



## Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc.

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# Happy Birthday, Alaska!

Alaska is celebrating its 50th birthday this year. Our state's vast oil and gas, minerals, fish, timber, and tourism opportunities were critical assets to our nation over half a century ago as the debate over statehood transpired. The promise of resource development creating opportunities for Alaskans, and indeed, Americans, remains the promise today.

RDC is actively engaged in virtually every resource development project in the state and our members continue to set the standard for how responsible resource development occurs. Through focus on environmental stewardship, worker safety, and fiscal responsibility, RDC's diverse membership helps steer the path to making sure things are done right, something in which all Alaskans take pride.

We encourage you to visit our website, akrdc.org, to obtain the latest news and information relating to our resource industries. Here you can view historical articles published in the *Resource Review* newsletter dating back to 1978. You can sign up for RDC information and alerts by emailing resources@akrdc.org. You can even follow RDC on Twitter at twitter.com/alaskardc. We hope these tools help you stay up to date on RDC and the vital issues facing Alaska's resource industries.

As we embark on our next 50 years as a state, RDC commits to remain engaged in relevant and important issues, many of which are outlined in this annual report. With your help, we will continue growing Alaska through responsible resource development for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Jason Brune, Executive Director

# MEREIN

50 years ago, Congress was faced with voting on whether Alaska should become our flag's 49th star. Many politicians doubted that the northern territory had anything to contribute. Alaskans answered by pulling together to develop our natural resources. Today, Alaska is still producing resources that decrease America's dependence on foreign countries and provide jobs and income that have powered Alaska's five decades of economic expansion.

As Alaska turns 50, our state's future is brighter than ever.



Celebrating 50 Years of Statehood

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The oil and gas industry continues to be the largest source of revenue to the State, accounting for 93 percent or \$10.78 billion of all unrestricted state revenue in fiscal year 2008. Due to lower prices, general revenues from oil and gas production in fiscal year 2009 are anticipated to be \$5.8 billion, 87 percent of unrestricted revenue.

Daily oil production in fiscal year 2009 is projected to fall to 689,000 barrels per day. Current Alaska production accounts for 13.4 percent of U.S. domestic production.

A new analysis by the University of Alaska Anchorage showed the oil industry supports as many as 110,000 jobs in Alaska (one-third of the state's workforce), including funding for three-quarters of state government jobs.

Alaska's largely untapped offshore waters and onshore prospects hold the potential to fuel the state's economy for decades and play a key role in ensuring America has the energy it needs until alternative sources become available on a large scale.



- Published Action Alerts encouraging members to support OCS lease sales and submitted comments supporting the sales.
- Rallied Alaskans from all sectors of the economy to testify at a critical public hearing in Anchorage hosted by Interior Secretary Ken Salazar on development of Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). In conjunction with the event, RDC sponsored a sold-out luncheon featuring local, state and federal government officials, participated in the Alliance March for Jobs and assisted the Alaska Oil and Gas Association in an industry trade show.





- Supported the Point Thomson plan of development and encouraged the Palin administration to give the project a green light.
- Encouraged construction of a gas pipeline from the North Slope to the Lower 48.
- Submitted comments on the NE NPR-A Supplemental Final IAP/EIS.
- Distributed industry policy statement to the Obama administration and Congress.
- Published background paper on the oil and gas industry at akrdc.org.
- Held numerous industry forums, including featuring over a dozen senior executives at RDC's annual fall conference.





Alaska's mining industry includes exploration, development and production of coal, gold, lead, silver, and zinc, as well as construction materials.

Mining played an important role in our state's history, and today the industry continues to be a growing force in Alaska's economy. In 2008, mining provided 5,500 jobs and \$350 million in payroll to Alaskans. The industry paid \$105 million to state government through royalties, leases, and taxes, \$15.6 million to local governments around the state, and \$212 million to Alaska Native Corporations.

Jobs from mining projects employ residents in more than 120 communities around the state, many of these in rural areas off the road system which are economically disadvantaged and where jobs are scarce.

