

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR JOE THOMAS

Senate Bill 108 - An Act creating the Stampede State Recreation Area

Sponsor Statement

The Stampede Road corridor, northwest of Healy and flanked on three sides by the Denali National Park, is a traditional place for many Alaskans to hunt, fish, trap, snowmachine, mush and pursue other recreational opportunities. Home to a growing number of Denali Borough residents and businesses, this is a wild and beautiful place that Alaskans from across the state can easily access.

This bill would establish the Stampede State Recreation Area in the vacant and unappropriated state land and water within the corridor as described in the bill and attached maps. The purpose of State Recreation Areas is to manage state-owned land and water in such a way that provides the maximum level of outdoor recreation opportunities without significant adverse effects on the natural system. The goal of this legislation is to protect the area for continued traditional use.

The Stampede mining trail was trail blazed in the 1930s. In 1961, the new State of Alaska upgraded the trail as part of the Pioneer Road Program. The project was halted in 1963 after some fifty miles of road was built, but no bridges were ever constructed over the several rivers it crossed, and the route was shortly rendered impassable by thawing permafrost and floods. While the road is described as being fifty miles long, only the first few miles are paved, and only the first eight miles are passable by standard car.

SB 108 will preserve the traditional uses of this area by creating the Stampede Recreation Area within the Stampede corridor. Several years ago, former Governor Murkowski proposed to build a road through this area. This planned road was vehemently opposed by borough residents as well as the recreational and traditional user groups who had an interest in keeping things "the way they are." In an effort to preserve the area for use by residents and visitors, the Denali Borough Assembly passed a resolution calling on the Alaska Legislature to designate the corridor as the Stampede State Recreation Area, with a strong emphasis on self-determination by the residents and users of the area.

The current use of the area includes off-road and all-terrain vehicle use, watercraft use, snowmobiling, horseback riding, hiking, bicycling, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, skijoring, camping, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and photography. Recreational users of the area come from the Denali Borough, Fairbanks, Mat-Su and Anchorage. Tourists and adventurers travel to the area from across the globe. The area supports several tourism-related businesses including several lodges and a road-touring company that rents all-terrain vehicles for use on the more primitive sections of the road.

This bill is supported by the Denali Borough Assembly (see attached resolution). Additionally, the bill's sponsor has hosted several constituent meetings on the proposed legislation. By and large, the proposed area is supported by local residents and trail users. The main impetus behind the legislation is to protect the area for continued traditional use.

ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR JOE THOMAS

MEMORANDUM

March 16, 2009

SUBJECT: Sectional Summary for SB 108

TO: Senators Lesil McGuire and Bill Wielechowski, Co-Chairs
Members of the Senate Resources Committee

FROM: Senator Joe Thomas, Sponsor

This sectional summary is developed based on earlier summaries developed by Legislative Legal, and should not be considered an authoritative interpretation of the bill.

Section 1. Establishes the Stampede State Recreation Area. Describes the purpose for creating the recreation area, the land and water to be included, management responsibilities and incompatible uses. Identifies activities that the commissioner may not restrict within the recreation area. Authorizes the commissioner to purchase real property lying within the boundaries of the recreation area. Prohibits the use of the power of eminent domain to acquire privately owned land for inclusion in the recreation area.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF LEGAL AND RESEARCH SERVICES
LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS AGENCY
STATE OF ALASKA

(907) 465-3867 or 465-2450
FAX (907) 465-2029
Mail Stop 3101

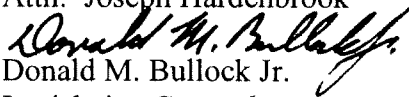
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska 99801-1182
Deliveries to: 129 6th St., Rm. 329

MEMORANDUM

February 18, 2009

SUBJECT: Technical corrections to SB 108 (Work Order No. 26-LS0568\R)

TO: Senator Joe Thomas
Attn: Joseph Hardenbrook

FROM: 
Donald M. Bullock Jr.
Legislative Counsel

Enclosed is a draft committee substitute for SB 108. SB 108 incorrectly includes references to sec. 41.21.407; this draft corrects the references to refer to sec. 41.21.405. Sec. 41.21.405 describes the area to be included in the Stampede State Recreation Area and is the last of the five statutory sections proposed to be enacted.

I suggest you provide this draft to the chair of the first committee to which the bill has been referred. The changes in this draft are not substantive and merely correct internal references.

If I may be of further assistance, please advise.

DMB:med
09-008.med

Enclosure

26-LS0568\R
Bullock
2/18/09

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 108()
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): SENATOR THOMAS

A BILL
FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

"An Act creating the Stampede State Recreation Area."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

*** Section 1.** AS 41.21 is amended by adding new sections to article 4 to read:

Sec. 41.21.401. Purpose of AS 41.21.401 - 41.21.405. The purpose of AS 41.21.401 - 41.21.405 is to establish the area described in AS 41.21.405 as the Stampede State Recreation Area. The Stampede State Recreation Area is established to

(1) perpetuate and enhance

(A) general public recreation;

(B) public enjoyment of fish and wildlife;

(2) protect and maintain fish and wildlife habitat so that traditional public use of fish and wildlife populations may continue;

(3) provide an area for the public to enjoy the full spectrum of public uses, including maintenance and enhancement of motorized and nonmotorized recreational opportunities;

1 (4) allow

2 (A) continued motorized access for owners of private property
3 in the Stampede State Recreation Area; and

4 (B) additional public uses of the area determined by the
5 commissioner to be compatible with this section.

6 **Sec. 41.21.402. Management.** (a) The commissioner is responsible for the
7 management of the land and mineral estate within the Stampede State Recreation Area
8 consistent with the purposes of AS 41.21.401. After adequate public hearings and in
9 consultation with the Denali Borough Assembly, the commissioner may designate
10 incompatible uses and shall adopt and may revise a management plan for the
11 Stampede State Recreation Area.

