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Everett Edwardsen Inupiat Child

Cora Leavitt Inupiat Elder "Aaka"

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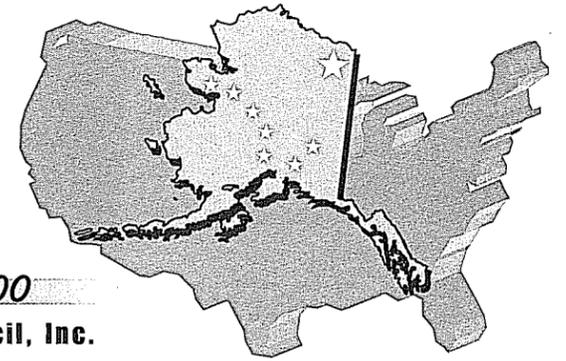
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# Resource Review

June 2000

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## Arctic Summit: Develop resources, but protect subsistence and Native culture

Community and Native corporation leaders in Alaska's Arctic have cautiously endorsed plans to develop the region's vast natural resources, but warned that development must occur with sensitivity and respect to the culture and traditional lifestyles of local residents.

"We support development, but we are adamant about one thing — protection of our traditional way of life," North Slope Mayor George Ahmaogak told those attending the Arctic Economic Development Summit in Kotzebue April 18-19. "Let's develop our resources while protecting subsistence — it's a win-win situation for all of us."

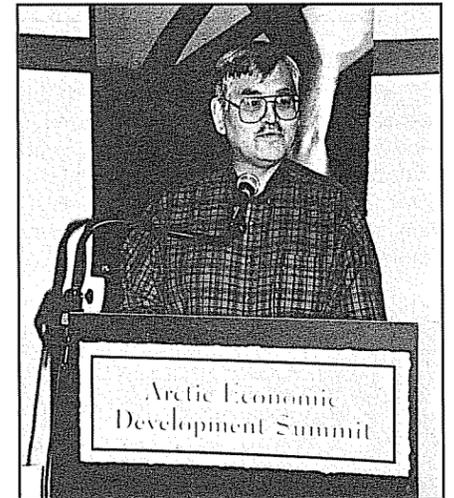
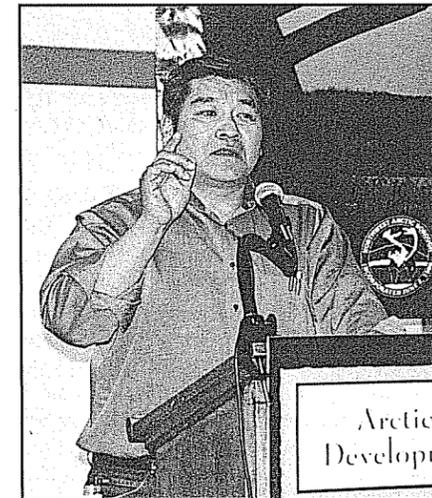
Ahmaogak explained that many North Slope residents were opposed to development before North Slope oil fields came on line.

"We were against development before Prudhoe Bay, but look where we are now," Ahmaogak said. "We have the best of both, development and subsistence. We have preserved our way of life."

