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PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2.

PAGE 5, LINE 5

DELETE: "excluding ASLS 82-221"

PAGE 5, LINE 7

DELETE: "excluding ASLA 82-221"

PROPOSED AMENDMENT #1.

PAGE 7, LINE 7 ADD THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE:

Sec. 16.20.370. LAND DISPOSAL MORATORIUM. The department may not dispose of land in the proposed Chickaloon Bench Subdivision, ASLS 82-221, within the Matanuska Valley Moose Range before July 1, 1989 and before conducting public hearings and obtaining the approval of the Matanuska-Susitna Borough. The disposal is to be a remote subdivision and no access shall be provided.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

POUCH M
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE: 907-465-2400

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

April 16, 1984

The Honorable John Ringstad
Chairman
House Committee on Resources
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Representative Ringstad:

I am writing about CSSB 225 (Res), creating the Matanuska Valley Moose Range, which passed the Senate last week and will be coming to your Committee for consideration.

The Administration supports the bill as it appears before your Committee. My understanding is that the bill before you excerpts the proposed Chickaloon Bench land disposal, already platted and projected for disposal in fiscal year 1985, from the proposed Moose Range. Please allow me to offer some background on this proposal.

The Chickaloon Bench subdivision is a significant one on the Department's schedule. About 900 acres would be offered in ten to twenty acre recreational lots. With legislative approval, the Department has already spent about \$350,000 on survey and right-of-way acquisition in preparation for this offering. The Department of Fish and Game and other state agencies have approved the proposed offering in the interagency review, and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough has provided conditional approval, dependent on adequate provisions for access corridors. The Borough's concerns, now being addressed by the Department, have caused us to delay the disposal from this year until next year, but we are confident that resolution of the access corridor problem is imminent.

Some local residents are opposed to the disposal because they fear that it would increase the local population and damage habitat. On the other hand, the Administration's position is that the disposal is warranted due to the demand of Alaskans for land in reasonably accessible areas, and that habitat protection is well provided for in the proposed legislation. The bill would protect about 125,000 acres of habitat -- about equal to the total acreage that the Department expects to be able to offer for sale in the entire Susitna planning area in the next twenty years. This protection must be balanced, in the interests of all Alaskans, with other land uses in the upper Matanuska Valley. The

April 13, 1984

Department's land offerings in the next twenty years, according to our current estimates, will comprise at most 1% of the State's lands in the region. To preclude disposal of already platted lands in such a generally good situation as Chickaloon Bench would be a major mistake.

The bill's sponsor, Senator Kerttula, remains opposed to the land offering and is concerned that it would create demand for a \$12 million bridge across the Chickaloon River for access. The Department's position has been that access on this scale is not appropriate for a recreational subdivision. Instead, we recommend foot and winter mechanized access from the Chickaloon Trail corridor, and expect that road access will eventually be developed from the uplands to the east of the subdivision, if access becomes necessary.

We feel secure that the public's multiple use interests (minerals and forestry) within the Moose Range will be protected. Language added to the bill at the Administration's recommendation will allow coal and mineral entry, leasing, and development. This is particularly important because the Department believes that the area has the best near-term potential for new coal development in Alaska. We anticipate holding a major coal lease sale in the area within the next year. We also have a strong commitment to forest management within the proposed Moose Range, as it provides an important supply of personal use timber and some commercial timber for the upper Matanuska Valley area. In our discussions with the sponsor and the Department of Fish and Game, we have been assured that these important activities will continue if the legislation is passed. As the area will be managed by the Department of Natural Resources, we are satisfied with the bill as written.

Please contact me if you need any further information. I look forward to providing comments at your hearings on the bill.

Sincerely,



Esther C. Wunnicke
Commissioner

cc: Senator Kerttula
Members of the House Resources Committee

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ROBERT H. ZIEGLER, SR., Vice Chairman
DICK ELIASON
PAUL FISCHER
VIC FISCHER
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI



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Senate

Committee on Resources

April 16, 1984

Representative John Ringstad
Representative Dick Shultz
Co-Chairmen, House Resources Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear John and Dick:

SB 225, which establishes approximately 130,000 acres in the Matanuska Valley as the Matanuska Valley Moose Range, received Senate Resources Committee approval on March 30th. The Resources Committee Substitute for SB 225 has been adopted by the full Senate, and is currently awaiting your committee's consideration.

