Tundra, mountain ranges, arctic oceans, and regulations—all factors that could stall your project. Alaska Helicopters can deliver oil rigs and transmission line towers to your project sites complete, ready to set in place. Alaska Helicopters, when you don’t have the time or money to waste.

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An expansion of federal Wilderness would only continue a serious trend toward restricting recreational opportunities and access. In Glaciers Bay, a proposal to designate certain waterways federal Wilderness would lead to a ban on boats in those areas, limiting visitor experiences. (ATMS photo by Bob Glentworth)

Continued to page 4

Alaska is indisputably a stunning and diverse land of tremendous resource potential. With vast natural resources of oil and gas, timber, strategic minerals and fish, America’s 49th “star” has the means to diversify its economy and provide new wealth for its citizens and the nation.

With proper and practical land use policies which stress multiple uses of the public lands, Alaska’s economy has grown to new heights and so has the standard of living for most Alaskans. In one way or another, all Alaskans have come to share in new wealth generated from resource development.

Proper land management procedures, which provide for nature while recognizing the needs of the economy, have encouraged the development of internationally significant arctic and sub-arctic resources.

Development has taken place without destruction to public lands and natural resources.

Yet Alaska, which has barely scratched the surface of its vast resource potential, may see many future economic opportunities.
Multiple use, wise use

Having just been re-energized by attending the 1988 Multiple Use Conference in Reno, I can assure you the "war" over multiple use is better defined than ever. Strategies and tactics were argued, compared and developed. How to fight back, or better yet get on the offensive, was paramount. We must be increasingly better at dealing with the steamroller effect of relentless animosity expressed in multifarious ways towards productive citizenry.

One thing the 300 individuals at the conference could agree on was that we had common foes in the non-development litigators, the "anti" group of philosophers, the monkey-wrench gangs and Earth First! terrorists. Furthermore, those foes are relentless since they do not bear the costs of delays, frivolous lawsuits, litigation and raising funds for this "stop-development-at-any-cost" movement. Much of this strength derives from the commodity and shared perspective developed on an informal basis at quarterly board meetings. But RDC events are Expensive. We have to admire our foes' fundraising prowess since they often manage to get the public to buy into their cause. Why aren't we doing the same thing? We've found that giving them our money puts the burden of proof on us. Our foes' refusal to believe us puts the burden ofproof on them. We all want a healthy environment. Our foes cannot accept that. Policies that fund us equally, which has not been the case.

We must be increasingly better at dealing with the steamroller effect. Our foes are relentless. They refuse to believe us. They are the primary resource. We must fund them equally.

Attention RDC Board Members!

At RDC we ask a lot of our board members. We send you to Bethel, Barrow, Nome, Ketchikan and all over the state and ask you to meet from sunrise to sunset with people from local government, resource development and radio stations. We ask you to judge the quality of our staff. We ask you to attend RDC's Thursday breakfast forums, held every week of the year. We ask a lot because we recognize that RDC's most important resource is its board. The RDC Board is a strong working group, a synthesis of diverse backgrounds and interests working toward a common goal — resource development. Much of this strength derives from the commodity and shared perspective developed on an informal basis at quarterly board meetings and other RDC events.

About a year ago RDC decided to emphasize the statewide composition of its board by holding its quarterly meetings in locations that allow us to visit our local members. Most recently, RDC's Board held its annual elections in Valdez, one of RDC's strong community members. To convey our sincere appreciation to Usibelli Coal Mine, Inc., and the Usibelli family for their long-standing support, we have offered our next board meeting in Healy.

If you have not attended a RDC Board meeting recently, this is your opportunity to contribute your perspective to the working group. The invitation includes a VIP tour of Usibelli Coal Mine and Golden Valley Electric Association. Space is limited. Please call me at 276-0700 for reservations.