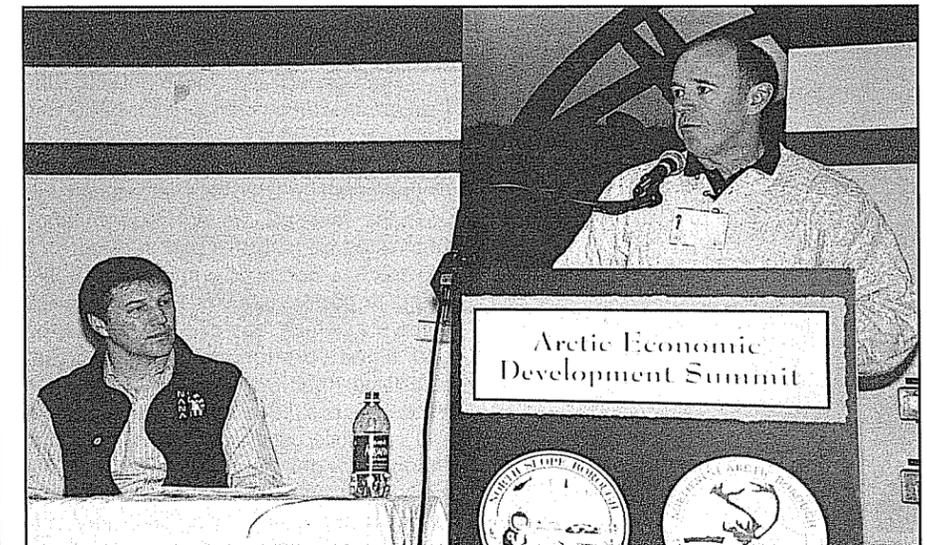
Maggie Ahmaogak, Executive Director of the Alaska Eskimo Whaling Commission, told summit delegates that while in many cases it is possible to develop "non-living" resources in the Arctic without harming the environment or subsistence, traditional knowledge of Native residents must be used to influence actions and decisions.

"We have learned that our traditional knowledge can guide scientific research

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North Slope Borough Mayor George Ahmaogak, left, and Arctic Slope Regional Corporation President Jacob Adams, right, address summit delegates. Below, Red Dog General Manager John Key speaks. To his left is Northwest Arctic Borough Mayor Chuck Greene.



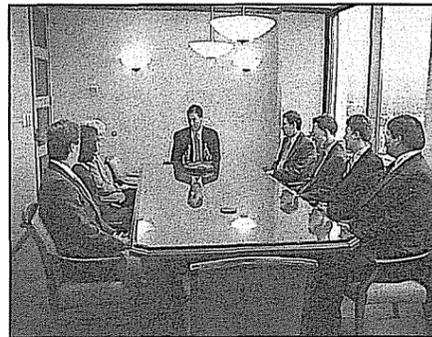


## Message from the Executive Director by Ken Freeman

# Permitting fees structure to improve

Thanks to an unprecedented cooperative effort by industry and government, legislation sponsored by RDC this past session to bring about additional predictability and accountability in the way state permitting fees are assessed was unanimously passed by both the House and Senate and recently signed into law by Governor Knowles. The governor's signature on the bill concluded a two-year process to improve the way permitting fees are administered by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

While industry recognized its responsibility to pay for the services it receives, the issue of allocating program costs between the public and the regulated community remained unresolved. RDC was tasked with building multi-industry consensus on legislation designed to deal



Governor Tony Knowles prepares to sign HB 361 before an RDC delegation in May.

with state agency permit fees. Sealaska Corporation had taken an earlier lead on the issue with a draft bill known as the "Permittee Bill of Rights." The concepts articulated in the draft served as the starting point for the RDC work group's subsequent discussions.

Included in RDC's work group were representatives from Sealaska, Council of Alaska Producers, Alaska Coal Association, Alaska Forest Association, Alaska Miners Association, Alaska Oil & Gas Association and Pacific Seafood Processors Association. This group convened on a regular basis for over a year to develop a permit fees structure based on predictability and accountability. The group recognized DEC would have to be able to effectively implement the legislation if any benefits to the public were to be accrued.

Throughout the development stage, the fees group worked closely with ADEC and Governor Knowles' office, as well as Representative Gene Therriault. Representative Therriault introduced HB 361, the fees bill, as a House Finance Committee bill early this past session.

HB 361 does not grant any new fee-charging power, rather it restructures the manner in which fees can be constructed and billed through several important objectives. First, it requires DEC to establish a schedule of fixed fees for relatively simple and repetitive regulatory activities. This change provides the regulated community more predictability in determining the costs to permit an activity. Also, DEC may only

charge for activities directly associated with providing a given service.

