

When thinking of Alaska, I think about the pristine wildlife and abundant resources. Being from Colorado, I didn't realize the challenges caused by both the remoteness of Alaska and the sheer amount of resources in the state. Being new to the natural resource field, I would recommend plans that are specific to the different fields based on their certain requirements. One criterion that is universal for all of them would be to limit the impact on the environment while providing opportunities for the residents of the state. Industries dealing with natural resources need to look at the ecological, social, and economical impacts that their decisions will make for the state. My recommendations are based on providing a solution to make them available for not only this generation but for many generations to come.

Hunting should be managed in a way to regulate populations without over-harvesting, which may put undue pressure on the animals. I would use the expertise of Alaska Fish and Game to develop a management plan to try and predict healthy population levels for sustainable harvest. We, as managers, need to help stimulate our economy while trying to provide an environment that allows for these populations to stay at healthy levels. This will include range management to provide this environment.

Our fisheries should be modeled in the same manner as hunting but with one big difference; hunting has a smaller commercial demand. Our state enjoys having one of the most successful salmon and halibut fisheries in the world. Utilizing fisheries to meet the demand of both sport fishing and commercial fishing is crucial for the vitality of our salmon and halibut industry. Using hatcheries and other tools to help supplement the fisheries helps keep our fisheries productive while providing enough fish for the industry. This not only provides our communities with jobs but it allows us to maintain a fishery for our children to enjoy.

In the mining and petroleum industry we must try to stimulate our economy while limiting the effects to the environment. These may be natural resources but they are limited and we must treat them as such. We have to base the development of the resources by the impacts it will have on the environment and the long term effects. If the management only goes for a profit and is not concerned with environmental issues, it will harm other natural resources. A management plan that takes into account all of the environmental considerations with a strong reclamation plan will be the most beneficial to Alaskans by providing long term jobs and stimulating the economy while providing enough protection for our other resources.

One of the industries that utilizes many of our natural resources is ecotourism. When we look at all of the resources of Alaska, tourism plays a large part in not only our economy, but it stimulates growth and exposure of resources. A management plan needs to take into account many of the aspects that people think about when they envision Alaska, the pristine wilderness. Our forests play a large part in tourism. Management plans to minimize natural and unnatural impacts is necessary to provide for healthy forests and home to our wildlife while meeting the needs of the human population. The best management should be a sustainable industry that promotes keeping the wilderness wild while helping stimulate our economy.

Agriculture in the state is an important resource but may be very challenging especially because of our long winter and the lack of infrastructure. A three month growing season and market prices compared to the Lower 48 compounds the complexity of managing a successful plan to improve the agriculture in the state. The goal for Alaska

should be to decrease reliability on other states for produce and supplement our own economy with local agriculture. This, in my mind, will take a long time to develop the infrastructure that many successful agricultural states take for granted.

All of our natural resources are connected to the strategies of the other resource departments. We must try to make decisions that will enable our state to grow while limiting ecological impacts and stimulating social and economical programs. When these are accomplished, then later generations will still be able to enjoy the resources that we take for granted today.