12 (b) The commissioner of fish and game, the Board of Fisheries, and the Board
13 of Game are responsible for the management of fish and game resources and public
14 use of fish and wildlife in the Stampede State Recreation Area consistent with the
15 purposes of AS 41.21.401.

16 **Sec. 41.21.403. Incompatible uses.** (a) Except as provided in this section, the
17 commissioner may prohibit or restrict uses determined to be incompatible with the
18 purposes of the Stampede State Recreation Area under AS 41.21.401 within the state-
19 owned land and water described in AS 41.21.405.

20 (b) Nothing in AS 41.21.401 - 41.21.405 prohibits the Department of Fish and
21 Game from engaging in rehabilitation, enhancement, and development of fish and
22 wildlife habitat within an area described in AS 41.21.405 that is consistent with the
23 purposes stated in AS 41.21.401.

24 (c) The commissioner may not restrict

25 (1) lawful fishing, hunting, or trapping rights allowed under a
26 regulation of the Board of Fisheries or the Board of Game in the Stampede State
27 Recreation Area; or

28 (2) the use of weapons, including firearms, in the Stampede State
29 Recreation Area except in locations where the commissioner determines that the use
30 of weapons constitutes a threat to public safety.

31 (d) The commissioner shall

(1) allow the Stampede State Recreation Area to be used for activities compatible with the reasons for establishing the public recreation area in AS 41.21.401, including all-terrain vehicle use, watercraft use, snowmobiling, horseback riding, hiking, bicycling, dog sledding, cross-country skiing, skijoring, camping, hunting, fishing, wildlife viewing, and photography; and

(2) recognize the traditional use of existing motorized and nonmotorized uses in the area; reroute an existing trail to avoid sensitive habitat; conduct trail rehabilitation or reroute a trail to minimize damage; maintain and enhance motor vehicle options and opportunities; and provide for increased use of the public recreation area.

Sec. 41.21.404. Purchase authorized; eminent domain prohibited. The commissioner may acquire, by purchase in the name of the state, title to or interest in real property lying within the boundaries of the Stampede State Recreation Area. The state may not acquire by eminent domain privately owned land for inclusion in the Stampede State Recreation Area.

Sec. 41.21.405. Stampede State Recreation Area. The state-owned land and water, vacant and unappropriated, and all that acquired in the future by the state lying within the following parcels are designated as the Stampede State Recreation Area, reserved from all uses incompatible with their primary function as public recreation land, and assigned to the department for control, development, and maintenance:

(1) Township 12 South, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian

Sections 3 - 10

Sections 15 - 22

Sections 27 - 34

(2) Township 12 South, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian

Sections 1 - 36

(3) Township 12 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian

Sections 1 - 36

(4) Township 13 South, Range 9 West, Fairbanks Meridian

Sections 3 - 10

(5) Township 13 South, Range 10 West, Fairbanks Meridian

- 1 Sections 1 - 6 excluding national park lands
- 2 Sections 7 - 12 excluding national park lands
- 3 (6) Township 13 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
- 4 Sections 1 - 6 excluding national park lands
- 5 Sections 7 - 12 excluding national park lands.

SENATE BILL NO. 108

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR THOMAS

Introduced: 2/17/09

Referred: Resources, Finance

A BILL

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- 3 (6) Township 13 South, Range 11 West, Fairbanks Meridian
- 4 Sections 1 - 6 excluding national park lands
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DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA
RESOLUTION NO. 07-01

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ALASKA LEGISLATURE DESIGNATING MANAGEMENT OF THE STAMPEDE ROAD AREA WEST OF EIGHT MILE LAKE TO THE STATE OF ALASKA; DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION: TO CREATE THE STAMPEDE STATE RECREATION AREA.

WHEREAS, there are many issues related to the Stampede Trail and surrounding area west of Eight Mile Lake, many of which have brought into question the ability to continue traditional use dating back prior to statehood; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough has openly and repeatedly expressed a desire to have recreational opportunities and uses continued in this area; and

WHEREAS, the current use of the area includes motor vehicle access, horseback riding, dog mushing, cross-country skiing, skijoring, hiking, fishing, hunting, snowmobiling, and other outdoor activities; and

WHEREAS, there are no designated Alaska State Parks or Recreation Sites within the Denali Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Stampede Trail and surrounding area are well known critical habitat for caribou, moose and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS, this area is of current and future importance for providing a land base to support Alaska-owned outdoor recreation enterprises at Denali National Park and Preserve and other existing tourism destinations.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Denali Borough Assembly strongly encourages the state of Alaska Legislature to pass legislation designating management of the following area to the state of Alaska, Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation the following area: Fairbanks Meridian, Healy Quadrangle, the western half of Township 12S9W, the western half of Township 13S9W, Township 12S10W, Township 12S11 W, Township 13S10W, Township 13S11 W.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Denali Borough specifically requests that the aforementioned current uses be included in the management of the area and the Denali Borough Assembly be designated as the Local Advisory Management Council for the Stampede Recreation area.

ED a APPROVED by the DENALI BOROUGH ASSEMBLY this 10th day of January, 2007.