- Joined in efforts in the 2008 Ballot Measure 4 campaign, an initiative that, had it passed, could have led to a mining shutdown in the state and damaged the economy. RDC ran ads in statewide papers urging citizens to vote no on the measure, gave presentations, participated in debates, waved signs on election day, and more. The measure was soundly defeated by nearly 15%.
- Filed an Amicus Brief before the U.S.
  Supreme Court in support of the Kensington gold mine in Southeast Alaska. On June 22, 2009, in a landmark decision for future mining in the state, the Court upheld the Kensington Mine tailings permit in a 6-3 ruling, clearing the way for completion of the mine's tailings facility. Production is slated to begin in the second half of 2010, bringing much needed job growth and economic stimulus to Southeast Alaska.
- Provided testimony at a hearing for the DSEIS for Red Dog's Expansion into the Aqqaluk prospect to extend the life of the mine.
- Distributed industry policy statement to the Obama administration and Congress.



- Submitted comment letters and provided testimony involving mineral extraction at Spencer Glacier, Mat-Su Borough gravel mining ordinances, Tulsequah Chief Mine project, Pebble Mine fair process, Usibelli Coal Mine expansion, Chuitna Coal Project, and more.
- Featured mining issues and projects in Resource Review newsletter and hosted public forums with presentations from mining industry executives across the state.
- Published background paper on the mining industry at akrdc.org.



The forest products industry has been an important contributor to the Alaska economy for over a half century. However, over the past 20 years, the industry has been in sharp decline.

In the last decade, political and economic pressures, increased federal land withdrawals, a more stringent regulatory climate and environmental lawsuits forced the closure of Southeast Alaska's two pulp mills. The Tongass Land Use Management Plan, issued in 1997, sharply reduced allowable harvest levels.

However, emerging changes are moving the industry toward additional value-added processing with new, but limited opportunities on state, federal and private lands.

In fiscal year 2008, the State of Alaska sold 15.5 million board feet of timber in 67 sales throughout the state, all of which went to Alaskan purchasers for value-added processing. These sales included timber to help support mills in Southeast Alaska which have been hit hard by declines in federal sales. Meanwhile, only 30 million board feet of timber was harvested from the Tongass National Forest in 2008, matching the all-time low harvest of 2007. Logging on Native Corporation and private lands is projected to reach 100 million board feet in 2009.

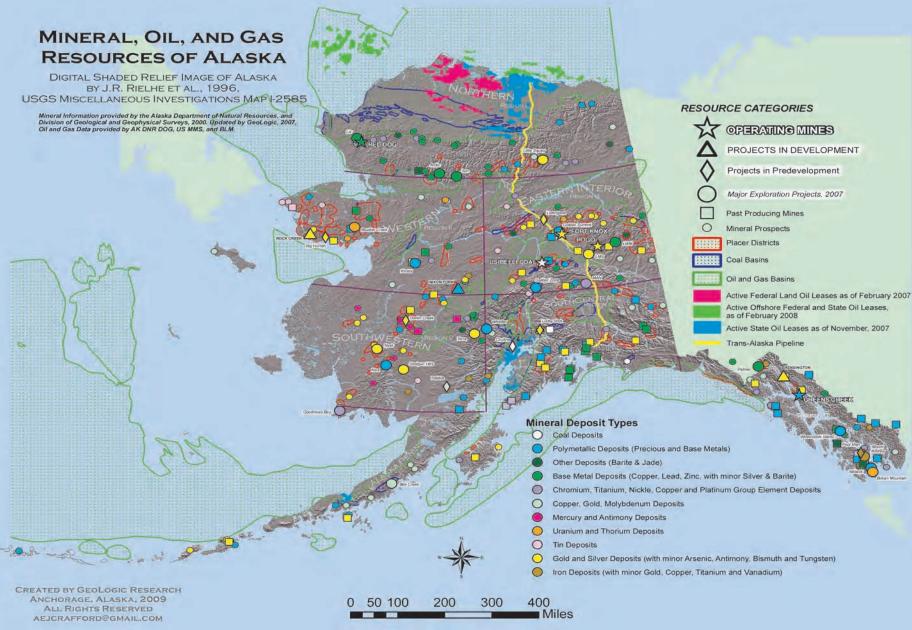
Logging and wood products employment remains a mere shadow of its recent past, falling from 4,600 jobs in 1990 to approximately 200 logging jobs and 400 forest products manufacturing jobs. Annual payroll lost since 1990 is well over \$100 million. Payroll today is approximately \$15 million for the logging segment of the industry and \$14.7 million for the forest products manufacturing sector.

