PROPOSAL 105 - 5 AAC 95.505. Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. Expand the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge as follows:

AS 16.05.255(a)(1) states that the Board of Game may "set apart" game reserves and refuges subject to legislative approval. the Board of Fisheries has a similar authority under AS 16.05.251(a)(1). I propose the following action:

The Board(s) of Game (and Fisheries) hereby sets aside lands described below, acquired and transferred to the State for addition to Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, for enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and related public uses of the refuge.

Additions to include the formerly named M'Karzel, Williams, Fritzler, Cassity, and Cope parcels, and any other similarly situated acquisitions in state ownership.

In addition, the board(s) requests the Alaska Legislature to approve this action by amending AS 16.20.032 to include the additions.

What is the issue you would like the board to address and why? Since 1990, ADF&G has collaborated with public and private partners to acquire inholdings and parcels adjacent to Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge from willing sellers to consolidate and add land to the refuge for fish and wildlife habitat, hunting and fishing, secure public access and facilitate outdoor education and other compatible uses. Five primary parcels, comprising over 1,360 acres have been purchased for over $310,000 of public and private funds and transferred to the Alaska Department of Natural Resources with conservation easements for incorporation into Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. Over the past 20 years, no legislative action has affirmatively added these parcels to the refuge, either because ADF&G and past administrations have not been successful in moving a bill or because no sponsors have acted.

It is important, if only for completing valuable good faith conservation actions, to request addition of these parcels to the refuge so ADF&G can manage these lands consistent with refuge goals and management plans and address current issues.

PROPOSED BY: Thomas Rothe (EG-C14-301)
****

Anchorage Fish and Game Advisory Committee
January 9, 2015
William Hernandez Hatchery
941 Reeve Blvd, Anchorage

RECEIVED
JAN 27 2015
BOARDS
ANCHORAGE

- Call to Order: By Chairman Joel Donner, At 6:30PM

- Roll Call: Joel Doner, Chair, George Jacoby, Vice-Chair, Sam Albanese, Secretary, Neil Dewitt, Jim Bolgiano, Robert Caywood, Michael Klehr, Frank Neumann, Kevin Taylor, Dwight Johnson, Steve Flory, Phil Calhoun, Ehren Strahn,
  Robert Peck Jr. notified the chair he would be late. (arrived 1920).

  Members Absent: Brian Nelson Alt, Mark Campbell were excused.

  Number Needed for Quorum on AC: 8

  List of User Groups Present: None

- Approval of Agenda: Yes

- Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes: From meeting date.... No.

- Fish and Game Staff Present: Sherry Wright

- Guests Present. Tom Rothe, Lynette Moreno Hinz, Yolanda Delacruz

- Old Business

- Public Testimony. Yolanda Delacruz, addressed the AAC about our meetings not being posted

In the media. (Yolanda speaks poor and broken English and much of what she said was uninterruptable to me.) Public does not come because they are afraid of the AAC and ADF&G. She believes we need adversity in the AAC. We only represent professional hunters. We need balance on the ACs. Alaska is beautiful for its nature. We should respect the land. Indigenous Alaskans respect the land. We are only pleasing ourselves. If the animals were hunted for subsistence OK. We are killing wolves and bears so we can have more. It is time to control the sport hunters. Hunters have the support of the politicians. She said the natural resources are for all Alaskans. What about us. Try to stop the killing for special interest. Alaska is beautiful and she would like to keep it that way.

George commented it was a full house last Tuesday. She responded she sees the same thing, killing killing and killing.

Jim asked if she had internet access for notification. She said it needs to be in the media.

	13	1	Frank moved reconsider proposal 104 Beaver season Seconded Sub-committee voted 4 Support, 3 Opposed. Michael does trap up there and does see lots of beavers, and would support this. Robert Peck - fully endorses Michael and 16B is pretty inaccessible. Joel - as a Cook Inlet commercial fishermen will support this since the beavers will reduce salmon return. Neil expressed concern about potentially wipping out all of them to which Robert Peck reiterated it is extremely inaccessible. Michael said he does not think it is possible to decimate them in this area. Frank asked if you can currently shoot beaver. Kevin explained this would remove the requirement for a trapping license and allow hunting beaver. Neil asked if we were not having problems with a village that lives in the unit. Steve said he supports this. **Proposal 104 passed. 13 Support, 1 Opposed.** **Supported for reasons stated in proposal** **Opposed, like the current seasons and dates.**
* BOG	105		Expand the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

- continued on next page.

