

Representative Mike Hawker

Alaska State Legislature



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House Bill 295

Sponsor Statement

"An Act approving an interim classification by the commissioner of natural resources closing certain land within the Glacier Creek and Winner Creek drainages to new mineral entry; and providing for an effective date."

House Bill 295 is the next step in a long process to create a world-class, four-season recreational destination in the community of Girdwood – ensuring that lands that have been set aside for recreational use for the past two decades remain that way.

Specifically, the bill would approve Mineral Order 1121 (MO 1121), which closes to new mineral entry approximately 5,580 acres of state-owned and state-selected lands in the Glacier-Winner Creek Drainages. MO 1121 builds upon more than twenty years of planning, studies and use of the Girdwood Valley area and is consistent with both the Turnagain Arm Management Plan and the Girdwood Area Plan. Approving this mineral closure will provide the necessary assurance that future conflicts over appropriate land use will be avoided.

This action benefits community members and visitors by expanding outdoor recreation activities as well as the local economy, by spurring increased public and private sector investment in the development of recreational and tourism opportunities and, in turn, increased jobs and economic prosperity.

The closure of these lands has undergone an extensive public process and is supported by local residents, Girdwood 2020, the Alyeska Resort and other local businesses, the Municipality of Anchorage Heritage Land Bank, the Department of Natural Resources and the Alaska Miners Association.