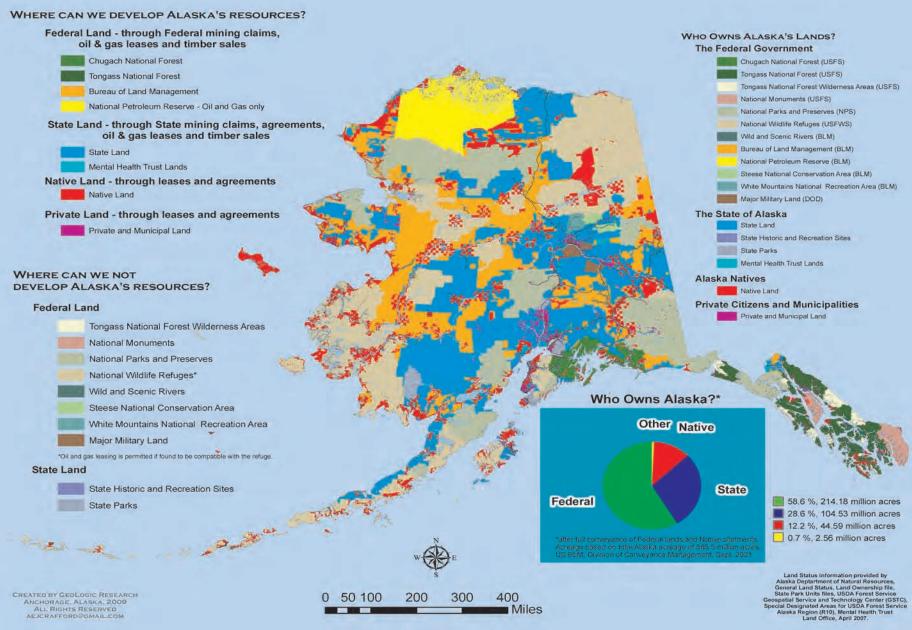
- Supported legislation establishing a southern Southeast state forest.
- Hosted breakfast forum on Chugach National Forest issues.





- Supported Sealaska Federal Lands Bill.
- Distribution of a position paper to the Obama administration and Congress on the current status of the forest products industry in Alaska and key issues impacting the industry.
- Hosted U.S. House and Senate debates in conjunction with Alaska Forest Association.
- Published feature story on trends and opportunities in Alaska's forest products industry in *Resource Review* newsletter.
- Worked on legislative and public policy issues, including proposed Endangered Species Act listings, which could impact the forest products industry.
- Published background paper on the forestry industry at akrdc.org.







Alaska has 34,000 miles of coastline reaching three seas, and produces over half of the nation's seafood landings. In recent years, the fishing industry in Alaska accounted for nearly 57,000 jobs, and over \$65 million for the State of Alaska. Specifically, Unalaska has led the nation in pounds of seafood landed since 1989.

Fisheries in Alaska have been lauded as one of the world's largest renewable resources. Management is comprised of a variety of voices, working together toward sustainability.

Uniquely, Alaska produces nearly 80 percent of wild coho, sockeye and king salmon for the world. Alaska boasts all five species of wild salmon, and continues to support wild fisheries, not allowing farmed fish. Projection for Alaska salmon harvest in 2009 is 175 million fish.

The seafood industry provides job opportunities to residents of rural and coastal communities, as well as supporting the same communities through taxes and indirect jobs.







- Submitted comments on the proposed NPDES Permit for Offshore Seafood Processors.
- Provided comments to North Pacific Fishery Management Council on Salmon Bycatch in the Bering Sea.
- Submitted comments on the Southwest Alaska Sea Otter DPS Critical Habitat.
- Supported state legislation for fisheries loans to increase energy efficiency of vessels.
- Addressed industry issues in federal policy positions distributed to the Obama administration and Congress.
- Held breakfast forum on Alaska's fishing industry and published background paper on the industry at akrdc.org.



