



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



INTERIOR TRAILS PRESERVATION COALITION

ITPC

Monday, March 7, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

Our group supports HB 113 and SB 60, both of which would create the Stampede State Recreation Area in the Stampede Trail area west of Healy.

This area is bounded on three sides by Denali National Park and is used extensively year-round by dog mushers, snowmachiners, ATV enthusiasts, skiers, hikers, bikers, hunters, berry pickers, and many more. Stampede Trail provides important access to the backcountry, and the area has even more recreation potential.

A state Stampede Recreation Area would have many benefits including

- Protection of quality of life for people who regularly use the area.
- Protection of an area near Denali National Park for recreation that does not have the restrictions of a national park.
- Continued use of the area's natural resources by the public.
- A destination for tourists who want to experience the wild nature of the area without the crowds of Denali National Park

For all these reasons the Interior Trails Preservation Coalition supports the establishment of Stampede State Recreation Area.

Sincerely,

Eric Troyer
Vice President

ITPC

P.O. Box 74263, Fairbanks, AK 99707

Phone: (907) 458-7968



Northern Area Alaska State Parks Citizen Advisory Board

3700 Airport Way Fairbanks, Alaska 99709-4613 (907) 451-2695

February 10, 2011

To: Members of the 27th Legislative Session:

The Northern Area Alaska State Parks Citizens Advisory Board consists of ten members appointed by the Director of the Division of Parks and Outdoor Recreation. The purpose of the board is to ensure representation of public interest and to make recommendations concerning outdoor recreation.

The Northern Area Alaska State Parks Citizens Advisory Board unanimously supports **"An Act creating the Stampede State Recreation Area"**, outside of Healy, Alaska under Senate Bill 60 and House Bill 113.

The Northern Area Board recognizes the importance of protecting traditional uses as well as promoting the protection and enhancement of the State's recreational resources.

We recommend establishment of the state recreation area along with funding a master plan to identify the diverse public recreation uses, mitigate conflicts among those user groups, and promote orderly and consistent planning development and management programs for the area.

The board recognizes the need for fiscally responsible budgets. We feel the Stampede State Recreation Area warrants the state's investment and in the long run will help support Alaska's economy through tourism.

The Northern Area Citizens Advisory Board urges lawmakers to establish the Stampede State Recreation Area.

Sincerely,

Jim Williams

Northern Area State Park Advisory Board Chairman

Senate Bill 60, House Bill 113, Stampede State Recreation Area

The Middle Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee along with the Denali Borough supports Senator Joe Thomas' and Representative David Guttenberg's SSRA bills in the state legislature during this session (SB 60 and HB 113, introduced January 21st).

The area encompasses critical winter habitat for wildlife including caribou, moose and furbearers. The Stampede State Recreation Area will protect traditional uses of hunting, trapping, fishing, boating, snowmachining, dog mushing, skiing, birding, wildlife viewing, berry picking and other outdoor activities that most Alaskans value as a way of life. The lands identified for this designation are mostly state lands identified by the Tanana Basin Area Plan as prime wildlife habitat and public recreation lands. Designation as a State Recreation Area will emphasize uses and values that the State of Alaska has already prioritized for many years.

The Middle Nenana Fish and Game Advisory Committee supported the original proposal by the Denali Borough Assembly in 2009.

Denali Borough, Alaska
Planning Commission

Resolution No. PC 11-03

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE REINTRODUCTION AND PASSAGE
OF A BILL TO CREATE THE STAMPEDE STATE RECREATION AREA
DURING THE 27TH LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS.**

WHEREAS, all formal acts by the Planning Commission must be by resolution; and

WHEREAS, the Denali Borough's local government is well suited to make recommendations for land use within the Denali Borough; and

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

WHEREAS, the designation of a Stampede State Recreation Area provides an opportunity to maintain traditional uses on public lands adjacent to settlement lands; and

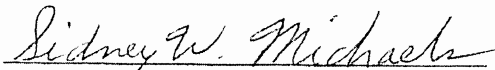
WHEREAS, the designation of a Stampede State Recreation Area would provide recreational opportunities for residents within the Borough and throughout the State; and

WHEREAS, the lands included in the proposed Stampede State Recreation Area are recognized by the state as unique and important for wildlife habitat and recreation.

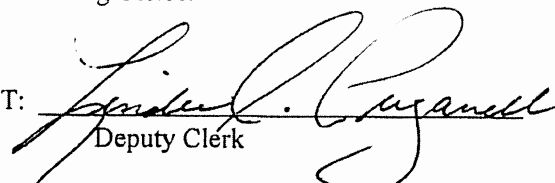
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Denali Borough Planning Commission requests that the Alaska Legislature reintroduce and pass a bill to create a Stampede State Recreation Area in a timely manner.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Denali Borough Planning Commission supports the designation of State Recreation Area lands including: Fairbanks Meridian, Healy Quadrangle, Township 12S8W sections 6, 7, 18, 19, 30, 31; Townships 12S9W, 12S10W, 12S11W; Township 13S9W sections 1-6 and 7-12, excluding National Park lands; Township 13S10W sections 1-6 and 7-12 excluding National Park lands; Township 13S11W sections 1-6 and 7-12 excluding National Park lands. **Refer to attached map.**

PASSED and APPROVED by the DENALI BOROUGH PLANNING COMMISSION this 18th day of January 2011.