An error in the legal description portion of the bill has been called to my attention. Page 5, Subsection 12, describes an area commonly known as Chickaloon Bench. The effect of the error would be to exclude a portion of the Chickaloon Bench from the Moose Range. This does not reflect the position of the Senate Resources Committee nor the final action of the Senate on this bill. Page 5, lines 5-7 should read:

Sections 1-12
Section 14, N1/2
Sections 15-21

I apologize for any confusion this may have caused. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Bettye Fahrenkamp".

Bettye Fahrenkamp
Chairman

BF:ss

cc: Senator Kerttula
Commissioner Wunnicke, Department of Natural Resources

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ROBERT A. ZIEGLER, SR., Vice Chairman
DICK BLASOHN
PAUL FISCHER
BOB FISCHER
TOM MULLICAHY
ALICE STURGOLEWSKI



FOURTH FLOOR
STATE CAPITAL
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811
PHONE 465-2834
FACSIMILE 465-2825

Senate

Committee on Resources

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Resources Committee Members

FROM: Senate Resources Committee Staff

RE: Committee Meeting, Monday, March 19

DATE: March 15, 1984

On Monday, March 19th at 3:00 pm in the Beltz Room, the Senate Resources Committee will be hearing the following bills:

SB 225, An Act creating the Matanuska Valley Moose Range.

SB 225 establishes designated state lands as the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. The management of fish and game resources is assigned to the Department of Fish and Game; the management of the surface and subsurface estate is assigned to the Department of Natural Resources. A management plan is required.

With growth and expansion of the surrounding communities there is potential for tremendous impact on the moose population in the Matanuska Valley. SB 225 would allow the Department of Fish and Game to rehabilitate and enhance the moose population, while allowing for public multiple use of the area.

Multiple use for the purposes of the moose range is defined as "fishing, grazing, hunting, trapping, mineral entry, and other forms of public use not incompatible...". The state forest system (established last year in AS 41.17.200) provides a broader definition of multiple use, including commercial timber harvest, harvest of forest products for personal use, material extraction, watershed management, greenbelts, and research.

The management plan for the Moose Range is to be adopted, and revised if necessary, after "adequate public hearings". No further guidelines are given. Management plans for state forests (under AS 41.17.230) must be adopted and implemented within three years, and reviewed every five years. Copies must be provided to the legislature within 30 days of adoption or revision.

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ROBERT H. ZIEGLER, SR., Vice Chairman
DICK ELIASON
PAUL FISCHER
VIC FISCHER
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI



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Senate

Committee on Resources

TO: Senate Resources Committee Members
FROM: Senate Resources Committee Staff
RE: March 30 Committee Hearing
DATE: March 28, 1984

On Friday, March 30, 1984 at 3:00 pm in the Beltz Room, the Senate Resources Committee will hear the following bills:

SSSB 45 ESTABLISHING AN AGRICULTURAL LAND SALE PAYMENT MORATORIUM

SSSB 45 would authorize DNR to declare a moratorium of up to 5 years on agricultural land purchase payments if certain conditions are met. Specifically, farm development, crop production and harvesting expenses must be equivalent to the payments that would otherwise be made.

SB 225 CREATING THE MATANUSKA VALLEY MOOSE RANGE

SB 225, which was heard by the Resources Committee on March 19, establishes designated state lands as the Matanuska Valley Moose Range. A Committee Substitute has been prepared based on negotiations with DNR, the Department of Fish and Game, and the bill sponsor.

1. General management is assigned to DNR, with Fish and Game maintaining management responsibility for the fish and game resources.
2. DNR will prepare a management plan "which reflects the concurrence of the Dept. of Fish and Game".
3. The definition of "multiple use" has been amended to include forestry management and coal leasing and development.
4. About 20,000 acres of high quality general use land along the highway has been withdrawn.

