



Senate Bill 60, House Bill 113 Stampede State Recreation Area

***The Friends of Stampede urge you support the Stampede State Recreation Area.
It will offer tremendous benefits to residents, visitors, the Denali Borough and the
State of Alaska at very little cost.***

Outdoor recreation is an Alaskan way of life. Fishing, hunting, boating, dog mushing, skiing, snowmachining, skijoring, hiking, bicycling, bird-watching, wildlife viewing, berry picking and other outdoor activities are an important part of daily life for most Alaskans. The Friends of Stampede want to ensure that the opportunities for these traditional Alaskan activities are protected

The Stampede State Recreation Area will:

Meet Alaskans' desire for more outdoor recreation opportunities.

According to a 2009 survey (Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, SCORP, 2009-2014), 70% of participants supported creating new parks from existing state lands, 96% of participants considered parks and outdoor recreation to be important or very important to their lifestyle. Alaskans living in the railbelt communities, which contain 73% of the state's population, strongly support more trailheads. There are no state parks or recreation areas in the Denali Borough, which sits on the Parks Highway amidst some of Alaska's most beautiful scenery. The Stampede SRA is a perfect match of need and state resource.

Support the Denali Borough government and local businesses.

The Denali Borough government is funded primarily by accommodation tax revenues, and is thus largely dependent on tourism. The local government would benefit from state actions that encourage visitors to extend their stays or that attract new visitors with outdoor interests apart from the national park. Small businesses already are interested in providing activities and services for tourists in and near this area. Giving them a named destination will help with marketing and attracting additional customers.

Showcase important wildlife habitat.

The area encompassed in the proposal contains critical winter habitat for wildlife including caribou, moose and furbearers.. Birdwatchers seek out the migratory stopover and tundra habitat around Eightmile Lake. Wildlife habitat is valued both by in-state and out-of-state recreation area users and is one of the features visitors to Alaska seek.

Provide essential management.

The amount of use in the area has grown over the past two decades, reflected by the volume of litter, human waste, trail deterioration, and emergency calls. Designation of the Stampede SRA will bring with it a management plan that can address safety issues, rehabilitate trails and camping areas (or construct new ones), enhance access, and provide interpretation.

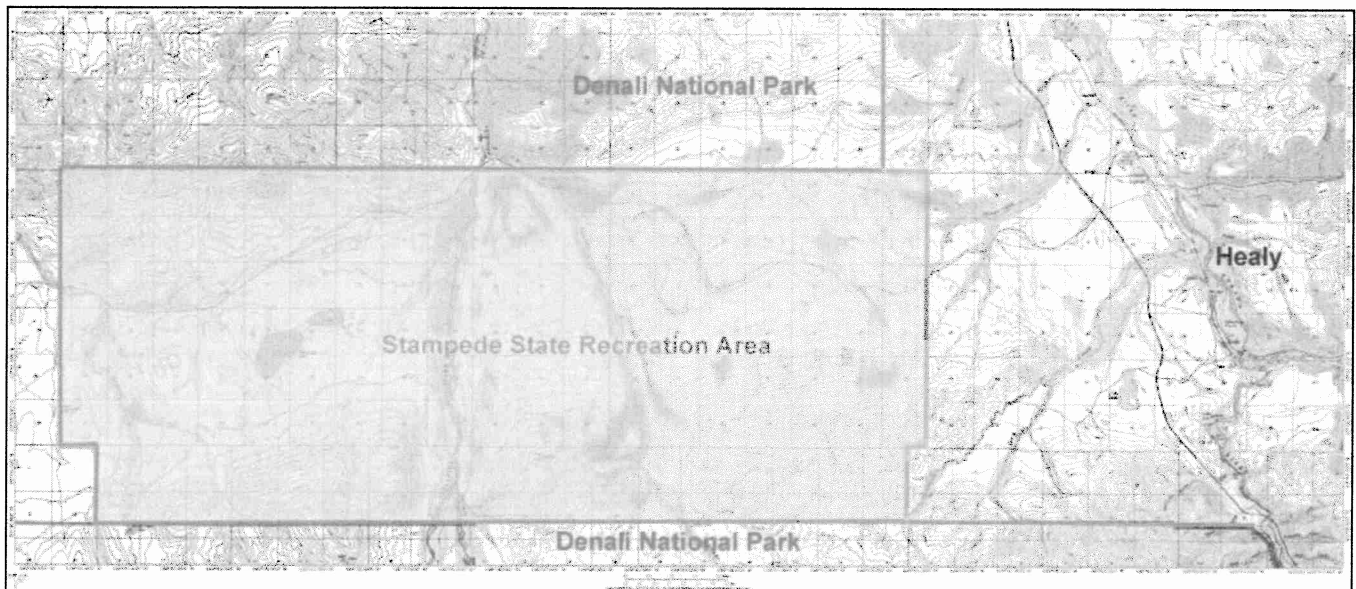
Receive strong support from a variety of Alaskans.

A petition in support of the SSRA in 2009 collected over 100 signatures. Ninety percent of the signers were Alaskan and 50% were from Denali Borough. Numerous other individuals and groups have attended Denali Borough Assembly and town hall style meetings to show their support for this legislation. At a Senate Resources Committee hearing in 2009, not a single person testified against the recreation area while support was strong and enthusiastic.



Stampede State Recreation Area Map

The lands within this map are mostly state lands identified by the Tanana Basin Area Plan as prime wildlife habitat/public recreation lands. Designation as a State Recreation Area will emphasize uses and values that the State of Alaska itself has recognized as primary over many years.



Visit our website or email Friends of Stampede for more information:

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