

HB

232

PETITION
LEGISLATURE STATE OF ALASKA
APRIL 1975

OPPOSING HOUSE BILL NO. 232

We, the undersigned property owners, mineral claim holders, ranchers and interested citizens of the State of Alaska, hereby register our opposition to classification for recreational and scenic preservation purposes of lands proposed to be designated the Hatcher Pass State Recreation Area or Heinie Snyder State Park.

The proposed recreation and scenic preservation classification includes the area historically known as the Willow Creek Mining District and other areas of economic mineral potential. We are opposed to the administration regulation and zoning of mineral lands by the State Division of Parks.

The proposed recreation and scenic preservation classification includes historic and essential livestock grazing lands. We are opposed to administration regulation and zoning of these agricultural lands by the State Division of Parks.

The proposed recreation and scenic preservation classification includes private lands consisting of homesteads, homes, cabin sites and patented mineral properties. We are opposed to the administration, regulation and zoning of these private lands by the State Division of Parks.

The proposed recreation and scenic preservation classification does, in fact, contain recreational lands used by the general public. We are opposed to administration and regulation of these lands for public use which does not also provide enforced protection against public trespass onto private lands and the destruction of private property.

Further, we are opposed to any classification of lands for recreation and scenic preservation which would restrict or detract from the local tax base, limit potential economic development and attendant employment opportunities.

We therefore request that House Bill No. 232 not be enacted.

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NAME

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45) Walter A. Erickson	Box 623 Anchorage 99510
46) Mary B. Erickson	Box 623 Anchorage 99510
47) Paul Ombus	Box 13 Palmer 99645
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50) Jackson Kerkesh	Box 1133, Anchorage, AK 99510
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NAME

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| 58) <u>Rick May</u> | <u>Gen Del Eagle River Ak.</u> |
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84) <u>Robert Bushnell</u>	<u>Palmer</u>
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99) <u>George McClure</u>	<u>Box 357 Palmer AK</u>
100) <u>Walter Dorgan</u>	<u>Box 296 Palmer Ak</u>
101) <u>John W. Mathewshead</u>	<u>Box 1 Palmer Ak</u>
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108) <u>Ronald Cannell</u>	<u>Box 75 Palmer.</u>
109) <u>Jeanne Wardara</u>	<u>Star Rt. 5085 Wasilla</u>
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115) <u>W. W. Cap Beech</u>	<u>Box 125 Palmer Ak.</u>
116) <u>Therese M. Boyle</u>	<u>Box 651 Palmer Alaska</u>
117) <u>Kary L. Davis</u>	<u>Box 244 Palmer, Ak.</u>
118) <u>Ed Boyle</u>	<u>Box 38 Sutton Ak.</u>
119) <u>E. Hawk</u>	<u>Box 10 Sutton Ak.</u>
120) <u>M. C. Hobbes</u>	<u>Box 111 Sutton Ak.</u>
121) <u>C. E. Hobbes</u>	<u>Box 111 Sutton, Ak.</u>
122) <u>Clara M. Brandy</u>	<u>Box 651 Palmer Ak.</u>
123) <u>Margaret Mc Carthy</u>	<u>Box 693 Palmer, Ak. 99645</u>
124) <u>Eric J. Fritz</u>	<u>Box 18 Palmer, Ak 99645</u>
125) <u>Ernie Redman</u>	<u>Box 698 Palmer Ak.</u>
126) <u>Wendy Redman</u>	<u>Box 698 Palmer</u>
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128) <u>Don E. Moore Jr.</u>	<u>Box 209 Palmer</u>
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140) <u>Arthur Nestor & Helgen</u>	<u>Box 634 Palmer Alaska</u>
141) <u>Emil Stadler</u>	<u>Box 632 Palmer Alaska</u>
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143) <u>Arlene Clements</u>	<u>Box 334 Palmer, Alaska</u>
144) <u>Richard J. Quinn</u>	<u>Box 255 Palmer Alaska</u>
145) <u>James Stephens</u>	<u>PO Box 155 Palmer Alaska</u>
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154) <u>Ron McKee</u>	<u>Box 262 Palmer Alaska</u>
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163) John A. Hanson	Box 186 Palmer AK 99645
164) Les E. Stank	Box 747 " " "
165) Richard E. Kelly	SR Box 2810 Palmer AK
166) Daniel E. Kershaw	519 8th Ave, Anchorage
167) Russell E. Hines	529 E 15th Ave Anch
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173) ...	7525 ...
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175) Donald E. Dippel	Box 1701 Blue Spruce Lane Anchorage 99577
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177) Steve Johnson	Box 205-M SRA Anch AK 99507
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198) Mary McAlure	Box 357 Palmer Ak.
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200) J. Mark O'Brien	St Rt B Box 163 Palmer AK
201) Kenneth Barber	St Rt B, Box 163 Pal. AK
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203) W. C. Reinhardt	St Rt B Box 121A PALM AK
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206) James M. Gustafson	1027 1/2 W. Hollywood Anch
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213) <u>Richard ...</u>	<u>Palmer AK</u>
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216) <u>Mario Koon</u>	<u>Box 497 " "</u>
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224) <u>Bonnie ...</u>	<u>PO Box 469 PALMER AK</u>
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239) R.H. Coe Inc	1803 Strafford Anch. Ak.
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243) Jack Knutson	Wainilla Alaska
244) Indian Hank Grogby	Box 8-727 Anch. Ak. 99508
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246) Wenona J. Frasse	Box 522 Palmer Alaska
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249) Maurice P. Messer	P.O. 733 Palmer Ak. 99645
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256) Carol Welch-Kramer	Box 1012 Palmer Ak 99645
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260) Wayne D. Hill	Box 1112 " "

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270) Roger L. Jenkins	3007 Arctic #3 Anchorage 99503
271) Philip Smith	425 G ST, ANCHORAGE 99501
272) J B Alexander	425 G ST, Anch AK 99501
273) Lorne D. Tucker	4206 Checkmate Dr Anchorage 99504
274) James A. Williams	3125 Raspberry, Anchorage 99502
275) Dale R. Cline	5231 Sillery Circle Anchorage 99504
276) R S Velikovsky	2500 PRASPER DR. ANCHORAGE 99503
277) Michael P. Miel	S.R.A. Box 4252, Anchorage 99502
278) W. F. Allen	PO Box 4-784 Anchorage Ak. 99508
279) Helen M. B. Pine	Box 1263 - Anchorage 99501
280) Pat Shin	Box 1263 - Anchorage 99501
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282) Harold H. Minner	PO Box 4-25P Anchorage, Ak.
283) Jimmy Brown	PO Box 2259 Anchorage 99504
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285) Edna D. S. Brown	3513 W. Klamath Dr Anchorage 99504
286) Lewis J. Dea	929 W. Klamath, Anchorage 99503

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| 292) Gordon V. D. Palmer | 267 S. BAILEY, PALMER |
| 293) Katherine M Long | ARR Box 195 Palmer Alaska |
| 294) Edna M. Elitoff | Box 105 Palmer |
| 295) J. D. M. Brade | Box 261 Palmer Alaska |
| 296) Wm. I. Hayes | Box 531 Palmer |
| 297) Leo J. Lucas | Box 855 Palmer |
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| 299) Robert H. Baynes | P.O. Box 855 Palmer |
| 300) William T. Loomis | Box 483 Palmer |
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| 302) James W. White | S.R.A. Box 72 Palmer |
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| 304) Stephen D. Johnson | Box 107 Palmer AK |
| 305) Lori Beatrice | Box 71 Wasilla, AK. |
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| 307) Charles W. Wain | Po 149 RTA, Palmer, AK |
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| 309) Lee Hartley | SRB Box 3 PALMER AK |
| 310) Jimmie J. Jansen | P.O. Box 399 Palmer AK |
| 511) J. P. Peterson | Box 682 Wasilla, Alaska |

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314) <u>Kurt Gypser</u>	<u>Box 299 Palmer</u>
315) <u>James Edwards</u>	<u>Box 105 Palmer -</u>
316) <u>Jack E. Mace</u>	<u>Box 234 Palmer Ak.</u>
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318) <u>Abner Ingalls</u>	<u>Box 533 Palmer Ak.</u>
319) <u>Garrett Pedersen</u>	<u>Box 553 Palmer Ak</u>
320) <u>Frank Coakley</u>	<u>Box 452 Palmer Alaska</u>
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328) <u>Edna Armstrong</u>	<u>Box 321 Palmer Ak.</u>
329) <u>Edward Armstrong</u>	<u>Box 321 Palmer Ak.</u>
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331) <u>John S. Martin</u>	<u>Box 566, Palmer, Alaska</u>
332) <u>James Akrestal</u>	<u>At Rt #60 Palmer, Alaska</u>
333) <u>James Akrestal</u>	<u>At Rt #60 Palmer, Alaska</u>

Hearing AT Palmer H.B. #185
H.B. #232

MAIN POINT - limit Div. of Parks To 640 Acres

Gentlemen:

On behalf of The MATANUSKA Valley Sportsmen I wish to present our opposition to management of State owned land by Div. of Parks. This opposition includes H.B. #232 & H.B. #185.

This following example will show the basis of our opposition. Before The Chugach State Park was formed the off road areas within the 'new park' were the scene of numerous camping activities w/ many pack-horse camps set up each year & many people carried in by airplane so they can wander over the hills and look at the Flowers. Under management of Parks this activity has been stopped to the extent that almost no off road camping now takes place. We find that at this time apparently neither money or interest are available to properly manage these areas that would come under Div. of Parks greater than 640 Acres.

STATEMENT OF PETER SCHOLES
BEFORE THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE
REGARDING HATCHER PASS STATE RECREATION AREA
AS PROPOSED IN HB 232

Anchorage, Alaska. April 5, 1975

My name is Peter Scholes. I live at 115 W. 15th Ave. in Anchorage. (~~I am testifying today as a concerned individual~~).

