

COMMITTEE REPORT

2/20/75

HOUSE

Mr. Speaker:

Date July 29, 1975

The Committee on FINANCE has had HB 141

under consideration. A Majority of the members of the Committee

recommends it DO PASS

recommends it DO NOT PASS

recommends it DO PASS WITH ATTACHED AMENDMENT(S)

recommends it BE REPLACED WITH CS FOR _____ AND THAT
CS FOR _____ DO PASS

"and" recommends it BE REFERRED TO THE _____
COMMITTEE

reports it back WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION

"other"

Members signing the Majority report:

<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____
<u>[Signature]</u>	<u>[Signature]</u>	_____

Members NOT concurring in the Majority report:

[Signature] recommends: no rec

[Signature] recommends: no rec.

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

_____ recommends:

[Signature] Chairman

Introduced: 2/11/75
Referred: Resources and
Finance

BY SMITH, BRADNER, GRUENING,
MALONE, MILLER, RHODE AND
SPECKING

1 IN THE HOUSE

2 HOUSE BILL NO. 141

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 NINTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act expanding the Caines Head State Recreation
7 Area."

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

9 * Section 1. AS 41.20.335 is amended to read:

10 Sec. 41.20.335. DESIGNATED STATE LAND AND WATER RESTRICTED TO
11 USE AS PUBLIC RECREATION AREA. The governor may designate by proclama-
12 tion the state-owned lands and waters and all those acquired in the
13 future by the state, lying within the parcels described in this section,
14 as the Caines Head State Recreation Area. The proclamation may include
15 the entire area or portions of the area at different times, shall
16 reserve the areas included from all uses incompatible with their
17 primary function as public recreation land and water, and shall assign
18 them to the Department of Natural Resources for control, development
19 and maintenance. Land covered by (1) - (4) of this section [SECS.
20 330 - 340 OF THIS CHAPTER] has a total acreage of 1801.11 acres,
21 including approximately 221.11 acres of federal land. Land covered
22 by (5) of this section has a total acreage of approximately 4,160
23 acres. Lands covered by secs. 330 - 345 of this chapter are those
24 within the following described parcels [, AND IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS]:

25 (1) U.S.S. 2742: portions of Sections 22 and 27 T2S, R1W,
26 Seward Meridian;

27 (2) U.S.S. 2744: in Section 14 T2S, R1W, Seward Meridian;

28 (3) U.S.S. 4830: portions of Sections 14, 23 and 24 T2S,
29 R1W, Seward Meridian (E.O. 3406 Lighthouse Reserve);

1 (4) Section 10 T2S, R1W, Seward Meridian E1/2; Section 11
2 T2S, R1W, Seward Meridian SW1/4; Section 14 T2S, R1W, Seward Meridian
3 NW1/4, SW1/4, SE1/4 and portions of NE1/4 above mean low tide; Sec-
4 tion 15 T2S, R1W, Seward Meridian E1/2; Section 22 T2S, R1W, Seward
5 Meridian E1/2; Section 23 T2S, R1W, Seward Meridian NW1/4, NE1/4 and
6 portions of SW1/4 above mean low tide and portions of SE1/4 above mean
7 low tide; Section 24 T2S, R1W, Seward Meridian W1/2 portion above
8 mean low tide; Section 27 T2S, R1W, Seward Meridian N1/2NE1/4 above
9 mean low tide;

10 (5) Section 9, T2S, R1W, Seward Meridian; Section 10, T2S,
11 R1W, Seward Meridian, West 1/2; Section 15, T2S, R1W, Seward Meridian,
12 West 1/2; Section 16, T2S, R1W, Seward Meridian; Section 21, T2S, R1W,
13 Seward Meridian; Section 22, T2S, R1W, Seward Meridian, West 1/2;
14 Section 27, T2S, R1W, Seward Meridian; Section 28, T2S, R1W, Seward
15 Meridian.

The Legislature of the State of Alaska
FISCAL NOTE

First Session - Ninth Legislature

I. REQUEST

Bill No. HB 141

Title: An Act expanding the Caines Head State Recreation Area

Requested by: House Resources Committee Date: 2/20/75

Return Date Requested: 2/25/75

Agency: Natural Resources Program: _____

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Budget Request Unit(s) Affected: _____

A. EXPENDITURES: (Thousands of dollars)

OBJECT	FY 75	FY 76	FY 77	FY 78	FY 79	FY 80
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL		-0-	-0-			

