We believe ANWR makes sense. The exchanges will provide us with the means to address both the traditional and economic needs of our shareholders. The oil and gas rights to be acquired provide a sound financial foundation for our corporations which represent one-third of all Alaska Native shareholders.

While presenting us with economic opportunity, the exchanges will add to Alaska refuges more than 1.3 million acres that have been identified by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as critical wildlife habitat. Included in the acreage to be returned to public ownership and use are areas valued by sportsmen for their recreational attributes, such as the Karluk River, the Sturgeon River, over half of Afognak Island, as well as the confluence of the Russian and Kenai Rivers. Finally, the Alaska Native Corporations that stand to benefit from the exchanges, by and large, invest in the Alaskan economy, pay state taxes and employ Alaskans.

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Striking a balance in the Arctic
by Carl Pytman

To Alaskans and North Slope Eskimos, the hydrocarbon potential beneath the Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) represents jobs, self-earned income and the opportunity for self-determination. To our nation, ANWR oil means a decrease in rising imports from politically unstable areas of the world, enhanced national security, tens of thousands of new jobs and billions of dollars worth of new economic development.

But the increasing dependence on foreign oil in the United States is waved off as insignificant in light of the "fragile arctic ecosystem." Current efforts by the powerful preservation lobby focus on derailing any efforts to develop oil under ANWR's Coastal Plain. These groups insist that Congress must "draw the line in the Arctic," declaring the Coastal Plain Wilderness, a designation which would permanently preclude any exploration of this nation's most outstanding onshore petroleum prospect.

Congress has indeed drawn the line in the Arctic. It's a line that provides a balance between Wilderness preservation and environmentally-sound energy development. More than 11,000 square miles (6 million acres) of the refuge has already been designated Wilderness and will remain closed to development. On the other side of the line is the (continued on page 2)
Balancing energy with Wilderness

(continued from cover)

1.5 million-acre Coastal Plain, an area which does not bear the Wilderness designation. This area, representing only eight percent of the coastal plain, millions of acres of pristine Wilderness would remain undisturbed, including 400,000 acres of riverine and coastal Wilderness which would be preserved.

The oil industry and the state of Alaska are not seeking to open designated Wilderness lands to oil and gas exploration and development. However, both are deeply concerned with proposals that would extend the entire Coastal Plain to the wilderness system. Vast areas of Alaska (57 million acres) already have been set aside as designated Wilderness. The wilderness designation for the coastal plain of ANWR is but one of many new wilderness proposals for Alaska.

EPA report on Arctic pollution is biased portrayal

A recent New York Times article alleging "inproper and careless management of oil and wastes on Alaska's North Slope" was based on an incomplete, unpublished draft report of the Environmental Protection Agency. The draft, which had not undergone EPA's usual review procedure to assure objectivity, was leaked to the press on the eve of major congressional hearings on legislation to authorize oil and gas exploration in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Of course, it was trumpeted by environmental groups and received top billing in the national press.

According to the EPA, the draft report was not released without agency knowledge, it included a mix of fact and conjecture from non-EPA sources. A memorandum from Patrick Quinn of the EPA's congressional liaison office stated that a preliminary review resulted in "significant concerns about the quality of the report...." The EPA memo also emphasized the report "goes beyond what can be documented and is not an objective portrayal; nor does it in any way constitute an official Agency finding or position."

Approximately 25 percent of America's domestic oil production comes from Alaska's North Slope oil fields. Development of those oil fields, according to Dave Heeke, a vice president for ARCO Alaska, Inc., has impacted about 8,200 acres of the North Slope's 56 million-acre land base. Heeke added, "We can produce 25 percent of America's domestic oil from 8,200 acres, which is less than one-tenth of one percent of the North Slope, isn't it in the nation's interest to do so?"

Admittedly, early development in the harsh conditions of the North Slope was a learning experience for the oil industry. However, highly efficient, effective and environmentally-safe methods of oil production evolved out of the early challenges faced by industry and the state of Alaska. The "North Slope" was based on an incomplete, unpublished draft report.

Throughout the years, wildlife has cycled independently of any development on the North Slope, and the advancing learning curve as shown that Americans can explore and develop energy resources in Alaska without significant harm to the environment.

