

From: Linda Rutledge <potledge@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2018 2:28 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Committee Members,

As residents of Alaska for 42 years, we have valued the region for the proposed Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. We have hunted, fished, picked berries, camped and hiked through the area. This has been our breadbasket of food and recreation throughout our homesteading life. We value the area not only for what it provides for us, but also for the wonderful habitat it provides for other animals. The wildlife thrives in this homeland, and we should respect their need for healthy habitat and do everything possible to allow continued success for all. HB 272 would advance that goal and should be moved on with your approval.

Sincerely,
Linda and Charlie Rutledge
PO Box 91
Copper Center, AK 99573

From: Robin Mayo <willawaw@coppervalleyak.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2018 6:00 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: In favor of HB 272

Greetings, I'd like to express my support for HB 272 for the Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. This area is vitally important habitat for the Nelchina Caribou herd and many other critters, a fantastic berry picking area used by many people from across the state, and an awesome recreation site for boating, fishing, and hiking. Protection as a Game Refuge would ensure that we can all keep up these subsistence activities.

Thank you for your service to this state
Robin Mayo
Copper Center, Alaska

From: Gay <g@welm.us>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2018 7:44 AM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: support for HB272

Please support HB 272. Our family spends time every year enjoying the beauty of the Tangle Lakes, fishing, hiking, berry picking. Please do whatever you can to protect this area from being spoiled.

Gay Wellman,
HC60 Box 227,
Copper Center, AK 99573
907-822-3418

From: Joe Donohue <donjr081@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 11, 2018 3:52 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272 February 13, 2018 Hearing

Dear Members of the House Fisheries Committee,

As a rural Alaskan, hunting is a integral part of my lifestyle. Access to world class hunting areas is one of the main benefits of living in rural Alaska. That is why I am writing you today in support of House Bill 272 Tangle Lakes Game Refuge. By protecting this piece of land for the Nelchina caribou herd, we will protect our ability to hunt here for generations to come.

This beautiful area draws hundreds of hunters from Anchorage, Fairbanks, and surrounding communities to harvest caribou every year. I am lucky enough to have hunted caribou and been berry picking in Tangle Lakes. HB272 would allow hunters to continue harvesting caribou here every year, while limiting mining, which would negatively impact caribou populations. Whether you go to Tangle Lakes for hunting, berry picking, or just canoeing and camping, HB272 would benefit all Alaskans by protecting a place essential to the Nelchina caribou herd.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joe Donohue
Kenny Lake, Alaska

From: matt obermiller <mattobermiller@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 12:41 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: Tangle Lakes

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Matt Obermiller. I'm a 25 year resident of the Copper Basin near Kenny Lake.

I hike and sight see in the Tangle Lakes area and strongly support protecting the wilderness and biological integrity of the Tangle Lakes area and strongly support HB 272.

Most of my subsistence meat harvest takes place close by where I live but many of my friends and acquaintances, residents of Kenny Lake and the Copper Basin fish, subsistence hunt and camp in the Tangle Lakes area and depend on the access it provides to healthy populations of harvestable animals.

Mining in the Tangle Lakes area is quite incompatible with the values and uses many of us in the nearby communities hold for this area so we would like to have the Tangle Lakes area protected from this destruction.

Thank you, Matt

Mile 56 Richardson Hwy.

From: Dave <d@welm.us>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 12:45 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

House Fisheries Committee:

I understand that HB 272, concerning the Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge, is coming up for hearing before your committee tomorrow. I am writing to urge passage of this excellent legislation, which would wisely help to ensure the continued health of the Nelchina caribou herd, and also to conserve other valuable resources in this wonderful region of Alaska. As a resident and business owner in the Copper River Basin, I have for many years enjoyed the proximity of the Tangle Lakes for their bounty of berry picking, canoeing, fishing, sometime caribou hunting, and sheer natural beauty. These are resources that, if conserved by our generation, will be available undiminished for our great grandchildren. Alternatively, they could vanish in the flash of a few years of hasty and unwise intrusion. Of these two scenarios, I prefer the former, and hope that you will take a step in that direction by supporting HB 272.

Thank you!

—Dave Wellman

Owner, Wellwood Center Bed and Breakfast HC 60 Box 227, Copper Center, AK 99573

From: Felicia Riedel <f_riedel@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 1:01 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Representatives,

As you listen to this bill tomorrow, I want you to have the perspectives of a couple who live where the impact of HB 272 will be felt. My husband and I have lived and raised a family in the Copper River Basin since 1977, having come here from Fairbanks where my mother homesteaded. I love this land and the lifestyle it affords! But I also am a mom and understand wanting jobs and a future for my kids.