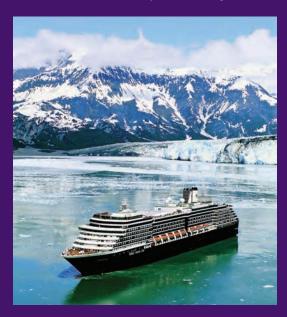
Alaska's majestic mountains, glaciers, and wildlife make it like no other place in the world, establishing the 49<sup>th</sup> state as a top visitor destination. In 2008, visitors spent \$1.8 billion in the state. That spending, combined with transportation to Alaska and land-based cruise tours, makes for an estimated economic impact of \$3.4 billion by the travel industry. Tourism also provides for an estimated 40,000 jobs in Alaska.





- Resolution by the RDC Board to modify cruise ship discharge permits to be based on criteria set in place by the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.
- Testimony and written comments to the Alaska Legislature in support of cruise ship discharge regulations.
- Resolution in support of funding for a South Denali Visitors Center.
- Support of funding for a campaign advertising Alaska visitor opportunities in response to projections for low visitor numbers in Summer 2009.

- Hosted a forum to promote the Alaska Railroad's Whistle-stop program, which provides for transportation to a stop along the railroad to participate in outdoor activities including hiking, kayaking, skiing, and more.
- Distributed a tourism industry policy statement to the Obama administration and Congress.
- Featured tourism in Resource Review newsletter and published background paper on the tourism industry at akrdc.org.



RDC, together with the Pebble Limited Partnership, filed an Alaska Public Offices Commission (APOC) complaint in March against proponents of Ballot Measure 4, the so called "Clean Water" initiative which failed by an overwhelming margin last August. The complaint was filed against the Renewable Resources Coalition, Alaskans for Clean Water, Americans for Job Security, and Robert Gillam for violation of Alaska's campaign disclosure laws. APOC staff concluded that nearly all of the alleged violations were supported by a substantial body of evidence. Additionally, in the course of the investigation, APOC staff found several other violations and recommended new complaints against three additional individuals. APOC staff also suggested referring the case to the Attorney General for investigation of potential criminal charges.

RDC emphasizes it is not opposed to organizations taking sides on initiatives and working to convince voters about their position – they have every right to do so. However, as Alaskans, RDC believes all groups working to influence voters on initiatives must register with APOC and meet the requirements of Alaska law, especially when it comes to disclosing financial resources. Additional hearings will be held after publication of this annual report. Visit RDC's website for updates.

## Endangered Species



RDC has been at the forefront of the attack on Alaska's industries through the Endangered Species Act. Polar bears, Cook Inlet belugas, SW Alaska sea otters, and a number of others are being used to stop development and implement climate change policy rather than truly conserve the species.

## Alaska Legislature

RDC was incredibly active in Juneau this year. Staff provided written and oral testimony on many issues important to the membership including:

- Ballot initiative reform
- State long-term fiscal plan
- State long-term energy plan
- Percent Of Market Value for the Alaska Permanent Fund
- Cruiseship wastewater discharge permits
- Establishing a southern Southeast state forest
- Fisheries loans for energy efficiency
- Resolutions in support of the OCS, to open ANWR and oppose Wilderness designation of the Coastal Plain, and to protect Alaska's sovereign right to manage submerged land in navigable rivers
- And much more!

RDC also helped coordinate Lunch and Learn forums during the legislative session to help educate legislators and their staff on technical petroleum, mining, and timber issues. RDC's state and federal policy positions are found on the following pages.

## Other Issues

NPDES Primacy, Yukon Flats Land Exchange, Statewide Transportation Plan, extension of the Alaska Railroad to Ft. Greely, Delta Junction and Point MacKenzie, the proposed Knik Arm Bridge, and many others.



# 2009 Federal Policy Positions – Summary

#### **Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline**

 Encourage the construction of a gas pipeline from the North Slope to the Lower 48. Provide access to unexplored gas basins to ensure the long-term viability of the project.

#### Oil and Gas Exploration & Development

• Support new exploration and development of Alaska's oil and gas deposits, including prolific basins in the National Petroleum Reserve Alaska (NPR-A), the Outer Continental Shelf (OCS), and the 1002 area of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR). Offshore development should include federal revenue sharing and/or community impact assistance. Additionally, encourage research /development of gas hydrates on the North Slope.

#### **ANILCA Special Protections**

 Uphold the special protections granted to Alaska under the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA).