Robert L. Gay

.resource development

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is Alaska's largest and most active non-profit environmental group. It promotes increased public participation in decisions affecting the state's environment and natural resource base, diversifies economic activity while protecting and enhancing the environment.

You can help! Many ways, but certainly, if you can afford it, at least don't fund them. Maybe that will stir their army down and maybe, just maybe, a small victory will be in the making.

commented on 13 separate National Park Service DEIS Wilderness Recommendations. The list goes on and you thought there was a lot of wilderness in Alaska.

Sound overwhelming? It can be. However, we have had enough. Pro-development individuals and groups are on the move. It is an uphill battle with weary soldiers, but RDC is there for you.

How can you help? Many ways, but certainly, if you can afford it, at least don't fund them. Maybe that will stir their army down and maybe, just maybe, a small victory will be in the making.

The U.S. Forest Service will get $26 million for the preparation of timber sales in the Tongass National Forest in fiscal 1989. But Congress agreed upon continuing a compromise budget that is bigger than a House version, but it does favor some of the Forest Service's arguments for timber funding. The compromise budget was set earlier this month by a House-Senate conference committee on Interior Department funding.

This year the Forest Service had been guaranteed an annual appropriation of at least $40 million for timber preparation. But Congress has dropped the automatic funding for two years, making it possible to lower the timber appropriations in 1989.

Earlier this session the House voted 363-7 to reverse the automatic system. The bill, which would end the annual appropriations and the $40 million board foot timber harvest target, next goes to the Senate where Alaska's congressional delegation has predicted it will not pass in its current form. Alaska senators Ted Stevens and John C. Stennis are the real driving force. Their refusal to believe us puts the burden of proof on them. The House bill would also force the renegotiation of two 50-year contracts for timber supply to Southeast Alaska's two major pulp mills.

The Tongass timber harvest accounts for over 9,000 direct and indirect year-round jobs.

The cost of wilderness in the Tongass National Forest

Timber fund is for users of wilderness

One of the biggest myths circulating these days is that of a heavily subsidized timber industry in the Tongass National Forest. In 1987, the Tongass Timber Supply Fund was created in 1980 with the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA), which designated 5.4 million acres of the Tongass as federal wilderness. The annual timber appropriation to the fund is $40 million, intended to help offset the effect of closing prime timber stands in the newly-created wilderness.

To maintain the timber supply to dependent communities, more intensive and expensive forest management was needed by the Forest Service to preserve smaller and more remote timber stands outside wilderness or to maintain the annual funding available to the timber fund. Congress contends, is the cost of wilderness.

The level of funding wouldn't be necessary had the 5.4 million acres remained in multiple use. As a result of Congress' decision that much of the timber fund is actually a subsidy to those who use wilderness areas, even just for viewing from a boat. It is a social cost (disposable) subtraction of additional wilderness.

Of the 16.7 million acres comprising the Tongass, only 1.7 million acres are open to timber production under the National Forest Management Act. Although open to timber production, this small portion of the national forest is strictly regulated with many areas preserved for the viewing pleasure of the public, ferry and cruise ship passengers.

Over the next ten years only 0.1 percent of the Tongass is scheduled to be harvested. In any given year, only 0.00001 fraction of the total will be logged.

The Tongass timber harvest supports the Southeast Alaska economy, accounting for 9,000 direct and indirect year-round jobs.

Miners file lawsuit to help protect Fortymile environment

The Alaska Miners Association and Miners Advocacy Council have filed a motion in federal court to have the timber fund protect the environment of the Fortymile River drainage from harm caused by the federal government. They are concerned that the 1978 bill behind the U.S. Forest Service and Pacific Legal Foundation, filed a motion with the District Court requesting the federal Interior Department to stop timber harvest on the Fortymile.

The miners have legal standing to ask the federal court to stop the effects of its injunction, allowing the miners to camp on the river or to move their camps to higher ground. But Congress has dropped the automatic timber supply to Southeast Alaska's two major pulp mills.

