

# ALASKA STATE LEGISLATURE



SENATOR JOE THOMAS

## Senate Bill 195 – An Act relating to the repeal of the establishment of the Goldstream Public Use Area

### Sponsor Statement

The Goldstream Public Use Area (GPUA) was created in 1990 by Senator Bettye Fahrenkamp and Representative Mike Davis in order to preserve the recreational opportunities, traditional uses and atmosphere of the local neighborhoods. The GPUA is set to sunset on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010 unless Senate Bill 195 is passed this session.

The GPUA encompasses a patchwork of nearly 2000 acres of state land bordered by Sheep Creek Road to the west, Goldstream Road to the north and the Steese Highway to the east. The GPUA is home to an ever-growing network of trails that connect users to the Chatanika River Valley, the White Mountains and the Fairbanks area, all from a central location close to Fairbanks' population base. The GPUA is passively managed by the state and the trails are maintained by volunteers at no cost to the taxpayers.

All uses are allowed in the area and the GPUA is utilized year round by a variety of outdoor enthusiasts and families.

The repeal of the GPUA's sunset clause is actively supported by the Alaska Outdoor Council, Alaska Dog Mushing Association, Alaska Miners Association, Nordic Ski Club of Fairbanks, Alaska Trapper's Association, Skijoring and Polk Association, Fairbanks Snow Travelers, Northern Area State Parks Advisory Board, Fairbanks North Star Borough Trails Advisory Board, Alaska Trails, Interior Trails Preservation Coalition, Interior Alaska Land Trust, Arctic Audubon Society, and the *Fairbanks Daily News-Miner*.

Additionally, over 100 individuals have written letters of support.

Senate Bill 195 receives broad support from the community and I urge you to support this important effort.

**“This all makes for an ideal center for outdoor recreation, a sort of Central Park for the Goldstream neighborhoods. It deserves permanent designation.”**

*-Fairbanks Daily News-Miner Editorial, December 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009*