B. FUNDING: (Thousands of dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						

C. POSITIONS:

-0-

PERMANENT/TEMPORARY	/	/	/	/	/	/
MAN MONTHS (P./T.)	/	/	/	/	/	/

III. ANALYSIS (See Fiscal Note Preparation Instructions, Section III)

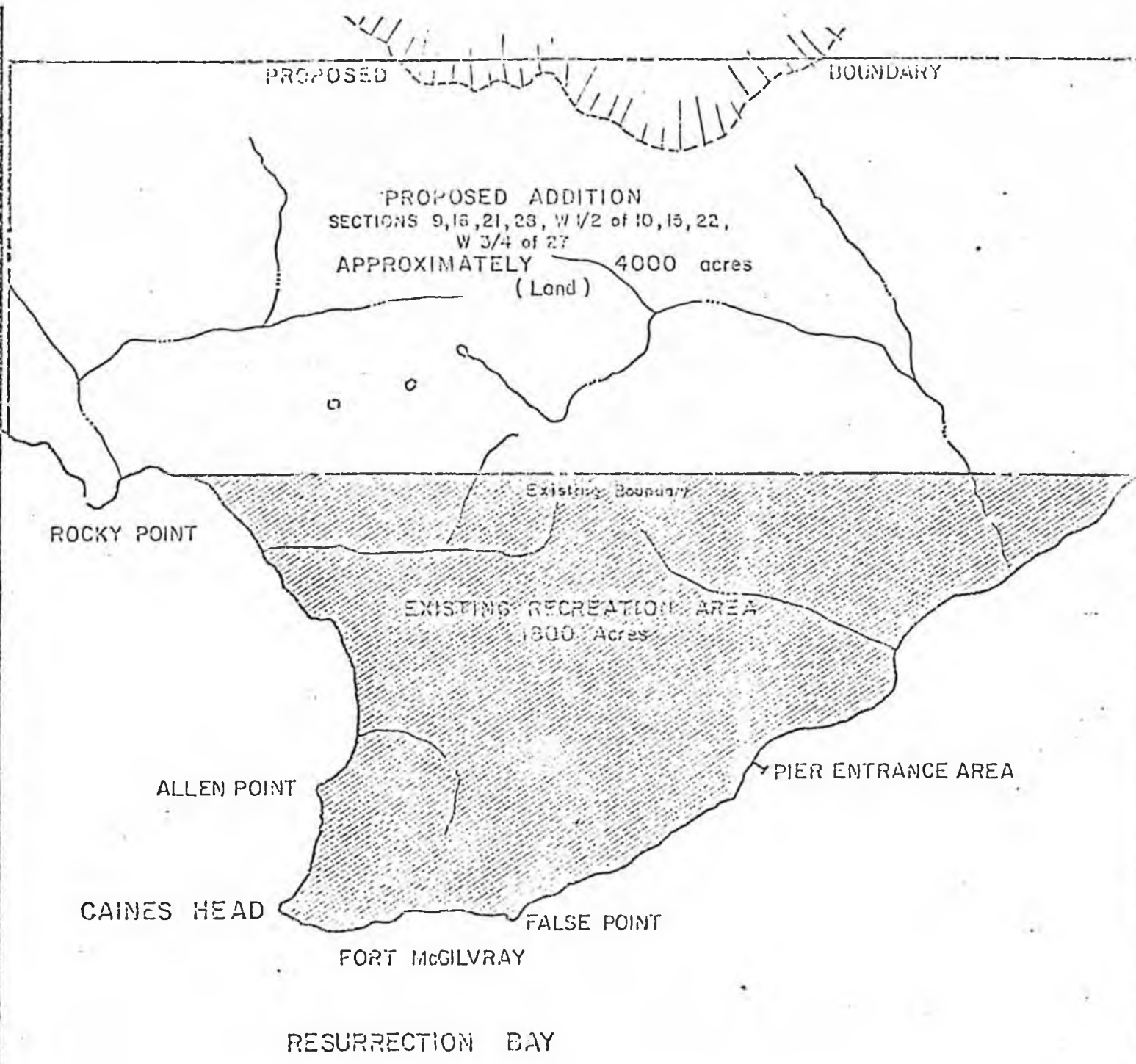
Subject piece of legislation merely expands a State Recreation Area. The Department of Natural Resources envisions no impact upon operating budget in the foreseeable future as the result of this bill.

