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May 1986

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# Resource Review

Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. Box 100516, Anchorage, AK 99510



## RDC urges Congress to uphold Tongass timber compromise

Environmentalists seek major changes in ANILCA

If one side of a compromise approach to managing the Tongass National Forest that seeks to protect forest-related jobs and the Southeast Alaska economy is repealed, then the other side of the agreement that established huge areas of the forest as wilderness should immediately be returned to multiple use, says the Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

According to Joseph Henri, Vice President of the Council, Congress should set its focus on "making the compromise work, not depriving one side or the other of the benefit of the bargain."

Henri's remarks were heard earlier this month in a hearing before the Alaska Oversight Subcommittee of the House Interior Committee in Washington, D.C.

The compromise within the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act created over 5.4 million acres of wilderness in the Tongass National Forest. In return, the timber harvest level was set at 4.5 billion board feet per decade on a dedicated commercial timber base of 2 million acres. An annual payment of at least \$40 million to help industry reach targeted harvest levels and maintain timber employment in the region was also established to compensate for the designation of huge wilderness areas.

Environmentalists are now launching an aggressive attack on the compromise to abolish the \$40 million Tongass Timber Supply Fund and drastically cut the annual harvest.

The Resource Development Council warned that if portions of the Tongass compromise which protect the forest industry and the Southeast Alaska economy are repealed, thousands of residents who depend on a strong timber industry for their livelihood will suffer.

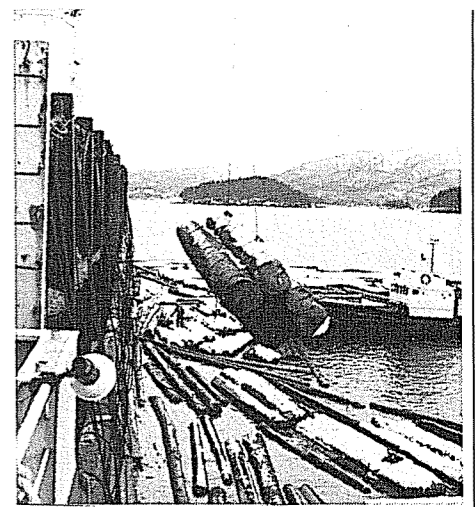
With the nosedive in oil prices and future Prudhoe Bay production declines, Alaska's economy faces an alarmingly uncertain future, Henri told the Washington subcommittee. He said the loss of thousands of jobs throughout the economy is already a fact of life.

"Our actions as a state must now be directed at regaining or retaining these jobs through diversifying the economy, building up the major sectors that have employed Alaskans through the years — timber, mining, fishing and tourism," Henri said.

"Diversification of the economy is crucial to our state's survival," Henri continued. "We must be afforded the opportunity to develop our resource base as provided under ANILCA."

Communities throughout Southeast Alaska all have a substantial portion of their residents associated with timber. Between 1954 and 1974, timber industry jobs grew from 29 percent to 54 percent of resource-base employment in Southeast Alaska.

However, since 1980 the industry's position has slipped and timber now accounts for just 40 percent of resource-base employment.



A strong timber industry in Southeast Alaska is dependent on the commercial timber stands of the Tongass, the nation's largest national forest.

In addition, timber harvests have fallen far short of targeted levels.

While depressed market conditions and displacement of forest products may account for a significant share of this downturn and shortfall, the Resource Development Council believes the failure of the Forest Service to provide significant ANILCA funding is also a big factor. The Council said that in some ways it appears the Forest Service isn't willing to pay the price for wilderness.

Henri charged that the federal government has failed to properly implement the Tongass Timber Supply Fund over most of the past five years both in terms of money and in the manner utilized. He stressed that "it is not enough to merely provide 450 million board feet of timber annually." To meet its obligation that it "supply" the timber, Henri said ANILCA requires the Forest Service to make the necessary expenditures to provide adequate volume at a price industry can afford. Otherwise, the Council spokesman explained, the timber has not been "supplied" and the Forest Service has failed to meet its obligation.