I think HB 272 supports my desires to continue to be able to rely on game meat and enjoy the fascinating landscape and geology of the Tangle Lakes area. The bill's main purpose is to protect wildlife and their habitat, but that will double the purpose by also preserving the land.

My husband is an avid, fair-chase hunter, so game and salmon are what we eat for meat. I supply the non-meat side for the table, from the garden to the bread –but also berries, and the area is a good source for those. I relish going on hunts, even though I pick berries or take photos or facilitate kids, because hunters get out into the best places, like Tangle Lakes. My husband was also a recreational miner, and he made sure this bill didn't exclude that.

So when I think that there is a bill that will safeguard the caribou herd and be good for local businesses and protect the land for berry pickers, photographers, tourists, archaeologists, and others while not ruining anyone's jobs or future, I think it shows farsightedness and needs to be supported.

Thank you,
Felicia Riedel
Kenny Lake, AK

From: Mary Odden <fiddletunes@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 1:04 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Alaska Legislature House Fisheries Committee,

We are long-time Copper Basin Residents and business owners. We hunt and fish in the Tangle Lakes area. We are not opposed to mining exploration and development in general, but with most other people in our region we recognize this area along the Denali Highway as a critical caribou habitat, long identified as such by state biologists. Please support the creation and funding of this refuge, important for the future of the Nelchina herd and all those who depend upon and enjoy its healthy population.

Respectfully,

Jim and Mary Odden
HC 1 Box 2520
Glennallen, Alaska 99588

From: Mark Luttrell <prufrock@arctic.net>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 1:16 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: Support for HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

The protection offered by a state game refuge is long overdue in the Tangle Lakes area. I fully support this bill and thank Representative Josephson for introducing it and the fisheries committee for discussing it.

My wife and I have enjoyed the Denali Highway and Tangle Lakes area for decades. We hike, pick berries and photograph wildlife. In the 80s, as an archaeologist with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, I surveyed much of the area near Tangle Lakes and Dickey Lake. We confirmed that the area is rich in cultural resources.

Its foolish to leave this area unprotected from damaging resource extraction.

Thanks

Mark Luttrell and
Ann Ghicadus
Box 511
Seward AK 99664

From: Diane Ellsworth <farmzoo@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 2:17 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272

Please support HB 272. We need to keep our wild lands wild and protect our caribou, fish and environment. It is time to use other sources of energy and time to realize that wealth is not only measured in dollars--the earth is our most valuable resource.

Thank you,
Diane Ellsworth
HC 60 Box 109N
Copper Center, Alaska 99573

From: Rebekah Donohue <beck.donohue@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 2:50 PM
To: House Fisheries; Rep. David Talerico; Rep. George Rauscher
Subject: HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

I am writing to ask that you support HB 272, the bill to form a Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. This region is simply too valuable to allow mining to impact it. With the Nelchina Caribou herd roaming over much of the land, it is an area rich in beauty and subsistence resources. I have many wonderful childhood memories from the area: quietly canoeing around the lakes, picking blueberries with my Mom, and my first caribou hunt with my Dad. I have continued these activities into adulthood, and look forward every year to an autumn trip to Tangle Lakes. I just had my first child this winter, and I look forward to sharing these same experiences with her in the years to come. Please do your part to protect this beautiful region for the wildlife that inhabit it, and for the rich experiences it offers for future generations.

Thank you,
Rebekah Donohue
Kenny Lake, Alaska
907-244-6623

From: frankkeim@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 3:01 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: Tangle lakes refuge

I have used the tangle lakes recreation area for more than 50 years in more ways than I can count. It is one of my favorite road accessible areas in Alaska, bar none, and the best way I think it should be protected is as a refuge. Please support the idea of a tangle lakes wildlife refuge. Thank you very much.

Sent from my iPhone

From: Don Kiely <don@donkiely.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 5:10 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Members of the House Fisheries Committee:

I am writing to thank you for considering HB 272 to establish the Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. I urge you to support this bill, both to protect this incredible area to provide permanent protection for fish and wildlife populations and their habitats, as well as to protect the area for its incredible recreation opportunities, including fishing and hunting.

I often visit the Tangle Lakes area, mostly to paddle the Delta River and for tundra hiking and berry picking. It is an incredible resource, well worth giving our highest levels of protection.

Thank you!
Don Kiely
Fairbanks, AK

From: Bob Hadaway <hadaway.bob@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 5:26 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: House Bill 272

I strongly support HB 272 as a measure to protect the Tangle Lakes region. I've spent many years, camping, canoeing, fishing and hiking in this beautiful area and hope to see it protected for future generations.

