

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE

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## REPRESENTATIVE PETE HIGGINS

### SPONSOR STATEMENT

#### HB 246 "An Act adding additional land and water to the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge."

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HB 246 repeals and reenacts AS 16.20.039 to add additional lands to Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge.

The boundary change in HB 246 proposes to incorporate a total of four parcels of land adjacent to Creamer's Migratory Waterfowl Refuge purchased by the State of Alaska, some dating back to 2001. These acquired parcels, although not officially part of the refuge, have been managed as refuge land since management authority was delegated to the Department of Fish and Game (ADFG) from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The Alaska Department of Fish & Games, Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Interim Management Plan strives to achieve balance between a variety of user groups including bird watchers, skijors, dog mushers, cross country skiers, hunters, trappers, snowmachiners, a variety of dog training groups, school groups, etc. The ADF&G staff at Creamer's Refuge takes great pride in the fact that they are truly a multi-user refuge.

ADF&G currently see no reason to alter the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge Interim Management Plan to restrict, deny, or otherwise impinge on any of the recognized activities that were addressed in this plan.