In addressing "below-cost" timber sales, Henri said that although the Forest Service may sell much of the timber from the national

(Continued on page 5)

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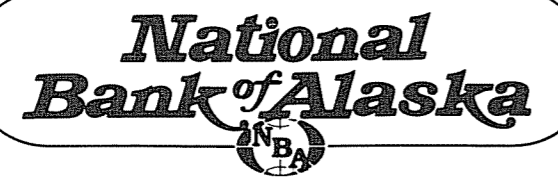
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## Message from our executive director

by Paula P. Easley



# Summer to bring pressing issues

There's something in the air (spring, maybe?) that has many of us thinking about gardens, flower boxes and sprucing up our neighborhoods. In Anchorage it's thrilling to see the results of the Jeff Lowenfels Treat our Town to Thousands of Tulips campaign and the DayBreak's Lilacs for the Living effort. The cleanup crews are out picking up a winter's accumulation of trash from the streets, much of it carelessly thrown from vehicle windows, and there's hope that everyone will work to keep the streets clean.

Recently, many dusty streets have been paved, and new, architecturally attractive buildings have been added to the skyline and the tax base. Anchorage is growing up, and becoming a beautiful city in the process.

I'll always remember my amazement, during our trade mission in the Orient, at how clean the streets and sidewalks were in the city of Seoul, Korea. How, I wondered, could a city of 19 million people leave so few signs of their day-and-night bustling through the city's thoroughfares. Besides having uses for many of the things we thoughtlessly discard, the people of Seoul take great pride in keeping their city clean. To my questions regarding this, I was told several times, "We're getting ready for the Olympics!"

Whether or not Anchorage is selected as the site for the 1992 Winter Olympics, it's a challenge for all of us to do our share toward beautifying the place we call home. That means remembering that every piece of litter thrown away must be picked up by someone. (After Korea, never again will I so much as throw a gum wrapper out the car window.) It means landscaping, painting and getting rid of accumulated junk in our yards. What a difference it makes!

Something else happens about this time of year. Out come the binoculars for bird watching, the camping gear and all the accoutrements for fishing, boating and other outdoor sports. We want to play! And after the long winter, we deserve the time for these pursuits.

But there are other pursuits that mustn't fall by the wayside as summer progresses, and these are the pressing issues that relate to Alaska's troubled economy.

Upcoming U.S. Senate committee hearings on foreign trade barriers, testimony before the President's Commission on Outdoor Recreation, the Borax environmental impact statement, efforts to amend ANILCA's timber development provisions, Congressional briefings on the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, the mining industry crisis, a multitude of land management plans requiring substantial study and input, committee research on new regulations being proposed, mobilizing a statewide force for new economic development policies — the list goes on.

In the midst of it all are important political campaigns that need our time and money. Will we make personal sacrifices to elect people who recognize that, without a growing, vibrant economy, no other state goals are achievable?

If past summers are any indication, members of the Resource Development Council will be doing all these things. Because you are the leaders of our communities and our state, you know there's no rest for the weary. Alaska needs our spirit, our enthusiasm and our dedication now, more than ever.

## RDC appoints new staff assistant

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc., has announced the appointment of Kate Hanes to the position of staff assistant.

Hanes graduated from the University of Washington last year with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science. She attended the University of London in 1984 to study Western European politics.

Before joining the Resource Development Council, Hanes served as Staff Assistant to United States Senator Slade Gorton in Seattle.

In her new position, Hanes will provide staff support in a number of natural resource areas. She will also serve as staff liaison to the Council's Energy Division.



### Resource Development Council, Inc.

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

RDC invites members and the general public to its weekly breakfast meeting featuring local and nationally-known speakers on economic and resource development issues. The meetings are held on Thursday at 7:30 a.m. in the Northern Lights Inn. Reservations are requested by calling 276-0700.

### Executive Committee Officers

President ..... Boyd Brownfield  
 Vice President ..... John Forceskie  
 Vice President ..... Joseph Henri  
 Vice President ..... Shelby Stastny  
 Secretary ..... O.K. "Easy" Gilbreth  
 Treasurer ..... Larry Laughman  
 Past President ..... Charles Webber

### Staff

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 Public Relations Director ..... Carl Portman  
 Research Coordinator ..... Larry Hayden  
 Projects Coordinator ..... Mike Abbott  
 Staff Assistant ..... Kate Hanes  
 Membership Relations Director ..... Lynn Gabriel

The RDC business is located at 807 G Street, Suite 200, Anchorage.

