



Haines Borough Administration

Tom Bolen, Manager

(907)766-2231 • Fax(907)766-2716

tbolen@haines.ak.us

Manager's Report

August 7, 2009

General

The administration continues to work with the Chilkoot Indian Association on ways to access IRR funds for road related projects. We appear to have made good progress towards getting about \$1 million in reimbursement for road projects and road maintenance already completed. What we will need next is an agreement to provide a mechanism for the Borough to pass funds back to CIA for use in a Water & Sewer Main Extension, or a mechanism whereby the Haines Borough could build these mains using these funds. The Borough Attorney has been assigned the task of identifying suitable mechanisms to move this effort forward.

Departmental Notes

A. Finance:

- The CFO, with assistance from other staff, has made initial application for water project funds for the Lily Lake Raw Waterline Project from ADEC.
- Takshunuk Watershed Council has provided the Borough with a report of their activities utilizing Title III Forest Receipts. A copy is attached for your review.

B. Legal:

- The Borough has received notice that Chilkoot Lumber, Inc. has filed a civil action against the Borough regarding its property tax disagreement on its Lutak industrial property. The Borough has filed liens on several parcels and has listed these properties for foreclosure. The borough attorney has until August 24th to file a response.
- The Borough attorney continues to work on an agreement with CIA regarding the Army Tank Farm Property, an agreement with CIA regarding IRR funds and water & sewer main extensions, and personnel and tax matters.

C. Legislative

- A Borough lobbyist report from Brad Gilman is attached for your review.
- A copy of Senator Mark Begich's first speech on the floor of the Senate is attached for your review.

D. Lands:

The Borough Lands Manager/Assessor is finalizing his FY 09 Annual Report for the State Assessor. It will be provided in the 8/25 meeting packet for the assembly's review.

E. Tourism/ Economic Development:

I have received correspondence from Mr. Halverson of the "North to the Future" Project. This project publishes a quasi-official (meaning governmental) book highlighting Alaska and its communities, resources, and opportunities. The book gets published once every four years. The project provides an opportunity for 10 Alaska communities to highlight themselves on a first come first serve basis. (I will display a copy of the last published edition at the meeting). Mr. Halverson touts that this book is circulated to business and government entities both nationally and internationally. Six-page community spreads sell for \$27,000. A two-page spread sells for \$11,000. The book is circulated for a four-year period. The project has been on going for 19 years, and was started by Walter Hickel. Patron communities get 25 copies for their own use. I am requesting Assembly input on whether the Borough should invest in this opportunity. A copy of a letter from our State Senate President and House Speaker urging us to consider this opportunity is attached.

F. Ports & Harbors:

- The Harbormaster and the Police Chief have asked me to provide for better authority to deal with kids who are jumping from the PC Dock. Although there is a sign prohibiting this activity, kids routinely jump from the dock for recreation and defy adults who attempt to intervene. A draft ordinance in your packet is the first attempt to address this issue. The Mayor has expressed reservation regarding increased regulation. Assembly debate is welcomed.
- The Borough will host a visit by the US Army Corps of Engineers representatives on August 14th for the day. Alaska District Corps will be represented by Mr. Steve Boardman. He will be accompanied by several people from the Washington D.C. headquarters who are responsible for the Pacific Ocean Division, which includes the Alaska District. This will be a great opportunity to demonstrate the need for the harbor expansion. I will work on setting up a luncheon meeting where any available Assembly and Harbor Advisory Board members may attend.

G. Public Facilities/Capital Projects:

- The Small Boat harbor project is going well with the 1st phase of work nearing completion. This work consists of replacement of the gangway, a portion of A Float, all of B and C Floats, and Grid repairs. The next phase will include the demolition and replacement of the remainder of A Float, D Float, and E Float and should begin by August 23.
- The Young Road Water Tank is nearing completion, with tank filling and disinfection currently taking place. The project should be complete in about another month.

- Haines Streets Phase 1 should see paving operations start up within a week or so.
- Chilkat Center Pedestrian Bridge Replacement and the Public Works Shop Improvements are currently being advertised for bid.
- School project: Change orders have been executed pursuant to Assembly direction regarding landscaping and storage building site prep work. School Superintendent Michael Byer has called for a revival of the Oversight and Planning Committee for School Construction to debate priority of additional work that may be undertaken. I expect this group will make a recommendation to the School Board and/or the Assembly. This meeting is scheduled for 4:30 PM on Tuesday, August 11th.

H. Police /Fire/EMS/EM:

- Today the Borough will be hosting Eileen Bechtol of Bechtol Planning & Development, a Contractor to the State of Alaska, who will work with Borough staff to begin developing a Hazard Mitigation plan for Haines Borough. Most communities around the state already have completed plans. This is a part of the Borough's increased effort to be more involved in statewide emergency management and disaster preparedness activities.
- The Haines Borough has received an invitation from the State of Alaska Division of Public Health to participate in a planning and training exercise focused on the response to and containment of an H1N1 influenza pandemic. We will be coordinating this with SEARHC and the School District.