As an individual active in conservation Hatcher Pass park proposals are not my particular bailiwick. I come before you today as a Hatcher Pass user - a recreationist - a skier, back-packer, hiker, picnicker - a person who enjoys days lying in the tundra covered hills of Hatcher Pass. I wish to add my support to the concept of a Hatcher Pass state park and especially to the substitute bill drawn up by an ad hoc group of recreationists and conservationists and presented by the Alaska Center for the Environment.

The Talkeetna Mountains are a ^usadly neglected region in the overall picture of Alaska's wildlands. Early state selection made the Talkeetnas off limits when ~~the~~ federal government agencies studied and made proposals for putting millions of acres of Alaskan wildlands under the four federal systems. Therefore, the Talkeetnas are for the most part state land with no designated use.

Yet the mountains are ~~the~~ most accessible to Alaskans and visitors alike via the Glenn, Richardson, Denali, and ^{the} Anchorage-Fairbanks highways. By virtue of accessibility and scenic beauty the Talkeetna~~s~~ Mountains are a prime location for a major state park. Already without park or recreation ^{area} designation

Hatcher Pass is an important recreation area for users of all kinds. The area cries out for legal designation worthy of its extraordinary natural qualifications as park land.

Hatcher Pass is an area where recreationists should not play second fiddle to the dreams of miners. And yet, mining should be allowed to go on in a manner compatible with recreation use. Within the recreation area proposed by the Center for the Environment mineral exploration and production should be permissible under a permit and lease system.

The Talkeetnas deserve a Hatcher Pass park large enough that all users may enjoy their activities without disturbing the activities of others. In particular non-motorized park users should not have to put up with motorized users ~~who are~~ given the free run of the park. A large park would be more likely to limit conflicts among users.

Most of all the Talkeetnas need an area where recreationists can go now and in the future, and always find a place where the natural environment is not cluttered by man-made objects and not decimated by human users.

Alaska cannot afford to throw any of its lands open to uncontrolled entry by myriads of would-be private owners. We need to manage and protect the 100 million acre treasure we were granted with statehood. And, Alaska needs pockets of lands preserved in perpetuity for people who wish to use land without using it up. Hatcher Pass is by tradition such a pocket; let it be so by law.

Milton H. Lichtmadow
Talkeetna, Alaska
99676

Division of Parks
State of Alaska

Gentlemen:

I am writing this to add support to the expansion of Denali Park and the creation and/or expansion of Hatcher Pass Park.

I am persuaded that all the areas asked for are needed for park purposes, and I predict that within a very few years the areas now requested for use as parks will prove by the demand for their use to be much too small for the uses proposed.

In addition there are millions of acres of land in Alaska which by their location and physical characteristics are much more suitable for use as parks and recreation areas than for any other possible use. I hope the State of Alaska moves quickly to segregate these lands for parks & recreation to

Sincerely
Milton H. Lichtmadow

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE ON HB 232

Anchorage, Alaska

April 5, 1975

Good afternoon. My name is Pamela Stevens and I reside at 1544 Nichols, Anchorage, Alaska 99504. I am speaking today on behalf of the over 500 members of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club, and specifically on behalf of some 200 of those members who live in or near Anchorage and comprise the Knik Group of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club.

We support the substitute bill Helen Nienheuser has presented to you, for an act entitled "An Act Establishing the Hatcher Pass State Recreation Area and the Talkeetna Mountains State Park," as being preferable to either HB 232 or SB 190. I participated myself in the ad hoc group of recreation and conservation-oriented people who drew up the substitute bill. A park of some sort in that region is a concept we have long supported. Hatcher Pass has been a de facto "recreation area" for some time now, with the trip over the Fishhook-Willow road the classic summer Sunday afternoon drive. Whether one's interests are skiing or snowmachining, hiking or hang-gliding, painting or photography, camping, picknicking or perhaps taking a look at one of the old or still operating small mines, this spectacular tundra country can offer the recreation opportunities to suit one's desires. It is time that the legislature recognize that recreation is the "highest and best use" of this region and afford it the protection of Park and/or Recreation Area status.

We feel the two-part proposal for a scenic park to the northeast of Hatcher Pass proper and a recreation area to the southwest is the best way to provide for the diverse needs of those engaged in various types of recreation. By including lands north to the Kashwitna drainage and east to the Granite Creek drainage within a Talkeetna Mountains State Park, the proposal provides access to and protection for an area for backpacking and ski touring, truly wild country for the type of recreation that refreshes simply because it involves dealing with nature on her own terms. Within the recreation area (which has boundaries essentially the same as the boundaries under consideration in HB 232, with the exception of Reed Lakes, the upper Little Susitna drainage and the headwaters of Craigie Creek, which would fall within the scenic park portion), less strenuous and/or more mechanized recreation uses would be provided for--here is the place for developed campgrounds, picnic areas, snowmachine trails and areas. Hunting we see as a legitimate recreation use in either park or recreation area--the Division of Parks should consult with the Department of Fish & Game regarding regulations concerning firearms and fish and wildlife management within both areas.

By creating not just a recreation area in Hatcher Pass but a Talkeetna Mountains State Park/Hatcher Pass State Recreation Area complex, a total proposal of some 400,000 acres, the legislature will be serving at once the needs of three widening communities of

interest. It will provide for Palmer a "wilderness backyard", similar to what Chugach State Park has provided for Anchorage; for the greater Anchorage area, it will create a convenient weekend retreat, unspoiled but accessible; and for the state as a whole, it will provide a centrally-located natural buffer against too-rapid growth and development. If, for example, the new state capital were to be located in the Willow-Talkeetna area, this park would serve its recreation needs as well and help stave off the growth of an ugly "railbelt sprawl!"

These are our reasons for urging the adoption of alternative A of the substitute bill, which I characterize as "HB 232-plus", in other words, recreation area plus scenic park. I must mention now that although this is the desire of a majority of our members, there are some who feel strongly that alternative B, which would exclude from the recreation area mining lands and other private inholdings, would be a better approach. The Talkeetna Mountains State Park would keep the boundaries recommended in alternative A, but instead of its southern boundary being the northern boundary of the recreation area, the region approximating the "mineral zone" of HB 232 would be excluded from protection, forming a "doughnut hole" between recreation area to the south and scenic park to the north. If such an area were to be excluded, the Fishhook - Willow road should be designated a scenic roadway, which would extend Division of Parks control to the land $\frac{1}{2}$ mile to either side of the road. This would protect to some extent the scenic values of the drive and allow for parking areas for recreationists.

The reason for excluding this mining region is simply the wealth of contradiction in purpose and conflict in interest management of it could create for Division of Parks. If recreation and scenic goals could be met without this region, why create problems by including it?

We also support within either alternative the restriction of private land within the scenic park and within the recreation area to the type of use to which it was put before the effective date of the Act. This we see not as an infringement of personal liberty but as a necessary regulation to preserve the integrity of the area. It would not stop a miner from working his claim or a cabin-dweller from adding a room; it would stop, to give an extreme example, someone who previously had only a small mining claim from putting up a multi-storied condominium complex. We do support the right of miners with existing claims to work those claims. In fact, for many people the mines in the Hatcher Pass area have a scenic, historic, and recreation value of their own.

Within either alternative, we also support the inclusion of a clause similar to that in the Act creating Chugach State Park that boundaries may be adjusted to exclude areas of conflict or include desirable areas initially left out.

In conclusion, then, the recommendation we as members of the Alaska Chapter of the Sierra Club would like to make is that the legislature not stop with passing just HB 232 or SB 190, but either alter those bills by amendment or replace them with a substitute bill such as the one presented by Mrs. Nienheuser. Either alternative A or alternative B would be acceptable. But "a job worth doing is worth doing right", as the old saying goes. Let's provide an appropriate place for all types of recreation, and create not just a Hatcher Pass State Recreation Area, but a Talkeetna Mountains State Park as well!

A Proposal for the Hatcher Pass Area

(Testimony of the Mountaineering Club of Alaska)

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska is concerned over mounting population pressures in Alaska, particularly in the Cook Inlet and Railbelt areas. Not only do the increasing numbers of people occupy more space, but their activities, which often involve use of mechanized equipment, create an increasing potential for conflict with other land uses. We support all proposals to preserve adequate open space and zoning of conflicting uses while land is still available.

Specifically, the lands under discussion in HB 232,² ~~SB 190~~ and the alternative proposal for a combined recreation area-scenic park contain some of the best opportunities for rock climbing accessible to residents of the Cook Inlet area. They encompass spectacular scenery and provide for a wide range of hiking/climbing activities from family backpacking to technical rock climbs. They also provide winter opportunities ranging from family touring along valley floors to alpine

skiing on crevass-free glaciers.

Many residents of Southcentral Alaska are familiar with the Hatcher Pass area adjacent to the road system--Independence Mine; the Little Susitna, Upper Willow and Craigie Creeks--and many have hiked from Craigie Creek and into the Reed Lakes. Members of the Mountaineering Club and others have felt the mounting pressures of incompatible uses--motorbiking, skiing, snowmotiling, family hiking, hang gliding, and others in this rather confined area.

These pressures have led to an increasing need for some type of control. Many have felt a park was badly needed.

Although studies of potential uses and conflicts in the Hatcher Pass area are incomplete, three facts emerged very quickly. First, the concentration of mining claims along the road system would certainly create problems for the type of management that would protect low-intensity uses of the land, although they might be more nearly compatible with intensive recreational use. Second, we have considered possibilities for zoning of uses within the lands described in NB 232 and ~~SB 190~~. We believe zoning can be accomplished, but experience in the front range of Chugach State Park indicates that zoning on a small scale can reduce but will not eliminate conflicts. We believe that zoning should be on a much larger scale than ^{described in NB 232 and SB 190. The outlying} could be accomplished on these lands. ^{There} These lands are less mineralized and mining activity ^{has} been minimal.

Thirdly, we believe that the less accessible and less familiar lands farther from the road system have a potential as good or even better than closer lands for such low-intensity uses as climbing, hiking, skiing, or snowshoeing. These activities require a minimum of developed access.

The Mountaineering Club of Alaska believes that the alternative proposal that includes both a recreation area and a scenic park will provide opportunities for a wide range of activities and ^{the land area} would be large enough to preclude conflicts between uses and ^{would} provide a buffer against unforeseen developments in surrounding lands.

