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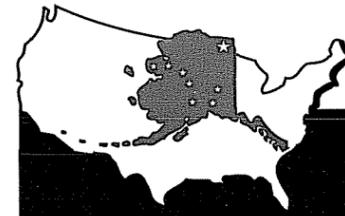
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# Resource Review

October 1994 A monthly publication of the Resource Development Council, Inc.

## Harvesting trees in the buffer zones

*The Alaska Department of Fish and Game reports of 5,667 trees that have been targeted for harvest, 4,470 were approved for cutting -- an 83 percent approval rating. Environmentalists have lambasted this approval rating as showing favoritism, private timber owners argue it shows how carefully the trees were selected.*

John Sturgeon stands proudly among large, mature timber lining a narrow stream on Montague Island. As President of Koncor Forest Products, Sturgeon sees the value in these trees, both in terms of money to Koncor's native shareholders and the trees' contribution to the health of the streams. He explains to a group of visitors that Koncor has no problem in not harvesting the privately-owned trees, as long as the trees will actually contribute to protecting fish habitat and water quality.

Koncor has been leaving buffer strips along riparian areas long before the State Forest Practices Act mandated the 66-foot riparian zone along streams and rivers on private lands. On Montague Island, Koncor will leave over 7 million board feet of timber, valued at more than \$5 million in buffer zones on the private lands where it is harvesting timber. The company began harvesting timber it purchased from Chugach Alaska Corporation last year at Patton Bay and Beach River, located in the southeast corner of Montague Island, which is the largest island in Prince William Sound. The remainder of the island, as well as the majority of all



*John Sturgeon briefs Rep. Jeanette James of North Pole on timber harvesting procedures at Koncor's Montague Island operation. Also pictured is state forester Tom Boutin (right), Koncor's Al Fouch (Center), Rick Solie, and RDC Executive Director Becky Gay.*

lands in Prince William Sound, belongs to the U.S. Forest Service and is currently off-limits to timber harvesting.

"The intent of the buffers is to protect fish habitat and water quality," Sturgeon said. "Among other things, the

buffers are intended to control erosion, maintain bank stability and provide woody debris important to salmon rearing," he added. "Foresters and loggers not only enjoy the forest for its aesthetic

*(Continued to page 8)*

**Resource development report card  
on the incumbents ... see pages 5-7**



## Message from the Executive Director

by Becky L. Gay

POINT

COUNTERPOINT

RDC's upcoming 15th Annual Conference will feature a series of exciting debates and point-counterpoints on changing public policy issues and regulatory developments that will have near-term and long-term implications for Alaska's basic industries.

Set for November 17-18 at the Hotel Captain Cook in Anchorage, "Point-Counterpoint: Alaska Trends, Perspectives and Options," will examine key issues and other factors that will affect resource producers across Alaska. New federal access regulations, timber harvesting, oil and gas development, wetlands policy, the Endangered

The Resource Development Council (RDC) is Alaska's largest privately funded nonprofit economic development organization working to develop Alaska's natural resources in an orderly manner and to create a broad-based, diversified economy while protecting and enhancing the environment.

### Executive Committee Officers

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Writer & Editor  
 Carl Portman



Species Act and many more critical issues will be debated by speakers from both sides of the development and non-development equation.

In addition to exciting point-counterpoints and hot debates, the program includes interactive workshops, expert economic panels and accurate industry update reports. The conference is expected to attract decision-makers from business, industry and government, including legislators and regulators.

The two-day, Thursday-Friday event opens with a media workshop Thursday morning on environmental and natural resource issues. Panelists from the Anchorage Daily News, the Associated Press, the Alaska Public Radio Network and KTVA-Channel 11 will outline how to be more effective in communicating positions and ensuring better press coverage on issues important to industry and business. A second workshop will outline effective strategies for winning environmental and natural resource battles in Congress and the state Legislature. Experienced political analysts and the Alaska House Majority Leader will be on hand to deliver the strategies.