I. Administration:

- The Borough will be visited by several Washington D.C. folks this month. Mr. Seb O'Kelly, who works for Borough lobbyist Brad Gilman, will be visiting Haines from 8/23-26. His trip is part business and part pleasure, as he is an avid fly fisherman. Mr. Arnie Fuglvog, Legislative Assistant to Senator Lisa Murkowski, will be visiting Haines sometime during the next two weeks. I do not have a confirmed schedule for him at this time. Mr. O'Kelly should be able to appear at the August 25 Assembly meeting. This will be an opportunity to discuss the Borough's federal legislative priorities.
- I have asked borough contractor Debra Schnabel to look into the TIGER Grant Program which made the news regarding Skagway's port development plans. The Tiger grant is a supplemental discretionary grant fund containing \$1.5 billion. The minimum grant award is \$20 million. The deadline is September 15, 2009. Attached please find Debra's memo which suggests that the Borough does not have the resources or sufficient data to apply for this grant. Skagway's ability to go after these funds is no doubt enhanced by the fact that it has contracted for and produced a Skagway Port Development Plan (I will display this at the meeting). I would offer that the Haines Borough is behind the curve on this issue and needs a Port Development Plan.

**Report to the Haines Borough
National Forest Receipts
Title III Projects
“Living in the Forest”**



Takshanuk Watershed Council
in collaboration with
American Bald Eagle Foundation

August 1, 2009

Overview

The Living in the Forest project was initiated by the Takshanuk Watershed Council, in collaboration with the American Bald Eagle Foundation, in January 2009 through a grant from the Haines Borough from Title III Forest Receipts money for the calendar year 2009. Five educational programs were implemented. This report documents these programs and makes recommendations for the future of this project.

Attendance at project events has exceeded 1300 people and 100 volunteer hours. We are six months into the project and have spent about 55% of the funds.

This report will detail what has been done, and our recommendations for the continuance of the project.



2009 Program January 21 through May 31, 2009

Program Components

Living in the Forest Presents

Living in the Forest Presents is an informational program for the community. Through a semimonthly program of talks and walks, it seeks to offer topics of interest to the community about biological and geographical aspects of our community. Talks occur during the winter months and walks occur during spring, summer and fall. Interest in these events has been good, as evidenced by attendance figures of 276, and 31 volunteer hours.

Topics presented between January and June:

Talks

- Birds of Prey in the Chilkat Valley
- Collisions and Cataclysms: A Geological History of the Chilkat Valley
- Starting a Garden in the Chilkat Valley
- Mammals of the Chilkat Valley
- Who's Hooting? Owls of the Chilkat Valley
- Salmon Populations of the Chilkoot and Chilkat Rivers
- The Power of Words in Natural Resource Discussions
- Haines Rocks and the Stories They Tell
- Chilkoot and Chilkat Valley Toads

Walks

- Birdathon (Migratory Birds)
- Reading the Rocks
- Check out the Toads
- Flowers of Battery Point
- Haines Rocks! Geology of Battery Point
- Haines Rocks! Geology of Chilkat State Park



Many people, as you know, showed up for the walk through the forest to the beach to Battery Pt. (actually Kalgaya). The weather cooperated, no rain, and the age range on the hike was 2 1/2 months to 60 yrs old. The group was eager to learn the names of plants, trees and lichens in the forest and on the beach. It took a long time to get to the beach because of all the questions that people asked. At the beach, everyone taste tested the edible plants and were surprised at how good the plants tasted and how many vitamins are in them. Most of the people that came for the walk were locals and commented that they would come out again because they know more about their surroundings. I think it's a good thing for people to get out and learn what's in their own backyard. A walk on a trail through the forest is invigorating, full of wonder, and a wonderful way to destress yourself.

Marlena Mooring

Chilkat Forest Investigations

Chilkat Forest Investigations or CFI is a program of field trips for elementary and middle school students. CFI met 18 times and had an attendance of 6-11 students each time. Students make field trips into the forest to study the animals and plants in the forest.

"My son Dylan participated in Mario's CFI expeditions. I have never seen him so excited after coming home from a Haines activity. He still uses the collection kit Mario put together for each child and has spent his summer searching for bugs all over town. CFI combined with Tim's toad walk really got him going. He's been checking out fresh-water aquatic life with his friends and seems to really have internalized some of the scientific principles that both programs presented.

Sara Chappel

Forest Frolics

Forest Frolics is an after school program for students in grades 3-8. Students participate in physically active games that demonstrate a biological principle operating in the forest (e.g. predator-prey relationships or animal population dynamics), or in a field trip into the forest. Forest Frolics took place on Wednesdays after school and met 12 times. Participation has averaged 12 students per meeting.

