**2017 SESSION OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENT PROPOSAL**

**OFFERED IN:** The House Finance Subcommittee

**TO:** HB 57 / HB 59

**OFFERED BY:** Representative Andy Josephson

**DEPARTMENT:** Department of Natural Resources

**APPROPRIATION:** Fire Suppression, Land, & Water Resources

**ALLOCATION:** Mining, Land, & Water

**ADD:** $76.0 UGF

**DELETE:**

**POSITIONS:**

**EXPLANATION:**

The Denali Block is a large area of state and federal public lands located along the Denali Highway between Paxson and Cantwell. This area is heavily used by many Alaskans for a variety of public outdoor recreational activities such as camping, sport hunting and subsistence. This area also contains lands that were actively used for platinum mineral exploration. An increment was received in FY2003 to allow the Division of Mining, Land & Water (DMLW) to actively manage approximately 235,000 acres of land that were brought into state ownership within the Denali Block. This increment allowed DMLW to contract with Division of Parks & Outdoor Recreation for the engineering and design work necessary for the construction of new trails, trailhead parking lots, information kiosks and the expansion of existing facilities within the Denali Block. The increment also allowed DMLW to do general inspections on an active and routine basis, maintain compliance of authorized users, help to minimize conflict between surface and subsurface users, and conduct a variety of land stewardship activities. With this reduction the division will not develop new trails, parking and infrastructure, and as public use increases this may result in inferior conditions on existing trails and general lack of access to areas used for recreational activities. The program will retain $98.0 to provide a reduced level of stewardship, management and protection of the natural resources in this area.