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Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

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BREAKFAST MEETING

Thursday, November 7, 2013

1. Call to order – Phil Cochran, President
2. Head table Introductions
3. Self introductions
4. Staff Report – Rick Rogers, Executive Director
5. Program and Keynote Speaker:

***Minding its "Cs" and "Qs":
How Alaska Airlines is responding to travel needs of
Alaskans with Club 49 and Q400 aircraft***

Joe Sprague, Vice President, Marketing, Alaska Airlines

Next Upcoming Meeting:

34th Annual Alaska Resources Conference, Wednesday-Thursday, November 20-21, Dena'ina Convention Center

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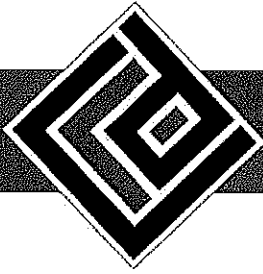
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November 6, 2013

Office of Environmental Information Docket
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460

Via email to: Docket_OEI@epa.gov

Re: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-2013-0582

Dear Members of the Science Advisory Board:

The Resource Development Council for Alaska, Inc. (RDC) is writing to provide comments on the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) *Connectivity of Streams and Wetlands to Downstream Waters: A Review and Synthesis of the Scientific Evidence (September 2013)* Draft Study publication (Draft Study).

RDC is an Alaskan business association comprised of individuals and companies from Alaska's oil and gas, mining, forest products, tourism and fisheries industries. RDC's membership includes Alaska Native Corporations, local communities, organized labor, and industry support firms. RDC's purpose is to encourage a strong, diversified private sector in Alaska and expand the state's economic base through the responsible development of our natural resources.

In its letter dated July 29, 2011, RDC requested the EPA and the Corps of Engineers (Corps) to halt development of the proposed guidance that will expand their jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act (CWA) to virtually all waters of the United States (akrdc.org/alerts/2011/epacwajurisdiction.html). As the EPA has published a Draft Study on connectivity, RDC is now writing to urge the EPA and Corps to provide public notice and release of the Proposed Rule before resubmitting it to the White House's Office of Management and Budget.

RDC is concerned the case studies and literature in the Draft Study are for temperate regions and may not be reflective of connections in an arctic environment. Given that Alaska has unique conditions and the fact that approximately 174 million acres of wetlands (65 percent of the nation's total wetlands) are located predominantly in sub-arctic and arctic Alaska, any revised or new guidance provided by the Corps should include regional guidance with examples or case studies. Development of regional guidance should include broad participation in the process from the regulated and regulatory communities. Revised agency forms should be made available, and should be for documenting the assertion or delineation of CWA jurisdiction, specific to Alaska. Development of both national and regional forms should be a public process, open to review and comment.

121 West Fireweed Lane, Suite 250, Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Phone: 907-276-0700 • Fax: 907-276-3887 • Email: resources@akrdc.org • Website: akrdc.org

In addition to concerns described in this letter, RDC urges the EPA to address concerns made by Dr. Edmond Packee in a letter submitted by Travis/Peterson Environmental Consulting, Inc. (October 16, 2013).

The report uses inconsistent definitions of a wetland and should instead consistently use the correct regulatory definition. As the guidance will have an impact on industries across the nation and the state, it is vital definitions and descriptions are consistent and accurate.

Dr. Packee's concerns about the study methodology suggest the methodology used was the sole analysis, and that alternative hypothesis were not developed or tested. As noted above, Alaska is very unique, and merits further studies beyond a "landscape basis."

The definition of water connectivity to a downstream system of "a visible channel" also warrants demonstration of connectivity on a case by case basis. RDC urges the EPA to adhere to use of the definition of a visible channel. As Dr. Packee described it, it is a "reasonable, measurable, and verifiable standard for connectivity," to which RDC concurs. A stated purpose of the study is to provide clarification of Clean Water Act jurisdiction, reasonable, measurable and verifiable, therefore demonstrations of connectivity are essential.