We believe this proposal would be a major contribution to making the Cook Inlet Basin a desirable place in which to live.

ALASKA CONSERVATION SOCIETY

UPPER COOK INLET CHAPTER

POSITION PAPER: PROPOSED HATCHER PASS STATE RECREATION AREA

Presented to House Resources Committee, April 5, 1975

The Alaska Conservation Society has been a long-term advocate of the concept of a Hatcher Pass State Recreation Area. Our members are hopeful that this session of the legislature will recognize that the recreational use of lands is not a "lock up" of resources as is so commonly expounded by some of our fellow Alaskans; rather, it is a use of land falling within a fabric of overall multiple use of lands. Just as some specific land areas are suitable for oil and gas leasing or timber harvesting, some geographic areas are best suited for recreation. It is our firm belief that the general area known as Hatcher Pass, which includes significant portions of the spectacular Talkeetna Mountains, is one such area. Therefore, we would propose that the House Resources Committee act favorably upon House Bill 232. We do, however, offer the following recommended amendments.

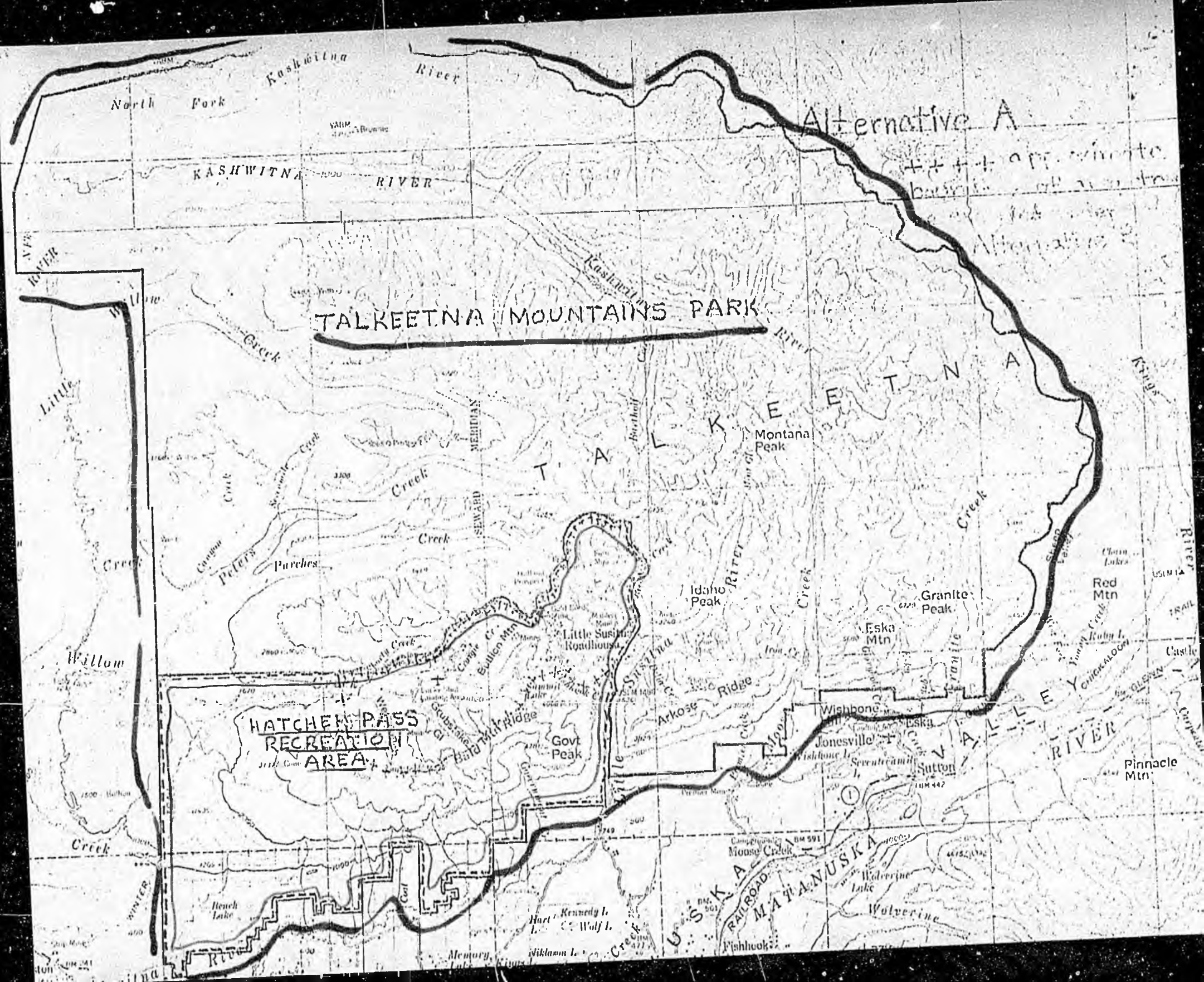
First, it is our belief that potential mining claims deserve protection, but that to zone a major portion of the Willow Creek Mining District to a priority use of mining is not in the best interests of the recreating public. It is our suggestion that H.B. 232 be amended to state, simply, that the highest and best use of only patented mining claims be mineral extraction. Should this not be acceptable, we would propose that

the mining zone be excluded from the recreation area proposal. We qualify this, however, by recommending that the roads which traverse the area be classified as a scenic roadway and be managed to provide for continued use by those seeking recreation in the area. This could be accomplished by identifying trail heads, pull-outs, scenic overlooks, picnic areas and possibly campgrounds and a visitor center oriented to this roadway.

Our next proposal is a recommendation that a more significantly-sized area be encompassed into what we call a proposed Talkeetna Mountains State Park. Essentially, such an area would include the rugged mountains, glaciers and valleys to the north and northeast of the proposed recreation area. The recreation area proposal would be retained as a contiguous heavy-use area south of this larger proposed state park. Geographically, the park would then include portions of the Kashwitna and Granite Creek drainages. This large state park would encompass approximately 400,000 acres. The attached map graphically illustrates our thinking on this proposal.

The management of these lands should include a logical zoning system for mechanized and non-mechanized recreational activities. It is also our desire to see a park ranger force provided as soon as possible to protect both the recreation resources and mining properties within these proposals.

The Upper Cook Inlet Chapter of the Alaska Conservation Society appreciates this opportunity to provide our thoughts on this matter.



On the Subject of Hatcher Pass

I fully expect the chair to rule me irrelevant, and some of this presentation may appear to be irrelevant. However, I can assure both the chair and all present that I shall try not to be irrelevant, and that everything pointed out here leads to the same place. And I shall happily submit this to the chair as written testimony after reading it into the record.

Back in the 20's a man by the name of John Maynard Keynes, notorious as a queer, was acclaimed as a great economist. Incidentally, his ideas on economics are embodied in the textbook, Samuelson's Economics, presently in use in our own University of Alaska.

Keynes gained quite a reputation as an adviser to our administrations, though his ideas were not generally implemented until the administration of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. In the main his advice said that 3% controlled inflation would be good for the United States.

After FDR started the ball rolling, all future administrations followed the Keynes recommendation. According to my prognostications on the subject, the result has been about 459% inflation ~~xxxxx~~ since 1914. However, when 3% was advocated, I asked, "If 3% is good, why wouldn't 100% be at least 30 times as good."

And so I ask this simple question. "If removal of some 200,000 acres from the borough into a recreation area is good, why wouldn't just turning 100% of the Matsu Borough into a recreation area be much better?" Wouldn't it be exciting if that increased over the years by 459% to perhaps take in the whole state?

By taking 100% of the borough now we would soon eliminate borough government, (nobody would be left to govern) which everybody says is the worst form of government they have seen, we would eliminate all borough taxes which everyone says are too high, Anchorage could then have a playroom instead of a bedroom, and we could all go on a picnic financed by our bankrupt state.

In the meantime we are very rapidly running out of food. But the high inflation that everyone complains about has led us to a high degree of civilisation, and there is no ~~starvation~~ starvation to compare to civilized starvation.

What will it be folks, croton or castor oil dressing on your sludge salad? If we can find some castor beans. They tell me they grow wild in Texas.

Thank you

Wayne Hunter

POSITION PAPER ON PROPOSED HB 232 & SB 190
HATCHER PASS RECREATION AREA.

BY ROBERT RISLEY

The State Legislature passed the Mandatary Borough Act a few years ago which required the Local citizens to form these Boroughs and establish Taxing Ordanances to support them.

the Borough's main source of revnue is from Real Property Taxes. The tax base is depended on the purchase and developement of Federal, State, and Borough selected land within the Borough by Private Capital, including mining.

SB 190 and HB 232 will greatly reduce the Borough's potential revnue. The Mat-Su Borough cannot afford this decrease.

The south boundry of the proposed Area takes in prime Agriculture land. All of this land has a South exposure that lends itself to a different type of Agriculture that is not feasable in other parts of the Valley.

Mrs. Risley has been engaged by the U. S. Weather Bureau to report Official weather Observations and Little Susitna River gage readings for the past two years.

From these Official Observations, the yearround tempentures have averaged between 10 degrees to 20 degrees warmer than either Palmer or Anchorage. Early snow with a permanent winter depth of 13 inches is common for this area.

I have planted Kansas winter wheat in September that matured by August of the next year. Due to early snows that stays on the ground, potatoes that were left inthe ground survived the winter without freezing! They were dug the next spring and were as firm as those I had dug the fall before.

I have on order six thousand evergreen trees to be planted this May and I plan to order some apple, peach, apricot, and plum trees and grape vines to be planted this spring. These will be shipped from Minnesota and British Columbia. I visualize orchards and vineyards all along the foot of those mountains within the next 15 years.

At the present time, the dairymen in the Valley are utilizing a portion of the Hatcher Pass area for summer grazing of cattle. No doubt, more area will be required

as the Valley developes.

