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Brock Evans speaks at the 50th anniversary of the 1964 Wilderness Act celebration at Schaible Auditorium at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, Alaska

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Andy Keller welcomed everyone to the Wilderness Act celebration. He talked about the itinerary of the evening. He asked people who will be speaking to sign a release form. He explained the purpose of their celebration. There are other events scheduled throughout the year. They all volunteered their work. Susan Grace is introduced. Susan Grace sings Oh sweet Alaska.

Andy Keller talked about how he became an environmentalist. His parents were role models and mentors. He talked about organizing a congressional district in Illinois. He went to a Sierra Club meeting in Michigan and met Brock Evans who worked with the initial writing of ANILCA. He has worked with Alaskan conservationists. He talked about Brock Evans and his work.

Brock Evans talked about working as a young lawyer in Seattle and being upset with logging. He was offered the job as the representative of the Sierra Club for the northwest by David Brower. He was able to visit Alaska in the 1960s and 1970s. He came up to Fairbanks in February in 1975. He talked about a meeting with American and Russian conservationists in 1991 in Fairbanks. He read the words of Lyndon Johnson concerning what we leave future generations. He discussed the meaning and history of the Wilderness Act and the 90 million acres it saved. He said ordinary people have fought to protect areas. He talked about fighting for the Snake River and Hell's Canyon in 1967. He filed for a petition of intervention to stop the dam project on the river. Hell's Canyon National Recreation Area was created. He was able to visit the area in 2001. He talked briefly about Three Sisters Wilderness Area and the joy and happiness he feels when land is safe forever. Many times they lost their fight and forests were logged and rivers were dammed. He called the fights love battles. While he was in Salmon, Idaho he heard people wanting to keep the land the way it was and didn't want "wilderness" designation changing it. He talked about the history of the way wild areas are valued in the United States including the designation of Yellowstone National Park. When the Endangered Species Act was passed it was almost unanimous. He testified this past winter about the Endangered Species Act. It protects the habitat and not just individual species. He talked about the morality of the Endangered Species Act when he testified. He said talked about the two different kinds of political power in our system at present. One is the power of money. The other power is votes. They make effective use of the power of votes. He said there are basic principles of environmental success: don't be afraid, never quit, know your facts, get involved in politics, and endless pressure endlessly applied. He talked about the results of the 1968 campaign to establish a national park in the North Cascades.

Someone in the audience asked Brock Evans what his hardest fought campaign was. Brock Evans said it was probably the ancient forest campaign. They were concerned about the rate of logging in 1984. They did get an injunction because of the spotted owl. It was an issue during the 1992 election year. There

was job loss involved and many groups against them. They didn't get everything they wanted, but there were many large trees saved.

Brock Evans talked about current politics and environmental legislation. He said he isn't that worried about it. He didn't think there were any major threats to the environment in Alaska at this time compared to issues in the past.