Environmental Science High School Course

Environmental Science is a one semester, half credit course approved by the Haines Borough School Board for high school students. It took place on ten Saturdays for six hours and involves a field excursion each time. Seven students enrolled in the course and five completed it. Topics presented during spring semester included:

- Observation and Evidence
- Wildlife Forensics
- Winter and Winter Adaptations
- Seasons and Seasonal Change
- Fish and Fisheries Management
- Local Geology
- Forests and Forest Management
- Habitat Management
- Energy Resources
- Student Projects



EcoProductions

EcoProductions (EcoPro) is an outdoor videography program for middle school students. Students design and film three videos about the Chilkat and Chilkoot Valleys. One video has been completed and the others are in varying stages of completion. EcoPro met 17 times and had an enrollment of 4 students.

My son had a great time in the EcoProductions class and is intending to learn the movie editing software this fall with the hope that he can help with making of documentaries by the Watershed Council and other groups around town. He learned a great deal in the afterschool program about animals as well as filming. As a result of the Watershed Council programs, both kids have developed a deeper interest in the local environment and developing interests and skills that will greatly benefit their education. Haines has the potential for many great opportunities for kids to do hands-on science, and this potential has been under-utilized. I am very glad that the Watershed Council has been working to fill this gap.

Cindy Buxton



Videography

This project included the purchase of a professional quality video camera. The use of this camera entails several hours of training. A professional volunteer is in the process of training members of the staff in its use. Several video projects are being planned to utilize this camera. We are also developing a set of protocols for its use so the camera will be carefully used and properly maintained.

Considerations for the Future

Budget Year

The current Title III grant was granted for the calendar year 2009. Many of the Living in the Forest programs interface with the school. It is more efficient and effective if we can operate on a fiscal year basis that matches the school year. As we near the end of this calendar year, we may make a request for a budget amendment to achieve this change in budget year.



Continuing Programs

Living in the Forest Presents

Living in the Forest Presents is a series of talks and walks. We have gotten a good response to these walks and talks, and will continue the program. We have added walks during the summer months.

Citizen Scientists

Community members and high school students will assist local research projects in gathering data. They will learn about the research projects,

and how scientific research is done. High school students will receive credit for the course.

Chilkat Forest Investigations and EcoProductions

Chilkat Forest Investigations (CFI) and EcoProductions (EcoPro) have been popular programs with both students and parents. Originally they were scheduled for twice a month for nine months (18 meetings in a year). During spring semester, it met 18 times in one semester. We would like to continue this meeting schedule for next year. They would meet five times per month each, thus requiring more staff time.

New Programs

Middle School Mini Explorations

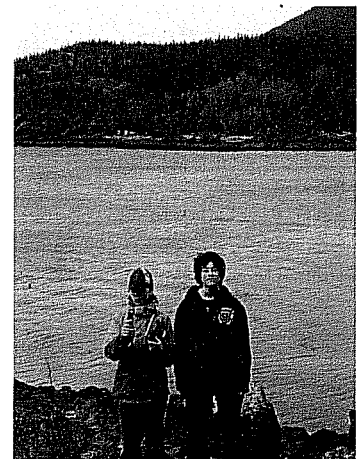
The Middle School staff has scheduled three two-week explorations for middle school students for next year. These would be a series of short courses on special topics. We have been asked to teach field based short courses on salmon research and fly fishing.

School Composting

The school lunch scraps were composted during spring semester. The compost is to be used by the school for a school garden or landscaping, or it could be sold to local gardeners as a fundraiser for the school. Haines Friends of Recycling donated the compost bins, and the Borough has allowed us to use the old school greenhouse. To continue this operation, some tools are needed and the greenhouse needs some work. In addition, staff time is needed every school day to process the compost. At present, an ad hoc committee of volunteers is working with the Watershed Council and the school to implement this program.

Teacher Support

During the school year, the Education Coordinator of the Watershed Council has offered technical support to teachers in the school for a variety of local science topics. The Education Coordinator has advised teachers, planned lessons, taught lessons and led field trips. Last semester, this service required about 10 hours per month. Topics included fish research, water quality, clouds, animal adaptation, wetlands, natural history and similar topics. The Education Coordinator has been called as needed. We would like to be able to continue to offer this program.



Summer Activities Coordinator

A committee of teachers and interested parties met to consider modifications to the school intramurals program. They conducted a survey to determine needs and made several recommendations. One of these was that a position be created to coordinate summer outdoor activities for young people, such as hikes or kayaking. This proposed program would replace the Forest Frolics program.

Budget Implications

The original Living in the Forest proposal included the programs listed above. These have been implemented for the last six months. In the coming months, we will make some changes to the programs, including a request to change the budget year. As we get closer to the end of the calendar year, we will submit a budget amendment request to take care of these changes.



From: Rick Alexander <ralexander@fs.fed.us>
Date: July 20, 2009 14:11:25 AKDT
To: pamrandles@me.com
Cc: Susan Alexander <salexander@fs.fed.us>
Subject: Haines title III

Ms. Randles,

Your inquiry about uses of title III funds under the previous Secure Rural Schools Act (Public Law 106-393) was forwarded to me.