Denali Borough Mayor

ATTEST:

G. A. Kestner
Borough Clerk



RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE STAMPEDE STATE RECREATION AREA
DENALI BOROUGH, ALASKA

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska has recognized the importance of the Stampede townships for habitat and public recreation by classifying most of this area as Wildlife Habitat and/or Public Recreation in the Tanana Basin Area Plan (1991); and

WHEREAS, the State of Alaska recently validated the importance of these lands for habitat and recreation by choosing to retain acreage around 8 Mile Lake and near Otto Lake in state ownership when determining the Denali Borough's entitlement conveyances; and

WHEREAS, 8 Mile Lake is a logical gateway to such a State Recreation Area, and is most in need of immediate planning to provide services and avoid negative impacts; and

WHEREAS, local citizens who attended two Stampede Summits and commented on land and resource planning issues have re-iterated their individual interest in maintaining these lands for existing recreational uses; and

WHEREAS, growing numbers of statewide and national visitors enjoy the Denali area, for its landscape, wildlife, and its unique recreational opportunities; and

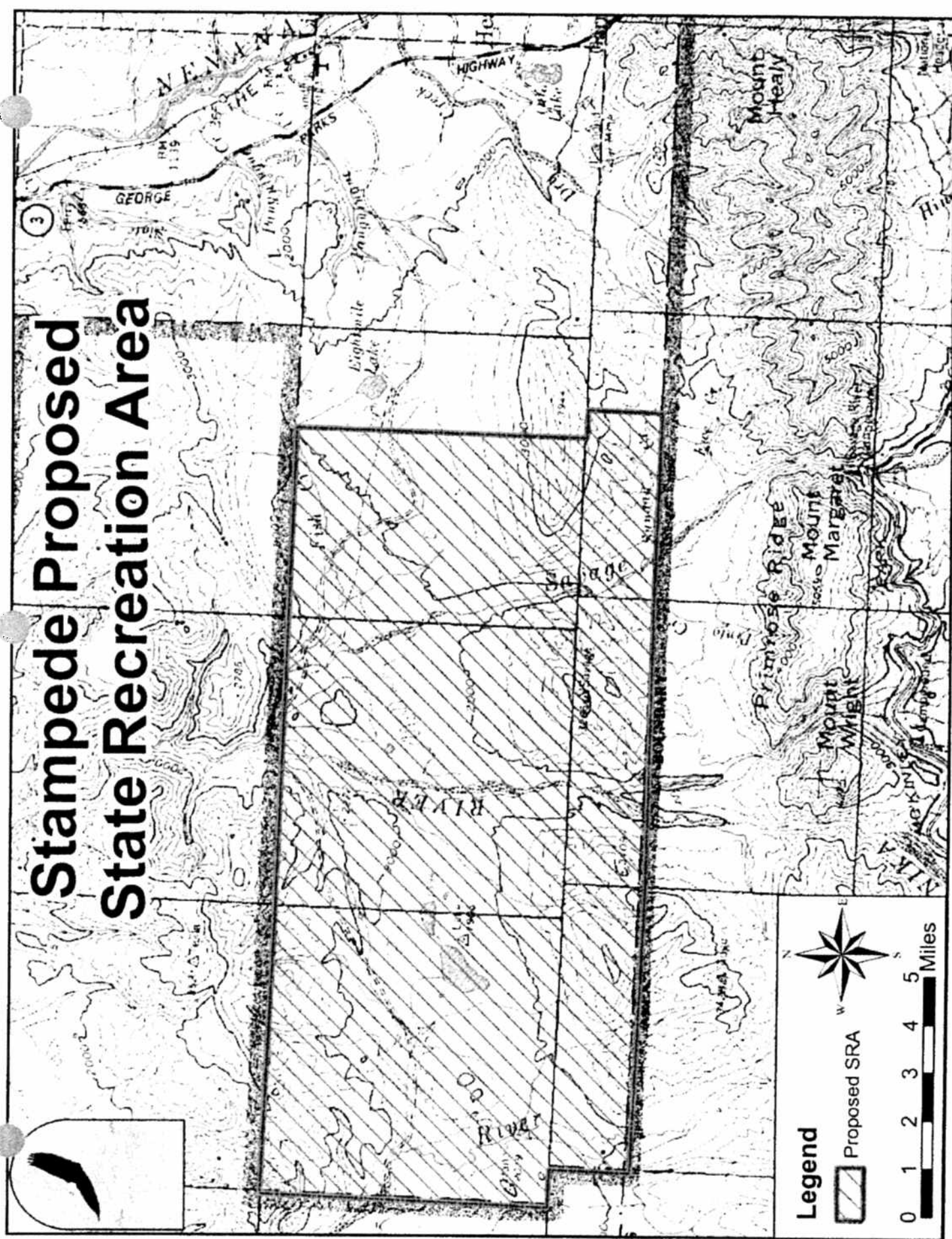
WHEREAS, in view of increased pressures for visitation, the established purposes of the Stampede townships will best be furthered by use of a management structure that enables all stakeholders to plan the future of this valuable public resource; and

WHEREAS, designation as a State Recreation Area will ensure such management.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD AND MEMBERS OF THE DENALI CITIZENS COUNCIL, that we support the establishment by the State of Alaska of the Stampede State Recreation Area, with boundaries as described in the legislation brought forth by Senator Joe Thomas, but with the ADDITION of nine sections around 8 Mile Lake (see map attached).

March 10, 2009

Denali Citizens Council
PO Box 78
Denali Park, AK
907-683-3396



Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys

Coal and CBM Resource Assessment for the Proposed Stampede State Recreation Area

Executive Summary

The Division of Geological & Geophysical Surveys undertook the following short analysis of available geologic data in an area west of Healy, Alaska, to determine the state's current understanding of the area's coalbed methane (CBM) and other energy resource potential. Figure 1 outlines the acreage that is being considered for designation as a State Recreation Area (SRA). Sedimentary rocks of the coal-bearing Usibelli Group were mapped and analyzed at the southern boundary of the SRA by previous geologists working this region. They noted that the thickest coal seam was 13 feet, 6 inches and the thickest cumulative coal at one locality was 22 feet. Coal quality analyses from these exposures indicate the maturity rank is predominantly Lignite A. If coal bearing strata extending beneath the extensive covered area to the north within the SRA are all of this rank, the potential for commercially viable CBM or other energy resources would be low.