We're not alone

Thoughts from the President

By J. Shelby Stastny

A few months ago in this column I suggested that part of the reason those who believe that exploration for additional public lands have been so successful is that they are organized on a national basis, and they allow themselves to be identified with large sums of money. These monies are used to produce compelling advertising to sway public opinion to their way of thinking. I suggested that if those of us who believe in multiple uses of land want to get access to comparable amounts of money to offset the massive non-development campaign, all groups that support multiple-use would need to band together in a national unified effort.

Soon after that article appeared, I received a call from Grant Gerber of the Wilderness Impact Research Foundation and learned that such an amalgamation was underway. Our executive director had, in fact, just returned from a meeting which was attended by hundreds of like-minded individuals.

It was exciting, therefore, to meet and listen to the leaders of some of these organizations at our recent conference in Anchorage. We are not alone in this fight against Wilderness designations! Each of these dedicated individuals taught us important lessons in getting our message across if we expect to put Alaska's lands to productive use. One important message which came to me loud and clear was that these organizations are willing to help us on our issues; however, in return they will expect help in their issues. We are now aware of aids to assist us in getting the message across. At the conference we were able to view a videotape which was produced by the Wilderness Service and their zeal to go to any lengths to protect wilderness from human intruders. Mr. Gerber also left two videotaped episodes of the Outdoor Magazine which explores the effect of Wilderness designations on a number of areas in the lower 48. These episodes are scheduled to appear on PBS in the future; however, they are available from RDC to use in explaining the effects of Wilderness designations.

We encourage you to check them out and use them. Future editions of this videotape series may cover the effects on Alaska's 57 million acres of Wilderness and the potential impact of those designations. However, be required from Alaskans to produce such segments.

Some of the most effective tools of the "protectoralist" movement are the slick magazines which depict their point of view in beautiful color. At the conference, we were introduced to the "wise use" alternative to those publications. The premier issue of "Our Land" magazine, published by the Our Land Society features articles on wise use of the Tongass and the arctic regions of Alaska. In addition, full color pages bring out the real facts regarding some of the specious arguments made by the protectionists. Since a magazine of this quality needs broad support to succeed, we encourage each member of RDC to lend their support by becoming a member of the Our Land Society. A membership application is reproduced in this issue of the Resource Review. If this doesn't become an effective voice for reasonable land use, we have no one to blame but ourselves.

A sincere thanks to each of you!

Getting the most from RDC

By Anne M. Bradley


RDC is very fortunate to have such a long list of people and organizations who are willing to sponsor its conference. RDC extends its most sincere thank you to each of you!
The powerful non-development lobby is now using the environmentally-fashionable global warming issue to press Congress for radical reforms of timber programs in the Tongass National Forest, but scientists believe logging practices in that forest may actually be part of the answer to the problems of deforestation and global warming—not the cause.

Timber management in the Tongass is actually helping to reduce levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Replacing some of the old and dying forest with a young, vigorously-growing, oxygen-producing forest increases the amount of carbon dioxide removed from the atmosphere and stored in the wood fiber. This is in sharp contrast to tropical forest conversion by slash and burn cultivators where trees are forever eliminated from the land and large amounts of carbon are released into the atmosphere by burning of slash.

In the tropics, rising populations and expanding agricultural exports are resulting in the clearing of virgin forests to grow food. The land left behind is unable to support new forest growth. The forests are also disappearing in the arid woodlands of Africa and India where people harvest trees for fuelwood. In Latin America, cattle ranching has resulted in extensive forest conversion, driven by U.S. demand for cheap beef. And in Malaysia, world demand for tropical hardwoods has encouraged the liquidation of entire forests. The rate of harvest is four times the rate of natural regeneration.

Global warming has nothing to do with sustained yield logging in the Tongass, according to Alaska Senator Frank Murkowski. In a letter to his fellow senators, Murkowski explained that 48 trees grow back for every one that is cut in the Tongass. He noted that the U.S. Forest Service plans to log only 1.7 million acres out of the 17 million-acre national forest over 100 year cycles in perpetuity.

Global warming and the Tongass

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ANWR: A window of opportunity in 1989

If a bill allowing oil and gas leasing on the Coastal Plain of ANWR is to pass the new 101st Congress, substantial movement must take place in this non-election year, many experienced Washington observers say.

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources recently voted 12-7 in favor of legislation that would authorize development in ANWR. The strong vote was enough to give the measure some steam as it begins its journey toward a vote by the full Senate. Such a vote could come as early as April.