Title III funds under the previous Act have already been paid to the State and were, in turn shared with boroughs. These old title III funds were for uses authorized in the previous Act (PL 106-393.) The previous Act did not define forest related educational opportunities. The authorized uses of title III funds under the previous Act were considerably broader than under the reauthorized Act (PL 110-343.) With regard to modifying projects that were already submitted to and approved by the Haines Borough, since these are borough funds, the first line of inquiry should be with borough officials and/or its legal counsel.

Please me know if I can be of further assistance.

This message is from...

Rick Alexander
U. S. Forest Service
Secure Rural Schools Act
National Program Manager
office ph. 360 891-5162
cell phone 202 641-0067
email ralexander@fs.fed.us

To: The Honorable Jan Hill
The Haines Borough Assembly
Tom Bolen, Borough Manager

From: Brad Gilman & Sebastian O'Kelly

Re: Washington Update

Date: August 4, 2009

1. Haines Small Boat Harbor – The FY 2010 Senate and House Energy & Water Appropriations Bills have been reported from Committee and passed their respective bodies. They unfortunately do not include “new start” construction funds for the harbor. The Senate Bill has no new starts at all, while there is only a limited number in the House bill. It is possible that the House-Senate Conference will permit the addition of new starts. Senator Murkowski told the Borough in its DC visit that getting new start funds is among her highest priorities. As a Member of the Senate Appropriations Committee she will be in position to push for the project in Conference, but the outcome will depend largely on how open the House and Senate Appropriations Committees are in funding any new starts. The new start issue encompasses more than just Alaska projects. It is a national issue with the Corps given the large number of incomplete projects in the construction phase and an overall under-funding of the Corps budget.

2. Federal Highways Legislation – We have requested \$2 million in Federal highway funding for local Haines road construction. Mr. Young has made the request on behalf of the Haines Borough to the House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee as noted on his web site. We have recently completed similar paperwork with Sen. Begich's office. Sen. Murkowski has not yet asked for requests.

Currently, there is a large projected shortfall in the Federal Highway Trust Fund which Congress will have to address soon. The House is proposing a short-term “patch” and would like to move a comprehensive multi-year reauthorization this Congress, while the Obama Administration and the Senate would like to enact a longer-term patch and delay the multi-year reauthorization. These differences have yet to be resolved. Our sense is that while the multi-year bill may get postponed until next year, we could see it move through Committee in the House in the fall. It is during Committee action that most of the community projects are considered and added to the bill.

3. Haines Tank Farm – Sen. Begich and Rep. Young have sponsored measures included in both the House and Senate FY 2010 Defense Authorization Bills that would transfer title of the Tank Farm to the Chilkoot Indian Association. The language would transfer a parcel of land of just over 200 acres to the Association at a fair market price as determined by the Army. Given that the measure is included in both bills, it stands a very good chance of enactment, likely in the September/October timeframe.

4. **Miscellaneous.**

- **Congressman Young:** Mr. Young's wife, Lu Young, passed away unexpectedly on August 2. There is a charity in her honor for Alaska Native children fighting cancer. If anyone is interested in making a donation, they can send a check to Lu Young Children's Fund, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium, 4141 Ambassador Drive, Anchorage, Alaska, 99508.
- **Indian Health Care Improvement Act.** Rep. Young has signed on as a cosponsor to legislation (HR 2708) to reauthorize Indian health care programs. The bill would expand service delivery for dental care, long an issue in Alaska, expand a community health aide program, and consolidate certain substance abuse, mental health and social service programs.
- **Indian Community Development Block Grant.** Sen. Begich announced that \$432, 587 in HUD Stimulus funds have been awarded to the Chilkoot Indian Association through this program.
- **Sealaska Lands Withdrawal Legislation.** Senator Murkowski has reintroduced her bill (S. 784) from the last Congress. There have been no new developments since our last report.
- **Sen. Murkowski Selected For Republican Leadership Position.** Sen. Murkowski has been elected by her Republican peers to the leadership post of Vice Chairman of the Republican Conference, the 5th ranking position in the party in the Senate.
- **Sheldon Museum.** The Museum has recently been awarded an \$8,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.
- **Library Grants.** The Institute for Museum and Library Services has awarded \$12,000 in grant funding, equally divided, to the Association and the Chilkat Indian Village.

Tom Bolen

From: Brad Gilman [mackerel@hsgblaw-dc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 7:34 AM
To: 'Tom Bolen'
Subject: FW: Begich Maiden Floor Speech--Gilman

Tom: I thought you might find this of interest. It is Begich's first set of legislative initiatives. The only one with a potential impact on Haines is the OCS revenue sharing measure.