In conclusion, jurisdiction should not be expanded beyond congressional intent, but limited to navigable waters as intended by Congress under the CWA. Changes in the regulatory scheme of the CWA should be done consistent with the law or legislative action by Congress, not vague definitions and broad interpretations that empower EPA and Corps officials with informal and ambiguous controls over private, state, and federal lands. Because the connectivity study will be used to guide jurisdictional determinations of "waters of the United States" with far reaching regulatory and land use implications, it is imperative that the study use the best-available science, specifically, science based on arctic and subarctic environments applicable to Alaska.

RDC requests the public be allowed to review the proposed guidance, and that comment deadlines associated with the draft study be extended.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft guidance.

Sincerely,



Rick Rogers
Executive Director

cc: Senator Lisa Murkowski
Senator Mark Begich
Congressman Don Young
Governor Sean Parnell
Gina McCarthy, EPA Administrator
Dennis McLerran, EPA Region X

PIONEER

NATURAL RESOURCES

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News Release

Pioneer Natural Resources Announces Sale of Alaska Subsidiary to Caelus Energy Alaska for \$550 Million

DALLAS--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Oct. 25, 2013-- **Pioneer Natural Resources Company (NYSE:PXD)** ("Pioneer" or "the Company") today announced that the Company has entered into a purchase and sale agreement with Caelus Energy Alaska LLC to sell 100% of the equity in Pioneer's subsidiary, Pioneer Natural Resources Alaska, Inc., for cash proceeds of \$550 million, subject to normal closing adjustments. The transaction has an effective date of October 1, 2013 and is expected to close by the end of the year.

Scott D. Sheffield, Chairman and CEO, stated, "The sale of our Alaska asset will allow us to strategically redeploy capital to our core, oil-related Spraberry/Wolfcamp asset. We are currently delineating multiple prospective horizontal targets (Wolfcamp, Jo Mill and Spraberry shales) across more than 600,000 gross acres in the northern part of this asset. We believe this area holds recoverable resource potential of more than three billion barrels oil equivalent. The current drilling program for the northern Spraberry/Wolfcamp calls for an increase from five horizontal rigs during the second half of 2013 to eight horizontal rigs in 2014. With the redeployment of capital from the Alaska asset sale to the northern Spraberry/Wolfcamp, we plan to increase the horizontal rig count to ten rigs in 2014 and will ramp up this rig count faster than originally anticipated thereafter."

Mr. Sheffield continued, "I want to personally thank all of our Alaska employees for their hard work and dedication that contributed to our success in becoming the first independent E&P company to operate on the North Slope. I am pleased that Caelus plans to build on this success."

The sale of Pioneer's Alaska subsidiary is expected to result in a noncash loss of approximately \$350 million which will be recorded in the fourth quarter of 2013. The financial and operating results related to Pioneer's Alaska activities will be reflected as discontinued operations for the quarter ending December 31, 2013, and for all prior periods that will be presented in the Company's December 31, 2013 Form 10-K. Net production from the Alaska subsidiary averaged approximately 4,000 barrels oil equivalent per day over the first nine months of 2013.

James C. Musselman, President and CEO of Caelus Energy Alaska LLC, stated, "We are excited to enter the North Slope through the purchase of Pioneer's assets. The current Pioneer Alaska team is very impressive and has the experience to develop the significant resource potential they have identified and help us grow the business in the future. We are attracted to Alaska because of the enormous geologic opportunity as well as the incentives, such as SB 21, that the state has put in place to encourage energy investment by independent oil and gas companies."

Pioneer Natural Resources Company is a large independent oil and gas exploration and production company, headquartered in Dallas, Texas, with operations in the United States. For more information, visit Pioneer's website at www.pxd.com.

Caelus Energy LLC is a privately held diversified international energy group focused on the identification, pursuit and development of unique opportunities across the energy sector. The company is involved in a wide range of energy projects including conventional and unconventional exploration and production projects. Headquartered in Dallas, Texas, Caelus Energy has an experienced management and technical team with domestic and international experience. Prior to establishing Caelus in 2011, Mr. Musselman was Chairman and CEO of Kosmos Energy and President and CEO of Triton Energy, both independent international oil and gas exploration companies. For more information, visit Caelus Energy's website at www.caelusenergy.com.