In the near future, the House Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee will also be reviewing the legislation. The bill will then be referred to the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee where Chairman Morris Udall has already introduced a bill that would declare the Coastal Plain Wilderness.

Passage of legislation that would open ANWR to oil and gas leasing is largely dependent upon the pressure a congressman or senator will get from his or her constituents back home. As a result, your immediate action is imperative! It is critical that you contact your friends, relatives and business associates in other states and ask them to send a letter or telegram asking their member of Congress to support legislation that will open the Coastal Plain to responsible energy development. And don't forget to respond yourself. The best lobbyist is one who writes a brief personal letter to his or her congressional representative. Personal letters receive attention, and are more effective than form letters in getting a legislator to recognize your point of view.

The key to successful lobbying is contacting the right people at the right time.

In anticipation of a full Senate vote on ANWR, it is vital that people living outside Alaska contact their two senators in their state and urge them to support legislation that would open ANWR to responsible energy development. Each senator has a common mailing address: Senator_________, U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C., 20510.

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To assist our members and friends in their efforts to convince Congress to open the Coastal Plain of ANWR to responsible oil and gas development, the Resource Development Council has compiled a series of revealing facts about oil and gas development in the Arctic. Please use these facts to educate others about the other side of the ANWR story.

- ANWR is located 65 miles east of Prudhoe Bay, the largest oil field in North America.
- The part of ANWR being considered for leasing is the 1.5 million-acre Coastal Plain, which represents 8% of the 19 million-acre refuge.
- The Coastal Plain is considered the nation's most outstanding onshore petroleum resource. The U.S. Geological Survey estimates that the reserves may equal or exceed those found at Prudhoe Bay.
- It is estimated that petroleum operations would involve 12,000 of ANWR's 18 million acres. This is one-eighth of one percent of the Coastal Plain. Yet 25% of America's future domestic oil production could come from this small area.
- More than 11,000 square miles or 8 million acres of the refuge has already been designated Wilderness and will remain closed to development.
- The portion of the Coastal Plain considered for oil and gas leasing does not bear the Wilderness designation. It was intentionally set aside by Congress for study of its oil and gas potential.
- A significant portion (400,000 acres) of coastal lands in the refuge is already designated Wilderness. This frequently overlooked portion of the Coastal Plain adjoining Canada's 3 million-acre Northern Yukon National Park, also closed to development. Together these closed areas provide a model for the Coastal Plain Wilderness that would remain untouched by oil and gas development.
- Industry is not seeking to open designated Wilderness in Alaska to development.
- The Coastal Plain is not America's last wilderness area. Vast portions of Alaska have been set aside as designated Wilderness. If Alaska's 57 million acres designated as Wilderness were made into one state, it would be larger than the combination of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey and Maryland.
- Alaska contains 62% of all federal Wilderness in America.
- U.S. oil imports hit their highest level last year since 1979, while domestic oil production plummeted to a 12-year low. By the mid-to late 1980s, the world's surplus of oil will be consumed by rising energy consumption.
- It would take up to 15 years after the first lease sale before an oil field in ANWR's remote arctic environment could be brought into production. During that period, environmental studies would continue and advances in technology would further ensure development takes an environmentally-sound approach.
- The argument that America can expect to recover from ANWR what would amount to a six month supply of the nation's energy needs is an inappropriate analogy. It completely disregards the reality of how oil is produced. Total production from Prudhoe Bay also could be expressed in terms of days or months. Doing so makes the fact that since 1977 Prudhoe Bay has produced on average 1.8 million barrels a day, 25 percent of domestic production.
- A major find on the Coastal Plain could cut the nation's energy bill for imported oil by tens of billions of dollars annually, creating thousands of jobs nationwide and generate billions of dollars in annual salaries.
- Fish and wildlife have cycled independently of any development on the North Slope. Caribou in North Slope oil fields have tripped their feeding grounds in since development.
- Industry routinely considers wildlife use, habitat and drainage in selecting sites for production facilities, roads and pipelines. Directional drilling allows for the consolidation of facilities, preserving acres within oil fields for wildlife habitat.
- Data from government-mandated monitoring programs to reveal Prudhoe Bay consistently meets federal and state standards and is not comparable to that of large cities.
- Some 90 percent of Alaskans favor oil and gas development on the Coastal Plain of ANWR.
- The landforms and habitats of the 1002 area are not unique on Alaska's North Slope.