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STATE OF ALASKA 1985 LEGISLATIVE SESSION
FISCAL NOTE

Revision Date: _____

REQUEST House CS for
CSS8105
Bill/Resolution No.: Resources
Title: Palmer Hay Flats State
Game Refuge
Sponsor: Senator Kerttula
Requestor: _____
Date of Request: _____

FISCAL DETAIL
Agency Affected: _____
Program Category Affected: Operating
Budget
BRU, Program or Subprogram(s) Affected: _____

EXPENDITURES/REVENUES: (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY 85	FY 86	FY 87	FY 88	FY 89	FY 90
OPERATING						
100 PERSONAL SERVICES						
200 TRAVEL						
300 CONTRACTUAL						
400 SUPPLIES						
500 EQUIPMENT						
600 LAND & STRUCTURES						
700 GRANTS, CLAIMS						
800 MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING		-0-				
CAPITAL		-0-				
REVENUE						

FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND						
FEDERAL FUNDS						
OTHER						
TOTAL		-0-				

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME						
PART-TIME						
TEMPORARY						

ANALYSIS: Attach a separate page if necessary

No additional costs will be specifically incurred as a result of this bill.

Prepared By: Bruce Baker ^{Kt for} Phone: _____
Division: Habitat Division Date: 5/8/85
Approved by Commissioner: [Signature] Date: 5-8-85
Agency: Alaska Department of Fish and Game

Distribution (by Agency preparing fiscal note):
Legislative Finance
Legislative Sponsor
Requestor
Office of Management and Budget
Impacted Agency(ies)

7/1/84

May 8, 1985

Palmer Hay Flats State Game RefugeLand Acquisition SB105

Private lands within the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge could be exchanged for state lands in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough or purchased with funds provided through various sources, including but not limited to, the state's waterfowl stamp program, Federal Pittman-Robertson wildlife aid program, private donations, and conservation foundations.

Original sponsor: Kerttula

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2 HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 105 (Resources)

3 IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4 FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5 A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game
7 Refuge; and providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. The legislature determines that wetlands important to the
10 protection of waterfowl and salmon in the Spring Creek area lie outside of
11 the boundaries of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. The Spring Creek
12 area also provides one of the major public access points to the hay flats
13 although the land is privately owned. The legislature therefore determines
14 that it is in the public interest to protect the Spring Creek wetlands
15 through extension of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge under this Act.

16 * Sec. 2. AS 16.20.032(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) The following state-owned land and water is established as
18 the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge:

19 (1) Township 16 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

20 Sections 1 - 12 [INCLUSIVE]

21 Section 13: N1/2

22 Sections 14 - 18 [INCLUSIVE]

23 (2) Township 17 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

24 Section 25 [: ALL]

25 Section 26: S1/2, S1/2N1/2, N1/2NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4

26 Section 27: S1/2, SE1/4NE1/4

27 Section 31: Lot 4, SE1/4, E1/2SW1/4, SE1/4NE1/4,
28 S1/2SW1/4NE1/4

29 Section 32: S1/2, S1/2NE1/4, NE1/4NE1/4,

SE1/4NW1/4

Sections 33 - 36

[SECTION 33: ALL

SECTION 34: ALL

SECTION 35: ALL

SECTION 36: ALL]

(3) Township 17 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

Section 19: Lots 3 and 4, E1/2SW1/4, S1/2SE1/4

Section 22:

excluding NW1/4NW1/4

excluding N1/2NE1/4NW1/4

excluding NE1/4NE1/4NE1/4

Section 25: Lots 1 - 6, NW1/4, N1/2NE1/4, N1/2-SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4

Section 26: SE1/4NE1/4, S1/2

Section 27: Lot 1, N1/2, N1/2S1/2, SE1/4SW1/4, S1/2SE1/4

Section 28: Lots 1 - 2, N1/2SE1/4, SW1/4SE1/4, S1/2SW1/4

Section 30: Lots 1 - 4, E1/2, E1/2W1/2

Section 31: Lots 1 - 10, NE1/4NW1/4, SW1/4NE1/4, N1/2NE1/4 [LOTS 5, 7, 8, 9, 10]

Section 32: Lots 3 - 7, NE1/4, SW1/4SW1/4, NE1/4-SE1/4

Section 33: Lots 5 - 9, S1/2SE1/4, SW1/4NW1/4, including all state tide and submerged land

Section 34: Lots 1 - 3, E1/2NW1/4, SW1/4, E1/2

Section 35: Lots 1 - 5, NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4, SW1/4-SW1/4, N1/2NE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4, NW1/4SE1/4

1 Section 36: Lots 1 - 10, SE1/4SW1/4, S1/2SE1/4,
2 NE1/4SE1/4

3 (4) Township 16 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

4 Sections 4 - 9

5 [SECTION 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9: ALL]

6 Section 17: N1/2

7 Section 18: N1/2

8 All state tide and submerged land

9 (5) Township 16 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

10 Section 2: Portion lying west of the Alaska
11 Railroad

12 Section 3: Lot 1, excluding portions lying east
13 of the Alaska Railroad centerline, Lots, 2, 3,
14 4, 5, 6, NW1/4, NW1/4, NE1/4

15 Section 10: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and portions
16 lying west of the Alaska Railroad

17 Section 15: All state land lying north of the
18 south bank of the Knik River and west of the
19 Alaska Railroad

20 Section 16: All state land lying north of the
21 south bank of the Knik River

22 * Sec. 3. AS 16.20.032 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

23 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of (a) of this section, the
24 land described in this subsection is excluded from the Palmer Hay
25 Flats State Game Refuge established under (a) of this section for the
26 establishment of a transportation and utility corridor. Land within
27 the transportation and utility corridor that is determined by the
28 commissioner of transportation and public facilities to be unnecessary
29 for future transportation or utility corridors becomes a part of the

Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. The commissioner of transportation and public facilities is directed to provide access to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge during future development of state highways in the area. The land that is excluded from the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge under this subsection is described as

Township 17 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

Section 22: SE1/4NW1/4, W1/2NE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4, S1/2-NE1/4NE1/4, NW1/4NE1/4NE1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, W1/2SE1/4

Sections 27 and 34: a corridor 300 feet on either side of the existing highway centerline

* Sec. 4. The commissioner of natural resources shall include land acquired from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge established under AS 16.20.032.

* Sec. 5. (a) The commissioner of natural resources may exchange state land located within the Matanuska-Susitna borough for privately owned land determined desirable for inclusion in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. The commissioner of natural resources may also offer to purchase at fair market value from willing sellers privately owned land determined desirable for inclusion in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

(b) An offer made by the commissioner of natural resources under this section for a purchase or exchange that remains unaccepted for two years after tender is withdrawn.

(c) An exchange or purchase authorized under (a) of this section shall be accomplished under AS 38.05 or AS 38.50.

(d) The commissioner of natural resources shall include land acquired under this section in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge established under AS 16.20.032.

* Sec. 6. The addition of land to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge under secs. 2 and 4 - 5 of this Act may not be an occasion for the

1 delay in or prohibition of the expansion or improvement of the Glenn
2 Highway, the Parks Highway, or the Wasilla Bypass, or the construction of
3 the interchange at the Parks and the Glenn Highways, nor may it restrict
4 the present or future use of land retained by an owner of land under sec. 5
5 of this Act.

6 * Sec. 7. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
7 10.070(c).

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Bradley
5/7/85✓

Original sponsor: Kerttula

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IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 105 (Resources)

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

A BILL

For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge; and providing for an effective date."

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

* Section 1. The legislature determines that wetlands important to the protection of waterfowl and salmon in the Spring Creek area lie outside of the boundaries of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. The Spring Creek area also provides one of the major public access points to the hay flats although the land is privately owned. The legislature therefore determines that it is in the public interest to protect the Spring Creek wetlands through extension of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge under this Act.

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(a) The following state-owned land and water is established as the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge:

(1) Township 16 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

Sections 1 - 12 inclusive

Section 13: N1/2

Sections 14 - 18 inclusive

(2) Township 17 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

Section 25: All

Section 26: S1/2, S1/2N1/2, N1/2NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4

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Section 32: S1/2, S1/2NE1/4, NE1/4NE1/4,

1 SE1/4NW1/4

2 Section 33: All

3 Section 34: All

4 Section 35: All

5 Section 36: All

6 (3) Township 17 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

7 Section 19: Lots 3 and 4, E1/2SW1/4, S1/2SE1/4

8 Section 22:

9 excluding NW1/4NW1/4

10 excluding N1/2NE1/4NW1/4

11 excluding NE1/4NE1/4NE1/4

12 Section 25: Lots 1 - 6, NW1/4, N1/2NE1/4, N1/2-
13 SW1/4, SW1/4SW1/4

14 Section 26: SE1/4NE1/4, S1/2

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16 S1/2SE1/4

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21 N1/2NE1/4 [LOTS 5, 7, 8, 9, 10]

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23 SE1/4

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25 including all state tide and submerged land

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27 Section 35: Lots 1 - 5, NW1/4, N1/2SW1/4, SW1/4-
28 SW1/4, N1/2NE1/4, SW1/4NE1/4, NW1/4SE1/4

29 Section 36: Lots 1 - 10, SE1/4SW1/4, S1/2SE1/4,

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NE1/4SE1/4

(4) Township 16 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

Section 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9: All

Section 17: N1/2

Section 18: N1/2

All state tide and submerged land

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Section 10: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and portions
lying west of the Alaska Railroad

Section 15: All state land lying north of the
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1 Hay Flats State Game Refuge during future development of state
2 highways in the area. The land that is excluded from the Palmer Hay
3 Flats State Game Refuge under this subsection is described as

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5 Section 22: SE1/4NW1/4, W1/2NE1/4, SE1/4NE1/4, S1/2-
6 NE1/4NE1/4, NW1/4NE1/4NE1/4, NE1/4SW1/4, W1/2SE1/4

7 Sections 27 and 34: a corridor 300 feet on either side
8 of the existing highway centerline

9 * Sec. 4. The commissioner of natural resources shall include land
10 acquired from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the Palmer Hay Flats State
11 Game Refuge established under AS 16.20.032.

12 * Sec. 5. (a) The commissioner of natural resources ^{MAY Exchange} ~~(may) dispose~~ of
13 state land located within the Matanuska-Susitna borough ~~in exchange~~ for
14 privately owned land determined desirable for inclusion in the Palmer Hay
15 Flats State Game Refuge. The commissioner of natural resources may also
16 offer to purchase at fair market value from willing sellers privately owned
17 land determined desirable for inclusion in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game
18 Refuge.

19 (b) An offer made by the commissioner of natural resources under this
20 section for a purchase or exchange that remains unaccepted for two years
21 after tender is withdrawn.

22 (c) An exchange or purchase authorized under (a) of this section
23 shall be accomplished under AS 38.05 or AS 38.50.

24 (d) The commissioner of natural resources shall include land acquired
25 under this section in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge established
26 under AS 16.20.032.