The first of two keynote luncheons will feature Alaska's new Governor-Elect while John Fund, Sr., Editorial Writer for the Wall Street Journal, will address "War for the West: The Frontier & Washington Collide" in the second-day lunch.

The Thursday afternoon segment of the conference will open with Dennis O'Brien, President of the U.S. Association of Energy Economists and President of Caltex Petroleum Company, speaking on World Oil and Gas: Supply, Demand and Price. Neal Fried of the Alaska Department of Labor will follow with an in-depth presentation, "Alaska Overview & Trends: Oil, Minerals, Timber and Tourism. Gunnar Knapp, an economist with the Institute

of Social and Economic Research, will address "Alaska Fisheries: Supply, Demand, Price and Politics."

The conference will continue Friday with a series of debates and point-counterpoints and a special panel of industry leaders examining current trends, opportunities and obstacles. The Alaska Forest Association, the Alaska Visitors Association, the Pacific Legal Foundation, Arctic Power and Cape Fox Corporation will debate and counter the National Wildlife Federation, the Southeast Alaska Conservation Council, the Alaska Rainforest Coalition and Greenpeace on issues ranging from federal wetlands policy, federal access regulations and phase out of fossil fuels to the Endangered Species Act and sustainable logging.

Participating in an insightful industry outlook panel are Ken Thompson, ARCO Alaska, Inc., Robert Loescher, Sealaska Corporation, Ralph Lewis, Ketchikan Pulp Company, Mary Nordale, Alaska Miners Association, Chuck Meacham, Jr., Alaska Department of Fish and Game and John Binkley, Alaska Visitors Association.

RDC's 15th Annual Conference promises to be the most exciting resource development conference of the year. RDC aims to build a broader understanding of diverse resource development and environmental perspectives through this stimulating, new program, which is dedicated to creating the links among people, politics, science and industry to advance the economy.

Your attendance and sponsorship of this event not only demonstrates your support, but allows RDC to continue its vital work year-round. To register for the conference, call RDC at 276-0700.

*(If you can take an extra day, on Wednesday, Nov. 16, the day before the RDC conference, the Hotel Captain Cook will be the site of the White House Conference on Small Business. Call the SBA at 271-4022 to register.) Come a day earlier and attend both!*

## Reflections and visions from a Past President

by Charles F. Herbert



*Editor's Note: Charles F. Herbert served as President of RDC in 1981. He served as the Commissioner of Natural Resources under Governor Bill Egan and has worked as an operator and mining consultant in Alaska, Canada and Central and South America.*

It was over 13 years ago that I sort of wandered into a one-year term as president of the Resource Development Council. That sounds like a very long time, which it is. So I suppose I can use elapsed time as an acceptable excuse for not doing a very good job of recalling specific events back in 1981.

In a chair-moving routine, I had replaced as president, Tom Fink, our former two-term close-call loser in the Republican gubernatorial race. Tom had closed a very successful year as president, a year in which RDC membership had grown and many problems had been tackled, so I was a little surprised when he told me to look out or Executive Director Paula Easley would "take over." Fact is, I had the idea that Paula was the RDC and had been all through the years during which the RDC had grown from a single issue group with the mystical name of OMAR to a lively, research-oriented organization with an increasingly authoritative voice on issues that affect resource use.

Tom Fink's reputation as a man with rock-hard opinions, well-protected from dilution by opposing argument, was well known. So again I was more than a little surprised when Tom Fink donned the robe of Mayor of all Anchorage and immediately installed Paula Easley in a senior staff position. To me that appointment seemed to be an endorsement of Paula's "take over" drive and the Resource Development Council.

An organization that is solely de-

## Looking back 13 years

*Looking back 13 years, it seems that many issues and many questions were raised on topics where we were certain that discerning people would accept reasonable answers and would have dismissed the woolly nonsense of no-growth. But the same issues and the same questions, continually embellished by fancy and immunized against fact, still remain targets of a stronger and better financed RDC.*

pendent on local contributions, as is the Resource Development Council, has a precarious life. Early during my term, a major financial supporter advised us that he found it difficult to assist the financing of many of the diverse resource issues on the staff's as well as the meeting's agenda; he preferred specific support for those topics most likely to affect his business. Fortunately, the commonality of resource interests argument won.