Secondly, recognizing that not all services provided by DEC lend themselves to fixed fees, the bill directs the agency to enter into negotiations to determine the costs of complex or controversial permitting activities. In the event that negotiations are unsuccessful, the bill requires the agency to bill on a strict time and expenses basis for the work. We believe this system will act as an incentive to both DEC and the permittee to conduct good-faith negotiations.

Third, the bill requires that DEC produce auditable invoices. Services billed on a time and expenses basis will require monthly invoices. Some negotiated fees will also incorporate the use of invoices. This requirement makes the costs of providing regulatory services more transparent to the public and establishes more thorough accountability on behalf of the agency.

I would like to stress the productive working relationship our work group experienced with both the legislature and the administration in the development and passage of HB 361. Our group worked with DEC, DNR, the Department of Law, OMB and DGC to fine-tune the bill, and we owe a debt of gratitude to those agencies for their time and efforts. A special thanks goes to Commissioner Michele Brown, Barbara Frank, Janice Adair and Tom Chapple for all of their time.

All of the participants of the RDC work group also played a critical role throughout the process and we would like to thank them for all of their hard work.

A very big thank you goes to Bob Stiles, the chairman of the fees group, who played a critical role during the drafting stage and in HB 361's final passage. Thanks also to Dave Parish for his help this session and to the many members of the Legislature who aided in the crafting of HB 361 in House and Senate Finance Committees and in the Senate Resources Committee. Senator Pete Kelly carried the legislation for RDC in the Senate.

HB 361 was a true consensus success story because of all the hard work on behalf of many of our members, the Legislature and the Administration.

## Guest Opinion

by Mayor George Ahmaogak  
North Slope Borough



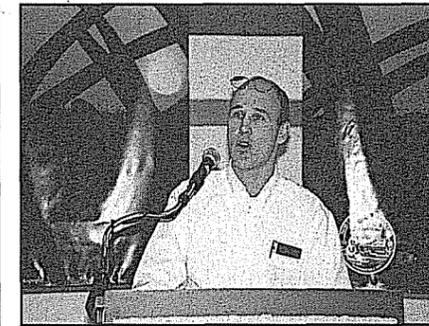
# Arctic Summit accomplishes its goals, provides new opportunities

The North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough, along with local residents and Alaska business leaders, participated in a historic event hosted by the generous people of Kotzebue.

The inaugural Arctic Economic Development Summit was designed to bring together our two boroughs, which are home to the premier resource development projects - and potential projects - in Alaska.

Our goals were to establish local guidelines for future development that take into account our cultural, subsistence and economic needs; hear from those in the business community that would like to bring projects to our region; open a dialogue to build relationships; and bring a greater understanding of our options. All of these goals were accomplished - and much more.

One of the most significant aspects of the summit occurred on the first day, when local leaders discussed issues of regional importance and established the mission of the summit. Another critical element that made the summit a success was the participation of village residents from across the North Slope



Richard Glenn, Director of Energy Management for the North Slope Borough, addresses viable energy alternatives for rural communities.

and Northwest Arctic regions.

Without a doubt, the summit provided local leaders and residents the opportunity to meet and hear from major project operators and proponents, and for those individuals and businesses to learn about our values and concerns regarding future development.

But this summit won't be the end of the road with respect to this process we began. The two boroughs have passed a joint resolution adopting the mission of the summit and will be considering the next steps to move forward jointly on future projects - always incorporating local values into the process.

We plan to host another summit, which will be held in Barrow, to further define not only the variety of positive projects that could bring economic growth to our regions, but ways that we as local governments can participate to make those projects a reality.

This is the kind of self-determination and local control that will make resource development in Alaska's north successful, economically-viable and a model for other governments worldwide to follow.



Lt. Governor Fran Ulmer addresses Summit delegates.