27 * Sec. 6. The addition of land to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game
28 Refuge under secs. 2 and 4 - 5 of this Act may not be an occasion for the
29 delay in or prohibition of the expansion or improvement of the Glenn

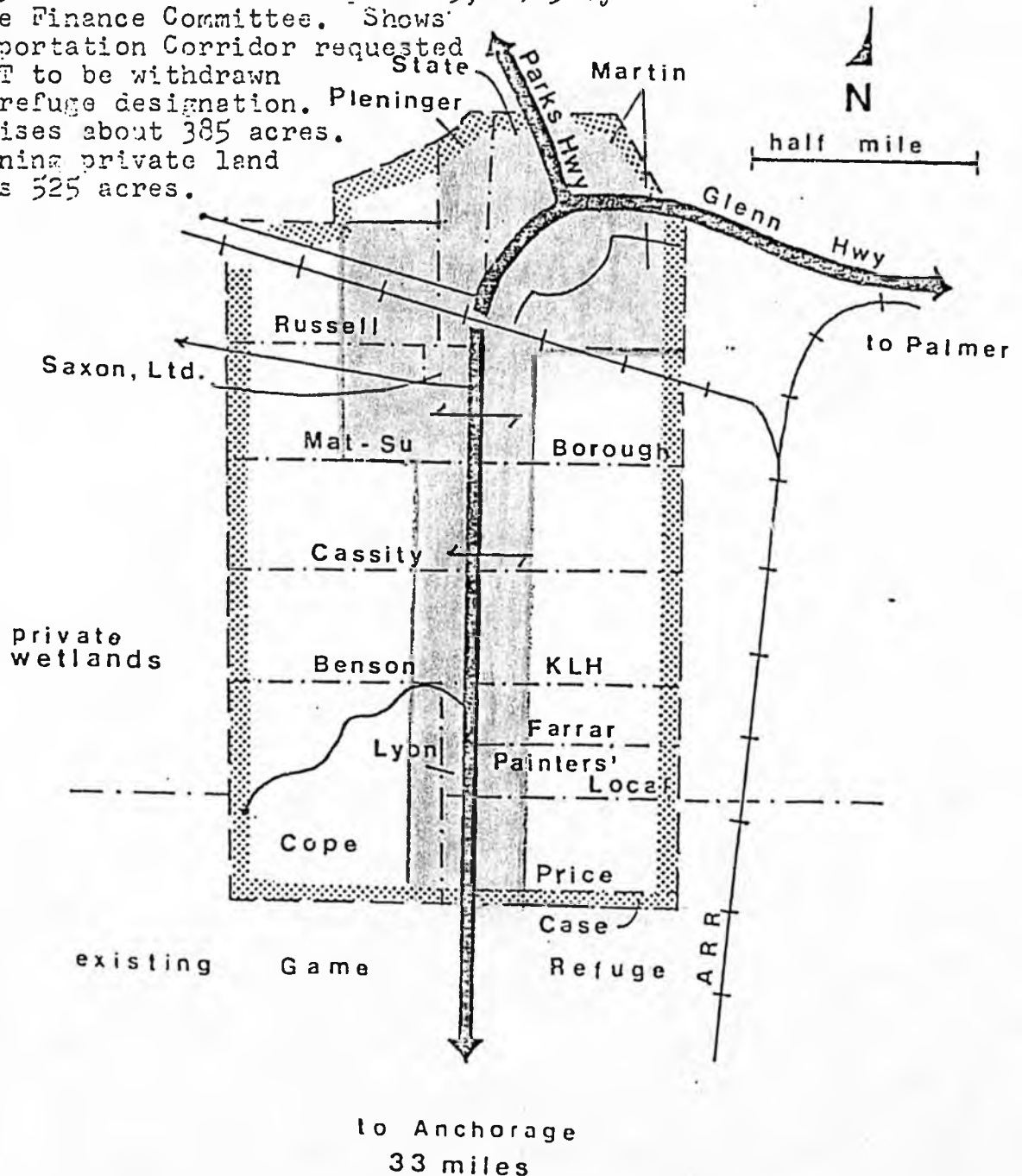
1 Highway, the Parks Highway, or the Wasilla Bypass, or the construction of
2 the interchange at the Parks and the Glenn Highways, nor may it restrict
3 the present or future use of land retained by an owner of land under sec. 5
4 of this Act.

5 * Sec. 7. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
6 10.070(c).
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Proposed extension of Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge

Fig.1 Land owners

SB 105 Amendment adopted April 25, 1985 by Senate Finance Committee. Shows Transportation Corridor requested by DOT to be withdrawn from refuge designation. Comprises about 385 acres. Remaining private land totals 525 acres.



PALMER HAY FLATS
A PROPOSAL TO EXTEND THE GAME REFUGE

BY
MICHAEL BRONSON
FOR
SEN. J. KERTTULA

NOVEMBER 30, 1984

PALMER HAY FLATS

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FIGURES	
ADDENDA	

ABSTRACT

THE LEGISLATURE IS REQUESTED TO EXTEND THE PALMER HAY FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE TO TAKE IN 916 ACRES OF WETLANDS ALONG THE GLENN HIGHWAY BY PURCHASE FROM WILLING SELLERS.

PARTS OF THIS OPEN AREA NEAR THE JUNCTION OF THE PARKS AND GLENN HIGHWAY ARE SCHEDULED FOR PRIVATE COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT. CURRENTLY, SEVERAL LAND OWNERS ARE CONSIDERING FILLING THE MARSHES FOR A TRUCK CARGO TRANSFER YARD, A RETAIL STORE BUILDING, A GRAVEL AIRSTRIP AND A 30-ACRE CAMPER PARK. SUCH USES, HOWEVER, WOULD REDUCE FISH AND GAME POPULATIONS AND PUBLIC ACCESS IN AS PRODUCTIVE AN AREA AS PARTS OF THE ADJACENT STATE GAME REFUGE.

THE WETLANDS OF THE PROPOSED EXTENSION ARE MOST VALUABLE TO THE PEOPLE OF ANCHORAGE AND THE MAT-SU BOROUGH JUST AS THEY ARE. THE CREEKS THROUGHOUT THE AREA ARE MAJOR FRY REARING GROUNDS FOR SILVER SALMON. RABBIT SLOUGH NEAR WASILLA CREEK GETS UP TO 6,000 FISHERMAN-DAYS OF USE PER YEAR. HUNTERS GAIN ACCESS TO THE REFUGE ACROSS PRIVATE LAND THERE AT THE RATE OF ABOUT 2,000 USER-DAYS PER YEAR. SMALL GAME IS HARVESTED BY HUNTERS AND TRAPPERS. MOOSE WINTER AND CALVE IN THE AREA, AND LARGE BIRDS OF PREY ARE COMMON YEAR ROUND.

VARIOUS GROUPS HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN KEEPING THE HAY FLATS OPEN FOR ESTABLISHED OUTDOOR USES. AMONG THEM ARE THE AD HOC COMMITTEE FOR THE PALMER HAY FLATS, MAT-SU CHAPTER OF DUCKS UNLIMITED, MAT-SU CHAPTER OF ALASKA FUR TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION, ANCHORAGE AUDUBON SOCIETY, AND THE ALASKA CENTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT. THE MAT-SU BOROUGH, ALASKA STATE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, AND DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME HAVE ALSO SHOWN SUPPORT OF STATE ACQUISITION OF THE AREA FROM WILLING SELLERS.

THE MINIMUM COSTS OF THE EXTENSION WOULD EQUAL \$535,000 (I.E. 1984 ASSESSED VALUATION) PLUS APPRAISAL FEES AND STAFF TIME. PRIVATE OWNERS IN THE AREA HOLD 786 ACRES ASSESSED AT \$470,300. THE MAT-SU BOROUGH OWNS 130 ACRES VALUED AT \$65,000. MANY OF THE 13 PRIVATE OWNERS ARE INTERESTED IN SELLING OR TRADING THEIR LAND. CURRENTLY, NO HOMES OR BUSINESSES EXIST IN THE PROPOSED EXTENSION.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

THIS LEGISLATION WOULD EXTEND THE PALMER HAY FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE ALONG THE GLENN HIGHWAY TO TAKE IN AN ADDITIONAL 916 ACRES OF WETLANDS.

THE LEGISLATION WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY THE FOLLOWING MEANS:

- DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO OFFER FAIR MARKET VALUE TO WILLING SELLERS AMONG THIRTEEN OWNERS OF 786 ACRES. OFFERS UNACCEPTED TWO YEARS AFTER THEY ARE TENDERED WILL BE WITHDRAWN. (TABLES 1 AND 2)
- DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO OFFER STATE LAND IN TRADE FOR 130 ACRES OWNED BY THE MAT-SU BOROUGH. TRADES WOULD BE ON A DOLLAR-FOR-DOLLAR BASIS AND INVOLVE STATE LAND WITHIN THE MAT-SU BOROUGH.
- APPROPRIATE AT LEAST \$500,000 TO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR PURCHASES, APPRAISALS, AND SURVEYS. PARCELS SHOWN IN FIG. 1.
- TO PROTECT RESIDENTS ON THE BLUFF OVERLOOKING THE AREA, DISCHARGE OF FIREARMS NORTH OF THE RAILROAD TRACK IN THE PROPOSED EXTENSION WOULD BE DISALLOWED.
- THE ACQUIRED LAND WOULD BE MANAGED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME AS PART OF THE PALMER HAY FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE. SEE FIG. 2.

TABLE 1. LAND PARCELS IN PROPOSED GAME REFUGE EXTENSION

<u>R1ET17N</u> <u>PARCEL</u>	<u>OWNER</u>	<u>ACRES</u>		<u>ASSESSED</u>
		<u>ON HAY FLATS</u>	<u>ON BLUFF</u>	
22 A2	Stanley Planinger	16		\$ 8,100
22 A3	Lucille Martin	20	7	90,000
22 A4	c/o Bonnie McGee	38		19,000
22 B1	Jay Russell	100	8	54,000*
22 C1	Saxon Land Invest.	9		37,000
22 D1	Yvonne Cassity	151		75,500
27 A5	Painter's Local	34		17,000
27 A6	Ray Farrar	33.4		16,700
27 A9	Don Lyon	3		1,400
27 A10	KLH, Inc.	65		33,000
27 A11	Don Benson	86		42,000
27 B1	Glen Cope Estate	160		48,000
27 D2	Georgine Case	17.3		8,600
27 D3		0.3		100
27 D4	Tom Price	2		500
27 D5		51		18,400
	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>786</u>		<u>\$470,300</u>
22 C2	Mat-Su Borough	82		
		<u>48</u>		
	<u>Subtotal</u>	<u>130</u>		<u>\$65,000</u>
	TOTAL	916 ACRES		\$535,300

* Assessed value is land only; does not include SFD improvements on bluff portion of parcel

TABLE 2. PROPERTY OWNERS IN PROPOSED EXTENSION

<u>NAME AND ADDRESS</u>	<u>NOTES ON PROPERTY</u>
DONALD BENSON PO BOX 1330 PALMER AK 99645	HAS PERMIT FOR AIRSTRIP
GEORGINE CASE 2153 MANTZ STREET ASHLAND KENTUCKY 41101	UNDEVELOPED
YVONNE CASSITY 211 WEST COOK ANCHORAGE AK 99501	WAS INTERESTED IN DISCUSSING LAND TRADE WITH BOROUGH; TALKED TO MSB LAND MANAGER
GLEN COPE ESTATE C/O PO BOX 582 PALMER AK 99645	IN PROBATE; PUBLIC ACCESS FOR 8,000 ANNUAL USER-DAYS; ORAL EXPRESSION OF TRADE INTEREST BY HEIRS
RAY FARRAR 2508 STANLEY DRIVE ANCHORAGE AK 99502	ILLEGAL FILL FOR DEFUNCT SUBDIVISION
KLH, INC. PO BOX 858 PALMER AK 99645	UNDEVELOPED
DON LYON PO BOX 1525 EAGLE RIVER AK 99577	NEAR HIGHWAY PULL-OUT; ORAL EXPRESSION OF INTEREST IN BOROUGH TRADE
LUCILLE MARTIN C/O BONNIE MCGEE 4812 SUNDI DRIVE ANCHORAGE AK 99502	SWAMP AND CREEK AT JUNCTION OF PARKS AND GLENN HIGHWAY. PURCHASE WOULD REQUIRE LOT SPLIT
MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH BOX B PALMER AK 99645	UNDEVELOPED; ROAD AND RAILROAD FRONTAGE
PAINTER'S LOCAL 1818 W, NORTHERN LIGHTS ANCHORAGE AK 99503	UNDEVELOPED
STANLEY PLENINGER 4159 HOOD STREET ANCHORAGE AK 99503	POSSIBLE TRUCK YARD ON SPRING CREEK AT HIGHWAY