In spite of the stupid screamers, oil production is recognized by all but the dim-witted as being by far the most important financial asset of all Alaskans. State and local services, roads, railroads, airfields, docks, ferries and public safety, very largely financed by oil royalties and taxes, are the infrastructure that supports tourism, commercial fishing, mining and exploration, sport fishing and hunting and timber harvesting. Someday, the roles may be modified and other resource activities may become more prominent, but Alaska will always be a resource state.

During 1981, although still somewhat disturbed by the specter of financial uncertainty, the Executive Committee and Paula (meeting weekly in the comfortable quarters of the Laborers Union) managed to make progress in RDC's ability to furnish the staff with improved employment assurances and to build a modest cash reserve. The little old house at 7th and E was badly

crowded by staff and record storage, but better rental space would still be a long time coming. Nevertheless, both standing and special committees were active, meeting wherever they could. The enthusiasm with which volunteers offered their time, and not infrequently the cost of incidental expenses, was amazing.

Among the memorable events of 1981 was the great RDC train ride with blaring bands and a huge, enthusiastic crowd on the trip from Anchorage to the newly-developed industrial park in Seward. As I recall, RDC defeated the Greenies in a softball game -- at least that is how I want to recall the event. And, in early 1982, the well-attended Coal Conference drew public attention to Alaska's other huge energy resource, its vast coal fields.

Looking back 13 years, it seems that many issues and many questions were raised on topics where we were certain that discerning people would accept reasonable answers and would have dismissed the woolly nonsense of no-growth. But the same issues and the same questions, continually embellished by fancy and immunized against fact, still remain targets of a stronger and better financed Resource Development Council.

I am glad that Paula Easley did "take over" -- and I'll bet that Tom Fink is too.

# Industry, State oppose Tongass proposal

(Continued from page 5)

dependent communities," Nordlinger said. "Planning has gone on all summer long behind closed doors."

The EA proposes to create a series of large 40,000-acre and medium 10,000-acre habitat conservation areas where timber harvest would be prohibited. In addition, the EA proposes to create no harvest zones of 221.5 square miles around each goshawk nest found south of Frederick Sound (Admiralty Island). Other goshawk protection areas vary from 4,500 to 360,000 acres.

The Forest Service believes the conservation areas are needed to minimize further fragmentation of wildlife habitat. It also says it has no choice but to draw up conservation zones, pointing to the acceptance of the petitions by Fish and Wildlife Service to list the goshawk and wolf as threatened.

The Alaska Department of Fish and Game, however, says no evidence exists that the goshawk qualifies for listing as either threatened or endangered, based on information it has gathered to date in an intensive study of the ecology and habitat of the bird. In addition,

Fish and Game reports that wolf populations are not declining in Southeast, increasing 40 to 60 percent since 1989. It has told Fish and Wildlife Service that wolves are currently abundant and well distributed in the region and face no imminent threat of extirpation.

Meanwhile, environmentalists are complaining to the Forest Service that the proposal does not include the establishment of wildlife migration corridors for animals moving from one area of the forest to another. The Forest Service, however, noted that fringes of timber required to be left as buffers around rivers, streams, beaches and estuaries could serve as migration routes.

In a letter to Forest Service Chief Jack Ward Thomas, Governor Walter J. Hickel said that the Forest Service's actions relating to the new conservation zones are based not on science, but environmental politics.

"The Forest Service's newest restrictions threaten to transform economically vibrant, culturally diverse areas of Alaska into wilderness ghettos, rife with unemployment, poverty and despair," Hickel said. The Governor noted that the new restrictions will cut the available timber volume by almost 40 percent under that which is authorized under TLMP.

In a recent news release, outgoing AFA Executive Director Troy Reinhart said "It is conceivable that we are experiencing a burgeoning population of goshawk in Southeast, for all we know. Yet every new nest found raises a cry for more protection."

