

## **Lands proposed for additions to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge contained in HB153**

Since 1989, several parcels of land totaling approximately 3,000 acres of mostly coastal wetlands lying within or adjacent to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge have been acquired by the State of Alaska from willing sellers. Most of these parcels were acquired by land conservation organizations including The Nature Conservancy and the Great Land Trust with funds provided by the federal National Coastal Wetlands Program, the state's Alaska Waterfowl Conservation Stamp Program (aka state Duck Stamp Program), The Nature Conservancy, Great Land Trust, Ducks Unlimited, and/or community and private organizations and individuals. In addition, several parcels were acquired in a land trade with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough with the requirement that they be managed consistent with the adjoining refuge.

All these parcels contain restricted deeds that dictate these lands be maintained in their natural state to protect wildlife habitats and populations. Many of these restrictions also require the lands be managed consistent with the Palmer Hay Flats refuge while allowing uses by the public including hunting and fishing. These deed restrictions and grant requirements preclude these parcels from ever being used for purposes other than those that maintain their natural qualities.