## CIRI Foundation publishes Growing Up Native in Alaska

The CIRI Foundation has published "Growing Up Native in Alaska," which features oral history interviews with 27 young Alaska Natives who represent each of the 13 Native regions. The book, authored by CIRI historian Alexandra J. McClanahan, focuses on identity and what it means to be an Alaska Native today.

The foreword of the book is written by CIRI President and CEO Carl Marrs, who says, "Growing Up Native in Alaska is a way to bring the voices of younger Alaska Natives and all their perspectives to the forefront."

All of the participants were born between 1957 and 1976 and were selected for the book based on their potential as leaders and because of their struggle in one way or another with their Alaska Native background. Some have grown up in urban environments or Native villages, while others have ties to both.

All proceeds from the sale of the book will benefit The CIRI Foundation. The CIRI Foundation has also published another book by McClanahan, "Our Stories, Our Lives," which details the lives of 23 Alaska Native elders who are also CIRI shareholders.

## Roadless policy...

(Continued from page 5)

undertaken." Green efforts will also target tourists on Alaska cruises.

Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman defended the proposed policy. "The President made it clear not to turn the national forests into museums, rather to move to protect roadless areas and to continue to responsibly manage timber activity," Glickman said.

The Forest Service is now soliciting comments on the plan which will affect 155 national forests in 39 states. During an initial comment period last year, the agency received more than 365,000 comments, most were form letters or post cards from members of environmental groups advocating a road ban and an end to logging.

In Alaska, the Forest Service will hold a series of public meetings on the issue, including a public hearing in Anchorage June 28. A schedule of meetings is available on the internet at [www://roadless.fs.fed.us](http://www://roadless.fs.fed.us) or by calling the Chugach National Forest at 271-2500.

RDC strongly encourages its members to submit written comments and to testify on the issue. An Action Alert will be released soon. The public comment period closes July 17.

Resource Review is the official periodic publication of the Resource Development Council (RDC), 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.

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RDC is located at 121 W. Fireweed, Suite 250, Anchorage, AK 99503, (907) 276-0700. Fax: 276-3887. Material in this publication may be reprinted without permission provided appropriate credit is given.

RDC's e-mail address:  
[resources@akrdc.org](mailto:resources@akrdc.org)  
RDC's web site address:  
[www.akrdc.org](http://www.akrdc.org)

Writer & Editor  
Carl Portman

## Habitat proposal is troubling to industry

Alaska's resource industries, including oil, gas, mining and fishing, are deeply concerned about a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service proposal to designate 74,539 square miles of coastal Alaska, including much of the North Slope and NPR-A, as critical habitat for Spectacled Eiders, a threatened sea duck that nests in Alaska.

In addition, the federal government is proposing to designate 25,000 square miles of northern Alaska, as well as the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta, Kodiak Island and lower Cook Inlet as critical habitat for the Steller Eider.

Under the Endangered Species Act, a critical habitat designation establishes a geographic area for the conservation of a threatened or endangered species and may require special management considerations or protection.

The proposal to establish the critical habitat areas grew out of an out-of-court settlement from a lawsuit filed by two environmental groups.

The federal government concedes that neither the Spectacled nor Steller Eider's habitat in Alaska is limited. While the waterfowl may have suffered due to habitat limitations elsewhere, in Alaska its range is vast and is not threatened.

The sheer size of the proposed designations seriously concerns RDC. "We believe a designation of this magnitude should be based on sound science, not a legal compromise," said Tadd Owens, Projects Coordinator.

## EPA report misleading

A recent EPA report which ranks the Red Dog mine number five in the nation for the release of toxic chemicals into the environment is misleading because of how the agency defines "release."

"We're the world's largest zinc mine, and we move a lot of rock," said Charlotte MacCay, Cominco Alaska's environmental manager in Alaska. "The vast majority of the material at the mine remains in its natural state."