## Respond now, before it's too late

The deadline for commenting on the EA is Thursday, November 10. RDC has requested that the comment period be extended. Comments should be sent to: Interim Guidelines EA, Forest Plan Revision Team, 8465 Old Dairy Road, Juneau, AK 99801.

proposed regulations appeared in the Federal Register August 1.

Copies of the regulations may be obtained by contacting Tom Gorey at the BLM Public Affairs Office in Washington at 202-208-5717.

Comments should be mailed to U.S. Department of the Interior, Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, N.W., Room 5555, Washington, D.C. 20240.

RDC opposes the new regulations, as does the Alaska Miners Association and the State of Alaska.



Timber industry and community leaders across Southeast Alaska are questioning whether there will be enough commercial forestland in the Tongass to sustain a viable forest products industry. Over \$450 million circulate throughout the region annually as a result of industry activity. Above, a worker marks lumber at Ketchikan Pulp Company's sawmill at Ward Cove. (Photo by Carl Portman)

## Deadline for comments on access regulations approaching

The U.S. Department of the Interior is accepting comments on new draft regulations applying to RS-2477 rights-of-way in Alaska and the Lower 48 states up to November 15. The



## Thoughts from the President by David J. Parish

Ketchikan is a vibrant community facing some difficult questions on the economic horizon. The RDC board visited the city of 14,000 residents during the first week of October.

As with our August community outreach trip to Barrow, this visit provided valuable opportunity to learn first hand more about the issues impacting resource development across the state. It also allowed us to visit with our local membership and exchange views and insights on issues of mutual concern.

One of the most impressive projects we learned about is called Ketchikan 2004. This is a report compiled by a task force of local community and business leaders trying to chart a proper course for their community over the next ten years. While we've all seen similar studies and reports done in other parts of the state (only to gather dust on the shelves), our board was struck with something else about this effort. Ketchikan 2004 includes a series of goals for long-term economic growth - and specific plans for how to achieve that growth. Most importantly, there is a commitment from community leaders to follow-through and pursue these specifics and build upon the existing economic strengths of the region.

One of the primary strengths of the region is the timber industry. While RDC has been a long-time supporter of the timber and mineral industries in Southeast, we hope to do more in the future. RDC has been working long and hard on the Tongass Land Management Plan and related issues, including sustainable timber harvesting, access for mineral exploration and development and enhanced access for recreation and tourism. Unfortunately, all of these industries are again under assault.

Our visit enabled us to learn more about the latest withdrawal of lands from timber harvest, under the pretense of protecting the non-endangered and non-threatened northern goshawk and Alexander Archipelago wolf. The

## Ketchikan looks ahead



RDC gathers at Cape Fox Corporation's log transfer facility near Ketchikan. Pictured from left to right are Board Members Karen Hofstad, Ernesta Ballard, Jim Cloud, RDC Executive Director Becky Gay, President Dave Parish, Cindy Bailey, Doug Campbell (Cape Fox Corporation), Joe Henri, Steve Thompson (Alaska Pacific Trading Co.), Elizabeth Rensch, and RDC staff Carl Portman and Ken Freeman. (Photo by Steve Connelly)