NAME AND ADDRESSNOTES ON PROPERTY

TOM PRICE
SRA 375-C
ANCHORAGE AK

APPLIED TO ARMY CORPS ENGINEERS
TO FILL FOR 30-ACRE CAMPER
PARK; CONTACTED BOROUGH ABOUT
INTEREST IN LAND TRADE

JAY RUSSELL
BOX 870792
WASILLA AK 99687

NORTHERN CORNER OF PARCEL ON
BLUFF CONTAINS RESIDENCE;
MOST OF PARCEL IS ON SPRING CR.;
PURCHASE WOULD REQUIRE LOT SPLIT

SAXON LAND INVESTMENTS, LTD.
106 SOUTH MENTOR
PASADENA CALIF 91106

PLAN TO FILL SEVERAL "NON-WETLANDS"
ACRES NEAR HIGHWAY FOR RETAIL
BLDGS

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

HISTORY OF PROTECTION

- 1967 BOROUGH ZONES MOST OF PALMER HAY FLATS AS "RECREATIONAL."
- 1974 BOROUGH DENIES CHUGACH ELECTRIC ASSOCIATION TRANSMISSION LINE ACROSS FLATS FOLLOWING PUBLIC OBJECTIONS TO LINE.
- 1975 PALMER HAY FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE CREATED ON 26 SQUARE MILES OF STATE LAND (FIG. 2)
- 1983 PUBLICITY BEGINS OVER PLANS TO FILL IN PRIVATE WETLANDS.
- 1984
- JANUARY BOROUGH NOMINATES PALMER HAY FLATS AS "AREA MERITING SPECIAL ATTENTION" UNDER NEW COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PLAN.
- MARCH PLANNING COMMISSION REFUSES TO ZONE MORE PRIVATE LAND ON PALMER HAY FLATS TO HALT COMMERCIAL USES.
- APRIL BOROUGH OFFERS TO TRADE FOR LAND ON HAY FLATS. MOST OWNERS EXPRESS INTEREST AT MEETING.
- APRIL TO SEPT. EIGHT OWNERS OF LAND ON HAY FLATS INQUIRE WITH BOROUGH ABOUT TRADES (TABLE 3); NO TRADES COMPLETED.
- JULY REX TURNER WITHDRAWS APPLICATION FOR FLOAT PLANE BASIN ON HAY FLATS IN FACE OF OPPOSITION IN BOROUGH.
- SEPT. 14 SENATOR KERTTULA SUGGESTS STATE ACQUIRE "PRIORITY" WETLANDS FROM WILLING SELLERS DURING MEETING WITH CITIZENS GROUP.
- SEPT. 17 DNR STAFF SUPPORTS PUBLIC ACQUISITION FROM WILLING SELLERS.
- SEPT. 18 BOROUGH ASSEMBLY WITHDRAWS OFFER TO TRADE.

TABLE 3. OWNERS INQUIRING WITH MAT-SU BOROUGH ABOUT
LAND EXCHANGES ON PALMER HAY FLATS

TERRY BEAL FOR F. BEAL

JERRY BROWN

YVONNE CASSITY

DON MCGEE FOR L. MARTIN

TOM PRICE

KAREN ROUSEY

CAROL STRAUN

JANET STOUT

VALUE OF PROPOSED EXTENSION TO PUBLIC

THE PRIVATE WETLANDS NEAR SPRING CREEK AND RABBIT SLOUGH ARE PRODUCTIVE IN FISH AND GAME, AND SUSTAIN HIGH LEVELS OF USES INCOMPATIBLE WITH COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

HUNTING AND FISHING

RABBIT SLOUGH GETS UP TO 6,000 FISHERMAN-DAYS PER YEAR (FIG. 3, TABLE 3). MOST OF THIS USE IS ANGLERS FROM ANCHORAGE AND VALLEY FISHING WITH PERMISSION ON PRIVATE LAND FOR SILVER SALMON AND DOLLY VARDEN TROUT (ADF&G ANNUAL REPORT, 1977-1983). IN ADDITION, RABBIT SLOUGH IS AN ACCESS ROUTE TO THE GAME REFUGE FOR DUCK HUNTERS AT THE RATE OF ABOUT 2,000 USER-DAYS PER YEAR (JACK DIDRICKSON, PALMER AREA GAME BIOLOGIST, ADF&G, PERSONAL COMMUNICATION).

THE PROPOSED EXTENSION AND ADJACENT PRIVATE LANDS ALSO CONTAIN PRODUCTIVE SMALL GAME HABITAT. WHEN SNOWSHOE HARES ARE ABUNDANT, AS IN 1983 AND 1984, THE AREA IS INTENSIVELY HUNTED (PERSONAL OBSERVATION). MOREOVER, SOME 50 PEOPLE TRAP FURBEARERS ON THE PALMER HAY FLATS (JIM RIESE, PRES., MAT-SU CHAPTER, ALASKA FUR TRAPPERS ASSOC.). AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF THESE PERSONS TRAP PARTS OF THE PROPOSED GAME REFUGE EXTENSION. MOST OF THEM ARE TRESPASSING.

SALMON REARING

SPRING CREEK AND RABBIT SLOUGH ARE MAJOR REARING AREAS FOR SILVER SALMON FRY. TRAPPING DATA INDICATE LARGE NUMBERS OF YOUNG SALMON THROUGHOUT THE PROPOSED EXTENSION (TABLE 4 AND UNPUBLISHED DATA ADF&G, PALMER). SOME EGGS ARE SPAWNED THERE, BUT MOST FRY PROBABLY MIGRATE TO THE AREA FROM WASILLA CREEK AND THE MATANUSKA RIVER (LARRY ENGELS, PALMER AREA FISHERIES BIOLOGIST, PERSONAL COMMUNICATION). FRESHWATER SLOUGHS AND MARSHES ARE CRITICAL TO SILVER SALMON POPULATIONS BECAUSE THE FISH SPEND ABOUT HALF THEIR LIVES IN SUCH HABITAT.

AESTHETICS

NON-CONSUMPTIVE PUBLIC USE IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT ON THESE PRIVATE WETLANDS NORTH OF THE REFUGE. SEVERAL DOZEN BIRD WATCHERS FREQUENT THE SPRING CREEK AREA ANNUALLY (THEDE TOBISH, PRES., ANCHORAGE AUDUBON SOCIETY, PERSONAL COMMUNICATION). LARGE HAWKS AND OWLS ARE COMMON THERE YEAR ROUND, AND WATERBIRDS ARE NUMEROUS DURING MIGRATION.

TRAVELERS APPRECIATE THE AREA'S OPEN SPACE AS WELL. ON AN AVERAGE DAY, 10,000 VEHICLES CROSS THE PALMER HAY FLATS ON THE GLENN HIGHWAY. NO HOMES OR BUSINESSES EXIST ON THE PRIVATE LANDS AND THE AREA IS INDISTINGUISHABLE FROM THE ADJOINING GAME REFUGE. AS TWO MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH ASSEMBLY NOTED, THE HAY FLATS IS THE "GATEWAY TO THE MATANUSKA VALLEY" AND THE LAST REMAINING BUFFER ZONE BETWEEN THE VALLEY AND ANCHORAGE.

TABLE 4. FISHING ON RABBIT SLOUGH (ADF&G ANNUAL REPORTS)

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1978</u>	<u>1979</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>
FISHING-DAYS	2805	3446	4024	5726	4019	6261	3239
NO. SILVER SALMON	472	2112	1211	3555	814	1624	345
NO. DOLLY VARDEN	328	325	364	189	690	1289	1290

PLANS TO FILL WETLANDS

DURING THE PAST YEAR, FOUR LAND OWNERS EXPRESSED PLANS TO FILL IN AREAS ALONG THE GLENN HIGHWAY ON THE PALMER HAY FLATS. SEE FIG. 4.

THOMAS PRICE OF ANCHORAGE APPLIED TO THE U. S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS TO FILL IN 30 ACRES OF WETLANDS ALONG RABBIT SLOUGH FOR A CAMPER PARK.

DONALD BENSON OF PALMER HAS AN ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS PERMIT TO CONSTRUCT A HALF-MILE LONG GRAVEL AIRSTRIP EXTENDING WESTWARD FROM THE GLENN HIGHWAY. THE FILL WOULD SUPPORT SHOP BUILDINGS AND A PARKING LOT NEAR THE HIGHWAY.

SAXON LAND INVESTMENTS, LTD., A HOLDING COMPANY ASSOCIATED WITH TURNER CONSTRUCTION CO. OF EAGLE RIVER, HAS PUBLICIZED PLANS TO FILL PARTS OF A NINE-ACRE PARCEL ADJACENT TO THE HIGHWAY FOR RETAIL BUILDING. THE ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS EARLIER DENIED PERMISSION TO FILL IN THE WETLANDS PORTION OF THIS SITE.

THE MAT-SU BOROUGH PLANNING STAFF SAYS IT WAS APPROACHED REGARDING THE PROPERTY OF STANLEY PLENINGER ON SPRING CREEK. AN AGENT WAS INVESTIGATING THE FEASIBILITY OF A CARGO TRANSFER YARD THERE. NO APPLICATIONS FOR WETLANDS FILL HAVE BEEN SUBMITTED SO FAR, HOWEVER.