MacCay explained that the zinc and lead the EPA's Toxic Release Inventory report refers to are naturally occurring substances contained in the rock at Red Dog. Some of the rock is not commercially viable, so it is safely stockpiled in an impoundment area. Even though the substances contained in the rock are not actually released into the environment, EPA still considers it a release. Very little toxic waste actually leaves the mine site.



## Guest Opinion

by Mayor Chuck Greene  
Northwest Arctic Borough

## Summit will lead to strategy on future development in the Arctic

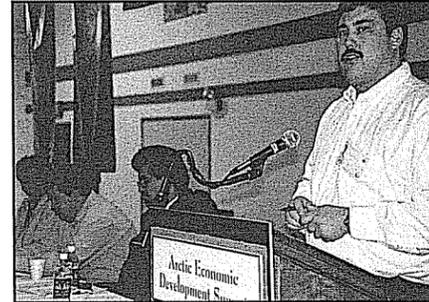
The Northwest Arctic Borough was pleased to welcome local leaders, state and federal officials and many Alaska business leaders to the first Arctic Economic Development Summit. The Summit more than met its purpose of establishing a direction for developing future resource projects within the Arctic while maintaining our traditional lifestyle preferences.

In addition to being the first joint rural based summit to focus on economic issues, it provided the opportunity for our respective borough residents to participate in the discussions about resource development and define their expectations. It also brought in many key decision-makers and investors to hear first hand about the cultural values we hold about our land, natural resources, family lifestyle, and the inter-connection we have with our Arctic environment.

Our boroughs are blessed with abundant natural resources, and two world-class developments are located here: Prudhoe Bay and the Red Dog Mine. We recognize that more opportunities exist in the Alaskan Arctic. We also know that it is important to involve and respect the values of our people when future projects are being developed on our homelands.

This historic Summit provided the opportunity to set a foundation of developing future strategies which are sensitive to the Arctic environment, show respect for the cultural lifestyle, and demonstrate the value of working together with the local people.

Something special happened and we each experienced a positive energy. We felt it when we watched the very young Nikaitchuat School Dancers-- who reminded us that the future is for



Andy Baker, Chair of the Northwest Arctic Borough Assembly, speaks out at summit.

their benefit - and the experienced Nuvukmiut Dancers who brought the ancient traditions for us to keep in mind. We felt it as we listened to local leaders, state and federal officials, and experienced and common residents. We worked together to list future development expectations and document the values to incorporate as considering factors in the pursuit of large-scale development projects. This inclusive momentum, which began at the Summit, is what will help carry us as we continue to move forward.

To continue this process, the Northwest Arctic and North Slope Boroughs will meet jointly in June to review the proceedings report and set more direction to help us reach consensus regarding economic options for this vast Arctic region of our state. Together, we will actively work toward developing a strategy for future resource and economic development. We will take into account our stewardship of the environment and the respect for and preservation of our culture and traditions.

We look forward to working with our friends and neighbors in the North Slope Borough and many of you who came to Kotzebue to participate in this important event. Quyanaqpak.



## Thoughts from the President

by Jim Branch

## RDC celebrates 25th anniversary

In 1975, Alaska was a young, struggling state. A new road had just been punched through to the newly-discovered Prudhoe Bay oil field, but the Trans-Alaska pipeline was still two years from completion. Anchorage was half its current size and the state budget was a fraction of what it is today. In those days Alaskans were paying a state income tax and the Permanent Fund Dividend did not exist. Yet those were exciting times for Alaskans as the young 49th state looked to the future with great anticipation.

A small group of visionary Alaskans, led by Anchorage businessman Bob Penny and broadcaster Robert Fleming, realized the potential of this vast land and were committed to helping Alaska achieve a rewarding, stable and diversified economy. In 1975 they formed the Organization for the Management of Alaska's Resources (OMAR) to advocate an all-Alaska gas pipeline route from the North Slope to Valdez. But within three years the single-issue organization soon grew into the Resource Development Council, a multi-dimensional statewide force known for its effectiveness and influence on a wide range of public policy and resource development issues.

