribou used them less and less (Cameron et al. 1992; Smith et al. 1994).

By the late 1980s, growth of the Central Arctic Herd slowed, and the population stabilized at about 23,000. Harsh climatic conditions, including severe winters and dry summer growing seasons, stressed caribou throughout much of Alaska during the early 1990s. Central Arctic caribou that spent more time in or near the oilfields gained less weight during the summer growing season and had lower pregnancy rates and lower calf survival than other members of the herd that seldom encountered development (Cameron 1995). Avoidance of roads and pipelines during calving was thought to be causing abandonment of preferred habitats and overuse of undisturbed habitats (Nelleman and Cameron, 1996, 1998). Chronic disruption of summer movements also exacerbated exposure of caribou to insect pests. The Central Arctic Herd declined to 18,000 in 1993 and then grew slowly to about 20,000 in 1995.

By the late 1990s, the ever expanding oilfields were displacing even more caribou during calving. Forage quality on newly occupied calving grounds south and west of the oilfields was lower than in the former oilfield calving area (Wolfe 2000). Nevertheless,

favorable weather once again prevailed in the range of the Central Arctic Herd. Calf productivity and survival recovered and the Central Arctic Herd once again increased rapidly, reaching 27,000 in the year 2000.

The United States Congress continues to debate expansion of North Slope oil development onto the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The potential lease area within the Arctic Refuge lies within the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou Herd. This large, migratory herd moves between the U.S. and Canada and is vital to the traditional subsistence cultures of numerous Native villages in both countries. Over the past 25 years, the Porcupine Herd has fluctuated between about 100,000 and 180,000 animals, with the current population about 120,000.

In determining whether to allow oil leasing within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Congress should consider that Porcupine Herd caribou are much more concentrated on their calving grounds than the smaller Central Arctic Herd. Although calving has occurred historically over a fairly large area of the North Slope in Alaska and the Yukon Territory, most calves are usually born in a smaller region that includes much of the area being considered for oil development (Fancy and Whitten 1991). During late June and early July, essentially all cows and calves and many bulls of the Porcupine Herd use the potential development area every year.

Even during periods of relatively mild climatic conditions, Porcupine Herd caribou have tended to have somewhat lower calf production and adult survival rates than most other caribou herds. In contrast, calf survival in the Porcupine Herd has generally been very high when females have been able to calve on the traditional calving area that includes the potential oil lease area (Fancy and Whitten 1991, Whitten et al. 1992). As with other caribou calving areas, rapid, nutritious plant growth often occurs in this area during calving (USGS/BRD, unpubl.), and the coastal plain is also relatively free of predators. Calf survival has been lower when late snowmelt forced Porcupine Herd caribou to calve in nearby mountains and foothills where wolves, grizzly bears, and golden eagles abound (Whitten et al. 1992).

Studies in the Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk oilfields show that larger groups (100 or more caribou) have difficulty crossing roads and pipes (Smith and Cameron 1985). Porcupine Herd caribou normally occur in much larger groups than Central Arctic Herd caribou. Groups of several thousand caribou occur throughout the summer in the Porcupine Herd, and from mid-June through July group sizes in the tens of thousands are common.

In summary, development of the Prudhoe Bay oilfield displaced caribou and disrupted their movements. Similar long-term displacement now appears to be occurring elsewhere, even in the "state-of-the-art" Kuparuk and Milne Pt. Oilfields. When climate has been generally favorable, the Central Arctic Herd has been able to hold its own and even increase, in spite of displacement from some of its favored habitats. In times of environmental stress, however, Central Arctic caribou that regularly used the oilfields fared poorly relative to other members of the herd that used areas away from development. The entire population then declined. Mitigation measures that appeared to

work fairly well in the early states of North Slope oilfield development may thus become less effective as more and more of the Central Arctic Herd's preferred habitats are developed and more caribou are concentrated on the habitats that remain accessible.

We cannot be certain that even current state-of-the-art mitigation measures will guarantee access to critical habitats for the larger, more densely aggregated Porcupine Herd. Environmental resources at risk in development the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge are considerable. The Porcupine Herd far exceeds the Central Arctic Herd in importance as a regional subsistence resource. Preferred coastal plain habitats in the Arctic Refuge are much narrower (10-40 miles wide) than in the range of the Central Arctic Herd (100-150 miles wide). Disturbance has so far only displaced Central Arctic caribou to other coastal plain habitats with few predators. If similar spatial displacement were to occur in the Arctic Refuge, however, caribou would be driven to foothills and mountains with more abundant predators and/or lower quality forage. Consequently, the Porcupine Herd might not fare as well as the Central Arctic Herd apparently did during the early years of Prudhoe Bay. The Porcupine Herd might well experience adverse population level impacts from development even during periods of mild weather. Any impacts that would cause a long-term decline in calf survival could lower average population size over time, with serious consequences for many residents in both Canada and the U.S.