IV. ATTACHMENTS

V. DATE: 2/25/75

PREPARED BY: WILLIAM SACHECK
Director, Division of Parks
& Recreation
(Fiscal note conveyed by
phone)

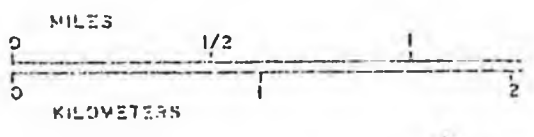
Original: Legislative Finance
cc: Budget and Management
Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)



proposed expansion

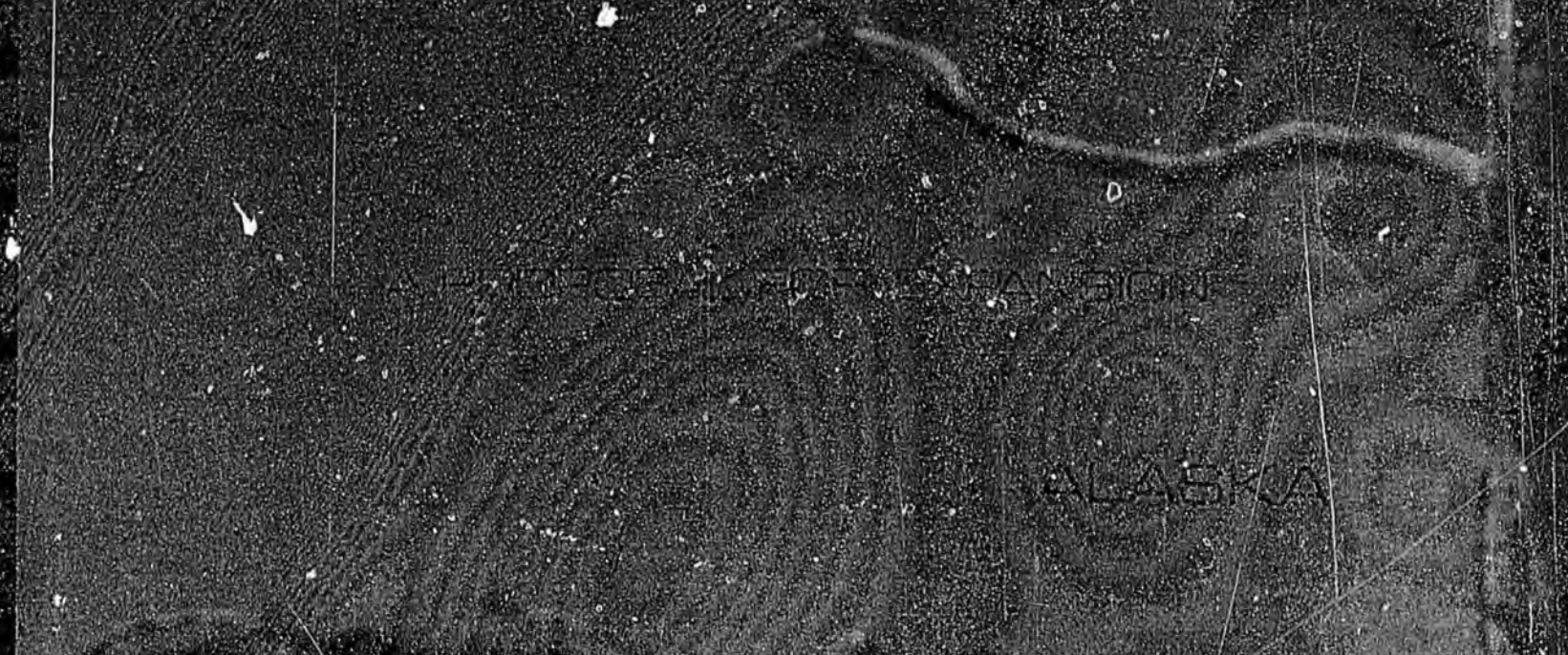
CAINES HEAD RECREATION AREA

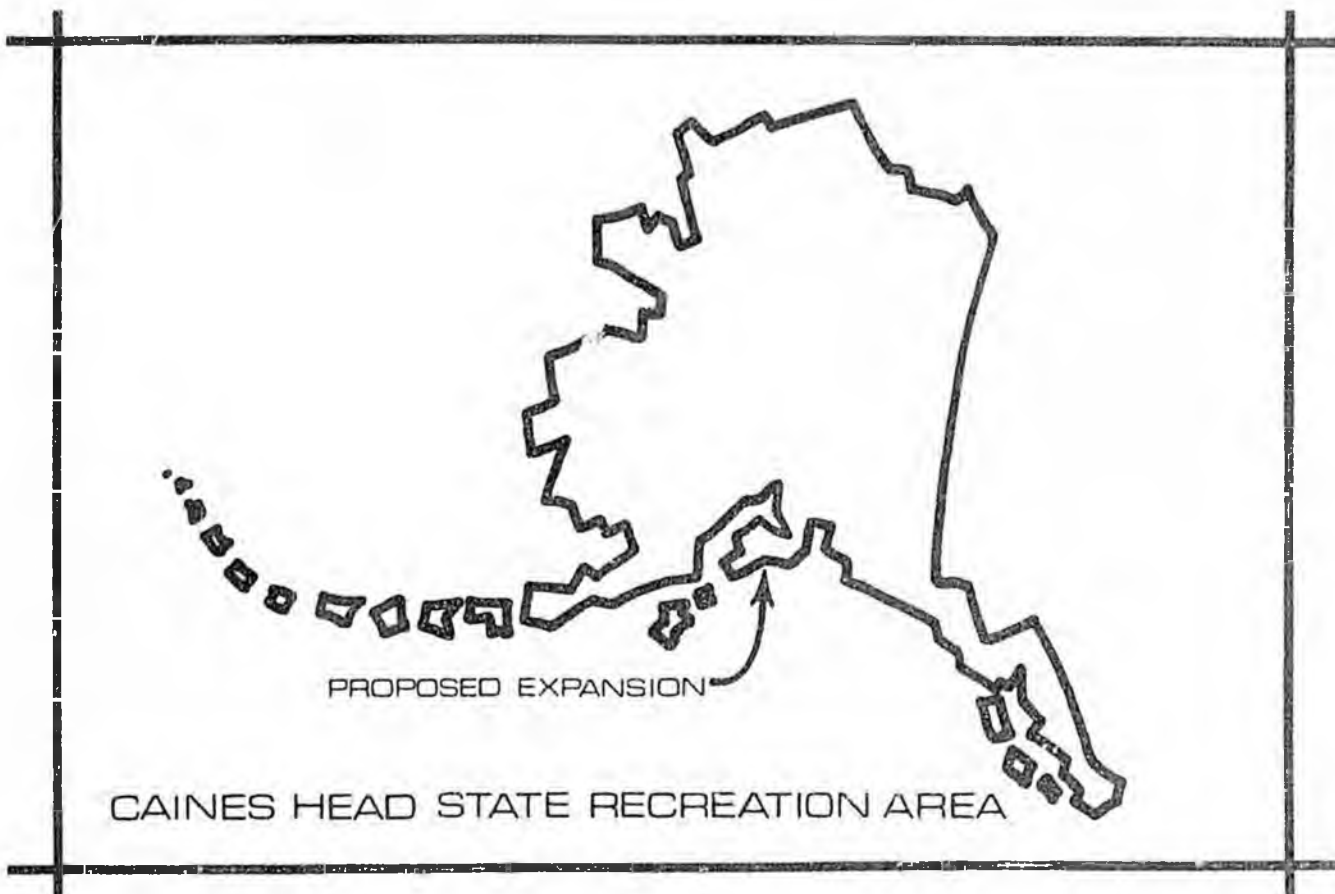
Department of Natural Resources
 Division of Parks Alaska



FRONTIER SWAN BOAT

ALASKA





AUTHORITY FOR CREATING STATE PARKS

The basic authority for establishment of a system of state parks is found in Section 7 of Article VIII of the Constitution of the State of Alaska, which says "The legislature may provide for the acquisition of sites, objects and areas of natural beauty or of historic, cultural, recreational or scientific value. It may reserve them from the public domain and provide for their administration and preservation for the use, enjoyment and welfare of the people."

This basic mandate has been further amplified by subsequent statutes. A.S. 38.05.300 states, in part, "No state land, water, or land and water area shall, except by act of the state legislature, be closed to multiple purpose use, if the area involved contains more than 640 acres." Inasmuch as parks are not multiple use sites, this permits administrative establishment of park sites of up to and including 640 acres, but requires legislative action on any area exceeding 640 acres.

A.S. 41.20.010-040 deals with "Acquisition, Development and Maintenance of State Parks and Recreational Areas." It empowers the Department of Natural Resources to take necessary action to develop a park system and states, "It is the purpose of Sections 10-40 of this chapter to foster the growth and development of a system of parks and recreational facilities and opportunities in the state, for the general health, welfare, education and enjoyment of its citizens and for the attraction of visitors to the state."