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Carl Portman  
 Editor & Advertising Manager  
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## RDC's annual spring bash is a time to play

### Alaska Helicopters hosts 300 RDC guests



Would you trust your taste buds to this man? (Joe Henri)



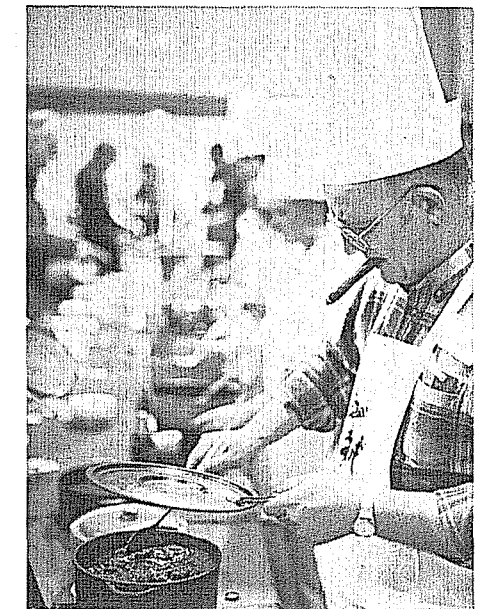
"Are you sure I'm at the right party?" asks new RDC member Martin Wood of Equivest.



Hank Giegerich and Karen Sheardown roar with laughter to a Rich Peluso joke.



"What did you put in your chili?", asks Ruth "hot-stuff" Bishop of Anne Smith. Ruth's chili was unanimously chosen as the hottest.



Sleazy Joe's favorite "Cook"—Tom, that is, whose wife Mary Lee, won the gold nugget.



Susan Cooper, novice chili chef, wins first prize as Chili contest judges David Salesky of Channel 2 and John Quinley of the Anchorage Times get the last laugh as Paula Easley comes in a distant seventh.



Lynn Gabriel, RDC Membership Relations Director, "fresh" from Hawaii, serves up the beef for RDC board member Charlie Johnson, "flash frozen" from Nome.



"I'll tell you my secret recipe if you tell me yours," notes Don Hansen, co-director of RDC's International Trade and Industrial Development Division to Mark Harris of Alaska Construction and Oil Magazine.

## Portrait

### Heatwole:



## Resources must be developed if they are to benefit Alaska

Dave Heatwole, a long-time member of the Resource Development Council's Board of Directors, believes the strength of Alaska's future economy will depend on what approach the state takes today in formulating policies that affect the private sector's ability to develop natural resources.

Heatwole maintains that economic utilization of the state's resources is consistent with the Constitution of Alaska because all other considerations the government must take into account are predicated on a sound economy.

A member of the Council's Transportation Division, Heatwole has been sharing his expertise with the Resource Development Council for eight years. He is vice president of External Affairs at ARCO Alaska, Inc., where he is responsible for environmental studies and permits, government and community affairs, media communications and issues advocacy.

"Extractable resources in the ground or otherwise in a natural state are potential wealth," Heatwole noted. "However, they must

be developed and used if they are to be of benefit to Alaska and the nation."

Heatwole believes one of the largest roadblocks to the establishment of new businesses and industry in Alaska are government policies which inhibit development.

"Alaska must be afforded the opportunity to develop its resource base as mandated under our Constitution and through specific provisions of the Alaska lands bill," he said. In addition, "a stable taxation policy is essential if Alaska is to attract the necessary capital needed to develop its resources."

In addition to his responsibilities at ARCO and his commitment to RDC, Heatwole serves as Secretary/Treasurer of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce and is co-chair of the group's Resource Committee. He is director and past president of the Alaska Miners Association, a director of the Alaska-Korea Business Council, member of the National Strategic Materials and Mineral Advisory Committee and member of the Alaskan of the Year Committee.

### Heath:

## Alaska pioneer sees big changes

RDC board member Hazel Heath is a living definition of a 20th century Alaska pioneer.

Hazel and her husband Kenneth moved to Alaska in 1943 as the bustling territory stood proudly as North America's front-line defense in World War II. Shortly after relocating to Anchorage, she accepted a position with Alaska Star Airlines. She later served with her husband in the Corps of Engineers at Fort Richardson and Northway, a small Interior Alaska community that served as a major refueling stop for Russian and American war planes.

