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STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

DIVISION OF PARKS
Chip Dennerlein, Director

JAY S. HAMMOND, GOVERNOR

619 WAREHOUSE DR., SUITE 210
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99501

PHONE: 274-4676

January 15, 1982

Re:

The Honorable Sam Cotten
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

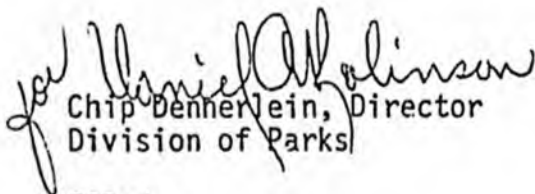
Dear Representative Cotten:

At your request we are forwarding material on Willow Creek to you. Enclosed you will find:

- 1) A draft bill for establishment of the Willow Creek State Recreation Area
- 2) Cost estimates for Phase I and Phase II of the area's development. We would anticipate construction to begin in 1983 and 1984 for Phase I and II respectively.
- 3) A map depicting the proposed area and current land ownership.

Also be aware that we are working in cooperation with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough on this proposal. Mr. Gary Thurlow, Manager, has been personally involved. Several phases of our necessary planning and engineering studies are still underway. Please bear in mind therefore that some adjustment of cost estimates are to be expected. Please continue to call on us for any further information you may require.

Sincerely,


for Daniel Holinson
Chip Dennerlein, Director
Division of Parks

SPR:ds

House Bill No
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

A BILL

Establishing the Willow Creek State Recreation Area and providing for an effective date.

Sec. 41.20.600. Declaration of purpose. The purpose of 600-625 of this chapter is to empower the governor to restrict state-owned lands and waters described in 605 of this chapter to use as a public recreation area. The primary purposes of establishing the Willow Creek State Recreation Area are to protect and enhance the area's recreational, natural, cultural, scenic and wildlife resources and to protect and enhance the stream's fishery. Under the provisions of AS 38.05.300 state land, water, or land and water containing more than 640 acres may be closed to multiple purpose use only by Act of the legislature. Because the area described in 605 of this chapter exceeds 640 acres, 600-625 of this chapter are intended to provide for the closing of the described lands and waters to multiple purpose use in conformity with AS 38.05.300 and their subsequent designation as a special purpose site in accordance with art. VIII, 7, of the Constitution of the State of Alaska (1 ch 66 SLA 1971).

Sec. 41.20.605. Designated state land and water restricted to use as public recreation area. The governor may designate by proclamation the state-owned lands and waters and all those acquired in the future by the state, lying within the parcels described in this section, as the Willow Creek State Recreation Area. The proclamation may include the entire area or portions of the area at different times, shall reserve the areas included from all uses incompatible with their primary function as public recreation land and water, and shall assign them to the Department of Natural Resources for control, development and maintenance. Land covered by 600-625 of this chapter has a total acreage of 3440 acres, including approximately 2360 acres of borough land and is described as follows:

T19N R4N S.M. Sec. 6 NW1/4
T19N R5W S.M. Sec. 1, 2, 3N1/2
T20N R4N S.M. Sec. 31 S1/2 S1/2 West of Parks Highway
T20N R5W S.M. Sec. 36 S1/2
35
34

comprising approximately 3440 acres.

Sec. 41.20.615 Designation of Management Responsibility .

a) The State and Borough land and water described in AS 41.20.10 is assigned to the Department of Natural Resources for control, maintenance and development consistent with the purposes of this chapter.

b) The Department of Natural Resources shall develop a Master Plan for the area's use and development in cooperation with the Matanuska-Susitna Borough and the Department of Fish & Game

c) The Department of Fish & Game is responsible for the management of Fish and Game resources in the Willow Creek State Recreation Area consistent with the purposes of this chapter. They shall consult with the Department of Natural Resources before adoption of regulations governing Fish and Game management.

Sec. 41.20.620 Incompatible Use Prohibited. The Commissioner of Natural Resources shall designate by regulation incompatible uses within the boundaries of the Willow Creek State Recreation Area in accordance with 605 of this chapter, and these incompatible uses designated are prohibited or restricted, as provided by regulation ch. 66 SLA 1971.