	14	0	Frank moved we reconsider 105 Tom Rothe authored this proposal and is here to address us. He provided a paper with notes. He proposed this to push the system a little. Since 1990 the Department has acquired inholdings in the hay flats but has not gotten legislative action to buy the lands. The purpose was to buy the land to increase public access and hunting. The land is sitting there and it will only take legislation to expand the boundary to include this land. There is misconception in the Mat-Su, the Department 100% supported these purchases. The $$ came from duck stamps, grants and private contributions. Concerned that this could result in restricted access. These were privately held land that were previously inaccessible to public access. This land is now under the game management process. Tom is using this to push the process to get this completed. Steve asked who the Senator and Representative of the area. Stolz, Newman, Huggins. Since it is there area, our legislative affairs sub committee can take it up. We need to get the local politicians on board. Robert Peck asked what is happening to this land now since it is not part of the refuge. Right now it is managed by DNR. Tom said it makes more sense to have ADF&G manage it. Frank - sounds like a house cleaning measure, Will this bring more restrictions?
			Tom said refuges are for public use, fishing hunting recreation. Support the principal of management. Restricted to minimize damage etc. One glowing example is the acquisition for the land that provides public access to the refuge. Steve voted against this in subcommittee. Our concern is going from unrestricted to restricted access. Example is the Knik Public Use area. The road to hell was paved with good intentions. Can you outline for us the differences in how its managed now and how it will be in the future. The conservation covenants dedicate this to management consistent with conservation and game management. Habitat conservation is important. It is currently managed by DNR. Leave it in limbo or if it is included it will be managed like the refuge. Robert Caywood asked if motorized access is allowed now. Tom

			believes it must be managed by DNR in accordance with habitat conservation. Neil asked if we vote no can he go the political route. Robert Caywood, will access be more or less restrictive? NO. Frank, it is DNR land that is currently being managed by DNR, like it is State Refuge Lands, so nothing really changes. Proposal 105 Passed.

Attention: Board of Game Comments
Alaska Department of Fish and Game,
Boards Support Section
PO Box 115526
Juneau, Alaska 99811-5526
Submitted via email on time to: dfg.bog.comments@alaska.gov

Subject: Support for BOG Proposal 105-AAC 95.505. Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge

2015 January 19

Dear Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Boards Support Section:

I strongly support Board of Game Proposal 105 submitted by Tom Rothe regarding Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge additions. Since the parcels formerly named M'Karzel, Williams, Fritzler, Cassity, and Cope (and any other similarly situated acquisitions in state ownership) were made available for addition to the refuge for fish and wildlife habitat, hunting and fishing, secure public access, outdoor education, and other compatible uses, it is important that the Legislature formally accept said lands so that they may be properly managed for the people of Alaska by the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. These lands have already been purposefully purchased with private funds and transferred to the Department of Natural Resources, with conservation easements for incorporation into Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

I urge the Board of Game to write the Legislature now and help complete this process which will enable the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to manage the lands in a way that is that is consistent with refuge goals and management plans to address current issues as they arise. This will benefit the people of Alaska, not only now, but for future generations.

Again I strongly support BOG Proposal 105 and urge you to write the Legislature and engage them in the necessary process to incorporate these lands, as intended, into the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

Thank you for your attention to these important details.

Sincerely,
Barbara Švarný Carlson

Barbara Švarný Carlson
PO Box 220196
Anchorage, Alaska 99522-0196

THE WILDLIFE SOCIETY
ALASKA CHAPTER

5800 Kalgin Drive
Anchorage, AK 99516

The Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society is a professional society founded in 1971. With over 200 members, the Alaska Chapter is one of the largest chapters of The Wildlife Society, an international organization representing wildlife biologists and managers employed by state, federal, and borough resource agencies, academic institutions, non-governmental conservation organizations, and private industry. Our mission is to enhance the ability of wildlife professionals to conserve biological diversity, sustain productivity, and ensure responsible use of wildlife resources in Alaska for the benefit of society.

Alaska Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Chairman Spraker and Board Members,

I am writing in support of BOG proposal 105, a proposal to expand the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. This proposal would "set aside" lands that have already been acquired and transferred to the state for addition to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. It does not increase land ownership by the state, does not impose land use restrictions beyond normal refuge management, nor does it impose an additional financial burden on the state.