Today Alaska is a bustling state. Anchorage's population has doubled, infrastructure has expanded and basic necessities have finally come to many rural communities. Alaska now supplies America with 20 percent of its domestic oil production, nearly half of its seafood and strategic minerals for its industries. With 62% of all federal Wilderness and the world's strongest environmental regulations, Alaska has demonstrated to America that while its economy is largely based on resource development, environmental protection and economic development are not mutually exclusive.

RDC has worked for 25 years to grow Alaska's economy through responsible resource development. On its silver anniversary, RDC has become one of the largest statewide pro-development organizations in Alaska with members spanning all geographic and economic sectors. Our ranks include individuals, local communities, labor unions, Native corporations, trade associations and companies of all sizes.

The wide representation of social, geographic and economic groups allows RDC to address a broad range of issues with input from all concerned perspectives, including local communities in which individual members reside.

Over the years, RDC has been known for its ability to bring together diverse interests to advocate on behalf of each other. It has a proven track record of linking every resource sector to work for a common cause, to help each other fight against unreasonable policies and regulations. It makes a big

difference in the decision-making process when we can call on fishermen, loggers, miners, laborers and others to testify at public hearings to advocate development in industries other than their own.

RDC has been driven by the belief that federal, state and private land in Alaska should be managed to produce a standard of living that allows Alaskans to partake in the good things the land is capable of providing. RDC has not excluded wilderness, the environment or wildlife from the equation, but has advocated a balance between these resources and the public's need for minerals, timber, fish, tourism and petroleum.

RDC actions have ranged from influencing the d-2 lands settlement to federal wetlands policy, regulatory reform, and land management plans. RDC was one of the major players in forming the Alaska Coalition for American Energy Security, and later Arctic Power, to lead the ANWR campaign.

Today RDC is an active and effective participant in the federal and state legislative process. Through its oversight of the Alaska Minerals and Energy Resource Education Fund (AMEREF), RDC has maintained and built upon a private sector partnership with the State to advance a highly-valued and respected resource education curriculum in schools.

Over the past two decades, RDC has held more than 1,000 public breakfast forums on a wide range of topics. The Council's education and advocacy efforts have included more than 20 major conferences on Alaska's resources, bringing together diverse interests to address issues and opportunities. In addition, RDC staff and board members have prepared hundreds of verbal and written comments before public and private hearings on a wide array of issues. More than twenty presidents and four executive directors have taken the reins of RDC over the years, and hundreds of Alaskans have served on the organization's board.

As RDC celebrates its 25th anniversary, its mission and energy is needed more than ever before. Millions of dollars are aligned against those of us in Alaska who believe we can develop our state's natural resources while protecting the environment. Our desire for a rewarding, stable and diversified economy is at risk. There is no other state in the nation where the economy is so dependent on resource development. There is no other state where development issues are so hotly debated and contested. That is why RDC will continue to be a strong advocate for Alaska.

Join RDC June 8 in Anchorage as we reflect on the past, look forward into the future and celebrate all that we can become. Happy anniversary to all those committed, hard-working Alaskans who are RDC.

# Hundreds gather in Kotzebue for Arctic Summit

(Continued from page 1)

in the Arctic," Ahmaogak said. She urged industry and government regulators to take local knowledge seriously and to use it to steer development.

Helvi Sandvik, President of NANA Development Corporation, explained that while the Arctic has an abundance of natural resources and untapped opportunities, it is a harsh, yet sensitive environment in which to live and do business. She said economic development in the Arctic requires a long-term and coordinated strategy, sensitivity toward the environment, and respect and understanding of the culture, traditions and lifestyles of local residents.

Sandvik reported unemployment in Northwest Alaska ranges from 20 to 70 percent and that life remains difficult for many residents. She pointed out that local economies are still largely undeveloped.

