

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR JOE THOMAS

## Senate Bill 195 – An Act relating to the repeal of the establishment of the Goldstream Public Use Area

### Sponsor Statement

The Goldstream Public Use Area (GPUA) was created in 1990 by Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp and Representative Mike Davis in order to preserve the recreational opportunities, traditional uses and atmosphere of the local neighborhoods. The GPUA is set to sunset on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 unless Senate Bill 195 is passed this session.

The GPUA encompasses a patchwork of nearly 2000 acres of state land bordered by Sheep Creek Road to the east, Goldstream Road to the north and the Steese Highway to the east. The GPUA is home to an ever-growing network of trails that connect users to the Chathanika River Valley, the White Mountains and the Fairbanks area, all from a central location close to Fairbanks' population base. The GPUA is passively managed by the state and the trails are maintained by volunteers at no cost to the taxpayers.

All uses are allowed in the area and the GPUA is utilized year round by a variety of outdoor enthusiasts and families.

The repeal of the GPUA's sunset clause is actively supported by the Alaska Outdoor Council, Alaska Dog Mushing Association, Alaska Miners Association, Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks, Alaska Trapper's Association, Skijoring and Polk Association, Fairbanks Snow Travelers, Northern Area State Parks Advisory Board, Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Board, Alaska Trails, Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, Interior Alaska Land Trust, Arctic Audubon Society, and the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*.

Additionally, nearly 100 individuals have written letters of support.

Senate Bill 195 receives broad support from the community and I urge you to support this important effort.

**“This all makes for an ideal center for outdoor recreation, a sort of Central Park for the Goldstream neighborhoods. It deserves permanent designation.”**

*-Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Editorial, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

**SENATE BILL NO. 195**

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA  
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR THOMAS

Introduced: 1/19/10  
Referred: Resources

**A BILL**

**FOR AN ACT ENTITLED**

- 1    **"An Act relating to the repeal of the establishment of the Goldstream Public Use Area."**
- 2    **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**
- 3    **\* Section 1.** Section 2, ch. 48, SLA 1990, is repealed.

# Brief facts on Senate Bill 195

**The Goldstream Public Use Area was created in 1990 by Sen. Bettye Fahrenkamp and Rep. Mike Davis and is set to sunset on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010:**

The GPA is a patchwork of nearly 2000 acres of state land between the Steese Hwy to the east, Sheep Creek Rd to the west and south of Goldstream Rd to the north.

There is an expanding network of trails that can connect you from the Steese Hwy to Minto Flats and the Richardson Hwy to the White Mountains.

The Tanana Railroad Trail is the main trail within the GPUS and is a future section of the 100 Mile Loop Trail. Also, a proposed connector to the Skyline trail system is also in the works. A substantial maze of smaller trails is also maintained by volunteers.

**All uses are statutorily allowed in the area:**

Sec. 41.23.150 (c) ...the commissioner shall allow uses within the Goldstream Public Use Area, including but not limited to horseback riding, hiking, mining, all terrain vehicle driving, bicycling, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, skijoring, snowmachining, camping, and other traditional public uses of fish and wildlife populations such as fishing, hunting, trapping, viewing, and photographing of moose, trumpeter swan and other waterfowl, otter, beaver, mink, muskrat, and fox.

**Impact on the state:**

The state passively manages the GPUA and there are no financial costs incurred by this area. Its trails are maintained by volunteers throughout the year.

**SB 195 is supported by:**

Alaska Outdoor Council, Alaska Trapper's Association, Alaska Dog Musher's Association, Alaska Mining Association, Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks, Skijoring and Polk Association, Northern Area State Parks Advisory Board, Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Board, Alaska Trails, Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, Fairbanks Snow Travelers, Interior Alaska Land Trust, Arctic Audubon Society, and the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner

**"This all makes for an ideal center for outdoor recreation, a sort of Central Park for the Goldstream neighborhoods. It deserves permanent designation."**

*-Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Editorial, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009*

## Letters of Support for Senate Bill 195

Alaska Outdoor Council

Alaska Dog Mushing Association

Alaska Miners Association,

Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks

Alaska Trapper's Association

Skijoring and Polk Association

Fairbanks Snow Travelers

Northern Area State Parks Advisory Board

Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Board

Alaska Trails

Interior Trails Preservation Coalition

Interior Alaska Land Trust

Fairbanks North Star Borough

*Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*

*"For the past 20 years, the state-owned portions of the lowlands have been held in that undeveloped condition by the Goldsteam Public Use Area, a popular, legislatively designated withdrawal. The withdrawal is about to expire, so the legislature needs to reaffirm it – permanently this time."*

*-Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Editorial, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009*