These lands were conveyed to or acquired by the state with the intent that they be included within the refuge boundaries. Although the state now owns these lands under ADNR oversight, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game has no management authority over them without legislative action. Thus, ADF&G cannot undertake habitat improvements or manage public access, and enforcement of violations is unclear.

Passage of this proposal would be a valuable step in ensuring ADF&G can manage these lands consistent with refuge goals and management plans and address current issues.

I hope that the board will support this proposal to help facilitate expansion of the refuge and to ensure the quality of the land remains undiminished.

Sincerely,

Grant Hilderbrand
President, Alaska Chapter of The Wildlife Society

PC043

January 23, 2015

Alaska Board of Game
Alaska Department of Fish and Game
Boards Support Section
P.O. Box 115526
Juneau, AK 99811-5526

Dear Alaska Board of Game:

I am writing to strongly urge your support of Proposal 105, scheduled for consideration at the Central/Southwest Region meeting on February 13. I am the author of Proposal 105 and I have had discussions with ADFG staff, numerous refuge users (mostly hunters and fishers), and the Anchorage and Mat-Su Fish and Game Advisory Committees. I would like to clarify my intentions in submitting this proposal and address a couple of concerns that have been raised.

I am aware that only the Alaska Legislature can modify the boundary of Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge in AS 16.20.032 to include the parcels that I have described. My goal in asking the Board of Game to act under AS 16.05.255(a)(1) is simply to have the Board endorse these lands for inclusion in the refuge through letters to Southcentral Alaska Legislators, the Governor and the Commissioner of ADFG.

During discussions of Proposal 105, some individuals have been unduly concerned that including these parcels in the refuge would increase restrictions on public access—primarily motorized access. First, these parcels were originally private land that we not open to the public; now they are owned by the state and open to public access. Second, the public and private collaborators that purchased these parcels for fish and wildlife and related public uses attached conservation covenants on the titles to ensure that the lands would be managed consistent with the purposes of the state refuge. Thus, these additions would have no more and no fewer restrictions than any other part of the refuge, as guided by the refuge management plan and regulations.

Given that the state owns these parcels and they are bound to be managed consistent with refuge policies, some view statutory changes to the refuge boundary as a minor housekeeping issue that is not important. We refuge users and others, however, believe that officially consolidating these lands into the refuge: (1) fulfills the promises made to conservation partners that acquired these parcels for public benefit; (2) designates ADFG as the primary manager of the entire refuge vs. the current ADNR responsibilities on these parcels; (3) facilitates ADFG investment in improvements to fish and wildlife habitat and public access; and (4) clarifies land status and applicable regulations for enforcement purposes.

Finally, my original proposal specifically named five parcels that were purchased explicitly for the refuge and "other similarly situated parcels" that I may not have been aware of. Since I submitted the proposal, I have learned that ADNR has acquired two parcels adjacent to the

refuge in trades with Mat-Su Borough. Also, the Turner property was acquired for the refuge and transferred to ADNR with conservation covenants similar to the other parcels. These eight parcels (map attached) were clearly acquired for the refuge and should be included in a Board endorsement.

I appreciate the Board's consideration of this proposal to demonstrate support for the acquisition and conservation of fish and wildlife habitats in our state game refuges. Your active support will enhance the public's access to well-managed hunting, fishing and outdoor recreation experiences.

Sincerely,

Thomas C. Rothe
11828 Broadwater Drive
Eagle River, AK, 99577
(907) 694-9068
Tom.halcyon@gmail.com

Palmer Hayflats State Game Refuge
Legend
Existing Boundary
DOTExclusion
OSL/ Management Rights
Aquired State Lands
ILMA Lands
Accreted /adds
Land Status
Borough
Federal
Native Corp
Private
Public University
State
Tidelands
State of Alaska
Department of Fish and Game
1/20/2015
Cassity
MSB
Turner
Fritzler
Cope
Williams
MSB
M'Karzel
Knik Arm
Cottonwood Creek
Cottonwood Slough
N
Miles
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2

Submitted By
Barbara Johnson
Submited On
1/30/2015 2:31:42 PM
Affiliation

Phone
907-229-6891
Email
sbejohn1@mac.com
Address
P.O. Box 670874
Chugiak, Alaska 99567

To: Alaska Boards of Fisheries and Game

Re: Proposal 105-5 AAC 95,505. Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge

I am writing you to ask that Proposal 105, which would expand the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, be approved. I urge that both boards also send a recommendation to the State Legislature for action this year to ensure that the Alaska Department of Fish & Game can manage these additional lands consistent with refuge goals. These lands, purchased over the past 20 years for incorporation into the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, need to be given the legal protection under the law. I think it is very important to amend the legal descriptions in AS 16.20.032 so that the refuge boundaries are expanded and include these additional lands.