Following the war, the Heaths moved to Homer and established Alaska Wild Berry Products which they operated until 1960. They purchased an original homestead right in the middle of present-day downtown Homer and Heath Real Estate Sales was born and is still operating under Hazel's guidance. Her husband died in February 1964.

From 1968 to 1976, Hazel served as the mayor of Homer. During that time, she was a member of the Alaska Municipal League, serving as the first woman president in its 25th year.

Since 1967, she has been an active member of the Alaska State Chamber of Commerce, serving on the Board of Directors as the representative of the Homer Chamber of Commerce until the annual meeting in October 1984.

Hazel is also involved in a host of other local and statewide organizations and commissions. For many years she has been active in the Alaska Visitors Association, the Kenai Peninsula Development Council, Alaska Historical Society, Kenai Peninsula Community College Council, the Homer Igloo of the Alaska Pioneers, Republican Party of Alaska, the Alaska Heritage Review, Alaska Press Women, the National Federation of Press Women and the Older Alaskans Commission.



## Tongass compromise should be permitted to work

(Continued from page 5)

In Canada, where nearly half the Pacific coastal forest resources are situated, the government has done an "admirable job of managing lands for maximum employment consistent with strict environmental protection," Henri said. "Canadian forest lands support

far more jobs per acre because they harvest and regenerate their lands with those goals in mind."

Henri stressed that "the commercial timber base of the Tongass is renewable, with most regeneration taking place naturally.

"Less than 12 percent of the entire Tongass will ever be harvested. By 2050, much

of the commercial timber base will not be discernable from adjacent wilderness areas because of regeneration."

The Alaska Senate joined Juneau, Ketchikan and Sitka in presenting resolutions urging Congress to retain the compromise. In addition, Governor Bill Sheffield warned that it is too soon to tinker with the law.

## Council has new slate of officers

### New Board elected, strategies adopted at Annual Meeting

Boyd Brownfield has been elected president of the Resource Development Council, Inc.

Brownfield's election to the one-year term came at the Council's 12th annual meeting of its Board of Directors in Anchorage April 26 where he was handed the gavel by three-term outgoing president Charles R. Webber. A new 78-member statewide board was also elected along with a new Executive Committee which meets weekly in Anchorage.

Brownfield recently joined Frank Moolin and Associates as Vice President of Engineering after serving as Regional Manager for Acres International Corporation. He has been active in RDC for several years and served as the Council's secretary last year.

Other new officers include vice presidents John Forceskie, Teamsters Local 959, Shelby Stastny, Arthur Young & Company and Joseph Henri, South-Central Timber Development Corporation. O.K. "Easy" Gilbreth of the Alaska Oil and Gas Association was elected secretary and Larry Laughman of Peat Marwick Mitchell & Company was elected treasurer.

The Council's Board of Directors also



New RDC officers are president Boyd Brownfield, right, vice president John Forceskie, left, and secretary O.K. "Easy" Gilbreth, center. Not pictured are vice presidents Shelby Stastny, Joseph Henri, and treasurer Larry Laughman.

adopted eight resource development strategies pertaining to tourism, fisheries, agriculture, power development, wood products, oil and gas, international trade, minerals and coal development. The industry strategies, developed as part of the Council's multi-year project to encourage statewide support of a

new economic development strategy for Alaska, will be published shortly to attract public comment.

The strategies were drafted and reviewed by hundreds of individuals and organizations throughout Alaska before being approved by the Council's Board of Directors.

### Thoughts from the president



by  
Boyd Brownfield

As my first opportunity to address you through the *Resource Review*, I pause to reflect upon past accomplishments and commend those who have so masterfully led RDC to where it is today.

I am quickly awakened, however, by the reality that our present posture can serve only as a foundation or beginning upon which to proceed to greater heights. We simply have no time to rest on our past, or for that matter, on present laurels.

1986 promises to hand Alaska some of its most difficult challenges since statehood. With falling oil prices, our state revenues have plunged to their lowest levels in years, resulting in reductions in the job market and businesses reassessing their commitments

## New President urges Alaskans to transform "potential" into "reality"

and holdings in Alaska. Emerging state land use plans purporting to allow multiple use and responsible development seek, in some instances, to all but lock up our productive, usable land.