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Judge sides with Park Service on hovercraft decision

By Tim Mowry TMOWRY@NEWSMINER.COM | Posted: Friday, November 1, 2013 12:21 am

FAIRBANKS — A federal judge has upheld the National Park Service's authority to enforce federal regulations on state-owned lands in Alaska national parks.

U.S. District Judge H. Russel Holland on Wednesday shot down a lawsuit from an Anchorage moose hunter who was challenging the National Park Service for banishing his hovercraft from the Yukon-Charley Rivers National Preserve northeast of Fairbanks six years ago.

In doing so, Holland also ruled against the state of Alaska, which had joined the suit in hopes of winning a ruling that potentially could have limited the

federal government's authority on state-owned, navigable waters in national parks, an issue that Gov. Sean Parnell and other political leaders in Alaska have been pressing for years.

John Sturgeon, of Anchorage, filed his lawsuit in September 2011, almost four years after the Park Service ordered him out of the Yukon-Charley Rivers preserve for using a hovercraft to hunt moose on the Nation River. Sturgeon said he was stopped on a gravel bar working on his hovercraft, a type of airboat that travels over the surface of the water, when three armed rangers stopped and ordered him out of the preserve. They told him it was illegal to operate a hovercraft in the preserve. He had been doing so since 1990.

The state joined the suit in December 2011 after the Alaska Department of Fish and Game was denied a permit from the Park Service to use a helicopter to conduct salmon research on state land on the Alagnak River in Katmai National Preserve in southwest Alaska. The state petitioned then-Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar to repeal or amend the regulation so it didn't apply to Alaska, but that petition was denied.

Both Sturgeon and the state argued that language in the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 prohibits the Park Service from restricting use of private and state-owned lands within the national parks and preserves in Alaska. Because both the Nation and Alagnak rivers are considered navigable waters, the submerged lands beneath them are considered state property.

Federal attorneys argued that regulations adopted by the National Park Service in 1996 extended the agency's authority to enforce federal regulations on private and state-owned lands in national parks and preserves.

In his ruling, Holland said the principal issue in the case was whether language in ANILCA “applies to the respective operations of Sturgeon and the state within the boundaries of Yukon-Charley and Katmai.” The regulations that prohibit hovercraft in the Yukon-Charley Rivers preserve and helicopters in the Katmai preserve were not adopted solely for those areas but for the entire national park system, the judge said.

“None of those regulations was adopted ‘solely’ to address entry upon or use of various equipment on public lands within ANILCA-created conservation units such as Yukon-Charley and Katmai,” Holland wrote. “They are regulations of general application across the entirety of the NPS.”

Sturgeon’s attorney, Matt Findlay, of Anchorage, said he was disappointed with Holland’s ruling and expects Sturgeon to appeal. The judge “effectively bought the National Park Service’s argument” and ignored statutes clearly spelled out in ANILCA, the attorney said.

“It reads the statute out of existence,” Findlay said of Holland’s decision. “That statute is supposed to be a restriction on federal authority. The Park Service is ignoring that restriction and Judge Holland has allowed them to ignore that restriction.”

Likewise, the state was “very disappointed” with Holland’s decision, senior assistant attorney general Anne Nelson with the Department of Law said. Holland’s ruling was “sort of a nuanced interpretation” of ANILCA, she said.

“What the judge’s opinion appears to do is make state and private lands within national parks in Alaska (subject) to national regulations but not subject to the regulations that apply only to national parks in Alaska, which is counterintuitive,” she said. “That’s not what the drafters of ANILCA intended.

“The judge used the language in the regulation itself to justify applying the regulation,” Nelson said. “That’s an aspect of the opinion we’re looking at very carefully.”

Sharon Leighow, spokeswoman for Parnell, said the governor “will continue to fight federal government encroachment threatening our rights of statehood, including Alaska’s right to govern its own land and water.” The governor is disappointed with the court’s ruling and is evaluating whether to appeal, she said.

Park Service spokesman John Quinley, meanwhile, said the agency was pleased the court upheld the federal regulation being challenged by Sturgeon and the state in the lawsuit.

“This was an argument of whether our regulations could be applied on navigable waters that run through national parks,” Quinley said. “With (the judge’s) decision, that recognizes we’re applying those regulations appropriately in those instances.”