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December 11, 2000

The Honorable William J. Clinton
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We recently joined over 200 of our colleagues in urging you to protect the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (Arctic Refuge). Our particular expertise is the ecology and conservation of Arctic caribou. Because so much of the debate over the future of the Arctic Refuge has focused on the Porcupine Caribou Herd, we wish to provide the following additional information on caribou and Arctic oil development to aid you in determining how best to protect the Refuge.

For nearly three decades, the Central Arctic Caribou Herd has been the subject of intensive research on its calving and summer ranges, which lie on the North Slope west of the Arctic Refuge, near Prudhoe Bay. Those studies clearly demonstrate adverse effects of petroleum-related disturbance.

Female caribou with newborn calves have been extremely sensitive to surface development and human activity. Their initial response was localized avoidance of roads (even with little or no traffic), pipelines, and processing/support facilities. As production proceeded, however, development became more extensive and maternal caribou faced diminishing options for finding nonstressful habitats. Over time, calving caribou gradually withdrew from the general oilfield area and sought acceptable habitats elsewhere. Calving no longer occurs in the original Prudhoe Bay complex and is now declining within the expanding Kuparuk complex to the west.

Cow caribou have been less sensitive to disturbance during midsummer when their calves are slightly older and less vulnerable to environmental hazards, but they still avoid the areas of most intensive development. Major caribou movements through the Prudhoe Bay area, a common occurrence in the early 1970's, are rare now that the oilfield is more intensively developed. Movements within and through the Kuparuk oilfield have also been altered substantially. Large aggregations of caribou, particularly when under insect harassment, tend to have difficulty crossing roads and elevated pipelines.

In spite of documented changes in caribou distribution and movements, industry advocates often claim that disturbance from petroleum development has had no overall adverse impact on caribou because the Central Arctic Herd increased after the oilfields were discovered and developed. We believe such claims are misleading. Until the early 1980s the Central Arctic Herd was at low density relative to its overall range, development occurred in only a small area, and local shifts in distribution of caribou were of little consequence. The herd increased from about 5,000 to more than 23,000 caribou by the early 1990s. By the mid-1990s, however, little calving occurred in any of the

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For nearly three decades, the Central Arctic Caribou Herd has been the subject of intensive research on its calving and summer ranges, which lie on the North Slope west of the Arctic Refuge, near Prudhoe Bay. Those studies clearly demonstrate adverse effects of petroleum-related disturbance.

Female caribou with newborn calves have been extremely sensitive to surface development and human activity. Their initial response was localized avoidance of roads (even with little or no traffic), pipelines, and processing/support facilities. As production proceeded, however, development became more extensive and maternal caribou faced diminishing options for finding nonstressful habitats. Over time, calving caribou gradually withdrew from the general oilfield area and sought acceptable habitats elsewhere. Calving no longer occurs in the original Prudhoe Bay complex and is now declining within the expanding Kuparuk complex to the west.

Cow caribou have been less sensitive to disturbance during midsummer when their calves are slightly older and less vulnerable to environmental hazards, but they still avoid the areas of most intensive development. Major caribou movements through the Prudhoe Bay area, a common occurrence in the early 1970's, are rare now that the oilfield is more intensively developed. Movements within and through the Kuparuk oilfield have also been altered substantially. Large aggregations of caribou, particularly when under insect harassment, tend to have difficulty crossing roads and elevated pipelines.

In spite of documented changes in caribou distribution and movements, industry advocates often claim that disturbance from petroleum development has had no overall adverse impact on caribou because the Central Arctic Herd increased after the oilfields were discovered and developed. We believe such claims are misleading. Until the early 1980s the Central Arctic Herd was at low density relative to its overall range, development occurred in only a small area, and local shifts in distribution of caribou were of little consequence. The herd increased from about 5,000 to more than 23,000 caribou by the early 1990s. By the mid-1990s, however, little calving occurred in any of the

active oilfields. Caribou still used the less developed areas at other times of year, but evidence began to accumulate suggesting that caribou in frequent contact with development were faring poorly relative to those that had little contact. Calf production and survival were occasionally very low near the oilfields, but consistently high elsewhere, and oversummer weight gain for cows was lower near the oilfields. Recent population counts and calf-productivity estimates indicate that the Central Arctic Herd has declined and may be stabilizing at about 20,000 caribou. Hence, effects on the Central Arctic Herd may have been negligible during early stages of development, which happened to occur during a period when climate and forage conditions were favorable and arctic caribou herds across North America were increasing. At the present time, though, cumulative and extensive development appears to be negatively impacting the nutrition and productivity of the Central Arctic Herd.

