



BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS AND ANGLERS

ALASKA CHAPTER

PO Box 47 Homer, AK 99603



To: Governor Sarah Palin
State of Alaska
3rd Floor, State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

July 10, 2008

Cc: DNR Commisioner Tom Irwin
ADF&G Commisioner Denby Lloyd

Re: Tangle Lakes Refuge Proposal

Dear Governor Palin,

Alaska Backcountry Hunters and Anglers (AK BHA) is a grassroots organization of Alaskans dedicated to working for the protection of fish and wildlife resources for present and future generations. We are residents of the state who hunt, fish, trap, and depend on the living, renewable resources of this great state to sustain us. We believe the future of our hunting and fishing heritage depends on prudent management of intact ecosystems, and habitat protection.

You have heard from the Board of Game, former and current ADF&G biologists, citizens groups such as the Copper County Alliance, and other individuals about the pressing need to protect the Tangle Lakes area. This region has been recognized for years as vital hunting grounds for area residents pursuing Nelchina caribou, and is known to support important, if not critical, caribou winter habitat. Many resident moose hunters, and both resident and nonresident bear and small game hunters also utilize this region. This is a unique area of the state that we believe has its highest value in the renewable fish and wildlife resources, rather than the recoverable minerals. The hunting and fishing residents we represent, and our children and their children, deserve to have this area protected from the long-term damage large scale industrial mining inevitably causes. Because the recreational and subsistence value of this area is so important to current and future Alaskans, we support creating a Refuge in the "Denali block" area of the Tangle Lakes.

Prioritizing the protection of fish and wildlife here makes sense to a diverse group of Alaskan outdoors enthusiasts, from hunters and anglers and trappers, to wildlife viewers, hikers, and snowmachiners.

We respectfully request your support for the protection of this area for subsistence and recreational use by the people, via Refuge status.

Thank you for your time and effort.
Sincerely,
Louise Seguela – Secretary AK BHA
<http://www.alaskabackcountryhunters.org>