



KENAI RIVER

Special Management Area

"Working together...for the river"

Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board
P.O. Box 1247
Soldotna, Alaska 99669

ADVISORY BOARD

March 25, 2015

Dear Representative Talerico:

The Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board supports the adoption of a sockeye salmon stamp for inclusion in HB 137. The Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board was created under the authority of A.S. 41.21.510 in 1985 to advise local, state and federal agencies and legislative bodies on matters affecting the Kenai River. The Board is comprised of public members, Soldotna, Kenai and the Kenai Peninsula Borough and non-voting state and federal agency representatives. I currently serve as President of the Board.

The proposal for a user stamp for the Kenai River has been under consideration by the KRSMA Board for many years. The Kenai River Comprehensive Management Plan, adopted in December 1997, discusses the need for user fees to provide adequate enforcement and protect the habitat. Since 1997, river use has grown exponentially both with boat traffic and on bank use. The primary reason for the increased use is the growing harvest of sockeye salmon which imposes significant burden on enforcement agencies and stresses the habitat throughout the entire river system.

Accordingly, the KRSMA Board identified the adoption of a sockeye salmon stamp this year as a priority to provide adequate resources to handle the burden imposed by the sockeye salmon fishery. Because this matter has arisen more quickly than the Board had anticipated, the Board has not an opportunity to thoroughly evaluate alternatives for



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Alaska Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation, Department of Natural Resources, in cooperation with the Kenai Peninsula Borough



adopting a sockeye salmon stamp. However, the current proposal for a stamp based on the model of the existing king salmon stamp achieves the Board's objectives as long as the money generated is returned to the river and its use is not unduly restricted.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Ted Wellman', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ted Wellman

President, Kenai River Special Management Area Advisory Board