During development of the North Slope oilfields we learned that careful planning, timing of activities, and/or placement of facilities could effectively mitigate impacts on caribou and other wildlife. However, many of the most effective measures for mitigating disturbance have proven practical only during the exploration and construction stages of oilfield development. In producing oilfields, for example, it has not been possible to enforce limits on vehicular traffic or seasonal restrictions on activities during critical times of the year, such as calving. Oilfield development has tended to proceed incrementally, with planning and mitigation done in a piecemeal fashion with little opportunity to adjust strategies in relation to long-term or landscape-scale effects. We believe it is prudent to more fully understand long-term and cumulative effects of Arctic oil development before risking development of other, more sensitive areas than the oilfields around Prudhoe Bay. In this regard, we are encouraged to learn that, at the request of Congress, the National Research Council has established a committee of experts to evaluate "Cumulative Environmental Effects of Alaskan North Slope Oil and Gas Activities."

The Porcupine Caribou Herd, which calves on the Arctic refuge coastal plain, differs from the Central Arctic Herd in many ways. Currently at about 120,000 caribou, the Porcupine Herd has numbered between 100,000 and 180,000 over the past 30 years. The Central Arctic Herd remains on the North Slope in Alaska all year long. Only one Native community, Nuiqsut, lies in close proximity to the Central Arctic Herd's range, and its primary subsistence dependence is on fish, marine mammals, and a different caribou herd that ranges west of the community. In contrast the much larger Porcupine Herd migrates over a very large range in Alaska and northwestern Canada, and nearly a dozen villages in Alaska and Canada depend on it.

In most years, one half to three fourths of all Porcupine Herd calves are born on the Arctic Refuge coastal plain, which makes up only about 1/4 of the overall Porcupine Herd calving area. Since 1971, concentrated calving has taken place on the coastal plain in all but four years when forage was unavailable because of late snow cover. Caribou use the coastal plain even more consistently during the post-calving period. By the end of June every year, all females and calves of the Porcupine Herd are on the Arctic Refuge coastal plain. In most years, a majority of the bulls also join cows and calves on the

coastal plain to seek out highly nutritious forage and ready access to areas offering relief from harassment by abundant mosquitoes and parasitic flies.

Thus, the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge is already fully utilized by the Porcupine Herd during the calving and post-calving seasons. This is in sharp contrast to the situation with the Central Arctic Herd during the early years of oil development. Whereas it took many years for expanding development to substantially affect regional distribution and productivity of the Central Arctic Herd, we could reasonably expect more immediate impacts in the Arctic Refuge. Development on the coastal plain would likely displace Porcupine Herd caribou toward foothills and mountains with more predators and lower quality forage, quickly resulting in lowered calf survival. Also in contrast to the Central Arctic Herd, the Porcupine Herd regularly forms aggregations of tens of thousands of caribou during the stressful insect season. Smaller aggregations of a few hundred to a few thousand caribou of the Central Arctic Herd have had difficulty moving through the Prudhoe Bay and Kuparuk oilfields. Under conditions of oilfield development, we do not believe that large aggregations of Porcupine Herd caribou could continue to move across the coastal plain to take advantage of the new growth of important forage plants and to gain access to insect-relief sites on warm, calm days when the insects are most active.

In summary, state-of-the-art technology has not prevented displacement of calving from even the newer oilfields on the North Slope, and no proven technology exists that would ensure unrestricted passage through an oilfield of the large mid-summer aggregations of Porcupine Caribou. Considering the high degree of uncertainty regarding mitigation of oilfield impacts on caribou, ensuring the integrity of the calving grounds and early summer range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd is a compelling reason for applying the most precautionary management to the Arctic Refuge coastal plain. The Porcupine Herd is an international resource too important to put at risk.

Thank you for considering our concerns and recommendations.

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November 1, 2000

The Honorable William J. Clinton
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Dear Mr. President:

As scientists and natural resource managers from the United States and Canada with many years of experience in ecology, wildlife and conservation biology, resource management and cultural anthropology, we encourage you to secure permanent protection for the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

The wildlands of the Arctic Refuge include the barrier islands and estuaries of the Beaufort Sea, the Arctic coastal plain, the Brooks Range, and the boreal forest within the upper Yukon River watershed. First set aside by President Dwight D. Eisenhower as the Arctic National Wildlife Range in 1960, this is the United State's only conservation unit that encompasses an intact arctic ecosystem. Combined with the adjacent Ivvavik and Vuntut national parks in Canada, the Arctic Refuge represents one of the largest protected landscapes in the world. Moreover, the Arctic Refuge's coastal plain is a rare example of an ecosystem where ecological and cultural processes continue to interact much as they have for thousands of years. Unlike the adjoining refuge lands, that are designated Wilderness, the coastal plain is not permanently protected from development.

When President Eisenhower established the Arctic National Wildlife Range, he had the foresight and wisdom to include the entire ecosystem both south and north of the Brooks Range, encompassing the biologically rich coastal plain considered essential to the integrity of this ecosystem. In 1980, Congress enlarged the range to encompass additional wildlife habitat and designated this unique area the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge mission was broadened to include international research and management, as well as support for subsistence uses that form the basis of Native cultural values. Most of the original wildlife range was designated as a Wilderness. Only the 1.5 million-acre coastal plain was omitted. And today, this oversight remains a significant concern.

