New development, wilderness bills introduced

Senators Frank Murkowski and Ted Stevens have introduced new legislation to open the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil exploration.

The Murkowski-Stevens bill will be referred to the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, beginning a slow and difficult legislative process that may not be resolved for months. Senator Bennett Johnston, D-LA, chairman of the energy committee, has promised prompt hearings on the legislation.

In 1989 the committee approved a refuge exploration bill, but the legislation died several days later when the Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound. The door has been opened for new legislation following the passage of a comprehensive oil spill prevention and cleanup bill last year. Moreover, the oil industry and the State of Alaska have enacted new programs for prevention, containment and cleanup of oil spills. A number of additional safeguards aimed at preventing a repetition of the 1989 oil spill prevention and cleanup bill last year.

The decline of Alaska's oil production can be reversed if ANWR's Coastal Plain is developed. Alaska have enacted new programs for prevention, containment and cleanup of oil spills. A number of additional safeguards aimed at preventing a repetition of the 1989 oil spill are now in place. However, the issue of opening (Continued to page 4)

Even if Desert Storm is successful in forcing an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, a U.S. military presence on the Arabian Peninsula faces great danger and continuing conflict that is likely to increase the cost of energy resources above the price that might be established by a free market, according to Dr. Eli Bergman, Executive Director of Americans for Energy Security.

Speaking before the Resource Development Council's 11th Annual Conference in Anchorage, Bergman outlined a number of "continuing realities" that will contribute to regional instabilities, including the competition of primacy in the region among several aspiring Arab states, the role of the Palestinian issue, the future of Lebanon, the sectarian rivalry between the various streams of Islam and the role of Iran.

The oil price surge in the wake of the Iraqi invasion has sent painful ripples through a fragile U.S. economy that experts say is now dropping off the edge into a deep recession. The retail and automobile industries have been hit hard. Airlines are struggling to cope with sharply increased fuel prices and New England households, where oil is the principal heating fuel, are in for price spikes this winter.

With these prospects and uncertainties, and dependence on Persian Gulf oil a continuing source of vulnerability, Bergman stressed it is in the nation's interest to seek alternatives that at least would moderate excessive dependence. Bergman defined alternatives as "anything that is a substitute for imported oil." The alternatives would include an array of options on the both demand and supply sides, including conservation and (Continued to page 5)
I RESOURCE REVIEW

ENERGY GRIDLOCK: THE POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT

RDC's 1990 Conference on Alaska's Resources

Capitol Concerns by Debbie Reinwand Deputy Director

RDC board to visit Juneau, will address legislative agenda

January's winter winds will sweep a group of lawmakers, special interest representatives and other government-minded individuals into Juneau, and RDC will be there once again, with a substantial legislative agenda.

Board members and staff will make a special trip on January 28 and 29 to meet with newly-elected Governor Walter Hickel, as well as two former RDC presidents - Revenue Commissioner Leif Fisher and CMB Director Shelby Stastny. In addition, long-time RDC board member Gail Phillips will be sworn in as a delegate from the Kenai Peninsula in the House of Representatives. RDC looks forward to working with all its new and old friends in the legislative and administrative branches of government.

The Persian Gulf situation has brought renewed interest in all exploration in the coastal plain of ANWR, and RDC is pursuing a legislative resolution urging Congress to authorize exploration and drilling, as well as administrative support for D.C. lobbying efforts and grassroots work in the Lower 48. The wetlands issue is still simmering, with the state and other litigants who challenged the MOA on "no net loss" in the process of deciding whether to appeal the recent court decision upholding the MOA.

In addition, RDC will be championing a number of new and old causes in the legislature this year, including funding for reforestation, a broad multiple use policy, forest management agreements, and transportation proposals.

Updates on pending legislation, the addresses and phone numbers of key legislators and other information will be sent to RDC members in the coming weeks. We hope you can all help us influence the legislative process during the 17th Alaska Legislature!

RDC addresses long-range Tongass plan, advocates multiple use

A long-range plan for the management of the Tongass National Forest should not only call for measures to protect natural resources of the Southeast Alaska forest, but provide for a healthy and sustainable resource development economy in the region, according to advocates of multiple use in the nation's largest national forest.

Last month the Resource Development Council urged its statewide membership to submit comments to the U.S. Forest Service on the draft Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP). The plan sets a precedent that will guide national forest management and multiple-use in America's largest national forest.

The Resource Development Council is concerned that the forthcoming forest plan sets a precedent that will guide national forest management throughout the country and establish guidelines in the Tongass that will have a permanent negative impact on the economies of Southeast Alaska communities that rely on the largest national forest for a variety of income sources.

