



# Representative Adam Wool

Alaska State Legislature

District 5 Fairbanks

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## House Bill 70 Expanding Creamer's Field

House Bill 70 adds four state-owned parcels to the Creamer's Field Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Fairbanks. This land is currently managed by the Department of Fish and Game (AF&G) under the Creamer's Field Management plan and several refuge trails cross the refuge boundaries into these parcels.

Creamer's Field is a unique only-in-Alaska attraction that is just a short five minute drive from downtown Fairbanks. Active farming continues on over 100 acres and local residents and the refuge is renowned for its world class bird watching opportunities. Locals and visitors enjoy year round recreation at Creamer's Field including dog mushing, cross country skiing, skjoring, hiking, hunting, and trapping. Creamer's Field is also the home to the popular Camp Habitat summer camp for local youth, and the annual Tanana Valley Sandhill Crane Festival.

The history of Creamer's Field dates back to the early days of Fairbanks when Charles Hinckley brought three cows from Nome to open a dairy. Hinckley paid for his passage from Nome by selling milk to his fellow sternwheeler passengers. In 1928, the Creamer family purchased the land from Hinckley and continued dairy operations until selling the property in 1966. The historic dairy buildings remain on the site and are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

When the Creamers put the dairy on the market, the Fairbanks community raised funds to purchase it so it could be preserved as a community landmark. The refuge continues as public private partnership with the Friends of Creamer's Field, a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, working with the department to provide educational activities at the refuge.

The four parcels to be added to the refuge were acquired at various times since 2001 and passage of House Bill 70 will formally protect these lands and ensure they are available for future generations to use for hunting, trapping, mushing, walking, and learning.