The point of Park Service regulations on state and private lands inside national parks is “to provide for

NOAA REMOVES THE EASTERN STELLER SEA LION FROM THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT LIST

After public input and careful scientific review, NOAA Fisheries has found that the eastern distinct population segment of Steller sea lions has recovered and can be removed from the list of threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. This is the first species NOAA has delisted due to recovery since the eastern North Pacific gray whale was taken off the list of threatened and endangered species in 1994.

"We're delighted to see the recovery of the eastern population of Steller sea lions," said Jim Balsiger, Administrator of NOAA Fisheries' Alaska Region. "We'll be working with the states and other partners to monitor this population to ensure its continued health."

NOAA has concluded delisting is warranted because the species has met the recovery criteria outlined in its 2008 recovery plan and no longer meets the definition of a threatened or endangered species under the act. A threatened species is one that is likely to become endangered within the foreseeable future throughout all or a significant portion of its range. An endangered species is one that is in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of its range.

The best available **scientific information** indicates the eastern Steller sea lion has increased from an estimated 18,040 animals in 1979 to an estimated 70,174 in 2010, the most recent year for which data are available. Eastern Steller sea lions will continue to be protected under provisions of the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Steller sea lions were first listed as a threatened species under the ESA in 1990. In 1997, NOAA scientists recognized two distinct population segments of Steller sea lions: a western and an eastern segment. The eastern segment includes Steller sea lions from Cape Suckling, Alaska, south to California's Channel Islands. The western population segment remains classified as endangered. NOAA is not proposing any changes to the status of the western Steller sea lion.

On June 29, 2010, NOAA Fisheries provided notice that it was initiating a **status review** of the eastern Steller sea lion and requested public comment. During the comment period, NOAA Fisheries received two petitions to delist the eastern Steller sea lion: one from the states of Washington and Oregon; and one from the State of Alaska.

On April 18, 2012, NOAA released a draft status review, which underwent independent peer review and proposed to remove eastern sea lions from the list of endangered and threatened wildlife. NOAA requested, received, and considered 1,144 public comments during the 60-day comment period.

With the delisting, federal agencies proposing actions that may affect the eastern Steller sea lions are no longer required to consult with NOAA Fisheries under section 7 of the ESA. However, NOAA Fisheries will continue to monitor the effects of proposed projects on the eastern population to ensure existing measures under the MMPA provide protection necessary to maintain recovered status.

NOAA Fisheries is proceeding carefully to ensure the eastern population segment remains strong. Working with affected states and other partners, NOAA has developed a post-delisting monitoring plan for this population. As a precautionary measure, the plan will be in effect for 10 years--twice the five year time requirement under the ESA. If implemented as intended, this plan takes the important steps necessary to maintain the recovered status of the eastern Steller sea lion.

The delisting of the eastern Steller sea lion will take effect 30 days after publication of the **final rule in the Federal Register**.

RDC's 34th Annual

Alaska Resources

Conference

Wednesday and Thursday, November 20-21, 2013

Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center

Anchorage, Alaska

RDC's 34th Annual *Alaska Resources Conference*, will provide timely updates on projects and prospects, address key opportunities and challenges, and consider the implications of state and federal policies on Alaska's oil and gas, mining, and other resource development sectors. The conference will also feature the latest forecasts and updates on Alaska's main industries, as well as how companies are navigating the current economic environment.

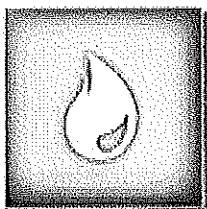
Over 1,000 people are expected to register and attend Alaska's most established and highest profile resource development forum of the year. Attendees will include decision-makers from across all resource industries, support sectors, Native corporations, federal, state, and local government agencies, as well as educators and students.

RDC would be honored to have your company sponsor the *Alaska Resources Conference*. Sponsors and attendees will be treated to a diverse and knowledgeable slate of speakers, as well as networking opportunities, such as gourmet breaks in the exhibit area, luncheons, and a VIP reception.