Back in 1937, I grazed 150 head of sheep with 86 lambs up in the canyon to the left of Hatcher Pass without a herder. I never lost one sheep from predators. The local Coop the four month old lambs that dressed out between 60 and 70 pounds. I visualize private capital, someday, shipping ewes and lambs up here each spring in the right quantity to take advantage of that good grass. By butchering the lambs and waiting about three weeks then butchering the ewes, all meat would be utilized within Alaska.

I am pointing these facts out in order to make you aware of the importance in holding this land for Agriculture purposes. This will in no way prevent the use of Hatcher Pass area for recreation.

When I arrived here in the Valley in 1936, the only established industry, besides Agriculture, was Mining. As I read the papers, there is a strong indication that the known gold, coal, and other minerals will be developed. This is another source of revenue, for the Borough, and employment very greatly needed for this area.

I noticed in the paper recently that the Snowmobile Clubs have taken action to improve their image. Their actions are to be commended.

The ski clubs have already established non-litter ethics in their organization. I believe, given the right encouragement, the Snowmobile Clubs and the Ski Clubs can get together and develop rules and regulations of self discipline which will eliminate the need Recreation Areas supervision from the State or Local level thereby saving thousands of dollars for other needed services.

Another thing I would like to bring to your attention is that we have had a high level Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission making studies of our lands. The results of their studies have not had time to filter down to the Local level. In addition, State House Bill No. 32 is for "An Act To Establish a Land Use Board." This, to me, indicates the State needs more time to study their requirements. This sounds to me like a good bill, if the right qualified people are appointed to

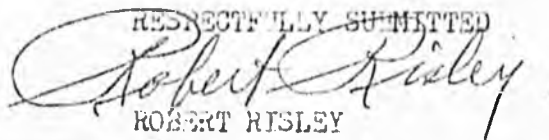
impliment this Law. If the Legislature passes HB 32, it is one more reason for not passing the Hatcher Pass Bill, until the Board has a chance to meet with all Local Borough Planning Commissions to insure that the right decisions are made.

The Corp of Engineers is presently conducting a "Water Resources Study" of all streams in Alaska. The Little Susitna River and Moose Creek are subject to flooding and is a threat to land owners along the lower areas. The Corp's feasibility study a few years ago indicated that a dam would not be feasible for flood control alone. However, now that there is a definite need for irrigation in the Valley, hydroelectric Power, domestic water for City development on the west end of the Knik Arm Crossing, AND Flood Control, a Dam in both streams would be feasible and would enhance the Recreational value by creating man-made lakes for boating and fishing.

Based on the above information, I would like to make the following recommendations:

1. A ten year moratorium be declaired on all lands in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough to allow time for private development of Agriculture and Mining potentials.
2. The State establish a few roadside parking areas along the Hatcher Pass Road.
3. Encourage Recreational Organizations to meet with each other and develop a use plan for the area and submit their plan to the Borough Planning Commission for review and coordination with Private Owners, Borough Assembly, State and Federal agencies that have an interest in the Land.
4. Request the Corp of Engineers to include irrigation, domestic water, hydroelectric, flood control, and recreation in their "Water Resources Study".
5. Review HB No. 35, Titled "An act to allow Municipal Property Tax Exemption of Recreational or Conservation Land" as being undesirable, since the Local Municipalities allready have that Power.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED



ROBERT RISLEY
SRA BOX 143-B
PALMER, ALASKA 99645

Testimony at hearing on the establishment of a
Hatcher Pass Recreational Area - 5 April 1975

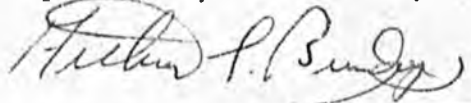
The proposed boundaries of the Hatcher Pass State Recreation Area encompasses grazing land of proven and potential use to the livestock industry of the Matanuska Valley and to the State of Alaska. The grazing lease of the Matanuska Valley Breeders Association, which has been actively used for summer range for more than 20 years, is included in its entirety within the proposed recreation area. Replacement heifers from Matanuska Valley dairy farms are placed on the range during June according to availability of herbage and returned to the Valley during September. A research report by T. L. Compton and myself on cattle behavior on the Matanuska Valley Breeders Association grazing lease during the summer of 1968 is submitted with this testimony and gives a good listing of plant species found on the range and their relative utilization by grazing cattle. Use of this area by these animals during the past 20 and more years has resulted in little if any degradation to this remarkably scenic portion of Alaska. In fact, cattle trails make it easier to hike through some of the dense underbrush along the headwaters of the Little Susitna River.

Although I would go on record as favoring the preservation of the natural beauty of the Hatcher Pass area, I would urge you to give consideration to the possibility of compatible multiple use of selected portions of this area, specifically selected sites having potential for summer grazing by livestock. I do not believe that summer use by livestock will be incompatible with contemplated recreational uses.

This testimony is submitted by me as a professional animal scientist and does not necessarily represent the position of the University of Alaska.

Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,



Arthur L. Brundage, Ph.D.
Professor of Animal Science
University of Alaska
Institute of Agricultural Sciences

CATTLE BEHAVIOR ON SUBALPINE RANGE IN SOUTHCENTRAL ALASKA^{1, 2}

T. L. COMPTON³ AND A. L. BRUNDAGE^{4, 5}
University of Alaska, College 99645

CORY (1927) is credited with initiating the methodical observation and recording of grazing behavior of cattle, although a few studies of less detail and magnitude predated his. Most studies of grazing behavior have been conducted in the United States and the British Commonwealth. Tribe (1950) and Hancock (1953) reviewed these investigations through the early 1950's and stressed their importance to an understanding of pasture utilization and range management. Tribe (1950) emphasized the importance of making observations on animal behavior within different environments to avoid the development of generalizations under one set of conditions and their erroneous application to an environment possessing different conditions.

Alaska's geographic location provides unique environmental conditions in comparison to the other United States. Effects of short, cool growing seasons and extended photoperiods during summer on the grazing behavior of ungulates are essentially unknown. The present study provides quantitative data on the behavior of cattle grazing under conditions encountered on subalpine summer range in boreal Alaska.

Experimental Procedure

This study was made during the summer grazing season of 1968. The site was located above timberline in the Talkeetna Mountains of southcentral Alaska, mostly in the Subalpine Zone described by Mitchell (1968).

About one-third of the accessible area was dominated by herbaceous vegetation and the remainder by shrubs, predominantly green alder (*Alnus crispa*). (Plant nomenclature is according to Hultén, 1968).

The cattle population on the range included 180 animals from 4 to 16 months of age plus seven older, non-lactating cows. Most of these were placed on the range between the middle and the end of June. All were of dairy breeding, mostly heifers and a few steers. Holstein-Friesian was the major breed; the remainder were Red Dane or crosses of these two breeds with Brown Swiss, Guernsey and Ayrshire. Thirty-five animals were marked with bright colored plastic impregnated cloth flags in five colors to provide a specific identity for each animal. These did not include the seven older animals.

Animal behavior was observed and recorded at 15-min. intervals during a series of 12, 24-hr. continuous surveillances at weekly intervals from 15 June through 28 August. Each surveillance was initiated at 1800 hr. Alaska Daylight Savings Time (ADST) by selecting a flagged animal and observing it on an individual basis and all the animals accompanying it on a group basis. Although contact with the flagged animal was maintained throughout the 24-hr. period, the composition of the group varied as animals left or joined it during this time. Nine different animals were selected for the 12 observations, six heifers and three steers.

Animal behavior was observed at distances of 25 to 150 m with 7 x 50 binoculars on either horseback or foot, depending on terrain. Behavior was classified and recorded according to three general categories: feeding, rumination and idling. Rumination and idling were subdivided into standing and lying. The general route followed by the animals was traced on a map of the area and distances traveled recorded. Other observations included notations on plant species utilized, the extent of utilization and species obviously not eaten by the animals.

¹ Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station Journal Paper No. J 108.

² Data presented are from a thesis submitted by Thomas L. Compton to the faculty of the University of Alaska in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master of Science Degree.

³ College of Biological Sciences and Renewable Resources, Present address: University of Wyoming, Laramie.

⁴ Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station, Palmer.

⁵ The authors wish to express their appreciation to the Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station and the Department of Biological Sciences of the University of Alaska for financial and logistic support during the study; to Dr. W. W. Mitchell, Alaska Agricultural Experiment Station, for aid in plant identification in the field; and to Dr. D. R. Klein, Alaska cooperative Wildlife Research Unit, and Dr. Brina Kessel and Dr. Bonita Neffand, Department of Biological Sciences, for many helpful suggestions and assistance during the study.

Results and Discussion

The transition from relative inactivity during the night to daytime activity occurred between 0600 and 0700 hr. ADST irrespective of the time of sunrise. The animals formed smaller groups at that time which began to feed and walk in various directions. The observed group engaged in fairly intensive feeding during the morning through 1000 to 1200 hours. By this time feeding and walking would have brought them to an area where some time would be spent salting and/or watering and resting prior to resumption of feeding during the afternoon, usually from 1400 to 1800 hours. The majority of the animals reassembled at the common bedding area between 2000 and 2400 hours.

A considerable amount of threatening and/or physical contact occurred between individuals from different groups each time they assembled during the evening. Size and/or the presence of horns appeared to be the main key to dominance, as found in other studies

(Woodbury, 1941; Beiharz and Mylrea, 1964).

Grooming and rumination became dominant activities on the cessation of agonistic behavior and gradually decreased until most of the animals were lying down. Activity during the resting period included rumination, sleeping and occasionally, rising, stretching and lying down again. The night resting period terminated with the initiation of feeding in the morning.