CAINES HEAD STATE RECREATION AREA

AN EXPANSION PROPOSAL

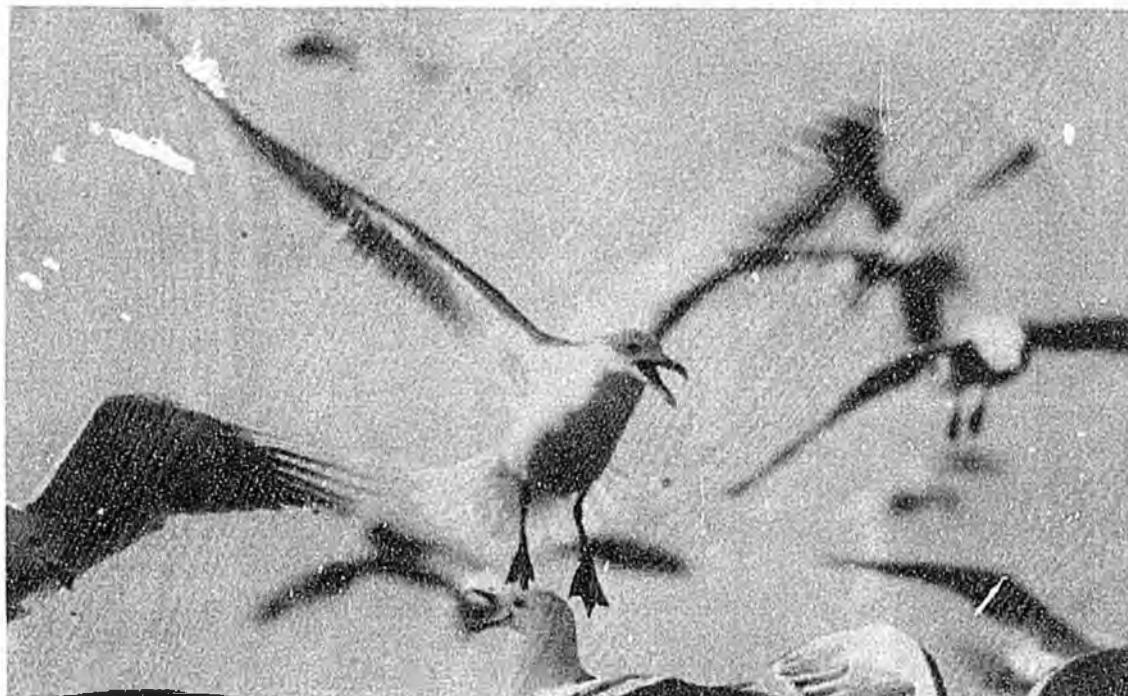
INTRODUCTION

Caines Head State Recreation Area is located on the Kenai Peninsula in the Southcentral Region of Alaska. The Recreation Area* is a sloping plateau protruding from the west side of Resurrection Bay, approximately 8 miles south of the City of Seward. Without road links, the area is reached primarily by boat, although aircraft and foot access is also possible. Recreational activities for which the area is suited include hiking, camping, fishing and interpretive programs on natural and human history.

NATURAL RESOURCES AND CLIMATE

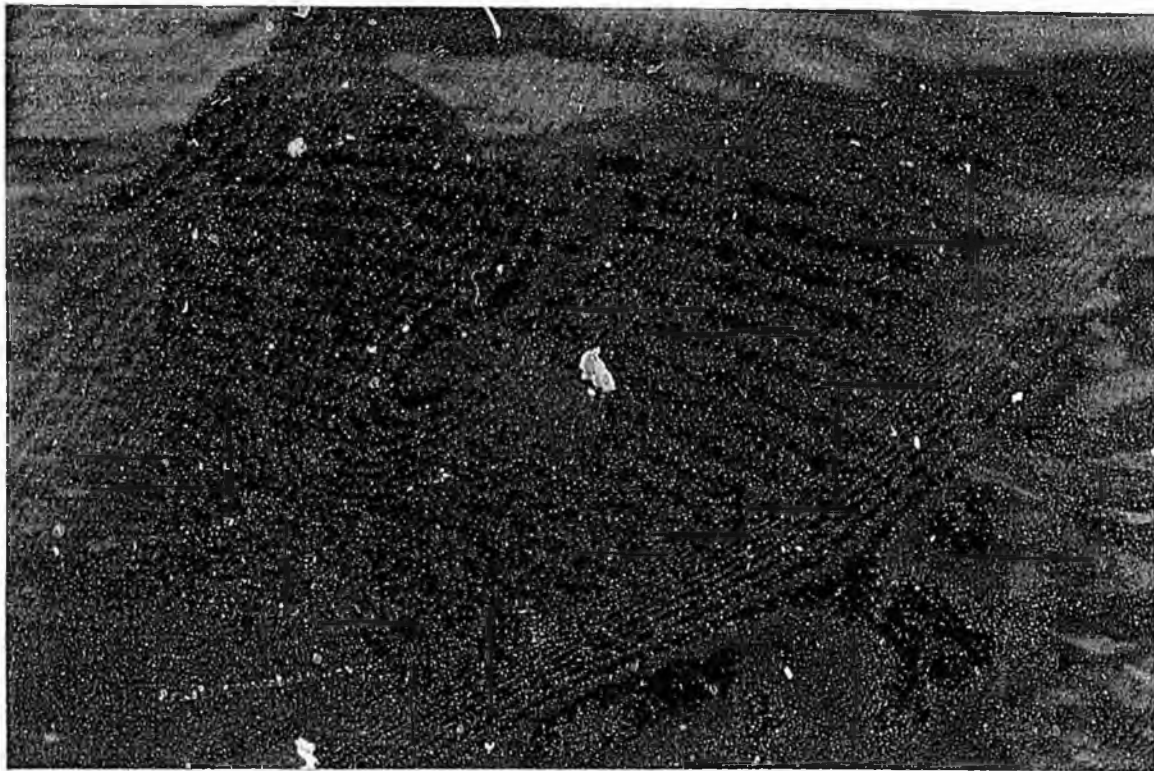
The recreation area is bounded on three sides by Resurrection Bay and on the fourth by the precipitous Kenai Mountains. The area's shoreline is characterized by narrow beaches and towering shale cliffs, many several hundred feet in height. Dense Sitka spruce and hemlock forest covers much of the gentler sloping terrain while the steeper and higher elevations are covered with thickets of alder and willow. At approximately 2,000 feet these brush fields fade into alpine tundra. Small streams, freshets and numerous ponds occur at lower elevations. There are numerous small ocean beaches along the southern boundary which are fairly inaccessible except by trails from the north. Beaches along the recreation area's northern boundary are wider and more easily reached, both by trail and by boat.