B

From: Seb O'Kelly [mailto:tarpon@hsgblaw-dc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 04, 2009 10:11 AM
To: mackerel@hsgblaw-dc.com; 'Steve Silver'; rem@hsgblaw-dc.com
Subject: Begich Maiden Floor Speech

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD
 SENATE
 PAGE S8685
 Aug. 3, 2009

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. BEGICH:

S. 1560. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide for the sharing of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues from areas in the Alaska Adjacent Zone; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. President, I rise today for the first time on this floor to mark the 50th anniversary of Alaska's statehood and to draw the attention of my colleagues to an urgent issue that affects not only my State but all of our States—the issue of global climate change.

This year, thanks to actions taken in this very Chamber, Alaska is celebrating its golden anniversary of statehood. Acquiring the rights and responsibilities of full citizenship was the culmination of a dream for citizens of the 49th State. Statehood granted us the ability to exercise control over our vast natural resources and gave us a full voice in our national government. In the half century since, Alaska has grown from the Nation's largest supplier of salmon to become the Nation's storehouse of both seafood and energy.

Because of its strategic location near the top of the globe, Alaska plays a critical role in our Nation's defense. During the Cold War, the superpowers stared down each other across the frozen polar ice cap. Thanks to a thaw in the geopolitical climate, the "ice curtain" separating Alaska and Russia melted some

20 years ago. Today, it is a change in the climate itself that present serious new challenges—and great opportunities—to my State and our Nation.

Alaska is now at Ground Zero for the effects of global climate change. I take this opportunity today to detail how that is affecting the lives of Alaskans. I will describe a package of legislation I am introducing to prepare my State and the Nation for the next 50 years. During that time, the Arctic will play an even larger role in the Nation's commerce, foreign policy, and energy independence.

Mr. President, to me there is no more dramatic illustration of global warming in Alaska than these two pictures taken at Portage Glacier, just about 50 miles south of Anchorage. The top photo, taken by my dad in 1970, shows me and two of my brothers and a sister. The glacier is clearly in view. The bottom photo was taken 35 years later, in 2005. It is of my son, Jacob, standing in the exact same spot at the same time of year. The glacier is nowhere to be seen because it has dramatically receded due to global warming.

Today in the Arctic, the sea is melting so fast that most of it could be gone in 30 years. You can clearly see it in this polar projection of the Arctic. The implications of the loss are enormous. Devastating for species such as the polar bear, walrus, and seals, which depend on ice for their very survival; life-altering for Arctic residents who have depended on marine mammals for their nutritional and cultural needs for thousands of years; literally earth-shattering for entire Alaskan Arctic communities, which are being wiped away by erosion and thawing permafrost.

When this global air-conditioner is knocked off kilter, it accelerates climatic changes we are already witnessing around the globe that neither science nor our political systems can stop.

Consider these examples.

Storms raging over waters that once were frozen solid but which are now ice-free for much of the year are eroding sections of the Alaska shoreline at rates of 45 feet per year or more. This undermines entire coastal villages like Shishmaref and Kivalina.

Thawing permafrost is causing roads and the foundations of homes to buckle.

A recent study by the University of Alaska's Institute of Social and Economic Research estimated that the impacts of climate change will increase the cost of maintaining or replacing just today's public infrastructure in my State by \$6 billion.

[Page S8686]

The potential release of massive amounts of methane now sealed in the permafrost threaten to accelerate the pace of climate change. That is known to scientists as "Arctic Feedback."

Warming water temperatures are pushing cold water species north and attracting warm water species from the south. Fishermen in Sitka are encountering the giant Humboldt squid from Mexico.

Tuna—whose usual habitat favors the tropics—have been caught near Homer. And invasive species such as green crab are moving steadily northward.

Ocean acidification—the result of absorption of carbon into our marine waters—weakens shellfish, coral, and even plankton, the very first link of the marine food chain.

At the G-8 Summit last month in Italy, developing nations agreed to the principle of limiting the average increase in the Earth's temperature to no more than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels.

In the American Arctic, we exceeded that long ago. The diminishing ice creates opportunities in the Arctic, but even these pose new challenges. For example, the Beaufort and Chukchi seas are believed to contain almost twice as much oil as already has been produced from the North Slope.

Arctic oil and gas development has been conducted safely on-shore in Alaska. Alaskans also have the technology to safely produce it off-shore.

But subsistence users who rely on marine mammals for their way of life are legitimately concerned about the special challenges of how to prevent and respond to an oil spill in broken sea ice.

The diminishing Arctic ice pack could open new grounds to commercial fishing, which can create new jobs. This also presents challenges to manage fish stocks in this region as we learn more about the impact of fishing in these previously inaccessible waters.

Opening the Northwest Passage, the Northern Sea Route and eventually the polar sea, will bring an increase in shipping and even tourism to the Arctic. This means new economic development and additional jobs to the northern part of our state.

Our neighbors have taken notice of the warming Arctic, too. This picture of a Russian submersible planting that country's flag on the North Pole's ocean floor was shocking to Americans and other Arctic nations.

The Swedish Foreign Minister, whose nation is president of the European Union this year, demonstrates that Europe understands these changes when he recently said the melting polar sea ice is creating revolutionary new transportation possibilities between the Atlantic and Pacific.