#### **Federal Land Withdrawals**

 Oppose new federal land withdrawals, marine protected areas, Antiquities Act designations, and BLM Wilderness studies on federal lands in Alaska. Support proposed land exchanges in Yukon Flats and Izembek National Wildlife refuges as well as the Sealaska Corporation Land Bill.

#### **Polar Bear ESA Listing**

 Oppose the use of the listing of the polar bear under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) to regulate greenhouse gas emissions and to block access to energy development.

#### **Endangered Species Act Reform**

 Support a federally streamlined, science-based process for listing and protecting ever-growing numbers of candidate species, threatened and endangered species, and critical habitat acreage designations.

#### **Climate Change**

 Encourage the regulation of greenhouse gas emissions through independent legislation, rather than through the Clean Air Act or Endangered Species Act, based on sound environmental, scientific, and economic principles that are international in scope.

## Economic Timber Supply in Tongass Forest with Continued Exemption from Roadless Rule

 Manage the national forest system in Alaska to achieve its multiple use mandate, which includes resource development such as timber harvesting, mining, and commercial tourism operations. This must include providing a sustainable and long-term supply of economic timber in the Tongass. Maintain exemption for the Tongass National Forest from future roadless initiatives.

#### **Increased Access for Tourism**

 Support increased and expanded tourism opportunities through improved visitor facilities throughout Alaska's national parks.

#### **NPFMC Oversight of Federal Fisheries**

 Support continued science-based oversight of Alaska's federal fisheries under the North Pacific Fishery Management Council (NPFMC).

#### **Federal Mining Law**

 Oppose revisions to federal law and regulations that would have adverse impacts on Alaska's mining industry.

#### **Renewable Energy**

• Support efforts to commercialize Alaska's hydro, geothermal, wind, tidal, and other renewable energy sources.

#### Wetlands

- Support regulations that strictly follow the U.S.
   Supreme Court decision in Rapanos v. United
   States.
- Federal Agency Funding: Provide adequate funding for permitting functions.

Please see in-depth discussion on each of these federal policy issues at www.akrdc.org/legislature







## 2009 Alaska Policy Positions

#### **Fiscal Policy & Planning**

- Advocate development and implementation of a comprehensive, responsible, and long-range state fiscal plan.
- Support equitable and predictable tax and royalty policies.
- Support some use of the Permanent Fund earnings as part of a fiscal plan.
- Support development of a state strategic economic development plan.

#### Access

- Advocate increased access to and across public lands for resource development.
- Advocate multiple-use of public lands.
- Continue to assert the state's rights on navigable waters and submerged lands.

#### **Regulation/Permitting**

- Encourage the state to promote and defend the integrity of Alaska's permitting process.
- Advocate clear, timely, and streamlined state and federal permitting systems based on sound science, economic feasibility, and protection of property ownership rights.
- Support efforts to ensure Alaska's ballot initiative process is open and transparent.
- Adequately resource permitting agencies for personnel, research, and science.

- Support the State of Alaska's efforts to challenge unwarranted Endangered Species Act listings.
- Remove the "Point of Discharge" requirement implemented by the 2006 cruise ship head tax initiative to empower DEC to regulate cruise ship discharges to meet all water quality standards.
- Encourage the state to carefully consider the impacts of potential changes to the ACMP program on communities and industry while striving to eliminate the duplication of current state and federal requirements.

#### Infrastructure

 Encourage the state to develop a prioritized transportation strategy that supports resource exploration and development activities.

#### **Education**

- Support programs, including the Alaska Mineral and Energy Resource Education Fund (AMEREF) to educate students and the general public on responsible resource development activities in Alaska.
- Support growing the state's emphasis on workforce development.

#### Oil & Gas

- Oppose efforts, either legislatively or through the initiative process, to impose a gas reserves tax.
- Support legislation to encourage new exploration and development of Alaska's oil and gas deposits, as well as enhanced production from existing fields.
- Encourage public policy and fiscal decisions to improve the commercial viability of developing Alaska's North Slope and Interior natural gas resources.
- Support efforts to increase Cook Inlet oil and gas exploration and development to meet local demand and export markets.
- Advocate for a tax policy that enhances the State of Alaska's competitiveness for exploration and development investments.
- Encourage methods, such as investment tax credits, to improve the commercial viability of developing Alaska's heavy oil resources.
- Educate and advocate for opening the coastal plain of the ANWR to oil and gas development.
- Support offshore oil and gas development and work to maximize benefits to Alaska through advocacy for federal revenue sharing and/or community impact assistance.

