

RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE JONESVILLE PUBLIC USE AREA

- WHEREAS: the Sutton Community Council saw a need to establish a committee called, "The Jonesville/Slipper Lake Action Committee" in November 2015, to determine a course of action with regard to the publically used land area located in Sutton, Alaska known as Eska and Jonesville mining areas,
- WHEREAS: the Jonesville Mine area, Eska Mine area and parts of the Moose Range located in the Sutton area will be collectively titled "Jonesville Area" in the following items denoting those areas in this resolution,
- WHEREAS: the State of Alaska controls the active and abandoned mining leases and the moose range located in the Jonesville Area,
- WHEREAS: the Jonesville Area has a history of intended public use by the State of Alaska Department of Natural Resources,
- WHEREAS: it has been determined that The State of Alaska, Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has spent approximately [nine] million dollars of Federal Reclamation Funds to alter the Jonesville Area's abandoned and active coal leases to a recreational state of condition prior to 2013,
- WHEREAS: the DNR chose not to establish a management plan for the safety of the public when designing and implementing their public use area,
- WHEREAS: realizing the State's obvious disregard for: public safety, air, land and water contamination, and the inhabitants of the Sutton community; the community of Sutton provided its own resources and funds to clean and monitor the Jonesville Area without jurisdiction,
- WHEREAS: multiple four wheeler accidents, an accidental shooting death and other multiple near miss shooting incidents has occurred in the area since 2013,
- WHEREAS: local homes have been damaged by stray bullets since 2013,
- WHEREAS: the general public has contaminated Slipper Lake by throwing community provided "porta-potties" into Slipper Lake,
- WHEREAS: hundreds of tent campers, motorhomes and camping trailers have congregated on weekends during the summer months to the area,
- WHEREAS: thousands of visitors to the area have no public restrooms to "relieve" themselves creating unsanitary conditions in the surrounding landscape,
- WHEREAS: upwards of 20 truck and trailer loads of garbage and contaminants are picked up from the grounds in the area and taken to the local transfer station by community volunteers each year,

WHEREAS: signage has not been placed to designate public use activities including shooting and off-road recreational vehicles; the State will not provide signs without a management plan in place,

WHEREAS: a management plan and agreement can only be put in place after the area has been declared a Public Use Area by State legislation,

WHEREAS: legislation would allow a management plan which would protect the homes and property of local citizens in Sutton, reduce all-terrain vehicle accidents, provide needed public safety for recreational shooting, mitigate illegal dumping and generally provide a healthier, cleaner and safer environment for public multiple use activities.

WHEREAS: The Jonesville/Slipper Lake Action Committee and other stakeholders has reviewed the history and determined a course of action needs to be taken for the benefit of the community of Sutton and the safety of the general public,

WHEREAS: THE SUTTON COMMUNITY COUNCIL COMES now forward and recommends and supports a Senate and House Bill to designate the Jonesville Area the Jonesville Public Use Area.

Signed: Mark Bertels 1-6-17
Chairman Sutton Community Council

STATE OF ALASKA
PALMER RECORDING DISTRICT
THIRD JUDICIAL DISTRICT

The foregoing instrument was acknowledged before me Carol J. McNamara this 6th Day of ~~November~~ January in the year ~~2016~~ 2017 by **Mark E. Bertels**, Chairman on behalf of the Sutton Community Council of Sutton, Alaska.

SEAL: Carol J. McNamara
Notary Public

MY COMMISSION EXPIRES: 10/10/2017