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ROBERT H. ZIEGLER, SR., Vice Chairman
DICK ELIASON
PAUL FISCHER
VIC FISCHER
BOB MULCAHY
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Senate

Committee on Resources

MINUTES

March 8, 1984
5:30 pm

Beltz Room
Room 211, Capitol

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fahrenkamp, Chairman
Senator Kerttula

CALENDAR

SB 225, An Act creating the Matanuska Valley Moose Range.

Robert Reisley, Palmer, spoke in favor of the bill, and expressed concern over methods involved in clearing land for moose browse.

Jim Reiss, Palmer, recommended increasing the amount of acreage included in the range.

Mike Peryam, Wasilla, expressed concern over the impact of development on moose habitat.

Tony Lacau, Wasilla, spoke in support of the range.

Craig Olson, Division of Forestry, Department of Natural Resources, supported the concept of a moose range, but suggested including it as part of the State Forest system.

Jim McCracken, Wildlife Biologist, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, testified that this bill would expand the Department's existing moose habitat program.

Noel Woods, Palmer, recommended that the Department of Fish and Game administer the range. He also suggested adding waysides and campsites in the area.

Curtis Johnson, Eagle River, spoke in support of the bill.

A.E. Perry, Wasilla, recommended the Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Natural Resources manage the range.

Andrew Drabeck, Chickaloon, testified in support of the bill.

Ron Sommerville, Alaska Outdoor Council, spoke in support of the bill, preferring to see the Department of Fish and Game as the lead agency.

Mary Geist, Sutton, testified that she would like to see more citizen involvement in the planning and management of the range.

Rita Pfauth, Sutton, testified in support of the bill, urging management control be given to the Department of Fish and Game.

Mike Bronson, Palmer, spoke in support of the bill.

Warren Keogh, Wasilla, urged giving management control to the Department of Fish and Game.

Bob Parkerson, Palmer, spoke in support of the bill.

Jack Didrickson, Biologist, Department of Fish and Game, Palmer, supported the bill and explained how a clearing program could benefit firewood users and create moose browse.

Al Larson, Sutton, spoke in support of the bill, but expressed concern over private lands located within the proposed range. He preferred management control be given to the Department of Fish and Game.

Bob Green, Wasilla, spoke in support of the bill, preferring to see the Department of Fish and Game administer the program.

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ROBERT H. ZIEGLER, SR., Vice Chairman
DICK ELIASON
PAUL FISCHER
VIC FISCHER
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI



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(907) 465-3834
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Senate

Committee on Resources

MINUTES

March 19, 1984
3:08 pm

Beltz Room
Room 211, Capitol

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fahrenkamp, Chairman
Senator Ziegler, Vice Chairman
Senator Eliason
Senator Paul Fischer
Senator Vic Fischer
Senator Mulcahy
Senator Sturgulewski

CALENDAR

SB 202, An Act establishing the Yakataga State Forest.

SB 225. An Act creating the Matanuska Valley Moose Range.

SB 297, An Act establishing the land clearing account in the agricultural revolving loan fund; and providing for an effective date.

SB 298, An Act making a continuing appropriation of repayments of the principal and interest on loans made by the Alaska Agricultural Action Council for land clearing to the land clearing account in the agricultural revolving loan fund; and providing for an effective date.

SB 473, An Act establishing the Alaska Fisheries Council; and providing for an effective date.

SB 479, An Act relating to a forest products business loan guarantee program; and providing for an effective date.

SB 202

Garv Gustafson, Division of Land and Water Management, Department of Natural Resources, explained the Department's proposed amendment that would provide an opportunity to trade up to 3000 acres of land within the proposed Yakataga State Forest to the Seldovia Native Corporation.

Senator Eliason moved to adopt the Committee Substitute and the proposed DNR amendment. There was no objection. He then moved CS SB 202 from committee with individual recommendations, noting Senator Sturgulewski's absence for possible conflict of interest. There was no objection.