The state operating budget has done little to adjust to these hard times and continues to sport large staffs throughout our state government structure while revenue projections flash billion dollar losses in expected revenues. One could go on but it doesn't get any better.

It is easy to manage one's resources during good times — problems can be "paid off" and buried in the system. But hard times require hard decisions, resourcefulness, prudence and a large measure of self-discipline.

Alaska is now at the crossroad and RDC has the opportunity to influence the forging of our destination.

As one of Alaska's largest, most diverse, non-profit, private organizations, the Resource Development Council has the means and potential to play a key leadership role through our dedicated staff, Board of Directors, Division Directorates and, *most importantly*, our general membership, to provide the private-sector leadership and influence demanded of the occasion.

My fellow members, the challenge is upon us. To transform "potential" into "reality," we must increase our base, pool what is probably the greatest concentration of private-sector talent and representation the state has known and rise to the occasion.

**Involvement** of every member is the key ingredient.

I look forward to working with you in what promises to be one of the toughest, most challenging years of our statehood.

# ANWR:

## No more wilderness designations!

Refuge could hold a new Prudhoe Bay

The Resource Development Council has recommended that there be no further wilderness designations in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR).

In comments directed to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, RDC urged the federal agency to manage the refuge for multiple-use purposes, including oil and gas exploration, production and development. In addition, the Council said that special provisions for activity on wilderness lands specified by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA) should be enforced.

ANWR is the prime onshore prospect in the nation for significant new oil discoveries. Some geologists believe the coastal plain of ANWR could contain large quantities of oil, perhaps as large as some of the giant Prudhoe Bay fields.

Lying between Prudhoe Bay and the Canadian border, the coastal plain of ANWR spans some 1.5 million acres, which is only a small part of the total 18 million-acre reserve.

Since the coastal plain holds great potential for significant oil discoveries, and given industry's excellent track record of operating in the Arctic, RDC believes the federal government should open the coastal plain to oil and gas exploration, development and production. Large-scale oil and gas development and production have taken place for years at Prudhoe Bay, 60 miles to the west, with little adverse impact on the environment or North Slope wildlife.

## Despite low oil prices, U.S. needs aggressive OCS leasing schedule

The Resource Development Council has told the U.S. Minerals Management Service that its five-year Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) leasing schedule fails to implement the clear intent of Congress and the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

The Council has warned that the United States is quickly losing

**"America can continue to rely or increase its reliance on foreign sources of oil, or it can further develop the potentially enormous resources on its own OCS."**

the capability to fully meet its present and forecasted domestic energy demands. "America can continue to rely or increase its reliance on foreign sources of oil, or it can further develop the potentially enormous resources on its own OCS," RDC pointed out.

The Resource Development Council has consistently supported

## Notable Quotes

"Until recently, developers and conservers were often fierce adversaries. Developers were seen as despoilers, conservationists as obstructionists ... Sound economic development and environmental protection should go hand in hand."

Jcnathan Fisher, *International Wildlife*, May-June 1986

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North Slope development has had no significant impact on wildlife.

RDC has also urged the Fish and Wildlife Service to plan for access into and across the refuge, particularly on the coastal plain. The Council believes this is especially important with regard to private inholdings and adjacent state and federal onshore lands.

"Alternatives for refuge management should include analysis of employment and related impacts on local, state and national economies," said the Council in a letter advanced last month to Robert Gilmore, Regional Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. "Potential revenues to the state and federal government from oil and gas leasing on the refuge should be considered in the planning process."

The Council has asked the government planning team to utilize the vast amounts of environmental data generated by studying the impacts of 20 years of oil and gas activity on the nearby and similar coastal plain of Prudhoe Bay.

a program of leasing for lands within the U.S. OCS that is aggressive, efficient and environmentally sound. The Council continues to support such a national policy and urges the Minerals Management Service to modify its recommendation to schedule more lease sales, more frequently than is proposed in the Service's program.

The Council told the Minerals Management Service that this is not the time for the U.S. to cut back on its energy development program. The recent oil price decline and its severity should only make the U.S. more aware of the uncertainty of foreign energy supply policy.

"Those species most endangered are receiving levels of protection which can only be considered incredible in view of the other demands placed on governments."