However, coal measures exposed to the east of the SRA, in the vicinity of the town of Healy, contain much thicker coal seams and are of much higher thermal rank. If these strata are present in the subsurface in the area of the SRA, there would be unrealized potential for natural gas and/or coal resources within the area in question. The currently available information does not rule out either interpretation. Gathering subsurface information by drilling a few critically-placed core holes would provide a relatively definitive answer as to the energy resource potential of the area.

Sources of Information

Available resource information for the proposed Stampede State Recreation Area include several regional 1:250,000 scale geologic maps (Csejtey and others, 1992; see Fig. 1); detailed 1:63,360 scale geologic map of the Healy D-5 quadrangle (eastern half of the proposed area, Wahrhaftig, 1970; see Fig. 2), and maps of the Healy D-5 and D-6 quadrangles (Gilbert and Bundtzen, 1976); U.S. Bureau of Mines Report of Investigations 4520 (Toenges and Jolley, 1949); Alaska coal geology, resources, and coalbed methane potential (Flores and others, 2004, see Fig. 3); geologic report on coal investigations in Alaska (Barnes and others, 1951); the Alaska Coal Mine Land Inventory (Plangraphics, Inc., 1983); and the U.S. Bureau of Mines Selected Coal Deposits in Alaska (Meyer, 1990). The RI 4520 contains outcrop descriptions of bed and coal thickness, strike and dip bedding attitude information, and coal quality analyses (11 analyses shown in table 1) at seven sites (1-7 on attached map, Fig. 1) that are at or just below the southern margin of the area. Unfortunately, the locations of these sites are indicated on a single page, hand drafted cartographic map (Fig. 7 from Toenges and Jolley, 1949) so no precise latitude or longitude data are available. However, these locations were approximately located on the map of Csejtey and others, 1992 (our Fig. 1) by using the river drainages as depicted on Fig. 7 in Toenges and Jolley, 1949, and the descriptions given in the text. The discussion that follows is based on the above mentioned **publicly-available** data and relies on the geologic mapping

presented in Csejtey and others (1992) and Wahrhaftig (1970). This discussion will focus on the coal geology and related data that are relevant to the proposed Stampede State Recreation area.

Geology

The proposed Stampede State Recreation area contains Quaternary surficial deposits (**Qt** map unit, Fig. 1), and sedimentary rocks consisting of the Nenana Gravel (**Tcn** map unit, Fig. 1), and the Tertiary-age coal-bearing Usibelli Group (**Tcb** map unit, Fig. 1) exposed on its southern border. These Tertiary rocks were deposited on much older metamorphic rocks of the Yukon-Tanana terrane, that includes Paleozoic and Precambrian (?) pelitic and quartzose schist (**PzpCp**, **Pzk** and **MDt** map units, Fig. 1).

The Usibelli Group (**Tcb** map unit, Fig. 1) is predominantly Miocene-age strata that were deposited in southward-flowing fluvial, lacustrine, and peat bog environments situated north of the present day central Alaska Range (Ridgway and others, 2007). The Usibelli Group sedimentary sequence consists of five formations that are summarized in Fig. 3. These are from bottom to top: 1.) coal-bearing Healy Creek; 2.) noncoaly Sanctuary; 3.) coal-bearing Suntrana; 4.) coal-bearing Lignite Creek; and 5.) noncoaly Grubstake. The Usibelli group is conformably overlain by the Tertiary-age Nenana Gravel (unit 6 described in Fig. 3).

East of the Parks Highway near Healy, Alaska the Usibelli Coal Mine successfully produces annually about 1.5 million short tons of coal. In the immediate area, the only past production west of the Parks Highway and southeast of the proposed Stampede State Recreation area was at the abandoned Diamond Coal Mine (shown as DCM on Fig. 1). Here, a 40 foot thick coal bed that strikes N62° E and dips 33° NW, along the slope of the hill, was mined in 1946, producing 34,911 (short) tons of coal in stripping operations (Toenges and Jolley, 1949). This unit is mapped as **Tcu**, or undifferentiated coal-bearing Usibelli Group by Wahrhaftig (1970, see Fig. 2).