As I understand it, these parcels have all been transferred to the state and they have conservation covenants on them. It seems logical and necessary to officially include them in the boundaries of the refuge to enable managers to communicate consistent management goals to the public more clearly. I think it would be very helpful to have new maps that make it easier for the public to also know the new boundaries and to allow the Alaska Department of Fish and Game to put up signs and manage these lands appropriately with the other lands already designated as part of the refuge.

I appreciate your consideration of this proposal, and I hope that you will take positive action this year to make these lands officially part of the refuge, as intended when they were purchased and given to the state through a variety of methods.

RECEIVED
FEB 02 2015
BOARDS

January 29, 2015

Dear Board Members of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

I am a teacher at Machetanz Elementary School. My class has been learning about the animals and habitat of the Palmer Hay Flats. I am writing to request that you support Proposal 105. Recently, land was purchased adjacent to the Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge to create a trail along a portion of the refuge near our school. Putting this land as part of the refuge, and under the management of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, will allow access to the refuge for educational purposes.

Sincerely,
Laura Wick

Jan. 29, 2015

Dear Board Members of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

I am a student at Machetanz Elementry School. My class and I have been learning about the animals and habitat of the Palmer HayFlats. I am writing to request that you support Proposal 105. Recently, land was purchased adjacent to the Palmer HayFlats Game Refuge to create a trail along a portion of the refuge near our school. Putting this land as part of the refuge, and under the managerment of Alaska Department of Fish and Game, will allow access to the refuge for educational purpuses.

Sincerely,
Kira Dunford

RECEIVED
FEB 02 2015
BOARDS

FEB 0 2 2015
BOARDS

January 25, 2015

Dear Board Members of Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

I am a student at Machetanz Elementary School. My school and members of our community donated money to Trust Land Trust so they could purchase part of the Palmer Hay Flats. This land is not yet protected. Please protect this land so our school and community can enjoy the Alaska wildlife.

Thank you!

Sincerely,
Ava Stotts

FEB 0 2 2015
BOARDS

January 29, 2015

Dear Board Members of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

I am a student at Machetanz elementary school. My class and I have been learning about animals and habitat at the Palmer Hay Flats. I am writing to request that you support Proposal 105. Recently land was purchased adjacent to the Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge to create a public trail along a portion of the refuge near our school. Putting this land as a part of the refuge and under the protection of Alaska Department of Fish and Game so that we can have field trips and have out door learning. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Teigen Dowd

FEB 0 2 2015
BOARDS

January 29, 2015

Dear Board Members of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

I am a student at Machetanz Elementary School. I am writing to ask that you support Proposal 105. That would put management of the new lands of the Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge. So that my family and me and of cours my class could go out and see beautiful plants and animals! Thank you!

Sincerely,
Bright B.

janyary 29, 2015

Dear Board Members of Alaska Department of fish and game, My name is Alani from Machetanz Elementary. I'm writing to ask that you support proposal 105 that would put managment of the new lands of the Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge under the direction of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

RECEIVED
FEB 02 2015

Sincerely,
Alani Underwood

January 29, 2015

Dear Boad Members of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

My name is Lyndsey Payne and I am a fourth grade student at Machetanze Elementry School. My class has been learning about the Alaska Hay Flats and I would like to support Proposal 105. I would like to support Proposal 105 because I would like to go on outside feild trips to the Hay Flats to study the habitat and wildlife of Alaska. Thank you for considering to make this change.

Sincerely,

Lyndsey Payne

FEB 0 2 2015
BOARDS

January 29, 2015

Dear Department of Fish and game
I am writing to ask that you support proposal 105 that would put management of the new lands of the Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge under the direction of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I want the land to be part of the refuge so that we can go on field trips to the palmer Hay Flats.