SB 473

Carol Derfner, Special Assistant to the Governor, Boards and Commissions, testified that the Governor did not encourage the creation of another advisory board on fishery issues, and cited the existence of the mini-cabinet on fisheries, the fisheries task force, and many other local, regional, and federal advisory boards and commissions.

Steve Pennover, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game, testified that there are already 72 advisory committees that advise the Board of Fisheries on policy issues. The department is opposed to this bill.

Greg Baker, Director, Office of Commercial Fisheries Division, Department of Commerce and Economic Development, testified that the Department agrees with the needs outlined in the bill, but feels the Governor's mini-cabinet on fisheries is serving that function.

Phil Daniel, United Fishermen of Alaska, spoke in support of the bill, citing the need for more industry participation in the Governor's mini-cabinet.

SB 479

Milt Barker, Deputy Commissioner, Treasury Division, Department of Revenue, spoke in support of the Committee Substitute that incorporates the changes recommended by the Department.

Senator Ziegler moved CS SB 479 from committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

SB 225

Chuck Hawley, owner of coal leases within the proposed Moose Range, asked for assurances that his leases would not be affected by establishment of the Moose Range.

Richard Ramsey, Aide to Senator Kerttula, testified to the loss of moose habitat due to development, and stressed the support of local residents. The existing language in the bill is intended to include coal mining.

Bob Arnold, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Natural Resources, speaking for the Department of Fish and Game also, spoke in general support of the bill, but indicated that the Department's are not agreed on the boundaries and management for the proposal.

Bill Beaty, Chief of Resource Allocation, Division of Land and Water Management, Department of Natural Resources, explained that the proposed area is currently undergoing an extensive planning and public review process as part of the Susitna area plan, and that several issues in the plan remain unresolved.

SB 297

SB 298

Senator Moss, sponsor of the bills, explained that they would provide for a separate land clearing account within the Agricultural Revolving Loan Fund and allow repayment of outstanding clearing loans to the account. He proposed an amendment that would grant a 5 year moratorium on repayment of outstanding clearing loans.

The meeting adjourned at 4:27 pm.

Alaska State Legislature

BETTYE FAHRENKAMP, Chairman
ROBERT H. ZIEGLER, SR., Vice Chairman
DICK ELIASON
PAUL FISCHER
VIC FISCHER
BOB MULCAHY
ARLISS STURGULEWSKI



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STATE CAPITAL
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(907) 465-3834
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Senate

Committee on Resources

MINUTES

March 30, 1984
3:55 pm

Beltz Room
Room 211, Capitol

MEMBERS PRESENT

Senator Fahrenkamp, Chairman
Senator Ziegler, Vice Chairman
Senator Paul Fischer
Senator Mulcahy
Senator Sturgulewski

CALENDAR

SB 225, Creating the Matanuska Valley Moose Range.

2dSSSB 45, Establishing an agricultural land sale payment moratorium.

SB 369, An Act relating to the planning, designing, and construction of agriculture and forestry facilities by the Department of Natural Resources.

SCR 42, Relating to sport fishing of salmon and underutilized species.

SB 225

Ned Farquhar, Special Assistant to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources, testified in support of the Committee Substitute, and proposed an amendment that would clarify that coal and mineral entry and development would be allowed within the Range.

Deborah Heidecker, Aide to Senator Kerttula, explained that the Committee Substitute, a result of negotiations with the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Fish and Game, contains specifics on management responsibility, multiple use definitions, and boundaries.

Senator Kerttula explained why the proposed Chickaloon Bench subdivision should remain within the Moose Range and not be disposed.

John Clark, Habitat Division, Department of Fish and Game, spoke in support of the Committee Substitute.

Senator Mulcahy moved to adopt DNR's proposed amendment. There was no objection.

Ron Sommerville, Alaska Outdoor Council, spoke in support of the Committee Substitute.

Jay Nelson, Alaska Environmental Lobby, spoke in support of the Committee Substitute and recommended that a timetable for implementing the management plan be included in the bill.

Senator Sturculewski moved to adopt the proposed amendment regarding the timetable for a management plan. There was no objection.

