



# Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats

Dedicated to responsible use and enjoyment of  
Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge

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Rep. Mark Neuman  
Interdepartmental Mail Stop: 3100  
State Capitol, Juneau, AK 99801-1182

3 April 2017

Dear Rep. Mark Neuman,

Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge (APH), a 501(c)(3) non-profit and the "friends group" supporting the state managed Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, is providing its full support for HB 130/SB 61 which corrects the exclusion of lands once submerged by the Matanuska River channels and Wasilla Slough providing contiguous state managed lands.

APH was formed in 2005 with an initial goal of cleaning and improving public access sites to the refuge. After twelve years and several thousand hours of volunteer effort, hundreds of thousands in grants and donations, and assistance and direction from Alaska Department of Fish and Game refuge managers, access sites to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge have become places of beauty and educational opportunity. This effort has been a long and challenging process fighting issues of vandalism while educating the public.

One of the challenges for refuge management has been the questionably illegal and damaging incursion by wheeled vehicles into the refuge through these excluded corridors. We believe that incorporating all lands currently or once submerged by constantly changing waterways will help provide consistency in management and enforcement efforts and help maintain the value and health of these rich wetlands.

We write this letter in knowledge of a desire by the Department of Fish and Game to make this boundary change. APH fully supports their intent. We look forward to seeing this legislation enacted. Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Michelle Davis  
President APH Board of Directors

Cc: Senators Shelley Hughes, David Wilson and Peter Micciche  
Representatives Cathy Tilton, DeLena Johnson, David Eastman, Colleen Sullivan-Leonard and  
George Rauscher  
Bruce Dale, Director Wildlife Conservation

*"Alaskans for Palmer Hay Flats is dedicated to conserving the natural and cultural resources of Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge by fostering stewardship through public awareness, recreation, education and enhancement projects." ~ our mission statement*

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