Sec. 41.20.625 Purchase authorized. The Commissioner of Natural Resources may acquire, by purchase in the name of the state, title to or interest in real property lying within the boundaries of the Willow Creek State Recreation Area.

Name: Willow Creek State Recreation Site

Total acreage: 240

Highway (milepost): Parks Highway (71.2)

Community orientation: 28 miles north of Wasilla

Land & Water Conservation Funds used: YES NO

ESTABLISHMENT

Method	Citation	date	acres	legal description
Administrative	507 Site	8/17/60	90	Portions of Section 5 including lots 3 and 4, T19N, R4W, S.M.
Administrative	ILMT 50062	5/18/72	---	Same as above.
Administrative	ILMT 65719	1/13/75	150	See ILMT 65719.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

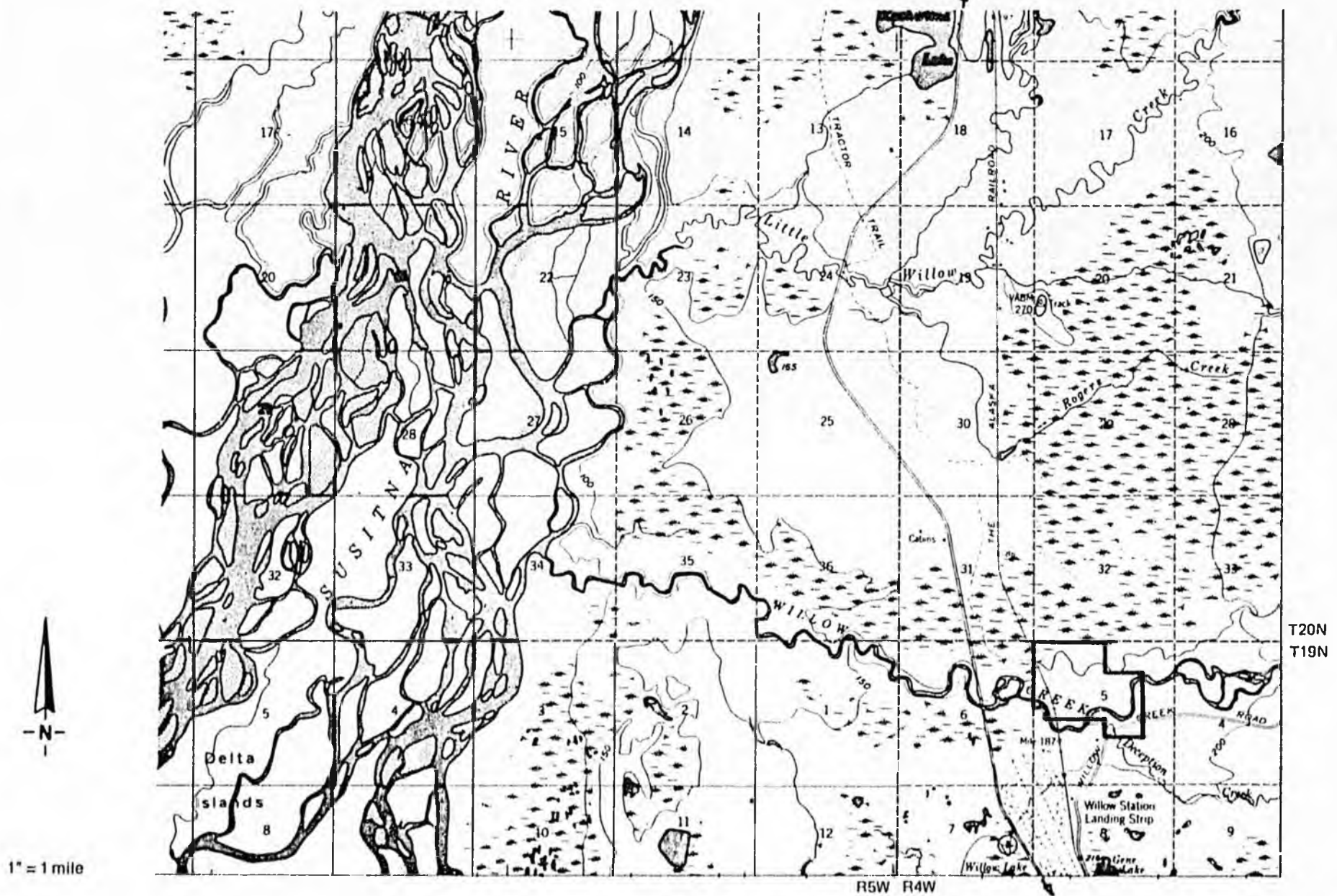
This recreation site is located one mile up the Hatcher Pass Road at mile 71 on the Parks Highway. It is a convenient overnight stop for travelers, but is more popular as an excellent fishing site. Starting in the spring with grayling and rainbow trout, the good fishing continues through June with King