Senator Mulcahy moved CS SB 225 from Committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

2dSSSB 45

Senator Moss explained that this bill would authorize the Department of Natural Resources to declare a moratorium of up to five years on agricultural land purchase payments if certain conditions are met.

Senator Mulcahy moved 2dSSSB 45 from Committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

SB 369

Senator Kerttula reviewed the history of construction cost overruns at the Department of Natural Resources plant materials center. SB 369 would begin to solve those problems by transferring construction responsibilities from the Department of Transportation and Public Facilities to DNR.

Senator Mulcahy moved SB 369 from Committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

SCR 42

Phil Daniel, United Fishermen of Alaska (UFA), spoke in support of the resolution, recommending aquaculture as a way of guaranteeing sportfishermen an adequate supply of fish, and resolving user group conflicts.

Ron Sommerville, Alaska Outdoor Council offered no formal position on the bill, but supported enhancement of sportfishing stocks as a way of resolving user group conflicts.

Senator Mulcahy moved SCR 42 from Committee with individual recommendations. There was no objection.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 pm.

STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: 3/30/84

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: CSSSSB225(Res)
Title: Matanuska Valley Moose
Range
Sponsor: kerttula
Requestor: Senate Resources
Date of Request: _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Natural Resources
Program Category Affected: _____
NRMEC
BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: _____
Land and Water Management

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES		47.4				
200 TRAVEL		.5	.5			
300 CONTRACTUAL		2.0	4.0			
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		44.9	4.5	0	0	0
CAPITAL		0	0	0	0	0
REVENUE		0	0	0	0	0

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND		49.9	0			
FEDERAL FUNDS		0				
OTHER		0				
TOTAL		49.9	0	0	0	0

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME		1	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME		0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY		1	0	0	0	0

SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

General Fund

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for analysis

Prepared By: Ned Farquhar NF
Division: Commissioner's Office

Phone: 465-2400
Date: 3/30/84

Approved by Commissioner: William J. Smyth Deputy
Agency: Natural Resources

Date: 3/30/84

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

12/1/83

DNR ANALYSIS
FOR FISCAL NOTE CSSSSB 225

All costs are associated with the management plan for the area.

FY 85

100	Planner full-time for one year in Southcentral District Office	38.9 (Nat Res. Tech II)
	Drafting Tech for four months	3.5 (Drafting Tech III)
200	Travel for hearings, meetings	.5
300	Contractual for meetings	<u>2.0</u>
	TOTAL FY 85	49.9

FY 86

200	Travel for hearings, meetings	.5
300	Contractual for meetings, publication	<u>4.5</u>
	TOTAL FY 86	5.0
	TOTAL 1985-86	54.9

STATE OF ALASKA 1984 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: March 28, 1984

REQUEST

Bill/Resolution No.: CS SB 225
Title: An Act Creating the
Matanuska Valley Moose Range
Sponsor: Kerttula
Requestor: _____
Date of Request: _____

FISCAL DETAIL

Agency Affected: Department of Fish & Game
Program Category Affected: _____
Game and Habitat
BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: _____
Moose Management

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 84	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		0	0	0	0	0
CAPITAL						
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL						

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

SOURCE OF FUNDS TO OFFSET FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL:

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page for analysis

Prepared By: Beverly Reaume, Director Phone: 465-4120
Division: Administration Date: March 28, 1984

Approved by Commissioner: Beverly Reaume Date: 3-28-84
Agency: Fish and Game

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):

- Legislative Finance
- Legislative Sponsor
- Requestor
- Office of Management and Budget
- Impacted Agency(ies)

MATANUSKA VALLEY MOOSE RANGE PROPOSAL

MAY 19 1983

During the mid-1930's homesteaders began to arrive in the Matanuska Valley, and mature timberlands were cleared for agricultural fields. Much of the clearing was done by burning. Due to the lack of fire fighting personnel and equipment, the fires often became uncontrolled, razing thousands of acres. Most of the burned over land was allowed to revegetate naturally, and eventually reached a secondary successional stage (brush). The brush consisted of birch, aspen, willow and cottonwood - all ideal moose browse.