Five decades of biological study and scientific research have confirmed that the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge forms a vital component of the biological diversity of the refuge and merits the same kind of permanent safeguards and precautionary management as the rest of this original conservation unit. In contrast to the broad (greater than 150 mi.) coastal plain to the west of the Arctic Refuge, the coastal plain within the refuge is much narrower (15-40 mi.). This unique compression of

habitats concentrates the occurrence of a wide variety of species, including polar bears, grizzly bears, wolves, wolverines, caribou, muskoxen, Dolly Varden, Arctic grayling, snow geese, and more than 130 other species of migratory birds. In fact, according to the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, the Arctic Refuge coastal plain contains the greatest wildlife diversity of any protected area above the Arctic Circle.

The coastal plain provides essential calving and post-calving habitat for the Porcupine Caribou Herd, the largest (at about 130,000 animals) international migratory caribou herd in the world. The United States and Canada share the immense responsibility of managing this herd and protecting the key habitats on which the herd depends. In 1987, the two nations signed an international agreement to protect the Porcupine Caribou Herd. Since then, the calving grounds on the Canadian side of the border have received full protection, while the United States has not yet taken similar steps to adequately protect this essential habitat within the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge, where most calving occurs. The Gwich'in Nation of Alaska and Canada depends upon the sustained productivity of the Porcupine Caribou Herd and are justifiably concerned about its security. Extensive research on the Central Arctic Caribou Herd at Prudhoe Bay indicates appreciable losses of preferred calving and summer habitats in response to petroleum development and the possibility of an associated decline in reproductive success.

Biologists also have identified conservation concerns with other wildlife populations in the Arctic Refuge, including polar bears, muskoxen, and snow geese. Although many polar bears den on the pack ice, the refuge's coastal plain is the most important land denning area for Beaufort Sea bears in Alaska. Muskoxen are year-round residents of the coastal plain, and disturbance from industrial development, particularly in winter, holds the potential to increase energetic costs and result in decreased calf production. Also, snow geese might be displaced from important feeding and staging habitats prior to autumn migration, increasing energy expenditure and reducing their ability to accumulate the fat needed for migration. The coastal plain serves many biological functions, including nesting habitat for shorebirds, waterfowl, songbirds, raptors, and other migratory birds.

The Interior Department predicts that oil and gas exploration and development would have a major effect on water resources. Fresh water already is limited on the refuge's coastal plain, and direct damage to wetlands will adversely affect fish, waterfowl, and other migratory birds. These potentially disruptive effects to fish and wildlife should not be viewed in isolation, however. Arctic ecosystems are characterized by many complex interactions, and changes to one component may have secondary but significant effects on other parts of this fragile ecosystem. Based on our collective experience and understanding of the cumulative effects of oil and gas exploration and development on Alaska's North Slope, we do not believe these impacts have been adequately considered for the Arctic Refuge, and mitigation without adequate data on this complex ecosystem is unlikely.

Oil exploration and development have substantially changed environments where they have occurred in Alaska's central Arctic. Since the discovery of oil at Prudhoe Bay in

1968, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service estimated about 800 square miles of Arctic habitats have been transformed into one of the world's largest industrial complexes. Oil spills, contaminated waste, and other sources of pollution have had measurable impacts on this environment. Roads, pipelines, well pads, processing facilities, and other support infrastructure have incrementally altered the character of this ecosystem.

Thanks to your leadership, Mr. President, legislation that would have allowed petroleum exploration and development on the coastal plain of the Arctic Refuge was defeated in 1995 and again this year. Nonetheless, we are concerned that vigorous and persistent efforts to mandate oil development will be successful unless administrative or legislative action provides permanent protection for this national conservation unit. Your administration has the opportunity to ensure the conservation of this unique Arctic ecosystem in perpetuity.

Please understand that we are not philosophically opposed to oil and gas development in Alaska. Indeed, we all clearly recognize the need for balanced resource management. But we also recognize the importance of maintaining the biological diversity and ecosystem integrity of our nation's Arctic. Nearly the entire Arctic Coast of Alaska north of the Brooks Range is available for oil and gas exploration or development. The 110-mile-long coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge encompasses 1.5 million acres of key wildlife habitat vital to the integrity of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Whether this unique area remains intact and protected is now in your hands. We urge you, Mr. President, to permanently protect, for future generations, the biological diversity and wilderness character of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Thank you for considering our concerns and recommendations.

Sincerely,

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(Note: The opinions of the scientists above do not necessarily represent the policies or views of the agencies or institutions with which they are affiliated.)