salmon, July with chum and into late summer with silver and pink salmon runs. Camping and sanitary facilities and firewood are provided for public use.

SPECIAL NOTES

WILLOW CREEK STATE RECREATION SITE

To Fairbanks



1" = 1 mile

R5W R4W

Wnslln 27 mi.

T20N
T19N

Funding Information

General Fund \$3,935,000
Other Funds -0-
\$3,935,000

Introduced: 1/20/82
Referred: Transportation and Finance

1 IN THE HOUSE

BY COTTEN, HAYES, CARNEY,
HALFORD AND BUCHHOLDT

HOUSE BILL NO. 676

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 TWELFTH LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

5 . A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act making a special appropriation to the Depart-
7 ment of ^{N.R.} [Transportation and Public Facilities] for the
8 Willow Creek Road and related user facilities; and
9 providing for an effective date."

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

11 * Section 1. The sum of \$3,935,000 is appropriated from the general fund
12 to the Department ^{N.R. Div. of Parks} of [Transportation and Public Facilities] for a road from the
13 Parks Highway to the mouth of Willow Creek and for related user facilities
14 including a campground.

15 * Sec. 2. The appropriation made by this Act is for capital projects and
16 is subject to AS 37.25.020.

17 * Sec. 3. This Act takes effect July 1, 1982.

THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
TWELFTH LEGISLATURE

FISCAL NOTE

I. REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No. HB 676 Appropriation to DOT/PF for Willow Creek
 Title Road and related user facilities
 Requested by Dept. Natural Resources, Div. of Parks Date 2/3/82

II. FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected Dept. of Natural Resources, Division of Parks
 Program Category Affected General fund
 BRU, Program, Or Subprogram(s) Affected _____
 (Note: If more than one budget component is affected, separate line-item amounts and funding for each component in the analysis section.)

EXPENDITURES (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 82	FY 83	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 COMMODITIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS, ETC.						
TOTAL		\$3,935				

FUNDING (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		3,935				
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER (Specify Source)						

POSITIONS

FULL TIME						
PART TIME						
TEMPORARY						

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

This would provide for road and minimum facilities at the end of the road. If there are additional funds, they could be used for more facilities at the end of the road. This should be appropriated to the Department of Natural Resources.

IV. DATE 2/3/82 PREPARED BY John Bates
 AGENCY DOT/PF
 PHONE 465-3900

Original: Legislative Finance
 cc: Budget and Management
 Prime Sponsor (First Legislator Named)
 33-001 (Rev. 12/81.)

*Have 2 bills being written up
appropriation bill &
enhancement Bill.*



Alaska Sportfishing Association

5306 Arctic Blvd., Suite #2 • Anchorage, Alaska 99502 • Phone (907) 277-5203

December 28, 1981

Representative Sam Cotten
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V (MS 3100)
Juneau, AK 99811

*Donner line
Ea Bill from
Curt Bannin*

Dear Representative Cotten:

We, the Alaska Sportfishing Association, an organization in excess of 1,300 members, thank those members of the Legislature who, in the past two sessions, have supported the acquisition of property to increase sportfishing access. We also wish to inform you that the problems of inadequate sportfishing access and facilities in the Cook Inlet area still exist. Therefore, we urge your continued support in alleviating that problem.