It is a social cost (disposable) subtraction of additional wilderness.

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The Tongass timber harvest accounts for over 9,000 direct and indirect year-round jobs. The Tongass forest is for users of wilderness.
thoughts from the President

J. Shelby Staton

We lack a visible pro-development organization of national stature that is capable of a large collective lobbying effort on a national scale, much less a regional scale. Some of the local groups that promote development could be launched to educate Americans of the benefits of multiple use on public lands.

There are numerous local resource development councils, economic development councils, multiple use councils and similar organizations around the country fighting the same battles that we are fighting in Alaska. I am convinced that all have similar problems. While it is difficult for scattered development organizations to attract major contributions outside of their geographical area, a united front of all these groups might also contribute to the political clout to attract major contributions to fund all of the type of national education program needed, not just for Alaska but for land use and land planning issues across the country.

I am convinced that a strong national umbrella organization representing the diverse interests of the pro-development community must be formed to become a national voice for development issues. I urge leaders of all like-minded organizations to consider the benefits of a national association with a national staff and various communication devices to develop national strategies for educating the public and Congress regarding the value of using Alaska's lands to their highest and best uses while consistent with appropriate environmental protection. I would invite all development leaders to write us at RDC and make their thoughts known. Together, we can make it happen.

standard looks to niakuk development

In light of technological and economic factors, RDC also believes Standard Alaska Production Company has submitted detailed plans to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a process to permit to develop the Niakuk oilfield, one mile offshore Prudhoe Bay.

Despite the care and experience that has been used to design the Niakuk facilities, some environmentalists consider the project unnecessarily destructive to the causeway and threatened to bring the case to court.

Causeway opponents prefer that Standard drill the Niakuk reservoir in a horizontal manner from land. However, technological and economic factors make the Causeway alternative infeasible.

The causeway is an essential link in the successful development of the field because it allows the Shah field to reach oil field to shore. The causeway would include a large pipeline and a causeway. The causeway extension from land to the causeway is a major development.

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**Consequences of Wilderness**

- "Wilderness designations represent a lost economic cost. It is vital that the cumulative effects of such lost opportunity be studied before each new wilderness designation is made." —James Burling, Pacific Legal Foundation

- "Wilderness does not promote recreation, and those who promote wilderness should not do so by pretending any benefit to the recreational economy." —Senator Steve Symms, Idaho

- "Sadly, the spirit of compromise has put way too much of this vast subcontinent off limits, out of reach ... We must roll back these massive land set asides and restore wider opportunity to this great land." —Joe Henri, President, RDC Foundation, Inc.

- "We are fed up with being cast as the bad guys because we produce products from earth resources or recreate on public land." —Roberta Anderson, Western Timber Association

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**Alaska Land Facts**

- 154 million acres, or about 41% of Alaska is locked up in federal conservation units.
- 56 million acres have been designated Wilderness, representing 16% of Alaska. This area would consume all of Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, and Wyoming.
- Alaska has 60% of the designated Wilderness in the U.S.
- Some 70% of all national parks and 90% of all national wildlife refuges are in Alaska.

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**Grazing doesn't always go with timber, timber doesn't always go with mining, mining doesn't always go with recreation, but you've got to put petty arguments aside and realize that we'll be history if we don't cooperate." —Charles Cushman, National Innholders Assoc.**

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**RESOURCE REVIEW**

Continued from page 1

tuntiles vanish under relatively new government policies affecting land use in general and federal Wilderness in particular. These policies have led to the continuing withdrawal of giant amounts of land from productive multiple-use management, leaving striking implications for hunting, recreation, oil and gas, timber, utilities, agriculture, mining, local governments and tourism.

- Land withdrawals are so great that the Forest Service is recommending no new additions are necessary since they represent only a small fraction of the recreation public. They believe diversified background recreation, as opposed to commercial operations catering to a much larger segment of the general public, should have priority.

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**RESOURCE REVIEW**

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