Pertinent References

- Clough, N., P. Patton, and A. Christiansen (eds). 1987. Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska, coastal plain resource assessment – report and recommendation to the Congress of the United States and final legislative environmental impact statement: Washington, D.C., U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, and Bureau of Land Management, v. 1. 208pp.
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HJR

10

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2001 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: 1
 Bill Version: CSHJR 10(FSH)
 (H) Publish Date: 02/14/01

Revision Date/Time (Note if correction): _____ Dept. Affected: _____
 Title: Groundfish Fisheries and Steller BRU: _____
 Sea Lion Component: _____
 Sponsor: House Resources Committee
 Requester: Special Committee on Fisheries Component Number: _____

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

OPERATING EXPENDITURES	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005	FY 2006	FY 2007
Personal Services						
Travel						
Contractual						
Supplies						
Equipment						
Land & Structures						
Grants & Claims						
Miscellaneous						
TOTAL OPERATING	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

CAPITAL EXPENDITURES						
-----------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

CHANGE IN REVENUES ()						
-------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

1002 Federal Receipts						
1003 GF Match						
1004 GF						
1005 GF/Program Receipts						
1037 GF/Mental Health						
Other (Specify Type)						
TOTAL	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimate of any current year (FY2001) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

Full-time						
Part-time						
Temporary						

ANALYSIS: *(Attach a separate page if necessary)*

Prepared by: Katrina Matheny Phone 465-4025
 Division Special Committee on Fisheries Aide Date/Time 2/7/01
 Approved by: _____ Date _____

COMMITTEE COPY

For distribution information, call the Governor's Legislative Office

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

REPRESENTATIVE DREW SCALZI
State Capitol, Juneau
Alaska 99801-1182

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HJR:10 Sponsor Statement

Relating to the management of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska ground-fisheries and the protection and restoration of the Steller sea lion.

The sharp decline of the Western Area Steller sea lion population from 120,000 to 25,000 animals in the past 30 years prompted a U.S. District Court Judge to impose a groundfish trawl ban on Alaska's coastal waters effective August 2000. The judge stated that the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) violated the Endangered Species Act (ESA) by failing to write an adequate biological opinion for protection of the declining sea lion population. The ban dry-docked fishing fleets from waters within 20 nautical miles of sea lion breeding and resting areas, encompassing approximately 100,000 square miles of prime fishing waters in the Bering Sea and Gulf of Alaska from Prince William Sound to the Aleutian Islands.

Thanks to the direct efforts of Senator Ted Stevens, the August measures were suspended through 2001 and forty-four million federal dollars were allocated to review the biological opinion released by NMFS in November, 2000. Many industry and government experts feel the opinion lacks adequate scientific basis for such restrictions. The North Pacific Fisheries Management Council and the National Academy of Sciences will conduct an independent scientific review of the NMFS biological opinion. Additionally the governor has formed a Steller Sea Lion Restoration Team to assess factors affecting the decline of the species and the need for fishery restrictions.

According to Senator Stevens, the impacts of a ban on this fishery are far-reaching:

- \$1 billion pollock and cod fishery at risk (1,000 boats)
- \$500-800 million dollar impact on fishing industry
- one-half billion dollar impact on the entire state's economy
- commercial fishing loan industry will lose billions of dollars
- lost tax base will make ghost towns in Western Alaska
- Native Alaskan development programs lose \$50 million/year; thousands of Native jobs lost
- social impacts on communities include unemployment and related domestic problems; loss of community infrastructure employment, i.e., teachers, police officers, government officials
- national trade deficit raised by \$250 million

Supporting Senator Stevens' measure to temporarily postpone fishery restrictions until the NMFS biological opinion can be scientifically-reviewed means biology-based management decisions can be implemented for both the protection of the Steller sea lion and Alaska's important trawl fishery.

TED STEVENS, ALASKA, CHAIRMAN

*Stellar
Sea Lion*

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Asst. C.

February 26, 2001

The Honorable Drew Scalzi
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Drew:


Thank you for the copy of your letter to David Benton concerning Steller sea lion research and the use of the Kodiak Near Island Research Facility.

This sounds like a reasonable idea. It is my hope that the increased funding and directives for Steller Sea Lion related research included in the year end CJS Appropriations legislation will assist NMFS in making more informed decisions based on meaningful data.

As always, thanks for keeping me informed.

With best wishes,

Cordially,


TED STEVENS



UNITED FISHERMEN OF ALASKA

February 14, 2001

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(907) 463-2545 Fax
E-Mail: ufa@ufa-fish.org
www.ufa-fish.org

Representative Drew Scalzi
Interdepartmental Mail Stop 3100
State Capitol,
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Representative Scalzi,

United Fishermen of Alaska supports HJR10. The management of groundfish fisheries in relation to the Stellar Sea Lion is one of the most important economic issues for the commercial fisheries and communities from the Bering Sea to Prince William Sound.