In its agreement with Cominco Alaska to develop mineral deposits on its land at Red Dog, NANA made several stipulations.

"Our priorities were simple: Protect subsistence, provide jobs, preserve the traditional lifestyle, provide training for shareholders, and last, royalties," Sandvik said.

The Red Dog mine, which is the largest zinc and lead ore deposit in the world, is located 90 miles northeast of Kotzebue. The mine has achieved 58 percent NANA shareholder hire. It provides a \$13 million annual payroll in the region and another \$20 million payroll elsewhere in Alaska. In addition, Cominco pays \$4 million per year in payments to the Northwest Arctic Borough.

Cominco has paid about \$50 million in royalties since production started at Red Dog in 1989, \$25 million to NANA and the rest to 200 other Native village and regional corporations.

The Arctic Summit brought together local leaders, representatives from the state and federal government,



Native dancers from Barrow, Kotzebue, Point Hope and other villages presented traditional dances to summit attendees. Both the young and elders participated in the dances. At right, RDC's Paul Glavinovich helps out with a dog team on the Bering Sea ice. Races were held following the first day of the summit. (Photos by Carl Portman)



and industry to share visions of economic development in Arctic Alaska. In addition to subsistence, traditional lifestyles and village concerns, the summit also addressed development of natural resources, alternative energy and infrastructure development.

John Key, Cominco's general manager in Alaska, told summit delegates that several more major mines could be developed in the region if needed infrastructure is built. The new projects would require an expansion of a port facility on the Chukchi Sea coast that was built to handle seasonal shipments of Red Dog ore. They would also require development of a new energy source in the region.

Diesel-powered generation like that now used at Red Dog would be insufficient to power a new mining process Cominco hopes to employ in the development of new mines. Two of the known deposits in the area have ore characteristics that are unsuitable for the existing mill at Red Dog to handle. The new process makes the mining of these ores economical, but large amounts of electricity are needed for the operation.

Arctic Slope Regional Corporation (ASRC) and Cominco are discussing

the development of a coal-fired power plant to serve the region, using coal from giant deposits of high-quality bituminous coal on company lands 90 miles north of the Red Dog mine. With electrical generation and the application of the new mining process, ore from the mines would be manufactured into a zinc product at the site, allowing the finished product to be shipped directly to customers abroad rather than ore concentrates being shipped to a smelter.

Red Dog manager Key and ASRC geologist Theresa Imm pointed out that once the electrical grid is established to serve mines in the region, it could be expanded to serve local villages, including Kotzebue. Expansion of the port would also allow for the import of fuels and other goods, lowering the cost of such items to local villages.

Fuel arriving at the port would be flown to the villages. Currently fuel is shipped to just off Kotzebue, transferred to small barges and then shipped up rivers to villages in even smaller barges. In some years, barges are unable to reach some villages, requiring fuel to be flown in from Fairbanks.

The port and power project, as well as the new mines, would lead to more job opportunities for local residents,

improvements to basic necessities and increased revenues to local communities and government.

Both Imm and Key emphasized the need for education and training of local residents. "We'll need skilled people to operate these mines and the power plant," Key said. "Importing these skills may be a short-term answer but not a long-term solution."

Other speakers agreed and urged more Native hiring and training for management positions, as well as partnerships between resource developers and local corporations.

Summit speakers also addressed North Slope projects, including the Northstar and Alpine oil fields, as well as potential projects to commercialize North Slope natural gas. Mayor Ahmaogak noted the North Slope Borough has successfully worked with the oil industry to address local concerns, protect subsistence and preserve local traditions. "We've set an example on the Slope," Ahmaogak said. "It's a success story."

Joe Nukapignak, Vice President for the Kuukpik Corporation of Nuiqsut, pointed out that ASRC, the North Slope Borough, and the state and federal governments have benefited greatly from oil development. He noted that his village of Nuiqsut has benefited specifically from Alpine development, jobs, new business opportunities and access to natural gas for home heating.