Proposed extension of Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge

Fig.1 Land owners

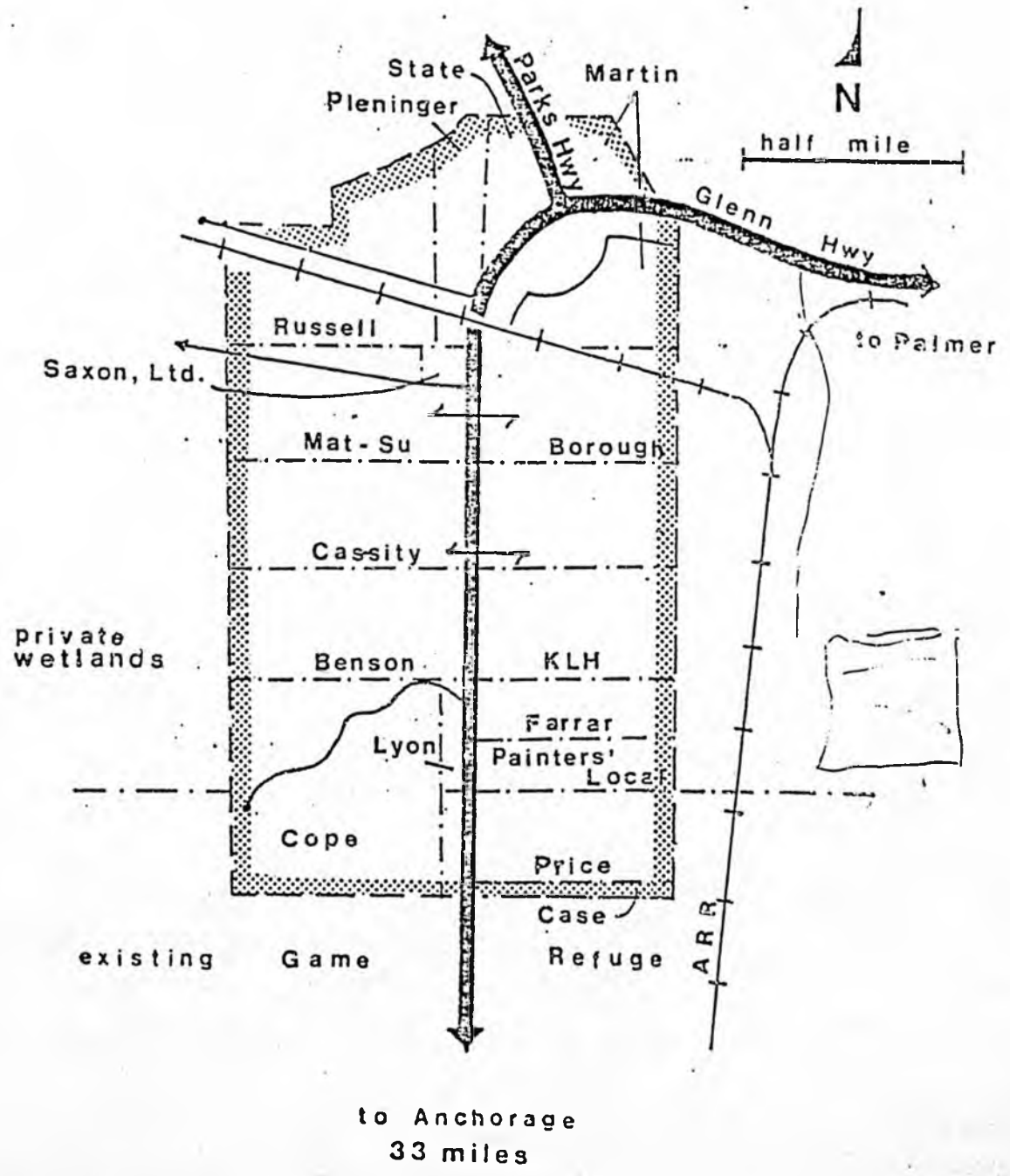
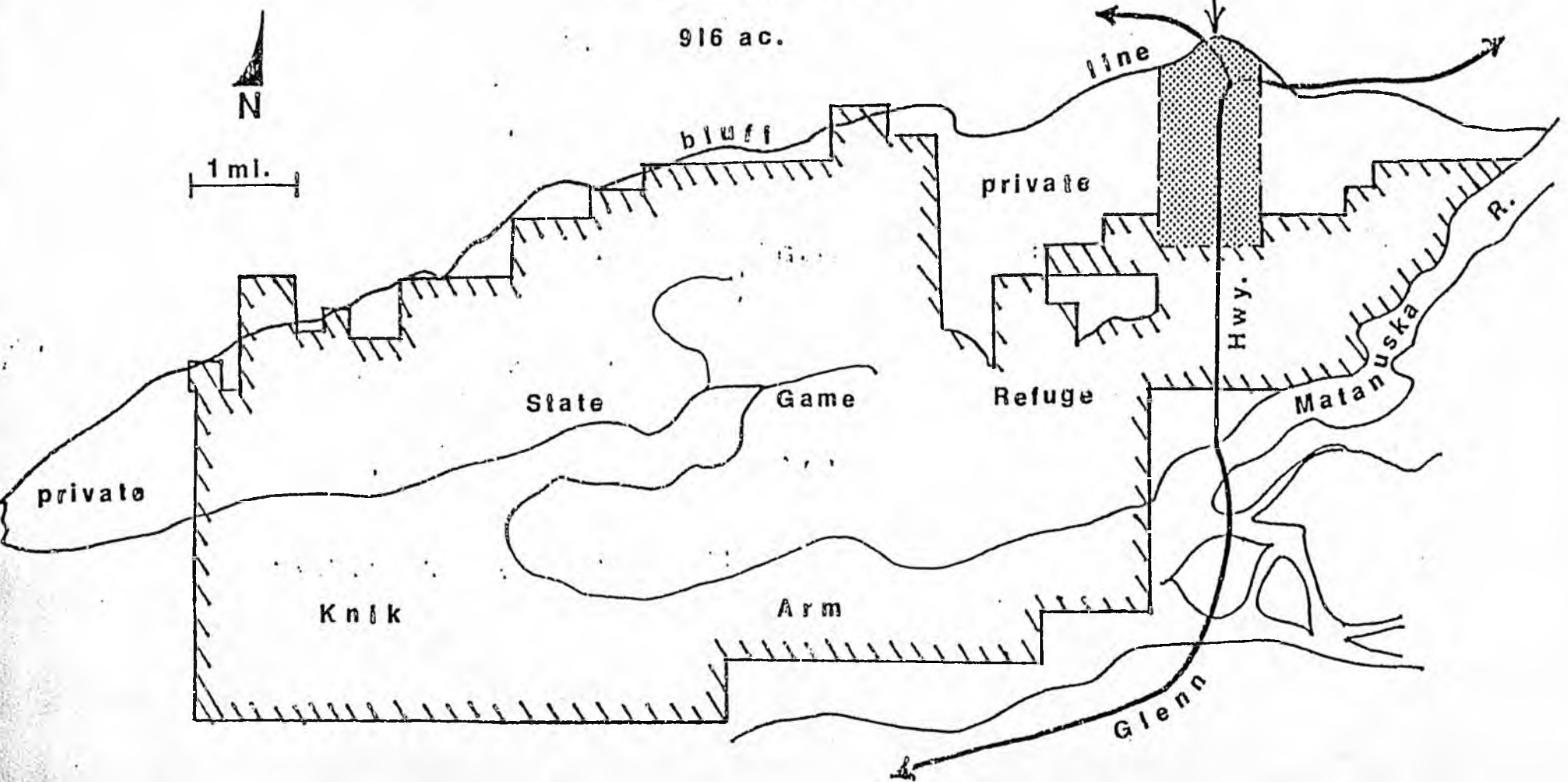


Fig. 2 Palmer Hay Flats

*San Juan River Plan
Glenn Highway Section
Map sec. 26*

Proposed extension of
State Game Refuge
916 ac.

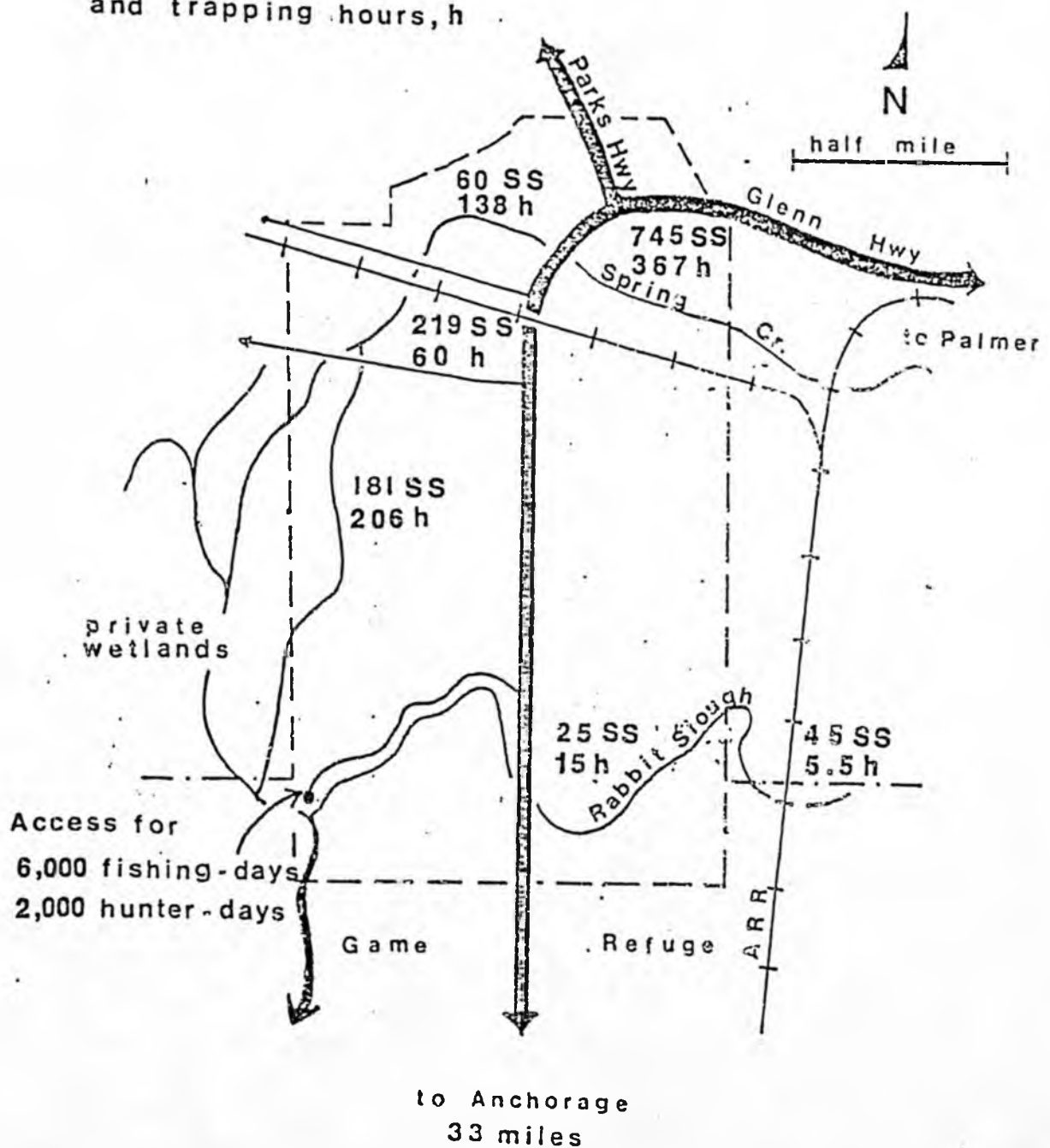


Proposed extension of Palmer

Hay Flats State Game Refuge

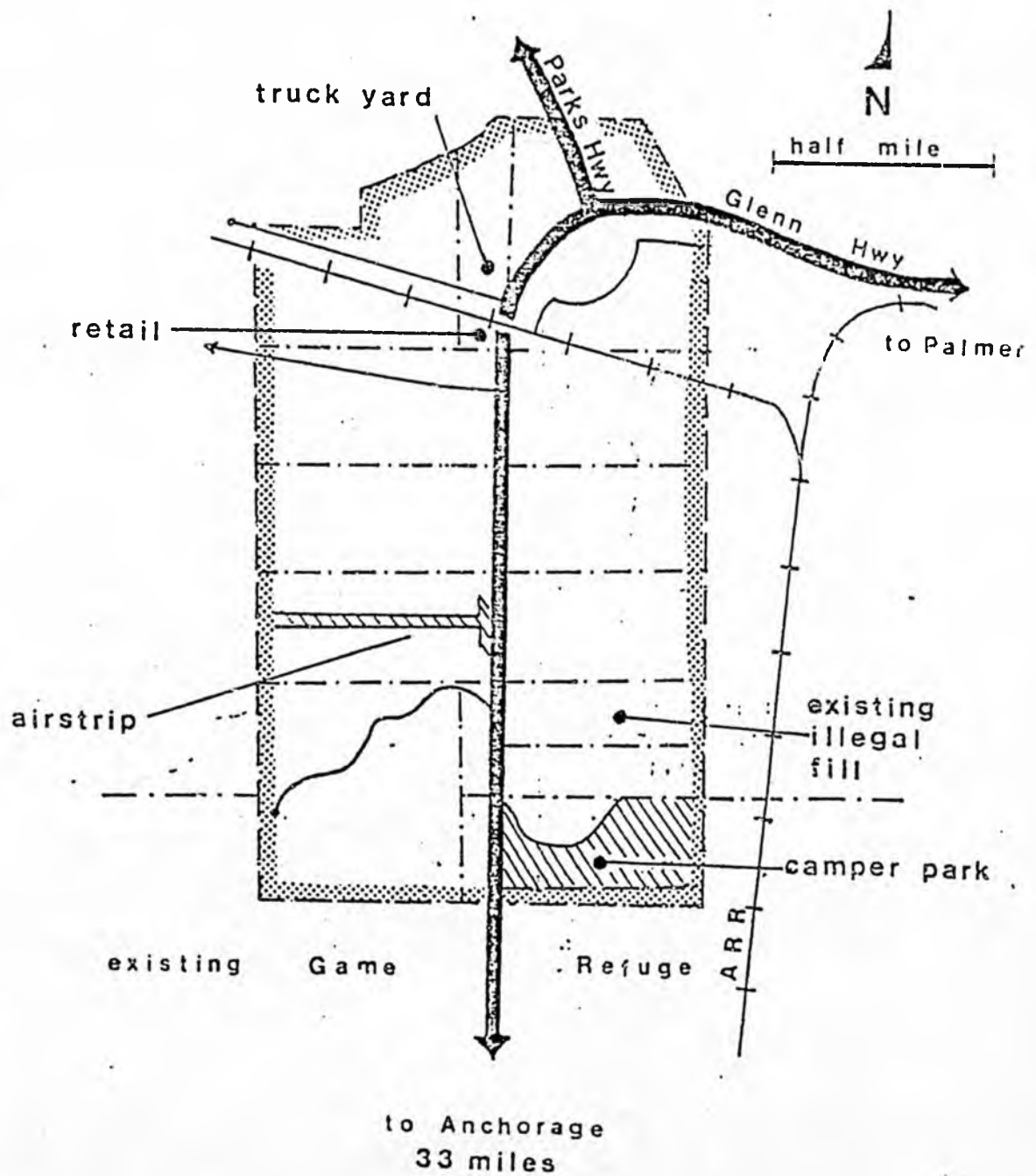
LIVE-TRAPPING DATA FROM STREAMS

Fig. 3 Silver salmon fry, SS,
and trapping hours, h



Proposed extension of Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge

Fig.4. Fill proposals



MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 85- 12

A RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH SUPPORTING THE EXTENSION OF THE PALMER HAY FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE AND THE INCLUSION WITHIN THE EXTENSION OF APPROXIMATELY 130 ACRES OF BOROUGH LAND

