

BY SEN. RODEY

1 IN THE SENATE

2

SENATE BILL NO. 430

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

SIXTEENTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act establishing the Susitna Valley Remote Recre-

7

ation Area."

8 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

9 * Section 1. AS 41.21 is amended by adding new sections to article 4 to
10 read:

11 Sec. 41.21.496. PURPOSE. The purpose of AS 41.21.496 - 41.21.-
12 498 is to establish the area described in AS 41.21.498 as the Susitna
13 Valley Remote Recreation Area. The Susitna Valley Remote Recreation
14 Area is established to

15 (1) manage, protect, and maintain fish and wildlife habitat
16 so that traditional public uses of fish and wildlife populations may
17 continue on a sustained yield basis;

18 (2) perpetuate and enhance public enjoyment of fish and
19 wildlife and their habitat, including fishing, hunting, trapping,
20 viewing, and photography;

21 (3) perpetuate and enhance remote recreation including
22 camping, boating, cross-country skiing, dog sledding, hiking, sight-
23 seeing by plane, snowmobiling, and all-terrain vehicle use while
24 ensuring the scenic and natural integrity of the area;

25 (4) perpetuate and enhance continued remote commercial
26 recreation, including air taxi services, lodges, guided hunting and
27 fishing, adventure tours, riverboat charter services, and commercial
28 operations supporting these industries in a quality environment;

29 (5) protect and perpetuate the remote character that has

1 historically attracted people to the area and upon which the present
2 and future recreational uses and community uses depend;

3 (6) allow additional public uses of the Susitna Valley
4 Remote Recreation Area in a manner compatible with the purposes stated
5 in (1) - (5) of this section.

6 Sec. 41.21.497. MANAGEMENT OF THE SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECRE-
7 ATION AREA. (a) The commissioner is responsible for the management
8 of the surface and subsurface estate within the Susitna Valley Remote
9 Recreation Area. The commissioner shall adopt and may revise a man-
10 agement plan for the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area after
11 public hearings. The management plan must include guidelines relating
12 to mining leasing and location, commercial tourism and recreation
13 facilities, access, and the location and identity of future land
14 disposals and access to them to ensure that the activity occurs in a
15 manner that is consistent with AS 41.21.496.

16 (b) The commissioner of fish and game is responsible for the
17 management of the fish and wildlife resources and public use of fish
18 and wildlife in the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area consistent
19 with the purposes of AS 41.21.496 - 41.21.498. The commissioner of
20 fish and game and the commissioner of public safety have necessary
21 access for fish and wildlife management, research, and enforcement
22 purposes.

23 (c) The commissioner

24 (1) may not

25 (A) subject to valid existing rights, allow mining
26 under AS 38.05.135 - 38.05.275 except under (2)(A) of this sub-
27 section;

28 (B) dispose of timber for commercial use under AS 38.-
29 05.110 - 38.05.120, AS 41.15, or AS 41.17 except under (2)(B) of

1 this subsection; or

2 (C) allow the construction of publicly financed or
3 maintained roads connected to the interstate highway system;

4 (2) may

5 (A) permit mining leasing under AS 38.05.205 if the
6 commissioner has allowed mining leasing under the management plan
7 adopted by the commissioner under (a) of this section and estab-
8 lished appropriate conditions for permits, operating plans, and
9 leases to mitigate the effects of mineral development activities
10 and prevent, to the extent practicable, degradation of the recre-
11 ational use of the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area;

12 (B) permit the harvest of timber by negotiated per-
13 sonal use sales under AS 38.05.115 for house logs and firewood by
14 individuals and commercial facilities such as lodges.

15 (d) The commissioner may, if consistent with the purposes of
16 AS 41.21.496 - 41.21.498 and the management plan adopted under (a) of
17 this section, authorize the construction and operation of commercial
18 tourism and recreation facilities and services under AS 41.21.027.

