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# Tundra Times

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## T-H delegates target alcohol, land use issues

by Mary L. Lekanof  
Tundra Times writer

JUNEAU — Economic development, land use planning, alcoholism and membership in the Alaska Federation of Natives were among key issues discussed by delegates last week at the  
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## Dancers perform at training conference

Members of various Native American tribes perform a Gourd Dance at the evening Pow-Wow at the Eighth Annual National Indian Employment and Training Conference.

The conference was held last week in Anchorage. It was attended by representatives from 10 regions throughout the United States.

The theme for this year's gathering was "Culture, Technology and Success." It was hosted by the Cook Inlet Native Association's employment and training program.

In a letter to participants, Randy Edmonds, NIETC chairman, said he believes that these three concepts must be incorporated into the daily lives of American Indians and Alaska Natives and into programs Native Americans operate in order to be competitive.



Photo by M.A. Klueber

## Interior: Open Coastal Plain

by A.J. McClanahan  
Tundra Times publisher

The U.S. Department of Interior made an official report to Alaskans last week that the entire Coastal Plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge should be opened to oil and gas leasing.

Bill Horn, Interior assistant secretary for fish, wildlife and parks, spoke to reporters at a press conference in Anchorage Tuesday, saying the department believes development could take place with few adverse effects on wildlife.

Although Interior's report is at odds with concerns raised by the State of Alaska and others over what has been called the "core" caribou calving area in the Coastal Plain, Horn said Interior Secretary Donald Hodel believes it is unlikely drilling would dramatically hurt caribou.

"In his mind, there is no need to arbitrarily take any area off the table," he said.

The draft report states that although



development could lead to the displacement of some of the caribou herd, "it is unlikely, though possible, that such displacement would result in any appreciable decline in herd size."

Interior's report, mandated by the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act, is made to Congress. Congressional action is needed before any development can take place.

Horn stressed that studies indicate the Coastal Plain appears to have an "enormous potential" for oil development. Estimates range between 600 million and 9.2 billion barrels of recoverable oil, the latter nearly equal to the Prudhoe Bay field, which currently supplies almost one-fifth of U.S.

domestic production.

"There is a definite national need to augment our resources," Horn said.

Horn also discussed the issue of land exchanges between Alaska Native corporations and the federal government. In the discussions, Alaska Native are offering to trade lands within other wildlife refuges in Alaska for oil rights in ANWR.

He said Interior has been "loath and reticent" about trading for subsurface estate within the other refuges, which appears to indicate that Section 7(i) of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act would not apply to the trades.

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## Mayor supports new health center for Natives

by A.J. McClanahan  
Tundra Times publisher

Anchorage Mayor Tony Knowles is committed to working with the Alaska Native Health Service for the eventual development of a new Native medical center in the city, and an agreement was signed recently to set the stage for that center.

The Municipality of Anchorage, the Alaska Native Health Service and the Tudor Fund Partnership have agreed on terms of a three-way land trade, which Knowles said is necessary to make the project a reality. The parties have agreed to a June 7 deadline to formalize the land trade.

"There is a real need for a new facility," Knowles said in a recent interview, stressing that the new medical center is right in line with his efforts to make Anchorage a  
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