Although Alaskans are well aware of the impacts of climate change in our State, national decisionmakers are just starting to come to grips with its challenges and opportunities.

A proposed American Arctic policy was adopted in the final days of the Bush administration. While not perfect, it highlights many areas that need further focus.

Here in the Congress, climate change has risen to a high priority in these Halls and in the Obama administration.

I commend these many initiatives and pledge my cooperation with other Members of this body and the national administration.

To advance that effort, today I am introducing a package of seven bills to address these challenges, almost all of which have been caused by, or made worse by, climate change.

I call this package—Inuvikput. It is a word from the Inupiaq Eskimos of the Alaska North Slope which means “the place where we live.”

I can think of no more appropriate term coming from the very people who are being affected every day by climatic changes in America's Arctic, the place they have called home for thousands of years.

Mr. President, my package starts with improving our fundamental understanding of the region. We need to invest in basic science to better understand Arctic oceanography, meteorology, biology of its fish and marine mammals, as well as natural resources and oil and gas potential.

We need a coordinated research plan. It should start with baseline observations and include better science supporting Arctic-specific oil spill prevention and response.

This plan also must include local and traditional knowledge. After all, some of the first and most accurate predictions of Arctic climate change were from Native elders.

My bill calls on the Secretary of Commerce to undertake a comprehensive strategy to coordinate Arctic research, to make recommendations to Congress on a long-term Arctic Ocean research plan and to provide the resources for this vital mission.

We also need to promote Pan-Arctic research, especially with our Russian and Canadian neighbors, to address scientific issues that span international borders.

My second bill would provide the United States equal standing with other Arctic nations when it comes to our participation in the international Arctic Council and other forums.

Other leading Arctic nations—Russia, Canada, Norway—are represented by ambassador-level diplomats on the Council.

I appreciate the dedication of those who have represented us before the Arctic Council and other forums. I also thank Secretary Clinton and other high level diplomats for their interest in the Arctic. But the United States needs a permanent representative on an equal footing with the representatives of other nations in these important forums. Our Ambassador should advocate American interests in science, sustainable development, transportation and our defense posture.

The third piece of legislation deals with preparedness for the coming expanded use of the Arctic. We must increase our investment in basic infrastructure to maintain a permanent presence in the Arctic, for scientific, economic development and national security missions.

Critical to that is the need to replace our fleet of icebreakers. The *Polar Sea* and the currently idled *Polar Star* have both served beyond their 30-year life. The *Healy* is newer, but designed primarily for scientific research.

That scientific mission is important. But we need an icebreaking fleet to assert our national interests by patrolling our Arctic waters, monitor increased traffic, and respond to search and rescues, oil spills and other incidents.

In addition to their life-saving mission, the Coast Guard is a vital partner with Alaska's commercial fishing industry. This \$4 billion industry is one of our Nation's truly American industries, providing 58,000 jobs. Our Coast Guard needs facilities to serve as a base for aerial surveillance, spill prevention and emergency response capabilities in the Arctic.

Currently, our closest Coast Guard air base is located in Kodiak, a 900-mile commute just to reach the Arctic Coast. That's like patrolling the Gulf of Mexico from air bases in New York.

I applaud the stamina of our Coast Guard crews who have kept our C-130s in the Arctic skies by

performing maintenance work on the ramp in subfreezing conditions. The least we could do is provide them with a heated hangar. My legislation would address that need and other critical infrastructure needs.

Fourth, we must achieve a balance in environmentally responsible resource development in the Arctic. A diminished ice cap may clear the way for more affordable development of the enormous energy reserves the U.S. Geological Service says lie beneath Arctic waters. This region contains an estimated 30 billion barrels of oil and 220 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.

These resources can create thousands of American jobs and help assure our national energy security.

We must get the science right and provide the infrastructure necessary to protect human and animal life and the environment.

To help achieve that, my measure calls on the Coast Guard to assess Arctic development and develop the necessary infrastructure.

It also requires the Secretary of Commerce to direct research to prevent and improve oil spill recovery in Arctic waters.

My fifth bill deals with the benefits of energy development in the Arctic. Most Alaskans support oil and gas exploration in the Outer Continental Shelf. We can do development there in the right way, as shown here.

Another example is BP's Liberty field, located off Alaska's northern coast. To minimize impacts, directional drilling from this island pad can tap oil reserves 8 miles away in the water.

[Page S8687]

As a part of this package, my bill extends to Alaskans the same share of Federal revenues that residents of the gulf coast States currently receive. It would direct a portion of those revenues to those most affected—the residents of Alaska's North Slope—where communities have depended on marine mammals from these same waters for thousands of years. I believe the Arctic's resources belong to the people of the Arctic and should be shared among them.

My sixth bill deals with a critical omission from the new Presidential directive on the Arctic—addressing the health problems of Arctic people.