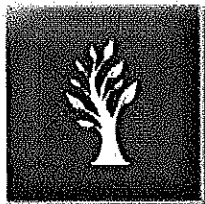
Your sponsorship dollars stay right here in Alaska. RDC puts them to work for its members to influence and shape state and federal public policy, encourage investment in Alaska, and grow the economy through responsible resource development.

Please join us at the Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center in Anchorage on November 20-21, 2013.

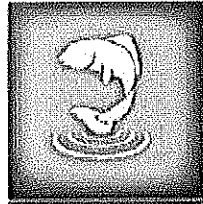
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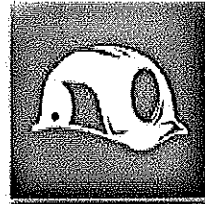
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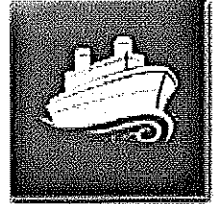
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Alaska Resources Conference

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Resource Development Council's 34th Annual
Alaska Resources Conference

Wednesday, November 20th

7:00 a.m. Registration/Check-in/Exhibits Open

Eye-Opener Breakfast in Exhibit Area – **Sponsored by Holland America Line**

8:00 Opening Remarks

Phil Cochrane, RDC President, Vice President, External Affairs, BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.
Mayor Dan Sullivan, Municipality of Anchorage

Alaskan Economic Trends: 2014 Outlook

Neal Fried, Economist, Alaska Department of Labor

Alaska Industry 2013 Year in Review and 2014 Outlook

Oil & Gas: Kara Moriarty, Executive Director, Alaska Oil and Gas Association

Fisheries: Greg Baker, Chief Executive Officer, Westward Fishing Company

Forestry: Shelly Wright, Executive Director, Southeast Conference

Mining: Karen Matthias, Executive Director, Council of Alaska Producers

Tourism: Ralph Samuels, Vice President, Government and Community Relations, Holland America Line

10:00 Gourmet Break – Sponsored by ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.

10:30 Getting Alaska Back on the Global Energy Map

Trond-Erik Johansen, President, ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.

North Slope Resources, Big Opportunities, Big Challenges

Dave LaChance, Vice President, Reservoir Development, Alaska, BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.

11:30 Networking Break

Noon Keynote Luncheon: Sponsored by Northrim Bank

Red Dog, Donlin, and Beyond: Native Corporations Engaged in Resource Development

Marie Greene, President/CEO, NANA Regional Corporation

Andrew Guy, President/CEO, Calista Corporation

1:30 p.m. Alaska's Crucial Role in North American Energy Security

Senator Ron Wyden, Chairman, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Senator Lisa Murkowski, Ranking Member, Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Arctic Development: 2014 and Beyond

Tommy Beaudreau, Acting Assistant Secretary, Lands and Minerals Management, U.S. Department of the Interior

Randall Luthi, President, National Ocean Industries Association

Captain Greg Sanial, District 17th Coast Guard Response

3:00 Gourmet Break – Sponsored by NANA Development Corporation

3:30 Hydraulic Fracturing: Policy and Technology

David Porter, Commissioner, The Railroad Commission of Texas

Mike Watts, Director of Fracture Stimulation Affairs, Halliburton

Cook Inlet 2014 and Beyond

Pete Stokes, Consulting Petroleum Engineer and Commercial Manager, Petrotechnical Resources of Alaska

John Hendrix, General Manager, Apache Alaska, Inc. (Invited)

Greg Lalicker, President, Hillcorp

Mayor Mike Navarre, Kenai Peninsula Borough

5:00 VIP Networking Reception – Hosted by ExxonMobil, open to all conference attendees

Thursday, November 21st

7:00 a.m. Exhibits Open

Eye-Opener Breakfast in Exhibit Area – **Sponsored by Wells Fargo**

8:00 Project Updates on Commercializing North Slope Gas

Steve Butt, Project Manager, Alaska LNG Project

Dan Fauske, President/CEO, Alaska Gasline Development Corporation

Global LNG Market Overview and Alaska's Role

Richard Guerrant, Vice President, LNG, ExxonMobil Gas and Power Marketing

9:30 It's Really About People

John Shively, Chief Executive Officer, Pebble Partnership

10:00 Gourmet Break – Sponsored by Stoel Rives LLP

10:30 Mitigating Impacts to Fisheries and the Environment From Major Development Projects

William Morris, Regional Supervisor, Habitat Division, Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Dan Billman, Vice President and Senior Engineer, HDR Alaska, Inc.