United Fishermen of Alaska would like to thank you as the sponsor for bringing forward this very important resolution, for the benefit of affected communities and the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Tom Gemmell
Executive Director

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

Alaska Longline Fishermen's Association • Alaska Trollers Association • Alsea Processors Association • Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association • Copper River Salmon Producers Association • Cordova District Kenai Peninsula Fishermen's Association • Kodiak Regional Aquaculture Association • Kodiak Seiners Association • Northern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • Northwest Setnetters Association • Old Harbor Fishermen's Association • Prince William Sound Aquaculture Corporation • Purse Seine Vessel Owners Association • Seafood Producers Association • Southeast Alaska Seiners Association • Southern Southeast Regional Aquaculture Association • United Cook Inlet Drift Association • United Salmon Association • United Southeast Alaska Fishermen's Association

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION



February 8, 2001

Members
Alaska State House of Representatives
House Resources Committee
Juneau, Alaska

Dear Committee Members:

With this letter the Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation is going on record in support of passage of House Joint Resolution No. 10 relating to the management of the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries and the protection and restoration of the Steller Sea Lion.

While the ongoing shift in population numbers of Steller Sea Lions merits concern, attention and, ultimately, action, it is very important to base regulatory decision making on sound science.

The current Federal approach is clearly being driven legal and political pressure, rather than a well-documented scientific assessment of the ecosystem. In the long run, management actions taken for other than scientific purposes will result in a complete loss of credibility for the regulatory process. If that regulatory process is perceived to be corrupt, the public will not support it and the "Failure of the Commons" is inevitable.

AFDF was chartered over twenty years ago to lead development of Alaska's underutilized seafood resources. Much of our early work was focused on bringing the groundfish industry into being. It would be tragic if all that has been built around Alaska's groundfish abundance was to fail for such a faulty premise.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Jones", is written over a horizontal line.

Marc S. Jones
Executive Director, Alaska Fisheries Development Foundation



Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

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February 8, 2001
Representative Drew Scalzi
State Capitol, Room 13
Juneau, AK 99801-1182

Re: HJR 10, Groundfish Fisheries and Steller Sea Lion

Dear Representative Scalzi:

~~The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., (RDC) is writing to express its strong support for HJR 10.~~

RDC is a statewide organization made up of all resource sectors, business associations, labor unions, Native corporations, tourism providers, local governments and thousands of individuals. RDC's purpose is to expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

RDC supports the economies of local Alaskan communities which are dependent on the groundfish fishery. To this end, RDC endorses HJR 10, which supports the independent scientific review of the November 30, 2000 biological opinion for the Bering Sea/Aleutian Islands and Gulf of Alaska groundfish fisheries. RDC also applauds Senator Stevens' legislation which delays implementation of the alternatives contained in the biological opinion until the independent scientific review is complete.

Thank you for introducing HJR 10. You have RDC's full support.

Sincerely,

Tadd Owens
Executive Director

This Edition Sponsored by: Pacific Seafood Processors Association

Resource Review

September 2000

A periodic publication of the Resource Development Council, Inc.



"Fishermen, fish processing plants and communities from Cordova to Dutch Harbor have survived and thrived despite earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, freezing spray and fluctuations in fish and shellfish abundance. The question now is can the communities from Cordova to Dutch Harbor survive the Endangered Species Act or will once thriving communities become ghost towns?"

Sea lion restrictions cripple fishing industry, coastal communities

By Chris Blackburn
Alaska Fish Data Bank

When the third quarterly pollock fishery in the Gulf of Alaska opened August 20, more than half the fleet stayed tied to the dock. Out of the 41 vessels that make up the Kodiak pollock fleet, 15 vessels stayed at the dock. Of the 52 vessels in the Sandpoint area

fleet, 35 stayed at the dock. The tie-up was not due to price, but to safety considerations.

The vessels that remained at the dock had been displaced from their fishing areas near shore by Ninth Circuit Judge Thomas E. Zilly who, on July 19, issued an interim injunction effective August 8 which prohibited trawling within 20 nautical miles (NM) of the shore

Impacts of trawling ban in critical habitat areas

- The ban on bottom fishing could reduce the tax base for local communities by as much as 60 to 70 percent.
- The fishing industry stands to lose well in excess of \$100 million annually from prohibitions on trawling in Steller sea lion critical habitat areas.
- Fishermen will face substantially higher risk factors as the ban forces their smaller boats further off shore into dangerous seas.
- The economic base of coastal communities depend heavily on fish. Revenues from fishing funds schools, hospitals, roads, and local merchants.
- The area closed to trawling is currently at least 50,000 square miles of near-shore ocean from St. Elias to Attu, a distance of 2,000 miles. The distance from the Canadian border to Key West, Florida is 1,800 miles.



Many local residents in Kodiak have hard feelings toward environmental groups pressing for an end to trawling in Steller sea lion critical habitat areas.

under the authority of the Endangered Species Act (ESA).

The Gulf of Alaska trawl fleet is mainly composed of vessels less than 60 to 100 feet in length – vessels designed to fish near shore. To venture 20 NM out is exceedingly dangerous.