Marine wildlife occurring in the area include Steller sea lion, sea otter, Dall and harbor porpoise and occasionally massive humpback whale.



*The existing recreation area was authorized for establishment by the legislature in May of 1971; the Governor's office has not yet dedicated this area to the legislatively stated purpose of public recreation.

Birds, such as bald eagle, tufted puffin, black legged kittiwake and common murre are numerous during summer months. Terrestrial mammals found in the area include black bear, mountain goat and occasionally moose.



The maritime climate of Caines Head is characterized by cool summers, mild winters and heavy year-round precipitation. Winter temperatures are tempered by the influence of the warm offshore ocean currents and air temperatures average 20 to 36 degrees Fahrenheit. Summer temperatures average in the mid fifties, while an occasional July day may see the mercury climb to 80° Fahrenheit. Annual precipitation averages 66 inches, with total snowfall of about 80 inches. Frequent strong winds during winter months may reach storm warning velocities of over 60 knots. Summer winds are from the south and although brisk at times, should pose little danger to power and sail craft.

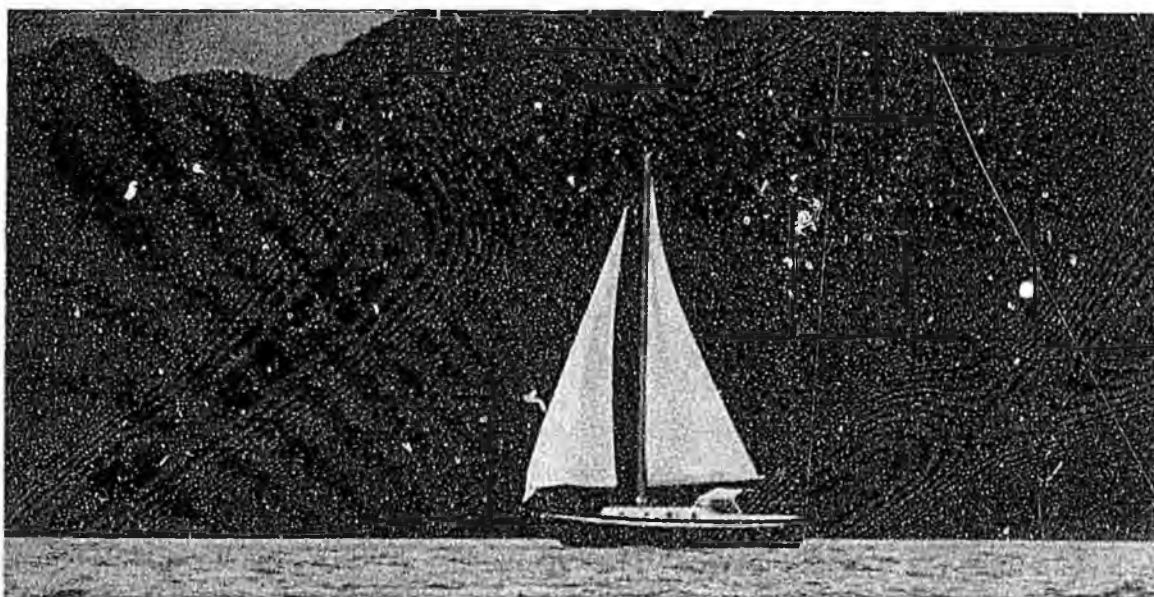
CULTURAL FEATURES AND HUMAN HISTORY

Although natives undoubtedly visited and possibly lived in the Resurrection Bay area, no significant physical remains of their residence have been discovered. Russian visitation and use of the area began in 1791, when Alexander Baranof, manager of the Russian-American Company, utilized the area as a site for a ship yard. At least three sailing vessels were launched at a yet to be confirmed site in Resurrection Bay. The sale of Alaska to the United States in 1867 started a series of events, including the prospecting and discovery of gold in the Cook Inlet area. Access to these and the interior gold fields focused significant attention upon the ice-free port at Resurrection Bay. The City of Seward was incorporated and the Alaska Railroad as well as lighthouse navigational aids were constructed by 1920. World War II saw more changes in the area, including the placement of large shielded 6-inch guns, as a harbor defense measure, on Caines Head. Other batteries, a communication

network, search lights and residence facilities for military personnel were constructed in the Resurrection Bay area. The remains of World War II activities on Caines Head include concrete block houses, trails and the rotting remains of housing and water systems. Today, commercial fishing, tourism and timber processing support the community of Seward.