WHEREAS, the Palmer Hay Flats is the gateway to the Matanuska-Susitna Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Hay Flats is currently the home of many species of wildlife and is important to the fishery resources; and

WHEREAS, most of the land proposed for the extension of the Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge is wet and unsuitable for development; and

WHEREAS, this area receives intense recreational use throughout the year; and

WHEREAS, the State is in the process of trying to obtain funds to buy private property adjacent to the Flats in order to extend the refuge; and

WHEREAS, the Assembly supports the extension of the refuge to ensure the open natural character of the land will remain as the gateway to the Borough.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that if the State can obtain funds to buy private properties to extend the Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge, the Borough will include, under State management, the 130 acres that

have been selected and conveyed to the Borough lying adjacent to the
Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge.

Dorothy A. Jones
Dorothy Jones/
Deputy Mayor

ATTEST:

Judy Gilbert for
Chris Seagraves, Clerk

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:

Gary Thurlow
Gary Thurlow, Manager

MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH

FEB 8 1985

BILL ANALYSIS

Bill No. <u>SB 105</u>	Sponsor <u>Kerttula</u>
Borough Position <u>Support</u>	Borough Contact Person <u>Rob Stickle</u>

Similar Bills <u>None</u>	Conflicting Bills <u>None</u>
Organizational Support <u>ADF&G</u> <u>Local Groups</u>	Organizational Opposition <u>Unknown</u>

Fiscal Impact On Borough		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Operating _____	Capital _____		

Proposed Amendments:
NONE

Comments:

The Assembly passed a resolution that will allow for the donation of 135 acres of Borough land to the expanded Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge if this legislation passes. Copy of resolution attached.

ORIGINAL LICENSE

PALMER HAY FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE

AS 16.20.032 (a) The following state-owned lands and waters are established as the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge:

- (1) Township 16 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian
Section 1 — 12 inclusive
Section 13: N $\frac{1}{2}$
Section 14 — 18 inclusive
- (2) Township 17 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian
Section 25: All
Section 26: S $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ N $\frac{1}{2}$, N $\frac{1}{2}$
NE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Section 27: S $\frac{1}{2}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Section 31: Lot 4, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ E $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$,
SE $\frac{1}{4}$, NE $\frac{1}{4}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Section 32: S $\frac{1}{2}$, S $\frac{1}{2}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$ NE $\frac{1}{4}$
NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SE $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$
Section 33: All
Section 34: All
Section 35: All
Section 36: All state tide and submerged lands
- (3) Township 17 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian
Section 28: N $\frac{1}{2}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$
Section 31: Lots 5, 7, 8, 9, 10
Section 32: NE $\frac{1}{4}$
Section 33: SW $\frac{1}{4}$ NW $\frac{1}{4}$, including all state tide and submerged lands
- (4) Township 16 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian
Section 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9: All
Section 17: N $\frac{1}{2}$
Section 18: N $\frac{1}{2}$
All state tide and submerged lands

(b) Selections under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (PL 92-203, 85 Stat. 688) are recognized as valid prior claims to the land within the area described in (a) of this section. Land specified in (a) of this section may not include land patented to a Native corporation under that Act.

(c) Land selected by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in Township 17, North Range 1 East S.M. shall be included in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge, subject to borough approval. If the borough relinquishes the selection of these lands, the selected lands become part of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. *Relinquishment 2/10/00*

(d) The state may not acquire by eminent domain privately-owned land within state-owned lands specified in (c) of this section for inclusion in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. The Department of Natural Resources may adopt, in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62), zoning regulations governing privately-owned land within the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

FEB 12 1965

February 6, 1965

cc'd out file
to: Sen. Fabrenkamp
" Sturgulowski

Senator John C. Sackett
Co-chairman Finance Committee
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sackett:

It is with a deep sense of urgency that I request your full support for passage of Senate Bill No. 105, introduced by Senator Kerttula.

I have lived in the Matanuska Valley for seven years and have grown to deeply appreciate the many values associated with the Palmer Hay Flats area. As a daily commuter to Anchorage, the "flats" provides an oasis of aesthetic quality in what otherwise has become a 45 mile strip development. Coincidentally, it is the safest part of the trip due to the lack of development. Any development along this single lane stretch of the Glenn Highway would create a horrendous safety hazard.

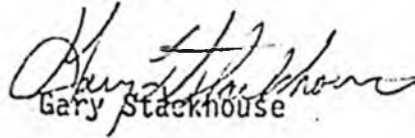
As a consumptive user of the fish and wildlife resources of this great state, I have become intimately familiar with those resources in the "flats" area. I have also seen the number of other users increase tremendously the past few years. Not only hunters, fishermen and trappers, but general recreationists as well. A great number of these users are Anchorage residents and non-residents. As you are well aware, the degree of access is a key factor to recreational use in any area. The location of the "flats" is ideal for serving well over 50% of the recreational users in the state. I, as well as others, especially enjoy the area as a place to share these experiences with our children without making a major expedition. It is also an ideal educational area and is used as such by local educators. Concurrent, with the rapid development in the valley, I have seen fish and wildlife resource habitats dwindle, thereby enhancing the importance of remaining areas, such as the Palmer Hay Flats.

As a business owner in Palmer, I have enjoyed watching the valley grow and have shared in some of the associated benefits. I have also experienced a growing concern that we are destroying many of the qualities which make the valley so attractive. This is due to a large extent by our failure to recognize these qualities and place them in a proper perspective, equal to strictly economic interests.

In view of declining state revenues, the relatively small cost associated with protecting a natural resource of this importance and magnitude is a bargain that should not be ignored.

Your support for this bill will help assure preservation of this beautiful natural area for the enjoyment of untold numbers of future Alaskans.

Sincerely,


Gary Stackhouse

cc: all Finance Committee members

League of Women Voters of Alaska

9151 Skywood Lane
Juneau, Alaska 99801
February 26, 1985

The Honorable Arliss Sturgulewski, Chairman
Senate Resources Committee
Alaska Legislature
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Re: SB 105: Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

The League of Women Voters of Alaska supports, in principle, SB 105, which would expand the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge to incorporate certain important wetlands. The League has always considered the protection of important wetland habitats as a high priority matter, and has supported the setting aside for future public use such areas as State forests and marine parks in Alaska. We also supported the bill which established the Kenai River Management Area.

We are in a quandary, however, because of the large fiscal note connected with the need to purchase private lands to implement SB 105. This is of special concern in a time of declining State revenues and competing health related demands such as asbestos removal from schools. If, because of budgetary constraints, we had to choose between the purchase of these wetlands and the removal of any existing asbestos hazards from schools, we would choose the asbestos removal. This is consistent with one of the amplification provisions of the League's new "capital budget process" position, which states that life, health, safety and educational needs should take priority over other less basic needs.

Perhaps another financing mechanism (such as inclusion of the project cost in a State bond issue) should be explored, possibly by your committee jointly with the Finance Committee.

If a way can be found to acquire the wetlands necessary to expand the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge in accordance with SB 105, without adversely impacting high priority health and education related needs, we would like to see it happen.

The Honorable Arliss Sturgulewski, Chairman
February 26, 1985
Page Two

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Cuadra, Board Member
(Natural Resources Portfolio)

DEC:sd

cc: Committee Members (Fahrenkamp, Eliason, Zharoff, Halford,
Coghill and V. Fischer)
Sponsor (Kerttula)



APR 10 1985

COOK INLET
AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 3819
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669-3819
(907) 262-9419

*TK your
of file*

*7-15
105*

April 5, 1985

Senator Paul Fischer
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Fischer:

Sorry to have missed you during my recent visit in Juneau. I will be sure to meet with you on my next trip so that we can discuss ways to advance the Paint River project. Because the Paint River project will generate two million dollars worth of raw salmon annually plus an additional two million dollars through value added by processing it is important that, somehow, we find the \$4.4 million required to implement the project.

Senator Kerttula asked me to be sure to inform you of CIAA's support for his SB 105 which allows for the extension of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. Because we operate the nearby Eklutna Salmon Hatchery we have, over the years become very familiar with the existing refuge as well as the area proposed for inclusion.

The State Game Refuge is an area of very low lying marshland set aside for fish and wildlife production and hunting and fishing activities. Access to much of the Refuge is across some of the privately owned lands which, hopefully, will be added to the refuge as a result of SB 105. These lands are currently abandoned but, at any time, could be reoccupied by their owners. It is unlikely that an owner attempting to live or run a business on the site would, for long, tolerate the number of people currently utilizing the premises as a driveway and a parking lot. The extension is essential to "legalize" public access to much of the Refuge.

The sloughs and marshes throughout the area are excellent rearing or "nursery" areas for coho salmon fry. Large numbers of fry can be found throughout the area. Any development of the area would require dredging, filling, diking and/or draining activities, all of which are expensive and all of which destroy the fitness of the area to produce young salmon.

April 5, 1985
Senator Fischer
Page 2

It seems to me that it is good public policy to preserve for fish production those lowland areas best suited for fish production. It is also good public policy to insure that development activities occur on higher ground; those areas best suited for development activities. The inclusion of additional lowland areas into the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge keeps each type of activity confined to the area which best suits it.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Mears

Thomas E. Mears,
Executive Director

cc: Sen. Kerttula
Bob Hunter, President, Alaska Sportfishing Association
Keith Goltz, Alaska Flyfishers
Steve Braund, Northern District Setnetters

FEB 23 1985

February 20, 1985

Re: SB 105, Palmer Hay Flats

Dear Senator Sackett:

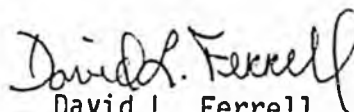
As a resident of the Mat-Su Valley, I would like to express my support for Senate Bill 105 to extend the Palmer Hayflats State Game Refuge. A number of concerned citizens are troubled about a series of proposed developments in the wetlands and salmon streams on the Hayflats along the Glenn Highway. There is a strong sentiment that it is the responsibility of the State of Alaska to protect these resources for all Alaskans. The most permanent form of protection is to place these lands in the public domain. Incorporation of these lands into the Palmer Hayflats Game Refuge is the most expedient and logical manner in which to accomplish this.

Recently the Mat-Su Assembly passed a unanimous Resolution to add 130 acres of Borough land if the State would purchase 786 acres of private land from willing sellers. I have followed events in the Hayflats over the past several years and have come to realize that Local, State and Federal agencies have consistently recommended that development in this area not be permitted. It appears that private property owners would be more than willing to sell their land to the State, as the land is unsuitable to build on and permits are difficult, if not impossible, to obtain.