Although there was considerable variation in the percentage of time actually spent feeding during the first half of the season, there was a definite increase in diurnal feeding time during the latter weeks of the season (table 1). This increase can be related to the maturation of plants with advance of the grazing season. The nutritive value of the vegetation decreases with maturity and it becomes necessary for the animals to spend more time in diet selection to maintain quality of intake (Brundage and Sweetman, 1956; Dietz *et al.*,

TABLE 1. A COMPARISON (ON BOTH A GROUP AND AN INDIVIDUAL BASIS) OF THE PERCENT OF TIME CATTLE SPENT AT DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES DURING 24-HR. CONTINUOUS SURVEILLANCES ON A RANGE NEAR PALMER, ALASKA IN 1968

Surveillance period	Date (1968)	Photo-period (hr.)	Standing				Total	Lying		
			Ruminating	Idling	Feeding	Misc.		Ruminating	Idling	Total
%										
A. Group	15-16	17.8	2.6	14.8	32.7	15.1	65.2	16.1	18.7	34.8
Indiv.	June		5.2	16.6	30.4	17.7	69.9	13.5	16.6	30.1
B. Group	21-22	18.0	1.2	9.7	36.2	18.9	66.0	22.5	11.5	34.0
Indiv.	June		17.7	16.6	37.5	11.5	83.3	11.5	5.2	16.7
C. Group	27-28	17.9	4.5	7.2	35.6	7.8	55.1	24.3	20.6	44.9
Indiv.	June		3.1	5.4	28.0	10.0	44.7	33.3	22.0	55.3
D. Group	3-4	17.4	8.2	11.9	35.2	7.8	63.1	19.8	17.1	36.9
Indiv.	July		8.3	20.0	34.4	8.4	71.1	6.4	22.5	28.9
E. Group	10-11	16.5	8.0	8.0	35.9	11.6	63.5	19.9	16.6	36.5
Indiv.	July		8.4	9.4	36.4	1.0	55.2	29.2	15.6	44.8
F. Group	17-18	15.9	7.1	12.5	37.1	5.3	62.0	26.9	11.1	38.0
Indiv.	July		9.4	11.4	37.5	5.3	63.6	27.0	9.4	36.4
G. Group	24-25	15.1	5.4	17.8	34.1	4.7	62.0	22.0	16.0	38.0
Indiv.	July		3.1	17.7	35.4	4.4	60.6	28.0	11.4	39.4
H. Group	31 July	14.0	7.9	17.3	27.6	3.6	57.0	19.1	23.9	43.0
Indiv.	1 Aug.		4.2	19.8	20.0	3.3	57.3	17.7	24.0	42.7
I. Group	7-8	13.1	3.4	18.8	35.8	2.2	60.2	14.4	25.4	39.8
Indiv.	Aug.		3.1	11.5	36.4	5.4	56.4	21.8	21.8	43.6
J. Group	14-15	12.2	5.4	13.0	41.0	0.8	60.2	14.8	25.0	39.8
Indiv.	Aug.		7.3	8.3	40.5	1.1	57.2	26.0	16.8	42.8
K. Group	21-22	11.1	8.4	13.6	43.0	1.5	66.5	14.0	19.5	33.5
Indiv.	Aug.		8.3	11.4	40.5	2.4	62.6	15.6	21.8	37.4
L. Group	28-29	10.2	5.7	14.3	47.7	0.8	68.5	20.2	11.3	31.5
Indiv.	Aug.		11.5	9.4	46.0	3.8	70.7	12.5	16.8	29.3

1958; Arnold, 1962; Johnston, Bezeau and Somliak, 1968). The possibility cannot be ruled out that the cattle were consuming more to favor storage of fat for the winter as do wild ungulates. Feeding time averaged 8.6 hr. per 24-hr. period in this study.

Feeding occurred during a large number of periods of short duration during the first 7 weeks of the grazing season. These decreased in number and increased in duration as the season progressed until there were only two or three throughout the entire 24-hr. period near the season's end. Although this was observed on a group basis, individual feeding time remained separated into several distinct periods, even at the end of the season.

Subjective estimates were made of the plant species utilized during the observations. Although a major portion of the diet was grasses, mountain timothy (*Phleum commutatum*), bluegrasses (*Poa spp.*), and bluejoint (*Calamagrostis canadensis*), about 25 to 30% of the diet in this study consisted of browse and forbs. Other studies have found browse contributing as much as 45% to animal intake on dry, mixed grassland range (Cory, 1927) and as little as 14% on a sandhill bunchgrass range (Reppert, 1960).

Of the shrubs, willows (*Salix spp.*) were eaten most often. Green alder (*Alnus crispa*) was second, even though it had been considered unpalatable (Mitchell, 1968) and has not been regarded as a browse component for domestic livestock. Other shrubs eaten included high bush cranberry (*Viburnum edule*), mountain ash (*Sorbus scopulina*), northern red currant (*Ribes triste*), and spiraea (*Spiraea Beauverdiana*). Cattle were observed eating the flowering portion of devil's club (*Echinopanax horridum*) on three different occasions.

One of the forbs most commonly eaten on the range was giant fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*). This species was utilized fairly intensively until flower buds began to develop; it was ignored thereafter. Other forbs eaten included cow parsnip (*Heracleum lanatum*), lady fern (*Athyrium filixfemina*), oak fern (*Gymnocarpium dryopteris*), and spiny wood fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*).

At least two forbs found on the range, monkshood (*Aconitum delphinifolium*) and false hellebore (*Veratrum viride*), are considered to be toxic to cattle (Dayton, 1960). No toxic effects were observed during this study, although several monkshood plants were found with shoots clipped off and the

flowers of false hellebore were eaten frequently and the leaves occasionally.

Although the cattle were found to utilize practically all species of available herbage to some extent, they apparently did not eat arctic bramble (*Rubus arcticus*), buttercup (*Ranunculus spp.*), large leaf avens (*Geum macrophyllum*), and lupine (*Lupinus nootkatensis*). They ate bunchberry (*Cornus canadensis*) and wild blue geranium (*Geranium erianthum*) less than five times during the observations.

No systematic changes in total time for activities other than feeding were observed. Rumination time ranged from 17.8 to 34.0% of the total for the group under observation and from 20.2 to 28.8% during nine of the 12 observations (table 1). The mean was 25.2%.

Distances traveled during a 24-hr. period ranged from 2.6 to 6.9 km and averaged 4.2. Cory (1927) found that distances per day varied from 2.3 to 7.1 km and averaged 4.8 in a comparable study.

The animals appeared to group randomly, with some exceptions. Sex became an important determinant when a few steers would pursue an estrous heifer, which in turn would become the nucleus of a small group. The seven, older, non-lactating cows from the same farm formed a stable group which, although it was joined by other small groups on occasion, never separated. Others have found prior relationships to be important in grouping tendencies (Hunter and Davis, 1963).

The cattle used definite portions of a 24-hr. period for specific activities on a group basis. Although these did not occur at precisely the same time each day, it was possible to predict their occurrence with reasonable accuracy. The activity of the individual under observation was generally in close agreement with that of the associated group and the time for various activities did not vary appreciably between individual and group. The exceptions were usually explained by an estrous heifer with steers in pursuit. This increased the idling time of the steer or heifer at the expense of time for other activities, such as rumination (table 1). Group and individual feeding time showed the least variation. This suggests that feeding is a priority function, i.e., the steer in observation *d* that spent a number of hours in pursuit of an estrous heifer had an increased idling time and reduced rumination time while feeding time re-

mained in close agreement with that of the group.

In a group of animals as gregarious as domestic cattle, it was interesting to note that there were often two or three individuals engaged in activity different from the majority. The fact that most of the animals in the present study were of mixed breed origin would increase their individuality (Arnold, 1962).

Summary

Grazing behavior of cattle on a boreal, subalpine range in southcentral Alaska was studied during the summer of 1968 by means of 24-hr. continuous surveillances at weekly intervals for 12 weeks.

Cattle initiated feeding each morning between 0600 and 0700 hr. Alaska Daylight Savings Time, irrespective of the time of sunrise. Feeding time increased and the periodicity of this activity became more distinct as the grazing season progressed. Other activities did not vary systematically during the season. Animals traveled an average of 4.2 km per 24-hr. period. Cattle grouped at random with the exception of such mitigating circumstances as sexual activity and individual behavior differed little from that of the group. The cattle habitually came together to bed down at night during most of the grazing season.

All major plant species on the range were utilized by the cattle to some extent. Browse and forbs were important components of the diet in addition to grasses. Green alder (*Alnus crispa*), a browse heretofore thought

unpalatable to domestic livestock, was eaten on numerous occasions.

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Comment on HB 232 and SB 190 Hatcher Pass
Area Proposal.

The proposed Hatcher Pass Recreation Area, as a concept, may be the lesser of many evils concerning the land use of the subject area.

However, I question if any of us, including the State, the Borough, or the resident are ready at this time for any legislative fiat that so firmly establishes the long term use of such a vast land area amidst so many conflicting demands and interests ^{and within} near established population centers.

From the state standpoint, there are already ~~an~~ abundant demands for moneys in managing existing state parks and recreation areas. There is a great need for many more roadside parks and waysides. I would question how well the state could ~~financially~~ manage a Hatcher Pass Recreation area in the next five years, particularly the summer transient attracted to Alaska by the pipeline and looking for a place to squat until employed, utilizing, of course, the convenient park as witnessed by the Chena River campgrounds in Fairbanks and the Eagle River campground.

From the Borough standpoint, the Hatcher Pass recreation area takes away the possibility of revenue sources in the form of ^{state} agricultural land use ~~potential~~ or heavy scale mining. The Borough already has a number of vast state recreation and park lands in its midst serving the Alaskan public.

From the resident's standpoint, any additional long term use of the Hatcher Pass area will undoubtedly refocus developmental activities in the surrounding area. Those of us living close to the recreation area will see the secondary impact of new subdivision and upgraded and new roads as the ^{state} recreation area provides the surrounding lands with an immediate market attraction. Without any land use programs in the Borough, all of us become mere pawns as others determine our quality of life.

Police services and road services are expenses found in the primary impact of ^{substantial} recreation areas, so too are these same services, ^{found} along with the additional school services and general municipal government housekeeping expenses found in the secondary impact of ^{large State} a recreation area.

Already existing in the proposed Hatcher Pass recreation area are private recreation operations. Do not such operations by action and numbers alone bring demands for vehicle oriented public services which spill over into any state recreation area. A push-pull affect takes place. Private operators, trying to survive and maximize their chances for financial success, encourage larger and larger patronage; organized recreational activities, such as we witnessed last Labor Day with the hang gliders and "Little Woodstock", each and all demanding use of the state recreation area; ^{a ventral} ~~seen~~ the dynamics of heavy use, competing use and concentrations of people all demand more governmental regulatory services and expansion of roads and public facilities, and the push - pull cycle begins anew.