RDC favors maintaining the maximum timber cut mandated by Congress and maximum availability of lands for mineral exploration. The Council opposes the withdrawal of any new areas from mineral entry. In addition, RDC opposes new Wilderness additions, noting there are adequate protections for all nonwilderness areas in the Tongass.

It is the position of the Resource Development Council that responsible resource development on national forest land requires multiple use, including timber harvesting, minerals extraction, commercial fishing and tourism, all of which can occur provided solid management practices are enacted in the region, noted Debbie Reinwand, RDC's Deputy Director.

In a letter to Regional Forester Mike Barton, Reinwand said the TLMP should address "balanced management for the Tongass and not be used as a tool to carve out further restrictive land designations that preclude Americans from enjoying the national forest and Alaskans from deriving a livelihood from the Tongass.

To date, 30% or 5.8 million acres of the 16.7 million acres in the Tongass are designated Wilderness. Only 56 percent of the forest — 9.4 million acres — is actually forested. And of that, only 3 million acres in outside protected Wilderness and suitable for logging and re-growth on a sustained yield basis.

Approximately 70 percent or 3.9 million acres of the 5.1 million acres of old-growth timber will be protected under current plans. It is RDC's position that this vast portion of old-growth timber is more than sufficient for wildlife habitat, fisheries, natural and old-growth habitat.

About 93 percent of the Tongass is roadless, but in regions where logging is permitted, RDC supports public access and expansion of roads to benefit all uses.

Meanwhile, comments submitted by environmental groups on TLMP favor alternatives which call for drastic reductions in timber harvesting and maximum land withdrawals.

Congress passed legislation late last year protecting another one million acres of the Tongass from logging. Environmentalists called the legislation a "win" and an "important step," adding four years of congressional debate over how to manage the forest.

Multiple use advocates fear environmentalists are using the TLMP process to lock up more of the forest and make additional gains beyond the restrictive 1990 law.

In addition, long-time RDC board member Call Phillips will be sworn in as a delegate from the Kenai Peninsula in the House of Representatives. RDC looks forward to working with all its new and old friends in the legislative and administrative branches of government.

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Tindall believes in overall management of Alaska's forest

(Continued from page 3)

“...the idea is that logging managed correctly is not destructive and can be beneficial to multiple use,” Tindall tells audiences in a level voice that somehow evenly challenges the din of peripheral oper.

John Hall (RDC board member) describes Tindall, a friend for nearly 20 years, as “Dr. Einstein” because of his hair.

Hall, a fellow timber consultant living in Girdwood, is retired from the U.S. Forest Service.

While they agree more often than not, Tindall and Hall get into good natured arguments about issues. But Hall said he holds his Dr. Einstein in high esteem and credits the forester with persistence and dedication to his cause.

“He’s been a moving force,” Hall said. “The challenge is tremendous because through various legislation, environmental groups are out to shut it up.

The Susitna forest is a major chunk of real estate amounting to 4.7 million acres. Part of the Interior Alaska boreal forest, the trees consist of a smattering of birch, white spruce, cottonwood and gnarled black spruce.

Controversy erupted over the logging issue during the past three years as state regulators attempted to open the area to long-term sales. Opponents for logging operations are the Save theSusitna group.

But the Susitna is merely one piece of the puzzle Tindall has been trying to put together for the past 10 years. Included are forest commercially viable, making house logs and rough-sawn dimensional lumber. Other businesses include firewood harvesters.

She said his efforts may spur a relatively prosperous industry and a priority in his plan is heavy emphasis on value-added products being made in Alaska.

Tindall moved to Anchorage in 1971. He was named head of BLM for southern Alaska, including the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska. The job was a promotion.

Tom Maloney, director of wood materials and engineering for Washington State University in Pullman, Washington, said he got to know Tindall two years ago at a symposium on wood products and new technology in Anchorage that Tindall helped organize. Since then, Tindall has kept in close contact, personally and by telephone.

Tindall said Maloney stays on the cutting edge of world events, new processes and is part of a network he retains to keep him informed.

Observe: “Tindall is not all that smart, but I know people who are.”

Maloney disagrees. “(Tindall) has worked hard to be knowledgeable and that’s most of the battle in this business.”

Tindall was recently elected to the rank of fellow in the Alaska Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. The honor is the highest rung on the ladder in the organization, Hall said.

Tindall said he hopes to assist Alaska forest products companies in getting into the international market.