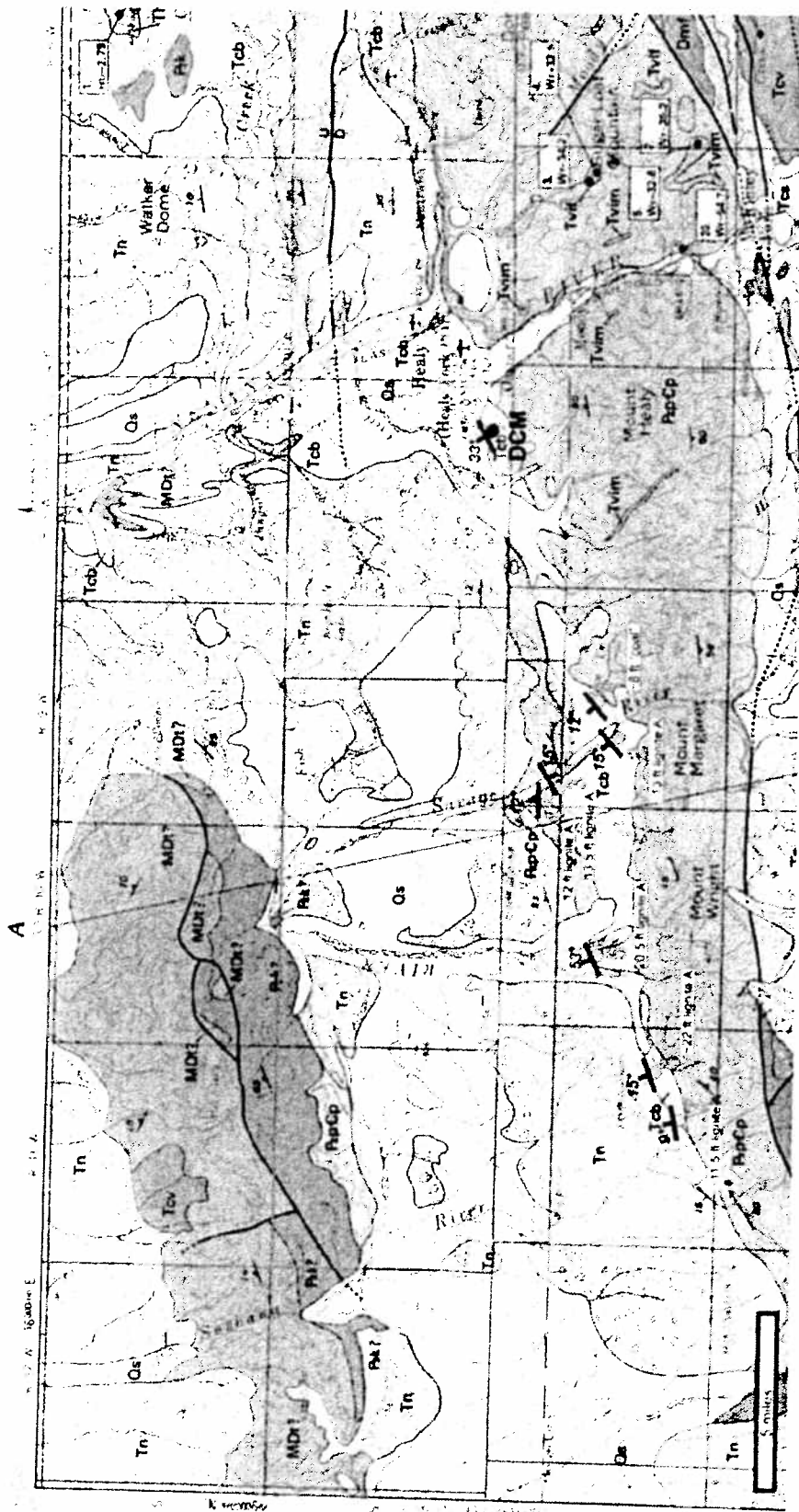
Figure 1 shows outcrops of the Usibelli Group at the southern edge of the proposed Stampede State Recreation area and south into Mt. McKinley National Park as coal-bearing strata (**Tcb**). Strikes and dips of **Tcb** shown on the Fig. 1 are from Toenges and Jolley (1949) and they generally dip from 9° to 33° to the northwest, directly into the proposed recreation area. The total thickness of the exposed coal at these localities ranges from 8 ft to 22 ft (see Fig. 1) with the thickest bed of coal at 13 ft 6 in (data from Toenges and Jolley, 1949; locations approximate). In general, detailed geologic mapping by Wahrhaftig (1970) shows similar directions of bedding attitude (strike and dip) of the coal-bearing Usibelli Group. However, Wahrhaftig's mapping further differentiates the Usibelli Group into the lowermost Healy Creek Formation (unit 1, Fig. 3) and the Lignite Creek Formation (unit 4, Fig. 3). The Lignite Creek Formation is queried (**Tlc?**) indicating uncertainty which formation is present. The intervening Sanctuary Formation (unit 2, Fig. 3) and the Suntrana Formation (unit 3, Fig. 3), the main source of minable coal to the east at the Usibelli Coal Mine are not indicated on the Wahrhaftig 1970 map in the area along the southern border of the proposed Stampede State Recreation area. Additionally, Wahrhaftig's 1970 map of the Healy D-5 quadrangle has structure contours (red-dashed lines, Fig. 2) drawn at the base of the Nenana Gravel that suggest that the local basin may be up to 2500 ft deep. However, his cross sections A to A' (shown on Fig. 2) and B to B' (not

shown) imply that this small basin is filled with ~2500 ft of Nenana Gravel. The base of the Nenana gravel in these cross sections is denoted by question marks (?) indicating what lies beneath the Nenana Gravel is unknown. The 1970 Wahrhaftig map does not indicate the source of the information for the structure contour, or that data that indicates the local "basin" may be 2500 feet deep. On the basis of the general trend of northwest dipping strata it is reasonable to suggest that coal-bearing Usibelli Group rocks might underlie the proposed recreation area at some depth. However, drilling would be necessary to confirm their presence, thickness, and depth.

Coal Quality of Coal Exposed near the Proposed Stampede State Recreation Area

Eleven coal quality analyses reported in Toenges and Jolley (1949) for coal seams sampled at the seven localities (1-7 shown on the map, Fig. 1) were placed into an Excel spreadsheet and Apparent Coal Rank was calculated for each (Table 1). Nine of the samples have an Apparent Rank of Lignite A and have Moist, Mineral Matter Free BTUs between 7536 to 8140. Two samples have "Apparent Ranks" of High Volatile Bituminous C (Locality 1, analysis C- 64425) and Subbituminous C (Locality 5, analysis C-64418). The high moisture content of 26.3% for sample C- 64425 at locality 1 suggests that this sample was highly weathered prior to testing and that the "Apparent Rank" of High Volatile Bituminous C is suspect. The description given on page 22 in Toenges and Jolley (1949) suggests that this 7 ft 10 in thick coal seam is directly beneath the Nenana Gravel and was subaerially exposed for a long period of time. Bacterial action on highly weathered coals results in higher water retention, and the moisture content of High Volatile Bituminous C coals should not exceed 20%. Therefore, discounting the analysis for this sample, all of the other coals are low rank Lignite A (9 samples) to Subbituminous C (1 sample). The low apparent rank of these coals indicates that the original peat bogs were never buried deep enough and for a long enough time to develop into higher rank coals. This is consistent with these coals likely being from the uppermost Lignite Creek formation (unit 4, Fig. 3).