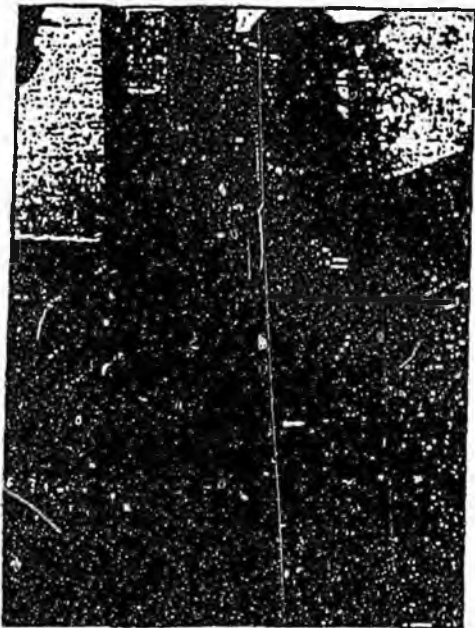
The vessels that did try to fish the third pollock season found little pollock outside the 20 NM barrier and actually spent more money looking for pollock than the value of the small amounts of pollock they were able to find.

It is the 30-year decline of Steller sea lions in the Central and Western Gulf and Bering Sea/Aleutians that has brought the ugly realities of the ESA to the Alaska fishing industry. Between 1976 and 2000, the Western Area Steller sea lion population has declined from 120,000 animals to 25,000 animals.

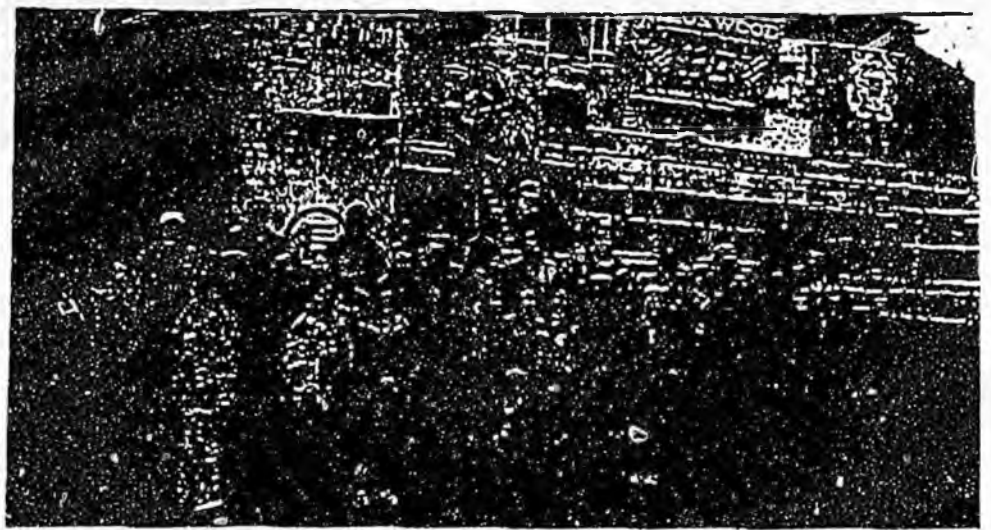
According to National Marine Fish-
(Continued to page 4)

RDC Board visits Kodiak

*Community Outreach
September 2000*



Anchorage Mayor George Wuerch watches Kodiak Harbormaster Marty Owen navigate his vessel "The Sea Breeze" along Kodiak's waterfront.



RDC board members pose before the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Ironwood. The RDC board toured the U.S. Coast Guard base at Kodiak. The base is the largest Coast Guard facility in the U.S.



RDC board members were treated to a waterfront tour of Kodiak's port by Harbormaster Marty Owen.



John Lucas describes the wine-making process at his Kodiak winery.

Steller Sea lion protection measures draw fire in Kodiak

Continued from page 4)



RDC Board member Al Burch of the Alaska Dragger's Association leads an RDC delegation to the fleet's docks in Kodiak.

biological opinion as required by the ESA, Judge Zilly granted the plaintiffs' interim injunction which banned trawling within the critical sea lion habitat defined as the 20 NM from the shore. The interim injunction remains in effect until NMFS produces a satisfactory biological opinion. The opinion is due October 31. And No one knows how long the Judge will take to make his decision.

Meanwhile, many boats in the Gulf of Alaska will remain at the dock when the D season pollock fishery opens October 1 rather than risk fishing more than 20 NM from shore. When the boats can't fish or cannot find fish, there will be no work for processing workers, many of which are year-round residents of their communities.