Presiding Officer

ATTEST:


Deputy Clerk

VOTE: YEA: Capistrant, Chatfield, Griggs, Jones, Michaels, Mitchell, Potter
NAY: 0
ABSENT: Weibel



Grier Hopkins

From: Jared Zimmerman [jared_zimmerman@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 21, 2011 4:49 PM
To: Sen. Joe Thomas; Rep. David Guttenberg
Cc: Joe Hardenbrook; Grier Hopkins; Jay Hardenbrook; friendsofstampede@gmail.com
Subject: Support for Stampede State Recreation Area

Dear Senator Thomas and Representative Guttenberg,

The Panguingue Creek Homeowner's Association would like to thank you for sponsoring bills SB 60 and HB 113 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 who 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, skjoring, 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 homeowners 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 travels through our subdivision and offers seasonal vehicle access as far as Eight-mile Lake, one of the area's biggest draws. 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 its inclusion improves the State Recreation Area Proposal .

The Stampede State Recreation Area is the best way to ensure that we will always have access to these lands so near to our homes, and we thank you for taking this issue to Juneau for us.

Sincerely,

Panguingue Creek Homeowners' Association

Jared Zimmerman,	Chairperson
Andrea Blakesley,	Vice-Chair
Alex Lindeman,	Secretary
Susan Braun,	Board Member
Kurt Reeves,	Board Member

December 26, 2010
EarthSong Lodge
P.O. Box 89, Mile 4 Stampede Road
Healy, AK 99743

To: Representative David Guttenberg, Senator Joe Thomas, Assemblymen John Winklmann and Cyrus Cooper

Re: Stampede Recreation Area Proposal

Dear Sirs:

I am writing this letter as both a landowner in the Panguingue Creek Subdivision and landowner on lands west and adjacent to the Subdivision (within the proposed additions to the Stampede Recreation Area), and as a business owner that utilizes all the land in the Wolf Townships. I have followed the proposal of the SRA since its conception, and was one of the original individuals that proposed that project many years back with Will Forsberg. While I have been disappointed with the slow development of the SRA, I am encouraged that it still has momentum, and look forward to its creation soon.

I have lived along the Stampede Road/Trail since 1983. I homesteaded some property west of the subdivision, two miles north of the road, and lived there and raised a family for 13 years. I purchased land in the subdivision in 1995, with the purpose of creating a tourism-based business for my family. I already had a dog sledding guiding business since 1985, guiding guests from all over the globe on dog tours lasting from one hour to ten days. I had, and still have, a concession guiding permit that allows me to operate inside Denali National Park and Preserve. The dog sled guiding business focuses mostly on the Stampede Corridor and Northern Additions to Denali Park, and most of the business would be in the proposed SRA. Our summer business, EarthSong Lodge and Henry's Coffeehouse, caters to guests visiting the park in the summer months. We will at times have up to 40 overnight guests, and have been operating that business since 1997. My summer guests not only participate in activities inside Denali Park, but also along the Stampede Road/Trail, west of the lodge.

Creation of a Stampede State Recreation Area would directly impact my businesses. And the impact would be strongly positive. As a business owner, it is important to protect interests that impact my operation. Tourism is a renewable resource and widely recognized by residents of Stampede Road as the best and most sustainable industry for our area. One completely compatible with neighbor Denali National Park and most residents. And one that would barely impact current use patterns by locals. The best way to protect my business interests and personal values is a creation of this SRA. While other possible development in our area, like Shallow Gas Exploration and Development, likely would have an immediate detrimental impact to my business, preserving existing uses and promoting tourism and conservation just enhances everyone's stake. For this reason, as a representative of my businesses, I fully support the proposed SRA.

On a personal note, I have been a resident of the area nearly thirty years. I live here not only to make a living, but mostly because I love the area. In all my travels in and out of Alaska, the Stampede Corridor is the place I'd most like to live in. And one I have invested my life in. A SRA guaranteeing a preservation of certain values would not only be favored by me, but would make the most sense, and be a legacy that all future local residents would be proud of.

Please consider these words, from a landowner, long-time resident, outdoor enthusiast, family man, and business owner, when considering the proposed Stampede State Recreation Area. I speak for myself, but I know my views are shared by a vast number of people in our area and throughout the state.

Sincerely,

Jon M. Nierenberg

Owner, EarthSong Lodge, Henry's Coffeehouse, Denali Dog Sled Expeditions

Mile 4 Stampede Road

www.earthsonglodge.com