I would seriously question whether the alpine meadows and marginal grass and wood lands within the Hatcher Pass recreation area have the carrying capacity for the type of recreation use envisioned for the major use areas.

A number of long term residents of the Valley have voiced their fears to me that the area along the existing ^{Hatcher Pass} road, a seasonal and rough road at that, is already being used beyond its capacity as witnessed by the ~~dimin~~ diminution of wild flowers, blueberries and ground squirrels and the increase of litter and vehicle tracks across the hillsides.

I am in agreement with those who are concerned that another aesthetically pleasing and ~~existing~~ existing popular recreation area will be fouled by recreation misuse or industrial development in the form of hard rock mining.

However, I believe that the state should be treating this as a land use issue and not an attempt to come to the public, particularly the public most effected as we are here in the Valley, with a mixed bag of tradeoffs and compromises detailed by lines on maps which in the long run will only aggravate the situation rather than remedy it. Political reality suggests ~~that~~ the impossibility of drawing lines on maps to control human behavior.

(3)

I would suggest for the near term that the state could program the Hatcher Pass road as a scenic corridor with tight land use controls within the corridor - controls particularly directed to the ^{transient} recreation user rather than the private property holder - build some waysides approaching the area on the Palmer and Willow sides, ~~build~~ designate a small park at Summit Lake and establish Independence Mine as an Historical Site.

For the long term, the Hatcher Pass area should be programed into a long term state land plan and policy which utilizes at an early date input from the Mat Su Borough government and Mat Su residents.

L. R. Johnson

SRA Box 156

Palmer, Alaska 99645

Testimony for Hearing on Hatcher Pass (HB 232) 4/5/75

My name is Helen Nienhueser. I am representing the Alaska Center for the Environment. I am here today at the request of the House Resources Committee to present information which the Center has accumulated on the Hatcher Pass area.

We have talked extensively with recreational users of the Talkeetna Mountains in the Hatcher Pass vicinity--with organized conservation and outdoor recreation groups and with individual members of those groups in an effort to determine whether these organizations and individuals were interested in some sort of park or recreation area designation in the area, and if so what.

We have found strong interest in the area and strong support for some sort of recreational or park designation, but within that broad outline we found several different opinions as to boundaries. We therefore held a series of meetings with representatives of organizations and individuals and as a group developed a new proposal for the Hatcher Pass Area which differs considerably from the bills now under consideration in the legislature.

The main area in which we found a variety of opinions was that of how to handle the heart of the area--the area around Independence Mine, Fern Mine, Craigie Creek, Grubstake, and Wet Gulch--where there are considerable patented private land and active mineral claims. We found serious concern that this area would present grave management problems to the Division of Parks--and that coping with the headaches caused by conflict between park users and private land owners would be a serious drain on the resources of the Division of Parks. There was concern that the legislature might create the area and not adequately fund Division of Parks to handle it.

On the other hand, we found a great deal of support for including this heart area in a recreation area proposal anyway, because it is a beautiful area that is heavily used, because the continuation of those uses needs to be provided for, and at the same time the area needs to be managed in such a

manner as to protect it from overuse.

Because of these two different ideas, our group at its consensus meeting, decided to develop two alternative proposals. These proposals are identical except for the way in which they handle this core area. On the other points in the proposal such as uses and external boundaries, the group was unanimous.

(Read attached proposal)

We have drafted two bills, one for proposal A and one for proposal B. There are several additional items in the bill that should be brought to your attention: on page 2, sec. 425 (c) is a clause which excepts any lands selected by natives from the boundaries of the park; under Uses, sec. 430, in the recreation area, agricultural activity is permitted if it is compatible with recreational use; in the park, existing grazing leases would continue until their expiration date but would not be renewed. Most of the land proposed for inclusion in the park is not suitable for any kind of agricultural activity. We understand that the grazing now taking place in parts of the proposed park is having a damaging effect on the land. We did hear concern from some people that some of the land in the southern portion of the recreation area proposal ought not to be included because of agricultural potential, but we heard from others who felt that it should be so as to provide a lowland connection with the alpine portion of the recreation area in what is sure to be an increasingly populated area.

The people we talked to Palmer said that they wanted some input into the uses which would take place in the recreation area or park. So the bills provide for an advisory committee which would include representatives from Dept. of Natural Resources, Dept. of Fish and Game, the Matanuska-Susitna Borough, and citizen representatives. To insure that the citizen representatives do in fact represent the recreational public, we suggest that they be appointed by a local Park and Recreation Council; such an organization is very successful in Anchorage; it is made up of representatives of various groups such as ski

clubs, conservation groups, homeowners associations, etc. We hope that such a group might start in the Mat Valley.

These proposals do not purport to be a consensus of what everybody wants for the Hatcher Pass area, but they are a consensus of what the park supporters want. There is strong support for enlarging the boundaries as we have done. The study done on the Hatcher Pass area for the Division of Parks says on page 29: "The boundary of the Hatcher Pass Study Area is not consistent with uses that the site character suggests. Since wilderness pastimes may easily become a major use, the boundary should be extended north and west to take in more of the inaccessible valleys and alpine ice fields with their wilderness character".

It was also felt that the scenic values of the area are so fine that it better fits the definition of a scenic park than a recreation area; however, the past and existing uses preclude park designation for part of the area. But because the scenic values are so fine it is desirable to place in park classification those areas where there appears to be little conflict. Three areas in particular meet this criteria. Reed Lakes, two aqua gems set among granite spires, lie in a high valley that has no mineral claims. The upper Little Susitna River valley is a broad L shaped valley which leads back to the highest peak in the area, Montana Peak; it provides good summertime hiking and winter skiing with ever changing vistas beckoning one on. There is no patented land in this valley and only 3 or 4 mineral claims. Craigie Creek does have patented land and some active mineral claims. But at its head is low Dogsled Pass, to which it is very easy to hike. From this low pass it is possible to wander freely across high alpine valley and low pass to alpine valley all the way to the Kashwitna; it offers a very different experience than do the formidable rock walls enclosing Reed Lakes. For that reason we have drawn the boundary around the private property, putting that in the recreation area, but putting the headwaters

of Craigie Creek and the low Pass, Dogsled Pass, in the park.

I'd like now to introduce John Beebee who has been working with me on this proposal; he can tell you some of the reasons for proposing that this additional acreage be added, and then we'd be happy to answer any questions.

Regarding the exclusion of a finger of land along Willow Creek on the western boundary, we recommend a closer examination before this is done. The effect is to prevent the public from reaching Willow Creek which should be a major attraction. We have not had the opportunity to examine this closely but it is our understanding that the private lands in here are spotty. We would prefer to see an irregular line that excludes private lands from the park but provides as much access to the creek as possible.

A PROPOSAL FOR THE HATCHER PASS AREA

Developed by the Alaska Center for the Environment (913 W. 6th, Anchorage, 274-3621), working with an ad hoc committee of users and representatives of outdoor recreation and conservation groups.

Two proposals were developed. Proposal A is favored, but Proposal B is acceptable.

Proposal A: proposes a scenic park in the northeast (Talkeetna Mountains State Park) and a contiguous recreation area in the southwest (Hatcher Pass State Recreation Area or Garret Heinie Snider State Recreation Area). The Park and Recreation Area combined are larger than the area included in HB 232 (sponsored by Smith and Beirne) and SB 190 (sponsored by Croft, Chance, and Rodey). The park goes north to include the Kashwitna drainage and east to include the Granite Creek drainage. The total area is in the vicinity of 400,000 acres. Alternative A calls for most of the area in HB 232 and SB 190 to be in the recreation area and most of the additional area to be in the park. However, part of the northern area in HB 232 is included in the park proposal, including Reed Lakes, the upper Little Susitna drainage, and the headwaters of Craigie Creek; these are areas of particular scenic and recreational value and with little or no conflict with mining claims and inholdings.