I would like to inform you that Spring Creek, a salmon stream which flows through these lands, provides some of the best silver salmon habitat in the Valley. The stream provides "nursery grounds" for large numbers of juvenile silver salmon. The dollar value of this stream to sport and commercial fishermen may very likely exceed the dollar cost of purchasing these lands. The Mat-Su Borough is so intent on protecting this area that it has a program to swap uplands for wetlands. All of this leads me to conclude that the public wants this area maintained in its present natural condition. The passage of SB 105 is obviously in the Public Interest.

I would like to be kept advised of the progress of SB 105 and would like to receive copies of the minutes of the discussions that take place when this bill reaches the Finance Committee.

Sincerely



David L. Ferrell
SRA 6105
Palmer, AK 99645
(745-6575)

cc: Faiks
Halford
Kerttula
Ferguson
P. Fischer
Eliason
DeVries
Larson
Hurley
Bronson

FEB 23 1985

549 E. Caribou
Palmer, AK 99645
17 February 1985

Senator John Sackett
Chairman, Finance Committee
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

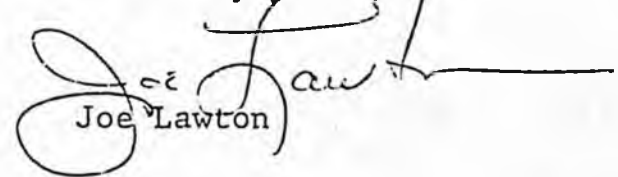
Dear Senator Sackett:

I understand that SB105 relating to the Palmer Hatflats has been referred to the Finance Committee. Kindly register my voice in favor of that bill.

This Palmer Hayflats issue is one that hardly could have been foreseen in the years before the populatio. boom in the Matanuska Valley. The boom has resulted in great numbers of Anchorage-Valley commuters traversing the Hayflats daily. This commuter traffic is a powerful incentive to locate businesses along the route, irrespective that the rich area's extensive bottomland is a large--and in some cases last--refuge for many local furred, feathered, and finned creatures. While I believe most local residents wish to keep the area as SB105 would allow us to do, the pressures from the few landowners along the route to have their day at the bank are very great, and compensation is probably the only practical solution.

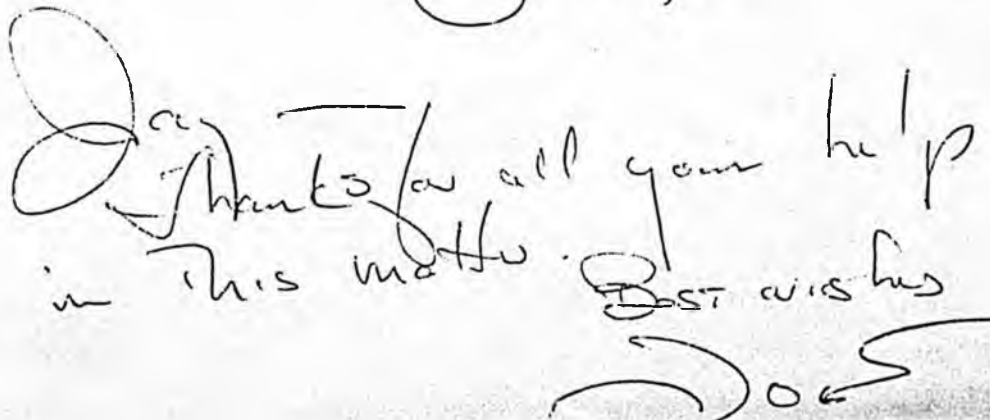
Much can and is being done locally to protect this rich and popular recreational area, but this is one of those issues whereby State assistance is needed for a problem which transcends local causation, local usage, and local value. Please consider this Senate bill as a corrective to keep a little of the Alaska that pleases so much of the population, and therefore legislation of greater validity than creature comforts and profitability.

Sincerely yours,


Joe Lawton

cc:

Senators:
Faiks
Halford
Kerttula
Ferguson
Fischer
Eliason



~~February~~ 18, 1985
SR-A-6145
Palmer, Alaska, 99645

FEB 23 1985

Co-chairperson Faiks
Finance Committee
Alaska State Senate
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska, 99811

Ms. Faiks,

We are writing this letter in support of Senate Bill 105, proposing procurement of 910 acres to extend the existing Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

The wetlands of the proposed extention are most valuable to the people of Anchorage and the Matanuska-Susitna Borough just as they are. We feel the highest and best use of this wetlands area is as a refuge and reproductive area for silver salmon, moose, and waterfowl. Hunting and fishing for these species is high in season, as is year-round recreation use, since the area is close and readily accessible to the populations of Anchorage and the Matanuska Valley.

These wetlands provide high scenic value as well. Travelers along the Glenn Highway appreciate this natural buffer between the two population areas.

We urge you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 105 to help insure these values are preserved.

Sincerely,

Beth Estelle
Bob Estelle

Beth and Bob Estelle

cc:	<u>Finance</u>	<u>Resources</u>	DeVries
	Sackett	Sturgulewski	
	Halford	Fahrenkamp	
	Kerttula	Eliason	
	Ferguson	Zharoff	
	P. Fischer	Halford	
	Eliason	Coghill	
		V. Fischer	

FEB 25 1985

February 22, 1985

Senator Jan Faiks
Co-chair, Senate
Finance Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: SB 105

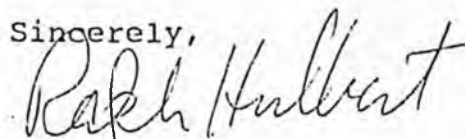
I support this bill. I have used the Spring Creek area and Hay Flats for over thirty years for recreation and hope to continue. Up to this time there has been very little pressure to develop this ground, primarily due to the extreme cost of site preparation. With the current boom and subsequent escalation in commercial real estate prices, there is real economic pressure to develop the road frontage.

Currently, zoning/subdivision restrictions such as Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, and Mat-Su borough regulations restrict development. These regulations were implemented under the premise that the long term economic/social interest must be protected, and I feel they are generally well applied. Commercial development in the Spring Creek area would be disruptive not only to the environment of the entire downstream drainage, but would also disrupt the traffic flow. The area is in the flood plain of the Matanuska River. The town of Matanuska (near subject properties) was moved to Palmer because of the extreme cost of fighting high water. Any facilities placed in the area covered by SB 105 are likely to experience this problem, with the burden eventually resting with the State. This irregular flooding also makes it extremely difficult to comply with EPA regulations should any development occur.

Preservation interests must be weighed against vested property interests. Many of the owners have held the property for several years, often predating wetland regulations. Only one owner has a permit to fill in a portion of the wetlands.

Although the proposed enabling legislation has a two year expiration for selling or exchange, hopefully after the offer is specifically tendered, the intent should be perpetual. Perhaps certain provisions could be enacted to allow continuation of the exchange provision beyond this time frame. Finally, all offers to exchange or sell property should be strictly voluntary.

Sincerely,



Ralph Hulbert
P.O. Box 1846
Palmer, AK 99645

CC: Sen. Sackett
Kerttula -
Ferguson
P. Fischer
DeVries
Rep. Hurley
Larson

FEB 27 1985

P.O. Box 3196
Palmer, Alaska 99645
February 21

Senator Sturgulewski
State Capital
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewski,

An issue of interest to me will be coming before the Senate this session. That issue is the Palmer Hay Flats Bill. As you already know, this bill would acquire private land for inclusion into an existing special use area.

I strongly support passage of this bill in this session of the legislature. I believe this action is warranted in view of the long-range state interest to promote economic developments through economic diversification of the private sector. As a local boatbuilder, I feel the area should be protected for wildlife, sport fishing and scenic values. These ends support my personal business interests.

On a larger level, I feel the passage of the Hay Flats Bill will recognize the area as a national and international landmark. The area has already been selected by Ducks Unlimited, an international organization, as a special feeding and breeding ground along the Pacific Flyway for many species of wildfowl. In enacting this bill, the State of Alaska identifies itself among the few forward-looking nations and regions of the world seeking to keep land uses diverse and healthy.

Finally, as an educator, I strongly believe the state must take a leadership role in promoting the continuance of 'as is' landscape for the enjoyment and education of our state's youth. If regional planners are correct, the area surrounding the Hay Flats may soon approach the population density of the Anchorage bowl. By protecting the Hay Flats for young people to hunt, fish and recreate in, we teach good stewardship of Alaska's land resources.

Again, let me strongly state my support of this critical piece of state-wide legislation. It appears we have much more to gain than lose in this proposal.

Sincerely,

Rick Turner
Matanuska Foot Company
Palmer, Alaska

CC: Sens. Fahrenkamp
Eliason
Zharoff
Halford
Coghill
V. Fisher



FEB 27 1985

ALASKA FRONTIER TRAPPERS ASSN.
P.O. BOX 2856
PALMER, ALASKA 99645 □ (907)745-4660

February 18, 1985

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Resources Chairman
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

I am writing in regard to S.B. 105 introduced into the senate by Senator Kerttula. This bill is a very important piece of legislation to our organization and to outdoor-minded people of all pursuits. Senator Kerttula, in introducing this bill, is trying to preserve one of the most highly used and highly valued pieces of wildlife habitat in Alaska. Anyone who has crossed the flats on the Glenn Highway at any time of the year has surely seen the large numbers of ducks, geese, muskrat, beaver and other numerous species that inhabit this area.

The Mat-Su Borough has indicated its desire to see this area preserved by offering to let the Fish and Game Department include its 130 acres in the refuge to be managed as the rest of the area. With the population expanding as rapidly as it is in the Matanuska Valley, it is imperative that we preserve areas for our citizens to use and enjoy.

I would like to thank Senator Kerttula for introducing this legislation, as I believe it shows his desire to protect the outdoor lifestyle of many of his constituents.

Your support of S.B. 105 would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

James Reiss, President
ALASKA FRONTIER TRAPPERS ASSOC.

cc: Fahrenkamp
Eliason
Zharoff
Halford
Coghill
V. Fischer

FEB 27 1985

February 22, 1985

Senator A. Sturgulewski
Senate Resources Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, AK 99811

RE: SB 105

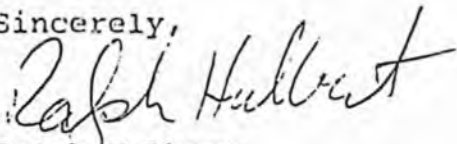
I support this bill. I have used the Spring Creek area and Hay Flats for over thirty years for recreation and hope to continue. Up to this time there has been very little pressure to develop this ground, primarily due to the extreme cost of site preparation. With the current boom and subsequent escalation in commercial real estate prices, there is real economic pressure to develop the road frontage.

Currently, zoning/subdivision restrictions such as Army Corps of Engineers, EPA, and Mat-Su borough regulations restrict development. These regulations were implemented under the premise that the long term economic/social interest must be protected, and I feel they are generally well applied. Commercial development in the Spring Creek area would be disruptive not only to the environment of the entire downstream drainage, but would also disrupt the traffic flow. The area is in the flood plain of the Matanuska River. The town of Matanuska (near subject properties) was moved to Palmer because of the extreme cost of fighting high water. Any facilities placed in the area covered by SB 105 are likely to experience this problem, with the burden eventually resting with the State. This irregular flooding also makes it extremely difficult to comply with EPA regulations should any development occur.

Preservation interests must be weighed against vested property interests. Many of the owners have held the property for several years, often predating wetland regulations. Only one owner has a permit to fill in a portion of the wetlands.

Although the proposed enabling legislation has a two year expiration for selling or exchange, hopefully after the offer is specifically tendered, the intent should be perpetual. Perhaps certain provisions could be enacted to allow continuation of the exchange provision beyond this time frame. Finally, all offers to exchange or sell property should be strictly voluntary.