Sincerely,

Bob Hadaway
[\(hadaway.bob@gmail.com\)](mailto:hadaway.bob@gmail.com)

From: dianalingle@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 5:50 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: Tangle lakes state game refuge

I wish to voice my support for HB 272. Tangle Lakes is a wonderful area for hiking, canoeing, kayaking, and camping and should be protected from mining or other industrial uses which would adversely impact its value for both humans and wildlife.

Thank you,
Diana Lingle,
P. O. Box 395, Ester, Ak 99725

Sent from my iPad

From: Peggy Raybeck <paycheck39@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 5:52 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: Support for HB 272

I strongly support the bill to create a refuge to protect the Tangle Lakes and Upper Delta R area.

I've spent many days in this fabulous area hunting, fishing, picking blueberries and canoe trips for pleasure and hunting down the river. First trip in the late 1960s was really exciting from the lake into (literally) the river. Also enjoyed a few snowmachine and ski trips in the Spring. It's a true wonderland.

From: Zak Penwell <zak.penwell@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 5:55 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: In support of HB 272

Hello,

I wanted to ask for your support of HB 272. My kids and I use the Tangle Lakes area to fish, canoe, and hike. This bill would be great for the long time protection of this area.

Thank you.

Zak Penwell
1659 Wolverine Lane
Fairbanks AK 99709

From: Larry Rundquist <rundquist@gci.net>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 9:18 PM
To: House Fisheries
Cc: Representative_Geran_Tarr@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Tom Begich
Subject: Please support HB 272

House Fisheries Committee Members...

I am in full support of HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge. Tangle Lakes are well known for great grayling fishing and the upper Delta Wild and Scenic River was one of the best paddle trips that I have taken. These waterbodies and their entire watershed should be protected with the creation of the Game Refuge. Development threats in recent years makes it imperative that this bill move forward to the legislature for passage this session.

Thank you for moving this bill to the legislature...

Larry Rundquist
2912 Alder Dr
Anchorage, Alaska 99508
907-279-7395

From: Frank Maxwell <maxwellasfrank@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 12, 2018 10:38 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272- Tangle Lakes Refuge

I have been visiting Tangle Lakes since the 1990s which is before I became an Alaska resident. It is a place where I take out-of-state visitors because it is such a vibrant, beautiful stop on the Denali Highway. I've used it for birding, camping, fishing and canoeing. The thought of the area being desecrated by large-scale mining has disturbed me for many years. I strongly support HB 272 to protect the irreplaceable, habitat, scenic and recreational values there.

Thank you Frank Maxwell, POB 84862, Fairbanks, AK 99708

From: Brad Snow <svaldonza@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 7:37 AM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272 - Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge

Dear Committee Members,

I'm writing you in support of HB 272 because I have had considerable experience canoeing, berry picking and hiking in the Tangle Lakes area over the last twenty-eight years, and feel it is one of the most beautiful and accessible areas we as Alaskans possess.

As founder in 1994 with a group of like-minded Alaskans, and later its president for ten years, I helped build Fairbanks Paddlers, a club for non-motorized water craft paddlers, from its inception into an organization of over 400 members. Its goals, "to promote the non-motorized recreational use of Alaskan rivers through conservation, training, safety, exchange of information; and to have fun in the process"(from the club charter), included the protection of areas like the Tangle Lakes. Many of our members have paddled this waterway multiple times, as its unique qualities, including its rare road-to-road access, are worth experiencing and cherishing over and over again.

And so I urge you to carefully consider the proposal before you, and vote to protect this most valuable Alaskan resource from encroachment.

Brad Snow
2650 Home Run
Fairbanks, AK 99709

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Brad Snow
svaldonza@gmail.com

From: karen jensen <kljensen64@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 7:54 AM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: Tangle Lakes Game Refuge - yes!

Dear Legislators:

My family and I have been going to Tangle Lakes area every summer, to birdwatch, canoe and camp. And pick berries! And get a few bug bites. The Tangle Lakes area and Delta river are a special Alaskan treasure, used by many but never feel overcrowded. I have just heard about legislation to make the area a state game refuge, and if that allows multiple uses without abuse and destruction, I'm all for it. Hunting and fishing, paddlers of all types, and lots of campers and wildlife watchers. Leave it that way; that's why we live here.