#### **Energy**

 Support simplified leasing and permitting of non-conventional fuel resources to encourage development of the state's resources and provide energy to local areas.

- Encourage development of new electrical generating and transmission systems to provide stable sources of electricity for economic development and existing electricity consumers.
- Support utilization of Alaska's coal resources for value-added industries and power generation in addition to export to international markets.
- Support efforts to diversify Alaska's energy sources, including known renewable energy options and research and development of non-conventional sources.

#### Mining

- Support equitable and predictable mining tax and royalty policies.
- Encourage new exploration and development of Alaska's mineral resources, as well as increased production from existing deposits.
- Advocate continuation and expansion of the airborne geophysical mapping program and the on-the-ground follow up work required to realize the full benefits of the program.

#### **Fisheries**

 Support fisheries policies that ensure access, markets and revenues for Alaska fishermen and coastal communities, and a healthy competitive environment for an Alaskan seafood processing industry.

- Support reduced fisheries waste and better utilization of Alaska fisheries resources, improved product value and development of new product forms.
- Support funding of fisheries and marine mammal research.

#### **Forestry**

- Advocate a reliable and economical long-term federal and state timber supply.
- Support adequate funding and enforcement of the Alaska Forest Practices Act.
- Encourage funding of forest management initiatives that address long-term forest health and reforestation.

#### **Tourism**

- Advocate additional aircraft landing sites and reduced restrictions on overflights.
- Support amending the new cruise ship law to ensure compliance with federal tax restrictions, and avoid regulatory redundancy.





#### **Breakfast Meetings - September-May**

Attendees hear updates on resource development projects and issues. These forums, held in Anchorage, are popular among RDC members and others and offer important networking opportunities. Videos and presentations are available at akrdc.org.



#### Legislative Fly-in to Juneau - March 24, 2009

Despite a volcanic eruption, RDC made it to Juneau to meet with nearly 30 legislators as well as Governor Palin and members of her administration.





#### Community Outreach Trip – September 3-5, 2008

The City of Unalaska welcomed RDC's annual outreach trip, which included numerous board members, guests and staff. Board members from mining, tourism, oil & gas and fisheries toured fish processing facilities and learned how the industry benefits local communities and the state.

## Women in Resources – February 11, 2009

Women RDC Board members and staff hosted the Fifth Annual "Women In Resources" Reception in Juneau for over 50 legislators and administration officials. This reception provides an opportunity to network and enjoy a casual, relaxing evening during the legislative session.





#### Annual Meeting - June 4, 2008

An icon of the American civil rights movement, Roy Innis, Chairman of the Congress of Racial Equality, told a crowd of 750 at the Sheraton Anchorage Hotel in June that "the civil rights challenge of our time is to stop environmental policies that increase the cost of energy and disproportionately hurt lower income Americans and the working poor."



#### **Special Events**

Throughout the year, RDC holds many special events for our members. We welcomed Mark Finley with the BP Statistical Review, Stephen Allred from the U.S. Department of the Interior, the Alaska Congressional Delegation, Sean O'Keefe, former administrator of NASA, and hosted a congressional debate held in conjunction with the Alaska Forest Association.



## Alaska Resources Conference – November 19-20, 2008

In November 2008, RDC's two-day conference on Alaska's resource industries provided timely updates on new projects and prospects across Alaska's resource sectors. More than 800 people attended the conference, including decision-makers across the private sector, as well as state legislators, federal, state and local government officials, students, and educators. This annual event features panel sessions, a multi-industry trade show and a VIP networking reception open to all attendees. The conference was held in the new Dena'ina Civic and Convention Center in Anchorage. This year, the event will be held November 18-19.



**17th Annual Coal Classic – June 17, 2009**RDC staff coordinated the annual AMEREF Coal Classic golf tournament. Over 30 teams participated in the event, raising funds to help educate Alaska's students about natural resources.



#### And in our spare time...

RDC competes in local soccer and softball leagues. Teams are comprised of staff and RDC members.