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY



Boundary of proposed Stampede State Recreation area

- 1 Approximate locations (1-7) of coal localities with strike and dip, coal analyses, and total coal thickness from Toenges and Jolley, 1949.
- 50° Strike and dip of bedding (from Toenges and Jolley, 1949)

ROCK UNITS IN PROPOSED STAMPEDE STATE RECREATION AREA

| | | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------|
| Qs | Surficial Deposits | MD1 | Metamorphic schists |
| Tn | Nenana Gravel | PA1 | |
| Tcb | Coal-bearing rocks Ustbelli Group | APCp | |

Fig. 1. Geologic map modified from NW corner of geologic map of Csejey and others, 1992.

FISCAL NOTE

STATE OF ALASKA
2009 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Fiscal Note Number: _____
 Bill Version: SB108
 () Publish Date: _____

Identifier (file name): SB108-DNR-Parks-03-16-09 Dept. Affected: Natural Resources
 Title STAMPEDE STATE RECREATION AREA RDU Parks & Recreation Management
 Component Parks Management
 Sponsor Senator Thomas
 Requester Senate Resources Committee Component Number 452

Expenditures/Revenues (Thousands of Dollars)

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below.

| | Appropriation Required | Information | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| | FY 2010 | FY 2010 | FY 2011 | FY 2012 | FY 2013 | FY 2014 | FY 2015 |
| OPERATING EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | |
| Personal Services | 86.6 | | 175.4 | 88.8 | 88.8 | 88.8 | 88.8 |
| Travel | 3.0 | | 8.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 | 5.0 |
| Contractual | 61.0 | | 59.9 | 26.0 | 26.0 | 26.0 | 26.0 |
| Supplies | 15.0 | | 18.0 | 11.5 | 11.5 | 11.5 | 11.5 |
| Equipment | | | | | | | |
| Land & Structures | | | | | | | |
| Grants & Claims | | | | | | | |
| Miscellaneous | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL OPERATING | 165.6 | 0.0 | 261.3 | 131.3 | 131.3 | 131.3 | 131.3 |

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CAPITAL EXPENDITURES | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| CHANGE IN REVENUES () | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

FUND SOURCE (Thousands of Dollars)

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1002 Federal Receipts | | | | | | | |
| 1003 GF Match | | | | | | | |
| 1004 GF | 165.6 | | 261.3 | 131.3 | 131.3 | 131.3 | 131.3 |
| 1005 GF/Program Receipts | | | | | | | |
| 1037 GF/Mental Health | | | | | | | |
| Other Interagency Receipts | | | | | | | |
| TOTAL | 165.6 | 0.0 | 261.3 | 131.3 | 131.3 | 131.3 | 131.3 |

Estimate of any current year (FY2009) cost: 0.0

POSITIONS

| | | | | | | | |
|-----------|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| Full-time | | | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Part-time | | | | | | | |
| Temporary | 1 | | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary)

The costs associated with management of this new state recreation area include funding for a limited 2 year public planning process to develop a management plan (FY 2010-2011), followed by funding for a full time Park Ranger providing field management beginning in FY2011. Costs associated with the public planning process include scoping and survey work, draft management plan preparation, maps, displays, public notice advertising, room rentals, printing and distribution of final plan, lease space, computer and office supplies. Field management costs beginning in FY2011 include funding for a park ranger position, lease space, vehicle costs, utilities, and general supplies. One-time start up costs include one new vehicle, office supplies, and law enforcement gear.

Potential infrastructure identified in the management plan such as camping areas could generate park fees in future years.

Prepared by: James King
 Division: Parks and Outdoor Recreation
 Approved by: Tom Irwin, Commissioner
Natural Resources

Phone (907) 269-8701
 Date/Time March 16, 2009
 Date March 16, 2009



Denali Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 437
Healy, AK 99743
907-683-INFO (4636)

website: <http://denalichamber.com>
email: denali.chamber@gmail.com

March 16, 2009

Senator Joe Thomas
State Capitol, Room 510
Juneau, AK 99801

RE: Senate Bill 108, Creation of a Stampede State Recreation Area

Dear Senator Thomas,

The Denali Chamber of Commerce was created for the purpose of cooperating in matters of interest to the public and professional people of the community; to promote and perpetuate the business, commercial, manufacturing and civic interests of the members and the community; to promote and perpetuate the general welfare and prosperity of the Denali area, and to stimulate public interest to these ends; and to develop a uniform public spirit whereby we may put forth the maximum effort in the aid of our area and to make it more prosperous, beautiful and a better place in which to live.

Therefore, in fulfilling the purpose of the Denali Chamber of Commerce, the Board of Directors on behalf of the members of the chamber support the proposed legislation you have introduced in the State of Alaska Senate, for the Creation of the Stampede State Recreation Area.

Our community residents use this area for many recreational purposes such as hiking, bird watching, motor vehicle travel (ATV's and snowmobiling), dog mushing, skiing, skijoring, photography, berry picking, hunting and trapping. Several chamber members own business enterprises on the Stampede Road which provide recreational services to users of the area which include horseback riding, jeep safari tours and sled dog tours along the Stampede Trail, as well as lodging facilities for tourists visiting the area.

The chamber members also support inclusion of lands around the 8-Mile Lake area in the legislation. These lands provide a natural gateway to a recreation area and are most in need of management. Most locals and visitors use this as a parking and/or staging area for access to the Stampede Trail and state lands on which they recreate.



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We are most appreciative of your efforts to introduce this important legislation which will provide a means of management to encourage stewardship and continued recreation opportunities for all Alaskans and visitors alike. We also appreciate you making the wishes of your constituents known to the legislature.