See additional photos on page 4

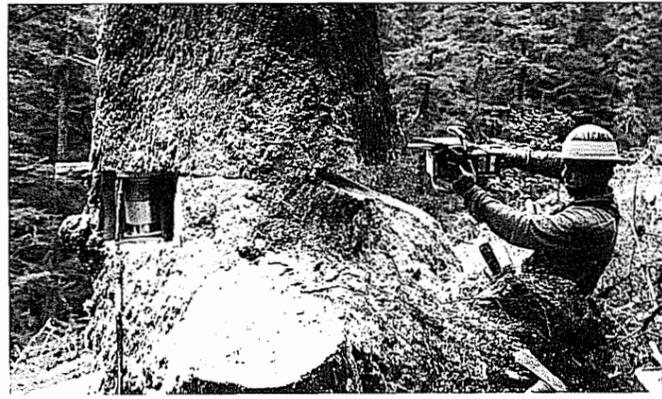
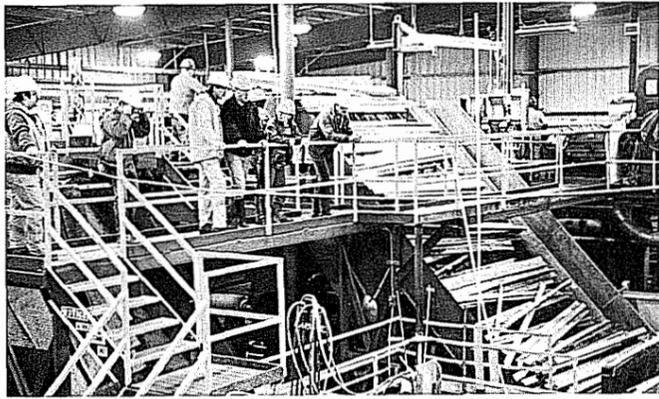
implications are significant, not just on public lands in Southeast, but on private lands as well. With two-thirds of the commercial timberlands within the Tongass already off-limits to any harvest, the Forest Service through a recently-released Environmental Assessment, is now planning to put more than 602,000 acres of the Tongass in new conservation zones.

The timber industry, the mainstay of the region's economy to the tune of \$450 million annually, strongly disagrees with the Forest Service that the new no-cut zones will have "no significant impact." The timber communities of Southeast are feeling the impact now as available timber sales have been halted or reduced. What's most discouraging is that available scientific evidence does not support the listing of the wolf or goshawk as either threatened or endangered.

The RDC tours of Cape Fox Corporation timber operations and the Ketchikan Pulp Mill left a vivid impression of how many local jobs are at stake. Not just due to more timber withdrawals on public land, but with the encroachment of increasing government-imposed land use restrictions on private land.

It was also made clear by the supporters of Ketchikan 2004 that the region's economic future is not solely linked to the timber industry. Limits on access and infrastructure are a problem, particularly on the travel, tourism and fishing fronts.

RDC remains committed to supporting economic and resource development throughout Alaska. A special thanks to RDC board member Ernesta Ballard and Ketchikan Pulp Company's Steve Connelly for making our outreach effort so successful.



RDC board members tour Ketchikan Pulp Company's sawmill at Ward Cove near Ketchikan. KPC sends high quality logs to its saw mill for processing into lumber while utilizing low-quality timber for its pulp operation. KPC is the largest year-round employer in Southeast.

Logger Jack Gabriel demonstrates his skill in harvesting a Sitka spruce on Cape Fox Corporation land near Ketchikan.

## RDC board members look over Ketchikan timber operations

Photos by  
Carl Portman



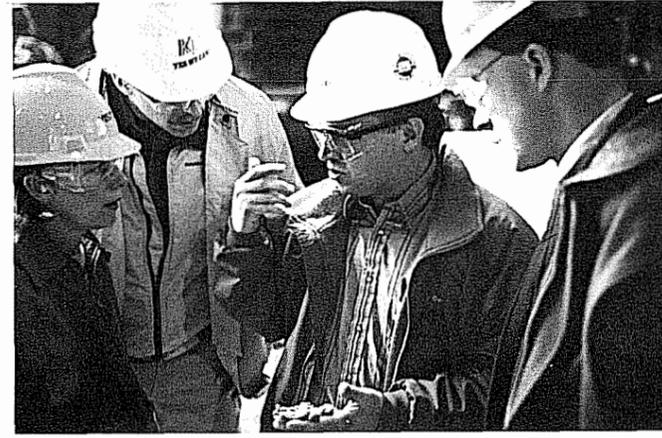
RDC President Dave Parish brands the Cape Fox insignia on a log at the company's log transfer facility. While in Ketchikan, Parish addressed timber, tourism, fishing, mining and other resource issues before the Ketchikan 2000 Rotary Club and met with local RDC members.



