

SENATE BILL NO. 124

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATORS RODEY, Pourchot

Introduced: 2/13/91

Referred: Resources and Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act establishing the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area."

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

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

4 Sec. 41.21.496. PURPOSE. The purpose of AS 41.21.496 - 41.21.498 is to establish the
5 area described in AS 41.21.498 as the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area. The Susitna
6 Valley Remote Recreation Area is established to

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

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

11 (3) perpetuate and enhance remote recreation including camping, boating, cross-
12 country skiing, dog sledding, hiking, sightseeing by plane, snowmobiling, and all-terrain vehicle
13 use while ensuring the scenic and natural integrity of the area;

14 (4) perpetuate and enhance continued remote commercial recreation, including air

1 taxi services, lodges, guided hunting and fishing, adventure tours, riverboat charter services, and
2 commercial operations supporting these industries in a quality environment;

3 (5) protect and perpetuate the remote character that has historically attracted
4 people to the area and upon which the present and future recreational uses and community uses
5 depend;

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

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

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

20 (c) The commissioner

21 (1) may not

22 (A) dispose of timber for commercial use under AS 38.05.110 - 38.05.120,
23 AS 41.15, or AS 41.17 except under (2)(A) of this subsection; or

24 (B) allow the construction of publicly financed or maintained roads
25 connected to the interstate highway system;

26 (2) may

27 (A) permit the harvest of timber by negotiated personal use sales under
28 AS 38.05.115 for house logs and firewood by individuals and commercial facilities such
29 as lodges;

30 (B) permit the establishment of commercial wood lots that are managed
31 in a manner that provides a sustained yield of house logs and firewood for local use in

1 remote communities.

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

5 (e) The commissioner shall permit access to private land and borough land, including
6 mining claims and other valid existing rights, within the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area.
7 The access is subject to regulation to protect the natural and other values of the land and water
8 within the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area and access does not necessarily require access
9 by a road. The commissioner may not permit the construction of roads within the Susitna Valley
10 Remote Recreation Area to permit access unless the commissioner determines that other modes
11 of access are not adequate or feasible.

12 (f) The commissioner shall permit traditional access to the Susitna Valley Remote
13 Recreation Area by motorized or nonmotorized means of transportation to private land and for
14 lawful hunting, fishing, trapping, and recreational purposes in a manner that is compatible with
15 AS 41.21.496. The commissioner and the commissioner of fish and game may jointly develop
16 regulations for traditional access.

17 (g) After public hearings, the commissioner may determine a use to be incompatible with
18 AS 41.21.496. If the commissioner determines that a use is incompatible with AS 41.21.496, the
19 commissioner shall state

- 20 (1) each determination of incompatibility;
21 (2) the specific area where the incompatibility exists;
22 (3) the time within which the incompatibility exists; and
23 (4) the reasons for incompatibility.

24 Sec. 41.21.498. SUSITNA VALLEY REMOTE RECREATION AREA ESTABLISHED.

25 The vacant and unappropriated state-owned land and water and the state land and water acquired
26 in the future lying within the boundaries described in this section, excluding the land and water
27 described within AS 41.23.500, are designated as the Susitna Valley Remote Recreation Area,
28 reserved for all purposes compatible with their primary purpose as public remote recreation land,
29 and are assigned to the commissioner for control and management:

30 Township 15 North, Range 7 West, Seward Meridian

31 Section 5: W1/2

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

1 natural resources and in effect on the effective date of this Act apply to activities involving timber and
2 timber harvests under AS 41.21.497(c)(2), added by sec. 1 of this Act.