Best regards,

Denali Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors

Josh Wilhour, President

Heidi DeCoeur, Vice President

Julia Potter, Treasurer

Cathey Peterson-Hall, Correspondence Secretary

Teresa Loegering, Recording Secretary

Panguingue Creek Homeowner's Association
P.O. Box 451, Healy, AK 99743

3/24/2009

Dear Senator Thomas,

The Panguingue Creek Homeowner's Association would like to thank you for sponsoring the bill to create the Stampede State Recreation Area and for your work toward its passage. The Panguingue Creek Subdivision is located along the first few miles of the Stampede Road, so all of our members are very interested in the future of the lands proposed to be a part of the new recreation area.

Many of us that own property in this area and choose to live here do so because of the area's beautiful setting and access to Alaska's wilderness. We live here because we enjoy hiking, camping, berry picking, bird watching, skiing, skijoring, dog mushing, snowmobiling, riding ATV's, hunting, trapping, and fishing, and just about everything you can do to enjoy Alaska's beauty. Indeed, we have given up easy access to groceries and services we travel for over 100 miles to obtain, in order to have easy access to all the Stampede area has to offer.

Already, people from across the state, the country, and the world pass through here to use the state's land for recreation. Creating the Stampede State Recreation Area will help ensure that future generations of Alaskans and visitors will be able to enjoy this area, as well. As homeowner's closest to the proposed area, we know of the need that already exists for some type of management and improvement of this area.

Stampede Road offers vehicle access as far as Eight-mile Lake, one of the area's biggest draws, for the summer months. This area sees the highest use in the summer months, and without any improvements, its quality as a destination will continue to deteriorate as users leave trash and impact the area. The area around Eight-mile Lake already serves as a trail head for the area and begs for its inclusion in the State Recreation Area Proposal.

Two "Stampede Summits" got our community together to think about what we could do to make sure that we will always have access to these lands so near to our homes. The Stampede State Recreation Area is the best way to achieve that goal, and we thank you for taking this issue to Juneau for us.

Sincerely,

Panguingue Creek Homeowner's

William Price, President
Phil Brease, Secretary
Jared Zimmerman, Treasurer

Stewart Cubley

Senate Bill 108
Proposed Stampede State Recreation Area
March 18, 2009

Dear Senator Thomas,

I am a private landowner in the Wolf Townships. I have a homestead near the Sanctuary River that I staked out in 1972 through an open-to-entry program, and later purchased it from the state. Over the years I have built a log cabin and accessory structures on the property and I live there for part of each year. I have traveled throughout the Wolf Township going to and from my property under all manner of locomotion and in all seasons for over three decades. I know firsthand the diversity of the land and its value as a natural resource for animal habitat as well as traditional recreational uses.

I **support** the inclusion of the Wolf Townships in the proposed Stampede Trail State Recreation Area, including the area surrounding 8 Mile Lake. I believe that the creation of this recreation area would provide more certainty for management of the lands under the direction of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation than with the current management by the Division of Mining, Land and Water. If this area is not protected, inevitable commercial pressures will place them at risk for fragmentation by sale or lease, leaving fewer options for wise management and appropriate use.

This land is especially appealing for its open vistas and sightlines to the mountains of Denali to the south, thus making its apparent development value high. But anyone who has traveled to this area knows that this openness is due to poor soils underlain by permafrost. From the public policy standpoint, we should strive to protect this sensitive area and manage it for the existing public uses that have been in place for the last three decades.

As a potential in-holder in the Stampede State Recreation Area, I strongly support the intent of SB 108 to preserve the traditional nature of this region. I hope that you will recognize the extraordinary value of this land and that you will act to insure its responsible management in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stewart Cubley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Stewart" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Cubley".

Sincerely, Stewart Cubley

March 19, 2009

Senator Joe Thomas
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Thomas,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and members of the Denali Citizens Council (DCC), I would like to thank you for introducing SB 108, an Act creating the Stampede State Recreation Area. DCC, a grassroots citizen's organization founded in Cantwell in 1974, is composed largely of Alaskans, many of whom live in Denali Borough communities. Over the years, we've been involved in a number of public deliberations regarding land uses in the Denali Borough. Our local members live near the proposed Recreation Area and use it for recreation in diverse ways, including hiking, snow machining, and dog mushing. Some of our members are potential inholders within the bounds of the proposed Recreation Area.

We support SB 108. Establishment of a State Recreation Area in the Stampede townships will allow the recreational activities our members enjoy to continue. In addition, it will involve stakeholders in how best to manage this area for the future. It recognizes that the priority use of these lands is for recreation and the habitat that sustains it.

In the Denali Borough, whose livelihood and economic vitality depend largely upon tourism, a State Recreation Area is the right designation for these lands. We recently circulated a petition inviting local and statewide citizens to support the formation of this Recreation Area and have had an excellent response.

When local citizens met with representatives of Alaska Parks and Outdoor Recreation last year, we supported inclusion of 8 Mile Lake in the Recreation Area. We urge you to amend the bill to include this area. It is the logical gateway to the Recreation Area and is the most currently utilized and impacted area.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input into this important legislation. We urge the Senate Resources Committee to pass SB 108.

Sincerely,



Nancy Bale, President DCC

DCC Board

Nancy Bale
Anne Beaulaurier
Jean Balay
Cass Ray

Jenna Hamm
Joan Frankevich
Nan Eagleson
Jared Zimmerman

Julia Potter, Community Organizer

18 March 2009

Senator Joe Thomas
Alaska State Capitol
Room #510
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Thomas:

We are writing in support of Senate Bill 108, an act establishing the Stampede State Recreation Area. Due to prior commitments, we will be unable to testify before the Senate Resources Committee this Friday but hope that you can use this letter to help show local support for the bill.