But instead of seeking overseas markets, Tindall believes his next task is finding a perpetual source of timber. Without it, no bank will authorize a loan, he said. He predicts the native corporations whose pearly white hair has earned him the nickname “Dr. Einstein” will authorize a loan, he said. He predicts the native corporations

DPC is headed on this critical Alaska and national issue.

Tindall joins Joe Henri, President of Southcentral Timber Development, Inc., at a forestry meeting in Anchorage.

“...he’s entered into a lot of debates on the issues affecting the industry,” Galea said. “There’s a number of things he had to wrestle with including showing people the benefits of planning and management over force that would portray logging as rape and cut.

Galea said Tindall effectively explains logging’s many benefits to all groups.”He goes for the overall management of the forest,” he said.

Tindall sincerely believes the timber stands in Interior Alaska could support a whole new sector of the Alaska economy. He said likely candidates are new technology low pollutant pulp mills, plywood mills and big sawmills.

“...my philosophy is to build on what we already have,” he said. A priority in his plan is heavy emphasis on value-added products being made in Alaska.

Tindall moved to Anchorage in 1971. He was named head of BLM for southern Alaska, including the Tongass National Forest in Southeast Alaska. The job was a promotion.

Tindall endorses the opposing view. He envisions a viable value-added forest products industry emerging from Railbelt communities and fueled by a consistent supply of logs. He would like to see Alaska eventually compete with Sweden, Finland and Norway for high-fined tuned lumber products and plywood mills and big sawmills.

By definition, Reeder’s philosophy clashes with Tindall’s.

Still, Reeder said she has learned to respect her opponent and even consider her opinions similar to his. Their differences emerge on economics, she said.

Alaska’s timber industry regards Tindall as one of its most pivotal players in Southcentral Alaska. Lawyers see him as a veteran forester, known for his work and research in the formulation of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980. Tindall takes himself much less seriously.

forester.

Forestry has been his lifelong ambition, and retirement from the Bureau of Land Management in 1982 enabled him to pursue it with renewed energy. At BLM, I became more of an administrator and less of a forester as years went by,” he recalled. Tindall says a managed forest is a reserve with which loggers can make a living, and one which visitors and hikers who campers hike and wildlife can thrive.

As a forester, timber consultant and a former BLM Alaska section chief, his vision is to provide a body of trees years more toward that of a farmer cultivating an extremely valuable crop. In nature, stands of forests also are regulated, but by fire, he said.

Logging is the man-made formula, he said.

Tindall is a forester to the core. One holds with Reeder about timber harvests have lit up audiences in small auditoriums all over the Matanuska Valley.

Rector heads the Susitna Valley Association. She is determined to prevent large scale logging in her revered boreal forest.

Tindall endorses the opposing view. He envisions a viable value-added forest products industry emerging from Railbelt communities and fueled by a consistent supply of logs. He would like to see Alaska eventually compete with Sweden, Finland and Norway for high-fined tuned lumber products and plywood mills and big sawmills.

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ANWR debate heats up
Proponents call for action

Continued from cover

The small strip of coastal land on the northern fringe of the Maline-sized refuge to oil development may well be the most heated debate of the year in Congress. Some 92 percent of ANWR is already closed to oil and gas development, but environmentalists are demanding that the remaining area be designated Wilderness.

Geologists believe this area represents the best chance for a major domestic oil discovery for a nation that imports more than half of its oil. The Interior Department estimates the Coastal Plain of the refuge, east of the giant but declining Prudhoe Bay field, could yield over 9 billion barrels of oil, accounting for as much as 20 percent of America's future domestic oil production.

The upcoming ANWR congressional debates will be conducted against a backdrop of war in the Persian Gulf. Exploration proponents note that by developing the tremendous oil and gas resources that lie beneath the Coastal Plain, America can cut its dependency on foreign oil. Combined with current North Slope production, oil production in ANWR and offshore in the Alaska Chukchi Sea has the potential to more than offset U.S. imports from Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Environmentalists say development of the Coastal Plain is impossible without spoiling the pristine character of the refuge and that the nation needs to conserve more energy.

However, state and federal government sources note that less than one percent of the refuge would be opened by oil development. Moreover, development of ANWR reserves would probably result in a bigger incremental increase in domestic oil production than could be obtained from any other action. As a result, industry and government officials claim new oil sources, combined with conservation and alternative energy sources, are the most reasonable approach to cutting the nation's reliance on foreign oil.