Sincerely,



Ralph Hulbert
P.O. Box 1845
Palmer, AK 99645

cc: Sen. Fahrenkamp
Eliason
Zharoff
Halford
Coghill
V. Fischer

MAR 6 1985

7136 Terry Place
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
February 26, 1985

Jan Faiks, Chair
Finance Committee
State Capitol
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Faiks

Dear Ms. Faiks:

I am writing to urge your support of Senate Bill No. 105 for "an Act relating to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge; and providing for an effective date." The Spring Creek wetlands which are addressed by this bill are an integral component of the Palmer Hay Flats. Because these wetlands are privately owned, there is increasing pressure to develop them. I believe these wetlands are so important that they should be given public protection and included in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

I have hunted and fished, hiked and canoed in the Palmer Hay Flats wetlands at the head of Knik Arm, which are traversed by the Glenn Highway. I'm not aware of fish and wildlife population figures specifically for the Spring Creek area. However, the Hay Flats area receives heavy recreational fishing pressure and the Rabbit Slough-Spring Creek-Wasilla Creek complex are open only to single-hook fishing during a weekend-only season. According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, every spring some 100,000 ducks, 50,000 geese and 5,000 swans use the Palmer Hay Flats during migration. The Anchorage Audubon Society estimates that some 10,000 people are drawn to view and photograph this migratory spectacle. The Palmer Hay Flats is the most accessible waterfowl hunting area in the Cook Inlet region, and it annually ranks among the top three areas state-wide in number of hunter-days and duck harvest. In winter the Hay Flats provide important moose winter range.

The Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge is a valuable public asset; especially so because of its proximity to about half of Alaska's population. I hope to see areas such as the Spring Creek wetlands included in the Refuge and given the protection required to protect the public resources and recreational opportunities they provide.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Jon R. Nickles
Jon R. Nickles

*Good letter
+K. Jones*

cc: Finance Committee members

3/12/85

Senator Jan Faika
Alaska State Legislature
Pouch V
State Capitol
Juneau, Alaska

MAR 15 1985

99811

Dear Senator;

I have been advised by our Matanuska Valley legislators that SB-105, an act creating an addition to the Palmer Hay Flats Game Refuge is now scheduled to be heard by the Senate Finance Committee of which you are co-chair.

I would appreciate taking a minute of your time to express my support for this bill that is so important to many of the residents of both the Valley and also the greater Anchorage area. In case you are not aware of the groups and people interested in this legislation, those that I am aware of are: the ad hoc committee for the Palmer Hay Flats, Mat-Su Chapter of Ducks Unlimited, Mat-Su Chapter of Alaska Fur Trappers Association, Anchorage Audubon Society, and the Alaska Center for the Environment. In addition, the Mat-Su Borough, Alaska State Department of Natural Resources, and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have indicated their support for this legislation. As you can see this is a quite broad cross section of people supporting SB-105.

Just briefly, both consumptive (i.e. hunters, fishermen, trappers) and non-consumptive use (i.e. bird watchers, game animal watching) in this area is high and is incompatible with commercial development. The lands the proposed legislation would add to the refuge are also critical for access to the existing refuge, and it is my understanding that the only reason they are not currently in the refuge is that they were privately held when the refuge was originally formed from state lands.

Senator, looking down the road to the future and being a 10-year valley resident, seeing the tremendous growth experienced in the valley, emphasizes to me the need to preserve this area. Both as a needed buffer between the valley and the Anchorage area, and as a natural gateway to the Matanuska Valley where future generations can still enjoy seeing moose and waterfowl, along with a place to go small game hunting, trapping, and fishing.

Thank you for your time and attention to this legislation.

*INATEL KERTULLA,
For your information,
Thanks!*

David C. Churchill
P. O. Box 871646
Wasilla, Alaska

99687

FEB 27 1985



COOK INLET
AQUACULTURE ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 3819
SOLDOTNA, AK 99669-3819
(907) 262-9419

February 25, 1985

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator:

The Cook Inlet Aquaculture Association supports SB 105 which allows for the extension of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. It is clear that the entire area is valuable for recreational fishing and hunting activities. The extension is essential to "legalize" public access to much of the Refuge.

It is probably more important to realize that the sloughs and marshes throughout the area are excellent rearing or "nursery" areas for large numbers of coho salmon fry. Dredging, filling, diking and draining, the very expensive things which can be done to marshlands to make them usable for commercial or residential purposes, all destroy the fitness of the area to harbor and nourish young salmon. We encourage the State to preserve these wetland habitats.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas E. Mears".

Thomas E. Mears,
Executive Director

cc: Suzanne Haines
Steve Braund

FEB 25 1985

20 February 1985

Senator Sturgulewski
Senator Fahrenkamp

Resource Committee
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

RE: Senate Bill 105 Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge

Dear Senators

As a landowner in the flats area since the 1950's, we
support public ownership of these lands.

The public uses our land and the neighboring private lands
for hunting, fishing, trapping and wildlife viewing. Located
between two major population centers, the numbers grow almost
daily.

Yet, major objections and stumbling blocks are placed by
State agencies and Mat-Su Borough for owners using or de-
veloping our lands.

We know there is strong public support for the Flats to stay
as they are now. We are willing to work with the State in a
sale or exchange. We and the neighboring land owners have
expressed this at other public hearings.

We ask for your valuable support in solving this land conflict.

Sincerely,

Floyd Beal

Floyd Beal

FB/tb

cc: Senator Eliason
Zharoff
Halford
Coghill
V. Fischer

FO. 0307 1241
PALMER, ALASKA 99645
2-10-85

SENATOR ARLISS STURGULEWSKI
STATE CAPITOL
PANCH V
JUNEAU, AK 99811

FEB 25 1985

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

I URGE YOUR SUPPORT FOR SENATE BILL 105. THIS BILL IS A VERY IMPORTANT FIRST STEP IN ALLOWING FOR THE EXPANSION OF THE PALMER HAY FLATS STATE GAME REFUGE. I WOULD APPRECIATE ANY HELP IN SUPPORTING THIS BILL.

SB 105 WOULD AUTHORIZE LAND TRADES AND BUYOUTS OF PRIVATE LAND WITHIN A 910 ACRE STRIP RUNNING SOUTH ALONG THE GLENN HIGHWAY FROM THE INTERSECTION OF THE PARKS HIGHWAY. I AM A HUNTER, FISHERMAN AND AN ORNITHOLOGIST; THE PALMER HAY FLATS IS A TREMENDOUS BIRD ROOKERY, WITH THOUSANDS OF MIGRANT BIRDS BREEDING THERE; A RECENT FISH AND GAME REPORT HAS SHOWN THAT THE 910 ACRES UNDER CONSIDERATION PROVIDE VITAL HABITAT FOR SILVER SALMON SMOLT; THE HAY FLATS ARE ALSO A CALVING GROUND FOR MOOSE; FINALLY, THE FLATS ARE A BEAUTIFUL AREA, WITH THE CHUGIAK MOUNTAINS CREATING A BREATHTAKING BACK DROP, I WOULD APPRECIATE NOT ENCUMBERING THIS BEAUTY WITH DEVELOPMENT IN THIS AREA. I FEEL THAT THESE RESOURCES SHOULD BE PROTECTED, AND I AM ASKING FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

THE MATANUSKA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY HAS PASSED A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SB 105. THE ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME HAS SHOWN THAT OVER 2000 HUNTING DAYS, AND OVER 8,000 FISHING DAYS OCCURRED IN THE PALMER HAY FLATS LAST YEAR. I FEEL THAT THIS BILL IS IN THE PUBLIC'S BEST INTEREST.

SINCERELY YOURS

Stephen W. Johnson
Stephen W. Johnson

*****MATR-00105*****MARCH 18*****

TO: SENATORS DEVRIES AND KERTTULA
REPRESENTATIVES HURLEY AND LARSON

FROM: NORMAN JONES
PO BOX 46
PALMER 99645
745-3491

MAR 18 1985

RE: SB 105, PALMER HAYFLATS
PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL.

sb 105

 *
 * DELIVER TO: JDM
 *
 * ORIGINAL
 * SENT: 02/27/95 TIME: 14:27
 * FROM: MARTIE ROZKYDAL
 * SUBJECT: POM - MATR-0059
 * PRINT DATE: 02/27/95 TIME: 14:27
 *

TO: SENATORS STURGULEWSKI, FAHRENKAMP, COGHILL, ELIASON, V.
 FISCHER, HALFORD, ZHAROFF AND KERTTULA
 REPRESENTATIVE HURLEY AND LARSON

FROM: TOM SHANKSTER
 PO BOX 3225
 PALMER 99645
 745-5280

RE: SB 105

I AM FOR SB 105 FOR THE MANAGEMENT, USE, AND PROTECTION OF
 THE WET LANDS CLOSE TO POPULATED AREAS THAT WE ARE GETTING HERE IN
 ALASKA.

877 Moore Business Forms, Inc.

RECEIVED
DATE: 02/27/85 TIME: 14:25
FROM: MARTIN ROSENTHAL
TO: SENATORS
SUBJECT: SB 105 - MATSU
START DATE: 02/27/85 TIME: 14:25

TO: SENATORS STURGULEWSKI, FAHRENKAMP, COGHILL, ELIASON, V. FISCHER, HALFORD, ZHAROFF AND KERTTULA REPRESENTATIVES HURLEY AND LARSON.

FROM: DAVID CHURCHILL
PO BOX 871646
WASILLA 99687
H 376-5758
W 659- 4442

RE: SB 105

THIS REFUGE IS THE GATEWAY TO THE MAT-SU BOROUGH, AN IMPORTANT BOUNDARY BETWEEN ANCHORAGE, IT IS A CRITICAL WILDLIFE HABITAT AREA, WILDLIFE VIEWING AREA, A MAJOR HUNTING/TRAPPING AREA, WINTER AND SPRING. RABBIT CREEKS ARE IMPORTANT SALMON FRY REARING STREAMS. THE AREA COVERED UNDER THE BILL PRESENTLY UNDEVELOPED, URGE YOU TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION.

FROM: DEWIGHT DATT
PO BOX 874472
WASILLA 99687
H 376-2097
W-265- 6551

RE: SB 105

I AM SUPPORTING SB 105 FOR THE STATED REASONS IN THE BILL. WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO PROTECT ALL OUR WETLANDS AND TO ENSURE FUTURE ACCESS FOR PUBLIC USE OF THIS TYPE OF AREA. EVENTUALLY PUBLIC USE AREAS COULD BECOME SURROUNDED BY PRIVATE LAND AND WILL ELIMINATE PUBLIC ACCESS.

*
* DELIVER TO: JFOM
*
* ORIGINAL
* SENT: 02/04/85 TIME: 13:15
* FROM: MICKI HENSON
* SUBJECT: POM
* PRINT DATE: 02/04/85 TIME: 13:15
*

TO: ALL MEMBERS / SENATE FINANCE
SENATORS FAIKS AND SACKETT (CO-CHAIRS)
SENATOR KERTTULA (VICE-CHAIR)
SENATORS ELIASON, P. FISCHER, HALFORD, FERGUSON

ALL MEMBERS/ SENATE RESOURCES
SENATOR STURGULEWSKI (CHAIR), FAHRENKAMP (VICE-CHAIR)
SENATORS ELIASON, ZHAROFF, HALFORD, COGHILL, V. FISCHER

FROM: CATHY REZABECK
14500 FERNHILL CIRCLE
ANCHORAGE, AK. 99516
PHONE: 345-2363 (HM) 274-8440 (WK)

RE: SB 105

I STRONGLY ENCOURAGE PASSAGE OF SB 105 FOR STATE PURCHASE OF PRIVATE LANDS IN THE POTTER FLATS NEAR THE INTERSECTION OF ROUTES 1 AND 2. THIS LAND MUST NOT EXPERIENCE STRIP DEVELOPMENT WHICH WOULD NOT ALLOW FOR THE STATE GAME REFUGE ON ADJACENT LANDS TO FURTHER ITS PURPOSE OF GAME PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT.