FEB 0 2 2015

Sincerely,
Sophia Micheli

FEB 0 2 2015
BOARDS

1/29/15

Dear All Department of Fish and Game,
I go to school at Mackstang Elementary. It is very close to the Pelican Hill Flats State Game Refuge and I think you should support Proposal 185. This is a good idea because there are many habitats in that area and they need to be protected. It would be sad to see so many habitats of completely innocent animals being destroyed and replaced with something like a few new neighborhoods. Without habitats, many animals could die and possibly cause their species to go extinct.

Sincerely,
Emma Taylor

January 29, 2015

Dear Board members of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

I am a student at Machetanz Elementary School. My class has been learning about the animals and habitats of the Palmer Hay Flats. I am writing to ask that you support proposal 105 that would put management of the new lands of the Palmer Hay Flats under the management of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

Sincerely,
Tofer

RECEIVED
FEB 02 2015
BOARDS

January 29, 2015

Dear Board Members of the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

I am writing to ask you to support proposal 105. I think this is a good idea for schools (my school is Machetanz Elementary) because we can go on field trips to learn about wildlife and animal habitats. I know that land was purchased near the Palmer Hayflats. (I should know, I was in a play to raise money for it!)
Thank you!

Sincerely,
Lia Silvers

FEB 02 2015
BOARDS

January, 29, 2015

Dear Department of Fish and Game.

I am writing to ask that you support Proposal 105, The you would put managment Of the new lands of the Palmer Hay flats Game refuge unde the direction of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Sinceraly,
Emily Payton

RECEIVED
FEB 02 2015
BOARDS

January 29, 2015

Dear Board Members of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

I am a student at Machetanz Elementary school. My class has been studing about the animals in the Palmer Hay Flats. I am writing to request that you support the preposal 105, and I hope you consider.

Sincerely
Andrew

RECEIVED
FEB 02 2015
BOARDS

January 29, 2015

Dear Board members of the
Alaska Department of Fish and Game,

I am writing to ask that you
support proposal 105 that
would put management of
the new lands of the palmer
Hay Flats Game Refuge
under the protection of the
Alaska Department of Fish and
Game

Sincerely,
Tyler Higgins

FEB 02 2015
BOARDS

January 27, 2015

Dear Department of Fish and Game

I strongly ask you to support Proposal 105. Proposal 105 would put management of the new lands of the palmer hay flats game Refuge under the protection of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I hope you take notice.

Sincerely
Ethan Bronger

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FEB 02 2015
BOARDS

RECEIVED
FEB 02 2015
BOARDS

January 29, 2015

Dear Department of Fish and Game,

Hi. My name is Abby Novak. I go to school at Machetanz Elementary, right by the Palmer Mayflats State Game Refuge. I would like you to do proposal 105 and expand the Palmer Mayflats State Game Refuge. The reason why I would like you to do this expansion is because there are many habitats that could be destroyed without this extra protection. There are lots of salmon and many nesting swans that could get killed or have their habitats destroyed by people. Lots of wildlife could get killed. We need this wildlife protection and fast! Thank you!

Sincerely,
Abby Novak

January 29th, 2015

Dear Bord Members of the Alaska
Depatment of Fish and Game,

I am a student at Machitanze Elemetary My name is Megan Davies. My class and I have been Stadying the wilde life in the the Alaska Hay flats. Maney people have been donating money to purches the proprtey from Severel famiies. In witch the proprtey is ment four public use. I am writing to request that you suport that you support propsil 105. So that we can use the proptry for a trail witch we will use as public use.

Sincleg,
Megan Davies

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FEB 02 2015
BOARDS

Dear State Legislator,

I am a student at Machetanz Elementary school named Anthony Jones. I think that you should pay the bill to expand the refuge in the hay flats because the land has already been bought but can not be protected by laws. Please pay the bill this will save who knows how many innocent animal lives which are just as valuable as human lives.

Sincerely,

Anthony Jones

RECEIVED
FEB 0 2 2015
BOARDS

January 29, 2015

Dear Board Members of the Alaska Department fish and game,

My name is Alexis smith and I go to Machetanz Elementary School. My Class has been learning about animals and habitats of the Palmer Hay flats. I am writing about Propose las that would put management of new lands of the Palmer Hay flats game Refuge under the Direction of the Alaska Department of fish and game. I want the land to be part of the Refuge so that we can go on feild trips

Sincerely,
Alexis smith

FEB 0 2 2015
BOARDS