11:30 Network Break

Noon Keynote Luncheon: Sponsored by Pebble Partnership

Pebble and Alaska: The Investment Case

Ron Thiessen, Chief Executive Officer, Northern Dynasty Minerals Ltd.

1:30 p.m. Coexistence: A Case Study

Admiral Tom Barrett, President, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company

Mayor David Cobb, City of Valdez

The Preoccupation of NGOs with Alaska Resources: Past, Present, and Future

Ryan Steen, Partner, Stoel Rives LLP

More Alaska Production Act: Already Making A Difference

Doug Smith, President, LRS Corporation

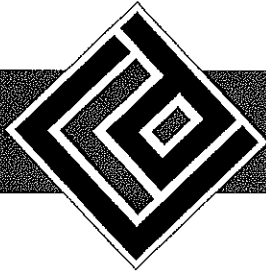
Rick Boyles, Secretary-Treasurer, Teamsters Local 959

Maynard Gates, President and Chief Executive Officer, Alaska Steel

3:30 Grand Raffle Drawing

Send-off Champagne Toast – Sponsored by the Alaska Oil and Gas Association

Agenda subject to change. Please visit akrdc.org for updates.



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

RDC Annual Conference – Raffle Prize List

As of November 4, 2013 • Drawing will be November 21, 2013

Grand Prize: Seven-Day Cruise for Two
Donated by Holland America Line



Two Round Trip Tickets
Donated by Alaska Airlines

Case of Alaskan King Crab
Donated by Westward Seafoods

Alaska Airlines Miles
Donated by GCI Industrial Telecom

\$50 Sportman's Warehouse Gift Card
Donated by Hilcorp Alaska, LLC

Two Round Trip Train Tickets between Anchorage-Denali
Donated by the Alaska Railroad Corporation

KRSA Silver Fish Rod & Reel
Donated by Kenai River Sportfishing Association

MS 170 STIHL Chainsaw
Donated by Koncor Forest Products

Couples 50-Minute Massage
Donated by the Sheraton Ice Spa

Private, behind the scenes tour, including barbeque lunch for 12 people
Donated by Alaska Wildlife Cons. Center

\$250 Gift Cards for Alyeska Resort (Two)
Donated by Global Diving & Salvage, Inc.

Husqvarna 240 Chain Saw
Donated by HDR Alaska

Framed Alaska Landscape Photo
Donated by AERO-METRIC, Inc.

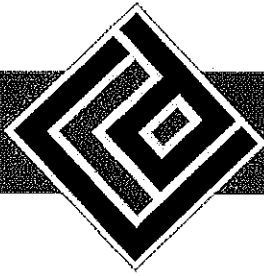
Arctic Slope & Beaufort Sea, Alaska Oil & Gas Activities Map
Donated by Mapmakers Alaska

Five Pound Box of Alaskan Scallops (Two)
Donated by Alaska Scallop Association

Logo Gear
Donated by Owl Ridge Natural Resource Consultants

More prizes to come, check akrdc.org for updates!

RDC appreciates your support!



RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development

RDC Annual Conference – Raffle Donation Form

November 20-21, 2013 – Dena'ina Civic & Convention Center

The Resource Development Council (RDC) will again be holding our **Grand Raffle Drawing** as an exciting conclusion to this year's Annual Conference. Please consider donating a prize to assist in RDC's mission of *Growing Alaska Through Responsible Resource Development*.

Item Description: _____

Donated By: _____

Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Number: _____

Instructions (if any): _____

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Anchorage, AK 99503

resources@akrdc.org

(907) 276-0700 ext. 3

Your donation may be tax deductible as RDC is a 501(c)(6) tax-exempt organization (tax ID number: 92-0048833).

Donors will receive recognition during the conference on PowerPoint screens and in printed materials, and will be posted on our website, akrdc.org.

RDC truly appreciates your support!