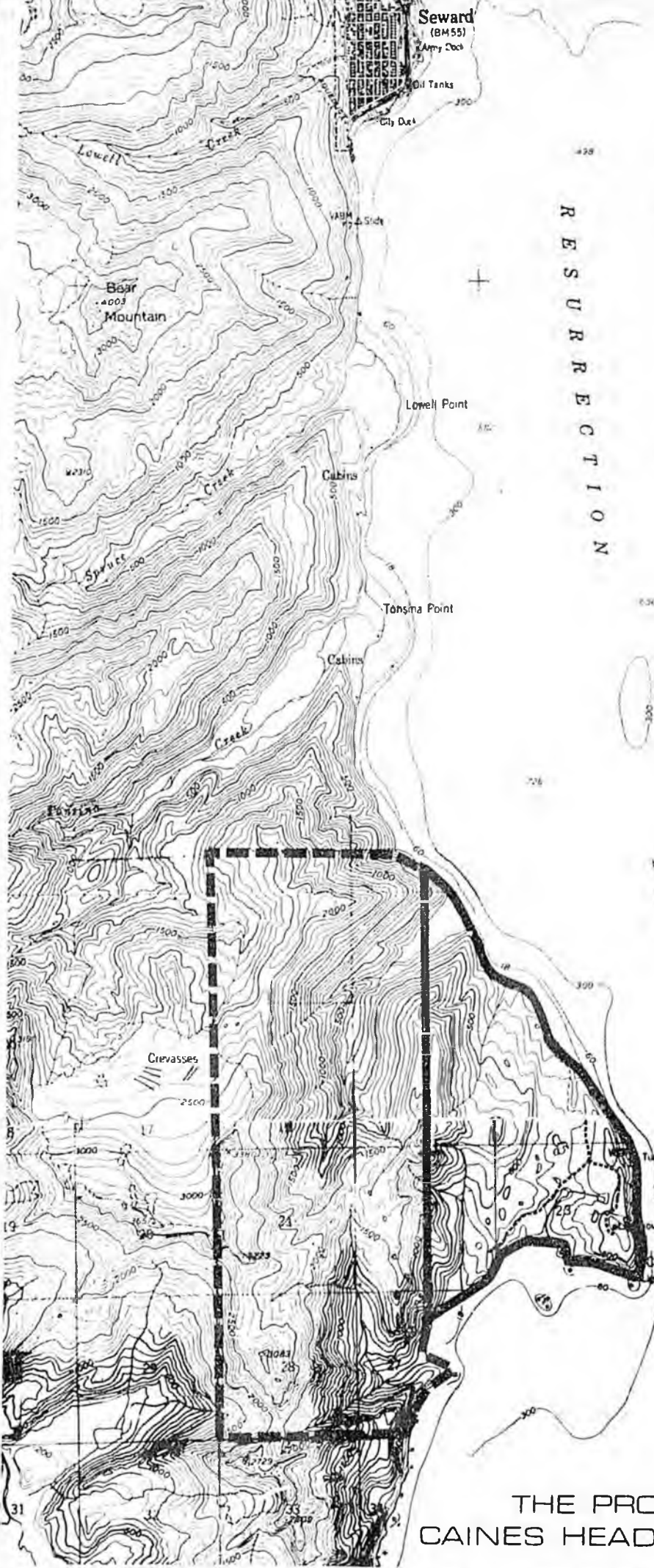
RECREATION DEMAND

Over 500 pleasure boats are moored at the small boat harbor in Seward. In addition, several large charter boats operate from this port, plying the sport fish and scenery rich waters of Resurrection Bay. The impact of these boats, as well as other small craft using the area on a transient basis, produce a high recreational use demand upon Caines Head during late spring, summer and early fall months. Recreation demand projections, prepared as a part of the master plan study for the Caines Head Recreation Area, indicate that recreational use will be increasing in the future. The master plan proposes the construction of trails, trail shelters and campgrounds in the Caines Head area, outside of the existing recreation area boundary. These, as well as other facility recommendations, indicate a need to expand the boundary to include more land area for active recreational uses. The accessibility of Caines Head will be increased with the provision of a moorage dock in the initial development phase.



PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT

The natural and cultural features of Caines Head, combined with the types and levels of recreation demands which affect the area, have been the basis by which the boundary proposals and development plan have been formulated. The presently authorized recreation area covers 1,800 acres and expansion proposals would add an additional 4,160 acres, thereby expanding the total acreage of the recreation area to 5,960. Development plans for the area recommend the phased construction of an entrance pier with floating dock, a visitor center, picnic area, campground, restroom facilities and several miles of hiking trail. A graphic illustration of the boundary proposal, as well as the development plan, is found on page 5.

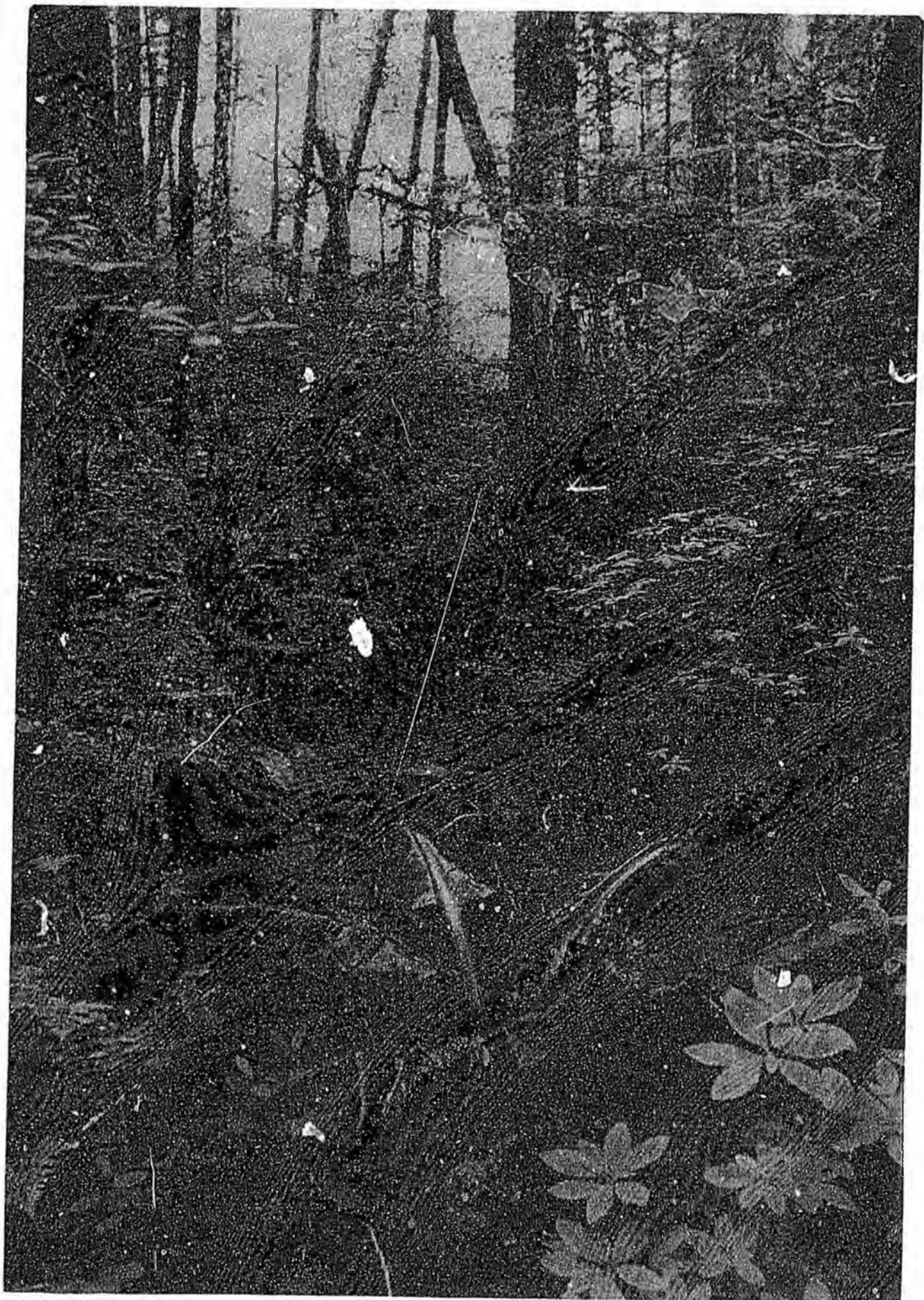


LEGEND

-  EXISTING BOUNDARY
-  PROPOSED EXPANSION



THE PROPOSED EXPANSION OF
CAINES HEAD STATE RECREATION AREA



PREPARED BY
DIVISION OF PARKS
STATE OF ALASKA
1975