

Introduced: 1/22/85
Referred: Resources

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AND COGILL

1 IN THE SENATE

2 SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 5

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 Requesting that the Alaska Land Use
6 Council oppose adoption of the Steese
7 National Conservation Area and the White
8 Mountain National Recreation Area Re-
9 source Management Plans.

10 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

11 WHEREAS the Steese National Conservation Area was created by the
12 Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act (ANILCA, P.L. 96-847) in
13 1980 to provide a program of multiple use, sustained yield, and maintenance
14 of environmental quality; and

15 WHEREAS the White Mountain National Recreation Area was created by
16 ANILCA to provide for public outdoor recreation and the utilization of
17 natural resources when compatible with public recreation; and

18 WHEREAS ANILCA mandated that a land use plan be developed and adopted
19 by the United States Department of the Interior for each of these areas by
20 December 1985; and

21 WHEREAS the proposed final plans were published by the Bureau of Land
22 Management in October 1984, and are awaiting a recommendation by the Alaska
23 Land Use Council; and

24 WHEREAS 43 CFR 1610.3-2 requires that the plans be consistent with
25 state policies and programs, and provides the governor with the opportunity
26 to review the plans and formally protest adoption of provisions found to be
27 inconsistent; and

28 WHEREAS the state review performed by the Office of the Governor,
29 division of governmental coordination, has resulted in a protest being

1 filed only on the water quality provisions of the plans; and

2 WHEREAS in addition to failing to recognize the state's authority for
3 establishment, management, and enforcement of water quality standards, the
4 plans close significant portions of the areas to mineral entry and develop-
5 ment without a mineral assessment having been performed, and restrict
6 recreational opportunities in and reasonable access to these areas by

7 (1) designating over half of the White Mountain National Recre-
8 ation Area as primitive, a classification that prohibits most motorized
9 access;

10 (2) limiting use of recreational vehicles throughout both areas;

11 (3) failing to fully reference existing state trail systems; and

12 (4) failing to acknowledge the Memorandum of Understanding re-
13 cently entered into by the state and the Bureau of Land Management regard-
14 ing identification of state rights-of-way under Revised Statute 2477; and

15 WHEREAS the legislature, as the policy making body for the state, has
16 the responsibility to establish policy directives for land management; and

17 WHEREAS provisions of the plans not only address major policy issues
18 but also propose management objectives that will affect use of adjacent
19 state land;

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Alaska State Legislature that the Alaska Land
21 Use Council is requested to formally oppose adoption of the Steese National
22 Conservation Area and the White Mountain National Recreation Area Resource
23 Management Plans until the legislature has reviewed the plans to ensure
24 that the intended use of the land within the areas is consistent with state
25 policies and will not hamper management objectives for adjacent state land.

26 COPIES of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable William P.
27 Clark, Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior; the Honorable Bill
28 Sheffield, Governor and State Co-Chairman of the Alaska Land Use Council;
29 Vernon Wiggins, Federal Co-Chairman of the Alaska Land Use Council; the

1 Honorable Ted Stevens and the Honorable Frank Murkowski, U.S. Senators, and
2 the Honorable Don Young, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska
3 delegation in Congress.