RDC Senior Vice President Elizabeth Rensch examines a sheet of pulp at the KPC mill. Pulp is used to make a wide range of consumer products.



RDC board member Ernesta Ballard, Chief Operating Officer of Cape Fox Corporation, explains to RDC staff and board members timber harvesting procedures on corporation lands in Southeast Alaska.



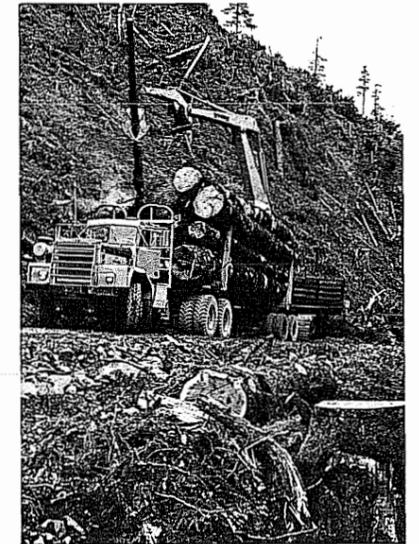
Rick Benner of Ketchikan Pulp Company shows RDC Executive Director Becky Gay a sample of pulp in a stage of processing at the company's mill. Looking on is KPC's Steve Connelly and RDC's Dave Parish (right). The company recently announced it will spend \$60 million to make its mill chlorine-free by the spring of 1996.

"Koncor receives no compensation for the millions of dollars lost to stream buffers and asks only that there be a direct public benefit to be gained from our loss, either in water quality or fish habitat. If there is no scientific benefit to be gained to the public, we should not be required to leave the trees. The government should have the burden of proof that harvesting trees will cause harm since they are taking private property for a public good."

**John Sturgeon, President,**  
Koncor Forest Products



Visitors view log transfer facility at McLeod Harbor on Montague Island. Koncor spent nearly six years permitting its Montague Island project. It will take the company about five years to log the project area, which represents a small fraction of the island. (Photos by C. Portman)



argue the rating shows how carefully the variation trees are selected. Sturgeon explained that Koncor's high approval rate is a direct result of the care and preparation that is taken before nominating any tree for harvest as a variation tree.

The company begins by evaluating the sensitivity of the stream and if the harvest of individually-selected trees

can be done without causing harm to the site. The process includes a thorough evaluation of ten habitat components established under state law, plus any additional site-specific conditions that may affect the ability to harvest the variation trees. The evaluation is performed by Koncor foresters with college degrees in forest management, as well as the company's environmental

manager who has a doctorate in ecosystem analysis. In areas with a high profile, Koncor will hire outside expertise in riparian interactions and fish habitat to provide additional insight into the short and long-term effects of harvesting timber. Only after such a careful analysis is any tree selected.

Sturgeon said a high approval rate by the State agencies should be expected from such a process.

"While some may question the approval rate by the State, the high percentage shows how well all the private timber owners are doing in protecting water quality and stream habitat," said Sturgeon. "We're only asking to harvest privately-owned trees that will not hurt the public resources."

"We have a deep respect for the forest and all its resources," Sturgeon said. "That is why we became foresters in the first place. Even as we leave trees to protect streams and rivers, we get a bum rap. However, we know that we are doing a good job on the lands that we manage, and, more importantly, so do the native owners of our company. The fish and the timber will be here long after this issue has faded."



Koncor and its contractors spent over \$7 million to build a 50-mile road from its log transfer facility at McLeod Harbor through its timber harvest area near Patton Bay. The road crosses 34 miles of Forest Service land that is off-limits to logging. As a condition of its permit, the company is required to "obliterate" the road and its river crossings when logging is completed. The road provides access to prime recreation sites on Montague. (Photo by Carl Portman)

# Company receives no compensation for leaving privately-owned trees in buffer strips

(Continued from page 1)

and recreation values, they also work in the forest year-round. Their future depends on a healthy forest, a new generation of trees and maintenance of fish and wildlife habitat."