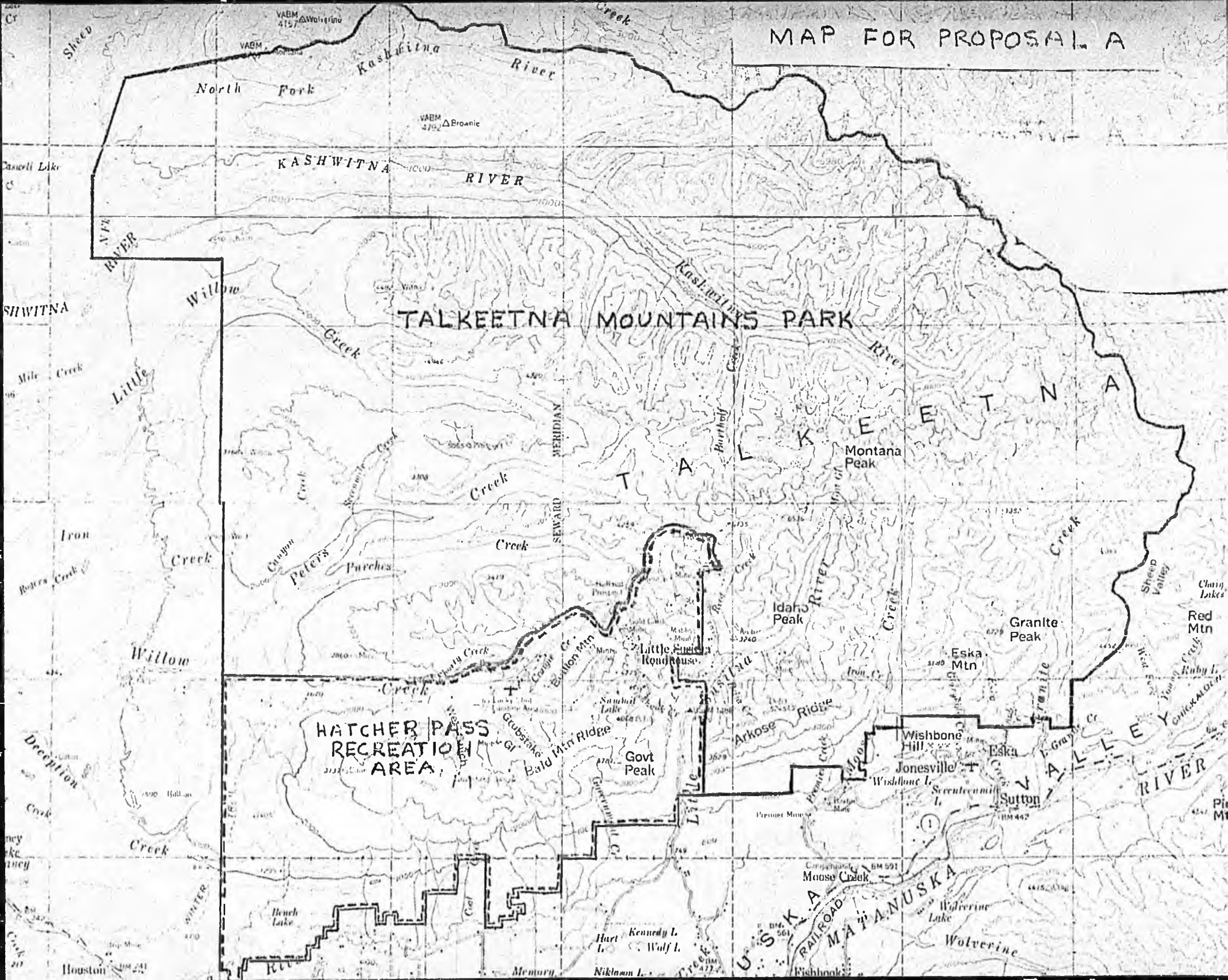
Uses: it is intended that in the park mining would be limited to existing entries only; other uses would be those that are consistent with the preservation of the natural values of the area. In the Recreation Area, more intensive uses could take place; private land is restricted to type of use to which it was put before the recreation area was created; new mining could be permitted if it is done in a manner compatible with recreational use; off-road vehicle use could be permitted at the discretion of the Director of Division of Parks in areas designated by him for that purpose, etc. Hunting would be permitted in both the park and recreation area.

Proposal B: has the same external boundaries as does Proposal A; however, a portion of the area included in the Recreation Area under Alternative A would be excluded. (See attached map for Proposal B.) The area that would be excluded is similar to the area designated as the mineral zone in HB 232 except that Reed Lakes, the upper Little Susitna drainage, and the headwaters of Craigie Creek (all of which are in the mineral zone in HB 232) are included in the park. This proposal would designate the Fishhook-Willow Road where it goes through the excluded portion as a Scenic Roadway with protection afforded to the land on either side of about 1/4 mile in width, but excluded any private lands that might come closer to the road than that. The purpose of the Scenic Roadway is to provide for the continuance of the intensive uses now taking places along that road and to protect that roadside for the Sunday driver. Though the road itself would be under the Dept. of Highways, the land adjacent to it would be managed by Div. of Parks, with the intention that parking areas would be provided for snow machiners, hang gliders, etc. Scenic Roadway designation would also be given to the road up Craigie Creek and the road up Archangel Creek to the junction with the road up Reed Creek. The reason for excluding the area as proposed above is because of the many inholdings in that area and the tremendous burden managing these inholdings would place on the division of parks.

Uses: the uses in the park and in the recreation area under Proposal B would be the same as under Proposal A, but of course there would be no restriction on mining activities in the area to be excluded.

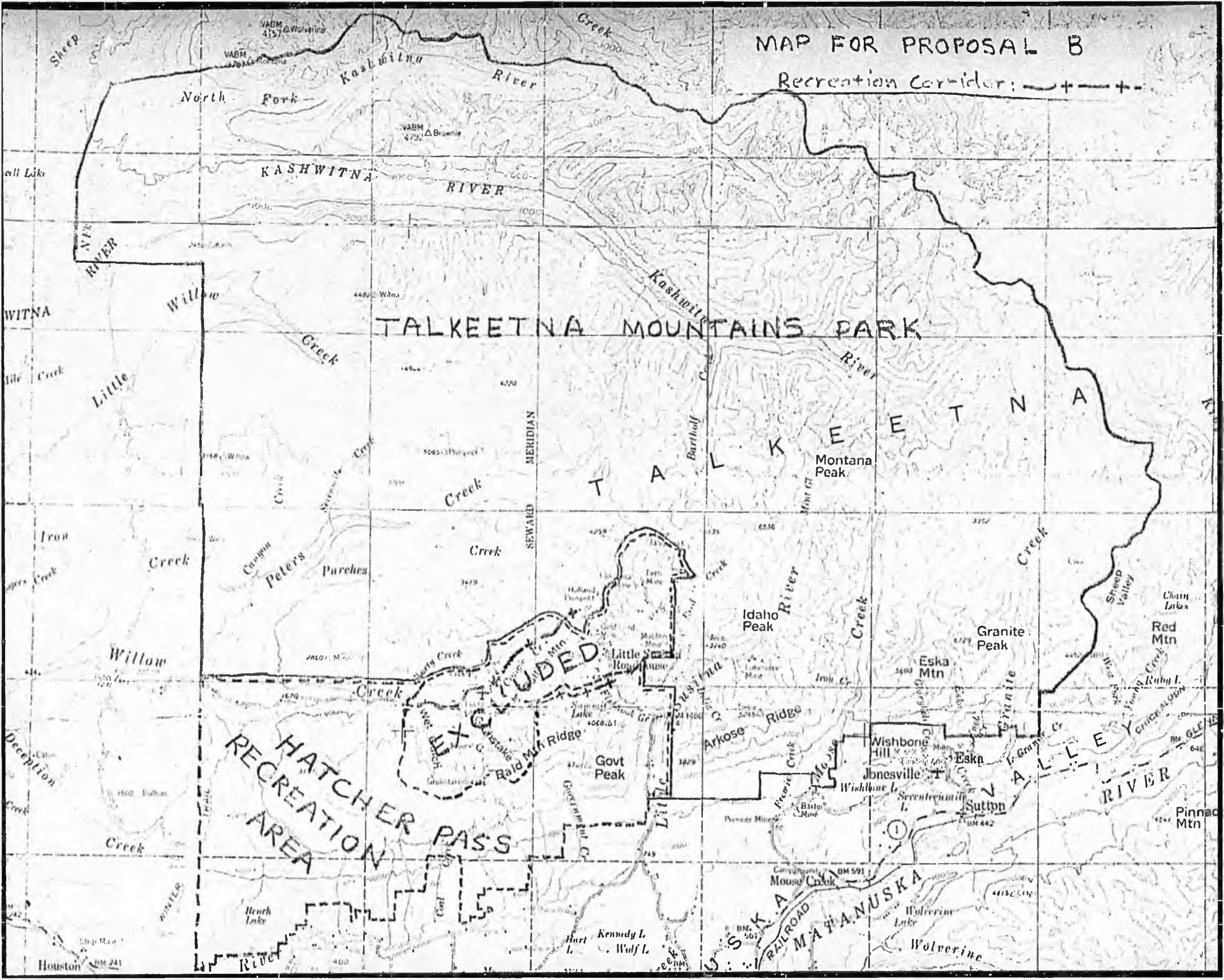
Both proposals contain a clause similar to that in the Act creating Chugach State Park, providing that boundaries may be adjusted to exclude areas of conflict or include desirable areas presently left out.

MAP FOR PROPOSAL A



MAP FOR PROPOSAL B

Recreation Corridor: —+—+—+—



TALKEETNA MOUNTAINS PARK

EXCLUDED

HATCHER PASS RECREATION AREA

T A L K E E T N A

Montana Peak.

Idaho Peak

Granite Peak

Govt Peak

Wishbone Hill

Jonesville

Sutton

Moose Creek

RAILROAD

Wolverine Lake

Wolverine

Testimony of James J. Hurley

Commissioner of the Joint Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska.

To the House of Representatives Resources Committee for the Alaska Legislature on HB 185, an Act Expanding Denali State Park.

April 5, 1975

Mr. Chairman, and members of the Committee. My name is James Hurley. In behalf of the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission for Alaska, I want to thank you for inviting me to testify before your committee on HB 185. I am one of the five gubernatorial appointees to the Commission and am currently serving as a Commission representative on the Mt. McKinley Cooperative Planning and Management Committee.

The Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission recommended development for recreation use, sites and facilities along the southern boundary of the d-2 lands withdrawn around Mt. McKinley. The proposed addition to Denali State Park is within the area considered by the Commission in making that recommendation. The Commission staff find that the area proposed for addition has the following qualities:

1. The terrain is suitable for development of public overnight facilities. It contains sites from which Sydney Lawrence painted his famous landscapes of Mt. McKinley. Lowlands of the area, along the Tokositna River, are the foreground to the scenic mountains north and northeast as viewed from the Peters and Dutch Hills.
2. The area is a relatively short distance from an existing road. About 10 miles of new road would be required to reach the area from the existing Petersville Road.
3. The area is about 10 miles south of an excellent site for viewing and interpreting the Mt. McKinley massif and glaciers.
4. The upland terrain of the proposed addition is suitable for hiking.
5. The area is an integral part of the middle and upper Tokositna River drainage. The river in its middle and lower reaches lies within Denali State Park and its proposed addition. Float boating on the Tokositna River is feasible.

The proposed extension to Denali State Park is under study as part of the Mt. McKinley Cooperative Planning and Management Zone. The Mt. McKinley Cooperative Planning and Management Committee is composed of individuals who are responsible for managing Federal, State, and Borough lands, which as outlined on the attached map, involve those foreground and threshold lands surrounding Mt. McKinley. They have joined together with the Federal-State Land Use Planning Commission to talk about their agency activities and plans for the Mt. McKinley area. Their cooperative effort is intended to eliminate the conflicts and costly duplication in planning and development of the area by formulating a plan for everyone to follow. Such a plan will enhance and protect the various resources and values of the land and make the area more enjoyable for visitors, residents, and landowners.