Sportfishing, particularly for salmon, is probably the single largest recreational activity of the citizens of Anchorage. Currently, well over 100,000 adults, plus many children, sportfish in Cook Inlet lakes, streams, and marine waters. While sportfishing is recreation, it also contributes substantially to many families in providing food for the table. Finally, sportfishing is a major industry in this area. Many small roadside businesses are successful to a large extent due to monies spent by sport fisherman.

The Department of Fish and Game tells us that approximately 60 percent of all angling in the state occurs in Cook Inlet, and this fishery amounts to over 750,000 angler days each year. Many of our streams are overcrowded while other streams host very few anglers due to lack of access. We all know the human population of Cook Inlet will continue to increase and the access problem will become increasingly acute. Therefore, we believe that we must continue to develop new angler access areas and provide sanitary and boat launching facilities on them if we are to avoid both reduced opportunities to sportfish and smaller catches.

Sportfishing access is particularly restricted to salmon streams in northern Cook Inlet, that area encompassed by the Matanuska and Susitna Valleys. Major populations of trout and salmon are present in many of the streams, yet there is practically no access. In most cases, the Parks Highway intersects tributary streams east of the Susitna River and access to those streams is limited to the width of the highway right-of-way. When the Parks Highway was constructed, most streambank lands outside the right-of-way were sold. The streams having the largest populations of salmon are west of the Susitna River, available only to anglers having aircraft or riverboats equipped with jet units.

Representative Sam Cotten

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December 28, 1981

The state has not developed a single boat launch on the Susitna River. Many boaters now use Willow Creek as an access route to the Susitna River and streams west of the Susitna. A major conflict has developed between boat traffic on Willow Creek and anglers trying to fish from the banks. We believe a boat launch on the Susitna River near the mouth of Willow Creek is the only practical answer. This type of facility would ease the access problem to streams west of the Susitna River and help resolve the conflict arising along Willow Creek. Also, it would substantially increase access to lower Willow Creek for those anglers not having riverboats.

Currently, the only boat launching facility on the Susitna River is a private site near the mouth of the Kashwitna River. Owners of this site charge for launching and parking of vehicles. More importantly, the site is far upstream of the west-side tributary streams which support important sport fisheries. That portion of the Susitna River between the mouth of Willow Creek and the existing private launch at Kashwitna consists of shallow, braided glacial water which limits use to persons having jet outboards. Conversely, a launch near the mouth of Willow Creek would allow propeller equipped outboards and a wide range of boats to be used for access to sportfishing streams west of the Susitna River.

We have been advised that the Division of Parks has proposed a boat launch at the Willow Creek/Susitna River confluence as a capital improvement project. We have also been told by Department of Fish and Game personnel that they consider this project to be of paramount importance in meeting sportfish angling needs. We wish to go on record as being strongly in support of this project.

Since statehood, we sportfishermen have paid our own way by supporting the entire sportfishing program through our license dollars. However, we also pay a full share of commercial management through general fund expenditures. So, along with independently supporting our own program, we have also paid to support the commercial fisheries management program and watched hatcheries built at a host of locations where sportsmen will receive absolutely no benefit, such as Cold Bay, Afognak Island, Bristol Bay and Kotzebue. We have never complained about paying for our own program; however, it is obvious that Alaska now can well afford to put a reasonable amount of general fund dollars each year back into projects which will directly benefit sportfishermen. We think purchasing and developing sportfishing access sites is an excellent way to support and encourage sportfishing and the large number of small businesses it supports.

Therefore, we urge you to support funding for the acquisition and development of sites which will allow sportfishermen to harvest a fair share of Alaska's fishery resources. Specifically, we request your support during the upcoming session for funding to develop a road down the north bank of Willow Creek and a launching area near the Willow Creek/Susitna River confluence as defined in the Division of Parks Capital Improvement budget.

Sincerely,

D. Zivanich
Dan Zivanich
President

(name)
(phone) 345-
5570