Although Sturgeon, a former state forester, has always supported buffer zones, he believes there needs to be more flexibility in the delineation of the no-cut areas. Site-specific circumstances should be the deciding factor in determining the size of the buffer, not an arbitrary line. Sturgeon believes that some buffers may need to be wider, such as areas surrounding Kitoi Lake on Afognak Island where a hatchery receives its water. Other streams may be narrow or face a high risk of bank degradation due to blowdown, and thereby may do better with no standing trees within the riparian areas except for younger, vigorous trees. Sturgeon pointed to a number of buffer zones on Montague Island that have dry stream beds or small trickling streams. Some streams on the island were raised in excess of 30 feet by the 1964 earthquake and have been dry since.

Sturgeon has no argument against leaving private trees in buffer zones



On Montague Island, Koncor will leave over 7 million board feet of timber, valued at over \$5 million, in buffer zones on private lands where it is harvesting timber. (Photo: C. Portman)

which truly are contributing to fish habitat and water quality protection, but he takes exception to blanket requirements which force the company to leave its trees standing when the harvest of those trees will cause no significant harm.

"Koncor harvests timber only on private land and all the trees within our buffers are private property," Sturgeon said. "Koncor receives no compensation for the millions of dollars lost to stream buffers and asks only that there

be a direct public benefit to be gained from our loss, either in water quality or fish habitat. If there is no scientific benefit to be gained to the public, we should not be required to leave the trees. The government should have the burden of proof that harvesting trees will cause harm since they are taking private property for a public good."

The State Forest Practices Act does allow timber to be harvested within buffer zones where the harvest is not likely to cause significant harm to fish habitat or water quality. Trees that can be harvested within the buffer areas are called "variation trees." These trees are nominated by the private timber owner, then individually inspected by both the Alaska Department of Fish and Game (ADF&G) and the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Each individual tree is inspected to determine if its removal can occur without causing significant harm.

The timber owners have been very careful in their selection of the variance trees. As a result, ADF&G reports that of the 5,667 variation trees that have been requested for harvest in Region I since 1990, 4,470 were approved for harvest — an 83 percent approval rating. Whereas environmentalists have lambasted this approval rating as showing favoritism, private timber owners



Touring Montague Island timber operations are from left to right Tom Boutin, State Forester, Senator Fred Zharoff, John Sturgeon, Thyes Shaub, Al Foutch, Jack Phelps, Rep. Shawn Parnell and Senator Loren Leman. Standing overhead are Rep. Jeanette James and Becky Gay. (Photo by Carl Portman)

# RDC, AFA oppose Tongass proposal

## RDC urges members to write Forest Service asking it to withdraw EA

The Resource Development Council has joined the Alaska Forest Association in calling for the U.S. Forest Service to withdraw a recently-released Environmental Assessment (EA) which proposes to put more than 600,000 acres of the Tongass National Forest into habitat conservation zones.

The Forest Service proposal seeks to reduce the land available for timber harvest by about one-third in order to create conservation zones for the northern goshawk and the Alexander Archipelago wolf. Already two-thirds of the commercial timberlands in the Tongass are closed to logging. Of the one-third open to harvest, logging is further limited by 100-foot buffers along rivers and streams, 500-foot buffers along beach fringes, and 1,000-foot buffers around estuaries.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service recently accepted petitions from Outside environmental groups to list the goshawk and wolf as threatened under the Endangered Species Act, even though populations of both are healthy and not in danger. Timber industry leaders and the State of Alaska Department of Fish and Game say no evidence exists that the northern goshawk qualifies for listing as either threatened or endangered, nor does local knowledge or available scientific evidence support the listing of the wolf.

The proposal for new conservation zones is outlined in the "preferred alternative" of the EA, which contains guidelines for interim management of the



Loggers in the Tongass National Forest fear a proposal to create new habitat conservation zones will aggravate a timber supply shortage for local mills. Two-thirds of the commercial forested lands in the Tongass are already closed to harvest. (Photo by Carl Portman)

forest until the Tongass Land Management Plan (TLMP) is completed late next year or in 1996.