Time is now for action

The Resource Development Council is urging its membership to mail ANWR information to family, friends, employees, vendors and business associates in the Lower 48 states, asking them to contact their Congressman and Senators urging them to support oil and gas leasing on the Coastal Plain. Although a majority of Alaskans support oil and gas development in ANWR, environmental groups have been very effective in other areas of the nation in creating a negative climate toward oil development in Alaska. Members of the U.S. Congress will look to their constituents to provide direction on important issues such as national energy security.

RDC has published several ANWR resource documents, including the ANWR Facts brochure, a publication circulated widely outside of Alaska and in classrooms. Some 80,000 copies are in circulation and a new printing is available for distribution. In addition, the next issue of the Resource Review will be dedicated exclusively to the ANWR issue and will make a comprehensive reference for those interested in this area. RDC urges its members to utilize its brochures and newsletters in education others on the merits of energy development on the Coastal Plain.

RDC, the Alaska Coalition for American Energy Security and the Alliance have been working together to organize a grassroots campaign to reach community leaders in key Congressional districts in the Lower 48 on the need to open ANWR. Several states were targeted between October and December. More states will be added this year.

The trips feature special presentations on ANWR to persuade community leaders to work actively in their community for the opening of the Coastal Plain to responsible oil and gas development. In addition, the Alaska Coalition, with assistance from RDC, has staffed ANWR exhibits at trade shows and conferences throughout the United States to educate the general public on the issue.

With the passage of oil spill laws, an environmental predicate is in place. Events in the Middle East have shown the American public how the nation's reliance on foreign oil has created a dangerous dependence on imported oil. It's time to get the ANWR message beyond the Capitol beltway and out to the constituents in those districts where there is little ANWR support. RDC needs your help. The time to act is now. Call us today.

Continued from cover

The Coastal Plain of ANWR is a remote, windswept and treeless strip of land along the northern fringe of the refuge. Under a full development scenario, less than one percent of the Coastal Plain would be disturbed.

Efficient use of all forms of energy, the maintenance of domestic oil production, the maximum substitution of oil with natural gas and the development and commercialization of non-traditional energy resources and technologies. Looking toward the future, Bergman identified conservation, coal and natural gas as the dominant alternatives.

"There is no prospect for early technological solutions that would propel non-traditional alternatives such as solar power, fusion power or other renewable sources into major positions in the national energy mix during the next 20 years," Bergman said.

The Department of Energy projects continuing reliance on conventional energy sources such as oil, coal and natural gas through 2010. While the rate of growth exceeds that of other sources, the role of renewable sources such as hydropower, wind, solar, wood and geothermal in the total mix would increase only in the margin.

There are claims that aggressive conservation programs using available technologies would virtually eliminate the requirement for increased energy production to meet growing demand," Bergman said. "These positions...also maintain that any additional production requirements can be derived exclusively from renewable technologies." While conservation projections could be acceptable in the abstract, they do not sufficiently account for structural and behavioral factors that would limit the potential contribution of conservation alternatives, Bergman noted. He explained, "energy resources are not available in a period of economic decline, industries are less likely to choose the costlier state-of-the-art energy-saving equipment, even if it is available." On the household level, Bergman noted that consumers have

AlTERNATIVES TO PERSIAN GULF OIL

needed to moderate national oil dependency on foreign oil

He emphasized that an emerging energy policy must have the U.S. with an opportunity to address U.S. vulnerability and correct it so the nation is not exclusively dependent on foreign oil development and the ultimate costs of armed conflicts stemming from such dependence.

A comprehensive strategy to improve the national energy outlook requires a set of targets, priorities and timelines; not a collection of options and wish lists in which the requirements should be apparent. The prospect of oil imports rising to 12 million barrels a day — 75% of our total consumption — is ominous.

As its central target, a national energy strategy would set a ceiling on the acceptable level of U.S. oil imports, perhaps 35% of total consumption, Bergman advised. Among the more obvious alternatives that might make significant contributions on the demand side in achieving the goal are tax incentives for energy conservation equipment, a significant increase in CAFE standards for passenger vehicles and a robust gasoline tax to encourage choices that favor fuel economy.

On the supply side, meaningful alternatives would include expansion of domestic oil and natural gas exploration and production, removal of unreasonable barriers to the transportation of natural gas and electricity to markets where they would be used if available, streamlined licensing procedures for renewable energy projects, streamlining the process for licensing nuclear power plants and incentives to accelerate the commercialization of new nuclear energy technologies.

"With the stakes so high, successful energy policy excludes government by public opinion polls," Bergman said. "The only form of political leadership in this country is prepared to bring about such a transformation."