Alaskans and others who live in Northern latitudes experience numerous health problems, including higher rates of alcohol abuse, diabetes, high blood pressure and, tragically death from injury and suicide.

In many cases, it is unclear what causes these problems. More research is necessary into prevention and treatment.

This bill proposes a study of mental and behavioral health issues in the Arctic. It would create an "Arctic desk" at the National Institutes of Health that was called for in Federal legislation in 1984 but has never been established.

Finally, it would institute a health assessment program at the Centers for Disease Control focused on the Arctic. This vital research will not only benefit residents of my State but citizens across the country.

The seventh bill in this package addresses the huge losses of coastal Alaskan territory, as a result of dramatic climate change. A June 2009 Government Accountability Study on this issue says: “most of Alaska’s more than 200 Native villages are affected to some degree by flooding and erosion.” In some cases, entire Arctic villages in my State are at risk of serious erosion or of being washed into the sea.

To make matters worse, some of the most severe flooding in recent history occurred this spring. Millions of dollars in damage was done to Alaska communities, prompting State and Federal disaster declarations.

To address these issues, I propose creation of an Arctic adaptation fund. This fund would help the State of Alaska, Alaska Native organizations, affected Arctic communities, and the private sector deal with the impacts of climate change. This includes flooding, erosion, permafrost melting, and damage to public transportation systems and buildings. The fund also would assist in dealing with habitat restoration, clean energy development, and other economic development activities.

Mr. President, I am considering introducing an additional piece of legislation in this package. It focuses on providing the people of Alaska’s Arctic with a greater voice in development decisions affecting their lives.

This bill would establish an Arctic Regional Citizens Advisory Council. It would be modeled after similar councils operating successfully in the Prince William Sound and Cook Inlet regions of Alaska.

At the request of North Slope Borough Mayor Edward Itta and our constituents there, I agreed to hold off on this bill for now so we can continue the conversation with the people of the region, along with industry and regulatory stakeholders.

In addition to the legislation I am introducing today, Senate ratification of two treaties would dramatically improve our Nation’s ability to address Arctic climate change.

The first is the Convention on the Law of the Sea. Negotiated in 1982, this treaty is designed to settle long-standing disputes over national rights to offshore waters and resources. The Senate’s ratification of this treaty would put the United States at the table at a time of great change in the Arctic.

I note support for the Law of the Sea Treaty comes from a broad spectrum of organizations, from environmental groups and oil companies to the U.S. military.

I strongly support ratification of the Law of the Sea Treaty and will be proud to cosponsor this measure.

The second key international agreement the Senate should ratify to address Arctic health issues is the Treaty on Persistent Organic Pollutants, or POPs.

These pollutants—PCBs, DDT, dioxin, and even fire retardants—are carried by wind and sea currents to the Arctic. They are then trapped by the ice and are stored in the fatty tissue of fish and marine mammals that are a main component of the local subsistence diet.

The POPs treaty was adopted in 2001. But like the Law of the Sea, it has never been ratified. It is time that changed. I am honored to be a cosponsor of Senator Harkin’s bill, S. 519, to implement provisions of this treaty.

I look forward to working with the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee and the Obama Administration to bring these treaties forward to the Senate for consideration as soon as possible.

Mr. President, because of Alaska, America is an Arctic nation. My State has over 700 miles of shoreline along the Arctic Ocean, and over 100 million acres above the Arctic Circle. If you define Arctic by temperature, it encompasses an even broader area that includes the Bering Sea and the Aleutian Islands.

Through the diligent work of many scientists, we have learned much over the past century. But there is much we still do not understand.

This century, and the next 50 years of Alaska statehood, brings great challenges and even greater opportunities. To succeed, we must address the broad policy implications of an ice-diminishing Arctic on the diplomatic, scientific, and national security fronts.

We must make the needed investments to ensure the United States maintains its leadership at the top of our globe. We must listen to and address the needs of the residents of the Arctic.

With this Inuvikput package of legislation, we will take a major step toward achieving these important goals.

As they say in America's Arctic, Quyanaqpak. Thank you.

Alaska State Legislature

SENATOR
GARY STEVENS
Senate President

(907) 465-4925
Fax (907) 465-3517

INTERIM ADDRESS:
112 Mill Bay Rd.
Kodiak, AK 99615
(907) 486-4925
Fax (907) 486-5264



State Capitol, Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182

REPRESENTATIVE
MIKE CHENAULT
Speaker of the House

(907) 465-3779
Fax (907) 465-2833

INTERIM ADDRESS:
145 Main St. Loop, Ste. 223
Kenai, AK 99611
(907) 283-7223
Fax (907) 283-7184

June 19, 2009

Tom Bolen
Borough Manager
Haines Borough
P. O. Box 1209
Haines, Alaska 99827

Dear Mr. Bolen:

Those of us who are fortunate to live and work in the State of Alaska understand that the region is not only rich with natural beauty, but also brimming with opportunity. Alaska is dynamic and consistently on the forefront of positive change; it is the source for new ideas in business, science, the arts, and social policy. It is in our best interest to communicate our commitment to maintaining economic and creative leadership. We need to let the world know that Alaska cities and boroughs, businesses, and other organizations are opening new doors of economic opportunity.