Jeffrey A. McNeely, Giand, Switzerland, *International Wildlife*, May-June 1986

## Usibelli official urges coal expansion

For Alaska to become a global force in the international coal trade, it must first develop a strong domestic in-state commitment to the expanded use of coal, according to Dr. John Sims, Vice President of Marketing for Usibelli Coal Mine.

Billing coal as one of Alaska's great strengths, Sims said "we have it in superabundance and a great deal of it is favorably located in the railbelt and the Cook Inlet basin." By some estimates, Alaska could contain as much as half of the total coal reserves in the United States.

But potential isn't production, Sims stressed. he said the state only produces about 1.5 million tons of coal per year and that's only one-sixth of one percent of total U.S. output.

Despite Alaska's obvious strength in coal, Sims charged the state has not yet "discovered that coal is indeed key to its in-state energy needs as well as having the potential to garner millions, perhaps billions, of dollars in export earnings." He urged Alaska to "concentrate on that superabundance of coal and reserve to the maximum extent possible our valuable endowment of liquid and gaseous hydrocarbons as capital generators and for higher and better use than the provision of base load power needs."

For the state's economy, coal "offers more than any others in putting Alaskans to work," Sims said. "As a rule of thumb, for every one million tons of coal mined, you can expect a direct employment base of 100, plus the money stays in the state."

Sims, who also serves as president of the Coal Operators and Alaska Leaseholders, noted that free market forces should determine the power generation mix that Alaska adopts.

"We as an industry have total faith in the free market system," Sims said. "We would like to see government get out of the power generation business and let that aspect be assumed by the private sector. Only in the distribution side should market forces be subverted by the need for an orderly regulated environment benefitting the consumer."

Sims predicted that Alaska's coal industry, both in piercing export markets and expanding in-state use, will be highly competitive, providing a basic assurance to the consumer that power generated from coal would be at the lowest possible cost.

On an international level, Alaska and its political stability as a part of the United States is a big plus, the Usibelli official noted. "There is a perception in the market place that Australia, for example, is prone to crippling strikes which can interrupt supply."



The Usibelli Coal Mine at Healy produces some 1.5 million tons of coal annually.

Although political stability is obvious, governmental actions don't necessarily indicate support for the industry, he said.

"We've gone two years without a permit to explore the reserves in the area we want to tap next and we're dealing with a seven year lead time," Sims said. "It's another travesty, especially since the state has taken over surface mining regulatory responsibilities from

the Environmental Protection Agency."

"The coal industry is saying that we can be the cleanest and most reliable long-term energy supplier to Alaska's railbelt, and moreover, using current technology we can produce power efficiently and cleanly to satisfy even the most stringent of current air quality standards," Sims said. "Let's lay this myth of coal as a dirty smog-generating health hazard to rest once and for all."

## Tongass timber issue erupts

(Continued from page 1)  
forest at less than it costs to build roads to get the timber and administer the sale, calculated returns do not include dollar benefits to other industries and activities enhanced through transportation systems and other infrastructure. In addition to creating opportunities for expanded community and economic development, new roads in the timber base areas provide low-cost access for subsistence and other public uses, Henri said.

Many logging roads near communities have been upgraded and incorporated into the State Highway system. Once road systems are in place, future management of the second-growth timber becomes much more economic as do other activities.

However, Henri cautioned that some roads being built with preroad funds are not providing the greatest possible timber return. He said industry wants preroad dollars spent at locations where such an expenditure would make timber economic.

"Since the Forest Service is only spending half or less of what it should on preroad, the agency should do what it can to make the

timber economic and thus available to the industry now," he said.

In discussing general characteristics of the Southeast Alaska forest, Henri said "the distinct, illogical management scheme of the Tongass is rooted in the perception that the forest is the last vestige of a rare commodity found only in Southeastern Alaska. This is a blatantly false perception."

The Tongass lies in a belt of similar lands stretching continuously along the Pacific Coast from San Francisco Bay into Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Southeast Alaska. These ecologically-similar lands are primarily forested with a few predominant species.

The U.S. Forest Service manages some 5.5 million acres of lands outside Alaska within this coastal belt. This land base includes national forests in three states which support a myriad of uses. Henri explained that intensive management of the forest resources in these areas has not threatened the popularity of the forests for recreational and other uses.

(Continued on page 6)

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