19 (e) The commissioner shall permit access to private land and
20 borough land, including mining claims and other valid existing rights,
21 within the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area. The access is
22 subject to regulation to protect the natural and other values of the
23 land and water within the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area and
24 access does not necessarily require access by a road. The commis-
25 sioner may not permit the construction of roads within the Susitna
26 Valley Remote Recreation Area to permit access unless the commissioner
27 determines that other modes of access are not adequate or feasible.

28 (f) The commissioner shall permit traditional access to the
29 Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area by motorized or nonmotorized

1 means of transportation to private land and for lawful hunting, fish-
2 ing, trapping, and recreational purposes in a manner that is com-
3 patible with AS 41.21.496. The commissioner and the commissioner of
4 fish and game may jointly develop regulations for traditional access.

5 (g) The commissioner may determine a use to be incompatible with
6 AS 41.21.496 in the management plan or a revision of it after public
7 hearings. If the commissioner determines that a use is incompatible
8 with AS 41.21.496, the management plan must state

- 9 (1) each determination of incompatibility;
- 10 (2) the specific area where the incompatibility exists;
- 11 (3) the time within which the incompatibility exists; and
- 12 (4) the reasons for incompatibility.

13 Sec. 41.21.498. SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA ESTAB-
14 LISHED. The vacant and unappropriated state-owned land and water and
15 the state land and water acquired in the future lying within the
16 boundaries described in this section, excluding the land and water
17 described within AS 41.23.500, are designated as the Susitna Valley
18 Remote Recreation Area, reserved for all purposes compatible with
19 their primary purpose as public remote recreation land, and are as-
20 signed to the commissioner for control and management:

21 Township 15 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

22 Section 5: W1/2

23 Section 6

24 Township 16 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

25 Sections 1 - 21

26 Sections 28 - 33

27 Township 16 North, Ranges 8 - 10 West, Seward Meridian

28 Township 16 North, Range 11 West, Seward Meridian

29 Sections 1 - 19

1 Section 24
 2 Township 16 North, Range 12 West, Seward Meridian
 3 Sections 1 - 6
 4 Sections 8 - 15
 5 Sections 23 - 24
 6 Township 17 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian
 7 Sections 6 - 7
 8 Sections 17 - 20
 9 Township 17 North, Ranges 6 - 12 West, Seward Meridian
 10 Township 18 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian
 11 Sections 18 - 19
 12 Sections 30 - 31
 13 Township 18 North, Ranges 6 - 12 West, Seward Meridian
 14 Township 19 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian
 15 Sections 4 - 9
 16 Sections 16 - 20
 17 Township 19 North, Ranges 6 - 12 West, Seward Meridian
 18 Township 20 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian
 19 Sections 2 - 10
 20 Sections 15 - 21
 21 Sections 28 - 33
 22 Township 20 North, Ranges 6 - 12 West, Seward Meridian
 23 Township 21 North, Range 5 West, Seward Meridian
 24 Sections 1 - 12
 25 Sections 14 - 23
 26 Sections 26 - 35
 27 Township 21 North, Ranges 6 - 15 West, Seward Meridian
 28 Township 22 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian
 29 Sections 3 - 5

1 Sections 8 - 9
2 Sections 16 - 17
3 Sections 20 - 21
4 Township 22 North, Ranges 5 - 15 West, Seward Meridian
5 Township 23 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian
6 Section 7
7 Sections 18 - 19
8 Sections 29 - 30
9 Township 23 North, Range 2 West, Seward Meridian
10 Section 13
11 Sections 19 - 30
12 Township 23 North, Range 3 West, Seward Meridian
13 Sections 22 - 28
14 Sections 33 - 35
15 Township 23 North, Ranges 5 - 15 West, Seward Meridian
16 Township 24 North, Ranges 6 - 15 West, Seward Meridian
17 Township 25 North, Ranges 9 - 14 West, Seward Meridian
18 Township 26 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian
19 Sections 4 - 9
20 Sections 16 - 36
21 Township 26 North, Ranges 10 - 13 West, Seward Meridian
22 Township 27 North, Ranges 10 - 13 West, Seward Meridian
23 Township 28 North, Ranges 12 - 13 West, Seward Meridian