Thank you,

Karen Jensen
kljensen64@gmail.com
Fairbanks, AK

From: Jenna Jonas <jenna.e.jonas@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:07 AM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272

Dear committee members,

My name is Jenna Jonas and I live at 2240 Railroad drive in Fairbanks. I just wanted to send you a brief note and express my support for HB 272. I have worked as a canoe guide in the Tangle Lakes region and have been there on recreation, fishing, hunting, and berry picking trips. It is an incredible area, rich and diverse and I think that a State Game Refuge would be an appropriate designation and protect the most valuable resource there, the ecosystem which supports the Nelchina caribou herd. Thank you for considering this important bill.

Jenna Jonas

jenna.e.jonas@gmail.com

From: Ann Biddle <annbiddle@cvinternet.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:29 AM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272

House Fisheries Committee Members,

I support the passage of HB 272, the establishment of the Tangle Lakes Game Refuge, put forth by Representative Andy Josephson. My family and I live and subsist in the Copper River Valley. We annually hunt and forage in the area under consideration.

Please consider passing this bill to ensure that the Nelchina caribou herd has land to roam and remains strong.

Thank you,
Ann Biddle
HC 01 Box 112
Gakona, AK 99586

From: Ruth McHenry <cca@coppervalleyak.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:36 AM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272 Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge
Attachments: TangleLksLetterToLegis.docx; TangleLksLetterToLegis.Signers.xlsx

Dear Fisheries Committee Members,

An impressive number of Alaskans, and some Outside visitors as well, have cared enough about the Tangle Lakes region to sign the attached Letter to the Legislature. This was not a quick, press-the-button sign-on. Many signed paper petitions at booths and events, and took the time to include how they use the area. They hunt, fish, pick berries, etc. (Please see "how recreate" column in attached spreadsheet.) Some of the signers are business owners. (See first column of spread sheet.) To make it easier for you to see which are from your districts, the list is arranged alphabetically by city.

Copper Country Alliance is a small non-profit conservation organization that has served the Copper River Basin for over 25 years. Our organization, partner organizations, and concerned individuals have sought spent years seeking ways to ensure that the Tangle Lakes region remains a place where wildlife flourishes and humans hunt, fish, and recreate.

We hope this information will help you understand the value of creating a Tangle Lakes State Game Refuge for the benefit of current and future Alaskans.

Sincerely,

Ruth McHenry

--
Ruth McHenry, Executive Director
Copper Country Alliance
HC60 Box 306T
Copper Center, AK 99573
907-822-3644

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<http://www.avg.com>

From: Ronald Yarnell <ronaldyarnell@icloud.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 9:58 AM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272

To whom it concerns,

This is a no brainer. The Tangle Lakes Area is one of the most popular recreational areas in interior. We should be doing everything in our power to protect this valuable recreational area. Stop large scale mining in this area.

Please include my comments in the record.

Sincerely, Ron Yarnell(Fairbanks)

Sent from my iPhone

From: Judi Thurmond <madbluebird4444@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 10:51 AM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: HB 272

I support HB 272 - we use this area for canoeing, hiking and berry picking. Keep the pristine look of this area. Sincerely,
Judi Thurmond

From: Daniel Failoni <jkddfailoni@olypen.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 2:21 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: Tangle Lakes

I support the bill re:Tangle Lakes Refuge especially if hunting is allowed to continue. Thank you. Dan Failoni
360 582 9687

From: gcarr64 <gcarr64@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 13, 2018 8:37 PM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: Hb272 bill

I Richard Carr 44 year resident supports the HB272 bill . It has been an important part of my life .

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: Frank Keim <frankkeim@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 17, 2018 10:45 AM
To: House Fisheries
Subject: addendum

To members of the Fisheries committee:

I am back to my computer again, and wish to add the ways I have recreated in the proposed Tangle Lakes Refuge area since the early 1960's. Once upon a time, in the 1960's and 1970's, there used to be a LOT of caribou in the area, and I hunted them there. I also hunted moose there. For each of these species I was successful and, when a student, fed myself, and later, after I had a family, fed them too. From the 1960's to the present, I have canoed the area more than 40 times. I have also fished in the area, as well as hiked, mountain climbed, bird watched and cross-country skied. So, you see that I, along with my two wives, children, grandchildren, and so many friends and relatives, have used this area extensively many many times. And it is for these reasons that I/we feel the area should be set aside permanently as a State Refuge. Please help make it so. Thanks.

Frank Keim
2220 Penrose Lane
Fairbanks 99709

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Something will have gone out of us as a people if we ever let the remaining wilderness be destroyed...We simply need that wild country, even if we never do more than drive to its edge and look in.

Wallace Stegner