Jacob Adams, President of ASRC, told the summit that resource development must go hand in hand with traditional village life. "The cash economy is now part of every community," Adams said. "We will continue to rely heavily on subsistence, but without cash there is no means to pursue subsistence."

Several hundred people attended the summit. More than a dozen RDC members outside the region participated.

"We've come to learn and we're here with open minds," said RDC Executive Director Ken Freeman.

The summit was hosted by the North Slope Borough and the Northwest Arctic Borough, in conjunction with RDC.

# Tongass exempt, Chugach included in proposed road ban

Although the Tongass National Forest has been excluded from a proposed ban on new roads in roadless areas of national forests, loggers and other multiple use interests are not celebrating.

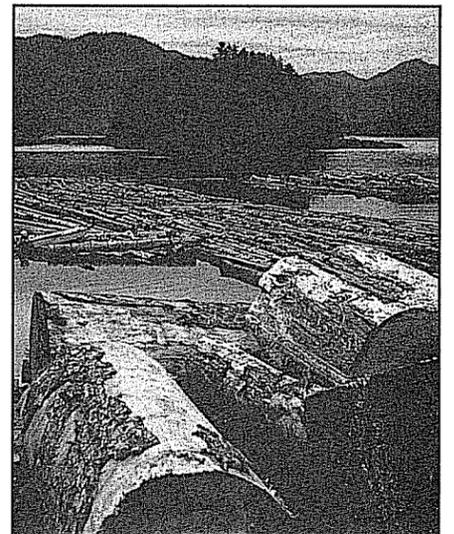
The Forest Service recently released a draft environmental impact statement on President Clinton's sweeping policy to prohibit road construction in inventoried roadless areas of national forests. On the Tongass, a decision to apply the prohibitions would be postponed until the five-year Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan review in 2004. At that time, the forest supervisor would determine whether the road ban should be applied to any or all of the unroaded portions of the Tongass.

Meanwhile, the Chugach National Forest has been included in the proposal to ban new roads on 43 million acres of non-roaded Forest Service lands. At 5.3 million acres, the Chugach — the nation's second largest forest — is 98 percent roadless with just 377 miles of roads.

A ban on new roads in the Chugach would basically turn the forest into a giant de facto wilderness area, preventing the Forest Service from building needed infrastructure to meet increasing recreational demands. It would also prohibit new roads to clear beetle-killed timber and to implement forest management practices to restore forest health.

Despite a steadily increasing population in Southcentral Alaska and a growing visitor industry, the Chugach would remain as it is today with virtually no new options for reasonable-access recreational opportunities. Outside of long-distance backpacking, most activity would be confined to about two percent of the forest which is currently accessible to most people. Opportunities to disperse visitation outside the few accessible heavily-used corridors would be lost.

RDC, the Alaska Forest Association and the Alaska Miners Association, as



For now, the Tongass is exempt from the proposed roadless policy.

well as Governor Tony Knowles and the state legislature and other interests, want both the Tongass and Chugach excluded from the road ban. The Forest Service has agreed for now to leave out the Tongass, in part because the ban would have closed off much of the small area of the forest remaining open to logging. Those areas represent only a tiny fraction of areas previously available to logging. A road ban would make it impossible for the Forest Service to meet contractual obligations and provide enough timber to meet market demand. Moreover, the new Tongass plan reserved wide swaths of the forest for wildlife and habitat preservation.

While Alaskans are relieved that the Tongass was excluded from the ban, many are worried that the administration may reverse itself and include the forest in the prohibition when a final decision is released this fall. Environmental groups are launching a huge campaign in the Lower 48 urging the public to call for inclusion of the Tongass in the policy and to demand an end to all logging in roadless areas. The Sierra Club says the campaign will be the "largest citizen mobilization the environmental community has ever

(Continued to page 7)