The State, in cooperation with Wyndham Publications, is embarking upon a very special project, fourth in a series, about Alaska. The limited, hardbound, first-edition, book features Alaska as an ideal place to live, work, and do business, and also highlights organizations that are considered to be leaders in their respective fields. Titled *Alaska: North to the Future, Volume IV*, this beautiful publication will provide vivid color photography and up-to-date text, including profiles of leading communities and organizations that have been invited and have elected to participate. It is the economic development book for Alaska. Since your community is considered a leader in our State, we have suggested to Wyndham that they contact you to explain the project plans in detail so that you and your community may consider supporting and being featured in this successful project. In so doing, your community's profile would be distributed locally, nationally, and internationally.

The Alaska State Legislature is the sponsoring entity and fully supports the *North to the Future* project series. As delegates from the State travel to domestic and international destinations to promote trade and development in Alaska, this book will serve as an exceptional calling card and reminder for Alaska businesses and organizations.

We have asked Mr. Kim Halverson, Senior Vice President of Wyndham Publications, Inc., to call you for an appointment. We would encourage you to take the opportunity to meet with him. Mr. Halverson can be reached at 907.868.7994.

We think you will share our enthusiasm for this exciting new project.

Sincerely yours,

Handwritten signature of Senator Gary Stevens.

Senator Gary Stevens
Senate President

Handwritten signature of Representative Mike Chenault.

Representative Mike Chenault
Speaker of the House

RECEIVED Haines Borough

JUN 22 2009

Clerk's Office

TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENT GENERATING ECONOMIC RECOVERY
"TIGER"
FACT SHEET with Opinion and Recommendation

Reference: Federal Register Volume 74 No. 94, Monday, May 18, 2009

Funder: United States Government Department of Transportation

Authorization: American Recovery and Reinvestment Act

Qualities: Supplemental Discretionary Grants

- \$1.5 billion
- Grant Amounts: \$20 million - \$300 million
 - Depart. Has discretion to waive minimum grant size for "significant" "Smaller Projects" in smaller cities or regions
- No more than 20% of total funds may be allocated to a single state
- Appropriate balance between urban and rural needs
- Priority to projects that can be completed by Feb. 17, 2012
- Program funds up to 100%
 - Priority to projects that include non-federal sources
 - Loans available through TIFIA, an associated Federal Credit Assistance program

Application Deadline: September 15, 2009

Application method: Electronically, via e-mail at TIGERGrants@dot.gov

Announcement of Selected Projects: February 17, 2010

Obligation Deadline: September 30, 2011

Eligible Projects relevant to Haines Borough: Port Infrastructure investments including projects that connect ports to other modes of transportation and improve the efficiency of freight movement.

Selection Criteria

- Primary
 - Long-term outcomes (Applicants MUST provide a well-developed analysis of expected project benefits in these five outcomes):
 - Improves existing transportation facilities in condition and performance and/or long term cost structure
 - Contributes to economic competitiveness of the US by increasing growth in employment, production or other high value economic activity, especially those that allow for net

- new investments in private sector production, particularly in Economically Distressed Areas
 - Improves energy efficiency and benefitting the environment; projects that demonstrate decreases in movement of people or goods by less energy-efficient vehicles or systems will be given priority
 - Improves the quality of life by enhancing user mobility, choice, accessibility
 - Improves safety of US transportation facilities
 - Job Creation & Economic Stimulus
 - Creates and/or preserves jobs and stimulating rapid increases in economic activity
- Secondary
 - Employs innovative funding or delivery strategies and/or technology
 - Partnerships: strong collaboration among broad range of participants; priority given to projects that make use of community-based organizations in connecting disadvantaged people with economic opportunities
- **“If it is clear to the Department that the total benefits of a project are not reasonably likely to outweigh the project’s costs, the Department will not award a Tiger Discretionary Grant.”**
- **“Information must be quantified to describe the project’s impacts on the nation, a metropolitan area or a region. Information should include projections for both the build and no-build scenarios for the project for a point in time at least 20 years beyond the project’s completion date or the lifespan of the project.”**

Program-Specific Selection Criteria involving port infrastructure:

- Freight throughput, storage or processing capacity
- Demand for services or capacity
- Efficiency
- Ability to recover from natural disaster
- Movement of department of defense assets

Opinion: Improvements to the Lutak Dock to promote its use as a regional freight hub is the most obvious potential project for TIGER funding. However, generating the degree of quantitative evidence required by the application in a timely manner is beyond the Borough’s administrative capacity. Additionally, the Borough cannot show evidence of a public planning process for a project that might otherwise meet criteria.

Recommendation: Do NOT apply for a TIGER grant, but work with Skagway to create a port authority to address and process intermodal freight-handling issues for the global market, including infrastructure development.