When homesteaders arrived the moose population was quite low. However, with the creation of a large and excellent moose range, the moose population began to increase. Good browse resulted in a healthy and rapidly expanding moose population, characterized by high calf crops and minimal winter mortality. The moose population increased dramatically through the 1950's and remained high in the 1960's.

During the 1960's and 70's, hundreds of acres of cleared farmlands were abandoned and grew into prime moose habitat. Thus, the high moose population was maintained through the 1970's with fluctuations associated with severe winters.

The current moose population remains very high, due to the recent mild winters. However, current land practices (aggressive fire suppression, and prevention of cleared lands from naturally revegetating) are eliminating new moose browse or are allowing current browse to mature into forestlands. With this reduction in moose habitat, the Matanuska Valley moose population will begin to decline.

The demand for huntable moose populations within short distances of human population centers is great, and it is increasing. In 1980, the Department of Natural Resources recognized this need and classified the majority of the Matanuska Valley north of the Glenn Highway and east of Palmer as Public Recreation/Wildlife Habitat Land. In 1980, the Matanuska - Susitna Borough enacted an ordinance zoning 30,000 acres of this area (designated the Moose Creek Reserve Special Use Area) to preserve public use and allow management for moose habitat. The Matanuska Valley Moose Range proposal encompasses approximately 130,000 acres including all of the Moose Creek Moose Reserve.

Moose are an extremely valuable renewable resource in Alaska, and tens of thousands of Alaskan hunters and wildlife viewers place them in high regard. During the 1982-83 hunting season over 47,000 hunters, the majority of whom reside in the Matanuska - Susitna or Anchorage Boroughs, obtained moose harvest tickets. Thousands more Alaskans enjoy viewing moose while hiking, fishing, hunting for other species, photographing, and other outdoor activities. Without the formation of the Matanuska Valley Moose Range and purposeful habitat management, the eventual loss of much of this valuable resource in the Matanuska Valley is highly probable.

Finally, it should be noted that the proposed recognition and classification of land in this area for the benefit of moose management does not preclude other uses of the state lands, as long as these uses are compatible with the primary function of the Moose Range.

FACT SHEET
CHICKALOON BENCH SUBDIVISION PROPOSAL
MATANUSKA MOOSE RANGE (CS SSSB 225)

In the Moose Range bill that passed the Senate and is now before the House Resources Committee, the proposed Chickaloon Bench subdivision is excised from the protected habitat area. The Administration supports the bill as it now reads, for the following reasons:

- The proposed 800-acre subdivision disposal has received interagency approval, including the support of the Department of Fish and Game.
- The Mat-Su Borough has approved the disposal, conditional upon the acquisition of a right-of-way (almost complete).
- The Department of Natural Resources, with these go-ahead signals, has spent almost \$400,000 on survey and right-of-way acquisition for the subdivision. This is about one-fourth of the budget for these items approved by the Legislature last year.
- The interagency Susitna Area Plan, now in preliminary draft, identifies settlement as the primary classification for the Chickaloon Bench area.
- The bill would protect a much larger area (about 130,000 acres) than is recommended in the draft Susitna Area Plan (42,000 acres). Some of this land is potential settlement land. The Chickaloon Bench land offering will help balance demands for settlement and habitat protection in the upper Matanuska Valley.
- The Department of Natural Resources has estimated that preventing the Chickaloon Bench disposal would cost the State about \$700,000 in lost revenues from land sales.
- The subdivision is in a relatively accessible area, only a few miles from the Glenn Highway. Alaskans have shown a steady demand for this type of land, and to meet these demands the Department of Natural Resources must provide a stable land offerings program with lands like Chickaloon Bench.
- The Administration does not see a need for construction of a major access route to the subdivision, which is a rural recreational offering of ten- to twenty-acre lots. The existing primitive access is adequate for foreseeable needs.

Please contact Ned Farquhar (465-2400) or Frank Mielke (276-2653) for more information.