Since 1980 we have owned land along the Savage River within the proposed recreation area and have used the cabin we built there for vacations with family and friends, usually several times a year. There is no place on earth more dear to us. We have enjoyed seeing moose, wolves, caribou, lynx, sandhill cranes, and other wildlife on our trips through the area and want future generations to be able to enjoy that as well. According to your sponsor statement, "the purpose of State Recreation Areas is to manage state-owned land and water in such a way that provides the maximum level of outdoor recreation opportunities without significant adverse effects on the natural system". We wholeheartedly support that protection for this land.

We would also like to see Eight-Mile Lake and the land to the east that is within the Wolf Townships included in the proposed recreation area. Inclusion would recognize the existing pattern of use since one of the main destinations for summer recreational users is Eight-Mile Lake. The trail between the parking lot and the lake is showing "significant adverse effects on the natural system" and would benefit from more active management.

As year-round residents of Panguingue Creek Subdivision on the Stampede Road, this area is our backyard playground, and we are willing to put time, energy, and money into its upkeep. Its designation as a State Recreation Area with a management plan and local advisory board would, we hope, put in place a structure through which we and our neighbors could help to limit the degradation of its natural beauty.

Thank you for sponsoring Senate Bill 108. If we can help your fellow senators see the value of this legislation, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Susan and David Braun
PO Box 222
Healy, AK 99743

Joe Hardenbrook

From: tparagi@alaska.net
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 9:35 PM
To: Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Tom Wagoner; Sen. Bert Stedman
Cc: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: support for SB 108 Stampede State Recreation Area

Dear Senators Huggins, Stedman, Stevens, and Waggoner:

I am a member of the Citizen Advisory Board for State Parks in the Northern Area and ask you to support Senate Bill 108 to establish a Stampede State Recreation Area west of the Parks Highway near Healy. This area provides an outstanding opportunity to continuing allowing traditional access to the land for a variety of recreational purposes (hunting, snowmachining, horseback riding, berry picking, mountain biking, etc.) while providing a level of protection against having it degraded by unsustainable uses. A nearby example of what to avoid is the level of damage caused to the Rex Trail by a dramatic increase in unregulated motorized traffic in recent years that has effectively excluded many of the traditional access means.

I have enjoyed mountain biking along the Stampede Trail in addition to backcountry skiing and horseback riding to the south off the trail. A state recreation area in this scenic place would be the first along the Parks Highway north of the Alaska Range and provide additional recreational opportunities not allowed in nearby Denali National Park.

I recognize the fiscal note for planning and staffing this proposed addition to the Alaska State Park system comes at a poor time given the condition of the state and national economies. This is an investment for the future of public recreation lands. Local residents can help plan for the types of activities that will be appropriate, and State Parks can work to ensure a variety of uses while protecting the infrastructure of sustainable trails, campgrounds, and other appropriate facilities.

Sincerely,

Tom Paragi
1271 Lowbush Lane
Fairbanks, AK 99709

cc: Sen. Joe Thomas

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Dianna Leinberger [dleinberger@acsalaska.net]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2009 5:57 PM
To: Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Bill Wielechowski; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Bert Stedman; Sen. Gary Stevens; Sen. Tom Wagoner
Cc: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: SB 108

Dear members of the Senate Resources Committee

I am writing in support of senate bill 108 to establish the Stampede State Recreation Area and I hope you too will support this bill. This area would provide the people of Alaska and it's visitors with an outstanding area for outdoor recreation which I feel is one of the primary reasons people live in and visit this state. The Alaska State Park System is one that provides maximum recreational opportunity while still maintaining the natural resources. Alaska State Parks are truly valued by by the people who visit them.

The Stampede trail area is currently used primarily for recreation and this bill would provide management that would protect it from incompatible land use. Recreational use in this area is important for many residents of interior Alaska. The establishment of a state recreation area could invite both out of state tourists and residents from other parts of the state to visit the Healy area thus providing an economic benefit. Also, given the use restrictions of the nearby Denali National Park, the establishment of a state recreation area would open recreational opportunities to motorized use in this area.

I hope you will realize that this is an opportunity to invest in the recreational opportunities of both current and future Alaskans which improves quality of life. Given the current economic situation, I know that it is difficult to add another expense to the state budget, however, I hope you can support this bill and start the process of creating the Stampede State Recreation Area.

Thank you for your time

Jeremy Douse
Fairbanks, Alaska

Joe Hardenbrook

From: Mike Gianncehini [mikeyg@mtaonline.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2009 7:18 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas
Subject: Stampede Recreation Area

22 March 2009

Senator Joe Thomas
Alaska State Capitol
Room #510
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Thomas:

I am writing in support of Senate Bill 108, an act establishing the Stampede State Recreation Area. Due to prior commitments, I could possibly be unable to testify before the Senate Resources Committee this Friday but hope that you can use this letter to help show local support for the bill.

I have enjoyed seeing grizzly, moose, wolves, caribou, lynx, sandhill cranes, and other wildlife on our trips through the area and want future generations to be able to enjoy that as well. According to your sponsor statement, "the purpose of State Recreation Areas is to manage state-owned land and water in such a way that provides the maximum level of outdoor recreation opportunities without significant adverse effects on the natural system". I wholeheartedly support that protection for this land.

I would also like to see Eight-Mile Lake and the land to the east that is within the Wolf Townships included in the proposed recreation area. Inclusion would recognize the existing pattern of use since one of the main destinations for summer recreational users is Eight-Mile Lake. The trail between the parking lot and the lake is showing "significant adverse effects on the natural system" and would benefit from more active management. I am a year-round residents of Healy. This area is our backyard playground, and we are willing to put time, energy, and money into its upkeep. Its designation as a State Recreation Area with a management plan and local advisory board would, I hope, put in place a structure through which my neighbors and I could help to limit the degradation of its natural beauty.

Thank you for sponsoring Senate Bill 108. If I can help your fellow senators see the value of this legislation, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Mike Gianncehini
PO Box 58
Healy, AK 99743

phone: (907) 683-2926
email: mikeyg@mtaonline.net

3/23/2009