How to borrow money from yourself.

NBA’s personal line of credit.

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May 1986

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approach to managing the Tongass National Forest that seeks to protect related jobs and the Southeast Alaska economy is repealed, then the other side of the agreement that established huge areas of the forest as wilderness should immediately be returned to multiple use, says the Resource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 original work, not deploving 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that if portions of the Tongass compromise which protect the forest industry and the Southeast Alaska economy are repealed, thousands of residents who depend on a strong timber industry for their livelihood will suffer.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 1964 and 1974, timber industry jobs grew from 29 percent to 50 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.
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 National Arctic 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.
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 band in the Corps of Engineers at Fort Richardson and Northway.

Following the war, the Heaths moved to Homer and established Alaska Wild Berry Products which they operated until 1969. 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.

Hazel has also served 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, the Homer (Alaska) Pioneers, Republican Party of Alaska, Alaska Heritage Review, Alaska Press Women, and the National Federation of Press Women and the Older Alaskan Women's League. She served as the mayor of Homer.

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

I am quickly reminded, 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.

We must learn 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 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, utilizable land.

The state operating budget has done little to adjust to these hard times and continues to support staff 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 promises to be made.

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

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 Committees and, most importantly, our general membership, to provide the private-sector leadership and influence that is 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.

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 "admireable job of managing lands for maximum employment consistent with strict environmental protection," Henri said. "Canadian forest lands support.

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thoughts from the president

by Boyd Brownfield

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

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 78-year-old 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 Atlantic International in the position. 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 Foroskevik, 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, Larry Laughanen of Past Manvick Mitchell & Company was elected treasurer. The Council’s Board of Directors also 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 commercial timber base would be mandated under our Constitution and through specific policies which inhibit development.

"Alaska must be afforded the opportunity to develop its resource base as mandated under our Constitution and through specific policies which inhibit development." Henri said. "A stable tax base on which to build 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 chairman 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.

The Alaska Senate joined Juneau, Sitka in presenting resolutions urging Governor Bill Sheffield to reverse the decision to close the Tongass National Forest.

‘Alaska must be afforded the opportunity to develop its resource base as mandated under our Constitution.'
ANWR: No more wilderness designations!

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 uses, 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.

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 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,” the Council pointed out.

The Resource Development Council has consistently supported 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.

“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.”

Notable Quotes

“Until recently, developers and conservers were often fierce adversaries. Developers were seen as despots, conservatives as clowns. The staged economic development and environmental protection should go hand in hand.”


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May-June 1986

Usibelli official urges coal expansion

For Alaska to become a global force in the international coal trade, it must 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 railroad and the Cook Inlet basin.” By some estimates, Alaska could contain as much as half of the total coal reserves in the United States.

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 were dealing with a seven year lead time,” Sims said. “It’s another tragedy, 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 ratlines, and that 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 infra-structure. In addition to creating opportunities for existing 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 preloading funds are not providing the greatest possible timber return. He said industry wants preloading 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 preloading, 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 district, logistical management scheme of the Tongass is rooted in the perception that the forest is the last vestige of a rare commodity found only in Southeast 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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