FEB 8 1985

 *
 * DELIVER TO: LIOJ *
 * *
 * *
 * ORIGINAL *
 * SENT: 02/07/85 TIME: 17:15 *
 * FROM: VERNITA VESTAL *
 * SUBJECT: POM *
 * PRINT DATE: 02/07/85 TIME: 17:15 *
 * *

23

TO: SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE: SEN. FAIKS, SACKETT, KERTTULA, ELIASON, P. FISCHER, HALFORD, FERGUSON

RESOURCES: SEN. STURGULEWSKI, FAHRENKAMP, ELIASON, ZHAROFF, HALFORD, COGHILL, V. FISCHER

SEN. DEVRIES, V. FISCHER, JOSEPHSON, KERTTULA
 REP. CLOCKSIN, HURLEY, LARSON, UEHLING

FROM: MARY CORE
 503 W 9TH
 ANCHORAGE, AK. 99501 (H) 274-3382 (H) 274-3621

Just file under

RE: SB 195

ACQUISITION OF PALMER HAY FLATS NOW WILL AVOID WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS PRESENTLY OCCURING IN THE ANCHORAGE BOWL. THE FILTERING FUNCTION - OF --THE--WETLANDS; THE ABUNDANT FISH AND WILDLIFE POPULATIONS AND THE FINE AESTHETIC VALUES FOR TOURISM JUSTIFY A TRADE OUT.

FEB 8 1985

 *
 * DELIVER TO: LIOJ *
 *
 * ORIGINAL *
 * SENT: 02/07/85 TIME: 17:15 *
 * FROM: VERNITA VESTAL *
 * SUBJECT: POM *
 * PRINT DATE: 02/07/85 TIME: 17:15 *
 *

23

TO: SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE: SEN. FAIKS, SACKETT, KERTTULA, ELIASON, P. FISCHER, HALFORD, FERGUSON

RESOURCES: SEN. STURGULEWSKI, FAHRENKAMP, ELIASON, ZHAROFF, HALFORD, COGHILL, V. FISCHER

SEN. DEVRIES, V. FISCHER, JOSEPHSON, KERTTULA
 REP. CLOCKSIN, HURLEY, LARSON, UEHLING

FROM: MARY CORE
 503 W 9TH
 ANCHORAGE, AK. 99501 (H) 274-3382 (W) 274-3621

File only

RE: SB 105

ACQUISITION OF PALMER HAY FLATS NOW WILL AVOID WATER POLLUTION PROBLEMS PRESENTLY OCCURING IN THE ANCHORAGE BOWL. THE FILTERING FUNCTION OF THE WETLANDS, THE ABUNDANT FISH AND WILDLIFE POPULATIONS AND THE FINE AESTHETIC VALUES FOR TOURISM JUSTIFY A TRADE OUT.

FEB 1 1985

TO: SENATORS SACKETT, FAIKS, HALFORD, KERTTULA, FERGUSON, P.
FISCHER, ELIASON, STURGULEWSKI, FAHRENKAMP, ELIASON,
ZHAROFF, HALFORD, COGHILL, V. FISCHER

FR: MIKE BRONSON
P O BOX 2176
PALMER 99645
PHONE: 376-3642

RE: SB 105 - PALMER HAY FLATS LEGISLATION

PLEASE SUPPORT SB 105 SPONSORED BY KERTTULA. THIS IS A
GRASSROOTS EFFORT FOR A FAIR SOLUTION TO THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM OF
COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF WETLANDS IMPORTANT TO THE PUBLIC.
PURCHASE OF THE HAY FLATS FROM WILLING SELLERS WILL KEEP THE
GATEWAY TO THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH OPEN FOR FISHERMEN AND
HUNTERS.

*****POMK 104 - 1/31/85

TO: SENATORS SACKETT, FAIKS, HALFORD, KERTTULA, FERGUSON, P.
FISHCER, ELIASON, STURGULEWSKI, FAHRENKAMP, ELIASON,
ZHAROFF, HALFORD, COGHILL, V. FISCHER

FR: K. ANNELY GERMAINE
SR B 7460
PALMER 99645
PHONE: . 745-6511

RE: SB 105 - PALMER HAY FLATS LEGISLATION

PLEASE SUPPORT SB 105 ACTIVELY. MAT-SU IS ALREADY TOO EXPLOITED
AND COMMERCIAL. THE HAY FLATS BILL CAN BE AN IMPORTANT FIRST
STEP IN SAVING THE VALLEY FROM PERMANENT UGLY DAMAGE. AN
INNOVATIVE BILL LIKE THIS DOES MUCH TO SLOW THE PROGRESS OF THE
MARCH TO STRIP DEVELOPMENT.

*****POMK104-1/31/85

MAR 25 1985

file SB 105
Copy Janfania

March 15, 1985

Senator Kertula
Pouch V
Juneau, Alaska 99811


Dear Senator:

I would like to thank you for all the work and time you
have put into SB 105.

Southcentral will enjoy your hard efforts far into the future.

Thanks for being there.

Sincerely,


Terry Beal

Offered: 3/4/85
Referred: Finance

Original sponsor: Kerttula

1 IN THE SENATE

BY THE RESOURCES COMMITTEE

2

CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 105 (Resources)

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game
7 Refuge; and providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. The legislature determines that wetlands important to the
10 protection of waterfowl and salmon in the Spring Creek area lie outside of
11 the boundaries of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. The Spring Creek
12 area also provides one of the major public access points to the hay flats
13 although the land is privately owned. The legislature therefore determines
14 that it is in the public interest to protect the Spring Creek wetlands
15 through extension of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge under this Act.

16 * Sec. 2. AS 16.20.032(a) is amended to read:

17 (a) The following state-owned land and water is established as
18 the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge:

19 (1) Township 16 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

20 Sections 1 - 12 inclusive

21 Section 13: N1/2

22 Sections 14 - 18 inclusive

23 (2) Township 17 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

24 Section 25: All

25 Section 26: S1/2, S1/2N1/2, N1/2NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4

26 Section 27: S1/2, SE1/4NE1/4

27 Section 31: Lot 4, SE1/4, E1/2SW1/4, SE1/4NE1/4,

28 S1/2SW1/4NE1/4

29 Section 32: S1/2, S1/2NE1/4, NE1/4NE1/4,

1 SE1/4NW1/4

2 Section 33: All

3 Section 34: All

4 Section 35: All

5 Section 36: All

6 (3) Township 17 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

7 Section 22:

8 excluding NW1/4NW1/4

9 excluding NE1/4NE1/4NE1/4

10 excluding N1/2NE1/4NW1/4

11 Section 27:

12 excluding S1/2S1/2

13 Section 28: N1/2SE1/4

14 Section 31: Lots 5, 7, 8, 9, 10

15 Section 32: NE1/4

16 Section 33: SW1/4NW1/4, including all state tide

17 and submerged land

18 (4) Township 16 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

19 Section 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9: All

20 Section 17: N1/2

21 Section 18: N1/2

22 All state tide and submerged land

23 (5) Township 16 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian

24 Section 2: Portion lying west of the Alaska

25 Railroad

26 Section 3: Lot 1, excluding portions lying east

27 of the Alaska Railroad centerline, Lots, 2, 3,

28 4, 5, 6, NW1/4, NW1/4, NE1/4

29 Section 10: Lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and portions

1 lying west of the Alaska Railroad
2 Section 15: All state land lying north of the
3 south bank of the Knik River and west of the
4 Alaska Railroad
5 Section 16: All state land lying north of the
6 south bank of the Knik River

7 * Sec. 3. The commissioner of natural resources shall include land
8 acquired from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the Palmer Hay Flats State
9 Game Refuge established under AS 16.20.032.

10 * Sec. 4. (a) The commissioner of natural resources may dispose of
11 state land located within the Matanuska-Susitna borough in exchange for
12 privately owned land determined desirable for inclusion in the Palmer Hay
13 Flats State Game Refuge. The commissioner of natural resources may also
14 offer to purchase at fair market value from willing sellers privately owned
15 land determined desirable for inclusion in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game
16 Refuge.

17 (b) An offer made by the commissioner of natural resources under this
18 section for a purchase or exchange that remains unaccepted for two years
19 after tender is withdrawn.

20 (c) An exchange or purchase authorized under (a) of this section
21 shall be accomplished under AS 38.50.

22 (d) The commissioner of natural resources shall include land acquired
23 under this section in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge established
24 under AS 16.20.032.

25 * Sec. 5. This Act does not prohibit expansion or improvement to the
26 Glenn Highway or the Parks Highway, the potential Wasilla Bypass, or the
27 construction of the interchange at the Parks and Glenn Highways.

28 * Sec. 6. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
29 10.070(c).

Introduced: 1/28/85
Referred: Resources and
Finance

1 IN THE SENATE

BY KERTTULA

2

SENATE BILL NO. 105

3

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

4

FOURTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

5

A BILL

6 For an Act entitled: "An Act relating to the Palmer Hay Flats State Game
7 Refuge; and providing for an effective date."

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

9 * Section 1. The legislature determines that wetlands important to the
10 protection of waterfowl and salmon in the Spring Creek area lie outside of
11 the boundaries of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge. The Spring Creek
12 area also provides one of the major public access points to the hay flats
13 although the land is privately owned. The legislature therefore determines
14 that it is in the public interest to protect the Spring Creek wetlands
15 through extension of the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge under this Act.

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17 (a) The following state-owned land and water is established as
18 the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge:

19 (1) Township 16 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

20 Sections 1 - 12 inclusive

21 Section 13: N1/2

22 Sections 14 - 18 inclusive

23 (2) Township 17 North, Range 1 West, Seward Meridian

24 Section 25: All

25 Section 26: S1/2, S1/2N1/2, N1/2NE1/4, NE1/4NW1/4

26 Section 27: S1/2, SE1/4NE1/4

27 Section 31: Lot 4, SE1/4, E1/2SW1/4, SE1/4NE1/4,

28 S1/2SW1/4NE1/4

29 Section 32: S1/2, S1/2NE1/4, NE1/4NE1/4,

1 SE1/4NW1/4
2 Section 33: All
3 Section 34: All
4 Section 35: All
5 Section 36: All state tide and submerged land
6 (3) Township 17 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian
7 Section 22:
8 excluding NW1/4NW1/4
9 excluding NE1/4NE1/4NE1/4
10 excluding N1/2NE1/4NW1/4
11 Section 27:
12 excluding S1/2S1/2
13 Section 28: N1/2SE1/4
14 Section 31: Lots 5, 7, 8, 9, 10
15 Section 32: NE1/4
16 Section 33: SW1/4NW1/4, including all state tide
17 and submerged land
18 (4) Township 16 North, Range 1 East, Seward Meridian
19 Section 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9: All
20 Section 17: N1/2
21 Section 18: N1/2
22 All state tide and submerged land

23 * Sec. 3. (a) The commissioner of natural resources may dispose of
24 state land located within the Matanuska-Susitna borough in exchange for
25 135.6 acres now owned by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough in the area of
26 Spring Creek near the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

27 (b) The exchange permitted under this section shall be accomplished
28 under AS 38.50.

29 (c) The commissioner of natural resources shall include the land

1 acquired from the Matanuska-Susitna Borough under this section in the
2 Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge established under AS 16.20.032.

3 * Sec. 4. (a) The commissioner of natural resources may dispose of
4 state land located within the Matanuska-Susitna borough in exchange for
5 privately owned land determined desirable for inclusion in the Palmer Hay
6 Flats State Game Refuge. The commissioner of natural resources may also
7 offer to purchase at fair market value privately owned land determined
8 desirable for inclusion in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge.

9 (b) An exchange or purchase authorized under (a) of this section
10 shall be accomplished under AS 38.50.

11 (c) The commissioner of natural resources shall include land acquired
12 under this section in the Palmer Hay Flats State Game Refuge established
13 under AS 16.20.032.

14 * Sec. 5. An offer made by the commissioner of natural resources under
15 this Act for a purchase or exchange that remains unaccepted for two years
16 after tender is withdrawn.

17 * Sec. 6. This Act takes effect immediately in accordance with AS 01.-
18 10.070(c).