RDC is asking its statewide membership to write the Forest Service asking that it withdraw the EA and prepare an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) with a full disclosure of all scientific views and economic impacts. RDC is also requesting a full range of options, backed up with scientific evidence demonstrating sufficient need for any conservation zones. RDC believes that any needed management changes should be done under the full revision process for TLMP.

Marieke Nordlinger, Communications Director of the Alaska Forest Association, pointed out that social and

economic impacts are not addressed in the EA. She said reducing the available harvest lands by one-third will result in the loss of a significant number of jobs, including the continued closure of the Wrangell sawmill.

The Forest Service claims its interim measure will not affect timber harvest, but Nordlinger noted it already has, halting or reducing available sales across Southeast. She charged that the EA was predetermined and has already been applied to the Tongass, noting a June 30, 1994 timber sale program reflects interim management guidelines.

"Illegal implementation by the Forest Service of interim measures has already affected timber harvesters and

(Continued to page 10)

## Report card shows how incumbents voted on issues

The Resource Development Council has published an analysis of how Alaska legislators voted last session on key resource development and environmental issues. The analysis not only outlines how each legislator voted on bills that were a high priority to RDC and the resource development community, it presents an overall score for each legislator, based on preferred or negative stands on the issues.

The Alaska Environmental Lobby (AEL) has compiled a report card defining the 18th Alaska Legislature and its sensitivity to environmental concerns. As a comparative analysis for our readers, the AEL's overall ratings for each legislator are printed adjacent to RDC's ratings on pages 6-7 of this newsletter. The two reports should prove helpful to RDC members and others as they consider the positions of incumbents on critical issues facing Alaska's economy. Please remember to vote on Tuesday, November 9.

# How the incumbents voted on resource development issues

(Key: + = Favorable vote, - = Unfavorable vote, E = Excused absence, A = Absent)

Legislator	HB 199 Large Block Leasing	HB 183 FBKS to Nome Transportation Corridor	HB 201 Mental Health Trust Lands Settlement	HB 213 Closures to Mineral Entry	HB 259 Municipal Entitlement	HJR 55 Tongass Timber Harvests	HJR 56 PACFISH Exemption Resolution	SB 178 Restricting Legal Action	SB 215 Oil Spill Response Fund	SB 308 Resource Disposal Best Interests Findings	SB 310 Forest Management Agreements	SB 382 Mental Health Lands Trust (Special session)	Overall Rating on RDC priorities
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**How the Alaska  
Environmental Lobby  
rated legislators**  
AEL scores reflect how legislators voted on  
environmental issues, of which many were  
the same as those in RDC's summary.

Sen. Adams	-	-	A	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10%
Donley	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27
Duncan	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	100
Ellis	E	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Frank	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Halford	+	+	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	92
Jacko	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Kelly	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Kertula	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	17
Leman	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Lincoln	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	33
Little	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	25
Miller	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Pearce	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Phillips	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Rieger	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Salo	+	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	54
Sharp	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Taylor	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Zharoff	-	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	-	-	45
Rep. Barnes	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100%
Brice	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	82
Brown	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Bunde	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Carney	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	50
Davidson	A	-	+	-	A	A	A	-	-	-	-	-	14
Davies	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
B. Davis	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	73
G. Davis	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Finkelstein	-	-	+	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	18
Foster	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Green	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Grussendorf	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	64
Hanley	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Hoffman	A	-	+	-	A	E	A	-	-	-	-	-	57
Hudson	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
James	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Kott	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Larson	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Mackie	+	-	+	-	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	70
MacLean	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	90
Martin	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	91
Menard	-	+	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	60
Moses	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	91
Mulder	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Navarre	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	40
Nicholia	E	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	50
Nordlund	+	-	+	-	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	54
Oberg	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Olberg	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Parnell	+	+	+	+	+	+	E	+	+	+	+	+	100
Phillips	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Porter	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Sanders	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Sitton	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	73
Therault	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Toohay	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Ulmer	+	-	+	-	E	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	44
Vezev	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Williams	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	100
Willis	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	80