The Committee meets approximately once every month in the Commission offices in Anchorage. Meetings in the Mt. McKinley area are also held to obtain public comments and ideas. Announcements about the Committee meeting dates and location are published in the newspaper and broadcast on the radio.

Four subcommittees have been formed by the Mt. McKinley Committee to gather the information that is needed to help them make their decisions and plans. The subcommittees are: (1) Nonrenewable Resources, (2) Renewable Resources, (3) Recreation, and (4) Land Use. They will identify current uses, potential use conflicts, and means of assuring compatibility of uses.

The objective of the Committee is to develop recommendations and foster agreements between the Federal government and the State of Alaska, with the cooperation and understanding of the Boroughs and private citizens, that will protect the land from abuse, and will facilitate the use of the land in a coordinated manner.

This Committee does not possess any authority to remove rights or take land from private landowners, but rather will seek to integrally involve private citizens in a coordinated planning and management process.

The planning group expects to make recommendations later this year as to which areas are most suitable or valuable for recreation, mining, community expansion, etc. The Committee will further address the feasibility of a major recreational development, similar to the McKinley Recreation City proposed last year by Senator Mike Gravel.

In closing, I want to thank you for the opportunity to appear here today. If you have any questions, I will be pleased to respond to them.

SIGN IN FOR Palmer
TESTIMONY TO BE HEARD

- 1 - Helen Nionhueser Alaska Center for the Environment
913 W 6th, Anchorage 99501
- 2 - John Beebe 6511 Carlos Court, Anch, 99504
- 3 - Pat Miller Box 405 Wasilla, Alaska 99687
- 4 - Marie Betts Box 14 Wasilla, Alaska 99687
- 5 - L.R Johnson SRA Box 156 Palmer Alaska 99645
- 6 - Jim Barber Talkeetna Alaska
- 7 - Ed Ellis SR Box 2338 Wasilla, AK
- 8 - Ben Wattum Box 787 Palmer Ak.
- 9 - JIM HURLEY Box 157 WASILLA Fed-state Land Use Planning Comm.
- 10 - R. Mellis Box 444 Wasilla 99687
- 11 - Rocky FRANK STAR RT B Box 516 PALMER
- 12 - Noel W. Wood MATANUSKA VALLEY Sportsmen ^{Box 827} Palmer
- 13 - C.E. FURBUSH ST. RT. A Box #1, PALMER AK
- 14 - T. L. Brundage Box 325, Palmer, Alaska
- 15 - SIM VICKARYOOS SRA BOX 91 PALMER, ALASKA
- 16 - HARRY L. SICKWOOD BX 335 PALMER ALASKA 99645
- 17 - Hanny Hill Bx 766 Palmer, AK 99645
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TESTIFY LIST

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101

Anchorage

HAKHER PASS RECREATION AREA
- HOUSE RESOURCES COMMITTEE -

	Name	Address	TESTIFY	
			YES	NO
1	Helen Nienhueser		✓	
2	John Beebe		✓	
3	Richard Alman		✓	
4	Pam Stevens		✓	
5	R. L. Engelbach	2813 Arlene St. Anchorage		✓
6	DAVE CLINE	BOX 1445 M, SRA ANCH.	✓	
7	Charles D. Evans	Box 1621 SRA	✓	
8	Dale Bordenant		✓	
9	John A. Growe	3307 E SRA Rd		✓
10	Dan Renshaw		✓	
11	John Jacobsen	700 Ash Place Anch	✓	
12	Burt			NO
13	William A. Buzgers	141 Jelinski Pl. Ave.		No
14	Arthur J. Huetter	2809 W Northway lights	✓	
15	Har Wuelitzer	Box 1145, ANCH. AK.		
16	Sherry Pat Brudie	SRA Box 241, 99507	✓	
17	Pete Scholes	115 W 15th Ave. Anchorage	✓	
18	A. L. Renshaw, Jr.	1850 Wickersham Dr.		Anch (No)
19	Kelly Renshaw	1850 Wickersham Dr. Anch.		(No)

Exchange

- (1) Alaska Conservation Society, Upper Cook Inlet Chapter (Geo. Dickson)
- (2) Sportsman's Game Pres Dale Bondhusen
- 3 Willow Creek Mines Inc Dan Kershaw
- Gold Cord Development Corp. "
- Richard Alman Self
- Charles D. Evans Mountaineering Club of Alaska
- CHARLES H. ILIFF SELF
- ALICE L. ILIFF Self
- Mary Pat Budic self
- RAY GENET - ALASKA MOUNTAINGUIDE
- Amy Paige self
- Sally Gibert self
- Bob Childers self



Matanuska-Susitna Borough, Inc.

BOX B, PALMER, ALASKA 99645 • PHONE 745-3246

BOROUGH ASSEMBLY

April 23, 1975

Resources Committee
House of Representatives
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska

Re: HB 232

Gentlemen:

When the public hearing was held in Palmer on HB 232, there was considerable objection to the establishment of the Hatcher Pass Recreation Area. As a result of these objections, and objections voiced at Borough Assembly meetings, the Borough Assembly adopted the enclosed resolution opposing HB 232.

Please consider this resolution when making any recommendations on this bill.

Thank you for your assistance to the residents of this area.

Yours truly,

Evelyn Thompson
Borough Clerk

Enc.

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 75-30

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH OPPOSING HB 232
CREATING HATCHER PASS STATE PARK.

WHEREAS, HB 232 proposes the creation of a Hatcher Pass State Park encompassing 250 sq. miles of the Borough, including agricultural or potential agricultural land; and

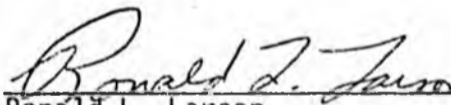
WHEREAS, testimony before the House Resources Committee at its hearing in Palmer on April 5, 1975, brought out potential conflicts with mining and agriculture; and

WHEREAS, the majority of the testimony was opposed to the creation of the park as proposed by HB 232;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough that:

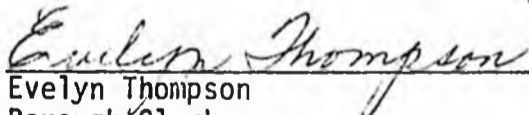
1. The Borough Assembly hereby rescinds Resolution No. 74-20,
2. The Borough Assembly opposes the passage of HB 232,
3. The Borough Assembly favors State management of a corridor along Hatcher Pass Road, to the vicinity of Independence Mine, improvement and maintenance of said road and construction of parking areas.

PASSED AND APPROVED by the Borough Assembly of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough this 15th day of April, 1975.



Ronald L. Larson
Borough Mayor

ATTEST:



Evelyn Thompson
Borough Clerk

(SEAL)

March 8, 1975

Representative Nels A. Anderson, Jr.
Chairman, House Resources Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Dear Representative Anderson:

I am writing regarding HB 232 which has been referred to the Resources Committee. This bill proposes to create the Hatcher Pass State Recreation Area. As a park professional with many years of park planning experience, I cannot allow this bill to come before you without pointing out its fallacies and inherent problems.

This bill is based on a study performed under contract. The contractors, in my opinion, were completely inexperienced in park planning and thoroughly incompetent in this field. A Feasibility Study should have been made to determine the merits and problems of the area where a recreation area is to be created. This was not done. Instead the first line of their report on page 1 states "The purpose of this study was to prepare a long range waste: plan for future development of recreation area encompassing the former mining area in the Talkeetna Mountains known as Hatcher Pass." In other words, they assumed it would be created and never considered the pros and cons of such action. If a feasibility study had been made of a larger area, I am sure some of the lands described in HB 232 would not have been recommended for management within the park system.

This area has over 73 parcels of private ownership, 15 parcels of borough selected lands, 3 federal power project withdrawals within which fee simple title of the land will not go to the state, 4 grazing leases, 71 inactive mining claims which can be activated by doing some assessment work, and 26 active mining claims with assessment work up to date. This array of inholdings and conflicting interests is as great as all such conflicts in our million acre park system. Inholdings are the bane of park managers, law and regulation enforcement becomes impossible without marked boundaries on all inholdings. The park manager gets blamed for all adverse actions affecting private property and its use. The state could become liable for allowing attractive dangers to exist within the area such as mine shafts, rotten and falling buildings, etc.

In addition, no one has given any thought as to what would happen if any of the mining activity resumed. The road system is inadequate to handle the recreational traffic found there on a nice summer day now. How could industrial traffic be added without a problem of great magnitude. This area is one of the most highly mineralized sites in south central Alaska. Why must it be chosen as an area of conflict and future troubles when the state has over a million acres of the same types of land selected to the north and east which is almost free of inholdings, mining claims, and other problems.

I beg of you to request a feasibility study of this whole state selection before taking action on HB 232. In my opinion, Hatcher Pass should be given a Resource Management Classification by the Division of Lands to insure state retention and permit multiple use of the area including recreation, mining, grazing, hunting, and all the other potentials. If this is deemed not desirable, then one and one half townships in the far SW corner south of the Willow Creek Road should be designated a Willow Creek Recreation Area and developed primarily for motorized recreation.

Sincerely,



Richard K. Alman
1514 Marten Street
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

John Colberg, Jr.
Chairman of the Board

File

Ralph A. Johnson
President

COOK INLET
CIRI
REGION, INC.

May 2, 1975

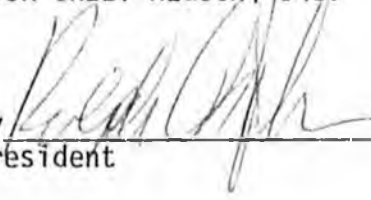
Mr. Nels A. Anderson, Jr.
Chairman, House Resources Committee
Alaska State House of Representatives
Pouch "V" State Capitol Building
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Nels:

Cook Inlet Region, Inc. will have no objections to the Hatcher Pass State Park, as long as the Native selections are excluded and if the wording of the Act is changed so that the owners of land along the highway are not restricted in use any more than the owners of land along any other highway.

Sincerely,

COOK INLET REGION, INC.

By 
President

RAJ:bf
cc: Alaska State Senate
Resource Committee