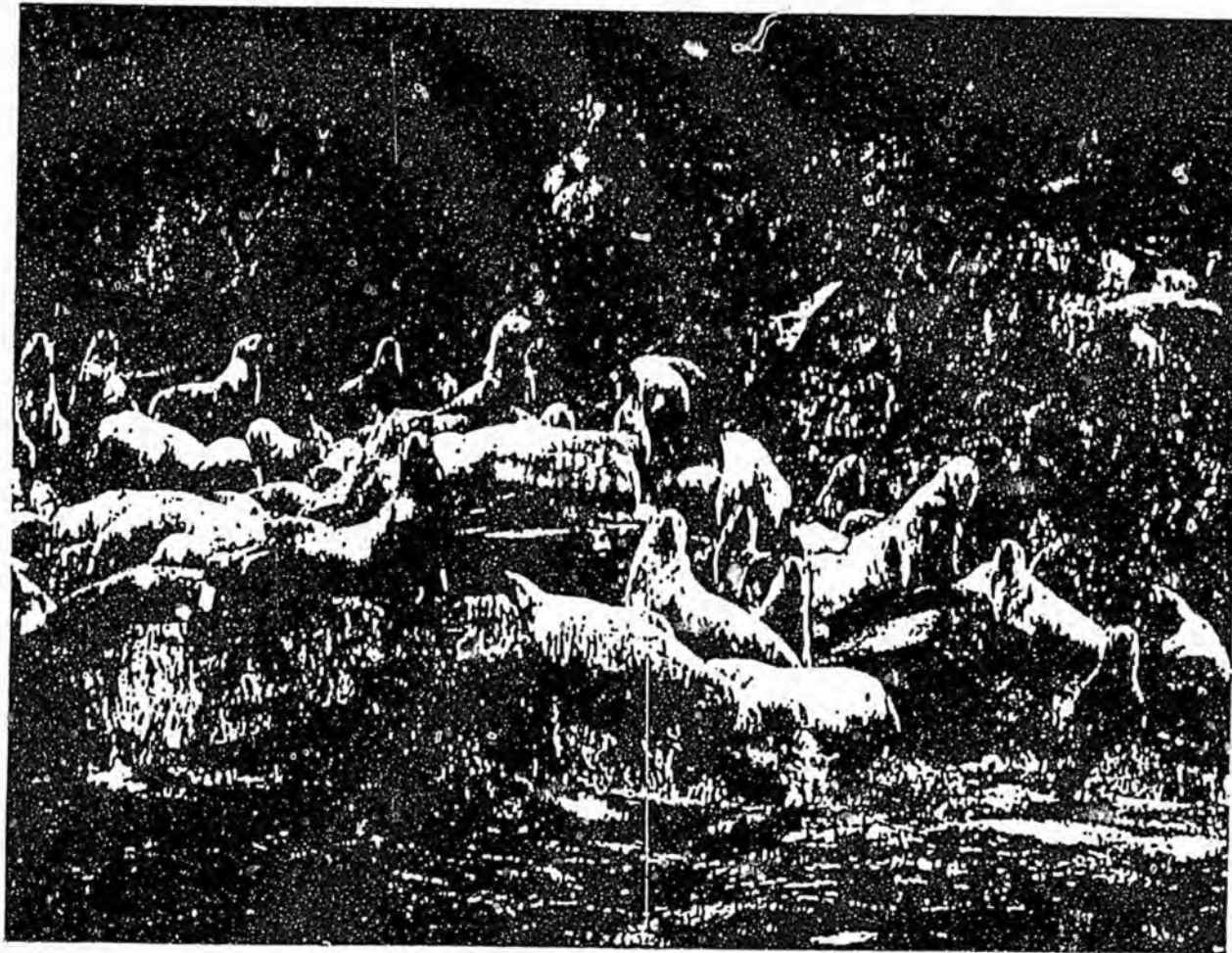
The economic base for Alaska coastal communities is fish. When the pollock season opened August 20,

there was 23,000 MT of pollock quota available. Because most of the pollock biomass was within the 20 NM critical habitat, the boats that did fish were only able to catch 9,620 MT before the season closed. The 13,413 MT left in the water was worth \$2,217,169 ex-vessel. Also lost was the severance tax and raw fish tax which is a significant part of a coastal community's income base.

Fishermen, fish processing plants and communities from Cordova to Dutch Harbor have survived and thrived despite earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, freezing spray and fluctuations in fish and shellfish abundance. The question now is can the communities from Cordova to Dutch Harbor survive the Endangered Species Act or will once thriving communities become ghost towns?

FY01 Steller sea lion-Groundfish Budget

\$43.15 million



**Federal Funding
Allocation**

Studies Identified in Steven's Rider

- Available prey
- Predator/prey
- Predation by other marine mammals
- Fishery-SSL interactions
- Regime shift
- Disease
- Survival rates

- Population counts
- Nutritional stress
- Foreign harvests
- Residual impacts of former eradication programs
- Intentional lethal takes
- Non-lethal measures to protect SSL from predators

“Endowed Organizations”

<i>Organization</i>	<i>Funding Level in FY01</i>
NMFS	\$7.85 million
Alaska SeaLife Center	\$6.0 million
ADFG	\$2.5 million
Univ. of Alaska	\$1.0 million
NPUMMRC	\$0.8 million
OAR/PMEL	\$6.0 million
NOS	\$2.0 million
NPFMC	\$2.0 million
Commerce	\$15.0 million
Total	\$43.15 million